Sharing the Good News

14-15 Jesus returned to Galilee powerful in the Spirit. News that he was back spread through the countryside. He taught in their meeting places to everyone’s acclaim and pleasure.

16-21 He came to Nazareth where he had been reared. As he always did on the Sabbath, he went to the meeting place. When he stood up to read, he was handed the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll, he found the place where it was written,

God’s Spirit is on me; he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor,
Sent me to announce pardon to prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, To set the burdened and battered free, to announce, “This is God’s year to act!” Luke 4:14-21 The Message

This Isaiah-prophested sermon came to life in Galilee the moment Jesus started preaching. He picked up where John left off: “Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.” Matthew 4:17 The Message

What does it mean when we say we are sharing the Good News? Well, first we have to define Good News. In the Bible it refers to the Kingdom of God coming in Jesus. Look at the prophecy from Isaiah that Jesus said was made true in him—he’s chosen me to preach the Message of good news to the poor. That good news was that Jesus was in the world to announce God’s Kingdom was near, was at hand, was on its way. After Jesus was baptized and tempted by the devil he went to Galilee and preached, “Repent, for the Kingdom is near.” I love Eugene Peterson’s paraphrase above, Change your life. God’s Kingdom is here. So often we think the Good News is only about saving people, getting them into heaven, and therefore, it is a scary thought to share the Good News. Well, yes, we want people to experience salvation, but we also want them to know that Jesus can make their lives different now. Change your life. God’s kingdom is here.

I think we have to get ourselves out of the way first. Now, we do share our experience of Jesus—how he made our lives different. But it is not about us. It is about God and the power of God’s Spirit to create change in us. We share what Jesus is doing in our midst, we share how our lives are different because of who Jesus is, and the Spirit works in the other to move them closer to God and accepting Jesus and the salvation he brings. The Good News is that God is here right now and wants to be a part of our lives. God made that very clear in putting on flesh and walking the earth. He gave up that life in a painful way to show us the depth of his love, and he desires to forgive us and restore us in the resurrection, bringing salvation. This is Good News!!!

I pray you spend some time thinking about the difference Jesus has made in your life. I also pray that you will find ways to share that Good News with others so they can experience God’s love and the difference God wants to make in their lives. Sharing the Good News is not scary, but joyful and life-giving. Go share it with someone today!!!!

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
United Methodist Churches of Indiana

May 25, 2018

Dear Friends:

I am writing to thank you for your faithful payment of your 2017 tithes and district askings. According to our records, you are one of 575 churches which tithed at or above the 90% level! Thank you!

Because of your faithfulness, lives are saved, miracles are multiplied and our witness is shared locally and globally.

Because of your faithfulness, the budget of the Annual Conference is supported, our denomination's shared ministries are supported, and the necessary underpinning has been provided for all of the additional mission giving, Advance Special, special offerings, and related efforts which depend upon our connectional structure.

Because of your faithfulness to tithing, a young child was able to make her first public commitment to Christ through our camping program, a pastor's spouse was able to be treated for a life-threatening disease without experiencing catastrophic financial drain, and a college student received guidance from a university chaplain. Along with these ministries you have enabled your church to be connected to people in need around the world.

Thank you for your generous giving in the past, and thank you for your faithfulness this year in meeting your obligations and opportunities for ministry. In recognition of your faithfulness, I am enclosing a special recognition that I hope you will post and share with your congregation.

May God continue to bless you with generous hearts and with abundant resources to share.

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

JCT/ejm

301 Pennsylvania Parkway, Suite 300 | Indianapolis, IN 46280
Phone: 317.924.1321 | Fax: 317.735.4228 | INUMC.ORG
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 Minnick
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 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
9/26 Ainsley Pickens
9/26 Phyllis Seitz
9/27 Gwen 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 Frauhiger
9/13 Dan & Mary Piper
9/16 Curt & Amy Witte
9/21 Marshall & Allison Davis
9/22 Luke & Michelle Harvey

Thank You Notes...
Dear First UMC Family,
Thank you so very much for your kindness and support to me and my family over this past year. Your prayers were answered during this difficult season in our lives. Thank you for your faithfulness. We are truly thankful for the Lord’s goodness and provision. While we certainly do not desire to repeat the experience any time soon, we are grateful for the many ways in which our faith was stretched and strengthened. I look forward to sharing our story with you.

In Christ,
Cam Collier

Decatur First UMC:
We apologize for the delay in getting our gratitude out to you. Your prayer shawl is placed in the corner of Michaela’s bedroom for whenever we want to sit and remember her. We were so grateful when Allen delivered such a beautiful gift to us.

The family of Michaela Adam

Thank you for helping us & other people when you deliver the Wednesday night meals. May God Bless all of you.
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Alverson

Missions Sunday coming
October 21
Kara Mankey - guest speaker
On Sunday, October 21, we will hold a Missions Sunday here at First Church. Kara Mankey, founder and director of the Unfailing Love Clinic, located on 11th St. in Decatur, will be speaking at both services. She will share with us how God's vision for the donation-based medical clinic has directed and changed her life. You will not want to miss Kara’s clear and honest message of her walk with Jesus.
After the 10:00 service, we will have a congregational dinner in the Fellowship Hall. During the meal time there will be table displays sharing information about our various missions as well as the Unfailing Love Clinic. You will not want to miss this informational and inspirational day!
Praise the Lord! God really showed up this summer and did amazing work in the lives of my team and I as well as the East Asian college students that we got to become good friends with! Thank you so much for your prayers and support while I was away. There is so much power in your prayers and I was blessed in seeing the Lord’s faithfulness as He answered prayers so fully and deeply.

I was blessed with an absolutely amazing group of 20 people who made up our team. It was sweet to get to do ministry together and encourage one another through it. Getting to experience the Lord in such a new way together, created an environment of trust and support among our team and resulted in sweet memories and praises as well as life-long friendships.

My eyes were opened to the vision and strategy that the Lord has for reaching the nations. My heart was grown for the culture and the people of East Asia. My East Asian friends were truly some of the most generous, selfless people I have ever met. And while they were constantly giving me gifts, it felt like the biggest privilege to be able to return that favor by offering them the best gift there is: the good news of the Gospel. While there were times when I felt like I didn’t have the right words to say, or the language barrier was too strong, the Holy Spirit was constantly leading all of the conversations I had with my East Asian friends.

The environment of living in East Asia and doing full time ministry, allowed for so much growth in knowledge of myself and the Lord. God is strategic. He doesn’t need us, but welcome us to be a part of his plans. He is most glorified when we are most satisfied in him. He is faithful even in my doubt. He delights in our weakness, as he uses us in it to magnify his own strength and ability. He answers prayers fully, specifically, and deeply. And he is so much bigger than we can ever know!

To sum up my experience, I’d say that it truly felt like a privilege in every way. I can say with full confidence that the Lord is at work in the world and I encourage you to keep praying for East Asia and the work he is doing in the hearts of his people. Thanks again for your obedience to take the gospel to the nations. He will give you great joy in it!

maggie myrice
THE HOPE CHEST
THE LITTLE SHOP WITH A
BIG HEART

August was a very busy month for The Hope Chest. We had several large donations from customers and also received two large donations of athletic shoes from Three Rivers Running Co. just in time for the start of school. Salem United Church of Christ also donated a large supply of school supplies and clothes. A BIG THANK YOU to them and everyone for your support.

The Hope Chest Staff
Tana’s Colorful Words

Changes = New Happenings

Changes like starting school can be unsettling for some. To help children feel secure and react better prepare them for new happenings.

- Tell them about a schedule change ahead of time. You might say, “Tomorrow, you will be picked up from school by Sally, because I’m working late.” Give several reminders. Mention the reminder again, the next day.

- For challenging situations, like a dental visit or new sibling, knowing what to expect will smooth the way. Let your child play dentist with a stuffed animal “patient,” or read a library book about dental visits or welcoming a new baby or whatever the situation.

- Sharing information with your youngster’s teacher is also important. You might send a note about seasonal allergies or any other possible concerns your child might have. Information like this helps their teacher get to know your child better. Also keeps the lines of communication open and creating a partnership with your child’s learning.

“When winds of change blow, some people build walls and others build windmills.” Chinese Proverb

Until the CRAYONS come out again!

It’s A Fact

Cheerful Goodbyes

It’s normal for your little one (and you) to have some separation anxiety. Set a positive tone for their day (and yours) with an upbeat goodbye routine. For instance, invent a secret handshake that ends with a hug. Or give a high five, saying, “See you later, alligator.” To their reply “After while, crocodile.” You could even make up your own rhyme using different animals. Being creative can make “Goodbyes” easier, fun, and cheerful.

We’re excited, KFCCM continues to grow.
We’re HAPPY to introduce new friends joining others in the Nursery.

- Lucy Glenn
- Kamden Lithicum
- Alana Melcher
- Cameron Bollenbacher

That’s A Fact
That’s A Fact
When:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
9:00am – 11:00am
Starts Tuesday, Sept. 18th, 2018

Where:
First United
Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe Street, Decatur

Sign Up in the west parking lot of
1st United Methodist Church
August 7th 9:00 am-11:00 am or
August 21st 9:00 am-11:00 am
Raining?
Pull under North awning of
church.
Registration is $40 with
scholarships available.

It's a play date for moms!
Come join us!
RSVP required for childcare
during meetings.

For more information contact:
Michelle: 260-223-9584
or
Message:
MamaTalk of Decatur on Facebook

MamaTalk is a place where moms can go for
fun, grow their faith, and develop new and
lasting friendships; all in an inviting
atmosphere.

Do you need...

✓ A place to come—just as you are—and unwind, while
your children are cared for in a childcare program?

✓ Encouragement, inspiration, and guidance during this
crazy, yet critical stage of motherhood?

✓ Information that is practical and relevant to the life of
a mother?

Volunteer Opportunities!

Even if you are not a mother of a preschooler, we're
looking for individuals interested in helping MamaTalk.
Would you like to share your talents as a childcare
helper, speaker, or assist in some other way?

Please, contact us!
Volunteers Needed

... to love, hold and care for children in a church nursery setting one or two mornings a month.

MamaTalk is a place where moms can go for fun, grow their faith, and develop new and lasting friendships; all in an inviting atmosphere.

Our childcare program is an invaluable ministry to attending moms.

When MamaTalk meets:
1st & 3rd Tuesdays
9:00 am - 11:00 am
Starts September 18th, 2018

Where:
First United Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe Street
Decatur, Indiana

Contact Michelle at 260-223-9584
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<td>9:15 am-Alpha &amp; Omega</td>
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<td>3 pm-Bible Study</td>
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<td>5 pm-Endowment Grants</td>
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<td>11:15 am-Discipleship Groups</td>
<td>6:30 pm-Boy Scouts and Cub</td>
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Return Service Requested

September

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

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

Faith 101
Small group Bible Study asking and discussing tough questions.
Mondays @ 6:00 pm

Methodism 101
Sermon series beginning
September 23