

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

September/October 2017



One of the joys of Sabbath time is a renewed awareness. When we are in the grind of everyday life, we can begin to lose perspective and have a reduced awareness of God's presence in our lives. During my Sabbath time with family, I was able to simply be aware of the little holy moments that

God graces us with everyday. The morning breeze on your cheek as you step outside for the first time. The smile on a loved one's face as you greet them. The excitement in a child's play-time. All these things are holy moments.

How many times do we find ourselves stressed, overwhelmed, and burned out?

How many times do we pass by the beauty of God's presence just so that we can feel productive or needed?

We know that Christ," existed before all things and all things are held together in him." Col 1:17

That means that every where we look is Christ. God is the fabric of our universe and the creation within it. What treasures does he lay before us everyday that we walk past? What joys could transform us if we just stopped and payed attention to God's presence in our midst?

When we stop thinking about the next thing we have to do and we just sit and be still with God we can see the immeasurable gifts God is blessing us with everyday.

Paul said" I encourage you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice that is holy and pleasing to God. This is your priestly service."

Romans 12:1 CEB

I encourage you to be more present and aware of the gifts God has blessed you with in the mundane and routine of life.

Put down the smartphone.
Leave the email till tomorrow.
Hold the hand of a loved one.
Watch the sunset or sunrise.
Breathe.

Be still and know that God is God.

May you offer your whole self to God and may you have a renewed awareness of God's presence in your life.

Pastor John



Dear First Church,

Fall is just around the corner, which means there is a lot in store for the youth and children at First Church!

During Sunday School, the Youth will be exploring some of the parables of Jesus and begin reflecting on what were some of the things that Jesus said and how do they relate to our everyday lives. The Tweens will jump back into some of the Groove material. In the Groove books the Tweens are able to do an activity, read a story, answer some questions, and close in a word of prayer. During the evenings there will be loads of fun activities for the Youth Group and Tweens night. The Youth will continue to engage in our story telling curriculum, as we study the story of Joseph and how his story can help us better tell our stories. The Tweens will be constantly surprised as I continue to provide opportunities for us to learn more about one another and Jesus.

October is also the time for Creative Arts Camp! This year we will be combining past activities with VBS Fun Factory Maker in order to create a more structure event but with opportunities to let creative minds run free. In the coming weeks information will be sent out to the children at the Elementary School, flyers will be posted around town, and forms can also be accessed at our welcome desk. IF you are an adult and you'd like to help out, there are two things to keep in mind. If I have already sent out a paper, because you have worked with children before, I need that paper returned ASAP. If you do not have a background already on file, you may pick one up at the registration table. We look forward to another fantastic year of Creative Arts Camp!

Additional News: I'm waiting to hear back on when the town will be Trick or Treating. Once I hear back information on Trunk or Treat will be released.

The Harvest Party will be in transition this year; it is my hope to have a new selection in place within the next couple of weeks. If you would be willing to host, please contact me at (317) 709-4250 or email me at aduell01@yahoo.com.

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80+ - 90+ Happy Birthday Methodist Friends!



Don Higbee turns 90

September 23.

Don Myers

at Friends Fellowship

September 24

Clarence Plankenhorn October 9

Marvin Culy October 10

Shirley Retherford October 10

Pat Sharp October 13

Susan Sanders October 14

Ted Asche October 21

Jerry Adams October 28



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

Morning

Beginning at 9:00

A Note From Our Trustee Chair

Beginning September 1 the stove in the church kitchen will have the gas turned off.

If you need to use the stove, contact Trustee Chris Lane (765-914-5809) prior to your event.

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

East District UMW Gathering at Richmond Central UMC



Saturday, September 9th

9:30 - 1 p.m. Focus: Prison Ministries by Ann Cashner.

Reservation deadline September 4. See or call Karen Leonard

Soup Labels for Education being phased out, but accepted from UMW through the end of 2017. Continue saving postage stamps and box labels.

Place in the containers located in the Narthex.

Our **UMW Annual Meeting and Celebration** will be held at Asbury UMC, in Columbus, Friday evening, October 6, and Saturday, October 7. Dinner and a hands-on project are on the schedule for Friday evening, 6 to 8 p.m. (registration at 5 p.m.) The business meeting, lunch, and a speaker are on the schedule for Saturday, 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. (registration at 8:30 a.m.) The hands-on project includes making decorations for a residential recovery program for those recovering from human trafficking.

Saturday's speaker will be Liz Pitcher, speaking on the topic "All Worthy of Love--A Human Trafficking Outreach".

Please contact Karen Leonard for further information.

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
Jeffersonwpwayne@comcast.net
For info contact Joe P. Smith

Gleaners now through September 28th.

Pass the news along to those who might be in need of food.

Community In School Needs:

Chap Sticks, Snacks individually wrapped and sealed.
Examples: crackers, fruit cups, pudding cups, etc.

These are given out by the School Nurse and CIS Coordinator.

Place in the white laundry basket located in the Café.

September & October Daily Devotion

Booklets

Upper Rooms & Daily Bread

Now in the bookrack
@Friendship Haven
Café



Life Groups @ First Church

What? Relationship building through sharing food, fellowship and study of God's Word in a setting outside of the church building.

Main goal of a Life Group is to grow in relationship with one another and with Christ.

How? Begins with varied ages. You pick the group that fits you best! Perfect opportunity to invite and include friends and family who don't attend First Church or any church but are looking for fellowship. No prerequisites!

Where? Groups are hosted in individual homes and led by a member of the group.

How Long? They are not a lifetime commitment, rather a commitment to growing your life in the church and with Christ. Operates on a semester-type schedule taking breaks during the holiday season and summer months. Each semester new groups and topics are identified. This also allows individuals to break from a group and try another group.

Group size is 10 people. As groups grow too large, they will be encouraged to split at the semester break and start new groups.

Topics: Devotional and discussion topics are driven by the group to best meet the needs of the individuals involved. Members commit to discussing and sharing in a safe and secure environment so all feel comfortable to share and participate. Meet as frequently as the group decides but no less than once a month. **Sign up at the church or call the Office.**

Stewardship Report

2017 Total Giving for Church Ministries (Budget) = \$124,056.95 Total Giving YTD \$154,688.36

Faith Promise (Mission) = \$12,853.35

Total Giving for GOOD Fund (Capital Projects) = \$3342.00

2017 YTD Total Giving for Hours of Service = 1510.6 (Gifts of Love)

2017 Total Service Value YTD = \$3,882.56



Offering Envelopes



Stop collecting treasures for your own benefit on earth, where moths and rust eat them and where thieves break in and steal them. Instead, collect treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths 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!



September 3
Global Acts 1:4-8

September 10
Local Acts 3:1-10

September 17
Mission Conference
Randy Davis, Speaker
Faith Promise Challenge


See You in Church!

September 24th Jonah-Tale of Two Cities
Oct. 1 World Communion Sunday –
The Imitation Game
Oct. 8 The Cornerstone Oct. 15 Laity Sunday
Oct. 22 Caesar or God? Oct. 29 Stewardship Series



Movie Night Friday, September 29 @ 7 p.m.
Beauty & The Beast

Creative Arts Week
is Monday, October 9-Friday, October 13
A fun week to spend Fall Break for Kids!



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.

Contact Us:

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