The Future of the UMC

Much talk has been in the national news throughout January as to what is happening in the United Methodist Church. The plan, called The Protocol, that has garnered this attention is a plan worked out and decided upon by 16 persons who represent the following groups: Mainstream UMC, Uniting Methodists, UMC Next, Reconciling Ministries Network, Methodist Federation for Social Action, Affirmation, Wesleyan Covenant Association, Institute on Religion and Democracy, Good News, Confessing Movement, and Bishops from the US, Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. These 16 persons independently hired a moderator, Kenneth Feinberg — who oversaw the 9/11 victims’ compensation fund. You can read The Protocol at https://www.umnews.org/en/news/diverse-leaders-group-offers-separation-plan You can watch a panel discussion answering questions about how this group came together and how they created the plan at https://www.umnews.org/en/news/panel-offers-peek-behind-scenes-of-separation-plan

So, what does this mean for us who are “on the ground” doing ministry every day? It means that we must have patience and pray for General Conference 2020. The protocol calls for a separation from the United Methodist Church for those who can’t stay with a diverse theological body. The mission of the UMC would continue to be “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” and local churches would not have to take a vote to stay or go. A vote would only come if persons in the local church request one because they can’t continue in a diverse theological body of believers, or if the Annual Conference votes to separate and the local church disagrees with the Annual Conference. At First UMC Decatur, we are already a diverse theological body. There are persons who don’t believe in or desire for the church to perform same-sex marriages or ordain openly LGBTQ persons. There are persons who want full inclusion of the LGBTQ community. But, many persons are what is being called Centrist or Mainstream, they want to put the argument over homosexuality behind us and stay focused on our mission, they can live in the middle with persons from all beliefs around homosexuality. I find this refreshing because it allows us to continue to love one another and serve the Kingdom even if we disagree on some things. It also allows us to be a witness to what can happen when we live with the grace and love of Jesus as our guiding values. This is what First UMC Decatur has done for years, and what we will continue to do.

Our Vision Team is discussing how we best bring people together to talk and listen to each other about this plan and what our future may look like. The UMC will have details to work out whatever way the Protocol is voted on, as well as other plans that will be presented to the General Conference. Those details will eventually, but not immediately, have impact on the local church. In the meantime, let us pray for the delegates to General Conference (you will find their names and the dates of GC on another page in this newsletter) and let us continue to be in ministry to our community sharing the love of God and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Amy

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
We do that as we Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love as followers of Jesus.
Delegates from the Indiana Conference

CLERGY

Russ Abel
Aleze Fulbright
Lisa Schubert Nowling
Ronnie Bell
Rob Fuquay
Jill Howard
Duane Carlisle
Larry Whitehead

Lay

Chris Hancock
Ian Hall
Shirley Dominick
Leah Padgett
Michael Womack
John Lomperis
Shannon Priddy
Amy Land

Please be in prayer for these delegates, and all who will travel to Minneapolis May 5-15, 2020. Our delegation will be meeting on the following dates to prepare for General Conference: February 1, March 2, April 18. If you want to learn more about the delegation or their work in preparing for General Conference, please visit https://www.inumc.org/annual-conference/general-conference-2020/
February 2, 2020
ONE SERVICE @ 10:00 am
Rev. Dave Neckers, Conference Superintendent preaching; Holy Communion; Pastor Amy on vacation

February 9, 2020
8:15 & 10:00 am
Somos del Senor: With Demonstration
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

February 16, 2020
8:15 & 10:00 am
Somos del Senor: God Gives the Growth
1 Corinthians 3:1-9

February 23, 2020
8:15 & 10:00 am
Listen to Him
Matthew 17:1-9

February 26, 2020
7:00 pm
To The Dust
Psalm 51:1-17
Thank You Notes...
Dear Church Family,
My family and I are so very grateful for all of the signs and expressions of sympathy in the passing of my mom, Ruth Lee. The flowers from the church were absolutely beautiful. We cannot express enough what it meant to receive so many cards, texts and emails, and for those who traveled to the funeral. My children and I are blessed to be part of such a caring and supportive congregation. My extended family shares their thanks as well. Please, continue to love one another well!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Amy and Family

Dear Members & Staff of Decatur First UMC,
I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the kindnesses and honors of receiving me into your homes and hearts. Your love and trust has touched my life and will forever be remembered. It has been an honor and a blessing to be your Minister of Visitation for the past 3 1/2 years! Time has passed so quickly as we enter into the second decade of 2000! You have shared your stories and messages of hope and inspiration and I cherish them all. You will remain in my prayers and may the blessings of our Ever Loving God remain with you all always.

God Bless You Always,
Pastor Joe Andrews, Minister of Visitation

Dear Friends at First UMC,
Thank you for having the puppets at your church in December! We always enjoy sharing with you all our Christmas puppet show! Thank you, too for your love offering towards this ministry! May God bless you this Christmas season!

In His Service,
Rick & Christine Garner & Youth

Thank You!
Thank you to everyone who helped decorate the church for Christmas. It was beautiful. Thank you, also, to those who took down and put away the decorations. God bless you all for helping us celebrate Advent and the Christmas season.

Decatur Heights Church Cottage
The Cottage Committee of Decatur Heights on Lake Webster is now taking reservations for this summer rentals. FUMC members get a reduced rate and those wishing to use the cottage for the sole purpose of a Bible Study retreat are free of charge. Spaces have begun to fill up. For more information contact Mary Pilkington 260-223-4768.

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 Ehrsam
2/07 Waveland Howe
2/07 Peggy Hunter - G.M.
2/08 Jenna Koons
2/08 Carter Wolfe
2/09 Kolton Little
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 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
2/18 Don & Sheila Heimann

Sunday Soup - February 16
On Sunday, February 16 we will have Sunday Soup. Plan to stay after the 10:00 worship service for tomato soup and cheese toasties in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see everyone on the third Sunday in February for food and fellowship!! Fund-raiser for the Youth summer mission experience.
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP with a BIG HEART
HAPPY VALENTINE’S DAY
February 14th, 2020

Jesus Is The Greatest Valentine

Jesus is the greatest Valentine;
His love will never cease to be.
His love is bigger than the world;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Jesus is the greatest Valentine;
His heart is bigger than the sea.
And He always fills my heart with joy;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Yes He is the greatest valentine;
I will rejoice eternally,
I will lift my voice with all my heart;
I'm so glad that Jesus loves me.

Susan Y Nikitenko
February 3rd, 2012

Customer Appreciation Day

Stop in and check out all the new items coming in. We will have snacks, specials and of course free coffee. You may also register for a box of candy.

We will be collecting Prom Dresses starting March 2nd. And they can be dropped off at the store.

Thank you for your support this past year.
The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words

KFCCM staff has started their first training for 2020 - a Book club. The teachers read a chapter then meet one Friday afternoon, during the month to discuss and share their thoughts about the chapter. This teacher training gives time for discussion on different developmental and appropriate options for children’s learning and development.

“It’s OK Not to Share” author Heather Shumaker, describes her quest to nail down “the rules” to raising smart, sensitive, and self-sufficient kids. Drawing on her own experiences as the mother of two small children, as well as on the work of child psychologists, pediatricians, and educators; this book takes a different look at how children play and interact with other children.

Training takes place during nap time when volunteers sit in the nap rooms with the children. An e-mail is sent to all families letting them know when volunteers are at nap time.

If you would like to purchase a book please let Tana know. The cost is $20.00 a book. Hint: many of the rules aren’t what you think they are!

Until the Come Out Again

That’s A Fact

KFCCM would like to WELCOME new staff members, Teri and Cassidy.

Teri Wemhoff (Tana’s Sister) is married with 3 grown children and 8 grandchildren.

Teri retired from nursing as a registered LPN, but found retirement a little boring. Teri is now sharing her love, care, and dancing skills with those in Purple Room.

Cassidy Sell attended KFCCM and Summer Day Camp as a child until graduating at age 12. Cassidy is attending Ivy Tech to become a nurse, and wanted a job that would “work” with scheduled classes which happens to be Child Care.

Welcome to KFCCM, who is feeling blessed.
This month was so special! In the pictures above, you can see 3 friends celebrating Christmas for the first time. We decorated ornaments, danced and sang, ate lots of sweets, and shared the Christmas story from the Bible. After reading the story in both languages, JJ (who I talked about in my last letter) took the lead and ended up sharing the Gospel of who Jesus is. The other two students got to hear the Gospel shared with them for the first time and in their own language!

A couple of weeks ago I spent time with two students named “Lana and “Luke. They got to try our home made Mexican food for the first time. During our conversation, we got a glimpse into the spiritual reality of living in this country. Lana is from another country, but has lived here her whole life. She opened up about the hurt and anger she feels towards men in this country due to sexist views that have continued throughout history and into today. Women are often seen as less valuable and marriages are corrupt making her feel like she may never want to get married or have children. Her view of the world is broken and hopeless.

Luke very evidently has a spiritual battle going on inside of him. He often contradicts himself when spiritual matters arise in conversation. We get glimpses into what he personally thinks, and then he quickly shuts himself down with phrases like, “but we cannot talk about that here.” His own thoughts are in conflict with the things he was taught to believe. Luke has friends who are believers, so we continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would soften his heart to reach out and seek truth in his own time. In the meantime, our teammate Tyler will continue to develop a deeper friendship with patience, while trusting in the Lord’s timing.

We also got to celebrate Christmas as a team! Christmas is very different here, but so special. On Christmas day, foreigners from all over the city gathered to ice skate and play ice hockey on a frozen pond. So unexpected, but so fun! And I came away with no injuries. Praise the Lord! I’ve thought of you during this holiday season and have been praying for you to have

Thank you for investing in me and the lives of my friends here. I hope for them to someday understand the eternal weight of your prayers for them!
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<td>10:00-One Worship Service</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>9 am-MamaTalk</td>
<td>5:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>9 am-District Staff Parish Training at Sunrise UMC, Fort Wayne</td>
<td>Pastor Amy on vacation February 1-7</td>
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<td>11:15 am-Discipleship Groups</td>
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<td>6 pm-A Better Life - Brianna’s Hope</td>
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<td>6 pm-Faith 101</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Cub Scout Committee</td>
<td>5:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves</td>
<td>5 pm-Endowment Fund Committee</td>
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<td>11:15 am-Sunday Soup</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>6 pm-Finance &amp; Stewardship Team</td>
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February 2
One Service at 10:00 am
Holy Communion
Conference Superintendent, Dave Neckers
will have the message

February 16
Sunday Soup
Tomato Soup & Cheese Toasties

February 26
Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00 pm