

Senior Ministries Newsletter

January 2025



For information regarding Senior Ministries events or trips, or if a loved one is moving to a care facility, please contact Terri Hempstead at thempstead@springfieldfirst.org or 217-793-9760 x111.

Isaiah 43:18-19 - Remember ye not the old things. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.

Happy New Year!

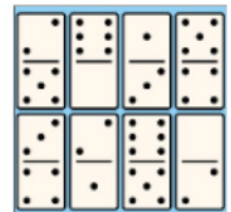
Valentine's Day cookie decorating workshop



Angy of Angy's Cookies is hosting a special cookie decorating class for us at B's Studio, at 10am on Friday, Feb. 7. Class is limited to 10 participants and registration is required. Angy will provide colored icing and 6 cookies per person, and she'll demonstrate her decorating ideas. You'll take home your beautiful cookies to gift, share, or eat! To register, place your check for \$25 in the Senior Ministries mailbox in the church office. B's Studio is at 1333 Wabash, Suite B.

Senior Fellowship (Ages 55+)
Monthly on the second Thursday
at 9:30am, January 9

Warm up your winter with friends and a lunch of homemade soup! Enjoy a morning of cards or dominoes, or bring a friend and teach us a new game. Suggested donation for lunch is \$7.



Day trips! Seniors and adults of all ages welcome.
Advance reservations are required.

Dinner Theater Sunday Feb. 23
Alone Together at The Barn III, Goodfield
Leave church Sunday at 10:10am;
return around 5pm.
Reserve soon! Seats are going fast
Show tickets are \$30.
Lunch and transportation (TBD) additional cost.

**alone
together**



Senior Speaker Series in Atrium 4

Monday, Jan. 27, 2pm
Financial Issues Pertinent to Retirees with retirement asset manager Mark Pettyjohn, owner of Retirement Defenders.

Monday, Feb. 10, 2pm
Thinking About and Preparing to Move with Realtor Jane Locascio, Senior Real Estate Specialist certified by the National Association of Realtors.

All are welcome; registration is not required. Canceled if roads are icy.



The Lettermen Live in Rock Island

Monday, May 12
Gather at church by 7am; return by 7:30pm.
A block of tickets is being held for us until Feb. 1, then will be released.
\$150 per person plus tips, includes lunch.
Transportation details to follow.



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 help those who have mobility challenges. Just pull up under the canopy at the east entrance to the Atrium/Sanctuary and wave. No reservation is necessary. Available 20 minutes before and 15 minutes after the traditional service every Sunday morning.

Updating our homebound list

Do you know of someone who lives alone, or in assisted living residence or nursing home? Please let us know so we can visit and minister to them. Senior residences cannot report this to us, so we depend on YOU to help us keep track of them.

What's Your Best Gift?

This past week, we just concluded the season of **the 12 Days of Christmas**. It may surprise you, but Christmas is not over yet! I suspect that some may have plans to take advantage of every remaining day leading up to Epiphany on Monday, January 6th!



What was your favorite Christmas gift this year? I doubt that it was a fruitcake! About this time last year, I received a picture of a fruitcake along with the text from our good-humored son, Marc. He popped in after Christmas to tease me, "This was marked down, and I couldn't pass it up!" I responded, "You **do know why** it was discounted, don't you?!" You can tell that I'm not fond of fruitcakes!



Matthew 2 records the story of the Magi who came to visit Jesus. Traditionally, they arrived on the twelfth day after Mary gave birth, but most scholars believe that Jesus was not a newborn but was around two years old. These wise sages brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Throughout history, they have inspired us to give our best gifts to the Lord.

We could have a lengthy discussion about what constitutes the best gift we could give in response to God's great gift of His Son! This is the time when many think about change in the New Year. Let's consider this prayer from the Psalmist, "Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth!" (Ps. 86:11).

- Mike Keppler, Care Pastor

Follow Mike's weekly blog called "Serve by Design" at mjkministries.com.

Trips!

Join Senior Services of Central Illinois on these upcoming trips in 2025. More information is at <https://www.centralilseiors.org/travel> or pick up a flyer in the wall pocket outside the senior ministries office.

April 13-17: San Antonio & Fredricksburg, Texas

May 18-23: National parks & canyons of the Southwest

June 1-7: St. Augustine, Amelia Island & Jacksonville, Florida

September 21-26: Mackinac Island



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)

