Thank you for a faithful and generous 2014

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. (1 Corinthians 1:1-7 NIV)

I find myself repeating Paul’s word’s on a fairly regular basis when it comes to First UMC. “I always thank my God for you…” As I reflect on 2014, gratitude is the emotion that flows from me. This has been a year of financial generosity as well as generosity of time and service. We have seen new people serving in new ways this year. From adults and youth on their first mission trip, to new ushers and greeters on Sunday morning, we have had people step out in faith and try new things. I am grateful for the time given to serve in the church and community, and in the risks taken to try something new. We have seen new people serving in areas of hospitality and communication, in He-Brews Coffee fellowship and in cleaning up the Sanctuary each week. We have many, many hours given in service to The Hope Chest, Operation Help, and Fishes and Loaves each week, and this doesn’t include the hours individuals in our church give in other services to our community. I say with Paul, I always thank my God for you. You are making the love of Jesus real in the lives of so many people. Whether it is in serving coffee or sorting clothes, you are the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for your service!

I am also grateful for the financial gifts that you give beyond your regular support of the ministry budget. Each week the basket for Operation Help is overflowing with items, in July you gave many school supply items to The Hope Chest, in the spring you donated to help Ebony Fawcett have a happier birthday, and this Christmas Season you provided presents for 30 children through Love, INC’s Emmanuel Project. You also helped the youth purchase Christmas items for 10 Christmas Eve boxes for children in our community. You gave toward Hailey’s Christmas Shoeboxes so Hailey Brune could send 20 shoeboxes filled with gifts for children overseas. With your financial gifts our youth were able to travel to Tennessee and serve for a week in mission and the week was covered! We continue to support two missionaries because of your generosity, and gifts are given on a regular basis for our Congregational Care Fund and other mission support. I know there are many other ways you have given financially this year, and for all of these gifts, I say “Thank You!!”

God is moving in our midst drawing people closer to Jesus, and lives are being transformed. I am excited by this movement, and look forward to all that God has in store for us in 2015. It is truly a blessing to be pastor of First Church. Thank you for blessing my life in so many ways. I look forward to seeing you in worship and in service in this New Year!

See you Sunday!
Pastor Amy
1. The meeting opened with prayer.
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.
3. Treasurer: Roger reported that with the help of an anonymous donor we have made great strides in paying our conference tithe. We have one more month’s tithe to pay in 2014. All bills are paid.
4. Trustees: Frank reported that there is no news on the sale of the Cross Creek property. The trustees are working on small projects. Next year they will need to seal the parking lots. The trustees are planning a workday in the spring to work on light bulbs and repairing the sanctuary pews. He would also like to work on thermostat solutions throughout the building. Frank would like people to tell him any ideas for other projects.
5. Kids First: Bev reported there are 55 children currently enrolled. All parents have received a handbook. The representatives from the state VCP committee visited and were pleased. We hope to be certified soon. All taxes and payroll are caught up. Tana Sheets and Becky Baumer will be attending a continuing education course in Kokomo monthly for 9 months. Recently the Kids First and Hope Chest staff and volunteers held a Christmas party together.
6. Children’s Ministry: Annette spoke about the additions to the budget for new children’s programming and childcare for adult studies. Mike Snyder and Annette reported on the online access program “Right Now” for which they will apply for a grant in 2015.
7. Budget: The Stewardship and Finance Committee recommended a budget for 2015. Scott moved and Bev seconded that we adopt the proposed budget. The motion was carried unanimously. Copies of the budget are available in the church office. Frank suggested that a priority for next year should be to raise our staff salaries as there has been no increase in several years.
8. Other business: Bev was thanked for organizing a work crew to replace ceiling tiles in the kitchen. Mike Snyder was thanked for ordering and setting up the new Christmas trees in the sanctuary. Scott reported that the Missionary and Mennonite churches in Berne are working on a project to provide a halfway house for newly released prisoners.
9. The meeting closed with prayer.
Thank You Notes . . .

Chris and I would like to thank everyone for your generous giving of love and support through the Staff Love Gift. Your generosity is such a blessing. We really do love being your pastorage family, and look forward to a great 2015!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Amy

Dear Friends at First Church,
Thank you for all the remembrances I received this holiday season. They were greatly appreciated.
Also thanks to those who give of their time and talent in the Church office and to those who faithfully help with the newsletters each month.

God Bless You All,
Janet Fraughiger

Dear Friends,
On behalf of all of us at Golden Meadows Home, I want to thank you for presenting a Thanksgiving Service for our residents. Everyone who attended told me that it was a beautiful service and they all enjoyed the Goodie Bags you brought for them. Your church family continues to be a great support to our residents throughout the year and we are very thankful to all of you.
We wish your congregation a very Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thank you very much for caring about our residents.

Sincerely,
Thomas H. Magnan
Administrator

Operation Help
A reminder that bar soap is needed for Operation Help. A large basket with a sign indicating Operation Help is located at the end of the hall between the Chapel and the Narthex.

January Birthdays
4 Ryan Brickley
   Angie Geimer
   Rochelle McBride
   Donna Owens
   Corey Wilson
6 Doug Rieth
   Harriet Soldner
8 Stan Allison
   Mia Jackson
   Elva Smith
9 Don Heimann
13 Mandy Poling
18 Natessia Witte
20 Lily Johnson
22 Phyllis Mills
23 Chris Everett
25 Colleen Gaunt
24 Dot Vanhorn
25 Katie Gent
27 Jenny Littler
28 Deb Porter
Gail Taylor
30 Chris Covington
28 Linda Drake
Beverly Hill
29 Richard Evans
31 Jason Brune
Leah Thomas
28 Helen Walters
31 Jane Friedt
Brendan Gilbert

January Anniversaries
9 Stan & Jane Allison
13 Rod & Teresa Simon
25 Richard & Janet Evans
31 James & Gail Taylor
The Pulse of the Hope Chest

Our Volunteers

My name is Gerri Jones and I’ve been connected with the Hope Chest for many years.

I now volunteer 2 days a week and really enjoy doing it. You meet many people and the atmosphere there is really great and you know you are helping people.

Gerri has also served the Hope Chest as a board member of many years.

Thanks to your generous support of our Christmas Jar program we were able to provide just a little bit better Christmas for 29 families.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support during 2014. We are blessed to be able to serve our community!

Hope Chest Board, Management & Volunteers.
Children's Ministry

Imagine every child in our ministry growing up with an authentic faith in Jesus that connects them to a better story for their life! The church is yellow (the light of Christ), the home is red (where love grows), let’s come together and make some Orange. It’s coming....

Thanks to your generosity the budget for children's ministry has been increased for the new year. I'd like to ask you to join me in praying for this ministry! Lots of new ideas are being considered and hopefully new fun things will be happening this year with your help.
First United Methodist Church
Kid’s First CHILDCARE
MINISTRIES

January Dates
Closed
Thurs 1st Fri 2nd
****
Sunday 25
Kid’s First Brunch
Come one come all!!

Happy Birthday!!!
Ryker Allen,
Bristol Smith,
Ardyn Gerber,
Shaylie Wagner,
Cooper Scherer,
Adalyn Lehman

Children’s Humor
Knock, knock
Who’s there?
Tank.
Tank who?
You’re Welcome!!

THAT’S A FACT
We all can say, “It’s not always easy,” but one of the most important things we all can do is to make each young child feel safe and to establish as much routine, as possible in his/her life. Children, and yes we adults, feel more secure when our lives have some structure.

We as adults make choices to provide safe environments with structure for children. Meeting children’s many needs also means the ability to relax, feel calm and free and ready to explore their young busy world.

One daily routine, is to rest or nap time. All children rest, lying down to rest quietly, with adult supervision, we pray.

“There are four corners on my cot. Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John bless this cot I lay on. Amen”

One classroom of children resting, sweet dreams!

Tana, Got Her 🚺 Out...
Hello, to all and to all, Best wishes!!

As the year 2015 is about to start,
Let’s think of great joys, it’ll bring about.
Great days are ahead for oh, so many as new children join our Kid’s First family.

Looking back, with a smile upon our face
We truly can say, we are richly blessed.
Thanking everyone for wonderful gifts, sharing joys, great memories, of 2014 past.

Now the Staff and I are looking forward to making many new great memories.

With those at First UMC community
While serving families and children coming to Kid’s First Childcare Ministry.

Let’s all enjoy God sightings, feeling peace, And blessed, as we enjoy the “gift” of 2015.

Until the 2 comes out again!
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30-Worship</td>
<td>5:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>6:30 pm-MOPS Meeting</td>
<td>9-11 am-MOPS Meeting</td>
<td>2 pm-Advent Study</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Discipleship Task Force</td>
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<td>5:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>2 pm-Angels Bible Study</td>
<td>5:15 pm-Staff Meeting</td>
<td>6:15 pm-Finance Committee</td>
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<td>2 pm-Angels Bible Study</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

CONNECT—GROW—SERVE

kids first

Child Care Ministries

Sunday Brunch
January 25, 2015 / 9:15—1:00
In the Fellowship Hall