God’s Story is Our Story

4 Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. 6 These words that I am commanding you today must always be on your minds. 7 Recite them to your children. Talk about them when you are sitting around your house and when you are out and about, when you are lying down and when you are getting up. 8 Tie them on your hand as a sign. They should be on your forehead as a symbol. 9 Write them on your house’s doorframes and on your city’s gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 CEB

God chose the nation of Israel to be His people; to worship and serve Him, and to point other nations to Him. From the time of the Fall, God has been at work to bring about the salvation and redemption of creation, all of creation. This story of salvation is not only the story of God at work thousands of years ago through a people that we read about in the Bible; but this story is THE story that is alive today. It is OUR story. God continues to bring salvation and redemption to His creation, and God continues choosing to use His people to worship and serve Him, and to point other people and nations to Him. God’s story is our story. It is a story to be shared, a story to be told, a story to be lived each day.

We know that as the nation of Israel was being led out of slavery and into the land of promise, God gave many commands for how they were to live and worship. The greatest command given to them, one that Jesus claimed and reiterated for the people of his day, is what the Jewish people call the Shema. It is Deuteronomy 6:4-5: 4 Israel, listen! Our God is the Lord! Only the Lord! 5 Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your strength. This command was to be what guided the people, what gave purpose to their daily lives, and what kept them grounded in God. Notice what Moses tells them after giving the command: these words must always be on the minds of the people, they are to recite them to their children, talk about them while sitting around and when they are out and about, in every part of life. They are to put physical reminders on their bodies and around their homes so they don’t forget the words of God. The story of salvation, the commands of God, the story of their people is to be shared, passed on to the generations, talked about at home and at work. The story of God’s redeeming work and love is not to be kept to themselves. And, neither are we to keep it to ourselves. Our story inspires others, it helps others see how God is at work in the world today, in the simple, ordinary parts of life and in the miraculous parts of life. People need to hear our story and we need to share our story.

This month in worship we will look at the stories of God’s people from the Old Testament and the New Testament; stories that are witnesses to the power of God at work in people’s lives. I hope these stories inspire us to tell our own stories of how God has been, is, and will be at work in our lives today. What can we learn from Ruth and Naomi? From Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? From the disciples and Steven? And how can we tell our stories, how God has saved us, delivered us, been present for us, loved us, so that others will hear and know the love of God? We are to pass our stories on, our faith is not just a story, but it is life. How do we share that with others? Join us in worship in September to walk the journey together as we Love to Tell the Story.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Amy
BRING CHANGE FOR MISSIONS

This month we are collecting loose change for Fishes and Loaves. Each month a new mission agency/ministry will be the recipient of our coins.

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!
Present: Bev Stuck, Helen Walters, Mike Pettibone, Scott Porter, Frank Montgomery, Lowell Martin, Annette Gower, Clint Knaub, Roger and Nancy Thompson, Pastor Amy Covington.

1. The meeting opened in the chapel with devotions and communion. Pastor Amy presented a new way to structure our meetings into 3 sections of Loving, Learning, and Leading. For devotions (the Loving section) Pastor Amy focused on James 1: 17-27 and the need for us to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to grow angry.

2. In the Learning section Annette reported that a 3 day Bible School was offered to the Kids First Children in the morning in addition to our nightly VBS. Frank said our facility was well cared for this summer. Pastor Amy spoke about our core values which were determined by the visioning committee last year. We are — Compassionate/ Caring

   Inclusive/Welcoming/ Accepting
   Community Focused
   Loving
   Forgiving
   Authentic
   Service Oriented
   Eager to grow in our relationship with Christ

3. Leading  We discussed ways to make known these core values, e.g., a “core value of the week” in the bulletin and banners with the mission, vision and core values.
Pastor Amy reported from the joint meeting off discipleship, worship, and fruitful congregation journey teams. Discussion was held regarding junior church for children 2nd grade and younger during the 9:30 service, ways to give more opportunities for discipleship, how to encourage more participation in discipleship, and ways to communicate the reasons for the schedule change.
Nominations — the group discussed the need to communicate our vision and mission to people when we ask them into leadership positions as some are not attending the Ad Council meetings. Pastor Amy and Mike will work on ways to communicate with committee chairs the importance of attendance.
Mike said that he and Frank and Karen Stahl will meet to do a facility study.
Pastor Amy reported that she and our church did not receive the renewal grant. Mike said we could work on providing some time for her on our own.
Clint Knaub reported that Kris Hawkins will take over the custodial position at the end of September and that she and Deb are working together for a smooth transition.
Pastor Amy stated that Scott and Shelley are developing prayer teams to pray for our church and its ministries for 30 minutes every week or two.
Scott talked about the Adams County United Methodist Work Day on Oct. 3. Some of the activities will entail work at Northwest Elementary and Golden Meadows, writing letters of encouragement, and ministering at laundromats.

Pastor Amy closed with prayer.
New prayer opportunity - Intentional, regular prayer for our church as we live our vision, mission and ministries

Meet twice a month to pray (approximate time commitment 30 minutes per meeting):

- In general, for our Pastors, Leadership, Ministries and Church Family as we “Connect, Grow and Serve” (our vision) in our mission “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
- Specific prayer requests from Pastors, Leadership and Ministries – for example... youth and children’s ministries at the start of the new school year, stewardship focus this fall, budget shortfalls or surpluses, endowment grant decisions, nominations committee, staff parish decisions, our discipleship pathway, etc.

Possible meeting times (circle the time(s) that work best for you or suggest your best time):

Sunday morning before early service (7:30 am)  Sunday morning between services (8:30 am)
Monday night 6:30 pm  Tuesday afternoon before Bible Study (1:15 pm)
Tuesday night 6:30 pm  Wednesday afternoon before Fishes & Loaves (3:30 pm)
Wednesday night after Fishes & Loaves (6:30 pm)  Other ____________________________

Name ____________________________ Phone ____________________________ Email ____________________________

(questions? Contact Scott Porter 433-1453 sdporter@formulaboats.com or Shelley Porter 223-1903 sjporter@formulaboats.com)

Opportunities to pray for all our prayer requests and over our weekly Prayer Guide from our church family and community

Wednesday Night Chapel 6:30 pm
Join Pastor Harold and Pastor Amy and pray over all the requests

Email Prayer Chain
If you wish to receive prayer requests by email, please share your email with the church office office@firstumcdecatur.org or Pastor Amy revcovington@gmail.com. As prayer requests come in, you will be contacted by email to pray.

Phone Prayer Chain
If you wish to receive prayer requests by phone, please share your phone number with the church office 724-3158 or with Nancy Thompson 724-9863 or 260 450-0371 (mobile). As prayer requests come in, you will be contacted by phone to pray.
Thank You Notes...
To our First United Methodist Church Family:
Thank you so much for all the prayers and cards. The calls
and visits from Pastor Harold and Pastor Amy. During the
past 3 years our daughter, Penny was battling cancer. She
is in God’s hands now.

In God’s Love,
Harold, Ginny Vanhorn & Family

Dear Friends,
Thank you for visitations from the pastors and people of the
church. Thanks for all the cards sent to me.
Esther Miller

From the Custodian’s Closet:
I want to thank you for the past three years providing work,
challenges and opportunities to learn to be a better
Christian. There’s an old saying that I think is fitting for
my profession, “It’s not that you spilled the milk, but how
you clean it up”. So many times I do “spill the milk”, and
I’m still learning to clean it up.
I have had many good days here at First UMC, and I will
miss some aspects of cleaning, but when God calls me to
another place, I must go.
Your friendships, kind words, and love in Christ have
inspired me, and lessons I have learned will stay with me to
my next calling.
I know you will treat your next Custodian as graciously as
you have treated me, and maybe he or she will be blessed
by serving you as I have been.

With Love in Christ,
Debbie Bolduc

Wisdom People
The Wisdom People will be gathering at Richard’s on
Tuesday, September 15 at 12:00 noon. Ken Meyer will be
the guest speaker.

“Garage Sale!!! Closet Clean-out!!!”
Items for sale with proceeds to the flower fund.
- Snow blower
- Lawnmower-as is / for parts
- Trellis
- Planters and other miscellaneous items
Contact Penny Hinsky for details at 223-1848 or by email
pennyhinsky@gmail.com.

Wanted: shade plants for church gardens.
Hostas
Ferns
Contact Penny Hinsky at 223-1848 or by email
pennyhinsky@gmail.com.

September Birthdays
9/01 Debbie Bolduc
9/03 Carolyn Baumgartner
9/03 Grady Johnson (1)
9/03 Judy Martin
9/04 Pat Briege II
9/05 Hailey Brune (6)
9/05 Erin Gilbert
9/06 Delanie Foley
9/06 Olivia Smith (15)
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
9/14 Carrie Sheets
9/15 John Clark V
9/16 Mary Brune
9/16 David Haggard
9/16 Rick Minnich
9/16 Ryan Wolfe
9/18 Ivan Howe
9/18 Kelley Miller
9/19 Penny Hinsky
9/19 Kinley Martin (7)
9/20 Dan Piper
9/22 Sommer Hake
9/22 Karra Irwin
9/22 Doug Marbaugh
9/22 Cory Pilkinson
9/22 Steve Pilkinson
9/23 Alyssa Cook
9/23 Audrey Cowens
9/23 Janet Frauhiger
9/24 Elaine Plew
9/24 Cooper Wolfe (3)
9/26 Phyllis Seitz
9/27 Gwen Pettibone
9/28 Sandy Collier
9/30 Clint Knabb
9/30 Steve Smith

September Anniversaries
9/01 Sam & Shanna Burgin
9/03 Ron & Tammy Putteet
9/05 Harold & Ginny Vanhorn
9/07 Harold & Joy Klinker
9/07 Doug & June Marbaugh
9/08 Gerald & Esther Kline
9/11 Ron & Janet Frauhiger
9/13 Dan & Mary Piper
9/15 Pat & Luann Briege
9/16 Curt & Amy Witte
9/21 Marshall & Allison Davis
9/22 Luke & Michelle Harvey

Devotional for 175th Celebration
I am excited about the devotional our 175th team is organ-
izing for 2016! I know it may sound daunting for you to
write a 300 word devotional, but all you have to do is share
a story of how God has moved in your life, or where you
have seen God move in the world. I know many of you
read The Upper Room. Those writers are everyday people
of faith, just like you, who decided to write down a moment
in life where God moved. Maybe you have a favorite pas-
sage of Scripture and you want to share that with the rest of
us. Sharing the passage and why it is meaningful to you
is the devotional. I am working on my submissions
for the devotional, and I hope that you, will take some time
to write one or two of your own. What a powerful way to
encourage one another, to support one another, and to learn
a little more about one another. The deadline is Septem-
ber 18, and I pray we have a whole bunch of stories to share!!
Pastor Amy
What we're learning...

During the month of September we'll be finishing up our learning from What's in the Bible? Volume 7: Exile and Return! [Ezra, Nehemiah & Esther] and how they fit into God's big rescue plan for us. Then, we'll start learning from Volume 8: Words to Make Us Wise, help for making wise choices [Psalms, Proverbs & The Writings].

So much to learn, so little time!

Fun! Fun! Fun!

September 12th is National Chocolate Milk Shake Day!

Oh, we are so totally celebrating that one during the Discipleship Hour with the kids!!!

Mark your calendars and plan on bringing your kids down to the God's Zoo room to enjoy chocolate milk shakes while we fellowship and talk about Psalm 119:103, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

Opportunities to serve!

Are you interested in serving in our children's ministry?
Contact Annette Gower at gowercrew@gmail.com or 724-6067

We can always use more help! If you love working with children and sharing the love of Jesus this is the place for you to serve.

Have a great idea for a children's ministry event? Interested in organizing an activity or helping plan one? I'd love to hear about it!
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP WITH A BIG HEART

August was a very busy month for The Hope Chest. The end of vacations, school starting and the Kekionga Festival.

A big Thank You to everyone who helped with giving supplies for the backpacks. We also received a large donation of new clothes and school supplies from Salem United Church of Christ to help families in our community. Just in August, we have helped 70 families, so these items are really appreciated.

September 18 we will celebrate customer appreciation day. Refreshments will be served. Stop in and check out all the new fall items.

Thanks to everyone for your continued support.
The Hope Chest Staff
TANA’S COLORFUL WORDS!
Learning Center Information

Our Second center to highlight is: Dramatic Play Center. It’s fun to learn when young children get to use their own senses and experiences. By using this play area the children will develop their skills in, oral language, colors, food groups, role-playing, pre-reading skills, eye-hand coordination, buttoning, zipping, writing, sorting, and matching. This will also assist their learning in life skills.

- Demonstrating an interest in exploring.
- Using small and large motor skills to complete a task.
- Respecting the rights and feelings of others.
- Sharing with others.
- Taking turns.
- Communication and cooperation with peers.
- Pretend and creative thinking skills.
- Problem-solving.
- Exhibiting confidence in growing abilities.
- Showing curiosity with a desire to learn.
- Making good choices.
- Learning practical daily life skills.

As an adult do you remember “playing dress up” or your children wearing mom’s shoes, daddy’s tie, grandma’s apron, grandpa’s hat? Pretending to fix supper, with mud and grass, or a pretend tea party? Playing a Policeman, Doctor, Teacher, Banker, Artist or Minister? A child’s play is important, for child’s play may become reality when the child grows up and becomes a caring and sharing adult. Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6

Until the chickens come out again!

THAT’S A FACT!!

The Pocket Parent by: Dr. Burton L. White, Ph.D.

My child will not listen to me! What do I do?
Almost all children and some adults from time to time demonstrate selective hearing. Children don’t do well with long, rational explanations. Logic, simply isn’t important to them, so keep it “short and sweet” when giving your child instructions, rules, requests, and explanations. Set the tone by acknowledging their feelings and letting them know you value their opinions and you are trying to see their perspective on things.

When talking to your child about something important, make sure you have the child’s full attention by not having distractions around (television, other children, or if child is tired or hungry) Realize your choice of words and volume you use when trying to get your child’s attention and cooperation. Get near your child down to their level. State clearly and specifically what you would like your child to do. Rely on “I” statements to get your point across. (I need you to pick up your toys.) Avoid starting your sentence with the three “red flag words” “IF,” “YOU”, “WHY”. “IF” is threatening; “You” signals an attack on their character, and “Why” demands that a child explain themselves, when they rarely can. Break tasks into smaller steps; Get your point across with few words. (I NEED, YOUR Shoes, ON NOW!) Once the shoes are on get down at the child’s level and say thank you, I know you wanted to go outside without shoes, but it is safer with your shoes on!

Role model your communication skills, with adults around you remember, even while playing children are listening!

Love the Lord your God, Listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life. Deuteronomy 30:20
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First United Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe Street
Decatur, IN 46733

Phone:
260-724-3158

Web Site:
www.firstumdecatur.org

Email:
office@firstumdecatur.org

Senior Pastor:
Amy Covington

Visitation Pastor:
Harold Klinker

Children’s Ministry:
Annette Gower

Youth Director:
Chris Covington

Administrative Assistant:
Janet Fraughier

Music Coordinator:
Judy Martin

Small Group Coordinator:
Mike Snyder

Kid’s First Child Care Director:
Tana Sheets

Hope Chest Manager:
Dot Vanhorn

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation of the world

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, October 3
This is the Day—Adams County United in Service County-wide Mission Day

Sundays, October 4-25
Sunday morning worship: The Joy of Giving

Sunday, November 1
Celebration Sunday with Ministry Fair and Church-wide Luncheon