

Senior Ministries Newsletter

April 1, 2024



For information regarding Senior Ministries events or trips, or if you or a loved one are moving to a care facility, please contact Carli Burton at cburton@springfieldfirst.org or 217-793-9760 x111.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."
- Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Friends of Springfield First,

Carli Burton has announced that she will be retiring on April 21st. Carli has dedicated 26 years to Springfield First with compassion and service to all of us, and especially to Senior Ministries. Her caring and loving spirit is an example to be celebrated, and her contributions have been an integral part of the culture of our church.

Please join me in expressing our deepest gratitude for all she has contributed to Springfield First, and in celebrating with Carli as she enters a new chapter in her life.

We will be celebrating Carli with a reception after the 10:30 services on April 14th.

As we look forward, please pray for Springfield First and for God to continue to provide caring servants to lead our ministries.

Sincerely,

Bob Dodd

A Message From Carli

I took the tiniest baby step forward that I could. It was at a lakeside campfire service at Nazarene Acres Girls' Camp in Mechanicsburg, IL. We were asked to step forward if we felt a call to full-time service for God. I was apprehensive but I knew in my heart He was calling me. As the selected Scripture for this month says, "There is a time for everything." I worked alongside my pastor husband for years as we served churches and raised our family. When our kids were grown, I felt there was something more God wanted for me and from me. I prayed and searched but was not clear as to what direction I should go. My prayer became, "Lord, I am willing, but I don't know what you desire me to do, so you are just going to have to drop it in my lap." Within a week, I received a call from Rev. Dr. Roger Rominger. I had never spoken to him prior, but someone had given him my name to potentially fill a ministry opening. After our conversation, we set up an interview. (Isn't God good?!) The rest, as they say, is history. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to serve at SFUMC.

So... It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement from Springfield First United Methodist Church. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with great staff members and exceptional volunteers, along with serving many loving members and attendees of SFUMC. During the last few years, my focus was to our Senior Ministries.

I leave you with this... You are like fine gold to your church. Your wisdom, your experience of life, and your prayer power all mean so much to us. You are valued! I encourage you to continue in the way of the Lord. Times may get tough or tougher, but He is and always will be our Great Hope. Volunteer or lend a helping hand when you can, join in Christian fellowship, and keep in contact with any you have befriended in church who can no longer attend. Finally, keep in God's Word and please remember your church in prayer daily. I will miss you and SFUMC.

-Carli

AROUND THE TABLE ADVENTURE: SENIOR FELLOWSHIP

(AGES 55+)

In honor of Carli's last Senior Fellowship, our cook, Dorothy Gayton, said we are going all out! She is such a blessing to our church. Our menu is ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, bacon-wrapped asparagus, deviled eggs, dinner rolls, green salad, macaroni and cheese, baked beans, and coconut cream pie.

Date: Thursday, April 11, 2024

Time: 9:30am - 12:30pm

Where: Rooms 5/6

Hosted by: Don and Alyce Foster

Sweet treats and coffee will be ready when you arrive.

Following a devotional, we will break out into groups to play games.

This hot delicious meal will be served at 11:45am.

Suggested donation is \$7.00.





We have an **assisted parking** ministry and we invite you to use it. It is staffed by wonderful volunteers from our congregation. The purpose of the ministry is to be of assistance to those who have mobility challenges of any kind or during slippery pavement making unsure footing. Our goal is to make your worship experience at First United Methodist Church the best it can be. The parking ministry will be available 15 to 20 minutes prior to the traditional service and 10 to 15 minutes following the traditional service on Sunday mornings. Just pull up under the east canopy door and exit your vehicle. **No prior notice is needed.**


SENIOR MINISTRIES TRIPS



DEATHS

Please hold in prayer the families of:

Wilma Hulen 2/21
David Scott 3/16



YOU'RE INVITED

APRIL 14 AFTER 10:30 SERVICE IN THE ATRIUM

COME JOIN US TO HELP CELEBRATE CARLI BURTON'S RETIREMENT. SHE HAS DEDICATED 26 YEARS AT SPRINGFIELD FIRST WITH COMPASSION AND SERVICE TO ALL OF US, AND ESPECIALLY TO SENIOR MINISTRIES.



Springfield First

A UNITED METHODIST FAITH COMMUNITY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
2941 South Koke Mill Road · Springfield, IL 62711

WEEKEND WORSHIP EXPERIENCES

Sunday 9:00am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Traditional (Sanctuary)