Do You See the People?

14-15 Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone’s acclaim and pleasure. 16-21 He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written, God’s Spirit is on me; he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor. Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind. To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, “This is God’s year to act!” He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent. Then he started in, “You’ve just heard Scripture make history. It came true just now in this place.” Luke 4:14-21

The Message

Jesus came out of the wilderness, being tested by Satan, and went to Galilee. He went to the synagogue in Nazareth and read from the prophet Isaiah. Look at the people Jesus said the spirit was on him to reach, to see. The people God sees and calls us to see are the same: the poor, the prisoner, the blind, the burdened and battered. At times, we may be these people and we may need to be seen by Jesus. Most of the time, we need to be open to how the Spirit is calling us to see those around us who need to hear Good News, who need to be pardoned and set free, to have sight restored, who need to be lifted up and hear, “This is God’s year to act!”

In February and March we will be sharing about how the crowds we see around Jesus in Luke’s Gospel, are crowds that we need to see today. So many in our community and world are hurting and need to hear the Good News of Jesus. So many in our church are burdened with grief, sorrow, pain, and need to be lifted up. How do we respond? How do we see? I encourage you to visit the website www.seeallthepeople.org and download the resources there for learning how to see more people. We will have several of the downloads available at the Connection Center.

Our faith is not our own, it is to be shared with those around us. It is for us to see the people who are hurting and need to hear and to speak love and truth and hope into their lives. God has gifted us greatly; will we share the great gifts God has given? I look forward to the journey of seeing all the people with you!!

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.
On Wednesday, January 2, we celebrated the tenth anniversary of our free community meal — Fishes and Loaves. The meal was started by Al Noble and his crew in January, 2009 when Ken Mahan was our pastor. From the beginning meal which hosted 1 guest to today when we serve an average of 190 each week, we have served many thousands of meals. In 2010 we started delivering to shut-ins. We now have two routes and deliver between 100 and 120 meals a week. In June, 2017, we began providing meals for Brianna’s Hope which meets following Fishes and Loaves. Our pastors Martha Lyon and Amy Covington have provided much support and encouragement. We have received help through the years from St. Mark’s UMC, Church of God, St. Mary’s Catholic Church, Union Chapel UMC and Salem Community Church. Currently St. Mark’s prepares and serves the meal whenever there is a 5th Wednesday and helps provide delivery containers. Church of God recently served the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

More than food is provided. An “Encouraging Moment” is shared with all those who dine in. Scriptures are sent out with the deliveries. There are crafts, games and scriptures shared with any children who come.

This past year we had dine-in and delivery recipients complete surveys about this ministry. Below are some of their comments.

- I’m currently homeless and Wednesday meal is one less meal to worry about.
- Feeding and giving opportunity for crafts for my children. We eat together as a family.
- I love the fellowship.
- I’m disabled - can’t walk much and on oxygen, that one day I don’t have to cook.
- Get very few food stamps and groceries are so high.

Thanks to our church for its support of Fishes and Loaves. You are invited any Wednesday to come down to eat and fellowship with our guests.

We can use more workers. Please contact the following if you are willing to help.

LeAnna Noble (724-9889/414-6044) - cook (2 pm to 4 pm), serve (5 to 6), clean up (5 to 6:30)
Nancy Thompson (724-9863/450-0371) - deliver (3:45 to 5:45)
Shelley Porter (223-1903) - devotions (5 pm), children (4:30 to 6:00)
Thank You Notes . . .
Dear Friends at First UMC,
Thank you again for having the Agape Express puppets at your church this Christmas season! It’s always a joy to share with you and celebrate Jesus through puppets! Thank you for your love offering towards this ministry! May He continue to use us for His glory!

In Christ,
Rick & Christine Garner

Thank You Faithful Decorators
Thank you to everyone who worked on decorating our church for Christmas. Your love and care provided a beautiful setting for us to worship. The outside nativity provided a reminder to our community of whom we celebrate at Christmas. An equal big thank you goes for the undecorating and putting away you accomplished.
God bless you all!!

February Birthdays
2/01 Morgan Frey
2/02 Katelyn Engstrom
2/03 Marshall Davis
2/03 Kelley Mies
2/03 Vic Porter
2/05 Roy Ehram
2/07 Waveland Howe
2/07 Peggy Hunter - G.M.
2/08 Jenna Koons
2/08 Carter Wolfe
2/09 Kolton Littler
2/09 Bobby Smith
2/09 Dudley Vanhorn
2/10 Patrick Briede
2/10 Coni Mayer
2/10 Leah Noble
2/11 Marc Frey
2/11 Hannah Wilson
2/13 Lou Anne Stevens
2/13 Darrell Valentine
2/14 Amanda Geimer
2/16 Whitney Menter
2/16 Chris Smith
2/19 Mark Valentine
2/21 Dustin Bollinger
2/21 Emily Lee
2/21 Rebecca Lee
2/21 Brice Vanhorn
2/21 Brad Wilson
2/21 Ryan Wilson
2/22 Mable Pettibone
2/22 Jon Smith
2/23 Dawn Brown
2/23 Mike Eguia - G.M.
2/23 Alfred Plew
2/24 Rileigh Wolpert
2/25 Kodee McIntosh
2/26 Emma Hawkins
2/27 Diane Kaehr
2/27 Adam Miller
2/28 Connie Snyder
2/29 Mary Piper
G.M. - Golden Meadows

February Anniversaries
2/09 Kyle & Kara Martin
2/15 Joe & Anna Andrews
2/18 Don & Sheila Heimann

Sunday Soup
On Sunday, February 10 we will have Sunday Soup. Plan to stay after the 10:00 worship service for chili and hot dogs and all the fixin’s in the Fellowship Hall. The proceeds from the lunch will go to our local mission projects. Hope to see everyone on the second Sunday in February for food and fellowship!!
OUR GOAL FOR THE CHILDREN THIS YEAR

MEMORIZE LOTS OF BIBLE VERSES

HOW?

USING MUSIC FROM JUMPSTART 3

EACH WEEK WE ARE MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE AND MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE AT THE SAME TIME.

PSALM 119:11
"I HAVE HIDDEN YOUR WORD IN MY HEART THAT I MIGHT NOT SIN AGAINST YOU."
Happy Valentine's Day

The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a
Big Heart

The Christmas jar project was a big success. With your help, we were able to help 10 families in the community who were less fortunate have a better Christmas.

Thanks to all for your support.

The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words

A Second Home

This isn’t just a daycare,
It’s like a second home.
The children aren’t just cared for,
We love them like our own.

We teach them life lessons each day,
Strong Christian values we enforce.
Trying to make learning fun through play,
Our fun spirit sets their course.

They love the way we read to them,
And sing those silly songs.
In this special place that we create,
They feel they belong.

So “Thank you” from deep within our hearts,
For words cannot express
How grateful we are
To be another ministry of First UMC.

Kids First Child Care Ministry Staff
Tana, Beth, Becky, Dawn, Brenda, Brittany, Jill,
Shannon, JoAnn, Kristin, & Sierra

That’s A Fact

The Child Care Circle

Volume 13 Issue 50 January February March 2019

Please join Bona Vista’s Child Care Solutions in congratulating the following providers for increasing their Paths to QUALITY Level.

• My Caterpillar Clubhouse Childcare, Owner Stephanie McKinistry, Howard County, Level 2

• Kids First Child Care Ministry, Director Tana Sheets, Adams County, Level 2

• Jumpstart Childcare Center, Director Jamie Brookshire, Grant County, Level 2

• First Evangelical Presbyterian Little School, Director Heather Bonds, Howard County, Level 3

February

Q. Why won’t an elephant use a computer?

A. Afraid of the mouse.

Until the CRAYONS come out again!
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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>9 am-MamaTalk 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td>1 Pastor Amy out January 28-February 10</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship</td>
<td>6 pm-Faith 101 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td>15 Newsletter Deadline</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship</td>
<td>6 pm-Faith 101 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>9 am-MamaTalk 6 pm-Finance Committee 7 pm-Ad Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship</td>
<td>6 pm-Faith 101 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Trustees 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 5 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>23</td>
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<td>11:15 am-Discipleship Groups</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Connect - Grow - Serve

Sunday, February 10

Soup's On

Following 10:00 am Service