The Joy of Giving

One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law? Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." Matthew 22:35-40 NIV

God has given us so much; His son's life, His unconditional love, His mercy and His grace. What does He ask for in return? That we give cheerfully with hearts of gratitude for all God has given us. Jesus reminded the people that the first and greatest commandment for God's people was to love God with everything we have; heart, soul, mind, and strength. He added that we are to love others, our neighbors, as we love ourselves. This is what God asks of us, and a question I ask myself is, "How am I doing loving God and others?" Another question I ask is, "Am I giving all I have joyfully?" Our Stewardship Focus this month is The Joy of Giving. What are we trying to accomplish? We hope to inspire each person in our congregation to answer the question, "Am I a cheerful giver?" with testimonies of how giving time, talent, and treasure with a joyful heart has been transforming for those in our midst.

Life is busy, and it is easy for our hearts to be distracted by the demands we face. Each of us has so many blessings, but often our attitudes are less than grateful. It is my sincere hope that this series prompts us to take an inventory of the blessings God has entrusted to each of us. As we do, I hope we will be inspired with a new awareness of the goodness of God and have a change of heart when it comes to giving. At the end of the series, on November 1, we will give you the opportunity to share how you have been impacted and what commitments you will make in regards to service, prayer, finances, and presence in worship and small groups. What an opportunity for our church family to celebrate the joy we experience in giving! Will you join me in praying that God will prepare our hearts to hear His message of transforming generosity? And will you commit to coming each week?

At First UMC, we want to be faithful stewards of all that God has given us. We want to empower you to use all of your resources to show your love for Christ, because He loved you with everything He had first. I hope that you will be open to the impact The Joy of Giving can have on you and your family. I am excited about what God is doing in our midst. It is a privilege to serve as your pastor and to hear the stories of how God is at work. Please continue to ask God to open your hearts to His work, that you might be awakened to His presence every moment. May God use you and our ministry to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Amy
THIS IS THE DAY
Sat., Oct 3

Sign up on Sunday or email Pastor Amy, revcovington@gmail.com, to serve in a variety ways.

- Golden Meadows Carpet Project
- Encouragement Cards
- Laundry Mat prayer and pay for laundry
- Projects on the grounds of North Adams Schools
Administrative Council  

September 15, 2015

Present: Pastor Amy Covington, Bev Stuck, Roger Thompson, Lowell Martin, Aaron Gower, Frank Montgomery, Mike Snyder, Nancy Thompson

1. Pastor Amy led us in devotions in the chapel. “Inspire, teach, and lead up and over the next hill”. This is the role of the pastor and leaders. There are always changes and this is a continuous process. We can enjoy and celebrate on top of the hill for a time but must go back down to deal with the everyday challenges in helping us grow and become closer to Christ. Pastor then served communion.

2. Minutes of previous meeting will stand.

3. Treasurer: Lowell reported that we will be able to pay another month’s tithe to the conference but we are behind on our giving to support the budget.

4. Children’s Ministry: Aaron reported for Annette that there has been a drop off in attendance during discipleship time. There was a good turnout and discussion during the Family Ministry meeting on Sunday. The parents expressed a desire to have a mentoring couple to help them grow in their Christian lives and service. They liked the idea of LIFE groups and longer term Bible studies. With the implementation of these ideas there would be a need for more people to help with children’s discipleship.

5. Evangelism: There is a need for someone to coordinate the coffee and donut time as Katie Gent is leaving that position. There is need to evaluate the time we start serving. If there aren’t enough volunteers we will not be able to continue this service.

6. Missions: The coin offering has worked well. August gave $302 for Imagine No Malaria. September’s offering will go to Fishes and Loaves. October 3 will be “This Is The Day”, the countywide service day for all United Methodist Churches. Our church will host the card writing. We have 1,000 cards to sign to encourage all our public service officials in Adams County. There are other projects at schools, Golden Meadows, and laundromats. We need people to sign up on the board in the narthex.

7. Worship: The team will meet this week.

8. Hope Chest: Lowell said all is going well. We had very successful sales on Saturday sidewalk day during the Kekionga Festival. Lowell needs to find a new Ipad for credit card sales due to having to add a chip for fraud protection.

9. Other business: Frank reported the closing on the Cross Creek property should be Wed., Sept. 16. Nancy encouraged everyone to write a devotional for our 175th “Share Your Story” devotional book. They need to be turned in to the office by the end of September.

10. Pastor Amy closed with prayer.
BRING CHANGE FOR MISSIONS

This month we are collecting loose change for Jennifer Sims, missionary with The JESUS Film Project. Jennifer is a member of our church who is serving with CRU, Campus Crusade for Christ, helping to share the Good News throughout the world.

You can bring your loose coins each week and put them in the offering plate, or you can bring them in once a month, either way they will be collected and added to all other coins for the month. Thank you in advance for BRINGING CHANGE FOR MISSIONS!
Thank You Notes...
Thank you for the prayers and cards during my recent surgery. God Bless.

Mary Call

To: First United Methodist Church of Decatur
I love my wrap. I will use it every day. Prayers to everyone.

Teresa Nussbaum

Thanks so much for the beautiful afghan. It goes to bed with me every night. Thanks for thinking of me.

Juanita Myers

Thanks to our wonderful church family who stepped up to the plate to put on another successful Peach Festival. We cleared $1,000 which will be used for Fishes & Loaves Wednesday night free community meal.

Wisdom People
The Wisdom People will be gathering at Richard’s on Tuesday, October 20 at 12:00 noon. Tana Sheets will be the guest speaker.

CHARGE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 22 AT 7 PM
AT FIRST CHURCH

October Birthdays
10/02 Kim Hart
10/02 Cheryl Hisner
10/04 Jevan Brickley (5)
10/04 Kora Lutes
10/06 Carter Covington (11)
10/06 Grant Gutierrez (17)
10/07 Tanya Bollinger

10/09 Renee Cole
10/09 Ken Meyer
10/09 Jim Pollock
10/10 Kedric Freds - G.M.
10/10 Maggie Hawkins
10/10 Shane Hisner
10/13 McKenna Stahl (15)
10/13 Bev Stuck
10/15 Maureen Busse
10/16 Grace Covington (15)
10/16 Larry Myers - G.M.
10/16 Isaac Porter
10/17 Jenifer Piper
10/18 Jerry 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
10/26 Britney Landis
10/27 Tammy Smith
10/27 Mike Snyder
10/28 Jessica Grant
10/29 Carly Gilbert (10)
10/29 Christopher Jones
10/29 Jim Price
10/30 Sue Baumann
10/31 Craig Landis
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
We are excited about the devotions, God-sightings, and personal encounters that have been received for the devotional, "Share Your Story", that we are publishing for our 175th anniversary. There is still room for more and others would be blessed to hear your story. Please turn them in to the office, Bev Stuck, or Nancy Thompson.

175th Anniversary commemorative shirts will be available to order in November and delivered in time for Christmas. Any Question, See Mike and Carol Pettibone.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 10, 2016**, when **Bishop Mike Coyner** will be with us.
THE HOPE CHEST
The Little Shop With A Big Heart

We still have school supplies left. If you know of any family who needs help, please let us know by calling the store at 724-9774.

Customer Appreciation Day

Bake Sale October 30th. We would appreciate any baked item you would Like to donate for the sale.

Fall is here, winter around the corner, Kids need hats and gloves. Please help us keep kids warm by donating these items.

Thanks for all your support.
The Hope Chest Staff
TANA'S COLORFUL WORDS!
Number & Math — Learning Center Information

Adults use Numbers & Math daily. Young children are curious and eager to learn new things! They too will be using numbers daily, This Learning Center shows numbers used in measuring, counting, comparing bigger and smaller. Children will experience several of the following skills:

- Uses large and small muscles
- Sort and compare objects (e.g. more than, less than, and same)
- Following directions
- Reproduce simple patterns
- Engage in conversation
- Motor control and balance
- Learn space, concepts, and shapes
- Practice self-direction in use of materials
- Increase vocabulary
- Solve differences in peaceful manner

Take a LOOK, numbers are everywhere! Alarm clock, television, recipes, speedometer, road signs, calculators, phones, $$ $$ $$, just a few. If we had no concept of Numbers & Math, where would we be? Got cha thinking?

&&&&&&&&&&&&

REMINDER: Mandatory Parent Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2015 7:00 to 8:00 pm
Parents, need child care? Contact Tana by Nov. 16th

Until the come out again!

THAT'S A FACT!

Words have meaning, define, and can impact our lives. We will be covering for a few months, in this space a few defining words children need in their lives. Words we as child care providers use. This month's words start with letters A & C.

ACHIEVEMENT - Children have the need to say, "I can do it!" They need to be able to get the feeling of satisfaction that comes from doing something important.

ACTIVITY - Children have the need for movement. You cannot stifle this! They need to have both mental and physical activity or you will have very bored children!

APPROVAL - Children have the need to know they can do things right and they are accepted and supported by you.

CHRISTIAN - Children need to understand we are all believers and followers of Jesus Christ, as loving caring people.

CONFIDENCE - Children have the need to know that it's Okay to try. Even though it may not come out the way it was planned, it's all right.

Lord make me and mold me into the person You want me to be.

THAT'S A FACT!
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST
502 West Monroe Street
Decatur, Indiana 46733
Phone: 260-724-3158
Web Site: www.firstumcdecatur.org
Email: office@firstumcdecatur.org
Senior Pastor: Amy Covington
Visitation Pastor: Harold Klinker
Children’s Ministry: Annette Gower
Youth Director: Chris Covington
Administrative Assistant: Janet Faulkner
Music Coordinator: Judy Martin
Small Group Coordinator: Mike Snyder
Kid’s First Child Care Director: Tama Sheets
Hope Chest Manager: Dot Vanhorn

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world
CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

OCTOBER 2015

November 1

October 3

All Saints’ Day