Easter People

“Jesus said to them, ‘This is what is written: the Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’” Luke 24:46-48 CEB

“Jesus replied, ‘It isn’t for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has set by his own authority. Rather, you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’” Acts 1:7-8 CEB

We will celebrate Easter on April 5th. I am excited for the day! We will have a Sunrise service at 7:00 am in the Rose Garden and on the south lawn. Bring your lawn/camp chairs for a time of singing, hearing the Easter story, and celebrating the resurrection. LeAnna Noble and family are organizing/providing brunch at 8:00 am. I am so grateful to the Noble family for saying yes to brunch. I pray that many of you will come to church early, or stay after Sunrise, and enjoy a delicious meal and connect with your church family. We will continue the celebration of Easter at 9:30 in the sanctuary with a service that will move us from Good Friday to Easter morning, helping us celebrate the empty tomb. Please invite friends and family to join us for Easter Sunday!

We are Easter People. Jesus expected those who would follow him to take his teachings and commandments to the world. After he was resurrected, Jesus met with his disciples many times and before leaving them he reminded them that they were his witnesses, they were the ones to continue the ministry he began. Read again what he said to them before ascending, “...a change of heart and life for the forgiveness of sins must be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.”

Easter People are those whose hearts and lives have been changed because they are forgiven. Transformation comes through the forgiveness of sins. On the cross Jesus took away our sins and in his resurrection, Jesus gives us new life. Easter People are people who are different because of what Jesus has done. Easter People are people who are changed and who then preach Christ with word and deed to the world. The disciples were told to begin in Jerusalem and then to spread out to the rest of the world. Our own lives, families, homes, need to hear the good news of changed hearts and lives and then we share it with those around us. We cannot make disciples if we are not disciples.

When the disciples understood this they were unstoppable in preaching Christ with word and deed. They healed people, they forgave people, they fed the hungry, they gave to the poor, they worshiped together and they did it all because their lives were changed because of what Jesus did for them and commanded them to do. What an impact the early church had on the lives that were changed because of the preaching and teaching of the disciples!

What does a change of heart and life look like today? It isn’t much different than it was for the first disciples. It is a life with heart and will focused solely on Jesus. It is a life that sees the brokenness in the world and tries to bring healing. It is a life that sees everyone as a child of God, and values all life as sacred. It is a life that loves those who disagree with them, and seeks good for all. It is a life that prays for enemies. It is a life that spends much time in prayer with the intention of hearing God’s will, and then putting God’s will to work in their life every day. It is a life that is sold out for the mission of making disciples for the transformation of the world. May your life be changed and may you be part of the Easter People.

See you Sunday!
Pastor Amy
Present: Mike Pettibone, Scott Porter, Annette Gower, Rikki Wenger, Helen Walters, Frank Montgomery, Lowell Martin, Beverly Stuck

1. Devotion and Prayer in Chapel: Mike Pettibone opened reviewing suggested reading by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), German Lutheran minister, anti-Nazi dissident who’s call was to all believers to be disciples of Jesus. Fredrick Douglass (1818-1895) heroic slave and Civil Rights activist. Devotion from “God in Faith” having patience to forgive and forget. Dismissed with prayer, meeting reassembled in Family Life Center.

2. Minutes: February 24, 2015 accepted by Frank Montgomery seconded by Helen Walters and approved by all.

3. Treasurer’s Report: Lowell stated all bills are current with exception of February payment to conference. Going fairly well on a Sunday to Sunday approach. Hope comes with March, which has 5 Sundays compared to past months with 4 Sundays.

4. Children’s Ministry Report: Annette is pleased with past Sunday’s Worship attendance of 41 children with 24 total in Discipleship Study. Excited about Good Friday family activity planned for 6:00 p.m. Easter story will be told walking to 5 different stations. VBS will be July 19-24, time 6:00-8:00pm. “G Force God’s Love in Action”

5. Evangelism Team Report: Scott was pleased with the turn out for Spotlight on Decatur, First UMC booth. Next year bigger and better! Handouts planted seeds of information. Bibles and other gifts were given every half-hour. Good feeling overall. Hospitality was discussed. Rikki has some concern as to the role the Hospitality committee is to take in the church. She feels a need to define or clarify the purpose. Mike stated, perimeters might need to be redefined.


7. Worship Team Report: Mike stated, Pastor Amy has set a meeting for March 31 to discuss present Sunday Worship service. Concern has been expressed. It is felt there is a third alternative with the following suggestion. When in discussion with others it is important to listen (understand) to learn, not listen to talk (debate) saying “but…”.

8. Hope Chest Board Report: Lowell stated two good people Dot and Alissa, are doing a great job! The Hope Chest availability, service with discipleship, is doing God’s work in our community helping to make a healthy community.

9 Other Business: Mike invited all with agenda hand out for Planning Retreat First United Methodist Church, Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Berne Senior Center 8:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m This retreat is open to everyone.

Frank commented May 1 the sale of the parsonage will be final with the signing of closing papers.

10. Next meeting April 21, 2015 Your presence and input are important.

11. Dismissal with prayer: Prayers for healing, celebration, and patience.

Submitted by: Beverly Stuck absence of Nancy Thompson
Easter Brunch - April 5 at 8 am
We'll be having an Easter brunch at 8 am on Easter Sunday, April 5 in the Fellowship Hall.

Planning Retreat
The Administrative Council will be hosting a Planning Retreat for our church on Saturday, April 11 at the Berne Senior Center. We have attached an agenda that is very full. The goal is not to achieve each of the tasks; rather, share thoughts and encourage members to dream and create a 3-5 year vision with immediate steps to take toward our dreams. Please consider joining us for the morning. The day will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude with lunch at 12:30. Please call the church office by April 4 if you plan to attend so that we can be sure to have enough refreshments. Thanks for giving your time toward this project.
Sincerely yours,
Mike Pettibone
Administrative Council Chairperson

Wisdom People
The Wisdom People will be gathering at the West End Restaurant on April 21 at 12:00 noon to fellowship with one another and to see what’s been going on in their lives since their last meeting.

175th Anniversary Celebration in 2016
Planning has begun for the observance of our 175th anniversary which will be held during 2016. Task force members, so far, are Doug Rieth, Karen Stahl, Sandy Collier, Bev Stuck, Nancy Thompson, and Pastor Amy. If you would like to help or have ideas for our celebration, please contact any of the members listed. Our next meeting is Monday, March 30, at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room.

Exciting Opportunity May Happen in 2016
Pastor Amy and the Staff Parish Relations Committee are working on a grant that would allow Pastor Amy to have a renewal leave during the summer of 2016. The grant also allows the church the chance to do some exciting things while Pastor Amy is on leave. The renewal leave is made possible by the Lily Foundation and Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. The theme for the leave will focus on connecting to our past, to God, and to who we are. Many of the activities planned will be in coordination with our 175th celebration. The grants are awarded in August. If you have any questions about this opportunity, please contact Pastor Amy or Scott Porter.

College Student Information Needed
We are currently trying to update the list of College Students. Please send the name, address, email address and which college to Terri Boyd email tboyd@cf-i.com or text/call to 260-223-9435.

April Birthdays
1  Gavin Johnson
3  Austin Tricker
3  Layla Landis
4  MaCenzie Thompson-Witte
4  Jayci Brickle
5  Michelle Harvey
5  Ryan Hisner
6  Sydni Wolpert
8  Bryce Miller
9  Rob Pettibone
9  Gavin Hisner
11  Erik Porter
14  Roger Thompson
14  June Marbaugh
15  Vincent Quinones
15  John Adams - G.M.
16  Jaron Brickle
16  Bob Stuck
17  Aaron Wilson
17  Mary Jo King
21  Kara Martin
21  Quincy Wolpert
21  Olivia Hake
22  Allison Gutierrez
23  Chad Johnson
23  Harold Klinker
23  Cam Collier
24  Gerald Sudduth
24  Cindy Rieth
25  Lou Koning
28  Phyllis Irwin
30  Joy Klinker
30  G.M. - Golden Meadows

April Anniversaries
16  Joe & Dec Friedt
17  Nick & Jenna Koons
24  Jim & Marlene Habegger
28  Jim & Ruth Price
30  Tim & Allena Wilson

Operation Help
A reminder that toothpaste is needed for Operation Help. A large basket with a sign indicating Operation Help is located at the end of the hall between the Chapel and the Narthex.
Planning Retreat
First United Methodist Church
Decatur, Indiana

Saturday, April 11, 2015
Berne Senior Center – 822 Hendricks Street
8:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m

Agenda

I. Devotion
II. Purpose – Visioning and Mission
III. Introduction to the Concept of Good to Great
   a. Speaker
IV. Discussion of Mission
   a. Creating Disciples
V. Creating of Vision of Greatness for FUMC
   a. An Encouraging, Supportive, Loving, Active Church in Adams County and the World
VI. Single Board Structure
   a. Understanding the Concept and Setting a Timeline
VII. Out Reach
    a. Outside and Inside the Church
VIII. Youth/Children Faith Development
    a. Activities and Connection to the Parents
IX. Finances
    a. Understanding
    b. How to Create Opportunities for Folks to Participate
X. Facility Planning
    a. 3-5 year plan
    b. How to Create Opportunities for Folks to Participate
XI. Worship Structure
XII. Creating a Plan
    a. Sharing with Our Families and Community
XIII. How to Track Our Celebrations
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP with a BIG HEART

DAN'S FISH FRY
MAY 2, 2015
Details to be announced soon.
Mark your calendar now.

We are now collecting spring and summer items. Please consider bringing your unwanted But gentle used items to us.

APRIL 10 is CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY. There will be a sale and of course refreshments. Hope to see you then.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Hope Chest Staff
TANA'S COLORFUL WORDS!

Go or Grow

Here's a question for you to ponder or one that has me thinking. Do you Go through life or do you Grow through Life?

In today's world we are so busy, or so it seems. Always busy with housework, busy with our family, or just plain "on the go," busy. When we read the "Good News," do we really read or just skim through the scriptures? When reading the Bible do we listen or understand what is being read? When we try and understand His words we can find encouragement. Reading the scripture can create a tremendous power within our lives. If we choose to apply it, we just don't go through life, we Grow using God's words. Our life changes, which can improve our daily relationships connecting with others. His words can put us in the right direction of following God during our life long journey.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 So don't go through life, GROW THROUGH LIFE!

Until the come out again!

THAT'S A FACT

"Their Job"

We come to Kid's First to do our job. As teachers we work with the children, all day. Working together we all have great teamwork, which in turn can make a wonderful day.

Ms. Brittany can see all in Purple Room.

Ms. Dawn enjoys a "tea party" in the Yellow Room.

Ms. Becky doing Office duties.

THAT'S A FACT!
Join us for an unforgettable Easter Event for families!
Walk with Jesus is a powerfully moving, multi-sensory family event that will guide you along Jesus' footsteps during his last days on earth. You'll experience Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Gethsemane, Good Friday and Easter Resurrection through 5 interactive stations.
The fun will begin at 6pm on Friday, April 3rd. Pick up a registration form at the Connection Center or register upon arrival.
Contact Annette Gower for more info at gowercrew@gmail.com or 724-6067.

The beginning of March was full of fog so our first meeting was cancelled but our speaker Anne Munson a personal trainer and fitness instructor from Decatur-Adams County Parks and Recreation was rescheduled for our second meeting. She led us in a brief workout and shared lots of great tips on incorporating fitness and healthy eating into our busy lives. She reminded us that our bodies are a temple of the Lord and we need to try and take care of them. We also spent some time talking plans for our upcoming RefresHer fundraiser. Then, we spent the last 15-20 minutes staining some boards for a growth chart craft we'll complete at our next meeting. We also enjoyed a good breakfast and great conversation.
MOPS 2015 EXPO
Hair - Nails - Fashion - Home Décor - Giveaways - Food

Saturday, April 18, 2015
9am - 1pm
Riverside Center - Harvest Room
231 E. Monroe Street - Decatur, IN 46733

Calling All Women
If you are in need of inspiration and refreshment, come enjoy a morning of shopping, food and entertainment.

Goodie Bags
to the first 100 shoppers through the door!

Live Music

11:00 Fashion Show

Tickets
$3 presale, $5 at the door.
For presale tickets, call or text, Emily Hower, 260-409-2899, or any member of Decatur MOPs
Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
Connect - Grow - Serve

Holy Thursday Worship
April 2 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Community Worship
Church of God
April 3 at 1:00 pm

Walk with Jesus Easter Event for Families
Friday, April 3 at 6:00 pm

Easter Sunday Worship – April 5
Sunrise Worship (Rose Garden) 7:00 am
Easter Brunch (Fellowship Hall) 8:00 am
Celebration Worship (Sanctuary) 9:30 am

ALL YOU CAN EAT
Fish & Tenderloin
Saturday, May 2, 2015
4:00—8:00 pm

Eat More Tenderloin
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!