Increasing Gratitude

14 We do this because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us with Jesus, and he will bring us into his presence along with you. 15 All these things are for your benefit. As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God’s glory.

16 So we aren’t depressed. But even if our bodies are breaking down on the outside, the person that we are on the inside is being renewed every day. - 2 Corinthians 4:14-16 CEB

Even in the midst of so much strife in our world, we have much to be grateful for. Paul understood what a life lived in gratitude was. He was a man who was beaten, jailed, mocked, shipwrecked, and laughed at for what he believed and yet he was a man who was filled with gratitude. He was grateful to the believers in various churches who were supporting his ministry, the ministry of the Church of Jerusalem, and who were living out their faith in their own communities every day. Paul was grateful for the call God placed on his life to preach the Good News to the Gentiles, and he was grateful to live a life honoring God. As he shared with the Corinthians, we need to hear too: As grace increases to benefit more and more people, it will cause gratitude to increase, which results in God’s glory.

God’s grace is abundant and available to each of us. God has poured his grace out into our lives and he has given us his Spirit to guide and direct us as we seek to follow Jesus and be obedient to his call. When we mess up, God’s grace is available to set us back on a path that leads to him. When we fall short, God’s grace is enough to forgive us. Do our lives reflect this outpouring of grace? Do we live in gratitude? Do we speak truth and allow others to experience God’s grace in us? Do we offer random acts of kindness? Do we show others respect instead of impatience and frustration? We have the wonderful opportunity to help others experience grace and love in the midst of the strife the world offers. Paul knew this, and this is why he could proclaim that as grace increases gratitude will increase resulting in God’s glory.

So often I hear people say that what our world needs is God. We, Christians, followers of Jesus, are what the world needs. The world needs to see us living out our faith under the grace God has given us. The world needs to experience in us the love God has for us, so the world can be changed. God is what the world needs, and we need to look at our lives and see how it is that we are representing God. We have the power, because of God’s grace and the Holy Spirit at work in us, to make a difference in the lives of everyone we interact with. It is up to us to allow grace and gratitude to fill us and overflow from us, so the world can see God at work in the Church. How are you living a life of gratitude? How is gratitude increasing in your life resulting in God’s glory? I pray that this isn’t only a “holiday” way of life, but an everyday way of life for each of us.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
What's Taking Root: Look for the Serving Tree, Monroe Street entrance, become colorful with leaves of service. Choose a colored leaf from the basket, write a brief sentence how you served 175 minutes (3 hours), then place your leaf on the tree. The Serving Tree growing colorful will show our caring ways for others as we go forth making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Remember to post your leaf on the Serving Tree by the front entrance.

- One leaf represents 3 hours (175 minutes) of service
- Our goal is a total of 175 hours by Christmas
- List of suggestions for service available by tree if needed
Birthday Thank Yous

On October 16 we celebrated the 175th anniversary of our first appointed pastor.

Special thanks go to:

- 50 year + members who came to be recognized and stayed to share memories
- Clint Knaub for preparing the history and anniversary year PowerPoint
- Aaron Gower and Jason Brune for setting up the sound and projector
- Karen Stahl for the lovely decorations and cake

Memory Banner for November 6

The last 3 Sundays we have written on a memory banner names of church members who have impacted our Christian faith and made a difference in our lives. The Memory Banner will be lifted up on Sunday, November 6, when we celebrate All Saints Day.

Christmas Decorating

We will decorate for Christmas the week of November 20 (after church) through Saturday, November 26. Watch for more information on how you can help!!
175th Anniversary
Historical Notecards

- Set of 8 cards
- 4 designs (2 of each design)
- Good for gifts
- $5.00 a set
- Available... in church office during the week
  ... by the donut table on Sunday morning
Thank You Notes . . .
To my friends at First United Methodist Church,
Thank you for all the birthday cards and good wishes you
sent to me for my 90th birthday. I enjoyed them so much.
Also thank you for the flowers, cakes and apple fritters.
Enjoyed them all!

God bless you,
Mary Brune

I want to thank everyone for their prayers and cards. What
a blessing to have so many wonderful friends and two great
pastors, Harold Klinker and Amy Covington. I am so
blessed with family and friends here at First Church. Thank
you all again and God Bless you.

Wilma Pilkington

November Birthdays
11/01 Amy Covington
11/01 Joe Hawkins (18)
11/04 Michelle Colclasure
11/04 Carol Pettibone
11/05 Erik Hisner
11/06 Justin Landis
11/07 John Hopkins - G.M.
11/08 Jennifer Sims
11/09 Cindy Heimann
11/09 Betty Langohr
11/09 Kyle Snyder
11/10 Mickey Friedt
11/10 Emma Knaub (8)
11/10 Peggy Werling - G.M.
11/11 Nathan Brune
11/11 Ryan Dotson
11/11 Janine Felabom
11/11 Faye Haggard
11/11 May Moore
11/11 Tammy Putteet

November Anniversaries
11/01 Scott & Calynn Bassett
11/21 Derek & Barb Jung
11/22 Ken & Deb Heyerly
11/29 Ken & Mary Jean Meyer
Wisdom People October ended lunches for 2016! Mary Pilkington, shared she and Steve will be going on a mission trip to Santiago, Dominican Republic to assist with dental care. They would appreciate your financial support, good wishes, and prayers. Pastor Harold Klinker gave the Blessing.

Guest speaker Tammy Torson asked, “Where were you on 9-11?” Tammy, shared her personal experience of the day’s activities, friends, and memories that still remain with her. Employed as a permanent substitute at an elementary school, only miles from the Twin Towers. The tears, the fears, children’s parents that didn’t return, calling school children’s homes making sure they would not arrive to an empty home. The silence, dead silence!! No planes, no buses, no traffic, New York City and area quiet, SHUT DOWN! The smells of chemicals, fuel, fire, ash, and smoke lasted for a week. People’s sad faces, unspoken words, yet caring people helping, giving hugs, all uniting and saying our Pledge of Allegiance stating, “Under God loudly and with more feeling.” We still focus on the tragedy of the day but as Tammy stated, “Stay focused on those who perished and left their loved ones behind. Many of the loved ones have moved on making a new life, yet still remember that horrible day in our America history!”

This was the LAST 2016 luncheon, next lunch April 19, 2017 (yes 2017), until we meet again, May God Bless You and America too.

Mission Trip

Dear Church Family,
We have some exciting news and also a request. Steve and I have committed to go on a mission trip after the first part of the new year with a dental group headed by Barnabas Task.

We will be heading to the impoverished barrio of Cien Fuegos which is located near Santiago of the Dominican Republic. The people of Cien Fuegos are part of the remnants of a great fire that destroyed 100 homes several years ago. The land became a dumping ground for garbage. The people who live there use the dump for survival. “Buzos” as they are called, rummage for anything that they can use or sell. Children have been seen barefoot amongst the trash looking for something to play with. Some look for scraps of food. Many health problems are a result of the poor living conditions.

Our team will be focusing on dental care, educating on prevention of dental diseases and serving in any way we can while sharing the love of Christ.

It is our hope that we can receive the necessary funds to help offset much of the cost as we obey the call to serve the people of Cien Fuegos. Steve and I covet your prayers and if you can financially support us, please make your checks in any amount to Barnabas Task (leave the memo line blank) and mail by December 1, 2016 to Steve and Mary Pilkington, 1724 Fairway Drive, Decatur, IN 46733.

Thank you and God bless!
Steve & Mary Pilkington
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a
BIG HEART

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving
The Hope Chest will be closed on
November 24th and 25th to celebrate
Thanksgiving with our families.

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE
November 18th and 19th
Open on the 19th until 3pm. Stop in and
Enjoy shopping, specials, snacks and as
Always free coffee.

Christmas Jars will be placed in local stores
On Nov. 15th. Funds collected are given to
Families who are having financial difficulties
to help them have a nicer Christmas. Last year
We were able to help 25 families. Your support
With our projects are always appreciated.
Thank You. The Hope Chest Staff
Tana's Colorful Words

Being Thankful Means

November, the time of year when we hear the words “turkey,” “being thankful,” and then worry about preparing the turkey and having enough food. Caring and teaching your children the following question comes to mind. How do we teach children to be thankful? How does one recognize what being thankful means, at their young age? As we grow, we hear “Oh, there are so many things to be thankful for!” But have you taken the time to make a list of the so many things you’re thankful for?

Once I start to think about my thankful list, it becomes endless. A great joy and fulfillment to listen and watch the children and adults share their thankfulness. Being thankful is being glad. A feeling or expressing gratitude. Have you given thanks to God for what He has blessed you with? November suggestion, start a family “Thankful List,” put on your refrigerator, and watch it grow as everyone shares and learns what being thankful means.

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 5:20

Until the colors come out Again!
We’re having a Glow Party and you’re invited! Join the fun on Friday, November 4th from 6:30-8:30pm at First United Methodist 502 W. Monroe St. in Decatur. There will be snacks, games, and all things neon and glow in the dark, all fun, nothing scary. Invite friends and family!!!

Children and youth performance opportunity!

The children and youth will be putting on a Christmas play. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to get used to being in front of people in a safe and fun environment. What better way to equip them to step out of their comfort zones to share their faith in the future. Everyone will get a chance to wear a costume and sing as group. Speaking parts are also available.

The play will be on Sunday, December 11th at 10am.

Practices are going on now during Sundays 11:15am discipleship hour and will continue each Sunday between now and then. Contact Annette Gower or Jolie Lee if you’d like more info on how your child can participate.
November 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
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</table>
| 6   | All Saints Sunday  
   Daylight Savings Time Ends -  
   Fall Back, 8:15 & 10 am-  
   Worship, 9:15-Alpha & Omega  
   Discipleship Group  
   11:15-Discipleship Groups  
   5-7 pm-Youth | 7   | 6:30 pm-Disciple Bible Study  
   6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 8   | 2 pm-Bible Study  
   7 pm-A.A. | 9   | 5-6 pm-Community Meal | 10  | Pastor Amy out of office  
   7 pm-Life Group at Parsonage | 11  | 12 |
| 13  | 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
   9:15-Alpha & Omega  
   Discipleship Group  
   11:15-Discipleship Groups  
   5-7 pm-Youth | 14  | 6:30 pm-Disciple Bible Study  
   6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts  
   **Newsletter Deadline** | 15  | Pastor Amy out of office, 9 am-MamaTalk  
   2 pm-Bible Study  
   6 pm-Finance Committee  
   7 pm-Administrative Council, 7 pm-A.A. | 16  | 5-6 pm-Community Meal | 17  | 6:30 pm-Staff Parish Relations Committee | 18  | 10 am-5 pm-Hope Chest Christmas Open House | 19  | 10 am-3 pm-Hope Chest Christmas Open House |
| 20  | 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
   9:15-Alpha & Omega  
   Discipleship Group  
   11:15-Discipleship Groups  
   5-7 pm-Youth | 21  | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 22  | 2 pm-Bible Study  
   6:30 pm-Trustees  
   6:30 pm-Golden Meadows Thanksgiving Service  
   7 pm-A.A. | 23  | **Thanksgiving Day**  
   (Church office closed) | 24  | **Thanksgiving Holiday**  
   (Church office closed) | 25  | 26 |
| 27  | 1st Sunday of Advent  
   8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
   9:15-Alpha & Omega  
   Discipleship Group  
   11:15-Discipleship Groups  
   5-7 pm-Youth | 28  | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts & Cub Scouts | 29  | 7 pm-A.A. | 30  | 5-6 pm-Community Meal |
November 6
All Saints Sunday

November 22
Golden Meadows Thanksgiving Service 6:30 pm

November 27
First Sunday of Advent