



Meetings and Gatherings

Bible Study: May 9 and 23 (2nd and 4th Thursdays) 6:00—7:30 PM

Children's Church: Each Sunday following the Children's Message

Choir Rehearsal: Mondays, 5:15 PM

Church Office closed: Afternoon of May 6, All Day May 8 and 27

Church Outdoor Clean-up Day: Saturday, May 18

Cub Scouts: Thursday, May 23, 6:00-8:00 PM

Korean Sunday School Class: Sundays at 9:30 AM

MaTT Club: May 5, Mom and Me Party, 4:00 PM; May 19, Bowling

Memorial Day: Monday, May 27, Church Office closed.

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 12

Pentecost: Sunday, May 19

Praise & Prayer Small Group: Sundays at 9:30 AM

Southern Illinois Children's Choir Concert: Sunday, May 12, 4:30 PM
Rehearsals May 10 evening, and all day May 11

Staff Meeting: Tuesday, May 7 and 21, 9:00 AM

Trustees Meeting: Sunday, May 19 after Worship

United Methodist Men: Saturday, May 11, 7:30 AM breakfast
meeting, Murphysboro UMC fellowship hall

Victory Dream Center Youth: Wednesday, May 1 and 15, 5:30 PM

Young at Heart on the Road: Tuesday, May 14, leave MUMC parking
lot at 9:00 a.m. for The Farm Restaurant in La Center, KY.

Women's Bible Study: Wednesdays at 9:30 AM

Women's Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, May 4,
9:00 AM

Worship every Sunday at 10:30 AM

March 31, 2024 Sanctuary photo.



Grace Notes

News from Grace United Methodist Church

Carbondale, Illinois 618-457-8785

Web site: www.carbondalegrace.org

E-mail: carbondalegraceinfo@gmail.com

Veronica McMichael: Pastor of Christian Education & Discipleship

Michelle Parker-Clark: Pastor of Congregational Care

Marty McMichael: Sr. Pastor

THE THING ABOUT MOTHERS

The concept of new life is the center stone of our faith. Resurrection, redemption, and forgiveness are the vehicles for this new life. They incubate, nurture, and form the living into a new life with God; an eternal life of restoration to one's original design. In the same sense mothers have that nature of God. The natural ability to incubate, nurture, and form a life. Mothers incubate, amazingly carrying a human being inside themselves for nine months; it's a miracle minimized by familiarity. Mothers nurture, caringly feed, meticulously clean, and clothe the child that can't care for him or herself. Mothers form, honing a godly mind within the child; skillfully, and sometimes painfully for all concerned, engaging in methods of discipline, affirmation, and encouragement into adulthood.

⁵When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also. ⁶Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:5-6

I want to remind all women that being a mother transcends giving birth to a baby. A woman does indeed birth a baby, but a mother cares for that child. It's the caring for a child that profoundly offers all women the capacity to be called and received as a mother. So, on Mother's Day we give honor, thanks, and praise to foster mothers, godmothers, mother-in-laws, and the caring woman neighbor down the street who; incubated life and hope, nurtured body and soul, and formed heart and mind of a child to become an adult. If you didn't know who you were, we the recipients of your love applaud you today.

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Pastor's Letter continued from page 2

¹⁴ *Again they wept loudly. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung tightly to her.* ¹⁵ *So Naomi said, "Look, your sister-in-law is returning to her people and to her god. Follow your sister-in-law back home!"* ¹⁶ *But Ruth replied, "Stop urging me to abandon you! For wherever you go, I will go. Wherever you live, I will live. Your people will become my people, and your God will become my God."* ¹⁷ *Wherever you die, I will die—and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I do not keep my promise! Only death will be able to separate me from you!"* **Ruth 1:14-17**

So, I charge you all this day who have been mothers knowingly and unawares to continue in that highest of callings. Continue to love through meals cooked with a passion to care. Continue to admonish and be like God, ***"For the Lord disciplines the one he loves and chastises every son he accepts."*** Continue to encourage, giving hope in a world of hurt, loss, and discouragement. You are a co-author with fathers in creating the building blocks for our society. One that is centered in God and rooted in Christ Jesus. I know it is difficult work and at times its quite thankless, but you must continue for the sake of the Gospel in the world!

⁹ ***And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. Galatians 6:9***

**With Thanks,
Marty McMichael
Sr. Pastor**



Mother's Day will be recognized at Grace UM Church on Sunday, May 12th. All adult ladies will be honored, regardless of parent status. Come to worship God first in your heart and leave with small gifts of gratitude as the women of our congregation are appreciated.

Kay Eckiss

May Birthdays

5/1 Amy Park
5/2 Lena Hake
5/10 Amy Wyatt
5/11 Marianne Abrahamson
5/11 Katie Hine
5/18 Joyce Fligor

May Anniversaries

5/2 Orville and Lena Hake (60 years)
5/22 Rev. Bong-Choul and Rev. In-Sook Hwang
5/22 Jamal and Dominique Kinchen

Early June Birthdays

6/7 Pastor Veronica McMichael
6/10 Rev. Alden Hickman

MAY



The church salutes and is grateful to Joyce Fligor, who has volunteered her accounting skills as Church Treasurer for many years. Joyce has just retired from this position, for which she worked many hours working with the budget, payroll, and tax preparation along with our church office manager Debbie Ditch.

Please extend a word of gratitude or a note of thanks to Joyce for her years of dedication and sharing of her skills in God's name.

Kay Eckiss

If the Spring weather has you getting excited about trimming shrubs, cleaning gutters, and mulching, please join us on Saturday, May 18, for GUMC outdoor cleanup day. Everyone is invited to join in on the fun. Please contact Debbie in the church office if you plan to participate so we will know how many to expect, as a light lunch will be provided. Thank you for your help!



Young at Heart will be back on the Road on Tuesday, May 14. We will depart the MUMC church parking at 9:00 am for 11:00 am reservations at The Farm Restaurant located in La Center, KY. The Farm offers an elevated southern cuisine and dining experience right to your table including signature dishes such as their Homemade Meatloaf Plate, Southern Smothered Chicken, and their Almost Famous Fish & Chips - made from the freshest ingredients raised on "The Farm." Please join us for another fun-filled adventure with YAH on the Road, and don't forget to invite a friend.

Pastor Michelle



The church council held its latest meeting on Sunday, April 21st. The council is made up of representatives from different church programs and our pastors. All persons are welcome to observe meetings. Meetings begin with a brief devotion and close with sharing of intercessory concerns and prayer.

Some of the items discussed during the meeting's business included:

- Announcement of Mother's Day Mission project. Honor those who have mothered others with a donation to the local charity for women in need.
- Review of repairs done by the Trustees and plans for a church work day on Saturday, May 18.
- Invitation for the junior and senior high students at Grace to be included in the summer mission trip with the Murphysboro Methodist Youth Group.
- Review of church finances and the decision to continue the month amount of apportionment that is sent to the conference.
- Need for hiring a part-time bookkeeper for the church
- Ongoing update of technology needs and costs for worship sound systems, multimedia, and livestreaming church services online

Kay Eckiss

Grace Mission Statement

"Love God, love people, make disciples of Jesus Christ."



Children's Church

April 14 was such a beautiful day that we took Children's Church outside. After hearing the story of the Road to Emmaus, we took some chalk and went out the children's area door. We talked about when God helps us to see "clearly" with our mind and our heart. After drawing a huge pair of glasses Kamma and Timothy, Ms. Kay and Ms. Flossie drew things that God created. You may think that God did not create the airplane that Timothy drew, but God created our brains and people used their brains to imagine and build many things to improve life. When we were done we gathered in a circle and thanked God for all God's creation and for helping us see clearly what God wants us to do.

Flossie



The Southern Illinois Children's Choir performance of "Walk in the Light" is Sunday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m. in Grace sanctuary. The 24 choir members are 5 to 15 years of age and recently sang at the "Into the Darkness: Celebrating the Eclipse with Music" concert in SIU's Shryock Auditorium, along with five other area choirs. All are welcome for an afternoon of inspiration.

United Methodist Men

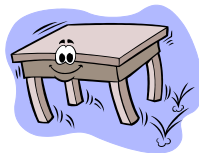
Saturday, May 11, 2024
7:30 AM Breakfast Meeting
Murphysboro UMC



MaTT Club -

a place for kids and adults to gather with friends, old and new, at the table with Jesus.

Due to the eclipse weekend activities, MaTT Club only met once in April. The parable we heard on April 21 was the Wheat and Tares.



During Game Time we did an activity in which Rosemary walked around with a tray full of items. I ask the kids to write down "what they see". After she left the room I asked them questions about Rosemary, rather than the items on the tray. I then told the kids that sometimes we're so focused on what we think we are supposed to be seeing that we completely miss something else. After that the kids divided pictures of flowers into 'bad' (weeds) and 'good' flowers. Some of the flowers totally fooled us.

After hearing the parable of the Wheat and Tares from Matthew 13:24-30, we discussed how we can't tell if a person is good or bad just by looking at them. And it's not our job to decide if a person is good or bad. Our job is to show love, kindness and respect to everyone. Fred Rogers, of Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, said *"Have you ever noticed that the very same people who are bad sometimes are the very same people who are good sometimes?"* We talked about how each of us has good characteristics but sometimes behave badly. I told the kids that I'm sure glad that God doesn't judge me on my bad days!

We brainstormed "weeds" in our lives that prevent us from behaving in ways that make our parents and God happy. The children wrote these on a weed picture and put it in their binder books.

During craft time the children wove paper strips into a placemat.

Thank you, Rosemary and Veronica for your help.

MaTT Club will finish its year with our annual Mom & Me party on May 5 and bowling on May 19.

Happy May birthday to Zac.

-Flossie



April 5, 2024

A big thank you to everyone at GUMC who has helped me on various committees and projects. Yesterday I asked Pastor Marty to find a replacement for me on any or all committees. It's time for me to retire and turn my jobs over to others. I'm continuing to receive chemotherapy, and hope you will keep me in your prayers.

Joyce Fligor



The Women's Wednesday Morning Small Group has completed their Bible study of the book of Isaiah! Whew! The group enjoyed the surprising messages of uplifting hope that were found amid the prophet's warnings. The group leader, Rosemary Hubenthal, collected each person's favorite verses and put them together in a lovely booklet for all to remember.

The group has also been watching selected videos, such as the story of Ruth.

During one session the group put together small gifts for one of the gals who is recovering from surgery.

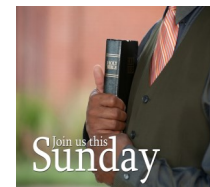
After the long study of Isaiah, the next Wednesday morning topic will be a lighter break. In May the group will begin to read and discuss the novel *Wonderland Creek* by Christian author Lynn Austin.

All ladies are welcome to participate. The small group meets at Grace Church on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 A.M. for prayer and study.

Kay Eckiss

**Join Us for
In-Person Worship or
Online**

Worship on Sundays 10:30AM



To watch the recorded service through Facebook video visit our website at
<https://www.facebook.com/CarbondaleGraceUMC>