Offering Hope

"Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth—teach it to me—because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long. Lord, remember your compassion and faithful love—they are forever!"

Psalm 25:4-6 Common English Bible (CEB)

Between the years of 2010 and 2015 there were 2,322 deaths in Indiana due to opioid use, 529 of them were in 2015. The use of opioids is becoming more common, deaths from them are happening more often, and our communities are begin torn apart. In one weekend in March, Adams Memorial Hospital had 6 ER visits due to overdose, one resulting in death. Many of the people using and addicted are between the ages of 15 and 30. The problem is statewide and becoming an epidemic. What can we do about this problem? First UMC is going to offer hope and support to those individuals and families who seek it.

A Better Life— Brianna's Hope is a substance abuse recovery support group that is faith-based, compassion-filled, and participant-driven, and we will become a chapter offering hope and encouragement to those in Adams County who are in need. This ministry was started in Redkey, Indiana in 2014 after a young woman was found dead from a heroin overdose. Brianna was a good kid, but a troubled kid. She sought God, but the addiction pulled her in very deep. The ministry was founded by her pastor, Rev. Randy Davis, to offer support and hope to others who needed it.

So many people need to know that God loves them in the midst of their mistakes, messes, and addictions; that there is not a point beyond God's redemptive power. Brianna's Hope offers this knowledge and support. We will have a training for any who wish to participate in First UMC's Team Hope. The training will be on Saturday, May 20 from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. We will hear from Rev. Randy Davis and learn about the lives saved and transformed because churches throughout Indiana are opening their doors and hearts to addicts, showing them God's love, and offering hope. Our ministry will begin after the training and will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. I will be leading the meetings in the beginning and we will have testimonies from persons who have been able to overcome their addictions because of God's great love and grace.

I encourage you to be in prayer for this new ministry, for God's voice as to your part in it, and for the individuals and families in our community affected by drug abuse. I pray that your heart is open to how God is calling First UMC to respond to the need by offering hope and welcome to those who come. God is moving in our midst and people are responding to that movement. It is exciting to hear how lives are being changed! May God be glorified in all we do!

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.”
Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Frank Montgomery, Jo Bollinger, Clint Knaub, Aaron Gower, Annette Gower, LeAnna Noble, Penny Hinsky, Helen Walters, Jason Brune, Coni Mayer, Scott Porter, Beverly Stuck

2. Approved Minutes: February 21, 2017 minutes, Frank Montgomery so moved approval, seconded by LeAnna Noble and approved by all.
3. Financial Budget: No report but Aaron Gower stated, “Conference Tithe was paid up to March.”
4. Celebrate: New visitation minister Rev. Joe Andrews, who retired as St. Joe Hospital Chaplain. Pastor Joe is very personable, lives in Fort Wayne, will be with us 2 or 3 days a week. He will be visiting with the homebound and setting up a May meeting with “Double Blessings”. Pastor Amy stated, “Pastor Joe is a good match.”
5. Fish Fry: See Mike Boyd for tickets to sell. Aaron and Clint are helping with auction.
6. Endowment Committee: Coni Mayer shared the 10 grants, 2 Community and 8 In-Church recipients. Total $22,688 (first distribution) awarded. Complete list can be viewed in church office.
7. Inter-generational Summer Ministry: Annette shared “The Church’s Got Talent” a faith based curriculum, building relationships, for all ages to take place Sundays during Jr. Church time. Requesting “Congregation help is needed sharing your story.” Annette is willing to help, “So sign up and get ready for a fun time forming new friendships, discovering hidden hobbies and talents.”
8. Membership Letters & Postcards: Sending out 251 Membership letters, plus 70 letters to new contacts. This is seen as a positive outreach to our congregation with HOPE for all postcards filled out and returned with needed information.
10. Red Bird Mission: St. Mark’s will be going September 17-23, asking First UMC to join them. If interested contact Craig & Sue Anderson.
11. Other Items: Community Gathering April 24 at 6:30 in the Sanctuary, Brianna’s Hope, Substance Abuse problem in our area led by Rev. Randy Davis. April 29 Saturday, painting at Country Brook and host at 24/7 Laundry Day Volunteers are needed!!! WOW “New” van official is insured & registered. A policy will be developed and approved as to who & how the van will be used.
Closing Prayer: Scott Porter

Submitted by: Beverly Stuck
The Rev. Dr. Robert Stephen Newnum (Steve) has been a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church since 1980. Before entering missionary service, he served in the former North Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church (now the Indiana Conference). He served as Pastor at Woodburn/Maples United Methodist Churches (1972-1976), as Minister of Youth and Education at First and St. Mark’s United Methodist Churches in Decatur (1976-1978), and as Pastor at Sweetser United Methodist Church (1978-1980).

After missionary training in the USA (1980), Steve studied Portuguese in Campinas, in the State of São Paulo in Brazil (1980-1981). After language training, Steve was appointed pastor to start a new Methodist Church in the city of Joinville in the State of Santa Catarina. He also worked in developing new churches in Blumenau and Camboriu and served one year as District Superintendent of the state (1981-1988). After this, he served three years as pastor of the Apucarana Methodist Church in the State of Paraná (1988-1991) and four years at the Jardim do Sol and Bandeirantes Methodist Churches in Londrina, also in the State of Paraná (1992-1996).

In 1988, when he was appointed to serve in Apucarana, he also began his service as professor at the regional seminary: the Methodist Center for Education and Training (CEMETRE, in the Portuguese acronym), located originally in Londrina, which moved to Maringá in 2002, both cities located in the State of Parana. CEMETRE is a theological institution for training pastors and laity of the Sixth Region (Conference) of the Brazilian Methodist Church, serving the states of Santa Catarina and Paraná in southern Brazil. The population of the metropolitan area of Londrina is around 818,000 and the metropolitan area of Maringá has a population of around 765,000. Both are economic poles of the area surrounding them.

From 1995 to 2012, Steve was appointed full-time to the seminary. Along with serving as professor, Steve has simultaneously served in various positions at CEMETRE, including Academic Dean (1992-1993), Vice-dean (1993-1994), Dean (1994-1999), and Dean of Students (1999-2013). He also has taught at the Presbyterian (STAGS 1992-2000) and Missionary (ISBL 2001) Seminaries in Londrina. In Maringá, he taught at the Maringá University Center (UniCesumar 2003-2008), the Pontifical Catholic University (PUC 2011-2012) and at an ecumenical seminary (Sinai 2003-2005) that held classes in various surrounding cities.
Steve and Maria Aparecida Severino Newnum were married in 2000. Although she is not a paid missionary, she has been active in missionary service since their marriage. She was also a professor at CEMETRE, Sinai and PUC. Maria also participated in various political movements seeking to create a more humane city and ran for the city council while living in Maringá.

In Maringá, besides teaching, Steve and Maria coordinated a monthly “Cultural Coffee” (originally called “Theological Coffee”), that combined discussions of religion, culture, and art. Both have also been involved in work with indigenous people in Maringá.

In 2013 Steve was appointed to serve a small church in Terra Rica in the State of Paraná, with a county-wide population of around 15,000. He served there from 2013 to 2017, when he retired as Elder in the Brazilian Methodist Church.

In Maringá, and continuing through their time in Terra Rica, Steve and Maria have been involved in ecumenical relations with the Maringá Ecumenical Movement (MECUM) between Catholic and Protestant churches, especially during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, which, in the Southern Hemisphere, is the week leading up to Pentecost Sunday. Steve has preached in many Catholic Churches throughout the years.

They are also active in an interfaith dialogue group (GDI) in Maringá among Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Bahá’ís, Spiritists, the Religion of God and followers of two African-Brazilian religions: Candomblé and Umbanda. Besides having regular meetings where one group has time to explain their faith, beliefs and practices, the group hosts an annual “Night of Prayer for Peace” on September 21st. On this night, a person from one of the faith groups is the main speaker, although each faith participates in brief presentations.

In Terra Rica, Maria had a daily radio program that sought to empower people, especially women. It was a very successful program that was a great tool in the couple’s missionary outreach. This was obvious from the feedback given by women who opened their own businesses and freed themselves from abusive relationships. Steve was often a guest on the program and the program became a way to do practical theology in the town.

Steve says:

“After many years of serving as a pastor and a professor, I believe that being a Christian is not primarily about having the right beliefs if they are separated from our actions. I believe that being a Christian is living so that people can see God in us by the way we express our beliefs through our actions. This is the missionary challenge for all of us every day.”

Steve has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Mathematics from Purdue University (1973), a Master of Divinity degree from United Theological Seminary (UTS 1976), Dayton Ohio, and a Doctor of Religious Sciences degree in Theology and History from the São Paulo Methodist University (UMESP 2001) in São Paulo, Brazil.

Maria has a Bachelor of Theology degree (1996) and a Bachelor of Education degree (1997) from the São Paulo Methodist University (UMESP) in São Paulo, Brazil. She also has a Master’s degree in Practical Theology (2004) from the South American Theological Faculty (FTSA) in Londrina.

Steve and Maria are currently living in Rolândia, part of the Londrina metropolitan area, where they are fixing up and remodeling their retirement home.

Steve has three daughters from a previous marriage and six grandchildren. All currently live in the State of New Jersey.
Thank You Notes . . .
Dear Friends,
Thank you for all of your continued prayers. We feel them and know they work. Jim has stabilized but his cancer is still present. He can eat now and is feeling stronger. We so appreciate your thoughtfulness.
Blessings,
Jim & Elaine Hurst

Available Dates for Decatur Heights
The cost is $550 for the week and the following weeks are available:
July 9-15
July 30-August 5
August 6-12
August 13-19
August 20-26
August 27-September 2

DRIVERS NEEDED:
Golden Meadows and others in our community have requested rides to church on Sunday mornings. We are currently picking up 3 persons from Golden Meadows and a few people from the Wednesday night meal. We pick them up at 9 am and take them back after the 10 am service is finished. So far, Mike & Carol Pettibeone have volunteered to pick up the first Sunday of each month. Steve & Mary Pilkington the second Sunday of the month. Phylis Ulman the third Sunday of the month. Scott & Shelley Porter have helped. We are looking for any help possible. You may commit to a set Sunday per month or any way this outreach fits your schedule. You would let Janet in the office know your availability and she will mail reminder cards with phone numbers and instructions. All our drivers are currently using their own cars.

May Anniversaries
5/07 Kent & Jean Koons
5/08 Jeremy & Marsha Friedt
5/09 Darrell & Diane Valentine
5/13 Duke & Taya Bollinger
5/14 Talon & Delanie Foley
5/15 Tony & Kayla Myers
5/16 Ian & Erin Gilbert
5/19 Jeff & Kelley Miller
5/20 Jason & Kim Brune
5/22 Aaron & Annette Gower
5/30 Randy & Michelle Colclasure

May Birthdays
5/01 Craig Seitz
5/01 Blake Taylor
5/02 Robert Witte
5/05 Cindy Wilson
Wisdom People met April 17 for this year’s first luncheon, at The Galley. It was good to enjoy fellowship. Pastor Amy shared, what God has been doing in her daily life and at First Church. She also shared her deep concern and awareness of the substance abuse in our area. Pastor Amy shared information about “A Better Life - Brianna’s Hope.” With hope and prayer we the church will be the “other choice” an opportunity for “a better life.” We the church can open our doors and hearts to those in need. We as His disciples can give hope to those struggling, as we believe “We can make a difference in someone’s life style.”

Check your calendar and mark May 17, at The Galley, for lunch 12:00 pm. Mary Pilkinson will share her and Steve’s experiences from their mission trip to Santiago, Dominican Republic. The more the merrier, Come join us May 17, “Happy Trails to you until we meet again.”

St. Mark’s Mission Trip
In September St. Mark’s is sending a work team to Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. They have asked if we would like to join them. Several of our members are considering going and there is room for more! There will be an informational meeting in June. The dates for the mission trip are September 16-23.
Think about it. Pray about it. This is a wonderful opportunity to partner with our sister church.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES !!!!!
Please let the church office know if you will be graduating from high school or college this spring. We are aware of the graduates listed below.

Grant Gutierrez – Bellmont
Joe Hawkins – Bellmont
Austin Heckert – Bellmont
Derek Sommer – Bellmont
A.J. Wiseheart – Bellmont
Caleb Torson – Norwell
Ashley Cook – IPFW
Allison Gutierrez – Purdue
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP WITH
A BIG HEART

Thanks to everyone who donated items for the Easter Baskets. We were able to fill 60 baskets. These were given to the children at Wednesday night meals, and also to the Crisis Center and Child Protective Service.

Fish Fry tickets are available at The Hope Chest Monday thru Friday 10 AM till 5 PM

The Hope Chest gave away 80 plus prom dresses this year.

Customer appreciation day May 12. Stop in, enjoy snacks, coffee and specials.

Thanks for your continued support. The Hope Chest Staff
Tana's Colorful Words
Beautiful May

Last month we celebrated Easter and sang “He has risen, Hallelujah,” when God’s Son Jesus was resurrected! This month we still praise God for Spring when we enjoy seeing new colors come alive in grass, flowers, and trees as our world is beautified. Kid’s First continues to “sing” out in appreciation and beautification for the NEWLY remodeled bathrooms along with NEW and safe outside steps! So what’s new with you? A new job! A new home! Celebration of a new birth. It is our HOPE you are taking a little time to sing your praises too. God is so good to us all! We can remember to daily sing out his praise, even when things may not be going just the way we want or think they should. God is GREAT! God is Good! Let us Thank Him for...

That's A Fact
Appreciation Celebration

May is the month to celebrate child care providers. We at Kid’s First feel honored, that parents trust us to provide loving care for their children. Our shared daily prayer!

Dear God,
Help me make a difference today. Help me to reach out to all who need me, to be a good listener, and to be firm but caring. Guide me so that my words and deeds help children and never harm them. Help me to be the best child care provider I can be, and to take care of myself too so I can keep reaching and teaching children, helping them to be successful. And Dear God, help me to always be grateful for this important work you have given me to do.

Amen!

A warm hug of appreciation celebrating Kid’s First child care providers!

Your love has given me great joy and encouragement.
Philemon 1:7

Until the come out Again!
5th Annual Community
All You Can Eat
featuring Dan's Fish
Huntington, IN
also...
BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Fish & Tenderloin
Saturday, May 6, 2017
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Sponsored by and Serving at:
First United Methodist Church
502 West Monroe Street, Decatur

Tickets:
Adults: $10 (or 3 for $27, pre-sale only)
Children (ages 6-12): $6 (or 3 for $15, pre-sale only)

Available at:
Church Office, (260) 724-3158
The Hope Chest, 127 S. 2nd Street
Complete Printing Service, 210 S. 2nd Street

Proceeds Benefit:
- Fishes & Loaves Community Meal
- The Hope Chest
- Kids First Child Care Ministry
- FUMC Youth Group & 2017 Mission Trip
Summer is an amazing time in ministry with children to offer something new. This summer, we’re combining learning about the Bible with building intergenerational relationships! It’s called “The Church’s Got Talent.”

We’ll begin June 4th and continue through at least July 30th during 10am Jr. Church. This fun, faith-based, friendship-building program invites adults in the congregation to share with children their hobbies and talents.

Each week adults will:

- share a little about themselves
- read a Scripture verse related to their hobby or talent
- tell kids about their hobby or talent
- share a story, examples, or demonstration
- lead a related activity with children along with the Children’s Ministry Director

The beauty of “The Church’s Got Talent” is that new friendships will be formed as adults serve in ministry with children. By sharing about yourself and inviting children into your lives through your hobby and talent, you get to form important, life-giving, faith-building relationships.

“The Church’s Got Talent” is a program for everyone in our congregation. We are looking forward to discovering the hidden hobbies and talents within our church and using those as a springboard to build friendships between young and old.

Ready to sign-up or have questions? See the sign-up board in the lobby or contact Annette—(260) 223-2288 or gowercrew@gmail.com

The fine print...Serving in children’s ministry is subject to Safe Sanctuary Policies including 6 months in attendance guideline, background check and approval by Director of Children’s Ministries.

Pizza & Props is coming!
Starting June 25th and continuing all through July right after 10am Worship. We’ll meet in the Family Life Center to enjoy a pizza lunch, fellowship, and create VBS props. All ages welcome!!!
# May 2017

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<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>9-11 am-MamaTalk 2 pm-Bible Study 5:30 pm-Staff Meeting 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
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<td>4-7 pm-Fish Fry</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups 5 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 3:30 pm-Double Blessings Ministry Meeting, 7 pm-Worship Design Team 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
<td>Pastor Amy out of office</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day 8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>May 15-19-Pastor Amy on Vacation 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>9-11 am-MamaTalk 2 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>12 pm-Wisdom People at The Galley 5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
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<td>9 am-1 pm-A Better Life--Brianna’s Hope Training</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups 5 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>2 pm-Bible Study 6:30 Board of Trustees 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal 5:30 pm-Missionary Steve Newnum giving testimony</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>Memorial Day (Church office closed)</td>
<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Connect—Grow—Serve

May 6
Community Fish Fry
4:00—7:00

May 14
Mother’s Day

May 20
A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope Training
9 am-1 pm