Prayer: Why and How To

"Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.” Luke 11:1 (Common English Bible)

This passage from Luke is the lead in to the Lord’s Prayer in Luke’s Gospel. The disciples want to learn how to pray, how to talk to God. They have heard from John’s followers that he taught them to pray, maybe some of them were a part of that group. Now that they are following Jesus, they want to know how he talks to God. Jesus teaches them the Lord’s Prayer. He tells them to ask God for only what they need, after they have given praise to God. This prayer teaches us much about what it means to be in relationship with God in the Jesus Christ. Following Easter, we will focus on prayer on Sunday mornings, and learn what prayer is and how we can pray or enhance our prayer lives.

Simply put, prayer is talking to God, it is listening to God, it is time set a part to be in God’s presence communing with God. There is no special equation for prayer or magic words for prayer. Prayer is as different as the personalities of those who pray. For this reason, there are many different ways we can pray. There are some techniques that help us to have a structure or form to our prayers, but they don’t make those prayers better or more accessible to God. The formulas in place are to make it easier to form our prayers; therefore, making it easier to take the time to pray.

In the weeks following Easter, beginning April 15, we will look at why prayer is so important to our faith and discipleship. We will also look at the Lord’s Prayer, the ACTS prayer formula, the Five-Finger technique, and others. We will practice some of these formulas for prayer on Sundays, and we will hear testimonies from church folk about their prayer life and how it has helped them not only grow as disciples of Jesus, but also gotten them through difficult situations.

If you have a formula that helps you stay focused in prayer, or gives shape to your prayer life, would you mind sharing it with me? Would you like to share your prayer testimony with the congregation? These testimonies can be live on Sunday morning, they can be written down and shared as bulletin inserts, or they can be shared on Social Media and our website. It is important for us to share with each other what helps us in our daily walks with God in Jesus. We can learn so much from each other and we can help one another see that there are many ways to talk to God.

I pray that your Lent and Easter experiences were filled with God’s presence and love in mighty ways. I pray you will join us in April and May as we look at the discipline of prayer, and I pray that God continues to move you in your daily walk!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
Holy Week & Easter 2018

Holy Week—March 25-31
March 25—Palm/Passion Sunday
Mark 11:1-11, 14:1-15:39
The Physicality of Holy Week

March 26—Monday
John 12:1-11

March 27—Tuesday
John 12:20-36

March 28—Wednesday
John 13:21-32

March 29—Holy Thursday
6:30 pm Shared Appetizers and Discussion about Holy Week
7:00 pm Service with Prayer Stations and Holy Communion

March 30—Good Friday
Community Service @ Common Ground, 1:00

Easter Sunday Celebration
April 1—8:15 & 10:00 am Easter Celebrations—Gotcha!!!
John 20:1-18
Thank You Notes . . .
I want to thank Pastor Amy, Judy Martin and the congregation for giving my children and three of my grandchildren the opportunity to bless me and in memory of their mother, for what would have been our 50th wedding anniversary. We raised our children with God and His church as the center of our family life, so this special was very fitting. Somewhat like old Simeon when he held the Christ child, I feel like my life is fulfilled and may God bless you all.

In Christ I remain,
Roy Ehresam

Dear Friends at Decatur First UM Church,
Thank you so much for including Lima UM Church in your prayers during your Sunday morning worship service. On behalf of Lima UM Church, our blessings to you in return.

In Christ’s love,
Mary Friend

Methodist Movie Night
At ABCinema

Paul, Apostle of Christ

First UMC & St. Mark’s UMC
have rented the theater

Monday, April 16 at 6:30 pm
$5.00 tickets on sale now!

College Boxes for Finals Week -
Spring Semester -
Adopt a College Student for $25.00
Finals week for College Students will be here fast. Most of the Colleges, where our young adults attend will start finals on April 30. We would like to put together small care boxes of trinkets and snacks to show support from our church. We are looking for sponsors to help with the cost of the mailing of the boxes and the contents, which will cost approximately $25.00. Donations in any amount are welcome and will be taken April 1 to April 23. Donations can be put in the offering plate on Sundays (mark for College boxes), left at the Church office or given to Terri Boyd contact #260-223-9597.

Grief Group to Begin
The Grief Group will meet for five consecutive Wednesdays following Easter (April 4, 11, 18, 25 and May 2). We will start at 3 pm and end at 5 pm. All materials will be provided free of charge. We will meet in the Lounge and share our stories of grief and loss from past experiences. We will learn how God and the Holy Spirit are continuing to journey with us through a maze of daily activities. Call Pastor Joe (260) 704-3030 or Janet in the office (260) 724-3158 to sign up. The group will be limited to a maximum of six. Sign up soon!

April Birthdays
4/01 Gavin Johnson
4/01 Austin Tricker
4/03 Macenzie Witte
4/04 Jayci Brickley
4/04 Jeremy Friedt
4/05 Michelle Harvey
4/06 Sydni Wolpert
4/08 Bryce Miller
4/08 Rob Pettibone
4/09 Gavin Hisner
4/09 Erik Porter
4/11 Roger Thompson
4/14 Vincent Quinones
4/15 John Adams-G.M.
4/15 Jaron Brickley
4/15 Brooks Myers
4/15 Bob Stuck
4/16 Aaron Wilson
4/17 Kara Martin
4/17 Quincy Wolpert
4/21 Olivia Hake
4/22 Allison Busse
4/22 Chad Johnson
4/24 Cindy Rieth
4/25 Lou Koning
4/28 Phyllis Irwin

G.M. - Golden Meadows

April Anniversaries
4/16 Joe & Dee Friedt
4/16 Nick & Jenna Koons
4/24 Jim & Marlene Habegger
4/30 Tim & Allena Wilson
Administrative Council  

March 20, 2018

Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Pastor Joe Andrews, Mike Snyder, Scott Porter, Jo Bollinger, Jon Stevens, Clint Knaub, Aaron Gower, Beverly Stuck

1. **Opening:** Mike opened with prayer. God sightings were shared and Pastor Amy served communion.

2. **SEEALLTHEPEOPLE:** Pastor Amy shared information with explanation for FUMC to help in transformation (mature) as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

3. **Minutes of January 16, 2018:** Approved as amended. Aaron moved and Scott seconded.

4. **Finance:** No report.

5. **Single Board Re-Visit:** Mike and Penny will meet creating a time line and task force. Will share more later.

6. **Capital Campaign:** Finance Committee and Trustees will be meeting to get answers for the current concern for the heating/cooling system.

7. **Boy Scouts:** FUMC Scout Troop 70 have decided to follow the national Boy Scout decision to accept any girls wanting to join Troop 70. They will follow FUMC Safe Sanctuaries Policy. Currently no girls have asked to join.

8. **Upcoming Events:**
   - 3/25/18  Palm Sunday
   - 3/29/18  Maundy Thursday – Appetizers served round table, follow to Prayer Stations, then gather for Communion at 6:30 pm.
   - 3/30/18  Good Friday Service at Common Ground at 1:00 pm.
   - 4/1/18   Easter “Both services will celebrate a joyous and victories Sunday!”

9. **Other Items:** Pastor Joe will facilitate a 5 week Grief Group in the Church Lounge, Wednesdays 3:00-5:00. The small group will consist of 6 people, helping individual needs and give a time for personal sharing, beginning April 4.

Next Administrative Council Meeting: May 15, 2018

Adjournment: Pastor Amy closed with prayer

Submitted by: Beverly Stuck
The Hope Chest

The Little Shop with a Big Heart

PROM DRESSES are now available at the shop until May 4th Monday thru Friday 10 am thru 5 pm.

SPREAD THE WORD SEVERAL TO CHOOSE FROM!!!
**SPECIAL MEMO**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**
Nora Mitchell
Hudson Morris
Corinne Inskeep

**April Joke**
Q. What goes up when rain comes down?
A. 

---

**Tana’s Colorful Words**

In Like A Lion Out Like A Lamb
It all began...on March 2! When the staff and children celebrated Dr. Seuss’ Birthday, with Green Eggs and Ham.

**SURPRISE!**
The Cat and The Hat brought balloons.

And Dr. Seuss’ birthday cake.

Thank You,
Angel’s Bakery!

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**That’s A Fact**
State Inspector Visit
When the State Inspector walked in saying, “Good Afternoon,” we were surprised! Her arrival meant it was time for her annual inspection and walking through KFCCM facility. As the inspection came to an end she did note, “Two little oops.”

- Teachers who took the Universal Precaution Training, needed to sign paperwork. (Sign form).
- Children in Orange and Blue room were served 3 - 4 oz drink at a time to help with spillage.
  (Each cup needs to be first filled with 6 oz).

Easy solution the “Oops” are corrected.
She shared positive comments about the cleanliness of KFCCM facility, classrooms being friendly and inviting, and displaying children’s art work. She was also happy seeing children busy playing and learning. When she left, we were all smiles. KFCCM passed with flying colors!

**REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS**
ALL children must be with an adult at all times when outside the building.

PLEASE, don’t let your child run loose on the parking lot, when bringing or picking your child up. HOLD onto THEIR HAND walking to and from the car. This could be a dangerous situation as others drive onto the parking lot.

---

March “roared” with children creating lions, lambs, kites, rainbows and fun celebrating St. Patrick’s Day! March, was a busy month making happy memories!

**Until the come out again!**
6th Annual Community

All You Can Eat

Featuring Dan's Fish
Huntington, IN

Fish Fry

Also...
BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Fish & Tenderloin

Saturday May 5, 2018

4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by and Serving at:
First United Methodist Church
502 West Monroe Street, Decatur

Tickets:
Adults: $10
Children (ages 6-12): $6 (children under 6 are free)

Available at:
Church Office, (260) 724-3158
The Hope Chest, 127 S. 2nd Street
(or see Mike Boyd, Aaron Gower or Leanna Noble)

Proceeds Benefit:
- FUMC Missions Fund
- The Hope Chest
- Kids First Child Care Ministry
- FUMC Youth Group & 2018 Mission Trip
Here we GROW again... We are so excited to have our children's ministry once again experiencing growth. We have several babies and toddlers that could use some tender longing arms while their parents are in Worship. Are you willing to donate your time to this need once a month? Let Annette know asap, thanks!

Reminder: In order to keep kids safe, to serve in Children's Ministry you need to have been a part of the church a minimum of 6 months, complete a background check and be approved by the Director of Children’s Ministries & Pastor.

Mark your calendars!!!

ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE

VBS is coming
July 29th-August 3rd.

Donations requested! As you know the kids have been hard at working memorizing the books of the Bible. They should have this accomplished sometime in May and we'll be celebrating with an outing to SkyZone. This was the kids' suggestion and top pick so they are pumped about going!!! Would you consider sponsoring a kid or 2 at $20 each? Thanks for your generosity!

Hey Parents! Did you complete the Family Easter Photo Scavenger Hunt? If so, we want to see your pictures!!! Email or text them to Annette at gowercrew@gmail.com or 260-223-2288 or share them to the church Facebook page FUMC_Decatur. If you haven't completed it yet, it's not too late, the gospel message is worth sharing together all year long! Let Annette know if you didn't get a basket of activity cards and she will hook you up.
IMPORTANT
SUMMER CHURCH CAMP INFO
FROM OUR CHURCH

Sign Up Early & Save
(last day
for best deal)
April 16, 2018

You can now sign up for camp using a
payment plan! Up to 4 easy payments
depend on how early you register.
Learn more at BeACamper.com/Go
Sign up today!

IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries
of the United Methodist Churches of Indiana
321 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46280

Learn more and register online or see
Annette Gower for a registration form
and brochure. Scholarships are
available from the Ben Colter Fund,
restricted funds, and from the Church
Conference Impact 2818. Registration
placed after April 16th add $20.

Friends
At church camp, your
children will strengthen
friendships and make
new friends while
learning to live as Christ
followers who make the
world, and the lives of
those they encounter,
better.

Safety
Safety is a critical part of
Impact 2818's camps.
We help to ensure the
physical, emotional, and
spiritual safety of each child
by maintaining high
program standards, quality
volunteers, effective
training, and preparedness.

Pathway
There are a lot of fun activities,
advances, and exploration times at
camp...but that's not the most important
thing that happens here.
Your child will dig into scripture, worship,
conversation, and self-discovery towards
an understanding of God's desire for
each of us to be known and loved and to
live out that love to others.
HAVE YOU SIGNED UP YET???

PHOTO DIRECTORY PICTURES & SPIRITUAL GIFTS INVENTORIES

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY, PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR BOTH THINGS CONTINUING THIS MONTH

SIGN-UP AT THE CONNECTION CENTER, THROUGH THE LINK IN YOUR EMAIL, OR THE CHURCH FACEBOOK POST

It is our heartfelt desire to have everyone who is part of our church family participate.

We want to know who you are physically and spiritually.

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE
METHODOIST MOVIE NIGHT @ ABCinema

JIM CAVIEZEL  OLIVIER MARTINEZ  AND  JAMES FAULKNER

PAUL

APOSTLE OF CHRIST

FIRST UMC & ST. MARK'S UMC RENTED THE THEATER!!!

MONDAY, APRIL 16
6:30 PM

$5.00 TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
In church office or on Sunday mornings
Hello FUMC!

I have the opportunity to travel on a summer mission with Cru at Ball State to East Asia for 6 weeks! We will be taking language and culture classes at a university where we will be able to meet students, build relationships, and share who Jesus is!

I would love for you to be a part of this ministry and would ask that you could support me and the team in prayer that the Lord will be working through us and in the hearts of the people we meet. If you feel led to give financially, you can also do that at https://give.cru.org/0980907 or mail a check to the address below payable to “Cru” (all donations would go directly towards my personal fundraising goal).

Thank You!

Maggie Myrice
1504 W Riverside Ave.
Muncie, IN 47306

“All of history is moving toward one great goal, the white hot worship of God and his Son among all the peoples of the earth. Missions is not that goal. It is the means. And for that reason it is the second greatest human activity in the world.”
- John Piper, Let the Nations be Glad
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Easter Day</td>
<td>3 8 am-Ministerial Assn. at Cornerstone, 9 am-MamaTalk</td>
<td>4 3 pm-Grief Group</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship</td>
<td>12 noon-SAFE Celebration at Courthouse</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope</td>
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<td>3:30 pm-bible Study</td>
<td>6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Trustees</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship</td>
<td>9 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>10 3 pm-Grief Group</td>
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<td>5:30 pm-Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope</td>
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<td>7 pm-Missions Team</td>
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<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship</td>
<td>16 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>17 12 pm-Wisdom People at The Galley, 9 am-MamaTalk</td>
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<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>3:30 pm-bible Study</td>
<td>3 pm-Grief Group, 5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves, 6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope, 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>24 3 pm-Grief Group, 5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves, 6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope, 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td>25 8:30-Respond: Summit on Mission and Justice - Franklin, IN</td>
<td>26 8:30-Respond: Summit on Mission and Justice - Franklin, IN</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Pastor Prayer Group</td>
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<td>25 Pastor Amy out of office, 3 pm-Grief Group, 5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves, 6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna's Hope, 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
Connect - Grow - Serve

Easter Sunday
April 1

Grief Groups with Pastor Joe
3:00-5:00 pm
April 4, 11, 18, 25 & May 2

ALL YOU CAN EAT
Fish & Tenderloin
Saturday, May 5, 2018
4:00—7:00 pm

Eat More Tenderloin
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!