Service, Discipleship, & Being the Church

25-26 The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don’t, the parts we see and the parts we don’t. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance. 27-31 You are Christ’s body—that’s who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your “part” mean anything. 1 Corinthians 12:25-31 The Message

Once again, I really love how Eugene Peterson paraphrases this common passage from Paul about gifts and the body. We are in the time of year when we begin thinking about the leadership and ministry teams for First Church and who will serve in the varied leadership positions we have. I have spent much time in prayer and discussion with other church leaders about how we can better match people with gifts and passion in areas of ministry, especially in areas of leadership.

This year our Committee on Lay Leadership, or Nominations, will begin meeting in August to discuss, pray, and discern who the right people are for the leadership positions that come open at the end of this year. To be honest with you, we have several committees, teams, and boards, that have people that have served for years and since I have become the pastor, we have not really asked about passions and giftedness when asking persons to serve. We have gotten into the habit of asking people to return to those positions and not really prayed about whether that was the right fit for them or for the committee, team, or board. I believe this is a great disservice to the individual and to the ministry. This year we will approach our process differently. It is convenient to keep asking the same people because it makes for less work and, honestly, less stress, but it doesn’t always make for the best ministry. Not because those people are not capable or are not doing a good job, but because it doesn’t allow them to seek other areas of passion or giftedness, and because it doesn’t allow other people to serve in areas of passion and giftedness. It is selfish of us to stay in an area of ministry or leadership simply because it is easy or convenient.

Part of being a leader is mentoring others who have the same passion and giftedness so when they are ready to lead they know what is expected and how to lead the team with their unique personality. Also, being a good leader means we know when it is time to step down and allow others to lead. We also need to be able to show that once you say “YES” to a leadership position it is not a life-time commitment. We have rotations of service for a reason and that is to keep things moving forward and in line with God’s vision for our church.

I encourage you to be praying about what your passions and gifts are, and seeking how to fit those to the ministry of First Church. We will spend 6 weeks in September and October in small groups and in worship discussing this and working to discern God’s purpose for our lives. I pray that in this process together we will seek to be the best encouragers for one another and the best followers of Christ we can be. If you know what areas you would like to serve in, please let me know. Pray for our Committee on Lay Leadership as they begin their work and pray that God leads us to live out our gifts with passion and excitement for what He has in store for us as we seek to be faithful and obedient!

See you Sunday,

Pastor Amy

Our mission is To Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World. At First UMC Decatur, we do that as we Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love as followers of Jesus Christ.
AUGUST WORSHIP

August 6
Scripture: VBS Sunday
Title: ONE WORSHIP @ 10:00 am
Psalm 34:14b
Hero Central: Discover Your Strength in God

August 13
Scripture: Acts 2:44-47
Title: ONE WORSHIP @ 10:00 am on PARKING LOT;
Blessing of the Backpacks
Church Can Happen Anywhere

August 20
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40
Title: Holy Communion; youth mission team testimonies
Church Happens When We Work with Hungry, Sick, & Forgotten

August 27
Scripture: Micah 6:6-8
Title: Church Happens When We Stand Together for
Justice and Inclusion
Available Dates for Decatur Heights
The cost is $550 for the week and the following weeks are available:
July 30-August 5
August 6-12
August 13-19
August 20-26
August 27-September 2

August Birthdays
8/02 Carter Friedt
8/02 Marsha Friedt
8/02 Madison Jones
8/02 Kyle Porter
8/03 Ken Jung
8/06 Trevor Callahan
8/09 Mary Pilkington
8/09 Melanie Wolpert
8/10 Ken Heyerly
8/13 Diane Valentine
8/14 Melissa Dotson
8/14 Vicky Koning
8/14 Jeff McIntosh
8/14 Maggie Tyner
8/17 Avry Lutes
8/19 Janice Jones
8/21 Matthew Haggard
8/22 Caleb Brune
8/22 Susan Miller
8/22 Katie Rieth
8/23 Kayla Myers
8/23 Wilma Pilkington
8/23 Harold Vanhorn
8/24 Scott Smith
8/25 Barb Jung
8/26 Calynn Bassett
8/27 Taylor Arnold
8/29 Cloe Frey
8/29 Anita Fruth
8/29 Jean Koons
8/30 Kim Brune
8/30 Jim Habegger
8/31 Samuel Burgin II
8/31 Linn Fore

August Anniversaries
8/02 Steve & Jan Smith
8/02 Jon & Lou Anne Stevens
8/03 Chad & Sarah Johnson
8/03 Lowell & Judy Martin
8/03 Jim & Jean Newton
8/05 Rod & Maggie Hawkins
8/06 Rick & Barb Minnich
8/07 Alex & Sherie Noble
8/08 Chad & Mandy Poling
8/09 Steve & Mary Pilkington
8/13 Bob & Katie Gent
8/19 Jeff & Tana Sheets
8/29 Mike & Carol Pettibone

Wisdom People
The Wisdom People will be meeting on Wednesday, August 16 at 12:00 noon at The Galley. Guest Speaker will be Janet Torson sharing about honey bees. Come join us.
Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Scott Porter, Pastor Joe Andrews, Penny Hinsky, Mike Boyd, Aaron Gower, Annette Gower, Helen Walters, Beverly Stuck

1. Opening: Shared recent God sightings. Prayer: Pastor Amy

2. Approved Minutes: April, 2017 minutes, Helen Walters motioned, seconded by Penny Hinsky and approved by all.

3. Financial Budget: “Conference Tithe was paid up thru June and all bills paid.” stated Aaron Gower.

4. Custodial Position: Pastor Amy shared there have been 2 inquires but no applications, at this time. The position is for 15 hours. Discussion about placing job information on Facebook, Church sign, Flyers for Kid’s First, Hope Chest, etc. Contact Mike Boyd if interested.

5. Worship Committee: Pastor Amy shared the following Sunday calendar information
*July 30, 2017 ~ Fifth Sunday only a 10:00 Sunday Service.
*August 6, 2017 ~ Celebrate VBS only a 10:00 Sunday Service.
*August 13, 2017 ~ “Church Can Happen Anywhere” only a 10:00 Sunday Service held at the parking lot, playground, and picnic. Also Blessings for BackPacks, Teachers, Students, and Kick Off for a Good School Year. “Church Can Happen Anywhere” will be a 4 weeks series.
*September 10, 2017 ~ Sunday Service 6 weeks series “Dare To Dream.”
*October to Advent ~ More to come! YES, there will be Trunk or Treat

6. Lay Leadership Committee: Pastor Amy will be meeting in August developing leaders and finding those with a passion and gifts for serving others.

7. Inter-generational Summer Ministry: Pastor Amy thanked Annette for “The Church’s Got Talent” which has been successful with adults and children.

8. Other:
Double Blessings with Pastor Joe, on Tuesday, October 10th at 3:30 will be hosting Laurie Stock who will share information about Alzheimer’s. This is open to anyone who might be interested in attending.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Joe

Submitted by: Beverly Stuck
IT’S VBS TIME!!!!

Sunday, July 31st—Thursday, August 4th
Free family dinner at 5:20pm and kids VBS from 6-8pm

EVERYONE is invited to the
Free Family Fun Night with dinner
on Friday, August 5th from 5:30-7:30pm.

Check out the website for more details and to register
www.cokesburyvbs.com/decaturfirst
or contact Annette Gower gowercrew@gmail.com

Help us celebrate all the VBS fun we’ve had and
help visitors feel welcomed during our one worship
service at 10am on August 6th.

Wow, I feel so blessed! Many thanks to everyone who
signed up to serve in our summer curriculum series,
“The Church’s Got Talent.” Thanks also for your extreme
generosity in donating over and above financially
toward VBS this year. And lastly, thanks so much to
everyone who donated their time to serve during our
VBS ministry outreach week. It is a true honor to serve
Christ along side you here at First Church!!! ~Annette

Thanks to your generosity, for the first time in many years our
conference tithe has been paid on time every single month in
2017! We appreciate you practicing the spiritual discipline of
financial giving so that we can impact
the whole world for Christ!!!
MamaTalk of Decatur is gearing up for another great year in 2017/18. We are making plans to grow in faith, friendship and support for mothers with young children in our community.

We need your help in 3 ways:

1- We need prayers to reach the moms that are in need of this group, prayers to find the volunteers to support our group and prayers that our meetings would always be glorifying to God and encouraging to all who attend.

2- We desperately need YOU to volunteer or help us find volunteers to watch and care for the children during our meetings. We have two rooms, 3-23 months and 2-6 years and you can specify which room you would prefer to serve in. Volunteering includes rocking and playing with babies in the younger room and playing, supervising and serving a snack with the older kids. We meet the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month during the school year from 9-11am. You do not need to be available for every meeting. Please contact Brooke Sanders at 260-701-7645 or brooke_48@hotmail with questions and to sign up. If we don’t have more volunteers we will not be able to offer childcare during our meetings which will make attendance prohibitive for many moms.

3- We need your help to spread the word! Please tell any moms with young children about this great opportunity for growth in faith and friendship.

Thank you for your support and prayers,
Shelly Netherton- MamaTalk Coordinator
SPECIAL MEMO

Level #1
Paths to Quality

Check us out!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Avery Krueckeberg
Dylan Koldyke
Isaiah Wilder
Emery Fiechter
Aria Foor
Bristol Scherry

August Joke

What do you call a pig that knows karate?

A pork chop!

Tana’s Colorful Words

Bringing Out The Best

Parents state, “I want my child to be polite, respectful, tolerant and honest.” Here are a few helpful strategies for building good character in your little ones.

Random act of kindness - Open doors for others, bake cookies for an elderly neighbor, let someone in front of you in a checkout line. What Would Jesus DO?

Celebrate politeness - In your home when you see it happening use kind polite words when proper. Please, thank you, you’re welcome, excuse me, I’m sorry.

Creative Tolerance - Is accepting others for who they are. Discuss how we all are different and why God chose to make us different. Help teach your child they are responsible for their own actions and the choices they make.

Being Honest - In the things we say and do, is a great way to show children about being trustworthy and truthful. Telling the truth also helps children learn friendship skills.

Patience - Is hard for everyone but it does get easier with practice. Plan ahead when you know your little one will have to wait. Plan a waiting activity or sing a song to help the time pass by. Maybe drawing a picture to pass time will also encourage the creativity in young children. Remember Patience is a virtue.

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

Until the come out again!

That’s A Fact

Another School Year

Yes, it’s just around the corner! The 2017-2018 school year is here. Even if you don’t have children going to school you still play a very important part in this school year.

BE AWARE ... SAFETY FIRST

• Be aware, of children walking or running to and from bus stops.
• Be aware, keep an eye out for when buses STOP.
• Be aware, DO NOT PASS A STOPPED BUS!!! Did you know more children are injured each year by people driving around buses when they are stopped loading or unloading children.
• Be aware, of children riding their bicycles.
• Be aware, keep your eyes on your surroundings and not on your phone.
• Be aware and alert at all time!

It does “Take a village” working together, being aware, expressing patience, caring, and keeping all God’s children safe from harm.

That’s A Fact!
URGENT FINANCIAL NEED

Good-running trucks are absolutely essential to the work of the Mission!

At one time, the Mission had six trucks operating on the road to pick up your donations.

That six became five a couple years ago.
And now, we have experienced a series of mechanical problems which took us from five trucks to two trucks in a matter of a few months.

We were able to borrow $16,600 from our local bank on a note due September 9, 2017 to purchase a smaller truck (perfect for store deliveries, individual pickups, etc.).

We have located a larger truck to add to our fleet. The cost of it is $29,000.

That would give us four trucks which would be wonderful.

Can you help us with this urgent financial need?

It never, never ceases to amaze me at how generous you are, and I thank you in advance.

PROCESSING PLANT NEEDS

* Tall kitchen bags - LOTS!
  We use these to help fill bale trucks

* Paper Towels
* 33 gallon garbage bags
* Toilet Paper
* S-M-L Latex Gloves
* Febreeze Air Freshener
* Rubber bands
* Safety pins

Needed for our Stores/Customers

* Dishes
* Pots and pans
* Small appliances
* Whatnots ("Pretties")
* Other household items

SUMMER IS COMING!

We will need swimming suits and summer clothes for all ages - children, women and men!

And, of course, all of the other wonderful good and usable items you donate to the Mission!

Blessings,

Karen Bunn

Items donated may be placed in the Family Life Center (along the east wall) starting August 7. The Mission truck will pick up the donations by August 14.
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<td></td>
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<td>5:20 pm-VBS Meal</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>5:20 pm-VBS Meal</td>
<td>5:30 pm-Family Fun Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Worship Service at 10 am-VBS Celebration</td>
<td>August 7-11-Pastor Amy out of office for 2 conferences</td>
<td>8 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>9 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>5:30 pm-Staff Meeting</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>6:30 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope</td>
<td>5 pm-Briede/Frey Wedding Rehearsal</td>
<td>3:30 pm-Briede/Frey Wedding</td>
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<td>One Worship Service at 10 am- in the Church Parking Lot with Picnic after; Blessing of Backpacks 5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>First Day of School 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6 pm-Finance Committee 7 pm-Administrative Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12 pm-Wisdom People at The Galley, 5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope Newsletter Deadline</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>5-7 pm-Youth</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship, Youth Sharing Testimonies in both services 5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Board of Trustees 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>5-7 pm-Youth</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Pastor Prayer Group</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

August 6th & August 13th
One service at 10:00 am

August 6th

August 13th
On The Church Parking Lot

VBS Celebration

Blessing of Backpacks