Enthusiastic Life in Faith for Love

24 At this point in Paul’s defense, Festus declared with a loud voice, “You’ve lost your mind, Paul!” Acts 26:24

The Apostle Paul was taken before the courts in Caesarea and the leader, after hearing his testimony, called him crazy. Crazy because he was passionate about the Gospel, crazy because he was willing to be jailed instead of stop preaching, crazy because he was sharing wherever anyone would listen about God’s Savior, Jesus Christ. Many people have been called crazy because of their faith; have you?

John Wesley was told that he was too enthusiastic. Church leaders and members didn’t want him to preach in their sanctuaries anymore because he stirred the people with his zeal and enthusiasm. In a sermon, entitled The Nature of Enthusiasm, Wesley shared with his readers that his hope was that he would be enthusiastic in ways that point to God, not himself, and that help others see the deep love God had for them. If he had to preach in ways that were different to get people’s attention, then so be it.

After I became more serious about my faith in high school some of my friends decided I was taking my faith too seriously. They actually said I had become “crazy for Jesus.” I didn’t stand on street corners or offer Bibles to everyone, but I decided to be real about my relationship with Jesus. I made decisions based on what I thought my faith dictated was honoring God; this was different and my friends didn’t know what to do with it. Crazy is a word we use to describe someone or something we don’t know what to do with. Of course, it is derogatory, but it makes us feel better about what we don’t understand or what makes us uncomfortable. Festus, the leaders of the Church of England, and my friends, were uncomfortable with what they were experiencing in someone who was excited for what God was doing in their lives.

In Praying the Wesleyan Spirit, Prayers for Today, Paul Chilcote takes 44 of John Wesley’s sermons and turns the main points of them into prayers in today’s language. These prayers help us focus on who God is and how we relate to God in Christ. The last phrase of his prayer on Wesley’s sermon The Nature of Enthusiasm is below. It is a prayer that I have prayed daily for the last two weeks helping me focus on Christ and putting him first in my life. I want to be excited about my faith in Jesus so that others can see God in me and experience God’s love through me. I don’t want attention for the sake of attention, but I do want others to know how much God loves them. I want to be enthusiastic and crazy for Jesus. What about you?

Here is the last part of the prayer: Conform my life to that of the humble Christ and allow his Spirit to fill my soul in such a way that my enthusiasm is the fanaticism of love.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Amy
What's Taking Root: Look for the Serving Tree, Monroe Street entrance, become colorful with leaves of service. Choose a colored leaf from the basket, write a brief sentence how you served 175 minutes (3 hours), then place your leaf on the tree. The Serving Tree growing colorful will show our caring ways for others as we go forth making disciples for Jesus Christ.

If you would like some ideas, here are some suggestions for service:

- **Fishes & Loaves:**
  - Setting up tables, cooking,
  - Serving, children's activities
  - Contact Nancy Thompson 260-450-0371
- **St. Mark’s Food Bank:** 724-7183
- **Hope Chest:** 724-9774
- **Love Inc.:** 728-4503
- **Fort Wayne Rescue Mission:** 260-426-7357 or RescueMission.net
- **Neighbors or Senior Citizen Assistance:**
  - Contact: Harold Klinker 260-704-6539
- **Visiting Shut-ins, at Woodcrest, Evergreen or Village of Heritage**
- **Decatur Operation Help:** Contact Shelley Porter 223-1903
- **MamaTalk Child Care:** Contact Ruby Metzger 223-9832
- **Sending Cards to Shut-ins, Military Personnel and First Responders:** Contact Janet at Church office-724-3158
- **St. Vincent DePaul:** 724-8500
- **Extra Cleaning in Church:** Kris 701-1303

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”
John 12:26
You are cordially invited
to the
175th Birthday Celebration
for
Decatur First United Methodist Church
on
Sunday, October 16, 2016
at
10:00 a.m. (one service)

- during the service honoring our 50 year members
- After the service sharing birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall
- Reminiscing with our long time members
- Notecards with historical and current designs of our church will be available.

Please mark your calendars for this special time of fellowship and commemoration.

CALLITHUMPIAN PARADE MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

🎵 "I love a parade..." Who doesn't?

We are planning to have an entry in the Callithumpian parade but we will need lots of help!

- workers to decorate the wagon before the parade
- people to ride on the wagon and sing (simple songs)
- people to walk beside the wagon to hand out candy
- people to carry our banner

If you can help with any of these, please tell someone on the 175th team: Pastor Amy, Sandy Collier, Nan Cook, Penny Hinsky, LeAnna Noble, Doug Rieth, Karen Stahl, Bev Stuck, Nancy Thompson, Helen Walters.

(We need to have commitments of workers before October 14 when the entry application is due.)
Wisdom People September Lunch. Pastor Harold Klinker shared the Blessing. Decatur's Honorable Mayor Ken Meyer was guest speaker. Mayor Meyer shared, he has wisely learned in 8 1/2 months, "Government works slow, there's always a process to go through." We learned of positive accomplishments. Restoring downtown buildings, sewer project on schedule, "Summer Downtown Concerts," First Decatur Night at Tin Caps game, Curb side Recycling. The major goal, "Improving Quality of Life for all ages, will make Decatur a good place to live." Future plans include: razing Habegger-Schaffer building, expanding River Trails next spring, improving Hanna-Nuttman Park with 7 ball diamonds, restrooms, concessions, and parking for 450 cars. The City Swimming Pool becoming an aquatic park, Madison Street becoming Park Plaza between First & Second Streets with artistic gates. Mayor Meyer's leadership has the future looking good in our home community's working environment, it does make Decatur a good place to enjoy and live. **The last 2016 luncheon is October 19, 12:00 p.m. at The Galley.**

Thank You

Thank Yous for John Wesley Day

A great big thank you goes out to all who contributed to our John Wesley Day celebration.

- Jim and Blake Taylor for providing the horse for “John Wesley” to ride
- The music team for special arrangements of Charles Wesley’s hymns
- Annette Gower and the children for excellent meal preparation and service
- Jim Taylor for making 2 pairs of stilts for the old fashioned games
- All those who donated crisps, cobblers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, chips
- Rev. Bert Kite for his wonderful portrayal of John Wesley and his message
Thank You Notes...
I want to thank each and everyone that signed my church cards while I was in the hospital. It meant a lot!
Phyllis Mills

First Church Family,
Thank you for all of the prayers and cards during my Mom’s, Esther Lister’s passing. Thank you Pastor Amy for the time you spent with us at the hospital and for the wonderful funeral message. Thank you Bev Stuck and all who helped with the dinner after the funeral. Thank you Pastor Harold for the many visits you had with Mom - I know she appreciated every one of them.
In God’s Love,
Karen Tricker

To the Members of First United Methodist Church,
We so appreciate you keeping us in your prayers. One of the marvelous things about community is that it enables us to welcome and help people in a way we couldn’t as individuals. When we pool our strength and share the work and responsibility, we can welcome many people, even those in deep distress and perhaps help them find self-confidence and inner healing.
Thanks Again and God Bless,
Adams County EMA

October Birthdays
10/02 Kim Hart
10/02 Cheryl Hisner
10/04 Jevan Brickley (6)
10/04 Kora Lutes
10/05 Carter Covington (12)
10/06 Grant Gutierrez (18)
10/07 Taya Bolinger
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 (16)
10/13 Bev Stuck
10/15 Maureen Busse

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

Happy Anniversary
Children’s Christmas Play practices Beginning October 2nd immediately following Worship. If you have a child or youth in your life that would like to join in the fun of putting on a musical Christmas production, invite them to join us! We’ll only have 10 short weeks to practice so please plan to attend as many as possible.

The children’s ministry will be present at some community events. Come see us!

- Saturday, October 29th—Safety Park Trick or Treat
- Church parking lot Trunk or Treat DURING city wide Trick or Treat

Friday, November 4th — We’re having a Glow Party!
What is a glow party you ask? Think black lights, glow sticks, glow face paint, glowing games like bowling, ring and ball tosses. Lots of fun, but nothing scary. Invite your friends!!! (We decided to change the date so we could take the opportunity to reach out to the community for the above events AND use those opportunities to invite the community to join us.)

Sunday, December 11th @ 10am—Children’s Christmas Play and Jesus Birthday Party following Worship

Sunday, December 18th at 6pm—Agape Puppet Show titled, “Dr. Newheart”

If you’d like more info on any activities or events please contact Annette Gower at home 301-2244, by calling or texting her cell 223-2288 or through email at gowercrew@gmail.com.

All the events will require LOTS of help. Thanks for supporting the children’s ministry with your time and financial gifts.
THE HOPE CHEST
The Little Shop With A Big Heart

Fall is here and winter around the corner. We just received a donation of 52 new coats, hats, gloves, socks, underwear and school supplies from Salem United Church of Christ. We also have back packs and school supplies left. If you know of anyone who may need help, please call the store at 724-9774.

Bake Sale October 28th. We would appreciate any Baked item you would Like to donate for the sale.

Thanks for all your support.

THE HOPE CHEST STAFF
Tana's Colorful Words

Are YOU Contagious

Have you given thought to how expressions can be contagious. How you can, as the song says, “Spread sunshine all over the place just put on a Happy Face.”

Everyone has their own way of expressing good or “yucky” feelings. The feelings of JOY and HAPPINESS can be shared differently. Very young children share expressions through tears or smiles. As children grow they squeal with laughter when happy or joyful. Teenagers can share expressions by rolling their eyes or choice of words like "Nice," "Awesome," and "That’s Cool!" My personal expression of JOY is, using the word “SWEET!” It makes me feel joyful when people smile, when I say, “Sweet!” Then it becomes contagious as they share their smile and say “Sweet!”

Expressions of JOY and HAPPINESS is as much about feelings and our chosen words. As you go about your day, pass it on, spread your “sunshine,” “Happy Talk,” your personal expression of JOY and HAPPINESS! YOU can be contagious!

“A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—and how good is a timely word!” Proverbs 15:23

Until the come out Again!

That's A Fact

We “THANK YOU”...

For helping us celebrate an unbelievable 20 years. As the small mustard seed grew so has Kid’s First Child Care Ministry grown. In 1995 Rev. Dexter Garman with 6 church members felt the need for year round child care. After several months of researching the possibilities, getting formal state documentation, equipment and needed supplies along with staffing, the doors opened with 10 children and a staff of 3 full time.

Looking back many positive changes have taken place. Shaded and safe playground, equipped classrooms, hot meals and summer school age day camp. And yes, grown into a registered "Paths to Quality" Day Care, and 10 full time staff. Plus 72 registered children. Being flexible to parents’ work schedule and their child’s needs is the number 1 concern. So the average daily count can be 50+ children. This summer’s day camp, 9 children were enrolled doing different age appropriate fun activities.

Our goal is to make more wonderful memories and continue to grow in love with Jesus.

“Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation.” Joel 1:3 Praise God!!!
Love INC presents
BROADWAY on Monroe!

Featuring

The Musiclectics

Dessert, Coffee, & Entertainment

Saturday, October, 22nd
6:00pm-7:00pm: First Seating
7:30pm-8:30pm: Second Seating

$6.00 per person
In benefit of Love INC
Love offering donations will be gratefully appreciated

To be held at the:
First United Methodist Church
502 W. Monroe St., Decatur, IN
Please enter via the rear of the building

Contact Jim Burk for tickets, 223-0926

Purchase 8 tickets to reserve a table.
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Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
CONNECT - GROW - SERVE

October 16, 10:00 a.m.
175TH Anniversary Celebration!
One Service

Callithumpian Parade Float
October 31st