Senior Ministries Newsletter

November 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.

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God." Colossians 3:1

Prayer Shawls Needed

Several of our church's needle workers have donated handmade prayer shawls. When a church member loses a loved one, a family member may request a shawl from the Senior Ministries office. As our congregation ages, the requests for prayer shawls are increasing. Could you please make one?



Yarn and knitting/crocheting patterns are available in the wall-pocket outside the Senior Ministries office. If you knit or crochet, please consider making a shawl for someone who is grieving this winter. Please include the care label from the yarn.

Crafters are encouraged to pray for the eventual recipient as they crochet or knit.

Springfield Choral Society Members Sang Their Thanks



Saturday afternoon, Oct. 10, the two small ensembles of the Springfield Choral Society presented a short concert in our sanctuary. The harmonies of the women's group, "Bellacapella," and the men's group, "The Sangamen" filled the room. The recital was named "Grateful Hearts" in appreciation for the Choral Society's weekly use of our choir room for rehearsals and workspace.

Senior Speaker Series: Giving at Springfield First

Monday, Nov. 9
1 p.m. Atrium 4

Executive Director Bob Dodd and Financial Administrator Jenny Hutcherson will present some practical and encouraging information about stewardship.

They first will highlight the impact of your giving: how your Joyful Generosity directly supports the mission and ministry of Springfield First. Then they will discuss the practical side of giving by introducing our new pledge campaign and reviewing helpful tax advantages and estate planning options that may apply to you.

This information is provided for educational purposes only. Staff members are not financial advisors or tax accountants and cannot give advice. Always discuss the implications of larger gifts with your professional advisors.

Senior Fellowship
Thursday, Nov. 12, 9:30am

Join us for breakfast snacks, fun, games and lunch! Be sure to call or email to make a reservation if you plan to stay for lunch: 217-793-9760 x111 or thempstead@springfieldfirst.org.

Breakfast treats will be hosted by Jan Campbell and Terri Hempstead: coffee, blueberry coffeecake and fresh fruit. Lunch will be hosted by Jan Ninmer and Linda Bollensen: Sloppy Joe, beans, salad, and dessert.

Upcoming Events:
Nov. 7: Women's Ministry Craft Fair & Bake Sale
Nov. 9: Senior Speaker Series: Giving at Springfield First
Nov. 12: Senior Fellowship
Nov. 12: Church History Class
Nov. 15: All-Church Potluck
Dec. 10: Senior Fellowship
Dec. 10: Church History Class
Dec. 13: Christmas Cantata
Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Services 2, 4, and 7pm
Jan. 11: Senior Speaker Series: Planning Ahead with Staab

DEATHS
Please hold in prayer the families of:
Marvin Rightnowar 9/26
Nancy Wall 10/5
Bob Carney 10/9
Jack Bruce 10/10
Steve Sykes 10/22

What is FOMO?

Karter Andrew, our handsome ninth-grade grandson, lives with his parents, an older brother, and a little sister in beautiful New Mexico. He loves sports, pestering his siblings, and enjoys chasing around all five of the household dogs! Karter recently made an interesting observation. He asked his dad, "Have you noticed that when you call Sophie (the family's six-year-old Golden Doodle), the other dogs follow her?" His dad, Reece, replied, "That's FOMO!" It's an acronym for the "Fear Of Missing Out!"



This abbreviation is short for a mental and emotional state that arises from being anxious about what might be going on around a person due to non-involvement. I cannot tell you how often this simple question, "What are you doing?" has come up in day-to-day family life.

I am sure there are studies that can explain the reasons why animals imitate this behavior. It is likely curiosity within the pack when one dog or animal wants in on what's going on! One of my favorite authors is John Erickson, a north Texas author and rancher. Erickson writes humorous stories about his dogs, Hank, and sidekick Drover, that illustrate the cautionary idiom, "Curiosity killed the cat!" Those two dogs have mindlessly followed each other into all kinds of trouble!



Here is a word of caution. Be curious enough to investigate Jesus' plan for your life, but do not wait too long to act on it! God's Word has an invitation to each of us, "I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation!" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Today is the opportune time to follow Christ, confess sin, and make Him Lord over your life!

Let's be ready when Christ returns. No one will want to miss out on that day!

- 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)