

SOBER BUT NOT SOMBER...

This is the season of LENT. It is the time of the year when followers of Jesus reflect on what it truly means to do just that: follow. Jesus said, "If anyone would follow after me, let him deny self take up his cross and follow me." So down through the ages, people who love Jesus have discovered the true meaning of taking up crosses and following Him. For some it is to walk through personal illness, grief, loss, disappointment, failure, and more. For some it is to face fear, pain, regret, shame, guilt, hate, anger and the whole menu of brokenness we humans experience. Jesus' own cross was to bear our sins and the sins of the whole world. "SIN" is more than a single act or collective group of actions. It literally means to "miss the mark." It is to be "off course." And if we are following Jesus, the last thing we want is to be "off course" because that would mean we lose our way. Jesus said, "I have come to 'seek AND to save' those who are lost." I take comfort in those amazing words. Jesus, the Son of God, is looking for you and me. He doesn't want to condemn us (John 3:17) but wants to "save us" from our sins (and often that means from ourselves). Honestly, most of

us have a hard time admitting we are off course or "lost." Most of my gender would rather do anything that to stop and ask directions, so we keep on driving hoping to get back on route to our destination. And that isn't too far from how we treat our faith journey, either!

This LENT, you and I **get** to walk with Jesus. And whether we know it or not, He is already walking with us (Psalm 23:6). It is not a somber walk. It doesn't need to lead to sadness or even death. But it is a sobering walk. It is being honest with God **and** ourselves about where we are and where God would like for us to be. From the open chapters of the Bible, when Adam and Eve first lost their way (sinned) and hid as a result, we see God calling out, "Adam where are you?" Maybe this LENT is a good season to hear a timeless voice calling to you and me, "**Where are you?**" Please know, you don't have to hide. You and I don't have to stay lost to God. We don't have to lose our way. Jesus, the Way, is as near as the next prayer you and I utter. "Help me" is the plea of a heart looking to be found and needing to be saved. My prayer is, "Lord, help us all." There is joy at the end of the road...from the cross, to the grave from



the grave to the skies...LIFE eternal in Jesus and with Jesus. Hallelujah!
See you on the road! ~jimd.

YOU'RE INVITED to attend WEEKLY LENTEN SERVICES Sundays at 6 p.m.

Please join in for an inspiring evening of worship, great music, and Christian fellowship.

- Feb. 17 Smithton UMC
- Feb. 24 Pleasant Hill UMC
- Mar. 3 Goodwill Chapel UMC
- Mar. 10 Taylor Chapel UMC
- Mar. 17 Georgetown UMC
- Mar. 24 First UMC—DT

GRIEF GATHERING (BECAUSE WE CARE)

On Monday, February 25 we will serve a free soup supper and gather people who have experienced the death of a loved one. We will meet at 6:00 p.m. in The Gathering Place. We will take the time to offer mutual support and ideas about how to journey through grief in a healthy way. Please call the church office or sign-up on a blue card this weekend.

NEW SERIES

For two week we have a message mini-series on the themes of Love & Fear. Join us this weekend and invite a friend as we explore two experiences which dramatically shape our lives.



LEADING PEOPLE TO AN ACTIVE FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST



Ladies Game Night

Our next Ladies Game Night at the Celebration Center (Gathering Place) will be on Friday, February 22, 7-10ish p.m. We will be playing *Apples to Apples*. Please bring along your favorite "simple" snack food to share with the girls and a drink. For questions call Angie Kroeger 660-473-1190.

Easter Musical Practice

If you enjoy singing and want to share this God given talent with others, you are invited to join the First Church Choir in presenting an Easter Musical entitled "Where Love and Mercy Meet" on Sunday, March 24 at the Downtown church. Rehearsals for the musical are on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m. at the downtown church location. For more information, please call Lori Broyles at 620-7299 or 826-8299.

Huggers & Rockers

We're thrilled that The Creation Station, our nursery, has grown rapidly during the Sunday School hour & 9:45 service! We are in need of some volunteer Huggers & Rockers. Requirements include being ready to play, rock our babies, be an extra set of hands and love on our 0-2 year olds from 9:30 to 10:50. If you are interested in being a Hugger and Rocker, contact Mona at mona@firstsayes.com or call the church office.

HEARTBEATS

♥ Come join us for **Wednesday Night W.O.W.** We have classes for all ages! WOW meets every Wednesday at the Celebration Center through March 20th from 6:15-7:15 pm.

♥ **All Sunday School Teachers** are encouraged to attend a meeting on February 24th from 11:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m. at the Celebration Center (Gathering Place). A light lunch will be provided!

♥ If you are dealing with a conflict right now in your lives, let one of our trained **Stephen Ministers** help provide emotional and spiritual care. Call Don Brandes, 827-6455, or the church office, 827-2993.

COMMON GROUNDS COFFEE HOUSE

HOURS:

**Wednesday 5:15-6:16,
Saturday 4:30-7:30 p.m., and
Sunday 8-10 a.m.**

SUMMER CAMPS

Go to www.mocamps.org to find out information about available summer camps. Register online by April 30th and receive a \$25 early bird discount. Camps are filled on a first-come, first served basis. Contact the church office (827-2993) to receive a Camp Scholarship Voucher offered to all members of the church who are attending camps.

MEALS FOR MOMS

Introducing *Meals for Moms*, a new ministry at First United Methodist Church to celebrate with and to bless families with support and welcome after a baby is born. Once mom and the baby come home from the hospital, Meals for Moms will help with meals the first few weeks. If you are expecting a baby, or know of a family expecting, or have questions, please contact Jennifer Cordia at 826-1574 or jennifer_cordia@yahoo.com with contact information.

HAITI ORPHANS

Strong Tower is excited to announce the Grand Opening of the first orphan home in March!! A team will be traveling March 5-13 to work with the orphan home staff and prepare the home for the girls. We are collecting packages of new girls' underwear, assorted sizes, for the team to take down. If you'd like to donate, please bring them to the lobby of the Celebration Center. Shipping costs equal \$2.50/lb. and donations in this area are welcomed as well. Thank you so much!! GREAT is the love and faithfulness of God!!

WOMEN @ WELL Annual Dinner

**Friday, April 26, 2013
Celebration Center**

CWU

World Day of Prayer, sponsored by Church Women United, will be Friday, March 1st, at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 418 W. 4th, at 1:30

THANK YOU: (On display at Welcome Center Bulletin Boards)
 We received a note of thanks from: *Charles Cline & Family*

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECTS FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

The Congenital Heart Defects Families Association is a non-profit 501c3 corporation working together to bring comfort and support to area families affected by congenital heart defects. One of the areas of support is handing out care packages to families whose child is undergoing cardiac procedures at Children's Mercy Hospital In Kansas City, MO. At this time we are asking for donation of item or items that help makeup the Care Packages: *Travel Size Toothpaste, Individually wrapped adult size Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Travel size Mouthwash, Travel size Shampoo and Conditioner. Hand Lotion, Mints/Gums, Mechanical Pencils, Unisex Newborn and Toddler blankets* For more information, contact Dave Gerken at 596-3880.

HAITI VBS 2013

Strong Tower Orphanage is excited to announce the 2013 VBS Mission Trip, August 2-10! Mission applications are now available at the Welcome Center and on the "Get Involved" page on the website

www.strongtowerorphanage.com **Please note the application must be accompanied by a \$150 non-refundable deposit and the deadline for application is April 1.** BLESS YOU as you prayerfully consider this opportunity!! If you have any questions, please contact Lorie Holt 620-0866, lorie@firstsayyes.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Marriott
 Samantha
 Hailey & Sydney Heimsoth
 1405 Elm Hills Lot 42
 Sedalia, MO 65301
 660-281-7561

WE CELEBRATE THE DAY YOU WERE BORN

If your birthday is not listed, please let us know so it can be added!

Feb. 17 Cynthia Lewis, Makenna Steger, Robin Wyatte, Terry Sunnarborg, Rhoda Christian **Feb. 18** Taylor Tallman, Rita Minor, Cara Barth-Fagan, Ann Thiele, Kathy Gardner, Doug Crank, Jr., Jennifer Pate **Feb. 19** Patty Gerke, Rick Ward, Zane Hieronymus, Tom Richardson, Jean Gillig **Feb. 20** Bryan Brock, Leslie Abney, Robert Shaw, Dale Kearney **Feb. 21** Mary Cheffey Lambirth, Morgan Koetting, Harry Joe Runge **Feb. 22** Adrian McGowen, Rochelle Hockett, Scott Lewellyn, Sharon Manley, Bruce Mowry, Cheryl Pricer, Melinda Stansbury, Virginia Steyer, Chris Harris **Feb. 23** Susan Malone, Clark Fobian, Callie Ryan **Feb. 24** Kaitlynn Goodwin, Richard Martin, June Hieronymus **Feb. 25** Caleb Ives, Bryce McCullough, Kiley Bodenstab **Feb. 26** Jacob Knierim, Brooke Jackson, Hannah Wilhoit **Feb. 27** Boston Boles, Jesse Mewes, John Schmidt, Ethlyn Schondelmaier, Katheryn Riesberg, Terry Kearney **Feb. 28** Bryant Lazenby, Billie Dunn, Nathaniel Kribbs, Pete Fromm, Laura Smith, Isaac Boone (**Feb. 29** Lori Reid-Price) **Mar. 1** Jennifer Crooks, Becka Ellison, Kate Ellison **Mar. 2** Taylor Coslet, Tina Carpenter, Bonnie Finch, Randy Hill, Kelly McFatrigh, Charlie Neth, Harper Triplett

FIRST STEPS

Feb. 2-3, 2013

Sunday School	133
Worship	972
Amt. Rec'd for	
Ministry	\$ 14836.45
Building	1863.50
Special	946.80

Feb. 9-10, 2013

Sunday School	118
Worship	923
Amt. Rec'd for	
Ministry	\$ 10788.49
Building	1384.25
Special	870.64

If you would like additional information about the church attendance or finances, please call the church office (827-2993).

Our Family

Our Prayers for:

Betty Rose Thompson, Norma Tullis, Steve Emory, Louise Lentz, Rosalee Burgess, Darlene & Virgil Burgess, Sue Coleman, Frances Goldsmith, Jacob Gerken, Leonard Craig, Clifford Smith, Charles & Jennie Cheffey, Mac McBride, Brayden Gleason, Brittany Blake (Carolyn Montgomery's granddaughter), Kathy Gardner, Strong Tower Haiti Orphanage and Our Military Families.

Our hearts and prayers go out in Christian love and sympathy to . . .

~ Judy Reed and family in the recent death of her father-in-law, Martin Jr., Reed,

~ Jason Moellman and family in the February 5th death of his grandmother, Mabel Moellman in Cole Camp, and

~ Fritz Harrell and family in the death of her husband, Bud Harrell on February 7th

YES today

Bookstore Hours:
 Sat. 4-7 pm Sun. 8-11am

First United Methodist Church
Office: 1701 West 32nd Street
Sedalia, MO 65301



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RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

FIRST United Methodist Church of Sedalia

Downtown, 4th & Osage

//Worship Sunday 10:50am

Celebration Center, 1701 W. 32nd St

// Worship Saturday 5:30pm // Sunday 8:35 

9:45am East & West & 12:30 pm

Listen on the Radio at 1490AM Sundays 10:30am

or on Website at www.firstsayyes.com



YOUTH SNOW TUBING!

Attention all Youth! (5th through 12th grade). Mark your calendar and free your schedule for a weekend retreat March 1st and 2nd. We're going to be leaving the church at 4:30pm on Friday, March 1st and will return at 12:00 pm on Saturday, March 2nd. Don't put your snow boots and coats up, because we're going to go tubing at Snow Creek in the Kansas City area! More details on cost and where we will be staying will be coming

soon. Parents: if you're interested in being a sponsor, contact Mona at mona@firstsayyes.com or 827-2993.

EASTER @ THE MATHEWSON IS ON IT'S WAY!

Our whole church family will host a community-wide Easter Celebration at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 31st. You can help! Begin praying for a great outpouring of God's love. Invite friends and neighbors who don't have a church family. Volunteer for one of the many teams who help to make this a worship experience of joy and delight as we celebrate our Risen Savior, Jesus. This year's theme is: THE NAME!

PROGRESS IN CHILDREN'S WING

We are continuing to mural the Promiseland Children's Wing. The interior hallway walls are being painted to look like the outside of Noah's Ark. Soon there will be animal faces in the large portals. Go take a look this weekend! P.S.-We could use your help putting a 2000 piece puzzle (Noah's Ark) together. If you are interested, join us at the Celebration Center this Saturday night (Feb. 17) after worship around 6:30 p.m. When we get the puzzle completed we will be using it to design ideas of the animals we will be painting for the Ark.

Do you sew? We could use your help on a project for Easter. Contact Pastor Jim at 827-2993. Thanks!