Fruitful Congregation Journey

"This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." John 15:8 NIV

How do we bring God glory? Jesus tells us it is by bearing much fruit, showing that we are his followers. Our congregation began a journey in 2012, The Fruitful Congregation Journey. This journey helps churches that are alive and vital in their communities become more fruitful by becoming focused on mission and vision, and by training churches to have faithful, committed followers of Jesus Christ. Our church committed to the journey in the spring of 2013, and will continue working with a coach through the spring of 2015. As a church, we accepted five prescriptions that we would focus on to help us become more fruitful, to become committed followers of Jesus, and ultimately to bring glory to God. Since my appointment in July of 2013 we have been training, focusing, and praying about how we live out our prescriptions. We will continue to focus on these prescriptions, but I wanted to give you some highlights of what has happened, what has been accomplished this year.

1. Unified Mission and Vision: We have adopted the UMC mission statement which is, We will make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Our team wanted to focus on making new disciples so we are focusing our ministries around how we reach new people for Christ. We also adopted a new vision statement: At First UMC, we will Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, Serve in Love as followers of Jesus. And, we have stated our core values: We are compassionate/caring, inclusive/welcoming/accepting, community focused, loving, forgiving, authentic, service oriented, and eager to grow in our relationship with Christ. These three things: mission, vision, and core values, help us to bring clarity and focus to our ministry. Before we say yes to anything we ask, “Does it help us make disciples of Jesus Christ, reach new people, help us Connect, Grow, Serve, and does it fit our values?”

2. Accountable Leadership Structure: this will be our focus in 2015. The staff and ministry leaders will discuss a new leadership structure that will free our people up to be in ministry instead of attending meetings. It will also help us to better focus on our mission and vision. The staff and ministry leaders will also set goals for 2015, planning together the ministry for 2015, and create Ministry Action Plans that will help keep our ministry focused so we can bear fruit.

3. Intentional Communication and Connection: We have new “temporary” signs throughout the church to help get people around better. These are still a work in progress, but are helping communicate where rooms are located in a better way. We have a new Communications team working to more effectively communicate within the congregation and in the community. We have a new website, www.firstumdecatur.org. Our new Hospitality Team has been busy recruiting new greeters and ushers. They also have a new coffee fellowship and system for following up with our guests. We will continue to be intentional in communications through our website, e-newsletters, and email updates.

4. Clear Discipleship Pathway: You will see in this newsletter that our Discipleship Pathway Task Force has been busy. There will be offerings for study groups in November and December, and we are introducing a new Life Groups ministry for you to meet in small groups for support, encouragement, and accountability. The task force is also conducting a survey to help them plan what time on Sunday morning is best to offer discipleship groups. You can take the survey online at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LQDQ3DB; it only takes three minutes to complete.
5. Improved Sunday Morning Experience: This is a work in progress, more than the others. Sunday mornings are mostly about worship, but there is so much that happens on Sunday morning from hospitality to communication, from praising God to learning about God. This prescription is about focusing us on giving those who come on Sundays the best experience of God’s presence from the time they enter the parking lot to the time they leave. Worship is the largest component of this prescription, but our focus is on the whole of Sunday morning. New Worship Planning Teams are being organized to help me plan worship experiences that inspire and bring us into an awareness of God’s presence. All for the purpose of living our mission and vision.

So why is all of this important? It is important because it helps us to be faithful and obedient to Christ. Jesus’ desire is for us to bear fruit, and I am convinced we cannot bear good fruit unless we are focused and working together. It takes all of us working together to accomplish the ministry God has called us to. I encourage you to think about your relationship with God and ask yourself honestly where you are bearing fruit and how you are bringing Him glory. Being a part of what our church is doing will help you grow closer to God, and it will help you bear good fruit. Being in worship each week will help you draw close to God and give you the opportunity to offer God your praise and gratitude for all He has done for you. Bearing fruit is not something we do on our own. We bear fruit by working together, supporting one another, and by making time for our spiritual needs. Please join me in prayer for our journey, and come be a part of it!

See you Sunday!
Pastor Amy

November will be the last time we mail everyone a newsletter. If your email address is on file, you will receive the newsletter in a PDF format. If you do not have email, you will receive the newsletter via first class mail if you live out of town. If you are a regular attender to worship, then you will be able to pick up a newsletter on the first of the month in the Church Office or at the Connection Center. If we don’t have your email address, please send it to office@firstumcdecatur.org if you wish to receive the newsletter electronically.
Thank You Notes . . .

To my Church Family,

Thank you for prayers for my mom, Verna Bolduc. She passed peacefully at home, and it was a blessing for me to be with her and my family.

With gratitude,

Deb Bolduc

Thank you for the cards, meals and prayers.

Bryce & Esther Miller

First United Congregation,

Thank you so much for the caring cover. The Caring Cover Ministry is a valuable comfort to those in need. Also, I am grateful for the cards and phone calls.

Much love,

Leah Thomas

Thank you for donating the ham for Ebony Ann’s celebration of life meal.

Beth Ann Fawcett

I would like to thank the members of First UMC for their kind words, prayers, cards and gifts in my recent accomplishment in making the National Honor Society and the Dean’s List.

Justin Sheets

I am so incredibly thankful for the ongoing partnership of this church with my ministry with the Jesus Film Project. God is using new digital technology to reach the world and He is using this congregation to participate in the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

Until all have heard,

Jennifer Sims

Decorating Church for Advent

We will decorate for Advent after church Sunday, November 23 through Saturday, November 29. If you would like to help call the Church Office at 724-3158 or Nancy Thompson at 724-9863.

November Birthdays

1st    Amy Covington
       Joe Hawkins
6th    Carol Pettibone
6th    Erik Hisner
6th    Justin Landis
7th    John Hopkins G.M.
8th    Jennifer Sims
9th    Cindy Heimann
       Betty Langhofer
       Kyle Snyder
10th   Mickey Friedt
       Emma Knaub
       Peggy Werling G.M.
11th   Nathan Brune
       Ryan Dotson
       Janine Felabom
       Faye Haggard
       May Moore
       Tammy Putteet
12th   Emma Littler
       Phyllis Ulman
13th   Nan Everett
14th   Ellen Basham
16th   Shanna Burgin
18th   Amberly Gutierrez
19th   Carol Cummings
22nd   Sarah Rash
       Betty Thieme G.M.
23rd   Lawrence Bradburn G.M.
       Ryan Bassett
       Karen Darling
       Joe Wolpert
26th   Jeremy Jones
28th   Mary Hefner
30th   Anita Sell
G.M.  - Golden Meadows

November Anniversaries

1st    Scott & Calynn Bassett
21st   Derek & Barb Jung
22nd   Ken & Deb Heyerly
29th   Ken & Mary Jean Meyer

Christmas Poinsettias/
Flower Garden Fund

If you would like to order a Christmas poinsettia or make a donation to the Flower Garden Fund “In Memory of” or “In Honor of”, please fill out the form below. Poinsettias are $14.00 each. After filling out the form, please return it to the offering plate or the Church office by Wednesday, November 26. A list of those who purchased a poinsettia or donated to the Flower Garden Fund will be in the bulletin Sunday, December 21.

Please check one:

_____ Poinsettia(s) How many
        red ______
        white ______
        (If you order poinsettias, you may pick them up after the Christmas Eve service or Sun., Dec. 28.)

_____ Flower Garden Fund
        (to help with summer outside flowers)
        I/We would like to donate ________.

In Memory of ____________________________
In Memory of ____________________________
In Honor of ______________________________
In Honor of ______________________________
Given by ________________________________
COME TO THE MANGER 2014

Saturday, December 6 (1 to 7 pm) and Sunday, December 7 (1 to 7 pm)

Thank you for participating in Come to the Manger! Things you need to know:

1. While we take every precaution to make sure the displays are kept safe and free from harm, we cannot assume to protect your nativity(s) from damage or theft. While it is extremely unlikely that either event will occur, we ask that you not display a nativity that is priceless and irreplaceable to you.

2. Set up is Friday, December 5 (10 am to 6 pm). Tables will be prepped the day before and the location for your nativity(s) will be marked with a display card. We request that you unpack and set up/display your nativity(s).

3. Tear down is Sunday, December 7, at 7 pm. We request that you take down and pack your nativity(s).

4. The display is open to the community, so invite all your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors, because *Grace, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is God’s gift to everyone!*

First United Methodist Church
502 West Monroe Street, Decatur, IN 46733
(260) 724-3158
Email: office@firstumcdecatur.org www.firstumcdecatur.org www.facebook.com/FUMC.Decatur

NAME: ________________________________________________________________

PHONE: __________________________________________________________________

To help us determine how much space to allocate on the display table, please advise:

SIZE OF NATIVITY __________________________ NUMBER OF PIECES IN NATIVITY ____________________

PLEASE SUBMIT A PHOTO OF YOUR NATIVITY with this form or email to office@firstumcdecatur.org or text to Bev Stuck at (260) 701-9830

PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR NATIVITY — anything unique about it, how old it is, how you acquired it, what it is made of, any interesting story about it or any special meaning to you. This will be included on the display card for your nativity.

________________________________________________________________________

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Meet Your Hope Chest Family

Meet Alissa Mountz, the newest member of the Hope Chest family. With our manager Tammy Smith moving away Alissa comes in to become our new assistant manager and Dot Vanhorn has moved up to become the new manager. Take sometime to visit the Hope Chest and welcome Alissa to the family.

Hi. My name is Alissa Mountz and I am married with three children. I attend Pleasant Dale Church of the Brethren. I enjoy working at the Hope Chest because it is a rewarding career where I can give back to the community and help those who need a helping hand.

The Christmas Jars will be displayed around town beginning Nov. 21st. Your support is always appreciated. Last year we helped 30 families have a happier Christmas. We pray we can help more this year.

Christmas Open House
Nov 21st 10 am-5 pm
Nov 22nd 10 am-3 pm

Happy Thanksgiving
The shop will be closed
Nov 27th and 28th
First United Methodist Church
Kid’s First CHILDLCARE
MINISTRIES
November 2014

Commit yourself to instruction, attune your ears to hear words of knowledge. Proverbs 23:12

Special Notes!!!
CLOSED
Thursday & Friday
November 27 & 28

Happy Birthday!!!
Chloe Uhrick,
Lydia Tuttle

November Children’s Humor
What’s the key to a great Thanksgiving dinner?
The Turkey!

Friendship Sing Along…A Fact

“Friendships, Friendships, what a perfect Friendship...” another song “What a Friend we have in Jesus...” oldies but goodies! What about a friendship from long ago? Or how about friendships connections at First UMC?

FRIENDSHIPS

At Kid’s First, we see friendships blossom with some lasting for years. These children are creating friendships that will last while attending Kid’s First. Their friendships may grow as they go to school or even beyond. Aware of 2 teenage boys whose friendship started at Kid’s First, at only 6 weeks of age still connect today as good friends. “How great thou art,” to have a lasting Friendship, especially with our creator.

And that’s a Fact

Tana, Got Her Out...

FRIENDS...We’re so thankful for those, who express their endless generosity! The children are learning during Chapel Time, from Ms. Annette and Pastor Amy, how God created the world that we’re so thankful for. We are grateful and give “Thanks” to those who are “Living Generously” around us. Recently, RH Warehouse contacted us to generously donate “Hope’s Playhouse” to Kid’s First Neighborhood Playground. It takes time, many helping hands, preparing the ground, move and set up the new playhouse for the children. Another generous surprise happened, someone placed a sign identifying Kid’s First Neighborhood Playground, Whoever donated? THANK YOU!!!! The bridge donated years ago by Harold Vanhorn, was in need of repair. Harold, to the rescue! THANK YOU!!! Also Bob Stuck & Jeff Sheets THANK YOU for repairing garage spouting! So many blessings the greatest, love thy neighbor showing FRIENDSHIP. THANK YOU, one and all!

Until the comes out again!
1 Chronicles 16:8 Oh, give thanks to the Lord; call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples!
1 Chronicles 16:34 Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever!
1 Chronicles 16:35 Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather and deliver us from among the nations, that we may give thanks to Your holy name and glory in Your praise.
Psalm 7:17 I will give to the Lord the thanks due to His righteousness, and I will sing praise to the name of the Lord, the Most High.
Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.
Psalm 26:6-7 I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
Psalm 50:23 The one who offers thanksgiving as his sacrifice glorifies me; to one who orders his way rightly I will show the salvation of God!"
Psalm 69:30 I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
Psalm 95:2 Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise!
Psalm 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His name!
Psalm 107:22 And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of His deeds in songs of joy!
Psalm 116:17 I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord.
Psalm 147:7 Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!
Isaiah 12:1 You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O Lord, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me.
Jeremiah 30:19 Out of them shall come songs of thanksgiving, and the voices of those who celebrate. I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will make them honored, and they shall not be small.
Jeremiah 33:11 Give thanks to the Lord of hosts, for the Lord is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!
Daniel 2:23 To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."
Amos 4:5 Offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving of that which is leavened, and proclaim freewill offerings, publish them; for so you love to do, O people of Israel!” declares the Lord God.
Jonah 2:9 But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to you; what I have vowed I will pay. Salvation belongs to the Lord!"
1 Corinthians 2:14 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,
2 Corinthians 4:15 For it is for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.
2 Corinthians 9:11 You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God.
1 Thessalonians 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
Ephesians 5:4 Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving.
Philippians 4:6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
Colossians 2:7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
Colossians 4:2 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving.
1 Timothy 4:4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.
Revelation 11:17 We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who are and who was, for you have taken your great power and begun to reign.
Revelation 7:12 "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."
October was full of blessings and fun for the MOPS mommas. Two of the mothers welcomed new babies into their families this month. Nicole Baker welcomed baby Henry and Sarah Jones welcomed baby Arya. One way we support each other on our mothering journeys is to take meals to a family a few times a week for 3 weeks while they settle in with a new baby. Kim Brune does a great job of organizing the meal schedules for us!

Laura August joined us for our first meeting in October and spoke about how to have “Courage to be Intentional” in our mothering and in our lives as we are open to what God may be calling us to do. We had lots of time to discuss some questions Laura had for us. It was beautiful to see moms sharing from their hearts through laughter and few tears.

Our second meeting had us all knee deep in craft supplies as we had “Courage to try something new.” Kris Nussbaum shared a devotion with us on that topic. Then, Mary Collier lead us in making fall wreaths. They all looked different but were all so beautiful. It really was a treat for us to take some time out to be creative. As always the conversations were good and mommas left feeling connected and encouraged.
## November 2014

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<th>Sun</th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>All Saints Sunday</td>
<td>3 (Pastor Amy out of office Nov. 3-4)</td>
<td>4 9 am-MOPS 7 pm-Charge Conference 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5 5 pm-Endowment Fund Committee 5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:15-Prayer in the Chapel</td>
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<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30-Worship 9:30-S.S. 5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>2 pm-Coffee with the Pastor 5-7 pm-Youth</td>
<td>10 (Pastor Amy out of office)</td>
<td>11 (Pastor Amy out of office) 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>12 5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:15-Prayer in the Chapel 6:15-Finance Committee</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30-Worship 9:30-Sunday School</td>
<td>17 5:15 pm-Staff Meeting 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>18 9 am-MOPS 7 pm-Administrative Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>19 5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:15-Prayer in the Chapel</td>
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<td>5-7 pm-Youth 5:30-7 pm-A Disciple’s Path</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10:30-Worship 9:30-S.S. 4-5:30 pm-A Disciple’s Path 5-7 pm-Youth, 6 pm-Community Thanksgiving Service at Grace Fellowship</td>
<td>24 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts &amp; Cub Scouts</td>
<td>25 6:30 pm-Golden Meadows Thanksgiving Service 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>26 27 Thanksgiving Day (Church office closed) 28 Thanksgiving Holiday (Church office closed)</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Advent 8:15 &amp; 10:30-Worship 9:30-Sunday School 5-7 pm-Youth 5:30-7 pm-A Disciple’s Path</td>
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November 2
All Saints Sunday

November 4
Charge Conference 7:00 pm

November 9
Coffee with the Pastor 2:00 pm

November 25
Golden Meadows Thanksgiving Service 6:30 pm