

First United
Methodist Church
APRIL 2016

THE HERALD

LISTENING TO GOD'S HEART FROM THE HEART OF THE CITY

A New Creation

SO IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THERE IS A NEW
CREATION: EVERYTHING OLD HAS PASSED AWAY;
SEE, EVERYTHING HAS BECOME NEW.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

The apostle Paul says that “if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new.” (2 Corinthians 5:17) He goes on to remind the congregation at Corinth that this has all happened because we have been reconciled to God through Jesus Christ. In this season of Easter, nothing could be more true. Through Christ’s act on the cross and the power of the resurrection, we are a new creation. I know that the closer I grow toward God through Jesus Christ, the more that God is remaking me – I am becoming a new person in Christ!

At our March 2nd Wednesday Dinner, I asked each table some questions about who we are as a church, and who we could be. I want to share with you some of the most-given answers to those questions, because it gives us some insight into the new creation God is making here at First UMC.

- *What is your favorite ministry here at First UMC?*
 - NOW Program
 - Bell Choir/Children’s sermon/Bible study
 - Kids’ Club/Music/Lenten devotional
- *What ministry here at First UMC do you think is making the greatest impact on fulfilling our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ?*
 - Disciple Bible study
 - Kids’ Club/Radio ministry
- *What would be one new ministry that you would like to see First UMC begin in the next five years?*
 - Meals, shelter, and showers for the homeless
 - Visitor welcome program/current events study/Stephen ministry

There were many more responses than these, but I think what this snapshot tells us is that God is moving in big ways here at First UMC. We are not the same people, not the same church we once were. God is re-creating us, and there are exciting things on the horizon! I want to encourage you to read through this newsletter and find out more about some next steps that are being proposed by the trustees, church council, and finance committee. Read and be inspired by the stories of what God is doing in our midst, and pray about what God might call you to do in making all things new!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Jay

NEXT STEPS FOR FUMC

Note: *These next steps were presented at the March 2nd Wednesday dinner, and are included in this newsletter so that all might be made aware of some of the upcoming plans for FUMC.*

What are the projects that would be included in these next steps?

- Paying off the funds we borrowed from fire insurance money in order to purchase surrounding property and complete added improvements to the education building.
- Purchasing property west of the church, should it become available, as well as demolition costs.
- Exterior signage for the new facility.
- Upgrading existing parking, as well as adding additional parking southwest of the facility.

What are the approximate costs of these projects?

- The cost of the loan is approximately \$262,000.
- The cost of purchasing and demolishing property is approximately \$100,000.
- The cost of exterior signage is approximately \$10,000 and is included in the cost of the \$262,000 loan.
- Existing parking upgrades and new parking is approximately \$152,000.

Why do we have a loan?

- The congregation voted at the time of rebuilding to allocate \$250,000 of the fire insurance money to purchase properties south of the church, as well as adding improvements to the education building not covered by insurance, including moving air conditioning units and pitching the roof.
- The \$3,313,000 insurance payout covered the cost of building the new facility, along with special donations. While we might have hoped to build the facility for \$3,050,000, the building committee chose to brick all gables of the building, which required less maintenance in the future. They also chose to replace all musical instruments, including three octaves of handbells, a new piano and Clavinova, and a pipe organ.

What other projects remain in the new facility?

- Exterior signage needs to be purchased and installed. The building committee budgeted for the cost of the sign as part of the loan, so it is part of the funds we hope to pay back in these next steps.
- The decorating committee is working on several projects to furnish the narthex. Their projects should be covered by the 2015 FUMC Foundation gift.

Why are other projects not included?

- From the time of the building vote, it was determined that Phase I would be rebuilding the sanctuary, Phase II would be paying back debt and purchasing/demolishing property west of the facility, and Phase III would be adding on to the property west of the facility. Phase I is now complete, so these steps span Phase II.
- There are many ministries that this congregation would like to undertake; placing ourselves in a strong financial position and completing these next steps will enable us to have the infrastructure in place to move forward with these ministries.
- Many projects of the trustees, both at the downtown facility and the parsonage, have been itemized and are being completed over a multi-year timeline, and are being covered by our regular giving.

How can you be involved?

- Pray for these next steps.
- Consider how you might help these next steps become realized (volunteer, pledge to a possible capital campaign, etc.).
- Continue to support our current ministries.

I AM A NEW CREATION

BY BEV HARNESS



I was first diagnosed with Stage III carcinoma invasive ductile estrogen positive breast cancer in October 2008. What a shock when I got the diagnosis. The first thing I asked was “Is it curable?” My oncologist said it wasn’t, but that it was treatable. So then I knew there was hope. I fell on my knees and told God that “I cannot do this on my own. I will put myself in your hands and see your will done.” I had faith that His purpose for me wasn’t finished just yet, but if it was I would accept His will. I took five months of chemotherapy and thirty-three radiation treatments. It was hard, and it was ugly. Chemo takes away your strength, your stamina, your taste for food, and even your hair. I was quite a sight! But one thing chemo can’t take away is your faith. Mine was still strong. After treatment I was in remission for five years. Then it was back. It had metastasized to my bones and my liver. It was quite a letdown, but I wasn’t giving up now. I always had faith that God would give me the strength to get through this.

My treatment this time included strong chemo pills, but each one I tried would have terrible side-effects and negative reactions. This is typical of cancer medications; sometimes the side-effects are worse than the cancer they are supposed to treat. Finally my oncologist said “Let’s take you off the chemo.” She proposed a new course and prescribed a medication to reduce the estrogen that my cancer was feeding from. After a couple of months I went back to the doctor to have new scans done and what a surprise! Not only was there no new cancer, the spots that I had on my bones and liver were smaller in size. More tests revealed that my cancer markers were down. For this I give all the glory to God.

My husband, Elmer, and I have been married for nearly 56 years. He has always been my soul mate, but recently he has also been my caregiver. He has been beside me at every doctor appointment, every treatment, and every tear. He is always the first to lift me up and tell me that I am going to be okay. When my faith would falter, even just a little, he would have enough faith for both of us. My daughter, Cindy, and her husband were the ones to encourage me to be active, to keep my spirits up, and to keep my strength up. My son, Kevin, and his wife were my inspiration. Somehow he knew exactly when I needed a phone call or a Bible verse. He always knew the exact one I needed to hear. We also have six wonderful grandchildren that are there any time I need help or a little extra encouragement. What a blessing my family is!

When a cancer patient is newly diagnosed, the first thing they usually ask is “Why me, God?” Now I know why He chose me to go through this journey. I believe I have gone through this myself so that I can help other cancer patients get through it. I am still here to help others find their own strength and faith to fight this disease. Never let a doctor, or anyone else, tell you there is no hope. With God there is always hope. I am a new creation!

APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

4/2	Ken Martin
4/3	Karen Stram
4/4	Doug Mefford
4/7	Doug Finkbiner
4/13	Joel Wise, Valerie Wright
4/15	George Hays
4/17	Janet Miller, Tim Veenstra
4/19	Alisa Lowry
4/20	Lori Crozier
4/22	D J Kelly, Lucas Bell, Connie Calvert
4/23	Melinda Harmon
4/24	Hayden Treadway
4/26	Ann Foote, Amy McGahey, Becky Veenstra
4/27	Dennis Inboden
4/29	Tancy Finkbiner
4/30	Elizabeth Nolan

ANNIVERSARIES

4/4	Steve & Rita Diel
4/9	Ken & Nancy Mattsey
4/29	Floyd & Sabra Adams

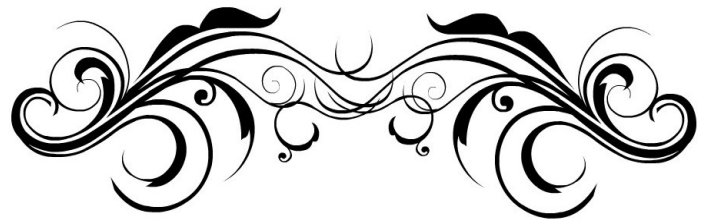
PRAYER CONCERNS

Charlie Clark; Donita Holmes; Jerry Phillipe; Vicki Lewis; Margie Moore McNamara; Jim Currie; Greta Rich; Eleanor Laswell; Debbie Doom; Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ruth Rice; Nora Busby; Ashley Reed; Tom Carrow, Jay Holtzhouser; Ken Martin; Jennifer Null; Tom Willey; Carol Wolf; Wilma Johnson; Betty Boyd Hippler; Neema Mutayaba, Heather Johnson; Lynn Ewin; Alan Sebens; Levi Damron; Dr. K. Renee Hamlet; Michelle Kohlmeyer; Lois McConnell; Larry Stein; The women attending the jail ministry and their children; Debbie Nichols; Cathy Frakes; Trisha Mason; Nellie McCall; Kjormoe Family; Donna Schmidlin; Nancy Young; Bea and Floyd Brinkman Sr; Monica Wright; Linda Shapland; Elizabeth Ann Widener; Doris Stanley; Dema Rich; Addison Lutes; Bernie Limper; Kenton Carver; Brenda Fouty; Becky Goodwin; Gary Fasig; Elaine Siler and her family; Juanita Buess; Shirley Williams; Jonathan Matthews and his wife; Carl and Helen Blanton; Kelly Partenheimer; family of Mary VanWinkle; Family and friends of Betty Weaver; Judy Wilson Wall; Kathy Harbison and family

2nd Wednesday Dinner

We're looking forward to gathering on April 13th for our 2nd Wednesday Dinner. The meal begins at 5:30 pm. Our Praise Fest Committee is catering the meal this month, and will provide a pasta bar, salad, garlic bread, and Bob Bell's homemade ice cream. The suggested donation for dinner is \$8 for adults, and \$3 for children, and you can sign up the first two Sundays in April at the welcome center.

Following dinner (6:30 pm), the worship committee will meet, as well as those who signed up to help with Vacation Bible School.



Praise Fest 2016 is a go!

Put Saturday, August 20th on your calendars for an evening of food, fellowship, and praise. The committee is hard at work planning the festivities. How can you help? Currently we are in need of donations to help us budget, and of course, as we get closer, we'll be asking for volunteers to help work the event. Help support this event and make Praise Fest 2016 a night where we can enjoy some community fellowship while giving glory to the Lord.

Even Youth Experience New Creation!

We have some amazing youth here at First UMC! Think back over the ways you've seen God at work in their lives over the past few years – planning worship, serving as leaders, reaching out in ministry and mission, even writing devotions for Lent. Isn't it marvelous?

Our youth are preparing to head to Baldwin, LA in June for their summer mission trip. During the early part of this month, they will be selling Butter Braids and other products as a fundraiser. Those who went on the mission trip last year to Washington DC can surely testify to their life-changing experiences. We know that this year's mission trip will do the same for our youth. Please consider supporting the youth this way, and when a youth asks you to purchase an item, say yes!

Speaking of youth, we meet on Sunday, April 3 at 3:00 pm to go to Terre Haute for laser tag and dinner. Please bring money to cover your costs (\$25 should be sufficient). We meet on Sunday, April 17th for dinner and worship planning for upcoming youth services. We hope to see you there!

First Steps Toward New Creation

Recently, a high school staff member was sharing about a student who is a recipient of the NOW program. The student shared that the bag is taken home at the end of the week, placed on the table in the family home, opened, and that is all the food available to eat. Can you begin to imagine what that would be like – food sent home to make sure one person has food for every meal, and that being shared by a household!

What we do makes a difference in the lives of children and youth! We cannot underestimate the power that something as simple as food makes all the difference – a glimpse of God's new creation in the lives of those who receive from the NOW program. These are first steps – seeds are being planted.

That said, think about how each item you give to "Just One" makes a difference – another step – toward helping a child become a new creation. Will you help us do that in April – just by bringing a package of #2 pencils or a package of pens? Our kids will be so appreciative when they come to the shopping day in August. Thanks!



APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Youth Dinner and Laser Tag in Terre Haute	4 9:30 am Chrismon Ladies	5 6:00 pm Disciple II	6 3:00 pm Kids' Club	7 9:30 am Disciple II 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell choir	8	9
10 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 2:30 pm Heritage Health service 4:00 pm Staff Parish Committee Meeting	11 9:30 am Chrismon Ladies	12 6:00 pm Disciple II	13 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm 2nd Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting 6:30 pm VBS Meeting	14 9:30 am Disciple II 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell choir	15	16 9:00 am District Workshop, Effingham Centenary UMC
17 8 & 11 am Chancel Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 6:00 pm Youth Dinner & Worship Planning	18 9:30 am Chrismon Ladies	19 6:00 pm Disciple II	20 3:00 pm Kid's Club 6:00 pm Lay Leadership Meeting 6:00 pm Foundation Meeting	21 9:30 am Disciple II 4:30 pm NOW bagging 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell choir	22	23
24 8:00 am Handbell Choir 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am Chancel Choir	25 9:30 am Chrismon Ladies	26 6:00 pm Disciple II	27 3:00 pm Kids' Club 5:30 pm Trustees Meeting	28 9:30 am Disciple II 4:30 pm NOW bagging 5:30 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 6:00 pm Jail Ministry 7:00 pm Handbell choir	29	30

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Custodian: Harold Guyer

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