

www.springfieldfirst.org
GOOD
IDINGS



Matthew 16:24-25 (NLT)

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must turn from your selfish ways, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it."

Letting Go...

What do you want more than anything else in the world? Maybe it's as simple as a smart phone or a new car. It could be a relationship with someone. Or it might be less tangible, like respect or a sense of significance.

We all have wants and needs. Some of them run deep. And all too often they just sit there... waiting to be fulfilled. Unmet wants and needs are a core source of frustration in many people's lives. What do you do when your biggest "want" remains just beyond your outstretched finger tips?

The Biblical writer, Paul, suggests we do something that cuts against the grain of our nature. He urges us to let go of what we want. Of course, that sounds crazed. Left to ourselves, we would do the opposite. We think it's best to work harder, hold on tighter, and make it happen.

But Paul offers another way: letting go. You may wonder, "How do I let go of what I really want?"

The first step is to clearly identify what you need. This sounds easier than it is. For instance, many people think their greatest want is a pile of money. But their deeper need is what that money represents: security or peace of mind. What is the need beneath your want?

Once you are crystal clear about your need, you are ready for the next step—open your hands and let it go. This may sound ridiculous, even paradoxical. "The thing I need the most, I let go of?" That's right. You let go of it on a mental, emotional, spiritual, and physical level.

I like the way Melody Beattie puts it, "If I... embark on a plan to control or influence getting that want or need met, I usually make things worse. Searching, trying to control the process, does not work. I must, I have learned to my dismay, let go."

Letting go means surrendering your wants and needs to God. Letting go doesn't mean you drop something. It simply means you turn it over to God, because God is the only one who is truly in control. In the Bible, Paul says to the Christ-followers in Philippi,

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition... present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)

Peace comes in release. This is not about throwing up a prayer and expecting an answer that instant, although that happens. It is learning how to trust God with the practical needs of everyday life. It is surrendering what you hold so tightly to make room for God's peace. It is letting go... so God can do something beautiful with your life.



With open hands

Our staff is here to help each person live as a disciple of Jesus Christ that transforms the world. Feel free to contact us.

ph. 217-793-9760
www.springfieldfirst.org

PASTORAL STAFF

- Roger Ross.....Lead Pastor
- Bob Swickard.....Pastor
- Michael Paulson.....Pastor

MINISTRY STAFF

- Alyce FosterDirector of Guest Orientation
- Andrew Schmidt.....Director of Technical Ministry
- Brad CurtisDirector of Student Ministry
- Carli BurtonDirector of Adult Ed. & Sr. Ministries
- Charles LangeExecutive Director
- Eric Hendrickson.....Directory of Contemporary Music Ministry
- Jeff NailDirector of Young Adult Ministry
- Jim RogersDirector of Music Ministry
- Lindsay WalkerDirector of Children's Ministry
- See Tsai Chan.....Associate Director of Music Ministry

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Pam Long.....Financial Secretary
- Sharon SweeneyAdministrative Assistant/Wedding Organizer
- Patricia Harding.....Receptionist/Printshop

CUSTODIAL STAFF

- Dennis Fors
- Cheryl Long
- Woody Oliea
- Randy Osborn

STAFF EMAILS:
First initial and Last name@springfieldfirst.org



The Rose - The Story Continues



Perhaps you attended a special musical worship service before Christmas entitled “The Winter Rose.” This spring we will hear the continuation of that story as the New Life Choir and a full symphony orchestra present a special musical worship service – “Calvary’s Rose” on Sunday May 15TH at our 8:30AM and 11:00AM services of worship.

This service will be a special one. You need not have been present for the Christmas portion in December to enjoy “Calvary’s Rose” and to be reminded once again how much God loves us. (Each section can stand alone, with one section telling the story of the birth of Christ and the other section telling the story of his death and resurrection.)

Both halves are by the same contemporary composer, Joseph Martin. Both use the image of a rose to represent Christ who was sent to redeem us from sin and bring us to heaven. The Winter Rose who came to redeem us from the sins of the Garden of Eden will now take us to the Garden of Gethsemane, to the hill outside of town where three crosses “bloomed”, and then finally to that very special garden where the tomb stood empty on that first Easter Day.

We present these special musical worship services for two reasons. One, of course, is to provide a meaningful worship service for our congregation. The other reason, however, is that we recognize that music is an easy way to involve people who do not regularly attend any

church. Perhaps you know someone – a neighbor, a friend, or someone who works with you – who is looking for a church home. May 15TH will be a great day for you to invite them to worship with you! People love music and would love to come and share it with you!

Remember – they need not have heard the Christmas section to benefit from hearing “Calvary’s Rose”!

Come and join us on May 15TH as we hear once again about the life and death and then the great triumph over death as Jesus – the Rose of Calvary – washed away our sins by giving his life for us.

Come and let the beauty of the music bring you once more to the foot of the cross. Come, and prepare to have your life changed!

• Financial Update

March 18, 2011

Operating Budget Receipts: \$197,944.96
Operating Budget Disbursements: \$178,966.74
Operating Budget for March: \$18,978.22

2011 Year to Date

Operating Budget Receipts: \$590,437.63
Operating Budget Disbursements: \$567,239.20
Year to Date: \$23,198.43

Principal Loan on Building: \$9,403,115.19

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

VBS (Vacation Bible School)

PANDAMANIA

JULY 18TH-22TH

9:00AM-12:10PM

3 YEARS THROUGH 5TH GRADE

A wild celebration of God's unconditional love! At PandaMania VBS, kids will discover that God has a purpose and a plan for everyone and that he crafted each of us with his own loving hands. Look for our registration tables in both atriums and on our website beginning in May. Register early to secure your spot.



Summer
KidLife
Schedule

Classes at 8:30, 9:45 and 11:00AM will remain the same as the school year for all those in Children's Ministry during the months of June, July and August.

Change is in the Air

Exciting changes are taking place in the north wing of the church, and we wanted to share with you about these improvements. Some of the changes include new paint and carpet in the gym, hallways and classrooms, as well as murals and 3D structures in the hallways, and an electronic check in system. We are working with a decorating company from Florida to implement these improvements in the KidLife area, and the installation of these items in classrooms and hallways will take place the first week of May. We're really excited about the changes taking place! Please be patient as we complete this construction on May 6th.

Seeking Additional Volunteers

Calling all men, women, painters, builders, crafty types, leaders, servants, cooks, drama enthusiasts, ANYONE with a desire to serve the church in a fun and unique way! We need help in all sorts of ways this year with Vacation Bible School, and no matter your skill level or commitment ability, we have a job for you!

We need individuals to serve as leaders during VBS (July 18th-20th), but we also have exciting opportunities for you to serve prior to July. We have tons of "prep" work: building, painting, cutting, copying... and we NEED your help!

Family Worship Night

Bring your family and come join us on May 18th at 6pm in the gym for a fun-filled night of worship, games, vision casting and great food! This is a great time to come check out all the changes happening in the KidLife area, and to get a tour of the new classrooms and hallways. Come one, come all for a great night of fun! Please let Lindsay Walker know if you're planning on attending, so we can plan for enough food.

This month at Fusion SM...

We'll be taking a look at a subject that strikes fear in the heart of most people...CHANGE

Although change is inevitable and inescapable...it still make most of us cringe to think that time is always marching forward and today is slowly slipping out of our grasp...

Jesus was keenly aware that when he left the Earth to return to his rightful place at the right hand of God, everything would be changing for his Disciples... but he gave them a promise

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." MATTHEW 28:17-20

This promise rings true for us today....even as everything around us changeS!



2010-2011 Confirmation Class

Congratulations and God's blessing to our as they continue their lifelong journey of faith in Jesus Christ!

| | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Nichole Arvidson | Brit Cooper | Kristi Isaacs | Peter Laudeman | Emma Sandstrom |
| Taylor Arvidson | Stephanie Cramer | Ryan Kassing | Blaire Marker | Rachel Scheffler |
| Tyler Bell | Eli Day | Abigail Kauerauf | Michael Olson | Christopher |
| Alexa Brown | Alex Halloway | Emily Kauerauf | Maren Reynolds | Scothorne |
| Amber Clouser | Kristyn Harland | Matthew Kauerauf | Connor Riddle | Hayley Simpkins |
| Peyton Cole | Michael Harry | Mitch Koehler | Zach Ross | Jason Woodworth |

Graduating Students

Parents, Grandparents, Friends, Relatives! If you have or know a student who is graduating from either 8TH grade, 12TH grade or College, please let the church office (Sharon Sweeney: 217-793-9760) know so they can be recognized during our Graduate Recognition Sunday.

Info to include: Student Name; Name of institution student is graduating from; and Future Plans

Important Dates

- May 1:** Confirmation Sunday
- May 8:** No Fusion SM (*Mother's Day*)
- May 15:** Summer Mission Trip
Training Session (*12NOON, Rm 6*)
- June 5:** No Fusion SM

Visitation Ministry



I want to make you aware of the wonderful program that our church offers for our senior citizens. First, seniors, let me tell you that you are like fine gold to your church. Your wisdom, your experience of life, your prayer power all mean so much to us. You are valued!

We offer service opportunities where you can actively minister. And many of you are. I trust you are keeping in contact with those you have befriended in the church who are no longer physically able to attend. Everyone loves hearing from a friend.

We have volunteers who are visiting our homebound, but we are in need of more. If this is something you would like to do, please contact me. This is a wonderful ministry to our members who have served this church so faithfully.

We ask that you please remember your church in prayer daily. Also, if you or a loved one is now homebound, please notify me.

We not only have opportunities of service, but of fellowship. We have Sunday school, prayer partners, Bible studies, small groups, quilting clubs, bridge clubs, and social activities, including trips. We invite you to become a part of any and all in which you are interested.

-Carli Burton

Mission Team to Guatemala

This June 4TH-18TH, First United Methodist Church will once again be sending a mission team to Guatemala. Thirty five people will be going to the village of Tabacal in Guatemala. Seven people from Vermont St. United Methodist Church in Quincy will be among the group. Our goal for the two weeks of our summer mission trip is to construct what many in central American missions call a "feeding center."

The feeding center is a building which will provide space in this jungle village where the children of the village can come to eat a nutritional meal at least 3 days a week and have the meal followed by Bible teaching that is age-appropriate for the kids. This way, the kids can be fed physically and spiritually.

Please keep all of the people who are going on the trip in your prayers. Please pray that the teams are able to accomplish great things in this construction phase. Lastly, pray that God works in the hearts, not only those of the recipients of our labor, but in each team member's heart as well.

Thanks and blessings, Bob Swickard

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH

Around the Table Adventure is a fellowship for any and all seniors. We meet in rooms 5 & 6 from 9:30AM-12NOON where we enjoy dominoes, card and board games. The hostesses are Bun Koepp and Mary Paxton. They will present a devotional and bring us goodies! We will do lunch together at O'Charley's after. *The Around the Table Fellowship* will not meet June-August, but will resume in September.

THURSDAY, MAY 12TH

We will depart from our parking lot at 9:00AM for the **Cub/Card game** at Wrigley Field. We will stop at the Golden Corral in Joliet for our evening meal.

THURSDAY, MAY 19TH

Quilter's Guild (beginners & masters alike) will meet in rooms 5 & 6 from 10:00AM-4:00PM. Bring a sack lunch.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16TH

An outing is planned to the **Barn II Dinner Theatre** to see *Encores! The Best of the Barn!* **Sign up now.** Come celebrate the early history of Conklin's Dinner Theatre with the greatest numbers from legendary Broadway musicals along with hilarious anecdotes from those who made it happen and saw it all. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime event! We will depart at 4:15PM from the church. \$49 covers the live theatre show, a Prime Rib dinner (and/or chicken & fish) with all the fixings, plus a drink, dessert and coach travel. Your check made out to the church will hold your seat.

Celebration & Invitation from the Prayer Team

People involved with the ministry of the Prayer Team would like to celebrate with you how we have seen God moving powerfully at First Church in the last two months. The Prayer Team is a group of 430 people who have committed to pray daily (as guided by a monthly letter) for the ministries and life of First Church. In March, 53 people attended the first-ever physical gathering of the Prayer Team. Flowing out of that gathering was a new movement in the prayer life of First Church as a whole.

To start, 104 people took part in a 24-hour prayer vigil the first weekend in April for the life, ministries, and people of First Church and the Springfield community. Then, each weekend in April small groups of people from the Prayer Team have gathered at 4PM on Saturday afternoons to pray for you. We have prayed prayers of blessing over each seat in the sanctuary and every room where ministry happens—praying that God would bless every person that takes part during that weekend’s worship experience. People have also been praying during each worship service for those who are worshipping at that time. We would like these prayer ministries to become ongoing ministries.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

Please contact Michael Paulson if you would like to either:

- 1) Join the monthly mailing list and pray each day for FUMC from home or at work.
- 2) Try out praying over worship experiences either on Saturday afternoon or during worship services themselves

Bible Study Fellowship

Bible Study Fellowship is offering the Acts of the Apostles study this fall. BSF welcomes women and children (infant through kindergarten) from all walks of life. Registration is May 5TH, 9:10-11AM at the gymnasium entrance to FUMC.

Contact Shannon Hart 725-7646 or Maggie Barton 629-8382 with questions. Child care is not available for new children on registration days.



A ministry for mothers in All stages of parenting.

THE MORNING SMALL GROUP has grown to the point of needing to “birth” or “multiply” into two groups! Lori Keltner, who has been the Apprentice Leader up to this point, is leading a new group and Leanne Ross is also leading a second group. Both meet from 9-11AM on the 1ST and 3RD Fridays in May. We are meeting as a large group at the beginning in Room 4 and then we discuss our study in our individual groups. We have resumed our book study, “Making Love Last Forever” and will complete it at the end of May.

Contact Leanne Ross @ ross_leanne@hotmail.com for more information. Childcare is available.

THE EVENING GROUP meets 2ND and 4TH Fridays, 7 PM at 2325 Waterbury Pond Ct., Springfield and is studying, “Character Matters” by John and Susan Yates.

Contact Michelle Miner @ m.miner@comcast.net for more information. Childcare is available.

Watch for details on summer events in the June newsletter.

United Methodist Women

Thank you to those women who attended the Spring Fling “It’s in the Bag” on April 16, 2011. Many purses and bags will be filled the items donated and given to those need. This response helps our mission work. Thank you for your generosity.

If you’re haven’t join the United Methodist Women yet, we have a place for you. In April, Leanne Ross was our luncheon speaker and discussed the Mom2Mom program. She gave us information which will help with referrals.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| May 6TH | 10:00AM | Rm 14 |
| UMW Administrative Board Luncheon | | |
| | 12:00NOON | GYM |
| Speaker: Phyllis Rominger | | |
| May 19TH | 7:00PM | Rm A2 |
| Rachel Circle | | |
| May 20TH | 9:30AM | Rm A2/A3 |
| Susannah and Abigail Circles | | |
| June 3RD | 10:00AM | Rm 14 |
| UMW Administrative Board Luncheon | | |
| | 12:00NOON | GYM |
| Speaker: Job Junger, Poetr | | |

"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. Michael Paulson

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Good Tidings, 2941 S. Koke Mill, Springfield, IL 62711. Periodical postage paid at Springfield, IL

NEW MESSAGE SERIES

- APRIL 30-MAY 1:** “...OF GOD AS I KNEW HIM”
BOB SWICKARD & ROGER ROSS: SPEAKING
CONFIRMATION OF YOUTH AT 11:00AM
- MAY 7-8:** “...OF FAIRY TALES”
JODY ANTRIM: SPEAKING
- MAY 14-15:** “...OF A GRUDGE”
ROGER ROSS: SPEAKING
- MAY 21-22:** “...OF THE PEOPLE WHO DRIVE YOU NUTS”
BOB SWICKARD: SPEAKING
- MAY 28-29:** “...OF THE IRREVERSIBLE”
MICHAEL PAULSON: SPEAKING



Letting Go...

Weekend Worship Experiences

SATURDAY: 5:30 PM

SUNDAY: 8:30, 9:45 AND 11:00 AM