

"Good Tidings" Publication No. USPS 847-500 is published once a month by First United Methodist Church, 2941 S. Koke Mill, Springfield, IL . (217) 793-9760. www.springfieldfirst.org Pastors: Dr. Roger Ross, Dr. Bob Swickard, Rev. Vince Rohn; Editor: Jill Barnes

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Good Tidings

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prod-i-gal /adjective

- recklessly extravagant, 2. having spent everything.

More so than I remember, this year's Winter Olympics seemed to be an exercise in reckless abandon. Flying over icy terrains at 90 miles an hour, doing jumps and twists dozens of feet in the air, landing with a razor thin margin for error, and sometimes enduring painful injuries—only to do it again as soon as possible. What motivates this kind of behavior? One commentator said these athletes have a different DNA than the rest of us. They thrive on risk and speed. Something in them loves to push the envelope to the very edge of danger, and then cross over. Normal people aren't like that. We value safety and security over behaviors that constantly put us at risk.

Perhaps. But there are lots of risky behaviors "normal people" engage in everyday. We eat more than our bodies need and neglect to exercise. We ignore the ones we love by overworking or constant activity, and feel them slowly drift away from us each day. We watch TV, read a magazine, or talk to someone on Facebook we haven't seen in years, but do not have time to talk to God. We engage in these behaviors as casually as Bode Miller goes down the giant slalom. Maybe we are not that different at all. Maybe we all have a reckless streak within us that likes to live on the edge.

God recognized this streak from the very beginning. Seeing there was something in our DNA that leads us to cross over the line and then do it again, God sent outside help. In a stunning display of love, God sent his only Son, Jesus, to pay the price for our recklessness. So valued were we by the Father, God spared no expense. He spent everything to save us from ourselves. So now, by this extravagant love, we can live in total abandon for God. We don't need the edge of danger to make us feel alive anymore. We just need the reckless love of our prodigal God.

With Grace, 

WORSHIP SERVICES

Our Pastors:



Roger Ross



Bob Swickard



Vince Rohn

RECKLESS LOVE

- The Prodigal God
prod-i-gal /adjective 1. recklessly extravagant 2. having spent everything

March 6-7—"Both Lost and Loved"

Bob Swickard will speak

March 13-14—"When Life Doesn't Go Your Way"

Roger Ross will speak

March 20-21—"The Cost of Free"

Roger Ross will speak

March 27-28—"We Had to Celebrate"

Bob Swickard will speak

Weekend Worship Experiences
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8:30, 9:45, and 11:00 a.m.



Are you the mom of an infant, preschooler, elementary, high school, or college child? We want to invite you to share in the journey as Mom2Mom studies **“Growing Strong with God”**, **1st and 3rd Fridays from 9-11 a.m. in Room 4.** We have moms of all ages and stages. Childcare is available. You may sign up at the Welcome Center if you want to become a part of this small group or contact Leanne Ross at 726-0155/ ross_leanne@hotmail.com for more information. **Starting February 26th we will be meeting each week for 6 weeks as we join the church-wide study of the book, **The Prodigal God.** *Date Changes for The Prodigal God study:
Wed., March 10th instead of March 12th
Wed., March 31st instead of April 2nd-Good Friday
 Time remains the same.

Palm Sunday Coffee

On Palm Sunday, March 28, you are invited to share conversation and refreshments with your church family in Atrium Room 3, the Guest Center. The Council on Membership and Evangelism will be hosting the Palm Sunday Coffee from 9:30 - 11:15 a.m. Stop by for coffee, juice, donut holes and jelly beans.

Palm Sunday Parade

The Christian Education Department will celebrate Palm Sunday, March 28, with a children's parade during the 9:45 a.m. worship service. Palms will be provided to children 3 years - 5th grade. Please be sure that children are on time for Sunday School as the parade will begin shortly after 9:45 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Sweeney at 793-9760, ext.131 or ssweeney@springfieldfirst.org.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 3, 2009, from 10-11 a.m., the Family Life Council will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for children in the 4th grade and younger. Parents may bring their children to the gymnasium at 10:00 a.m. At 10:00 a.m., there will be a time for refreshments and activities that will connect the children to the Easter story. After the time of refreshments and activities in the gym, we will then dismiss the kids to age specific areas for the hunt itself. If the weather is favorable, the hunt will take place on the northern lawns of the church, just outside of the gym doors. In the event of bad weather, the hunt will take place inside.



Palm Sunday Bake Sale

There is no better way to celebrate the holidays than with yummy homemade treats! On Palm Sunday (March 28) the Celebration Youth Choir will hold their annual Palm Sunday Bake Sale in the Atrium.

There will be lots and lots of goodies like pies, cakes, cookies, specialty breads, fudge, granola, candies, etc. And it will all be **HOMEMADE!** Everything will be beautifully decorated so it will be a feast for your eyes as well as a feast for your table!

This is the biggest and the best Bake Sale of the year! Don't miss it! All proceeds will go toward the expenses of the choir's annual Choir Tour in June.

Financial Update for First United Methodist Church

January, 2010

Operating Budget Receipts: \$247,115.23
 Operating Budget Disbursements: \$168,777.91
 Operating Budget for January: \$78,337.32

2010 Year to Date

Operating Budget Receipts: \$247,115.23
 Operating Budget Disbursements: \$168,777.91
 Year to Date: \$78,337.32

Principal Loan on Building: \$10,515,036.42

Thank you for your faithful giving to God through First United Methodist Church.
 Your gifts make an eternal difference.

United Methodist Women/Circle Meetings

Rachel Circle will meet Thursday March 18 at 7 pm in Room 17. Spring Fling planning will continue. Morning circles should send representatives to help.

Morning circles will meet on Friday March 19 at 9:30 am for their business meetings (Susannah in Atrium 3 & Abigail in Atrium 4), then come together for a program by Dr. Roger Ross about information for new members. Call Evelyn Weber at 698-1937 with questions.

General Meeting & Luncheon

We will not meet Friday April 2 as it is Good Friday. We may meet later in the month.

USHER TRAINING TUESDAY, MARCH 9th

Dr. Roger Ross and Alyce Foster will lead an Usher Training on Tuesday, March 9th, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. in Room 5. All those currently serving as ushers are encouraged to attend. Those who are interested in learning more about the role of ushers and serving on our Usher Team are invited to participate.

This session will provide an excellent opportunity for our current Usher Team to review the essentials of being an effective usher, network with those who are serving at different worship times, share experiences and learn new skills. Those who are considering ushering as a place to serve will learn about the ministry of ushering, meet with experienced ushers and make new connections within our church family.

The role of the Usher Team is to extend the hospitality of Christ by serving as hosts of the sanctuary. They welcome and prepare people for worship, hand out bulletins/What's Happening, receive the offering, gather the attendance sheets and re-order the sanctuary following each worship service. Ushering is an important ministry of the Hospitality Team of First United Methodist Church.

Please contact Alyce Foster, 793-9760 or afoster@springfieldfirst.org if you plan to be a part of Usher Training or would like additional information.

Trivia Night

Join us for an evening of food and fun!

Friday, March 19, 2010

6:00-9:00 PM

First United Methodist Church

\$15.00 per person - includes dinner

Contact Kim Dow to reserve a table (6 - 8 people)

299-1398 or e-mail fourdowz@comcast.net

*All proceeds benefit the college/adult ASP summer mission trip.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<h2 style="text-align: center;">Check Your Calendar</h2> <p>WORSHIP & SUNDAY SCHOOL Worship: Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m., Sunday School: 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 a.m.</p> <p>WEEKLY ACTIVITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood Pressure Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month, 9:30-10:45 a.m. • Celebration Youth Handbells (7th-12th Grade): Sundays, 4:00-5:00 p.m. • Celebration Youth Choir (7th-12th Grade): Sundays, 5:00-6:00 p.m. • Fusion Student Ministry (5th-12th Grade): Sundays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. • Zumba: Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. & Saturdays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. • Boy Scouts: Mondays, 6:30 p.m. • Women's Bible Study: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. • Little Lambs Preschool Playgroup: Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. • Zumba Mix (Zumba + Weights): Tuesdays & Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. • Cub Scouts: Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. • Friendship Club: Ladies' card group meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindergarten-Second Grade Choir: Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m. • Third-Sixth Grade Choir: Wednesdays, 4:45-5:30 p.m. • Fifth-Sixth Grade Handbells: Wednesdays, 5:30-5:50 p.m. • Contemporary Worship Choir: Wednesdays, 7:30-8:30 p.m. • Gamanon: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. • Gambler's Anonymous: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., & Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. • Bible Study Fellowship: Thursdays, 9:10-11:00 a.m. • Senior Fellowship: 2nd Thursday of each month, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. • Quilter's Guild: Women meet on the 3rd Thursday of each month, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. • Crafter's Club: 2nd Thursday of each month, 5:30-8:45 p.m. • New Life Handbells: Thursdays, 6:00-6:45 p.m. • New Life Choir: Thursdays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. • Mom2Mom: 1st & 3rd Friday of each month, 9:00-11:00 a.m. • Pilates: Saturdays, 8:00-8:45 a.m. 						

TIME CHANGE SUNDAY, MARCH 14

Please remember to "Spring Forward" by setting your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 13. Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 14.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Men's Conference for ages 13 and up. Saturday, **March 13**, 7:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church. Cost: Group Rate (10 or more) \$39, Individual Rate \$48, Student Rate (age 13-22) \$29. Lunch for \$8 is optional but only available with early registrations. Information and sign-up available at the Welcome Center or contact Jill at 793-9760, ext. 231 or jbanes@springfieldfirst.org.

31st Annual United Methodist Conference on the Holy Spirit

On April 8th through the 10th, Bishop Gregory Palmer will be the guest speaker at the Grace United Methodist Church at 901 N. Main St., Decatur, IL. For more information and registration, go to www.jwfil.org. Contact person is Reverend Merlin Schendel, mhs42@msn.com.



Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT SM

As you may already know the youth ministry of First United Methodist Church endeavors to give teens an opportunity every year to put into practice the call of Mark 16:15 "Go into all the world and minister the gospel..." This year we will be heading to Harlan, Kentucky as we once again partner with Appalachia Service Project (ASP) to serve those that are in great need of physical, spiritual and financial assistance. It is my desire to put forth a memorable trip for the youth of our church and create an impactful spiritual experience that will remain with them for a lifetime.

On **March 14th, at 8:00 p.m.** we will be having a Parent and Volunteers informational meeting concerning this year's trip. If you have been wondering about this trip or have a young person (8th grade to Sr. High) that would like to participate in the ASP trip then this is a great opportunity to get all the information on requirements, costs, and forms needed. Also if you have ever thought about volunteering or plan on doing so this summer you will not want to miss this meeting.

If you have any further questions before then please feel free to contact me at (217) 793-9760 ext. 124 or email tsensabaugh@springfieldfirst.org.

Tim Sensabaugh
FUMC Youth Director

Grief Support Group

Beginning on Monday March 22, First UMC will be offering a nine week seminar designed to help those who have experienced a significant loss in their lives. This seminar will be offered on Monday evenings from 6-8 p.m., continuing through May 17. The seminars will be led by a caring team of experienced volunteers, and will be using a video curriculum from Grief Share as the basis for conversation. This experience will offer helpful information, comforting Scriptural and faith resources for times of grief, and supportive times with others who have experienced a loss. Anyone who has lost someone important in their lives will benefit from this healing experience, and is invited to be a part of any or all of these sessions. There is no cost to attend, and you may simply come and join us or contact Rev. Rohn (793-9760 ext. 238, vrohn@springfieldfirst.org) for more information.

Easter Lily Dedications

If you would like to give a Lily in honor or in memory of someone at Easter, you can call 793-9760, ext. 231 and speak with Jill Barnes or email her at jbanes@springfieldfirst.org. The cost of an Easter Lily is \$10.00. Please make out your check to First United Methodist Church and write in the memo area "Easter Lily." You can mail the information you would like to have listed and your check to: Easter Lily Dedication, First United Methodist Church 2941 S Koke Mill Rd, Springfield IL 62711. All checks and money for Lilies must be turned into the office or Welcome Center by Sunday, March 21.

Please do not put the dedication or money in the offering. You can find the forms to fill out at Welcome Center in the Atrium.



Senior Ministries' Opportunities in March:

Thursday, March 11: Around the Table Adventure for Seniors: 9:30 a.m. – 12 noon in rooms 5 & 6. Our hostesses are Pearl Hanselman and Norma Bibb. Devotional, treats and drinks will be provided. For those who wish, we will car pool to O'Charleys for lunch following our time of games. Please notify Carli if you are not on our call list and wish to attend, 793-9760 ext. 121, or cburton@springfieldfirst.org.

Coming Up:

Tuesday, April 20 – Friday, April 23: Branson Trip You asked...so we planned another great trip to Branson, MO. We will depart from our parking lot at 8:30 a.m. with a stop for a light lunch and then a dinner stop. The attractions include: Pierce Arrow; Red, Hot, & Blue; The Branson Belle Showboat (dinner included); SIX (voted the best show in Branson); Dolly Parton's Silver Dollar City (many shows and attractions to see plus the International Festival's 50th anniversary); and the Dixie Stampede (dinner included). We will stay at the Branson Towers (2 to a room unless a single is requested). Coach travel, entrance to all above listed attractions, hotel, luggage handling, 3 breakfasts and 2 dinners are all included for \$395.00. This is an at-cost trip. Please sign up at our Welcome Center and make checks payable to Jeannine Schendel. The first payment of \$200 is due on March 15, and the second payment of \$195 is due on April 1.

Grandparents/Grandchildren Camping Opportunities:

For a great experience with your grandchild(ren), the following camps are available. Register by April 13 for the "Early Bird Discount" of \$25.00. Full payment is required at the time of registration to receive the discount. Camp brochures are available at our Welcome Center or you may go online at www.igrcamp.org, or contact Carli Burton, 793-9760 ext. 121, or cburton@springfieldfirst.org.

Living Springs Camp, Lewistown, IL

June 11 – 13 My Shepherd & Me (Kindergarten – 4th grade with an adult) \$120 p/p

July 2 – 4 Family Camp \$120/Ages 12 through adults, \$90. Ages 5 – 11

July 16 – 18 Family Camp \$120/Ages 12 through adults, \$90. Ages 5 – 11

Little Grassy Camp, Makanda, IL

June 11 – 13 My Shepherd & Me (Kindergarten – 4th grade with an adult, up to 3 children may accompany 1 adult) \$120/adult; \$60/children

Jensen Woods Camp, Timewell, IL

July 1 – 3 Family Horse Camp \$100/adults & children 11 years+; \$60/children 10 years & under

Epworth Camp, Louisville, IL

June 11 – 13 Generations Camp (pre-K – 3rd grade with an adult) \$90/adults; \$60/children

East Bay Camp, Hudson, IL

July 16 – 18 Grandparent & Me (Pre-K – 3rd grade with an adult) \$155/adult; \$120/children

My Shepherd & Me Family (Pre-K – 3rd grade with an adult) \$155/adult; \$120/children

THE CHURCH OFFICES AND BUILDING WILL BE CLOSED DURING THE DAY ON FRIDAY, APRIL 2 FOR GOOD FRIDAY.

Holy Week and Easter

Join us for the events of Holy Week preparing us for the celebration of Easter.

Thurs., April 1 **Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m.**

This experience is designed to remember Jesus' last night on earth and his last supper with his disciples. We will focus on Jesus' sacrifice as the liberating force for joyful serving. Then we will share in communion as Jesus' present day disciples. Rev. Vince Rohn will be speaking.

Friday, April 2 **Good Friday at 7:00 p.m.**

On this day we remember the passion of Jesus. He willingly suffered and was crucified to pay the costly price for our sins, so we could be forgiven and reconciled to God. Jesus' sacrifice for our sins, once and for all, is what makes this day "good." Dr. Bob Swickard will be speaking.

Sat., April 3 **Easter Egg Hunt & Easter Service at First UMC**

Children in the 4th grade and younger will enjoy age specific hunting areas for Easter eggs, refreshments, and a creative telling of the Easter Story from 10:00-11:00 a.m.

Our first Easter worship celebration will take place at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Roger Ross will be speaking.

Sunday, April 4 **EASTER! 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise—outside First UMC by the pond 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary**

On Easter, we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead by the power of God. Jesus' resurrection makes forgiveness of sins and an eternal relationship with God possible by faith. Dr. Roger Ross will be speaking.

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the hope and joy we have in the Risen Christ!

Do You Like Music?

If so, you are invited to join the New Life Adult Choir as they sing their spring cantata accompanied by a full symphony orchestra on Sunday morning May 16.

If you would like to sing that morning you will be asked to attend a number of rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. You are welcome to practice the cantata and then leave or if you wish you can stay with the choir for their regular rehearsal of their anthems that they sing each week. (The last part of the rehearsal is optional. We begin with the cantata so those who want to sing only the cantata may practice it and leave.) The rehearsal with the orchestra is Thursday evening May 13.

This will be an exciting opportunity to sing some glorious music! If you are interested, either contact Jim Rogers at the church at 793-9760 ex. 226 or just come on a Thursday evening a little before 7:00 p.m.