

Senior Ministries Newsletter

October 2026



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.

"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."
Proverbs 16:9



Grateful Hearts Concert

Saturday, Oct. 10, 1:30pm, Sanctuary

Join us for a short concert by the two small ensembles of the Springfield Choral Society: Bellacapella (women's ensemble) and the Sangamen Singers (men's ensemble). The Springfield Choral Society rehearses in our choir room every week, and the Grateful Hearts mini-concert is their gesture of gratitude for the use of the church's space. A cookie reception will follow.

Tour Hickory Glen Independent Living

Monday, Oct. 19, 1pm
Meet at Hickory Glen
1700 W. Washington

Hickory Glen, a lovely independent living residence on West Washington St., has invited us for a tour. Meet at 1pm in Hickory Glen's lobby. We will visit a few apartments, see the amenities, and enjoy refreshments with some of the staff. Hickory Glen is around the corner from Fairhills Mall, an easy walk to County Market for groceries.



HICKORY GLEN
A Senior Living Community

Senior Fellowship

Thursday, Oct. 8, 9:30am

Join us for breakfast snacks, fun, games, and lunch! This month's lunch will be a variety of Arby's box meals. Be sure to call or email to make a reservation if you plan to eat lunch: thempstead@springfieldfirst.org or 217-793-9760 x111.

Senior Speaker Series: Giving at Springfield First

Monday, Nov. 9
1pm, Atrium 4

Join Executive Director Bob Dodd and Financial Administrator Jenny Hutcherson for a practical and encouraging conversation about stewardship.

We'll start by sharing the impact of your gifts: how your Joyful Generosity directly supports the mission and ministry of Springfield First. Then, we'll focus on the practical side of giving: exploring the various ways you can give, introducing our new pledge campaign, and reviewing helpful tax advantages and estate planning options.

This information is provided for educational purposes only. Our staff members are not financial advisors or tax accountants and cannot give advice. Always get professional advice from your professional advisors.

Got Medicare Questions?

Free, unbiased help with Medicare questions is available and free. SHIP, the Senior Health Insurance Program, has experts here in Springfield who can help you sort through the decisions that you may need to make.

To arrange to meet a SHIP counselor:

- Contact the Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) at 800-292-8966 or email aging.SHIP@Illinois.gov.
- Or call AgeLinc, the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland, at 217-787-9234.

The Illinois Department on Aging publishes a booklet about Medicare in Illinois. It is online at ilaging.illinois.gov/ship. Click on New 2026 Choices Guide. There is also a link to a training video just under that button.

DEATHS

Please hold in prayer the families of:

Donald Hindes 8/26
Sally Morton 8/26
Mary Moss 8/30
Ellen Rodems 9/16
Verna Buerkett 9/20
Roger Jokisch 9/21

In Hot Water Again!

It's not what you think! I sensed a problem with the hot side of our kitchen faucet while washing the Sunday dishes. The water is usually uncomfortably hot, but this time it was barely warm. After going downstairs to inspect the water heater, I could immediately see a puddle of water under the unit and streams leading to the sump pump nearby. Early Monday, I called our plumber!

It's obvious that we are spoiled by having "running water" when 2.2 billion people throughout the world live daily with the stress of unsafely managed and inaccessible drinking water (source: worldbank.org)! Recently, we have even had some cities in our state that have had protracted issues with their water supply.



Have you ever admitted, "I'm in hot water"? This common idiom is often used to describe someone who is in trouble or is dealing with opposition or conflict. Misunderstandings occur regularly in our daily relating. We often discover that it's easy to get "into hot water" and a lot harder to "get out of it"!



Sometimes, it feels exhausting to follow this admonition, "Do all you can to live in peace with everyone" (Romans 12:18, NLT). But when you consider the alternative to what division creates in inner turmoil, the decision to work toward harmony is a "no brainer"!

In Wesleyan Methodism you will often hear these simple rules for the Christian life: "Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God." The Apostle Paul summarized his discussion of genuine love with this powerful reminder to all believers, "Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good."

- Mike Keppler, Care Pastor

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



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 & 10:30am Contemporary (CLC) 10:30am Traditional (Sanctuary)