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## From the Pastor's Heart

### If You Haven't Seen Me Lately

Ezekiel 36:26

Back in the seventies a large furniture chain went through a major overhaul in store layout, inventory, pricing structure, payment plans, and so on. They launched a national advertising campaign to promote the difference: "If you haven't been to Levitz lately, you haven't been to Levitz."

The point was that if your impression of their store was based on something you had seen a couple of years ago; you need to come in and get reacquainted, because it's not the same old place. Everything is new.

This can be true for those who walk with Jesus: If you haven't seen me lately, you haven't really seen me at all, because God is doing something new in my life and God is doing something new in our church. I counted the new faces in 2<sup>nd</sup> service Sunday and I counted sixteen and I saw several returning folks in the 1<sup>st</sup> service.

Our church is experiencing spiritual renewal: If you haven't seen our church lately, you haven't seen our church... because God is doing something new here. Creating new lives --Changing hearts--Restoring relationships--Opening doors. It's not the same place it used to be.

God promised this kind of transformation for his people through the prophet Ezekiel.

*I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. (Ezekiel 36:26)*

Maybe you're not proud of who you used to be. Many of us feel the same way about ourselves. But thanks to God's grace, we can say, "If you haven't seen me lately, you haven't seen me."

Can you look back and see the transformation today? If not (or if not *enough*), know that he's committed to continuing the process of transformation in you, with a new heart, and a new spirit, building for you a new future.

May God Enlarge His Territory,  
Pastor Steve

## Thank You Notes

✉ Thank you for all the prayers concerning Mike's surgery. We also want to thank Pastor Steve Morgan, Pastor Steve Hayes and Richard Eident for being there. God is Good.

*Mike and Linda Dilley*

✉ A big thank you to Joy Eident, Raelyne Lane, Marilyn Purcell, Judy Hatfield and Rose Ervin for delivering 27 balloons and treats to our shut-ins!

*Marianna Hayes and Doris Webb*

## Men's Softball

Attention all men and youth 15 years and older...if you would like to play on the FCC Men's Church League Softball team, please sign-up in the narthex.



## Camp New Hope

*Special*  
EASTER OFFERING

We will collect the Easter Special Offering on Sundays, March 18th and 25th. The offering will be used to send people in our church to summer camp at Camp New Hope. Please use the Easter Envelope from your envelope box for this donation or clearly mark Easter Offering.

## 30 Pieces of Silver

The FROG and ROCK Youth Group has begun their 30 Pieces of Silver Fundraiser. If you would like to donate, please pick up a baggie in the narthex and return it anytime until Easter Sunday.



*Easter*

Friday, March 30th at Noon

Combined Good Friday Service at the First United Methodist Church with Pastor Steve bringing the message.

Sunday, April 1st

Sunrise Service at 7 am with Mike Brand  
Continental Breakfast 7:45-8:15 am (*youth fundraiser*)  
Traditional Worship at 8:30 am with Richard Eident  
Continental Breakfast 9:30-10:15 am (*youth fundraiser*)  
Contemporary Worship at 10:30 am with Pastor Steve

## Dinner for Eight

Would you be interested in hosting a "Dinner for Eight?" Hostesses will provide the main dish and guests will bring side dishes. The event will be planned by the hostess—date, time, theme (ex: Mexican, Italian, cook-out or even going out for pizza). The purpose is to bring our church family together for fellowship. The feedback from last years' "Dinner for Eight" was that it was a blessing to everyone. Please don't miss out on a blessing with our church family. If you are interested in being a hostess please call the church office at 234-2928.

The Laura Catherine Young Van Gundy Memorial Scholarship has some changes for the 2018-19 school year. At the request of the donor the scholarships will be awarded to members of FCC who are pursuing higher education in *Christian Ministry only*. If you would like to apply for this scholarship, please contact Robin in the church office by March 30th.

*Scholarship*

## Church Life

### Sunday, March 18

8:30 am Traditional Worship  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Contemporary Worship  
 3:15 pm F/R Movie Night at Showplace 10

### Monday, March 19

10-11:30 am Staff Meeting  
 7 pm Christian Ed. Meeting

### Tuesday, March 20

7 am Prayer Time  
 7 pm Bible 101 Class

### Wednesday, March 21

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group  
 5:15 pm Bell Choir Practice  
 6 pm Mid-Week Program  
 6 pm Choir Practice  
 6:30 pm Personnel Meeting

### Thursday, March 22

6 pm Praise Team Practice  
 6:30 pm Study on James

### Sunday, March 25

8:30 am Traditional Worship  
 9:30 am Sunday School  
 10:30 am Contemporary Worship  
 2 pm Pre-Pack at the Food Center  
 5-7 pm F/R Youth Group Meeting

### Monday, March 26

10 am Staff Meeting  
 6 pm Evangelism Meeting

### Tuesday, March 27

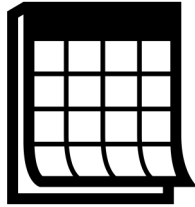
7 am Prayer Time  
 7 pm Bible 101 Class

### Wednesday, March 28

9 am "Crafts Are Us" Group  
 5:15 pm Bell Practice  
 6 pm Choir Practice  
 6 pm Mid-Week Program

### Thursday, March 29

6 pm Praise Team Practice



### Happy Birthday!



Christine Weaver will celebrate her 90th Birthday on April 1st and her family is hosting a card shower for her. Cards can be sent to:  
 Odd Fellow Rebekah Home  
 201 Lafayette Ave East Rm 160  
 Mattoon, IL 61938

## Board Splinters 3/12

**Deaconesses:** served 1 funeral dinner in February and are still selling pecans and cookbooks.

**Minister:** reported that he will be preaching a series entitled, "Immovable" standing your ground in a "culture of chaos" after Easter, will be offering the Dinner 4 Eight program in March or April, if you would like to host a dinner please let the office know, the Leadership Day at Lincoln was very successful, and the vision team is meeting regularly.

**Associate Minister:** reported that he continues to lead the James small group which will end this month, planning on meeting with young families during the summer, took youth to an EIU Basketball game hosted by FCA, been teaching students a series called The 7 Mile Miracle, a study on the last 7 sayings uttered by Jesus on the cross, youth served the church with the annual Night in Italy and raised \$400, youth served 14 meals at PADS for lunch, and 2 of our youth (Gabe Leach and Roma Warrington) were baptized on February 25th.

**Elementary Minister:** things are going well, and needs volunteers on Wednesday night: needs someone to ride the van for 45 minutes and volunteers to help supervise the kids.

**Worship:** has worship finalized for Easter Sunday.

**Outreach:** will collect the Easter Offering on March 18 and 25 for Camp New Hope and St. John's and Emmanuel Lutheran in Charleston made food donations to the Back Pack Program.

**Stewardship:** reviewed the statements.

**Personnel:** reported that they met with the Dolo, the Kids' Minister, and combined hours (custodian and kids' minister) to full time and will receive 1 week of vacation.

**Trustees:** they met with Craig Cunningham and he reviewed the investments and all looks good. The roof leaks on top of the bell tower/cross and runs down the wall into the media area - looking into this problem. Insurance increase of \$2,000 and received a \$1,900 rebate for no claims.

**Seniors' Minister:** attended leadership day at LCU, performed Dick Johnson's funeral and 28 attended the SALT luncheon.

## Serving Communion

### Sunday, March 18

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Steve Lane, Tom Dickerson, Steve Lane, Jack Little, Gene Swearingen

**10:30 am**— Donica Brand, Dennis Goings, Jeff and Amy Maninfior

### Sunday, March 25

**8:30 am** — John Armstrong, Steve Ballinger, John Greathouse, Don Inman, Denny Booker, Jack Browning, Tim Buford, Colin VanDeventer

**10:30 am** — Herb Ault, Nick Maninfior, Bob Morgan, Josh



Building Fund balance:  
 \$262,531.68

### Church Attendance

March 4th — Traditional: 108, Contemporary: 79 = 187  
 March 11th — Traditional: 96, Contemporary: 86 = 182

### Return Service Requested

1600 WABASH AVE  
 MATTOON IL 61938



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Phone: 234-2928  
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 Website: www.mattoonfcc.com

Senior Pastor: Steve Hayes  
 Associate Pastor: Steve Morgan