We are God’s

“In God we live, move, and exist. As some of your own poets said, ‘We are his offspring.’” Acts 17:28 CEB

This verse is the theme verse for our Vacation Bible School this year. VBS will be about movement, God’s movement in us and our life movement in God. All around us God is active and through us God moves to offer grace and love. Do our lives reflect an understanding that every aspect of life is of and from God? In God we live, move, and exist. We are everything we are only because of God. This theme will not only be for VBS, but will also be the theme for worship in July.

So often in the church our children are viewed as needing to be watched, or babysat, while the adults worship, learn, and grow in faith. We think that the children are the future and if we teach them good morals and a few Bible stories, then we are doing our job of developing faith in them so they can make a decision for themselves about faith later. The problem with this thinking is that 87% of children make a decision for Christ before the age of 18. That means that if we don’t get serious about making their faith development a priority, then we are losing them before they become adults, or even before they enter youth group. Helping children understand who Jesus is and the difference a relationship with him makes must be a priority in the Church if the Church is going to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The role we in the Church have with helping our children nurture faith is not one to take lightly. Our children may be the future leaders of the Church and the world, but they need a real relationship with Jesus Christ right now.

My hope for our worship this month is to bring our entire congregation together studying and focusing on the same Scripture, Bible stories and people, and the Action Words from VBS in order for us to Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love as followers of Jesus Christ. If we are all together in learning about how we are God’s and that we live, move, and exist in Him, then I believe that we can truly make a difference in the lives of the children at First Church and Decatur. My prayer is that we will be so excited about God’s movement in our lives that we will see an overwhelming response from adults in our church to serve during the week of VBS, that we will see a record number of children blessed by VBS because you invited them to come learn what you have been learning all month, and that each and every person who attends worship, no matter the age, will be drawn closer to God in ways that bring transformation to the soul. So, be prepared to move and shout, and enjoy worship in a high energy way as we move in God this month.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Amy
Worship and Discipleship This Month

Our worship series for July will focus on G-Force God’s Love in Action, our Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme, scripture, and action words. This is the same material the children who attend VBS will learn, and Pastor Amy will share the scripture and stories from G-Force during our praise and worship celebrations on July 5, July 12 and July 19. VBS opens Sunday night July 19 and runs through Friday, July 24. The children will lead worship on Sunday, July 26, sharing the songs, scriptures and lessons they learned during the week. What a wonderful opportunity for all generations to come together this summer by digging into the same scripture and theme!

Discipleship classes based on G-Force will be offered in the Family Life Center nad Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am on July 5, 12 and 19.

G-Force Action Words: Move, Act, Care, Follow, Share

Stories: God calls Moses; Solomon builds the temple; Four friends help their friend meet Jesus; Healing Bartimaeus; The women at the empty tomb

Hey Church Family!
The Custodian position here at FUMC will become available in September. Interested applicants must have their resume turned into the church office no later than Friday, July 3rd.

**Wisdom People**
The Wisdom People will be gathering at Richard’s on Tuesday, July 21 at 12:00 noon. The Youth from the Mission Trip will have the program.

**2015 First United Methodist Church Endowment Announcement**

**Next distribution:** The next grant cycle is in July.

**Due date:** The due date is the last Friday in July (July 31) by 5:00 pm (in the FUMC office). No exceptions: Postmarks, electronic submissions, and faxes are not considered.

**Five copies:** Each applicant must submit a total of five copies of their request (this is one original and four copies or a total of 5 copies of the original).

**Application:** The FUMC Endowment Committee invites our church / our community to submit requests for funds. An application is available at the FUMC office. Interested applicants may contact Janet during office hours: M-F, 8-5 (closed 12-1) for details. Phone: 260-724-3158.

**Questions?** Please contact an Endowment Committee member: Coni Mayer, Sandy Collier, Aaron Gower, Lou Koning, Frank Montgomery, Mable Pettibone, Grant Porter, Scott Porter, Roger Thompson, or Pastor Amy Covington or Lowell Martin.

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**July Birthdays**
- 7/01 John Miller-G.M.
- 7/01 Ginny Vanhorn
- 7/02 Patrick Piper
- 7/05 Brie Anne Brown
- 7/05 Adam Clark
- 7/05 Oskar Karlsson
- 7/05 Richard Raver
- 7/07 Noah Burgin
- 7/07 Carly Smith
- 7/08 Nancy Price
- 7/09 Charlie Brune
- 7/09 Jordan Smith
- 7/09 Marilyn Whitman
- 7/10 LeAnna Noble
- 7/10 Adeline Poling
- 7/11 Teresa Simon
- 7/11 Charlie Swoveland-G.M.
- 7/13 Parker Gower
- 7/13 Owen Johnson
- 7/13 Sarah Shaw-G.M.
- 7/14 Jeff Miller
- 7/15 Loren Felabom
- 7/15 David Grimm
- 7/16 Mary Call

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**July Anniversaries**
- 7/01 Roger & Nancy Thompson
- 7/01 Joe & Melanie Wolpert
- 7/04 John & Kay Clark
- 7/13 Ron & Beverly Hill
- 7/13 Robert & Nateshia Witte
- 7/14 Mark & Karen Stahl
- 7/18 Gerald & Phylis Ulman
- 7/25 Terry & Linda Smitley
- 7/25 Gerald & Geri Sudduth
- 7/28 Ryan & Kate Brickley
- 7/28 Adam & Susan Miller
- 7/30 Chris & Amy Covington

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**Women of Faith**

When: Friday, July 31st from 7-10 pm
Saturday, August 1st from 9 am-5 pm
Cost: $106 including boxed lunch
(Scholarships available)
Women of all ages welcome!
Ask a friend to join you for this time of inspiration and spiritual growth.

Sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact Annette Gower 724-6067 or gowercrew@gmail.com
175th Anniversary Update

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! The anniversary committee is preparing for our celebration in 2016.

One of the events we have planned is a visit from our Bishop Mike Coyner on Sunday, April 10. Please mark your calendar to hear him speak and join us for dinner.

Throughout the year we will learn more about our history and the background of the lovely pieces of art we enjoy. We will include the children and youth. We are hoping to have some former pastors return to speak in the summer.

Here is a way for you to be involved. We would like to make a devotional written by our own congregation. Each of us has a “Story to Share” and it would be a real encouragement to us all to read them. You soon will receive a letter with more details about the devotional.

In addition if you have photographs of the old church or of older events in the current church that you would like to share you can scan them and email to the church office.

Purchasing “Paving Memories” engraved bricks is another way to join the celebration.

If you have suggestions or questions please see Sandy Collier, Penny Hinsky, Bev Stuck, Doug Rieth, Karen Stahl, Nancy Thompson, Nan Cook, or Helen Walters.

Update from
Decatur Operation Help Food Pantry

July is our month to serve at Decatur Operation Help Food Pantry. We need two persons for each Tuesday in July, from 1 to 3 pm, to fill boxes with food and hygiene items for those in need in our community. There is a signup calendar on the bulletin board by the Rose Garden. If you have questions and/or would like to serve, please feel free to call Shelley Porter at 223-1903.

Our church family has been faithful through the years in donating non-food items such as soap, toilet paper and other hygiene items. We are implementing a change to this support in June, 2015. The food pantry is able to purchase many items at greatly reduced prices (often as low as $0.19 per pound) and has established a standard list of items they stock. It is more beneficial for Operation Help to receive support from our church family as donations of money, than as donations of miscellaneous food and non-food items. Effective June 2015, we will no longer request donations of food and non-food items for the food pantry, and will instead welcome and be very grateful for your monetary donations. You may mark your check or envelope “Decatur Operation Help”.

At any time throughout the year, you are welcome to visit and/or help at the food pantry. We are currently looking for persons willing to serve on the board and volunteer at the front desk, registering the clients. Please contact Shelley Porter if you are interested in learning more.

Thank you for giving in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

New Security System Installed
The Church has installed a new security system.
Please ring the bell at the carport doors
if you need to get in the church. Thank you!

PEACH FESTIVAL - SUNDAY, AUGUST 23  4-6:30 PM
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a Big Heart

HAPPY JULY 4th
HAVE FUN
And
BE SAFE

We will begin to collect School supplies July 6th. Items may be dropped off At the store Mon thru Fri. From 10 am till 5 pm.

Customer Appreciation Day
July 17th
Join us for specials, snacks and coffee.

Thank you for your continued support.
The Hope Chest Staff
TANA'S COLORFUL WORDS!
Classrooms Take On A Different Look
Staff will be preparing classrooms with learning centers. Using these centers our hope is, each child will find learning is fun in different ways.
Small Manipulative: Puzzles, busy beads, etc. assist with cognitive and thinking skills.
Language: Picture books, flannel stories, puppets, develop vocabulary and expression.
Spiritual/Relaxation: Pictures of Jesus, Bible stories, soft stuffed animals of the Bible.
Block: Legos, building blocks, Lincoln logs imaginative creation.
Art: Markers, crayons, visual creativity.
Math: Magnetic numbers, sorting, shapes, size problem solving.
Science: Bubbles, rocks, things of nature.
Social Skills: Awareness of others in a positive manner.
When children learn on their level, it helps prepare them for a better understanding of life around them. Growth, follows with the “I can do it!” attitude. Learning is not always easy but with hope we all can learn, rethink, have patience, ask for help, give thanks, we understand all things are possible through Him!

THAT'S A FACT!!
At some point in a child’s life they might feel a sense of fear or anxieties, fears are common and normal such as during a storm, in darkness. Talking with your child about their fear can help, letting them know you understand what they are going through. Acknowledge your child's fear and their feelings at that time. Some children are unsure how to talk about their fear, letting them know you’re always there to listen builds a trust, which can be helpful as they grow. Several ways to comfort are holding their favorite blanket or a small stuffed animal to cuddle. Leaving your child or separation anxiety can bring tears. A favorite book to read preparing your child “The Kissing Hand” by Audrey Penn. Or smiling with a special “Good bye” phrase to say to each other. Like... “In a while,” (you say), “Crocodile” (child replies). Be Sweet (you) Parakeet (child). Or you and your child make up your own, “see you later”, phrase. If a fear continues or becomes worse you may want to consult a pediatrician. But always stay calm, letting your child know the Bible says: “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust also in me. John 14:1.”
All Children age 3 through entering grade 5 are welcome to join the fun at VBS!

Sunday, July 19th - Thursday, July 23rd from 6-8pm

Registration forms are available at the Connection Center or church office or register online at http://2015.cokesburyvbs.com/firstumcdecatur

Interested in having a blast serving at VBS? Please sign-up on the board in the narthex or contact Annette at 724-6067 or gowercrew@gmail.com.
# July 2015

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<td>8:15 &amp; 9:30-Worship</td>
<td>July 6-July 12-Pastor Amy</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Endowment Fund Committee</td>
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<td>10:45-Discipleship Groups</td>
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<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>Church office closed</td>
<td>Independence Day</td>
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<td>6:15-Prayer in Chapel</td>
<td>Deadline for Resumes for Custodial Position</td>
<td>July 4-July 11-Youth Mission Trip to Myrtle Beach, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>6-8 pm-VBS</td>
<td>9-11 am-MOPS Steering Team Meeting, 12 noon- Wisdom People at Richard’s 6-8 pm-VBS</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>6:8 pm-VBS</td>
<td>6-8 pm-VBS</td>
<td>5:30-7:30 pm-VBS Family Fun Night</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 9:30-Worship</td>
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<td>July 26-July 31-Community VBS @ St. Mark’s UMC</td>
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<td>4-5:30 pm-Jr. High Youth 5-6:30 pm-Sr. High Youth</td>
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<td>5 pm-Grant Application Deadline</td>
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<td>7-10 pm-Women of Faith at Allen County War Memorial Center</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

G-Force

July 19-23
6:00-8:00 pm
First United Methodist Church

VBS 2015

“In God we live, move, and exist.”
Acts 17:28a, CEB

FAMILY
FUN NIGHT

July 24
5:30-7:30 pm

Family Fun Night!