Love Wins

28 We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.
29 Who will separate us from Christ’s love? Will we be separated by trouble, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?
30 But in all these things we win a sweeping victory through the one who loved us. 31 I’m convinced that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus our Lord: not death or life, not angels or rulers, not present things or future things, not powers 32 or height or depth, or any other thing that is created. Romans 8:28, 35, 37-39 (CEB)

It doesn’t always feel like love wins, does it? When words are spoken that hurt deeply, or when people’s answer to anger is violence it doesn’t feel like love is winning. It is hard to hold onto the commandment to love as we have been loved, when so many people are hurting the innocent in the world. But, Paul reminds us that in the end, God’s love is ours and nothing can separate us from that love. There are days when we must cling to faith and allow that faith to see us through the difficult situation at hand. God’s promise is true, God is present with us always, even if we don’t feel that presence.

One of my favorite quotes was written by a prisoner in one of the Nazi concentration camps. There is no name given to the quote, but it was on a wall of the camp. It reads:

I believe in the sun even if it does not shine.
I believe in love even if I do not feel it. (or when I am alone)
I believe in God even when he is silent.

This quote is framed in my office and it is scribbled on a post it note by a friend who has passed into eternity. It is a quote that reminds me that love wins. Even when it doesn’t feel that way, love wins. If this were not true, then the celebration of Easter is a joke. God raising Jesus from the dead proves that love wins. Jesus died for a sinful and broken world, and in his death we find forgiveness and salvation. Jesus was raised from the dead so the broken and sinful world would know that love conquers even death, and in Jesus’ resurrection we find the hope of eternity in the reality of our present day.

When the world doesn’t make sense, when a loved one is diagnosed with cancer, when depression overwhelms the spirit, hold onto the faith you have in God, and know that love wins. Don’t give up hope that the sun will shine, that God will speak, and that love will be felt. If you are struggling with a difficult situation, or you are doubting that any of this is true, then I invite you to be with us for worship each Sunday. Through the month of May we will continue our focus on prayer and spend some time in the Lord’s Prayer. We will also celebrate Pentecost, the gifting of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit guides us in this journey of faith and love, it is powerful and can give strength to do the hard things. The Holy Spirit guides us in a world that doesn’t make sense and softens our hearts to God’s presence and love. Join us as we hear the Good News proclaimed and as we claim for our own lives the promise that love wins.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
6th Annual Community

All You Can Eat

Featuring Dan's Fish
Huntington, IN

FISH FRY

Also...
BAKE SALE & SILENT AUCTION

Fish & Tenderloin

Saturday May 5, 2018

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by and Serving at:
First United Methodist Church
502 West Monroe Street, Decatur

Tickets:
Adults: $10
Children (ages 6-12): $6 (children under 6 are free)

Available at:
Church Office, (260) 724-3158
The Hope Chest, 127 S. 2nd Street
(or see Mike Boyd, Aaron Gower or Leanna Noble)

Proceeds Benefit:
- FUMC Missions Fund
- The Hope Chest
- Kids First Child Care Ministry
- FUMC Youth Group & 2018 Mission Trip
The Youth will be shopping for and assembling birthday baskets for our friends at Golden Meadows in April. If you would like to sponsor a basket (or 2 or 3 or 4 or more…) the cost is $15 each. Please mark your donation “Birthday Baskets”. They will be making 26 baskets. You may donate at any time, even after April. Happy Birthday!

May Birthdays

5/01 Blake Taylor
5/02 Robert Witte
5/03 Cindy Wilson
5/07 Brady Hake
5/07 Emerson Hake
5/08 Chad Poling
5/09 Colin Heimann
5/10 Jamie Shamo
5/10 Jessica Clifton
5/10 Cristy Scott
5/13 Joe Friedt
5/15 Sam Burgin
5/16 Bryson Myers
5/19 Eldon Habegger
5/20 Haley Kaehr
5/22 Jo Bollinger
5/22 Tana Sheets
5/24 Aaron Gower
5/25 Judith Dowell
5/25 Dee Snyder
5/25 Quentin Taylor
5/27 Wanda Boyd
5/30 Tony Myers

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

Youth Group Update

All Youth (Especially Mission Trippers) - Remember the Fish Fry and Auction is Saturday, May 5. We’ll be participating in various ways before and during the meal. We’ll also be selling tickets so be sure to let Clint know how many you need.

Mission Trip Money ($150) is due by May 6.

Exciting Event - Several local youth groups are combining forces to host a Study Break on Sunday, May 20 from 5-7 pm. We’ll have food, games and fellowship. More information will be shared in the coming weeks - be sure to mark it on your calendar.

Adults - Please prayerfully consider participating with the Youth Group. If you have any questions or interest, please get with Clint Knaub.

Thanks for all the support from our FUMC family!

Clint

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.

Emma Hawkins - Bellmont
Libby Miller - Bellmont
Sydni Wolpert - Adams Central
Adam Reed - Ivy Tech
Jimmy Sheets - Ivy Tech
Justin Sheets - Ball State University

CEREAL SUNDAY
MAY 20
Donations requested! As you know the kids have been hard at work memorizing all 66 books of the Bible. They should have this accomplished sometime in May and we'll be celebrating with an outing to SkyZone, the indoor trampoline park. This was the kids' suggestion and top pick so they are pumped about going!! Would you consider sponsoring a kid or 2 at $20 each? Thanks for your generosity!

Mark your calendars and get ready to sign-up!!!

VBS is coming July 29th-August 3rd.

Love babies, toddlers and twos? We could use some tender loving arms while their parents are in Worship. Are you willing to donate your time to this need once a month? Let us know on your Sunday attendance card or tell Annette asap, thanks!

Reminder: To keep kids safe, you need to have been a part of the church a minimum of 6 months, complete a background check and be approved by the DCM & Pastor.
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 which were given to the hospital and Wednesday night meals.

Fish Fry tickets will be available for purchase at The Hope Chest Monday thru Friday 10 AM until 5 PM. Stop in today. Thanks for your support.
The Hope Chest staff.
SPECIAL MEMO
Level #1
Paths to Quality

Closed: May 28 Memorial Day!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Brayden Butcher
Kane Gage
Trey Rumschlag
Jaxon Walters
Claira Foreman
Emmett Glenn
Quentin Taylor

May Joke
Q. What did the big flower say to the small flower?
A. What’s up bud?

Tana’s Colorful Words
Child Care Words of Wisdom
Does your child expect you to do everything? Doesn’t want to share? Doesn’t like taking turns? You can help your child learn a positive attitude, have self-control, become independent, and develop other skills.

Teaching your child to become independent
Showing your child how to do things in simple, easy steps several times over, allows them to try by themselves. If they ask or say they don’t know how, verbally walk them through the simple steps. YOU, DON’T DO IT! Walking them through the steps helps encourage the “I can do” attitude. Try “can do” steps when washing hands, dressing, shoe tying, etc. helps them to enjoy learning.

Teaching your child to share
When your child wants what someone else is using, help them understand, they can use their words. Saying, “I would like to play with that, could we trade?” As the adult you can help by setting a timer as a reminder to trade items. Children learning to take turns isn’t easy but develops as they age with understanding.

Keep in mind younger children have not developed this developmental skill of reasoning. It will come with positive and proper age developmental experiences.

“That train up a child in the way he would go. And when he is old he will not depart from it.” Proverbs 22:6

Until the come out again!

That’s A Fact
It takes a village to raise God’s Children. We at Kid’s First Child Care Ministries, take an active part in the village, teaching about Jesus.

The purple draped on the cross represents Lent. The children’s handprints made the cross. Representing the cross Jesus was put on “for the forgiveness of our sins.”

Colossians 1:14

This snack represents the tomb and stone. “But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb.”

Luke 24:2

Jesus Has Risen! We’ve celebrated Easter and know the seasons change. But never forget, His love never changes. God is with us always, waiting, listening, and wanting to “talk” with His children.

That’s A Fact!
## May 2018

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<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9-11 am-MamaTalk 5:30 pm-Staff Meeting 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>2:5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope, 6:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves Meeting 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td>3:Noon-National Day of Prayer @ Courthouse 2 pm-Grief Support Group</td>
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<td>6:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups 5 pm-Youth</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
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<td>7 pm-A.A.</td>
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<td>13 Mother’s Day</td>
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<td>9:11 am-MamaTalk 3:30 pm-Bible Study 6 pm-Finance Team 7 pm-Ad Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>20 Day of Pentecost Cereal Sunday</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship 11:15-Discipleship Groups 5 pm-Youth Study Break</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Pastor Prayer Group</td>
<td>May 22-24-Pastor Amy out of town 3:30 pm-Bible Study 6:30-Board of Trustees 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves 6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope 7 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28 Memorial Day (Church office closed)</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>3:30 pm-Bible Study 7 pm-A.A.</td>
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

May 13
Mother's Day

May 5
Community Fish Fry
4:00—7:00

May 20
Cereal Sunday