

Committees at a Glance

May 6
Daycare Board
6:15pm, Room 306



Sunday Services in

May

May 3

40 Days of Community: *Fellowship*
Message delivered by: Rev. Mike, Denny/Elaine Knudtson, Mackenzie Kirk

Holy Communion
4:00PM "Soaring Praise" Bell Choir Celebration

May 10

40 Days of Community: *Discipleship*
Message delivered by: Rev. Mike and Melisa, Kurt/Andrea Hoge
Mother's Day

May 17

40 Days of Community: *Ministry*
Message delivered by: Rev. Mike, "Shine in 09" team

May 24

40 Days of Community: *Worship*
Message delivered by: Rev. Jon and Friends

8:30 Service of Memorial
9:45 and 11:00 Celebrating our FUMC Graduating Seniors

May 31

40 Days of Community: *Celebration!*
Message delivered by: Rev. Mike in 3 rooms at the same time.

Try enjoying something VERY DIFFERENT for us.

All services at FUMC at one time – 10 AM.

- IF you attend 7:45 service – come to the chapel at 10 AM
- IF you attend the 8:30 service – come to the fellowship hall at 10 AM
- IF you attend the 9:45 or 11:00 service – come to the sanctuary at 10 AM

Spring Clean Up Day is Saturday, May 9th

First United Methodist Church of Marion

12th Street & 8th Avenue

Sunday Worship –

7:45am

Early Worship – Chapel

8:30am

Spirited Traditional – Sanctuary

9:45am

Two Songs & A Sermon – Sanctuary Church School for children and adults

11:00am

Blended Praise – Sanctuary



The Marion Methodist

Issue No. 9

May 1, 2009



PASTOR MIKE MORGAN

Small: the new (and old) Strong!

A recent expedition took me to one of the storerooms just off fellowship hall in the lower level of our historic church building. In this often unexposed room, for any who ventured in to see, was one of the beams put in place over a hundred years ago to support our sanctuary.

If you had asked me to imagine what a support beam holding up an edifice of this magnitude and age would look like, I certainly would have thought of giant beams cut of one solid piece of wood. The weight and mass of such a beam would be impressive to the eye and a marvelous feat of primitive engineering needed to set them in place, but, that is not what I witnessed.

Did you know the beams of the sanctuary in which high school graduations, Christmas Eve, Easter and weekly services have held been for over a century are really just a compilation of small pieces of wood, none more than an inch wide? This is a fact! Part of the reason for this I am told was cost, another was because the beams could be bent with greater ease to make the original "semi circle" configuration of seats fit properly, partly because small boards are easier to raise and in the end, the composite beam is *stronger* than one single piece.

Your pastor had an epiphany in that storeroom turned bathroom turned storeroom again. This large church facility is made of nothing but small pieces grouped together. Of course the church of Jesus always has been that.

New Member Class in May

Please join us for our New Member Classes. If you would like to become a member of our church or would just like to learn more about being a United Methodist and get acquainted with the FUMC family, you are invited to our next series of classes:

Thursday, May 14 – 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, May 21 – 6:30-8:30pm

Thursday, May 28 – 6:30-8:30pm

Sunday, May 31 – Membership Service

All classes are in the Upper Level of the Carnegie Center.

Daycare will be provided.

To register or for more information, contact Karen Schmitz at 377-4856 or Karen@fumcmarion.org.

When the Wesleys deployed through Francis Asbury and Thomas Coke Circuit Riders to evangelize North America, their model of the church sprung from a small group (the Holy Club) of men that had gathered for spiritual strength and growth. Going from east to west across the US, Circuit Riders set up societies of Methodists that would get together every week for prayer, the study of scripture and accountability. Many meetings consisted of each participant thoughtfully answering one question: "how is it with your soul?" (Not how is it with your crops, job, weather – but your *soul*).

From time to time, the Circuit Riders would ride into town on their horses, maybe every 6 weeks or so to have preaching meetings, baptisms, weddings and a service of communion, but the heart of the church and revival of the frontiers were these small groups where people came to share lives and how it was with their souls. **For them, that was the church!**

This feeling of interconnectedness, this ability to have a few people with which we can be authentically our-

selves and can with passion seek to know and serve our God is the driving force behind the movement towards small groups happening at First Church. Having been in a life giving, challenging and spiritually renewing small group for over 25 years where I can be fully transparent, has convinced me that strength is truly in the small and that from this plan we should not yield.

Nothing is of course for everyone, but, we have put our eggs in the small group basket trusting that we can become better Christians, better friends, more useful for our community and more at peace when we are connected in groups that specifically are focused around the ideal "how is it with your soul?"

The church staff and a large team are fasting and praying with fervor that in this movement of the small many of us will find true Strength. If you are not one of the over 300 currently in a group, we are also ready to help you connect if you feel moved to join one.

Feeling Small and Strong!

Rev. Mike

The Handbells of
First United Methodist Church &
St. Joseph's Catholic Church
present

Soaring Praise



A concert featuring handbells & handchimes
Sunday, May 3 at 4:00pm
in the sanctuary of the
First United Methodist Church
Marion, Iowa

A Joyful Noise Jubilation Carillon
Touch of Brass Bell Choir
Touch of Brass

No Admission charged
Bring a canned food item
to benefit
Mission of Hope

Televised Services

Mediacom is televising our church services on Monday evenings at 7:00pm on Mediacom Channel 18.

Financial Peace University Class to begin

Wednesday, May 6

6:30-8:30pm in Chapel

A 13 week video study that teaches families how to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before. Contact Craig Liscum, 377-4856, or craig@fumcmarion.org or go to www.fumcmarion.org for more info or to register.

It's Perennials Time Again

Lois McCormick will once again be selling perennial plants from her garden. The proceeds will go towards a project at FUMC. If you want to add some color in your yard and garden at an economical price, call her at 377-2890 or email at lmccormick@mchsi.com.

Caregiving Group

The Thursday Caregivers Support Group Meetings will be held on the **first and third Thursdays at 1:30pm** at Summit Pointe Senior Living, just off of 29th Avenue in Marion. The group will meet in their private dining room. Meetings begin at 1:30 and end at 3:00pm. Respite care will be offering for loved ones.

Join us for support, prayer, information, and free respite. If you have a question, call Vicki Standley at the church office, 377-4856.

Need your help on May 9

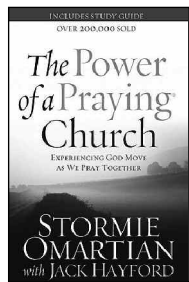
National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Food Drive. All food collected in Marion will be taken to the Lower Level of the Church Office (Carnegie Building) to be sorted and stored for the Marion Food Pantry. We need help between 10:00am & 4:00pm. Any amount of time you can give will be appreciated. To volunteer or with questions, please call Frank or Clarice Hinds at 373-0936.

Thank You

The report from the conference treasurer indicates that Marion, First UMC paid 100% of their 2008 apportionments. I want to commend the congregation on that accomplishment. A certificate recognizing this faithful accomplishment will be awarded at our District Conference.

Heartfelt thanks goes to each one who made possible this funding of the mission of Jesus Christ in Iowa and around the world. Your sacrificial commitment touches and transforms lives. May God continue to bless your ministry in Christ's name. – *Your fellow servant in Christ, Rev. David Crow, East Central District Superintendent*

The Power of a Praying Church – by Stormie Omartian



Believers are promised God's powerful presence when they gather with others in prayer. Now best-selling authors Stormie Omartian (more than 10 million books sold) and her longtime pastor, Jack Hayford, look at the life-changing benefits and world-changing effects that result from praying with others. Readers will see how they can:

- strengthen their personal prayer times with God
- experience the joy of finding a prayer partner
- change their lives by becoming part of a dynamic prayer group
- uncover the far-reaching power of a praying church
- discover how in the world they can make a difference

As they boldly enter into close fellowship with other believers to effect change in the world, they will touch lives and needs with the power of the Father in heaven.

CLASS STARTS: May 3, 2009
Room: Chapel
Time: 9:45 AM
Cost (Donation): \$15 or \$25 for a couple
Leader: Cheryl Dickerson

Lest We Forget

By Christine C. Brunner Luse

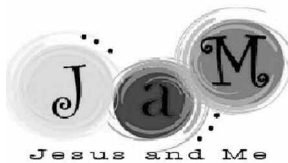
On April 21st, a day of remembrance service was held at Mount Mercy College in memory of the victims of the Holocaust. The chapel was filled to capacity, with many standing and sitting on the floor. As a member of our church, I participated in the candle lighting portion of service. I stood before the eerily silent audience, slowly announcing *"the people of First United Methodist Church in Marion...remember."* That simple act of lighting a candle and watching it slowly burn down during the service was a profound reminder to me of each mother, daughter, and grandmother who needlessly died. Dr. Chris Seeman of Coe College introduced the history of the Yom Ha-Shoah service, which has been held in Cedar Rapids for 25 years. "All genocide is a form of Holocaust denial," Seeman shared. Linda Hurwitz shared by telling the story of her mother, Irene Furst, a survivor of Auschwitz and other camps of death. Irene's memories included watching her 46 year old mother die of typhoid in the ghetto, of young women caring and looking out for each other in the camps, and of ordinary people helping her when she escaped. Ms. Hurwitz explained that if each person present shared the story with just one other person, the goal of *not forgetting* would be accomplished.

When I was 16, I visited Dachau, the first death camp built in Germany. It was a beautiful, sun filled day, almost an insult to the solemn horror of place. As I looked into the now cold ovens, I saw bouquets of flowers, placed by friends, family members, and ordinary people like me, who feel the passion to remember the atrocities of the past in an effort to identify horrors of today.

The night of the service, I was the 46 year old mother, putting my arm around my 16 year old daughter. The candles were slowly extinguished with the words, "We darken the candles in memory of the millions extinguished in the Holocaust." Our candle, representing FUMC, glowed brightly for a short time, then was darkened. Let our lives, as part of the body of Christ, continue to glow brightly in our own community, never letting the love of Christ be extinguished.

YOUTH

3rd, 4th & 5th Graders....



The summer is fast approaching as is our

LAST JAM

For this year!

We are going to Hanna Park

Sunday, April 26 – 12:30-2:00

(PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION AND TIME!!!)

Join us for food, fun, & fellowship!!

Friends are always welcome! Please RSVP to Val so we know how much food to have!! 373-8623 or val@fumcmarion.org

Glue, sequins, chocolate, coconut & paper plates...

What do these have to do with each other?



Vacation Bible School

June 15-19 9am – noon

They are just a few things we will be needing for Vacation Bible School ...can you help us out?

Check out the donation lists outside of services on Sunday mornings or contact Val at 373-8623 or val@fumcmarion.org.

We will also be needing camping supplies to use as decorations....pop-up tents, hiking backpacks, hiking boots, undecorated Christmas trees, etc. Contact Val at the above number if you can loan us any of these items.

KIDS...don't miss out on a summer of FUN!!!

Bug Safari Camp

1st & 2nd graders
6/27-6/28

Hands In Service

3rd-5th graders
July 26th – 28th



Camp E.D.G.E. Vacation Bible School

June 15 – 19 9am – noon

For kids of all ages –

Be a camper/ teacher or crew leader!!



Registration Forms for all these events are available at the Welcome Center in the Narthex, at the church office or online at fumcmarion.org.



Stewardship Corner

May 3

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Ned & Connie Albert
12th St Dwyer/Miller family
11:00 8th Ave Kay McGuire
12th St Eric & Kim Brown

Ushers: 8:30 Don & Joyce Haugen, Marj Reynolds, Josh Standley
9:45 Kelsey Labs, Nathaniel McFarland, Cara Soukup
11:00 – Walt, Shelby & Courtney Roth, Matt Zimmerman

Acolytes: 8:30 Dalton Witcher-Underwood, Blake Canavan
11:00 Sean Brown, Addi Martin

May 10

Greeters: 8:30 8th Ave Gary & Betty Garthwaite
12th St Henry & Barb Schmoll
11:00 8th Ave Jean Hammill
12th St John & Bonnye Fowler

Ushers: 8:30 Don & Joyce Haugen, Marj Reynolds, Josh Standley
9:45 Carissa Goemaat, Michael Buh, Matthew Tribble
11:00 – Walt, Shelby & Courtney Roth, Matt Zimmerman

Acolytes: 8:30 Lindsay Brown, Jordan Keeton
11:00 Michael Moeller, Nick Rude



UMM

Saturday, May 9

8am, breakfast and meeting in Fellowship Hall
All men are welcome to attend.



UMW Circles

May 6

Sarah 9:15am, LLCC

Miriam 1:00pm, Maxine Woods, 2501 Highway 13, #304, 377-7153

Rebekah 1:15pm, Elizabeth Caldwell's, 4505 Regal Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, 378-8636

May 7

Bookends 7:00pm, Java Creek Café

May 11

Faith 7:00pm, Panera Bread

May 13

Susanna 9:30am, LLCC

Mary/Agape 1:00pm, Melvina Bruce's, 1050 5th Street
373-7445

May 14

Needle Designers 9:30am, LLCC

Wesleyan 9:30am, Wesley Library

Joyful Cooks 6:30PM, Susanne Haehlen's, 3390 Willowridge Rd, 377-6269

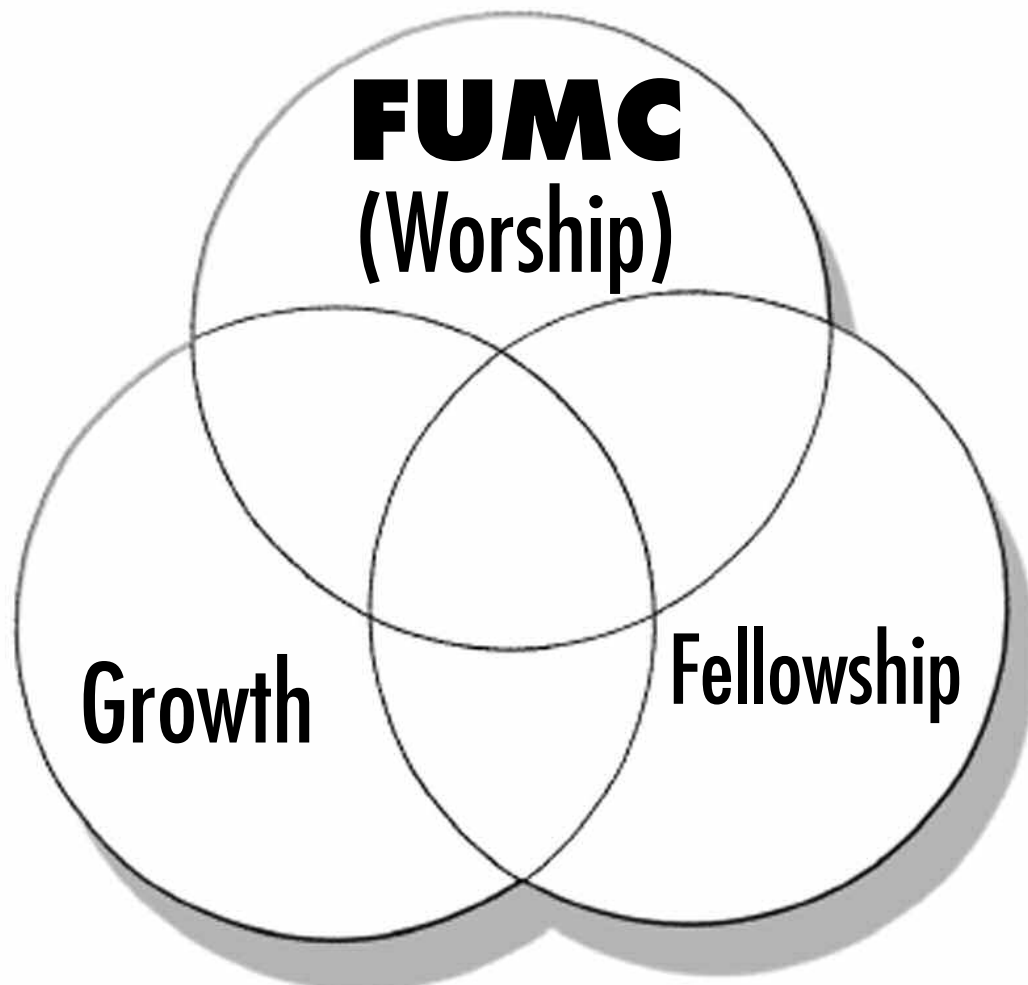
Women's Friendship Group

The Women's Friendship Group meets on the third Monday of each month at the Pizza Ranch in Marion at 11:00am. All single women of FUMC who are interested in a time of good fellowship and good food are invited to attend at any time. Call Idella Hogan, 377-1382, for more information or with questions.



An Invitation

You are invited to join **Zereta Mitchell** in celebrating her **90th birthday** on **Saturday, May 9**, from 2-4:00pm at Village Ridge, 365 Marion Blvd in Marion. Her birth date is May 10.



Senior Recital for Nicole Peyton

Featuring piano, violin & handbells



Friday, May 29
FUMC Sanctuary
7:00pm

Everyone welcome
Reception following

Remember our members serving our country

Tim Dirks

1035 Henry Ave
Unit #1
Santa Maria CA 93455
His wife's name is Karen.

Jerad Moody

11 Ironwood Ln
Groton CT 06340
His family includes wife, Tiffany and children, Alyssa & Dylan

Rob Strasburger

817 St. Clement Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
His family includes wife Erin; and children Nathan and Lauren

Seth Vogel

Email: seth@yahoo.com
Seth is on his 2nd deployment in Okinawa, Japan

PFC Vogel, Simon

NAVSCOLEOD
304 North McCarthy Ave.
STE #117
Eglin – AFB, FL 32542
simon.vogel@us.army.mil

Until Spring 2009
Jon's address will be:

Jonathon Albert
Walter Reed Army Medical Center
Abrams Hall, Box 1033
6900 Georgia Ave NW
Washington DC 20307

Until October, 2009:

Jirouch, Staci SSG
339th MP Co
Camp Bucca, Iraq
APO AE 09375

American Cancer Society - I Can Cope

An educational program for cancer patients, their families and friends.

Date: Thursday, May 7, 2009

Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Place: Oncology Associates
525 10th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Music Therapy – Kim Hawkins
Music Therapist
Massage Therapy – Sarah Rodewald, LMT

This program is open to everyone and is FREE of charge. Pre-register by calling 319.365.5242 - refreshments served.



LECTIONARY READINGS

May 3, 2009

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

May 10, 2009

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Our Congregation Shares Its Concern & Christian Love...

BIRTH: March 30, **Jace Gordon March**, son of Matt & Kristi March
 April 22, **Morgan Lyn Goshon**, daughter of Dana & Kate Goshon. Grandmother is Mary Lee Parks. Great-grandparents are Howard & Joyce Parks and Ruth Hahn.

BAPTISM: April 19, **Kaden Lee Benore**, son of Corey & Kari Benore.

DEATHS: April 3, **Marcia Dieleman**, Oskaloosa, mother of Melanie (Chris) Donahue.
 April 10, **David Rammelsberg**, Palo, brother of Carolyn (Jay) Quimby.
 April 17, **Bill Romine**, Columbia City, IN, grandfather of Pastor Melisa (Dave) Bracht-Wagner.

You're invited to join us at "Carnegie Corner" any Tuesday morning from 9:00-11:00am.

<p><i>We play cards & games:</i> 500, Bridge (some weeks) Dominoes & Table Games</p>	<p><i>Using the Computer to search for:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christian websites • Hearing the Bible • Reading Large print scriptures • Finding & Playing hymns • FUMC website • How to use free clipart • Making greeting cards • And more!
<p><i>Coffee Refreshments Devotions</i></p>	
<p>Contact Myrna Carter or Doris French for more information.</p>	
<p>While this group is geared toward our Senior Citizens, anyone is welcome to attend at anytime. We occasionally have potlucks and take short trips also.</p>	

The Marion Methodist deadline schedule

Deadline dates for the next issue of the Marion Methodist is on **WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 by 5:00pm.** This issue will cover from May 17-May 30 2009. Emails are appreciated and can be sent to norma@fumcmarion.org

Church Information

<p>First United Methodist Church Corner of 12th Street and 8th Avenue Church Office, 1298 7th Avenue Marion, Iowa 52302 Office 377-4856</p>	<p>Fellowship Hall 377-4252</p> <p>Caring Corner 377-8490</p>
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This newsletter is made possible by the Grace of God and is intended to lift up the interests and Ministries of First United Methodist Church of Marion that are dedicated to His Wonderful Name.

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LABEL HERE

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 3	May 4	May 5	May 6	May 7	May 8	May 9
<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY COMMUNION SUNDAY 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 12:00p Piano Recital - Marilyn Rech (Choir Room) 12:00p Mission Control (Carnegie - LL) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 4:00p Handbell Concert 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL & UL)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 6:30p Big Idea (Carnegie - Pastor's Office) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Black Light Room) 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:15a Sarah Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Adult Classes 6:30p Grief Share (Flood Office Upper Level) 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p Youth Praise Team practice (Sanctuary) 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:05p Bible study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 1:30p Caregivers @ Summit Pointe 6:30p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level) 6:30p Girl Scouts (Room 302) 6:30p Girl Scouts (Room 303) 7:00p Kneeland's Small Group (Rm 104) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 7:00a Food Drive (Carnegie - LL) 8:00a UMM (Fellowship Hall) 8:00a Spring Clean-up Day 7:00p FUMC 500 Card Club (Carnegie - LL)</p>
May 10	May 11	May 12	May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16
<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY MOTHER'S DAY 7:45a Worship (Chapel) 8:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 9:45a Praise Team Practice (Carnegie - UL) 9:45a Church School for All Ages 9:45a Worship-Two Songs & A Sermon (Sanctuary) 11:00a Worship (Sanctuary) 2:00p Girl Scouts (Adult Library) 2:00p Joyful Noise Chimers (Room 310) 3:00p Youth Praise Team (Sanctuary) 3:00p Jubilation Handbells (Room 310) 4:00p Bell Canto Handbells (Room 310) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - UL) 5:00p Friendship Ministry (Carnegie - LL)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 6:15p Daycare Board (Room 306) 6:30p Big Idea (Carnegie - Pastor's Office) 7:00p Boy Scouts (3rd Floor Education Rooms) 7:00p Boy Scouts (Black Light Room)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 9:00a Carnegie Corner (Carnegie - LL) 1:30p Bible Study (Adult Library) 7:00p Touch of Brass (Room 310)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 8:00a Quilters (Room 104) 9:30a Susanna Circle (Carnegie - LL) 5:00p Adult Praise Team Practice (Sanctuary) 6:15p Junior High Youth Group (Carnegie - Youth) 6:30p Adult Classes 6:30p Chancel Choir (Choir Room) 7:30p Senior High 8:00p Youth Praise Team practice (Sanctuary) 8:00p AA Support Group (Adult Library) 9:05p Bible study (Carnegie - Pastor's Office)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY 6:00a Men's Bible Study (Fellowship Hall) 9:00a TMC (Adult Library) 9:30a Needle Designers Circle (Carnegie - LL) 9:30a Wesleyan Circle (Adult Library) 6:30p Divorce Care (Flood Office Upper Level) 7:00p Building Committee (Adult Library) 7:00p Kneeland's Small Group (Rm 104)</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY</p>	<p>40 DAYS OF COMMUNITY</p>