Intentional Discipleship

35-38 Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. “What a huge harvest!” he said to his disciples. “How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!” Matthew 9:35-38 The Message

The Mission Statement for First UMC is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. There has been much discussion around one word in this statement and one word that should be added. The word in the statement causing so much discussion: disciples. For every person reading this newsletter there is a definition of disciple. We each have an idea of what that means, but we cannot work with that many definitions or ideas. How do we as a church define disciple? We have chosen to go with Jim Harnish’s definition from A Disciple’s Path: A Disciple is a follower of Jesus whose life is centering on loving God and loving others. According to Harnish, if we put our beliefs (love of God) and our actions (love of others) together we get transformation. This is an easy way to understand what a disciple is, and a way for us all to be on one page as to what we are trying to accomplish in our mission when we say make disciples.

One problem with this is that it assumes those of us in the church are living into this definition. It assumes that we are transformed and our lives are centered on loving God and loving others. Can you honestly say that is true for your life? If it were true for all of us, then we would see a huge change in our community and in the number of people attending church and discipleship groups. If all of us are transformed and living this out, then more harvest hands, as The Message tells us, would not be needed. If we are being intentional, centered, about our own discipleship then we would have to create a new mission statement, because we would be fulfilling ours by leaps and bounds. So, how are you centering your life in loving God and loving others? How are you being intentional about your living out of faith. What are you doing in the harvest to show others God’s love?

This leads to the discussion around a word that should be added to the mission statement: new. We are called to make new disciples, not just continue to focus on the ones who are being transformed and growing in the church. Think about it, if we are centering our lives in loving God and loving others, then we will focus on those who don’t know God and find ways to share the Gospel with them. We are going to love the ones we know, that’s easy. We do that all the time. How do we love those we don’t know, those who are different, those who are not church people? We do it because God’s Holy Spirit has transformed us and put God’s will and Word at the center of our lives. See how it comes full circle? We cannot go into the harvest and reap unless we have been transformed ourselves. So, again I will ask: What are you doing to grow in relationship with Jesus? What studies, small groups, or service are you a part of that is making this happen? It must be intentional and it must be ongoing. New people are waiting to receive the love you have been given. Are you ready to share it?

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
August 5  
**Scripture:** Isaiah 43:2  
**Title:** Rolling River Rampage: Experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

August 12  
**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:1-16  
**Title:** Build Up...In Love

August 19  
**Scripture:** Ephesians 4:25-5:2  
**Title:** Live...In Love

August 26  
**Scripture:** Ephesians 5:15-20  
**Title:** Give Thanks...In Love
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
8/22 David Smith
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
8/31 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
8/12 Marc & Morgan Frey
8/13 Bob & Katie Gent
8/19 Jeff & Tana Sheets
8/29 Mike & Carol Pettibone

Thank You Note...
First UMC & Military Ministry,
My name is Vince Everett and I wanted to thank you for the multitude of prayers and cards I have received from you while I was on active duty in the U.S. Army. Your thoughts and prayers have undoubtedly helped keep me safe through my 20 years of service. I have recently retired from active duty, and am now working as an airline pilot. Please continue to pray for our troops as I believe in the power of prayer.

Again thank you!
Vince Everett

Red Bird Mission Trip for Adults
September 16-22
If you are interested in going on the Red Bird Mission Trip, please call Cindy Thieme at 260-692-2716 or the Church office at 724-3158.

Mark Your Calendars
Mark your calendars for October 21 - Mission Sunday.
United Methodist Mountain Mission

Urgent Needs List

75th Anniversary Goal/Truck Fund

**BACK-TO-SCHOOL**

*Kids’ back-to-school clothes (Remember: Parents begin shopping for school clothes during the summer, so we need to get these items to the stores ASAP)*

*Back-to-school supplies: backpacks, folders, binders, etc.*

**FOR OUR STORES/CUSTOMERS**

*Socks*

*Underwear*

*Men’s Clothes*

*Appliances—especially small appliances such as George Foreman Grills, blenders, toasters, etc.*

**PROCESSING PLANT NEEDS**

*Coffee*

*20 oz. coffee cups*

*33 gallon black garbage bags*

*Mean Green Spray*

*Pinesol*

*Heavy-duty mops (heads and handles)*

*Toilet bowl cleaner*

*Drain cleaner*

*Sugar*

*Paper towels*

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

*God’s Mission in the Mountains—Your Mission in His Service!*

Items donated may be placed in the Family Life Center (along the east wall) starting August 6. The Mission truck will pick up the donations by August 13.
July vacation is over and WOW!! Have we been busy. We have had lots of children's items brought in, plus other items also. We are also getting ready for Back to School. We will welcome any Back to School items.

While on vacation at the Church cottage I was reading the guest book. There was a lot of history there. I want to share what a Family wrote. They have been coming to the cottage for 85 years. Their Great Grampa started the tradition and now they have six generations coming. They hail from Mass., Texas, Fla. & Michigan. Decatur Heights is absolutely Wonderful!!! Lord willing we will be there next year! I hope to be there also. Thank you for your support and listening to happenings at the cottage. This was just one of the families who wrote, others have come for several years.

Thanks again.
Dot
SPECIAL MEMO
Level #1
Paths to Quality

Check Us Out!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Harper Wilder
Avery Krueckeberg
Dylan Koldyke
Isaiah Wilder
Emery Fiechter
Aria Foor
Carter Brown
Hayden DeBolt
Larkin Koop

August Joke
Q: What do elves learn in school?
A: The elf-abet!

Summer Day Camp Memories

Teamwork building tower
Building Box cars

CAKE Party
Decatur Public Library
That's A Fact

Messy Art Fun
Fort Wayne Kreager's Park

Decatur Fire Department
Decatur Police Department
ABCinema

Have a GREAT school year!
See you in 2019 at

Until the CRAYONS come out again!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
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<td>VBS Sunday One Worship Service at 10 am</td>
<td>Leadership Task Force</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>VBS Dinner</td>
<td>Garner-Weikel Wedding Rehearsal</td>
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<td>5-7 pm-Youth</td>
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<td>5 pm-A Better Life</td>
<td>6 pm-VBS</td>
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<td>One Worship Service at 10 am on Parking Lot; Blessing of the Backpacks</td>
<td>First Day of School</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>5 pm-A Better Life</td>
<td>Pastor Amy out of office</td>
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<td>5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts</td>
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<td>6 pm-A Better Life</td>
<td>7 pm-Kekionga Community Worship</td>
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<td>Youth Mission Sunday</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>Bible Study</td>
<td>Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>Pastor Amy out of office</td>
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<td>10 am-Worship</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Pastor Prayer Group</td>
<td>Finance Committee</td>
<td>6 pm-A Better Life</td>
<td>5 pm-A Better Life</td>
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<td>5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>Brianna’s Hope</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>Holy Communion</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>3:30 pm-Bible Study</td>
<td>Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Trustees</td>
<td>6 pm-A Better Life</td>
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<td>3 pm-Northeast District Day with Bishop Trimble - Auburn First UMC</td>
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<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>Brianna’s Hope</td>
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AUGUST

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

August 5, August 12 & August 19
One service at 10:00 am

August 5th VBS Celebration

August 12
On the Church Parking Lot Blessing of Backpacks

August 19
Youth Mission Sunday