



A Note from the Pastor

"Changes"

By Rev. Sidney Davis, Jr.

Our family is going through some major life changes. Last May our oldest son, Derek, graduated from college and is now teaching at Rocky River High School in Ohio. On Easter our middle son, Corey, became engaged to his college sweetheart, Becca. They are planning a June 2013 wedding. And this month our youngest son, Ryan, graduates from high school and will soon be going off to college. His graduation from high school makes me think about the "empty nest" that Jamie and I will soon be facing. This last year and the coming year will be years of great change in our life.

Jamie and I will be going through what many of you have already experienced or will soon be facing. Life is all about change!

From the time we are conceived our life is constantly changing! First we experience nine months of growth in a relatively safe and stable environment, where all we have to do is lay back and take life easy. All our needs are met inside the womb. Then we go through tremendous change as we are forced out of our comfortable (though cramped) environment. Then we go through all the changes that are part of learning to walk and talk and control our body functions. Then when we get comfortable again, living at home and playing and having a great time our life changes again -- we enter school. Our formal education takes many years as we go through grade school, junior high and high school, and then for many people -- college. Throughout those years of school we are undergoing many changes -- physically, spiritually, and socially. Finally we finish our formal education and enter the work place -- another big change! Then for many people marriage and a family enter the picture and there are more changes to our world! As our children grow our lives change even more and finally we find our-

selves as empty nesters and for many people -- we become grandparents and then even great-grandparents. Somewhere along the path we retire and again life changes. When our aging parents and then friends and siblings pass away our lives and relationships again change. As we get old and have health problems we experience many unpleasant changes. And finally, we undergo the biggest change of all as we pass from this life to the next. Death and resurrection is the final change.

In some way, all the changes we go through during life prepare us for that final change. If we grow stronger in the Lord as we go through life and its many changes, we know that the final change will be sweet! If we don't let life's changes defeat us and make us sour or discouraged -- if we grow old gracefully and if we remain in the Lord, we will inherit the blessings of the kingdom of God and live eternally with the God of all creation! What a joyous time that will be!

If your life is going through rapid changes like my life is right now, don't get angry or depressed or discouraged -- just know that all those changes are just preparing us for the great and glorious final change! I think we need to learn to sit back and relax as we go through life's changes, just like we did when we were in our mother's womb. We need to trust that God is in control and He will take care of us just like He has from the time of our conception!

Let us enjoy and celebrate the changes that we go through in life! Let us remember that Jesus is with us as we go through those changes and for those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the final change will be sweet indeed! I look forward to that final change and all the little changes along the way because I know God will be with me as He is with you! May the Lord bless you and be with you as you go through all of life's changes!

The Messenger

First United Methodist Church

Havana, Illinois

May 2012

Vol. 48 No. 5

MAY Group

Youth Ministry

Spring is always a busy time for our youth. This spring is no different. Because of all that is taking place during the month of May we will only be meeting on the first Sunday of May (6th) at our regular 7:00 p.m. meeting time. At that meeting we will plan our May activity, so please make every effort to come and help us decide what our May activity should be. May 13th is Mother's Day and we feel our youth should spend time with their family on that day. May 20th is the High School Baccalaureate Service and so we will go to that instead of holding Youth Group that night. Then the following Sunday is Memorial Day weekend and many families plan special family activities on that weekend, so we feel it is important for our youth to spend time with their family. Our plans for summer are yet to be made, so please make every effort to be at our May 6th meeting -- we need your input! Youth Group is for all youth grades 5-12. Friends are always welcome! We hope to see you this week!



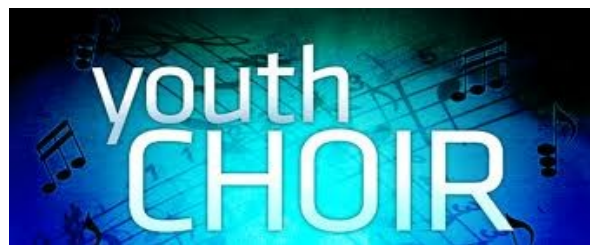
Women's Ministry

Our United Methodist Women will not have a meeting in the month of May. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, June 6 at 1:30 in Kirchner Parlor. at which time Gail Beard, former member of our church, will speak on "Women in Prisons". All women in the church are encouraged to attend. We are also still collecting Education Box Tops and Campbell soup labels.



Men's Ministry

The Havana First United Methodist Men usually meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Due to graduation, we will only be meeting on May 9th this month. All men are invited to join us!



Youth Choir

Do your children like to sing around the house? Do they enjoy singing at school? Would they like to sing at church? We are recruiting new members for our Youth Choir! The Youth Choir practices every Sunday morning before Sunday School (8:45 - 9:15 a.m.). This choir is for all children and youth through 8th grade. Plans are for the Youth Choir to sing at least once a month this summer. Encourage your children to come and be part of our Youth Choir!

Lunch Bunch



The Lunch Bunch for May will be hosted by Don and Marlene Izard. On Tuesday, May 15th, we will gather at the church at 11:30 a.m. before going to Trixie's Primitive Restaurant on East Main Street, Havana. We hope you will use this opportunity to invite your friends to join us so they can get to know us and we can get to know them! We always welcome new friends!

Senior Citizens



On Thursday, May 24th, our church will be preparing the Senior Citizens Meal. Joyce Thomas and Mae Hagney will be in charge. If you would like to donate food or help in the kitchen, please call the church office.



Awesome Mom

Author unknown

Before I was a Mom, I never tripped over toys or forgot words to a lullaby. I didn't worry whether or not my plants were poisonous. I never thought about immunizations.

Before I was a Mom, I had never been puked on. Pooped on. Chewed on. Peed on. I had complete control of my mind and my thoughts. I slept all night.

Before I was a Mom, I never held down a screaming child so doctors could do tests, or give shots. I never looked into teary eyes and cried. I never got gloriously happy over a simple grin. I never sat up late hours at night watching a baby sleep.

Before I was a Mom, I never held a sleeping baby just because I didn't want to put her down. I never felt my heart break into a million pieces when I couldn't stop the hurt. I never knew that something so small could affect my life so much. I never knew that I could love someone so much. I never knew I would love being a Mom.

Before I was a Mom, I didn't know the feeling of having my heart outside my body. I didn't know how special it could feel to feed a hungry baby. I didn't know that bond between a mother and her child. I didn't know that something so small could make me feel so important and happy.

Before I was a Mom, I had never gotten up in the middle of the night every 10 minutes to make sure all was okay. I had never known the warmth, the joy, the love, the heartache, the wonderment or the satisfaction of being a Mom. I didn't know I was capable of feeling so much, before I was a Mom.

New Baby!

Congratulations to Ron and Jennifer Brooks on the birth of their second son, Benjamin Paul born Thursday, April 5, 2012. Benjamin has a brother, Andrew, to welcome him home.



Missions

Our mission emphasis for the month of May will be the Golden Cross ministries of our Conference. We will receive a special offering for our Golden Cross ministries on Mother's Day (May 13th). This offering supports Health & Welfare Ministries in our Conference. More than \$10,000,000 of benevolent care is given by these ministries and more than 30,000 individuals are served each year. Please give generously to this special offering.



Golden Cross Ministries We Support

Alton Memorial Hospital
 The Baby Fold
 Chaddock.
 Evenglow Lodge
 Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House
 Methodist Medical Center
 Sunset Home
 UM Children's Home, Mt Vernon
 UM Village, Lawrenceville
 Wesley Village, Macomb

The Children's Mission Offering will help support scholarships for children in Liberia.

The next meeting of the Missions Committee will be June 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Community Friendship Meal

Our Community Friendship Meal will be held Saturday, May 26th at 11:30 a.m. Menu is hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, applesauce, cookie or brownie. Spread the word to your friends, neighbors, family or anyone who might just need a free meal and enjoy the warmth of good fellowship.





Is Someone Graduating in Your Household?

If you or someone in your family is graduating from either high school or college, please share their names with us so we can recognize them on Graduation Sunday, May 20th during the morning worship service. Immediately following the service there will be a reception in the chapel. We don't want to miss any of our graduates, but unless you let us know who is graduating and what level of education they have completed, we cannot properly recognize them. We would appreciate this information no later than Tuesday, May 15.

High School Baccalaureate will be held on May 20th at 7:00pm in the High School Gym and Graduation is May 23rd at 7:00pm.

Following is the list of graduates we are aware of:

High School

Ryan Davis
Emily Eakle
Michael Herrman
Brock Jump
Cassidy Lynn
Erik McDaniel
Allison Norton
Channing Holtman
Ray Braden
Tyler Ferree
Josh Vaughn
Carley Davidsmeier

College

Haleigh Ray
Jenna Tucker
Jennifer Sarff

National Day of Prayer

The National Day of Prayer Community Service will be Thursday, May 3rd, at noon at the court house.

Summer Food Program

During the school year, many children receive free and reduced-price breakfast and lunch through the School Breakfast and National School Lunch Programs. Hunger is one of the most severe roadblocks to the learning process. Lack of nutrition during the summer months may set up a cycle for poor performance once school begins again. Hunger also may make children more prone to illness and other health issues. The Summer Food Service Program is designed to fill that nutrition gap and make sure children can get the nutritious meals they need. Illinois Coalition for Community Services (ICCS) will sponsor the Summer Foods Service Program, providing meals and guidance throughout the program. The site is a location where meals are served and children eat in a supervised setting. We offer all program services without regards to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. We serve all children ages 18 and under and ensure that every child has access to services and facilities at the site.

ICCS in cooperation with the Havana Christian Ministerial Association will be offering a Summer Food Program in our community. If you would like to help with this effort, please contact:

Garret Selinger, Community Organizer,
Illinois Coalition for Community Services
510 Apple Orchard Rd. Ste. 100
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Cell - (217) 836-2598
Office - (217) 522-2378 ext. 2211

Peoria Chiefs Faith and Family Night

We invite you to join us on Saturday, June 23rd, for an evening of baseball, fireworks and a concert by Christian entertaining Josh Wilson. Tickets range from \$9 to \$11 depending on the number of those attending. Reservations need to be made by May 15th. Please let the church office know if you are interested. Peoria Chiefs will be playing Quad Cities River Bandits.



Finance Report

By Robb Roper

With the coming of summer, it is time to look at the finances of the church. Giving, up to Easter, was good and most of the Church's current expenses have been paid. We have had fewer building maintenance projects this year and so expenses are down from last year.

Giving has been good, but not great. After the Easter Season, giving has usually declined and going into summer we have struggled with paying the bills. Each summer we all have many things to do. We have vacations and many leave to visit family. Please do not forget your family at church. If we are to meet all of the plans and goals of the committees and groups of the church, each of us must continue to give and give a little more.

When we look at the current trend of giving, with the requirements of the church, we are starting the summer with fewer funds than we need. People are willing to help pay for improvements in the building or parsonage, but it is not as special to help pay the light bill. We need all of us to help pay for all of our expenses, including the light bill.

Jesus says in Luke 12:34 "Where your treasures is, so will be your heart." Please check your heart this week and see where your treasure lays.

Newsletter Sponsors

We are still in need of sponsors for the months of June, August, September and December. If you would like to sponsor one of these months in honor or memory of a loved one or for a special occasion in your life, please call the church office at 309-543-4725 or you may email us at:

news@havanafirstmethodist.org

Thank you!

Jesus Christ is Lord!



Mid-Week Prayer Topics

All are invited to come to the church over the lunch hour on Wednesday and pray.

May 2 - "Father, teach us to schedule prayer and meditation in our lives."

May 9 - "Help us to learn obedience."

May 16 - "Grant us wisdom, we are a community in need of insight and discernment."

May 23 - "Bless the graduates, let them be encouraged and turn to you for direction."

May 30 - "Holy Spirit, remind us that we can depend on you, help us keep our eyes on the destination."

2012 Directory Changes

Following are changes to the 2012 Church Directory:

Hazel Fehler - Change address to Havana Healthcare Center, Room 52

Doris Schmidt - Change address to Havana Healthcare Center, Room 83

BD and Faith Foster - Change address to 3511 Conifer Drive #9, Springfield, IL

Tammy Hofreiter - Change address to PO Box 71



Trustee's Report

At our April Trustees meeting, we again discussed short, intermediate, and long term goals for our buildings. Short term we had to replace a sump pump in the parsonage dewatering system. This was a 20+ year old one that we tried to save from last year's addition to the dewatering system. It failed so we had to replace it. We also need a new hot water heater in the parsonage. The present one looks to be over 30 years old. This will be installed soon. New gutter with GutterHelmet will be installed on the bridge between the education building and the sanctuary. The gutters there now have been a real problem with getting clogged and overflowing. We are also replacing the broken glass in the side light, left side going into the education building as soon as it is fabricated. Mini-blinds are going in the education building offices as well.

Intermediate term, we would like to replace the door going into the fellowship hall with a new wood looking fiberglass door. The door jam on the present one is failing because of rust. When the door is replaced it would be nice to repaint this area and look at doing something with the flooring as well. Also needed is a fresh air duct for the boiler room so that the boilers can have enough air to burn more efficiently. Finally, the chimney on the East side of the chapel is failing. The bricks are deteriorating along with the mortar joints. We have looked at rebuilding this and eliminating it altogether. This is a safety issue that we are needing to cure.

All of the projects mentioned so far can be paid for with our budget and donations. But the long term goal of redecorating our sanctuary, however, will need to have a building fund campaign to pay for it. It has been over 30 years since the sanctuary was completely remodeled and it has lasted very well. We are not suggesting an extensive project but would like to repaint the ceiling and walls, adjust the pews and replace the seat cushions, and refinish the floors (refinish the hardwood and replace the carpet).



These short and intermediate projects we feel are necessities to keep our properties looking and functioning well. The sanctuary project is not a necessity today but will become one. We would like to recommend starting a capital campaign to pay for this with the idea that the work could be started when the money has been raised. No estimates have been obtained yet for this project but it will not come cheap.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact one of the trustees.



Community Food Pantry May is dishwashing detergent and cleansing soap

Our community Food Pantry (located in the basement of Central Christian Church) relies on your donations to help the needy people in our community. All donations are appreciated very much. This month we are especially asking for dishwashing detergent and cleansing soap. Please help us resupply our Food Pantry!

Cherokee Legend

Do you know the legend of the Cherokee Indian youths' rite of Passage?

His father takes him into the forest, blindfolds him and leaves him alone. He is required to sit on a stump the whole night and not remove the blindfold until the rays of the morning sun shine through it. He cannot cry out for help to anyone. Once he survives the night, he is a MAN. He cannot tell the other boys of this experience, because each lad must come into manhood on his own.



The boy is naturally terrified. He can hear all kinds of noises. Wild beasts must surely be all around him. Maybe even some human might do him harm. The wind blew the grass and earth, and shook his stump, but he sat stoically, never removing the blindfold. It would be the only way he could become a man! Finally, after a horrific night the sun appeared and he removed his blindfold. It was then that he discovered his father sitting on the stump next to him. He had



been at watch the entire night, protecting his son from harm.

We, too, are never alone. Even when we don't know it, God is watching over us, sitting on the stump beside us.

When trouble comes, all we have to do is reach out to Him. Just because you can't see God, doesn't mean He is not there.

"For we walk by faith, not by sight."

Memorial Sunday Service



This year on Memorial Sunday, we will return to our previous practice of remembering all those who died in the previous year. We will do this by speaking their names and lighting a candle in their memory. If you have loved ones who passed away since last Memorial Day, please share those names with the church office so we can adequately prepare for this special Memorial Service. Then on Memorial Sunday we invite you to remember them by speaking their name as we light a candle in their memory. This special service is for ALL your loved ones, not just those who were members of our church, so please contact the church office and share the names of your deceased loved ones with us. Let us help you remember them this Memorial Sunday.

Following are the deaths we have on file since May, 2011: Robert Huber, Esther Anderson, Ruth Herring, Marisue Wilson, Howard Hoff, and Frances Markley

THE U IN JESUS

Before U were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck U in the name of His Son.
And each time U pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out JesUs and not include U.

You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For U, He was born; that's why He came.
And His great love for U is the reason He died,
It even takes U to spell CrUcified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with U in His plan?
The stones split away, the gold trumpet blew,
and this word resurrection is spelled with a U.

When JesUs left earth at His Upward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.
"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love U."

So many great people are spelled with a U,
Don't they have a right to know JesUs too?
It all depends now on what U will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with U.

Weekly Calendar of Events

Day	Time	Weekly Event
Sun.	8:45 a.m.	- Youth Choir Practice
	9:15 a.m.	- Sunday School
	10:30 a.m.	- Worship
	7:00 p.m.	- MY Group
Mon.	7:00 p.m.	- Boy Scouts
Wed.	9:00 a.m.	- Hearts at Home
	11:30 a.m.	- Community Prayer
	6:45 p.m.	- Chancel Choir
Thur.	5:30 p.m.	- Weight Watchers
Sat.	5:30 p.m.	- Saturday Eve Worship

This Month

Date	Time	Events
2		No UM Women
3	12:00 noon	National Day of Prayer Service at the Court House
7	7:00 p.m.	VIP Meeting
9	5:30 p.m.	UM Men
13	10:30 a.m.	Mother's Day (special offering for Golden Cross) NO MY Group
14	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
15	7:00 p.m.	VBS Meeting
20		NO MY Group due to High School Baccalaureate Service
21	7:00 p.m.	Ministry Team Meeting
23	5:30 p.m.	No UM Men
	6:45 p.m.	Chancel Choir
24	Noon	Our Church to serve the Senior Citizen Meal (Joyce Thomas and Mae Hagney in charge)
26	11:30 a.m.	Community Friendship Meal
27		Memorial Day NO MY Group
29	7:00 p.m.	VBS Meeting

Pastor Sid will be on vacation April 27th through May 5th. Please contact Judy Vidakovich at 217-632-7175 if you need pastoral care.

MAY 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



May Worship Assistants

Ushers:

Paul Morgan, Chr.
Becky Morgan
Kim Lippert
Cameron Lippert
Tony Lippert

Opening Prayer:

5/6 - Ruth Ann Beaty
5/13 - Kate Badger
5/20 - Jamie Davis

In Our Prayers

Yvonne Shoemaker; Larry Lippert; Pam Lippert; Dorothy Williams; Curly Yetter; Maggie Stephens; Fred Kruse; Rachel Jones; Richard Atchley; Roy Cowin; Roger Thompson; Mick Wills; Eunice McCario; Will Roper; Edie Lynn; Paul Engledow; Clifford Wright; Cody Smith; Paula Hernan; Jessica Hageman; Sherry Meyer; Todd Turner; Mardelle Osing; Verna Kruse; Ila Mitchell; Paul Tincer; Lexy Meyer; Luis Alvarado; expecting mothers & new babies; Smallwood (missionaries to Red Bird Mission); Taylor Adkins and all military personnel; and...



Condolences

Frances Markley, mother of Marshall, entered into Eternal Life on April 18, 2012. Her family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.



Birthdays & Anniversaries



Birthdays

May 3 Haley Jenkins
 May 3 Prestyn Meyer
 May 9 Mahayla Byrd
 May 9 Larry Lippert
 May 11 Amy Thornton
 May 12 Ruth Swartzbaugh
 May 13 Lynn Coots
 May 15 Aaron Coots
 May 16 Lora Conklin
 May 16 Christy Smith
 May 18 Tammy Hofreiter
 May 19 Will Roper
 May 20 Brock Jenkins
 May 22 Ruth Hoff
 May 22 Eden Yetter
 May 24 Tara Schaub
 May 25 Corey Davis
 May 25 Jerry Eakle
 May 26 Melody Lynn
 May 26 Bill Raridon
 May 27 Ella Kramer
 May 27 Jack Turner
 May 29 Sharon Daniel
 May 29 Freda Haxton
 May 29 Jasa Price
 May 31 Brian Walker

Anniversaries

05/02/70 David & Rita Badger
 05/11/02 Darell & Andrea Byrd
 05/12/01 Nathan & Stephanie
 Montgomery
 05/15/49 Loren & Jane Thomas
 05/15/81 Ed & Denice Ray
 05/18/85 Gerald & Ginger Herrman
 05/22/71 Marshall & Terry Markley
 05/24/92 Eric & Tara Morr
 05/26/91 David & Alana Olson
 05/28/05 Crystal & Josh Bohm
 05/29/53 Russell & Beverly Hamm
 05/30/54 Donald & Marlene Izard
 05/31/69 Fred & Brenda Stadsholt

Remember Our Shut-Ins



Havana Health Care, Havana:

Mary Ellen Workman Room 71
 Russell Hamm Room 30
 Jane Thomas Room 46
 Hazel Fehler Room 52
 Ruth Messman Room 74
 Doris Schmidt Room 83

Riverview Estates, Havana:

Lora Conklin Apt. 1
 Millie Edwards Apt. 14
 Ray Schafer Apt. 11

Prairie View Care Center, Lewistown:

Clem Haxton 202
 Freda Haxton 405

Heritage Manor, El Paso, IL:

Vauna Morris Room 213A

Carlinville Rehabilitation, Carlinville:

Dorothy Beard A16

At Home

Betty Curry 543-6964
 800 N. Promenade, Havana
 Dwight Rennison (and Myrna) 543-2858
 700 E. Adams, Havana
 Bob (& Helen) Sarff 543-3964
 316 N. Pearl St., Havana
 Mary Ellen Smith 543-6688
 753 N. Promenade, Havana
 Loren Thomas 309-535-3720
 21017 E. CR 2250 N., Havana
 Dorothy VanEtten 543-6029
 715 Timothy Terrace, Apt. A-5, Havana
 Ethel Jeane Wendt 543-2483
 121 S. Harpham, Havana

First United Methodist Church
101 S. Broadway St.
Havana, IL 62644

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Havana, IL 62644
Permit #4



The Messenger

Published by:

First United Methodist Church
101 S. Broadway St., Havana IL 62644
Church phone: (309) 543-4725
E-mail: news@havanafirstmethodist.org
Rev. Sidney E. Davis, Jr. - Pastor
Linda Vaughn - Secretary

Published to keep the members and friends of Havana First United Methodist Church informed about its ministry within the world community. Deadline for article submission is the 20th of each month. Please consider "sponsoring" a particular month by covering the mailing cost for that month. Sponsorship is \$60 per month.

***This month's newsletter is sponsored by
Loren and Jane Thomas
in honor of
their 63rd Wedding Anniversary***

