

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

July/August 2017



When you think of the word freedom, what comes to mind? Maybe you see the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, maybe the Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech. Maybe you see a battlefield where liberty was defended. When I think about freedom, I see the cross.

When Jesus died on the cross he was fulfilling his promise and purpose of setting God's people free from the penalty of Sin. He bled and died so that we, his followers, may live in a freedom that is rooted in his sacrifice. Now, freedom through the cross is not the same as the freedom the world desires. The world desires to be free from lordship, sovereignty, or accountability. However the cross defines freedom as a freedom to follow Christ without the dominion or occupation of Sin and death. Freedom in the cross leads us to live out teachings of Jesus in ways that; do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. That means we are not free to be rude, hold a grudge, withhold love from an enemy, blame the poor for their suffering, or exclude someone from the community of faith. This freedom from the occupation of Sin and the penalty of death frees us to live as we were made to be, children of God.

May you celebrate freedom, remember those who have sacrificed so much to preserve it, and recommit yourself to the freedom that comes from the cross in how you seek to live your faith.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



As we enter the months of July and August the Youth and Tweens will be going through some interesting curriculum changes. In the Youth Sunday School Class, Amy will be wrapping up the Creed curriculum, which

was created by Adam Hamilton. In this series they will take a closer look at the Lord's Prayer and will begin to answer questions on why do we believe what we believe. The Tweens will begin to enter a few series on some of the basics of Christianity. After completing the Confirmation material, I would like to spend some time to iron out any questions that may have come up during Confirmation that our time did not allow us to answer. In our evening time the Youth may also have nights where we spilt the guys and girls and begin to focus on topics that are specific to each gender. There will be more to come on this in the coming weeks and you can expect to receive a letter in the mail detailing the event.

From June 12th through June 15th the youth participated in a Mission Week experience I called "Transformission-Ish". Fifteen adults spent time serving our students, worshipping with them, and even playing some games. Fourteen students in-turn served our community and the community of Epworth United Methodist Church. Through our week we volunteered at our own church, the Trustee's Office, the Junior/Senior High School, Faith Housing apartments, the Hagerstown Fire Department, Epworth UMC, and the local Thrift Store. All of the youth that participated showed moments when they actively became the hands and feet of Jesus. Our Mission Week may not have been identical to Transformission but it is my firm belief that we had just as much fun (if not more) serving and worshipping God with one another!

In this space I would also like to say a personal thank to all of the adults that participated in "Transformission-Ish". All of you played a role this week and provided a space so that the youth of this church could serve, grow closer to one another, and grow closer to God. As the Director of Family Ministries, I am extremely blessed to have so many adults who value the importance of service and who also care and love the youth of our church. Thank you for all that you do! What you do means a lot to me and means even more to the youth that we serve.

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- *Mission Needs: Shoeboxes, Back to School

Adam Duell



80+-101

Betty Murray July 2
Rev. Herschel Murray July 15
The Addison House 2244 Q Ave
New Castle 47362

Bob Davis July 27 298 N Plum St Hag.
Jo Johnson July 28 5952 Tidewater Rd Hag.
Joyce Wampler July 29
4301 Lincolnwood Dr Alexandria IN
46001



Mary Holcomb August 6 (101)
Ambassador Healthcare 705 E Main St RM 204
Centerville 47330
Priscilla Sherry August 28
11 E Southmarket St Hag.



David & Amber Smock welcomed their daughter, Evelyn Hope on May 25, 2017. She joins big sister Ava Grace. Grandparents are Dick & Sue Crossley & Nick & Judy Jarrett.

Words cannot express our appreciation for your support of Delta Grace through your gifts and prayers. Thank you for

your generous donation of \$3,600 on April 12. We've hosted over 900 missionaries and worked on more than 90 homes. Still so much to work on. Take a look at www.facebook.com/DeltaGraceInc.

7th- 12th YOUTH & Tweens 4-6TH

Mark Your Calendars

Invite Your Friends We got Fun Stuff

Happening for Youth

7th-12th & Tweens (4th-6th) @ 6:30-8 p.m.

Sometimes there are changes. Always check with Adam

Ages Birth thru 3rd Grade

Bring the Kids

Fun stuff

happens Every Sunday



First Sunday Morning each month K.I.D.S. will worship with family. Remainder of the month they have their own Worship Service just for kids.

Kids In Divine Service

designed just for.....



United Methodist Women News



Happy summer, everyone! United Methodist Women are starting summer with a bang for all women of our church. The Circle of Friendship is inviting all ladies (whether in UMW or not) and their kids to a Fourth of July Firecracker party. But—it will be held **July 10th at 6 p.m.**, and will be a pitch-in meal. We will furnish drinks and table service. Can't pitch-in? Ok, come anyway! There is always plenty of food. (Yes—a par taaay)

Saturday, August 26th, at 9:30 a.m. will be our UMW General Meeting. Morning Glories will host a brunch at 9:30 a.m. Our focus area for this meeting will be mobilizing (educating) against social injustice. **Amy Harwell of Brightwood Community in Indy, community activist will be the speaker. She's President of One Voice Community Organization. Watch the church bulletin for further information, but be sure to save the date!**

***Please note the article needs for Mission u (Red Bird Mission Shoe Boxes) printed elsewhere**

***All items for the Mission u project must be turned in by Sunday, July 16th.** We will be take the completed boxes to Mission u on the 18th. The Hands on mission project for Mission u this year is donating Christmas shoeboxes filled with toys, school supplies, and other items for Red Bird Mission.

Please bring only completed boxes to church. Perhaps your family could make a box, or 2-3 friends could get together to make a box. There will be a place in the café or narthex to bring the boxes.

If you have any questions, please contact me Jean Dilley 238-0870 or the Church Office.

Remembering that United Methodist Women are (or are on the journey) of being women of grace.

Jean Dilley President

Heads-UP! Mission u, held at DePauw University, is July 18-21. Living as a Covenant Community is our Spiritual Growth Study, which will be led by Mary Catherine Pearce. You can register online now.

Community Food Pantry
Food Donations Always Needed

Place food donations in the shopping carts located in the front entrance of the church.

May drop off at the Trustee's Office, 37 E Main St
Jeffersontwpwayne@comcast.net
 For info contact Joe P. Smith

Gleaners returns now through September.
 The 4th Thursday of the month. 10 am-Noon

MISSION CONFERENCE
DATES ARE SET
"Save the Date"



Mission Conference Weekend will be September 14th, 16th and 17th. This is a Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. "Save the Date"

The power of weakness

In Tramp for the Lord, Corrie ten Boom describes traveling to Russia during the Cold War — when Christians were being persecuted — to thank an old woman who'd been secretly translating Christian books (including ten Boom's). Ravaged by multiple sclerosis, the woman could move only an index finger. Yet with it she typed constantly, translating words while praying for people who'd eventually read them.

Ten Boom's reaction was, "Oh Lord, why don't you heal her?" But the woman's husband said God had a purpose in his wife's suffering. Although the secret police closely watched other Christians, they left this woman alone, assuming she couldn't accomplish anything. Jesus works through our weaknesses, making his power perfect in them (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). He doesn't ask if we're capable — only if we're willing.

2017 Mission u Hands-On– Project
Children's Christmas Shoeboxes

For Red Bird Mission in Southeastern Kentucky.
One of the three national institutions we learn about in our geographic study this year!

Suggestions for your shoebox:

Use a clear "shoebox" size container-do NOT wrap container
 Bring only completed boxes-we will not assemble them
 Label for BOY or GIRL
 Identify age group (2-4)(5-9) (10-14)

Please use age-appropriate items Include 2-3 Toy items i.e.: jump rope, card game, ball, stuffed toy, Legos, craft, yo-yo, hair bow/clip, etc.

Include 2-3 School items: pencils, crayons, markers, coloring/ activity book, calculator, scissors, ruler, erasers, etc. Other items to consider adding: children's toothbrush, washcloth, hair brush, comb, Chap Stick, nail grooming kit, Christian bookmark, wrist band, flashlight (with batteries), mittens/ gloves, hat, or other small spiritual items



Back To School for Nettle Creek Students
 Help the Township Trustee supply school supplies or clothing and shoes. Contact Joe P. Smith as soon as possible. 489-4824

Stewardship Report



2017 Total Giving for Church Ministries (Budget) = \$90,207.28 Total Giving YTD=\$118,948.60
 Faith Promise (Mission) = \$12,032.35
 Total Giving for GOOD Fund (Capital Projects) = \$2652.
 2017 YTD Total Hours of Service = 1079.8 (Gifts of Love)
 2017 Total Service Value YTD=\$23,819.29

Offering Envelopes



Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moth and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moth and rust don't eat them and where thieves don't break in and steal them. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. **Matthew 6:19-21**

Name _____ Date _____

My loving gift of treasure for God's Kingdom:

Church Ministries \$ _____ Faith Promise \$ _____

GOOD Fund \$ _____ Other: _____ \$ _____

My loving gift of time and talent to others:

I gave _____ hours of service to _____

I gave _____ hours of service to _____

The church no longer identifies those that give by a number. Our giving records are maintained by the name of the giver either on the envelope used or by the name on the check. You may still designate your giving on the envelope to the same categories as we have always had: Church Ministries (budget), Faith Promise (missions), GOOD Fund (Capital Projects), and other special offerings or gifts. We have also provided space to acknowledge the numerous gifts of time that our congregation gives to the church and our community. These are all gifts of love!

Annual Conference Recap I, along with our Lay Delegate Donna Winters and District UMW Chair Karen Leonard, attended our Annual Conference in Indianapolis. It was a jam packed three days of relationship building, voting on delivered reports and resolutions, and, most importantly, worshiping together as the body of Christ. I wanted to share with you some of the highlights:

1) For the first time in a long time our Conference had a financial surplus meaning that we ended the fiscal year with more money than we had budgeted to spend. That is mostly due to the faithful giving of local churches like First Church who understand and value our connectional system.

2) Our Annual Conference, which is over one thousand local churches, raised just over \$400,000 dollars for global health through our Miracle Offering! The donations given will go towards efforts to eliminate malaria, and treating individuals and communities local and globally who are struggling with HIV/AIDS.

3) Our Annual Conference voted to become greener and a more just conference through efforts to become more environmentally aware and seeking to reduce the amount of youth becoming homeless and/or committing suicide with an added emphasis on LGBTQ youth who are statistically more at risk of depression, suicide, and homelessness.

4) During the service of commissioning and ordination, appointments were fixed for the 2017-2018 appointment year which continues our ministry together as your pastor. I am honored to serve with you and be a "lead follower" as Bishop Mike Coyner once said helping lead our community to Jesus Christ.



Daily Bible Readings

This year 2017 let us focus on the New Testament. Begin with the gospel Matthew and finish by January 2018 with the Book of Colossians. Try to read a book a month. Set your own pace.

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