Are you Dreaming a God-Sized Dream?

10-12 Jacob left Beersheba and went to Haran. He came to a certain place and camped for the night since the sun had set. He took one of the stones there, set it under his head and lay down to sleep. And he dreamed: A stairway was set on the ground and it reached all the way to the sky; angels of God were going up and going down on it. 13-15 Then God was right before him, saying, "I am God, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. I'm giving the ground on which you are sleeping to you and to your descendants. Your descendants will be as the dust of the Earth; they'll stretch from west to east and from north to south. All the families of the Earth will bless themselves in you and your descendants. Yes. I'll stay with you, I'll protect you wherever you go, and I'll bring you back to this very ground. I'll stick with you until I've done everything I promised you." 16-17 Jacob woke up from his sleep. He said, "God is in this place—truly. And I didn't even know it!" He was terrified. He whispered in awe, "Incredible. Wonderful. Holy. This is God's House. This is the Gate of Heaven."

Genesis 28:10-17 The Message

Jacob had a God-sized dream. God was at the top of a ladder and spoke to Jacob his mission to help keep the covenant promise God made to Abraham. Jacob woke from his dream and realized that God was with him and he wasn’t even aware of it. How many of us go through life unaware of God’s presence with us? And, if we are unaware of God’s presence with us, then how can we live out God’s mission or purpose for us each day?

When we look up from our routines, our phones, our feet, then we will see a whole world of possibility that awaits us to live into our purpose. We can see and feel God with us, and then we can ask ourselves, "What is it that God is calling me to do with the gifts He has given?" Each of us has a purpose in this life that, according to Rev. Michael Slaughter, honors God, blesses others, and brings us joy. We won’t know that purpose, or God-dream, if we are not paying attention. Jacob was different after he left Bethel, why? Because he understood that God was with him. Jacob understood that he had a purpose in life.

What is God calling you to do? To Be? How is God trying to get your attention? I pray that you are able to spend time with God in prayer; that you are able to take time to pay attention to what is happening around you so that you can experience God’s presence in places you might not have thought to see him. I pray that you are able to know your purpose and then live into it fully. It is a great gift to the world and to your own life when you are living as the person God created you to be!

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.
Administrative Council  

Present: Pastor Amy Covington, LeAnna Noble, Joe Wolpert, Clint Knaub, Frank Montgomery, Jo Bollinger, Annette Gower, Aaron Gower

1. Opening: Shared recent God sightings  
   Prayer & Communion: Pastor Amy

2. Approved Minutes: July 2017 minutes, LeAnna Noble motioned, Aaron Gower seconded, approved by all

3. Financial Report: Aaron Gower shared the Conference tithe is paid through August and all other bills are paid. The finance team is working towards offering an online giving option. Giving toward UMCOR has been set aside in a restricted account to be used for buckets or sent directly asap.

4. New Custodian Hired: Pastor Amy shared that Shannon Irwin joined us on paid staff the last week of August.

5. Report on Intergenerational Ministry: Annette Gower shared “The Church’s Got Talent” summer children’s curriculum has been a huge success with 19 different adults participating.

6. Membership Letters & Postcards: Pastor Amy shared 250 postcards have been sent with 130 still being outstanding. A plan will hopefully be worked out on how to follow-up with those still outstanding.

7. Missions: LeAnna shared that Fishes & Loaves has served 1,722 meals in 3 months. We will be joining with St. Mark’s UMC to do a Cereal Sunday, 4 times a year, to support their food pantry which always seems to be short on cereal. The next collection dates will be Sundays, October 15th & December 17th.

8. Suggested New Scholarship Committee: Joe Wolpert proposed a new scholarship/committee be formed to offer scholarships to those individuals choosing to attend Christian Colleges. 9 of the 26 Christian Colleges in Indiana offer matching scholarships, frequently up to $500, for those who receive scholarships from their churches. After much discussion is was decided to table the idea until the October meeting with more information to be collected in the meantime.

9. Youth: Clint Knaub shared he will be working toward building an Adult team to serve in Youth Ministry. Please contact him with names or if personally interested.

Closing Prayer: Pastor Amy
October Birthdays
10/04 Jevan Brickley
10/04 Kora Lutes
10/06 Carter Covington
10/06 Grant Gutierrez
10/07 Taya Bollinger
10/09 Renee Cole
10/09 Ken Meyer
10/09 Jim Pollock
10/10 Kedric Freds - G.M.
10/10 Maggie Hawkins
10/13 McKenna Stahl
10/13 Bev Stuck
10/15 Maureen Busse
10/16 Grace Covington
10/16 Larry Myers - G.M.
10/16 Isaac Porter
10/17 Jennifer Piper
10/18 Gerald Kline
10/19 John Bolinger - G.M.
10/20 Callie Friedt
10/20 Adam Reed
10/21 Brandy Knaub
10/24 Mike Braun - G.M.
10/24 Ashley Piper
10/26 Mercedes Kaehr
10/27 Mike Snyder
10/28 Jessica Grant
10/29 Carly Gilbert
10/29 Christopher Jones
10/29 Jim Price
10/30 Sue Baumann
10/31 Terry Smith

G.M. - Golden Meadows

October Anniversaries
10/01 Waveland & Heide Howe
10/06 Don & Karen Tricker
10/15 Blake & Denise Taylor
10/20 Mike & Connie Snyder
10/21 Trevor & Nikki Callahan
10/23 Kevin & Nan Cook
10/23 Carl & Linn Fore
10/28 Doug & Cindy Rieth
10/29 Jeff & Rhonda McIntosh
10/31 David & Faye Haggard

Open Forum on Alzheimer’s and Dementia for “Double Blessings Ministry” And Congregation
A unique opportunity for members of First UMC and Double Blessings Ministries in Decatur coming October 10. Lori Stock, Director and Care Consultant with the Alzheimer’s Greater Indiana Chapter will speak in the Church Lounge, Tuesday, October 10 at 3:30 pm. Anyone interested in Dementia and Alzheimer’s is invited to attend, ask questions and receive materials on this timely health matter. All Double Blessings volunteers are encouraged to attend as new visiting assignments will be handed out. Please call the Church office so we can have enough space for everyone. Please call Pastor Joe Andrews (260-704-3030) if you have further questions.

50 Year Member Recognition October 29
Last year as part of our church’s 175th anniversary celebration we honored all our 50 year members. The longest membership was 83 years. This year during the 10:00 worship service on Sunday, October 29, we will honor members who have become 50 year members in 2017.
Cereal Sunday. It’s Coming...

We are partnering with the St. Mark's Food Pantry by providing cereal in October and December.

October 15 we will collect cereal and pray over the cereal brought in. We will collect again for December 17.

You can bring your cereal in the weeks of October 15 and December 17. If you have any questions, please see LeAnna Noble.
The Hope Chest
The Little Shop with a Big Heart

Fall is here and winter is just around the corner. We are taking fall and winter items and yes, even coats and hats. We received more school supplies and underwear from the Salem United Church of Christ. If you know of anyone who may need help, please let us know. Call the store at 724-9774.

Bake Sale Oct. 27. We would appreciate any baked item you would like to donate for the sale.

Thanks for all of your support.
The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words
Let’s Explore Letters and Numbers

The building blocks for learning to read and understanding math are letters and numbers. Recognition of letters and their sounds helps us to understand how words are formed.

Reading alphabet books together such as: Dr. Seuss “ABC” or “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom” by Bill Martin Jr. & John Archambault can help. Letter books feature each letter, with words, pictures, and letter sounds. As you read, have your child think of other words that begin with each letter or sound. Have fun at home looking for printed words. Also when traveling find letters on STOP or other signs, restaurants, or street signs. Seeing letters helps with reading. Number recognition, is realizing that each number stands for a quantity. Singing songs with numbers in their lyrics helps children practice counting. Songs like “This Old Man” or “Five Little Monkeys.” While singing hold up the correct number of fingers showing the quantity for each number. It’s fun learning to count as you walk together around your home or outside. Count the steps up and down, count plates, cups, spoons, and forks when setting the table.

Be creative “I Spy” game can help your child stop, look, and find letters and numbers in their world, they’re everywhere! Learning to explore letters and numbers can be the first steps to early education!

Until the come out again!

That’s A Fact
Stay Informed

A frequent question asked when parents are picking up their child is: “How were they today?”

Then as parent and child leave, their shared conversation of what happened during the day or what is to happen that evening, begins. Getting good information, or staying connected can and does help all of us, stay informed!

Here at KFCCM, we always enjoy talking with each parent and child. It is good for each teacher to be aware, as children can and do react differently to family happenings. Children can get excited, overreact, become quiet, and sometime be in their “own” world. Whatever is shared is shared in confidence.

Child, Parent, and Teacher connections are very important at all times. Helping parents daily, is one of our concerns. Today’s technology helps make it easier, parents can check their e-mails! Also the Blackboard Messages by the sign in/sign out sheet. The “Information Board” at each classroom door helps with an awareness of children’s daily activities and happenings in the classroom. Facebook postings share children’s fun on the playground, classroom activities, even meal and snack time. Yep, staying in touch and informed helps us all stay informed!
ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE 2ND ANNUAL FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

TRUNK OR TREAT

DURING CITY WIDE TRICK OR TREAT ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31ST FROM 6-8PM
502 W. MONROE ST. IN DECATUR

There are lots of ways to support this event! Check out the list in the church lobby or contact Annette Gower at gowercrew@gmail.com
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| 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
11:15-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth  
5:30-Dare to Dream Study @ Parsonage | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts  
6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study in Lounge | 9 am-MamaTalk  
3:30 pm-Bible Study  
5:30 pm-Staff Meeting  
7 pm-Missions Team  
7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope | 6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study @ Polings | | |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
11:15-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth  
5:30-Dare to Dream Study @ Parsonage | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study in Lounge, 7 pm-Worship Design Team in Library | 3:30 pm-Double Blessings  
7 pm-Lay Leadership/ Nominations  
7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope | 6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study @ Polings | | |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| Cereal Sunday  
8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
11:15-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth  
5:30-Dare to Dream Study @ Parsonage | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts  
6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study in Lounge | 9 am-MamaTalk  
3:30 pm-Bible Study  
6 pm-Finance Committee  
7 pm-Ad Council  
7 pm-A.A.  
**Newsletter Deadline** | 12 pm-Wisdom People at The Galley  
5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope | 6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study @ Polings | | |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
11:15-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth | 6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts  
6:30 pm-Dare to Dream Study in Lounge | 3:30 pm-Bible Study  
6:30 pm-Trustees  
7 pm-A.A. | 5 pm-Fishes & Loaves  
6 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna’s Hope | | | |
| 29  | 30  | 31  | | | | |
| 8:15 & 10 am-Worship  
11:15-Discipleship Groups  
5 pm-Youth | | | | | | |
| 30  | | | | | | |