Living and Loving

“Easter is more than just a day. It is a 50-day season that marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the ways we live into that reality, just as his disciples did. The season of Easter has long been a time when newcomers to Christianity and those already on the Christian journey revisit the foundations of the faith. In other words, this is a time when people examine basic doctrines, providing, as Laurence Hull Stookey writes, ‘a time for both discovery and reconsideration.’[1] As a result, our resources will culminate in two four-week series—“Living” and “Loving”—that will focus upon the gospel narratives and ways to integrate these doctrinal pieces into daily Christian living.” (Rev. Annie Lockhart-Gilroy, PhD from www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship/easter-2019-part-1-worship-planning-series)

This Season of Easter we will seek to ways to apply the Gospel of John to our daily living. How do we Believe, Follow and Listen to Jesus in order to live faithfully every day? How does a God who loves us, Mark us and Send us into the world to live as His disciples every day? These questions will be the focus of our worship series in May. I pray you will be with us on every week so as to not miss anything!!

Living and Loving are not only the titles of our worship series this month, but they are also words needed in our lives as followers of Jesus. We live our faith every day and we are called to love God and to love others as we love ourselves; we do this all because God is love. We are beginning a new way of leading at FUMC that will also require us to live and love.

Our Vision Team will begin meeting this month. Each person who has been asked to serve on this new team are people who are members of the church seeking to live faithfully the vows of membership: to support the church through prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Each person has been prayed over as persons who can see the big picture God is calling us to, as well as the daily tasks to help us live into that picture. If we are going to Live as followers of Christ and Love as his followers, then we need people who are doing this and who can lead us to do the same. I am excited to work with our Vision Team to discuss and share how God is speaking in our midst and how God desires us to reach the lost, last, least, and broken in our community. We will begin a process of saying our best “YES” to what God is calling us to. We will need everyone to take seriously what it means to live as followers of Jesus and to love God and others. Sundays will help us understand this better and move us closer to being the followers of Jesus God desires us to be. I hope to see you in worship! I also hope you will pray for our Vision Team members: Penny Hinsky, Scott Porter, Al Plew, Sarah Johnson, Mike Boyd, Ken Meyer, Annette Gower, Nancy Thompson, and Mary McGuire.

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.

Third Sunday in Easter
May 5, 8:15 & 10:00 am
Living: Follow Me
John 21:1-19

Fourth Sunday in Easter
May 12, 8:15 & 10:00 am
Living: Listen to Me
John 10:22-30

Fifth Sunday in Easter
May 19, 8:15 & 10:00 am
Marked By A Loving God
John 13:31-35

Sixth Sunday in Easter
May 26, 8:15 & 10:00 am
Sent By A Loving God
John 14:23-29
Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Penny Hinsky, LeAnna Noble, Helen Walters, Jo Bollinger, Annette Gower, Aaron Gower, Scott Porter, Frank Montgomery

Loving:

God sightings were shared.
Open Prayer                  Penny Hinsky
Holy Communion              Pastor Amy

Learning:

Focus was on Holy Week
Pastor Amy shared something by Dr. Dotson from #SEEALLTHEPEOPLE – Questions to ponder, What is our communities opinion of us? How do we love, support and show compassion to them like Jesus did?

Leading:

- Minutes: February 2019 approved with motion by Helen and second by Frank, approved by all.
- Single Board Structure – continued review and discussion. Reviewed Leadership list from Nominations and added suggested contacts. Start date will be May for Vision Team. Pastor Amy will meet with Connect, Grow and Serve Leaders soon. Individual Teams will continue as usual. Ad. Council will meet under new structure in August. Motion by Pastor Amy to approve with added names and permission to continue to fill remain spots, second by Jo Bollinger, approved by all.

Other Items:

- Frank shared we are still on track with getting the Rose Garden roof fixed.
- Helen shared a praise that the Wednesday Bible Study led by Mike Pettibone that meets at Woodcrest is growing.

Upcoming Events:

- Easter Sunday – April 21
- Spring Cleaning Day – TBA
- Annual Conference – June 12-15 (Mission Focus – Brianna’s Hope)
- VBS – July 28th – August 2nd

Next Meeting: August 20, 2019 7:00pm
Meetings will be quarterly with new structure

Closing Prayer: Pastor Amy Covington

Submitted by: Annette Gower
National Day of Prayer Service

Thursday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}

Noon

\textit{Adams County Peace Monument}
(Southwest corner of the Courthouse Square)

In the event of rain the service will be held at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at \textit{Fourth and Adams}
Thank You Notes...
FUMC family,
Will and I wanted to send our thanks for all of the special gifts you packaged for Kendall. The outfits have been perfect and the quilt has been her much needed play mat. We appreciate you thinking of her!

Thanks,
Will, Allison & Kendall Busse

To the First United Methodist Church family,
I want to express my deepest gratitude for the prayers and kindness shown by your cards to me during the illness and passing of my eldest son, Joey.

Thank you,
Janet Schindler

First United Methodist Church,
Thank you for the cards while I was in the hospital to let me know that my family and I were in your prayers. Also, for the beautiful prayer blanket! Your kindness and prayers mean so much!

Thanks again!
Nick & Edon Ladig

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
5/16 Ian & Erin Gilbert
5/19 Jeff & Kelley Miller
5/20 Jason & Kim Brune
5/22 Aaron & Annette Gower

Grief Support Group Meetings in May
Loss and grief touches everyone throughout their lives. Some experiences we naturally and quickly work through. Other times the memories of loss continue to haunt and plague us frequently throughout our daily activities.

In this small group setting, limited to five, we will share stories and memories using pictures and objects of our loved ones’ lives. Materials will be given to each participant on such topics as “special occasions,” “sleeplessness,” “loneliness,” “support” and conclude with a “Service of Celebration”.

The sessions will meet on Thursday afternoons, May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 3 to 5 pm in the Lounge of First UMC, Decatur. Rev. Joe Andrews, Minister of Visitation, will lead the classes. Contact Pastor Joe (260) 704-3030 or call Janet in the church office (260) 724-3158 to register.

There is no charge for the 5-week course with a break in each session. It is strongly urged to attend all 5 sessions to get the full benefit of the bereavement workshop. Register as soon as possible as limited space will fill up quickly.

May Birthdays
5/01 Blake Taylor
5/02 Robert Witte
5/05 Cindy Wilson
5/07 Brady Hake
5/07 Emerson Hake
5/08 Kimberly Briede
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
5/20 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

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.

Grace Covington - Adams Central
McKenna Stahl - Adams Central
Payton Boyd - Bellmont
Rebecca Lee - Bellmont
Amberly Gutierrez - Indiana University
Rileigh Wolpert - Grace College
Children's Ministry Updates

It's May and the fun is continuing every Sunday morning! This month we are taking on "The Build Big" where kids will have a chance to put their building skills to use while they hear stories about how God used ordinary people to build the early Church.

Check out all the scriptures the kids have learned so far this year through our amazing Jumpstart3 music!

- Matthew 7:24
- Matthew 7:25
- Mark 12:30
- Romans 8:28
- Romans 10:9
- 1 Corinthians 16:13
- James 1:22
- 1 Peter 3:18
- 1 John 4:7
- John 3:16

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND STAY TUNED FOR MORE DETAILS ON VBS!!!

JULY 28TH - AUGUST 2ND
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with A Big Heart

To everyone who donated items for the Easter Baskets. We were able to fill 36 baskets. They were given to kids at the hospital and to Wednesday night meals.

We gave away 18 Prom dresses to kids at all three schools. Thanks to all for your continued support.

The Hope Chest Staff
Tana's Colorful Words

Yellow Room Highlighted

Two year olds start arriving at 7:00 a.m. with playtime until 7:30 when all go for a warm yummy breakfast. When finished helping hands put their plate and cup in the BIG kitchen window to be washed. Learning and developing small motor skills is fun with puzzles, finger play, and more. Language skills are encouraged through talking, singing, and sharing hugs while stories are read. Children also work at age appropriate, cooperative, independence, and playtime. On nice days 32° or warmer, out to the playground to run, holler, and enjoy God's wonderful world around us. Lunch, diaper change, and nap time follow. Each child crawls onto their cot with their blanket and pillow sleeping with low light and soft music while teachers sit with the children. After nap, snack, it is playtime with friends, and hopefully outside until parents arrive. Teacher, Dawn Brown has shared her smiles and hugs at KFCCM for 18 years. Her favorite part of the day is the kids climbing on her lap to cuddle and read a book. "I enjoy the one on one time with them." Dawn and husband Craig eagerly await their second grandchild in August. Dawn's greatest joy is time with her family and loves being a grandma!

Until the games come out again!
## May 2019

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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Connect - Grow - Serve

May 12

Happy Mother's Day

June 2