Discipleship

Mark 12:29-34 (CEB)

Jesus replied, ‘The most important one is Israel, listen! Our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You will love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these.’ The legal expert said to him, ‘Well said, Teacher. You have truthfully said that God is one and there is no other besides him. And to love God with all of the heart, a full understanding, and all of one’s strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself is much more important than all kinds of entirely burned offerings and sacrifices.’ When Jesus saw that he had answered with wisdom, he said to him, ‘You aren’t far from God’s kingdom.’

Next to worship, discipleship is central to our relationship with God. We gather together for worship to give praise to God and seek God’s guidance for living daily. In discipleship we focus on what we do daily to enter into God’s presence and the means by which we grow closer to God. A question to ask is, “what is a disciple?” In A Disciples’ Path, Deepening Your Relationship with Christ and the Church, Rev. Jim Harnish defines a disciple as, “a follower of Jesus whose life is centering on loving God and loving others.” p 16 (Daily Workbook) This definition comes from the Mark passage above, and our Wesleyan understanding of it. Jesus told his followers that they were to love God with everything and to love their neighbors as they love themselves. This was not a new concept for the Jewish followers of Jesus. The first half of this commandment is from Deuteronomy, and is called The Shema. This was Israel’s rule of thumb for loving God. Throughout the laws in Deuteronomy and Leviticus the Jews were called to love others, to care for the stranger, the poor, the widow and orphan, and to welcome those outside the faith into their communities. So, this idea of following God was not new. The problem is it wasn’t always followed. Those interpreting the laws moved away from simply loving God and loving others, and tacked many other laws to what it meant to be a follower of YHWH. Jesus reminded his followers, and reminds us, that to be a follower of God we need to do two things, Love God and Love Others. For John Wesley it was simple, “The love which our Lord requires in all his followers, is the love of God and man;--of God, for his own, and of man, for God’s sake.” A Disciple’s Path, Daily Workbook, p 16.

So, how do we love God? To love God with heart, mind, soul, and strength, we must spend time with God. Bible Study, Prayer, worship, devotion, all are ways we spend time with God. Study is an important piece to discipleship. Being a part of a small group or a Bible study group or a class studying the teachings of the Church, are all ways we can grow closer to God and grow as a disciple of Christ. We will begin having regular small group studies throughout the year. We will start with Living Generously this month as we focus on what God desires of us. I pray that you will sign up for a group, and spend five weeks growing closer to one another and to God. You will hear more about discipleship over the next few months. My deepest desire is that all of us will participate in small groups, studies, and in growing closer to God. I believe this will help us live into our vision: At First UMC Decatur, we Connect in Community, Grow in Faith, and Serve in Love as followers of Jesus Christ. Please join me in praying for our group leaders, our Discipleship Task Force, and our entire congregation as we move forward in discipleship, as we deepen our relationship with God. Next month we will focus on how we love others.

See you Sunday!

Pastor Amy
Family Time

September 18th is National Rice Krispy Treat Day! What a great excuse to whip up a batch. Keeping in mind that we are called to talk about the Bible with our kids as often as we can let's use something simple like these treats to teach a Bible lesson. Here's a few stories and ideas to inspire you.

Rice Krispy tablets:

The 10 Commandments—Exodus 20

1. You shall have no other gods before me.
2. You shall not make for yourself an idol.
3. You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
4. Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
5. Honor your father and your mother.
6. You shall not murder.
7. You shall not commit adultery.
8. You shall not steal.
9. You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
10. You shall not covet...

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.” Deuteronomy 6:6-9

Bricks:

The tower of Babel—Genesis 11:1-9
Joshua and the walls of Jericho—Joshua 6
Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem—book of Nehemiah
The wise and foolish builders—Matthew 7:24-27

This month we’re wrapping up our study of primeval history (in case your kiddos haven’t told you yet, primeval means “the first age”). We’ll be reviewing, Noah, the Tower of Babel, free will, sin and how God really wants to be in relationship with us.

And they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth.” Genesis 11:4
12 Hour Prayer Vigil

To prepare for the upcoming series “Living Generously” there will be a prayer vigil on Wed., Sept. 17, from 7 A.M. to 7 P.M. The focus of the vigil will be three fold: praying for needs on our prayer list, praying for our hearts to be open to God’s message of Living generously, praying for our congregation to commit to be in worship from Sept. 21 thru Oct. 26. Please sign up for a 20 minute slot on the poster in the narthex or behind the chapel. The chapel will be open for prayer or you may pray wherever you are.

In the next few weeks you will be seeing and hearing about the Living Generously journey we will be taking this fall. This series includes weekly videos, related sermons and small group participation.

In this series, you will follow the Donovan family as they take risks, experience suffering, doubt and joy. Moreover, you’ll see what happens when this family chooses to embrace a generous life in the midst of uncertainty. And like them, you will be invited into a transformational process.

These sessions are not about rules for giving. They aren’t going to give you a checklist or a dollar amount. This study is not about our wallets, but our hearts.

COME TO THE MANGER (NEW TIMES)

As a special gift to our Church Family and the community, we will once again host COME TO THE MANGER, a collection of nativity scenes displayed in our Family Life Center. This beautiful and reflective start to the Advent Season will be held Saturday, December 6 (1 to 7 pm) and Sunday, December 7 (1 to 7 pm) to coincide with the Adams County Historical Museum Christmas Walk. If you would like to display a nativity, forms are available in the newsletter, in the Church Office, at the Connection Center, and on our website www.firstumcdecatur.org (under events). A freewill offering of food and paper goods will be taken for the St. Mark’s and Monroe UMC food pantries, as well as Decatur Operation Help food pantry. Anyone interested in helping with this event may contact Bev Stuck, Shelley Porter or the church office.
Yummy!!!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tuesday, September 16 at 12:00 the Wisdom People are going to have an ice cream social / game time in the Family Life Center at the Church. Please bring a sack lunch for yourself after which we will have the ice cream. If you like, you may bring your favorite card or board game for a fun time together. Please come and have a good time!!

Thank You Peach Festival Workers

Much Appreciation goes out to everyone who helped make the Peach Festival a success. It took an army - from the youth decorating tables and providing games for the children to the bakers, peelers, cooks grillers, greeters, servers dishwashers, cashiers, bussers and all who came to enjoy the food and fellowship. God bless you all!!!

Free Will Donation Breakfast Benefit

For 17 month old Kaitlynn Weimer who has Cerebral Palsy

Date: September 6, 2014
Time: 7:00 am – 12:00 pm
Location: New Hope Lutheran Church
8824 N. State Rd. 1
Ossian, IN 46777

For more information contact the New Hope Lutheran Church

From the Custodian’s Closet

On occasion I find things left in pews or on tables. If you’re missing an umbrella, coffee mug, gloves, earrings, glasses, cell phone, jacket, hoodie or sweater; you may find those items in the lost and found area at the 5th St. door. Or you may give me a call at 260-557-3455.

Your Custodian,
Debbie Bolduc
9/1  Debbie Bolduc
9/3  Carolyn Baumgartner
9/3  Judy Martin
9/5  Pat Briede II
9/5  Hailey Brune
9/5  Erin Gilbert
9/6  Delanie Foley
9/6  Olivia Smith
9/7  Doris Jones
9/8  Dee Friedt
9/9  Tom Gase
9/9  Ron Hill
9/10  Ann Andrews
9/10  Doris Sheets
9/11  Carl Fore
9/13  Crystal Kosier
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
9/18  Ivan Howe
9/18  Kelley Miller
9/19  Penny Hinsky
9/19  Kinley Martin
9/20  Dan Piper
9/22  Sommer Hake
9/22  Karra Irwin
9/22  Doug Marbaugh
9/22  Corey Pilkington
9/22  Steve Pilkington
9/23  Alyssa Cook
9/23  Audrey Cowens
9/23  Janet Fraughiger
9/24  Elaine Plew
9/26  Phyllis Seitz
9/27  Gwendolyn Pettibone
9/28  Sandy Collier
9/30  Clint Knaub
9/30  Steve Smith

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Ice Cream Appreciation
for All
MOPS Childcare Servants
Friday, Sept. 12, 2014
6—8 pm
Please join us for a
Special Thank You
for All you do!!
Administrative Council

August 19, 2014

Present: Lowell Martin, Annette Gower, Helen Walters, Scott Porter, Penny Hinsky, Bev Stuck, Frank Montgomery, Nancy Thompson, Roger Thompson

1. The meeting opened with prayer.
2. Treasurer: Lowell Martin reported that we are keeping up with our bills but we are in arrears with our Conference tithe. Janet Frauhiger is being paid vacation pay and workman’s compensation while she is off work due to her injury. Discussion was held on possible increases in workman’s compensation insurance costs and where the funding will come from. Lowell said it would be wise to have a backup person to be familiar with our accounting practices and procedures. This idea will be given to the Stewardship/Finance Team.
3. Children’s Ministries: Annette said VBS was successful with 78 different children attending. This was a good number considering our VBS was the same week as the Catholic Church. On Sunday morning we have the possibility of 60 children from birth to 6th grade. Annette said the needs are for more volunteers, space and budget.
4. Prayer Chain: Helen said the prayer chain is functioning with several people participating and added that more are welcome. There is also an email prayer notice. Roger said we need a prayer emphasis before the stewardship program.
5. Lay Leader: Scott reported on the Disciple Path study currently being held on Sunday evenings for 6 weeks. He said it will be offered again and encouraged everyone to participate.
6. Other discussion: It was reported that Penny has had mulch and stone added to the Rose Garden and has dug and planted hosta beds on the West side of the building. Lowell said Alyssa Mountz, our new assistant manager at the Hope Chest, will be filling in for Linda Braun as she travels. He asked for prayers for the Hope Chest future. Helen commended the youth and Chris for the wonderful worship service and meal last Sunday.
7. The meeting was closed with prayer.
Special Notes!!!
CLOSED
SEPTEMBER 1 & 2
Labor Day Monday & Tuesday

Happy Birthday!!!
Jonathan Knapke
Levi Adams

HUMOR
Question:
Why was 6 afraid of 7?
Answer:
Because 7 8 6.
Easy, to be misunderstood?

First UMC Day Care Staff Says...
A Christian Based Quality Child Care,
for all God’s children.

Welcome To Kid’s First

First United Methodist Church

Kid’s First

Wise words are like deep waters; wisdom flows from the wise like a babbling brook. Proverbs 18:4

Some Back to School Tips
Get Enough Sleep. Establish a reasonable bedtime so children will be well-rested ‘cause learning is fun.

Eat A Healthy Breakfast. Children are more alert and do better in school with food in their tummy’s.

Make An Information List. Remember details such as locker numbers, lunch times, class room, bus driver’s names, etc.

Lay Needed Items out the night before.

Identify Place for backpack, homework, etc., same spot everyday makes for easy pick up.

Always Listen and Talk to your child about their day to help and understand when some days may not be as fun as others. Open communication is fun for children and parents. Helps everyone understand, cope and keeps stress level down when a not so good day pops up!

A Happy Day helps make a Happy Family.

Tana, Got Her Out...

And all God’s Children Said...
Have A Super year

Pictured
Back - Becky Baumer, Dawn Brown, Teresa Hackman, Beth Hart
Middle - Chelae custer, Brenda Garrett, Shannon Irwin, Anita Sell
Front - Tana Sheets Absent from picture Brittney Crook

A Happy Day helps make a Happy Family.
Until the 2 comes out again!
Kekionga Festival

There was delicious Walking Tacos, lots of fun and a successful fund raiser thanks to everyone who came and joined us. Hope to see more of You next year.

The Hope Chest
The Little Shop
With a Big Heart

Thank you for all your support supplying items to help fill the back packs. This year we were able to fill over 60 back packs for children whose families needed financial help.

Kekionga Festival

There was delicious Walking Tacos, lots of fun and a successful fund raiser thanks to everyone who came and joined us. Hope to see more of You next year.
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**September 2014**

- Pastor Amy out of Office
- Church Office Closed
- Labor Day Closed
First United Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe Street
Decatur, IN 46733

Phone: 260-724-3158

Web Site: www.firstumcdecatur.org

Email: office@firstumcdecatur.org

Senior Pastor: Amy Covington

Visitation Pastor: Harold Klinker

Youth Ministry: Chris Covington

Children’s Ministry: Annette Gower

Administrative Assistant: Janet Frauhiger

Music Coordinator: Judy Martin

Small Group Coordinator: Mike Snyder

Kid’s First Child Care Director: Tana Sheets

Hope Chest Manager: Dot Vanhorn


do not return service requested

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

CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

September

First United Methodist Church

Living Out God’s Story:

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Sunday Mornings

September 21 — October 26, 2014