“If a man has a hundred sheep but one of the sheep gets lost, he will leave the other ninety-nine on the hill and go to look for the lost sheep. I tell you the truth, if he finds it he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that were never lost. In the same way, your Father in heaven does not want any of these little children to be lost.”

Matthew 18:12-14 (NCV)

More often than we care to admit, we get caught in the trap of “doing church” or “having church” and we forget that we are called to “be the church.” When we’re inside the walls having church, we can easily forget about the brokenness happening right outside the doors. We are so blessed to have a building right in the heart of our city. There are so many unchurched families all around our building. Of course, Jesus himself said it best in Matthew 9:37, “Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few.’” I often look out the windows of our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings and see all the children going by. I pray for them and their parents too. Then, I pray for us, “How do you want us to reach them Lord?” I know you’ve prayed the same thing.

In the past 12 months, the Lord has provided more opportunities to reach our neighbors with His love than ever before. Let’s do a recap of what’s happened just this past 3 months...

We planned a fun series this summer called, The Church’s Got Talent and boy did you ever show up to serve for that as 17 different people helped over 12 weeks! 40 different children joined us this summer and saw how important intergenerational teaching and fellowship is. Thanks for loving the children like that.

We encouraged families to spend time this summer reading the entire book of Mark together during what we called, The Summer Family Bible Reading Challenge. 27 different children earned full-sized cans of Crazy Aaron’s Thinking Putty for completing the challenge! Great job getting into the word together families and daycare staff!

VBS was here before we knew it and we didn’t just do one, or two but we had our hand in 3 of those this year. 32 different children from our childcare ministry learned about how they could be heroes for God in our Kid’s First edition VBS. Followed by 94 different children who learned the same thing during our evening outreach 2 weeks later. You fed over 90 people dinner each night that week. You donated over $1000 to support those 2 weeks and over 50 people served in various ways. Neighbors poured out of their houses to see what was happening when they saw all the bounce houses. We showed them God’s love. You also financially supported over 30 children from the Boys and Girls club who learned about Christ during a Christmas in July themed morning VBS, put on as a team effort of several churches. Pastor Joe even showed up as Saint Nick. One young girl shared with me that her family didn’t go to church and I had the opportunity to tell her how much God loves her and her family and that they were always welcome. A hodge-podge of 10+ people from “the church” shared God’s love that morning.

We learned that church can happen anywhere and we met outside on the lot. 2 handfuls of those precious neighbor kids showed up to worship God with us. My favorite moment was when I heard a 3 year-old tell her brother to be quiet because, “they’re talking about Jesus!”

We truly were “being the church” to the next generation during this past year and it’s overwhelming to think how much the Lord has loved us and how much of an honor it is to get to serve him in all these ways. Let’s keep being the church and going after those lost sheep. And let’s rejoice because what we’re doing matters for the Kingdom!

See you Sunday!

Annette Gower, Director of Children’s Ministry

“LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME TO ME, AND DO NOT HINDER THEM, FOR THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE.”

MATTHEW 19:14
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
September Birthdays
9/01 Debbie Bolduc
9/03 Carolyn Baumgartner
9/03 Grady Johnson
9/03 Judy Martin
9/05 Hailey Brune
9/05 Erin Gilbert
9/06 Delanie Foley
9/07 Doris Jones
9/08 Dee Friedt
9/09 Tom Gase
9/09 Ron Hill
9/10 Ann Andrews
9/10 Doris Sheets
9/11 Carl Fore
9/13 Jolie Lee
9/14 Juan Gutierrez
9/14 Kevin Porter
9/15 John Clark V
9/16 Mary Brune
9/16 David Haggard
9/16 Rick Minich
9/16 Ryan Wolfe
9/18 Ivan Howe
9/18 Kelley Miller
9/19 Penny Hinsky
9/19 Kinley Martin
9/20 Dan Piper
9/21 Avery Kaehr
9/22 Sommer Hake
9/22 Karra Irwin
9/22 Corey Pilkington
9/22 Steve Pilkington
9/23 Alyssa Cook
9/23 Audrey Cowens
9/23 Janet Fraughiger
9/24 Elaine Plew
9/24 Cooper Wolfe
9/26 Ainsley Pickens
9/27 Gwendolyn Pettibone
9/28 Sandy Collier
9/30 Clint Knaub
9/30 Steve Smith

September Anniversaries
9/01 Sam & Shanna Burgin
9/05 Harold & Ginny Vanhorn
9/08 Gerald & Esther Kline
9/11 Ron & Janet Fraughiger
9/13 Dan & Mary Piper
9/16 Curt & Amy Witte
9/21 Marshall & Allison Davis
9/22 Luke & Michelle Harvey

Wisdom People
The Wisdom People will be meeting on Wednesday, September 20 at 12:00 noon at The Galley. Come join us.

Thank You Notes...
First United Methodist Church,
Thank you so much for all of the wonderful baby items and the adorable quilt. We truly appreciate your generosity, as well as everybody’s thoughts and prayers as we welcomed Gavin into our family.

Sincerely,
The McVay Family

To My Friends,
Thank you so much for continuing to pray for me during this time of treatments and decisions. I finished chemo the end of June. My side effects were minimal. I have numbness in my fingers and toes - but I can function fine and maybe it will improve. I started this journey in Aug. 2016. One year later God helped me make the decision to refuse radiation. Now I am healthy and happy. God is good and ready to help us through the bumps in life if you just ask. Thank you for your kindness and the cards.

God bless each of you,
Joyce Schnitz
September & October Worship & Discipleship Focus for the Entire Church

Sunday mornings September 10 - October 15
8:15 and 10:00 am Worship Celebrations

Discipleship Groups

Sundays @ 5:30 pm @ the Parsonage (1016 Twin Lakes Dr)
led by Pastor Amy

Mondays @ 6:30 pm in the Church Lounge
led by Penny Hinsky starting September 16

Thursdays @ 6:30 pm @ Chad & Mandy Poling's (205 South St, Monroe)
led by Derek Vrablic
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP WITH
A BIG HEART

August was a very busy month for The Hope Chest. School started, end of vacations and the sidewalk sale. We had several donations from customers and received two large donations of athletic shoes from Three River’s Running Co. The staff was busy baking cookies for our Walking Taco’s at the Sidewalk sale.

Thanks to everyone who support or help us at the store.

The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words
Happy Eating

Research shows if children skip breakfast their attention span and class time can be affected. A nutritious breakfast either at home or at school is really important. We at Kid’s First follow the state guidelines for all our meals. The cereals, pop tarts, fruit bars, etc., must be low sugar and whole grain. Lunch must be served with milk and water, a vegetable, a fruit, a grain and a protein. Juices must be 100% fruit juice with NO added sugar or high fructose. Children at Kid’s First get the opportunity to choose between fresh, frozen, and canned fruit. They also have the ability to choose between cooked or fresh vegetables, at lunch time. New vegetables and fruits are introduced like Brussel sprouts, asparagus, red beets, kiwi, sweet cherries, honey dew, etc., for the children to try and enjoy. The children are also allowed to make their own choices as to which condiment they would like on a sandwich and dip for veggies or chicken nuggets. By allowing each child to choose their serving, meal time is more pleasant, calm, and happy eating.

Until the come out again!
First United Methodist Church  
Decatur, Indiana

Tuesday Afternoon Group

Mike has accepted a role with the Manchester Community Schools in North Manchester, Indiana. Part of the agreement is that Mike may leave the district at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, except the second Tuesday of the month. THEREFORE, Mike is proposing to continue the Tuesday Afternoon group and beginning at 3:30 p.m. It is hoped that you can still attend the Tuesday Afternoon Study.

First Day Back: **Tuesday, September 5th at 3:30 p.m.**  
*We would not meet on September 12th; however, we would be back together on September 19th.*

Topic: The group will first finish Revelations and then select a direction by the choice of the group.
<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>3</td>
<td><strong>Labor Day</strong> Church office closed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship</td>
<td>3:30 pm-Bible Study 5 pm-Staff Meeting 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna's Hope</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Dare to Dream @ Polings thru Thursday, October 12</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:15 &amp; 10 am-Worship, 11:15 am-Discipleship Groups, 5 pm-Youth, 5:30-Dare to Dream @ Parish until Sunday, October 15</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts 6:30 pm-Pastor Prayer Group</td>
<td>7 pm-Missions Team 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna's Hope</td>
<td>5 pm-Endowment Committee</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sept. 18-19-Pastor Amy out of office</td>
<td>9 am-MamaTalk 3:30 pm-Bible Study 6 pm-Finance Committee 7 pm-Ad Council 7 pm-A.A.</td>
<td>12 pm-Wisdom People at The Galley 5-6 pm-Community Meal 6:30 pm-A Better Life -- Brianna's Hope</td>
<td>Newsletter Deadline</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

DARE TO DREAM

Church-Wide Focus Beginning September 10