

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1601 Charleston Ave.  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
217-235-5676



Eph. 2:20

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[www.mattoonfumc.org](http://www.mattoonfumc.org)

# The Cornerstone

Monthly Newsletter

First United Methodist Church • Mattoon, IL

July 2010



## Free Indeed

By Pastor Ken Hutchens

Grandma Hutchens had terminal cancer and my family had moved in to care for her during her last months on earth. Soon after we

moved in I was driven by boyhood curiosity to explore my new domicile. Grandma's attic was a ten year-old's treasure island. Buried under quilting squares, guarded by moth balls, were riches more valuable than Spanish doubloons. And each discovery, when inspected by Grandma, resulted in an intriguing story from my family's past. My life was shaped by some of those discoveries.

One day I found an old metal helmet. It was not one of the common type I had seen in World War II pictures and displays. No, it had a round top and a wide brim like the British helmet of the Second World War. Under the helmet was a box full of French coins dating from the 1800s, black and white photographs, and even a German medal. With anticipation I lugged my new-found treasure to my Grandma and father for an explanation.

I learned that this helmet and these keepsakes had belonged to my deceased grandfather, a veteran of World War I. The black and white pictures of barbed wire, trenches, and unexploded shells were taken in France. The coins and medal were souvenirs from Grandpa Hutchens' service on the Western Front and the post-war occupation of Germany. As the war stories of my grandfather were recounted to me, I learned that many of his friends had not made it back from the fighting. Looking on that box of family treasures I started to realize the meaning and cost of the freedom my grandfather risked his life to preserve.

Almost forty years later I am still seeking to grasp what it means to be free. I often see a view of freedom in our society that does not fit with what I learned from the Bible and earlier generations of Americans. Many today hold to freedom as a permissive "right" to do whatever pleases them. The battle cry of this attitude is: "You can't tell me what to do. I will do

what I want." If anyone reacts to the hurt or destruction that comes to them or others from their enjoyment of "freedom" they scream that their rights are being violated. In theological terms they define freedom as the right to sin.

Those who formed our nation believed in free choices.

They took special precautions to insure that Americans would not face the tyranny of kings, dictators, established religions, or even the coercion of the crowd. Millions of Americans fought to preserve these freedoms and hundreds of thousands died doing so. Yet, the freedom they sought to defend was not the freedom to do evil. It was the freedom to live a good life. And if you are going to have the freedom to live a good life in society then you must respect that freedom by curbing your own choices. True freedom includes both rights and responsibilities. In fact, real freedom takes even more than a respect for the freedom of others. For the greatest threats to our individual liberty and happiness arise from within us.

God empowers humans with free will. We can even choose to reject the God who created us and loves us. But the biblical idea of freedom is not the freedom to do evil. In fact, the Bible views a life characterized by self-indulgent license as one of enslavement to sin. The experiences of life confirm that, don't they? The person who is free to take drugs often ends up addicted to them. The one who is free to do as he or she pleases ends up shackled with the consequences of those choices. I knew a girl who would listen neither to her parents nor society's rules. She loudly proclaimed her right to do just as she pleased. She ran up against the limits of her self-proclaimed "freedom" when she became pregnant and was murdered by someone else practicing his "freedom" to sin. Usually sin enslaves in a much more subtle manner. But the results are the same. Evil may entice as a choice but ultimately it destroys its practitioners.

## Church Briefs

### Call for Fasting and Prayer

This year at Annual Conference bishop's cabinet called upon the people of our churches to commit the first Thursday of every month to a time of humble fasting and prayer for renewal. The Gospels tell us that Jesus practiced the combination of fasting and prayer before making big decisions in his ministry. It is a way of helping us to focus upon the spiritual side of reality by removing our focus from the physical for a short period.

Would you join me and others in our Methodist connection in this fast? I leave up to you the type of fast you prefer. For some a liquid diet works best. Some may keep the fast for 24 hours while others may fast from one meal during the day. The details are not as important as the commitment to focus upon praying for our church, our mission, and the people of our community. We need the power of God at work in our lives and our church. Will you join me in crying out to our Heavenly Father to pour his power out upon us?

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. 2 Chronicle 7:14*

### A Vision and a Plan for The Future

When I came as pastor of FUMC of Mattoon the church had been through an extensive period of strategic planning. I was given a plan focused on the period of Fall 2008 to January of 2011. The plan included five goals with concrete action steps being taken to meet each one. The goals were: (1) strengthen our commitment to Bible-based teaching; (2) build bridges between diverse members of our congregation; (3) achieve a non-deficit budget by the year ending 2010; (4) increase opportunities and awareness of missionary and outreach; (4) expand youth and children's programs.

We are rapidly approaching 2011 and the end of the plan's timeline. Many of the goals envisioned in the document have been met or are in the process of being met. We have a new youth minister working with the young people of our church and their families. The building fund debt has been retired. We have new classes and groups to strengthen our commitment to the Bible and the power of Christ in people's lives. We have task groups working to improve our hospitality, communications, outreach and other areas of our ministry and life together. Other goals still need attention. Our member giving is not up to budget yet despite careful cuts in the budget. We can improve our outreach and mission focus and learning opportunities.

Now is the time for us to look at the next step in planning and action to reach for the high calling FUMC of Mattoon has for serving Christ. The New Streams Team is meeting with the Fruitful Congregations Team to look at the next step in strategic planning. We will begin by studying Five Practices for Fruitful Congregations. Next we will seek to discern God's will for our congregation over the next few years. The end result will be a new set of goals and action steps to reach them to be presented to the leaders and people of our congregation. Please keep us in your prayers as we go through this process. And do not hesitate to pass along your ideas and perceptions of our church to Pastor Ken or other members of the teams.

### Parents Night Out

You make the plans -- We'll watch the kids!!  
Take a couple of hours & pamper yourselves.  
The kids will be well cared for & entertained too!

When?	<b>Friday, July 23</b>	<b>7-9 PM</b>
Where?	FUMC	
Who?	Open to kids	<b>Birth thru 5th grade</b>

Movie - Popcorn - Drinks	(older kids)
Nursery - Activities	(younger kids)

**Limited spaces available** -- so sign up early!  
Register during VBS or call the church office 235-5676.



## Volunteer Registration form

Children's Ministry at first united Methodist church needs faithful parents, grandparents, and friends to volunteer their time to this vital ministry.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 city \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Childcare needed: (for children 3 and under)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_

### Volunteer Descriptions

\_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** guide group of children through the daily activities, present lesson, and join in the VBS fun. Needs to be present each day.

Circle preferred age group: age 3-kindergarten grades 1, 2, and 3 Grades 4, 5, and 6

\_\_\_\_\_ **Assistant Teacher:** Assist teacher with whatever is needed to help them with their duties. This can vary from day to day.

\_\_\_\_\_ **registration:** assist with pre-registration on Sunday mornings or with walk-in registration the week of vbs.

Circle preference: Sunday morning week of VBS  
 Questions? Contact Angie Kelly 234-6320 or angiekelly98@yahoo.com

## Child Registration form

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade completed in school (CIRCLE) PRESCHOOL k 1 2 3 4 5 6  
 Parent/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 city \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Allergies: (food/Medication) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special needs/ instructions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency contact: (other than home)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Child attends: \_\_\_First United Methodist church  
 \_\_\_other church  
 Guest of: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Angie Kelly 234-6320 or angiekelly98@yahoo.com

# July 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30 Coffee, Revelations No Jr & Sr UMYF Independence/Food Bank Sunday	5 Church Office Closed for Independence Day 2:30 PM Youth at Sonic	6 8:30 AM Prayer Team 9:00 AM UMW Executive Meeting 10:30 AM UMW General Meeting 11:00 AM Potluck (Program— Broadway show tunes continued) <b>10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study</b> 2:00-5:00 PM Open Gym-Van 6:00-7:00 PM Food Center Volunteer Day (Adult Bible Study) <b>6:00 PM Women's Study Group</b>	7	8 <b>6:30 AM Bible Study, Pagliacci's</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study-Life Span 5:30-7:00 PM Divorce Care Seminar and Support Group 6:00 PM Dare to Be A Daniel	9 <b>6:00 PM Cookout at Brad's</b> Wedding Rehearsal	10 Myles Womack Wedding
11 9:30 Coffee, Champion Class 6:00 PM Jr & Sr UMYF, Christmas in July	12 No Rebecca Circle or Mary Circle 2:30 PM Youth at Sonic (Van) 5:15 p.m. Finance Meeting, Room 101 6:30 PM Boy Scouts, Peterson Park	13 8:30 AM Prayer Team <b>10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study</b> 2:00-5:00 PM Open Gym—Van 5:30 PM Wing Tuesday—Van <b>6:00 PM Women's Study Group</b> 6:00 PM Board of Trustees, Room 101 6:30-7:30 PM Adult Bible Study Rm. 102	14	15 <b>6:30 AM Bible Study, Pagliacci's</b> 10:00 AM Bible Study-Life Span <b>12:00 PM Seed Meeting, Cody's</b> 5:30-7:00 PM Divorce Care Seminar and Support Group Bagel Fest Christian Night—Remedy Drive No Dare to be a Daniel	16 Wedding Rehearsal	17 Airmie Helton Wedding  Bagfest Float Bagfest Booth
18 9:30 Coffee, Agape Class 4:00 PM Drama Team Orientation 6:00 PM Jr & Sr UMYF	19 2:30 PM Youth at Sonic (Van) 5:15 PM Finance Meeting 6:00 PM Board of Trustees, Rm 101 6:30 PM Boy Scouts, Peterson Park  Vacation Bible School 9-11 Vacation Bible School 9-11	20 8:30 AM Prayer Team <b>10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study Rm</b> 101 2:00-5:00 PM Open Gym-Van <b>6:00 PM Women's Study Group</b> 6:30-7:30 PM Adult Bible Study Rm. 102 (All invited) Vacation Bible School 9-11	21 6:00 PM Church Council Meeting, Asbury Classroom  Vacation Bible School 9-11	22 10:00 AM Life Span Bible Study <b>6:30 AM Bible Study, Pagliacci's</b> 5:30-7:00 PM Divorce Care Seminar and Support Group 6:00 PM Dare to Be A Daniel The Winners to St. Louis—Van Vacation Bible School 9-11 6:30 PM VBS Graduation	23 7:00-9:00 PM Parents Night Out (Open to kids—birth thru 5th grade)	24 Summer Hike 2010
25 9:30 Coffee, Asbury Class 6:00 PM Jr & Sr UMYF  Chrysalis Forms Due	26 2:30 PM Youth at Sonic  Youth Mission Trip	27 8:30 AM Prayer Team <b>10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study Rm 101</b> 2:00-5:00 PM Open Gym-Van 5:30 PM Wing Tuesday—Van <b>6:00 PM Women's Study Group</b> 6:30-7:30 PM Adult Bible Study Rm. 102 (All invited) Youth Mission Trip	28  Youth Mission Trip	29	30 Joy Fest Featuring Jeremy Camp- Van	31

*Sympathy*



## Sending Our Sympathy

Our thoughts and prayers are with...

The family of Beverly Dennis, whose mother, Clara Merckel passed away on May 25, 2010.

To the family of Jim and June Ferguson, whose son, Jeffrey Ferguson passed away on June 13, 2010.

The family of Sandra Gourley, whose mother, Hilma Wax passed away on June 17, 2010.

Food Bank volunteer dates are as follows **July 6, August 10, September 7, October 12 & December 9.**

Volunteers meet at 6 p.m. at the Community Food Center



## Ushers for July

1st Service –Mona Buckley  
Virginia Beasley

## Greeters for July

1<sup>st</sup> Service – Eleanor Bowen  
2<sup>nd</sup> Service –TBA

Please contact Sue Warren at 234-4340 if you are interested in greeting.



**JULY 5th - Office Closed**



Meetings this month:

### UMW July 6

9:00 a.m. Executive Board  
10:30 a.m. General Meeting  
11:00 .m. Potluck (Program will be continuation of Broadway show tunes. Linda Podeschi will be singing)

### Mary Circle

July 12  
No circle meeting

### Rebecca Circle

July 12  
No circle meeting

## THANK YOU TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

Thanks so much to all of you who sent a sympathy card, said a little prayer for our family or remembered us in your thoughts before during and after the death of my dear mother, Clara Merckel. Larry and I both felt the effects of all of the above as Jesus' love surrounded us and brought us peace and calmed our souls through this troubled time. You are all such a caring community of believers and we are happy to be a part of it. My Mom also belonged to such a caring community of believers at the Caseyville United Methodist Church her entire life (95 years) and now she is with her Lord and Savior in Heaven and that makes the grief so much easier to bear. You are all very dear to us!

**Larry and Bev Dennis**

# Youth Updates

## Youth Announce New Scrip Program!

We are excited to announce Scrip, a new fundraising program for the youth. Over the past month I have been asked "what are you selling" several times and my response is "nothing." Scrip is a great fundraiser because we are not asking you to buy anything, or to spend money that you are not going to spend anyways. This is the point that I generally get very confused looks. Scrip is like cash. We are asking you to purchase gift cards to places that you shop every week or day. You can then use those gift cards just like you would cash (or give them away as gifts). Let me give you a couple of examples. Let's say that you go to Wal-mart and spend \$100 a week...you might order a \$100 gift card that you could go spend (keep in mind that you are getting the full \$100 face value of the card), Wal-mart gives us a 2% rebate on every card that you purchase meaning we would get \$2 from your gift card purchase. So you purchase a \$100 wal-mart gift card, you get a \$100 wal-mart gift card, and we get \$2. Bath and Body offers a 13% rebate meaning for every \$25 card purchased we get \$3.25. I want to stress that you pay for the face value of the card and you get the same amount. Our rebate does not come out of your card value. We will be offering two deadlines a month on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> and orders are always due by 11 am on the deadline.



## Take your Family to Six Flags this Summer!

Looking for a good trip for your Family this summer? Join us at Six Flags on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy Camp will be performing in concert that evening and your ticket covers everything. Cost is \$30(with a group of 15+) per person or \$36(with a group of less than 15). We will be providing food for the teens, if you would like to join us please add an additional \$5 per person. Space in the vans will be reserved for the teens first and any additional room will available for families if they would like to ride with us. Deadline for these tickets will be July 11, 2010. You can also go anytime using the \$30 ticket option through Scrip (cheaper than the lowest price ticket offered by the park).



Brad will be hosting a cook out at his house 1408 S 17<sup>th</sup> Street on July 9, 2010. Teens and their families are invited. Girls bring deserts and boys bring sides. We will provide hamburgers and hot dogs. We will start around 6:00 PM. Please let Brad know if you are planning on coming and how many you plan on bringing.



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Non-Profit Organization  
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Mattoon, Illinois  
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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Rev. Ken Hutchens, Pastor

Rev. Eugene Black,  
Minister of Visitation

Office Hours:  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Find us online:  
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Email us:  
[mattoonfumc@yahoo.com](mailto:mattoonfumc@yahoo.com)

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PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Ken Hutchens – Lead Pastor, office/voice mail 235-5676  
Rev. Eugene F. Black - Minister of Visitation, home 234-7258  
**Tamara Young, Christian Counselor/Children's Education Coordinator**

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Angie Crites – Administrative Assistant and Financial Secretary  
Brenda West - Secretary

MUSIC STAFF

Cathy Kilzer – Organist  
Cheryl Armstrong - Director Praise Team, A Choir on Fire  
Dawn Zachow –**King's Rings Bell Director**  
Kristin Ives – Carollers Choir Director  
Kim Decker -Cherub and Chimes Choir Director, Brass Wave

DIRECTOR, COORDINATOR  
OF MUSIC PROGRAM

Caleb McGregor – Accompanist for adult choirs  
Riley Leitch – **Accompanist for children's choirs & Praise Team**

PROGRAM STAFF

Brad Waggoner, Associate Minister of Youth and Children

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

Cassandra Huff



***“The stone church on the corner, where Jesus Christ is the cornerstone.” Eph 2:20***

## Manpower, water, soda and cookies needed for Bagelfest!

The Communication Team is gearing up for Mattoon's Bagelfest celebration and help is needed in many ways.

The church is now accepting donations of varieties of canned soda, bottled water and home-made cookies for the event. Manpower, time and materials are needed to build a float for the Bagelfest Parade set for **July 17**. And finally, we need lots and lots of walkers alongside the float on the parade route.

In addition to handing out bottles of water at the parade, we need plenty of canned soda, bottled water, cookies and manpower at the FUMC Booth **July 15-17** at Peterson Park. If possible, donations of cookies should be bagged in two's for distribution at the festival.

We are also looking for a few key people to lead each area, so we can best be prepared for this huge undertaking. The areas are: Organizing the Bagelfest Booth, Getting Walkers for the Parade, Float Construction, and Bagging Cookies and Tagging Water Bottles.

Find a place to get plugged in! Sign up sheets will be placed in the Cornerstone Cafe area. Sign up today! Contact Brad Waggoner, Mitch Strader, or Dawn Schabbing, if you need more information. Or call the church office, 235-5676.

Many Thanks from the Communications Team

## Note from Rev. Julia Melgreen

Dear Friends - Cooper Melgreen was born in Mattoon, baptized at FUMC and is now a high school graduate at Rochester. Cooper is a member of National Honor Society and has been named an Illinois State Scholar. He is active in his church through mission trips and the Praise Band. He plans to attend Augustana College in the fall. We wanted you to share in our joy.

Love you, Julia and Frank

(Check out the bulletin board for graduation information and pictures of Cooper ).



## Upcoming Sermon Titles for July by Pastor Ken

July 4 (Independence Day)

"The Judge of the Chosen"

Amos 11-2:3

July 11

"Time is Running Out"

Amos 4

July 18

"What Really Matters"

Amos 5:14-21

July 25

"The Politics of Self"

Amos 6:1-8

## Special Dates

Independence Day

July 4, 2010

## USED JEWELRY

The UMW is gearing up for another fall bazaar and is ready to begin collecting used jewelry to sell. Donated items may be brought to the church anytime! If you are contributing valuable jewelry, please price it. The annual bazaar is **November 6**.