Remaining in Christ

15 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper. He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit. 4 You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you. 5 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me. 6 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything. 7 If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned. 8 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and in this way prove that you are my disciples. —John 15:1-8, Common English Bible

This is one of my favorite passages of Scripture, and my favorite image of how we relate to Jesus. He calls us branches on his vine that is cared for by God the Father. We then become part of the life force of a tree that produces fruit that nourishes and feeds the Kingdom of God. What a great image for us to reflect on as we think about who we are and how we live out our faith daily!

Jesus desires for us to remain, or abide, in him for the purpose of bearing good fruit. We get to be in relationship with God in Jesus by remaining fruitful parts of the vine. How do we produce that fruit? We allow God to work in us to trim away sin and the desire to sin, and we allow God to replace that with the desire to grow and produce good in life; therefore, producing fruit to nourish the Kingdom. The Holy Spirit works with us to make this happen. We remain in Jesus by seeking daily to follow his commands and his example.

That leaves us with the question of how open are we to being trimmed? If we are to remain in Jesus, then we must allow the old, sinful desires to be cut away. What in your life needs trimming? We know that Jesus commands us to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength; and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. He also shows us the example of servant ministry. Where does your life align with these commands and example? How can you align yourself more tightly? To grow we must be honest with ourselves and allow the trimming to take place. I pray you have the courage and the open heart to allow God to work in your life for the purpose of remaining in Jesus and producing fruit for the Kingdom!

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.
21st Sunday after Pentecost
All Saint’s Sunday
November 3, 2019
8:15 & 10:00 am
Choosing to Abide
Luke 19:1-10

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 17, 2019
8:15 & 10:00 am
Shaped by the Reign
Isaiah 65:17-25

22nd Sunday after Pentecost
Veteran’s Sunday
November 10, 2019
8:15 & 10:00 am
The Spirit Abides
Haggai 1:15-2:9

Christ the King Sunday
November 24, 2019
8:15 & 10:00 am
Allegiance to the Reign
Colossians 1:11-20
November Birthdays
11/01 Joe Hawkins  
11/01 Amy Lee  
11/04 Carol Pettibone  
11/06 Abby Brune  
11/07 John Hopkins - G.M.  
11/08 Jennifer Sims  
11/09 Cindy Heimann  
11/09 Kyle Snyder  
11/10 Mickey Friedt  
11/10 Emma Knaub  
11/10 Peggy Werling - G.M.  
11/11 Ryan Dotson  
11/11 Faye Haggard  
11/11 May Moore  
11/11 Tammy Putteet  
11/12 Emma Littler  
11/12 Phylis Ulman  
11/13 Nan Everett  
11/16 Shanna Burgin  
11/16 Kacie Wallace  
11/18 Amberly Gutierrez  
11/19 Sarah Rash  
11/22 Lawrence Bradburn - G.M.  
11/23 Ryan Bassett  
11/23 Karen Darling  
11/23 Joe Wolpert  
11/24 Esther Kline  
11/26 Jeremy Jones  
11/28 Mary Hefner

G.M. - Golden Meadows

November Birthdays

Equip Leadership Conference/Charge Conference
Saturday, November 2:
9 am-1 pm Equip Leadership Conference
1:15-3:00 pm Charge Conference
Auburn First UMC

Thank You Notes...
Thanks to all of our church family for the prayers and cards. It was appreciated very much. We could feel the calmness of the Lord around me as I went into surgery and during healing. Thanks to Pastors Amy and Joe for the visits.
Darrell Valentine

Dear First Church Friends,
Thanks for all of your prayers, concerns and cards on the passing of my mother, Betty Zurcher. It was very much appreciated.
Janet Frauhiger

Thank you so much for going above what we expected and prayed for. We are very grateful for the wonderful people God has blessed us with. We will be able to get our building ready and be able to make it safe for our staff and patients.
God Bless You!
Unfailing Love Clinic

Daylight Saving Time Ends - November 3

Decorating for Christmas
This year the Advent season begins on Sunday, Dec. 1. We will have a week to complete the decorating from after worship service on Sunday, Nov. 24 through Saturday, Nov. 30. There will be different groups decorating different areas of the church. The areas are: Sanctuary Christmas tree, Sanctuary pews & windows, Sanctuary nativity scene, Narthex (lobby), Chapel, Outside nativity scene, North entry (elevator entry), Downtown flower pot. If you can help in any area, please call the church office or see Nancy Thompson. Thanks!
TIS THE SEASON TO FOCUS ON JESUS!

Join Us
Sunday, December 15

Christmas Skit at 10am
Agape Puppets at 6pm

There will be a parents' advent study happening during children's practices.
Could you plan to bake some cookies for our day of festivities?
Watch your email and the bulletin for more info coming soon!
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a Big Heart

We have had several large donations with lots of new items including warm coats and other winter items. Also, fall decorations for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Join us for Christmas open house to be held November 22nd and 23rd. We will have specials and snacks for you. Also, you can save lots of money by doing your Christmas shopping at The Hope Chest. Stop in for GREAT DEALS.

Thanks for your continued support.

The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words

This month we are highlighting Siearra Gaskill, who has been on staff since December 2018. Even though there is a classroom schedule, Siearra can arrive and be assigned to a different classroom, as she assists in all the classrooms. This gives Sierra the chance to know and be able to work with all the children attending KFCCM.

Siearra and her husband Joshua have two wonderful children. A 4 year old son, Oliver, and a 1 year old daughter named Coraline. Siearra, enjoys the continuing education classes, and uses her training at home raising their children. They have lived in Decatur for 7 years but return to Ohio for family visits.

Children instinctually know and choose to be close to those who express sharing and caring ways. Thank you Siearra for being you.

Until the come out again!

That's A Fact

My cup overflows with blessings. PSALM 23:5

Kids First Child Care Ministries Staff recently at Ivy Tech learning additional techniques for “Behavioral Problems with Stressed Children”.

Over the past several months we have highlighted a staff person and sharing their thoughts. Each staff person is truly dedicated to our children and their families. This dedication comes selflessly as they give up their Saturdays and evenings for continuing education. We all go to trainings and conferences to learn and stay on top of all the latest information for Childcare Ministry. Each employee must have 20 hours of Child Centered Education in addition to mandatory CPR, FIRST AIDE, BLOOD BORNE, CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT AWARENESS. We at KFCCM are dedicated and choose to care and love all God’s children!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>All Saints Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship&lt;br&gt;11:15-Discipleship Groups&lt;br&gt;5 pm-Youth&lt;br&gt;Daylight Saving Time ends - fall back</td>
<td><strong>4</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 pm-Faith 101&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</td>
<td><strong>5</strong>&lt;br&gt;Election Day&lt;br&gt;9 am-MamaTalk&lt;br&gt;7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td><strong>6</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves&lt;br&gt;6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope&lt;br&gt;7:30 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td><strong>7</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
<td><strong>2</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:00 am-1:00 pm-Equip Leadership Conference &amp; 1:15-3:00 pm-Charge Conference at Auburn First UMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong></td>
<td><strong>Veterans Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship&lt;br&gt;11:15-Discipleship Groups&lt;br&gt;5 pm-Youth</td>
<td><strong>11</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 pm-Faith 101&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</td>
<td><strong>12</strong>&lt;br&gt;7 pm-Vision Team&lt;br&gt;7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td><strong>13</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves&lt;br&gt;6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope&lt;br&gt;7:30 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td><strong>14</strong>&lt;br&gt;Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td><strong>15</strong>&lt;br&gt;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship&lt;br&gt;11:15-Discipleship Groups&lt;br&gt;5 pm-Youth</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pastor Amy out of office&lt;br&gt;6 pm-Faith 101&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</td>
<td><strong>19</strong>&lt;br&gt;9 am-MamaTalk&lt;br&gt;6 pm-Stewardship &amp; Finance Committee&lt;br&gt;7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td><strong>20</strong>&lt;br&gt;5:15 pm-Fishes &amp; Loaves&lt;br&gt;6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope&lt;br&gt;7:30 pm-Praise Team rehearsal</td>
<td><strong>21</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pastor Amy out of office</td>
<td><strong>22</strong>&lt;br&gt;10 am-5 pm-Hope Chest Christmas Open House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:15 &amp; 10:00-Worship&lt;br&gt;11:15-Discipleship Groups&lt;br&gt;5-7 pm-Youth, Nov. 24-30-Advent Decorating, 6 pm-Community Thanksgiving Worship-Grace Fellowship</strong></td>
<td><strong>25</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 pm-Faith 101&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts</td>
<td><strong>26</strong>&lt;br&gt;6:30 pm-Trustees&lt;br&gt;7 pm-Thanksgiving Service at Golden Meadows&lt;br&gt;7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td><strong>27</strong>&lt;br&gt;6 pm-A Better Life - - Brianna’s Hope</td>
<td><strong>28</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thanksgiving Day (Church office closed)</td>
<td><strong>29</strong>&lt;br&gt;Thanksgiving Holiday (Church office closed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
November 3
All Saints' Sunday

November 24
COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE
at Grace Fellowship
6:00 pm

November 26
7:00 pm
at Golden Meadows