



CONNECTIONS

Making Christian Disciples

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Inside

- 2 Reflections
- 2 Church Records
- 2 To all members and Friends
- 3 Adult Classes Winter 2012
- 3 Kum Dubls Murder Mystery
- 3 Meals for a family in crisis
- 3 Thank You!
- 3 Altar Flowers
- 4 Warming Shelter
- 4 Bullying
- 4 8 levels of congregational participation
- 4 Women's noon study group
- 5 Many, many, thanks
- 5 Laity weekend
- 5 Youth Ministry
- 6 Happy New Year First Church families
- 6 Special worship January 7&8
- 6 Dear Pastor column
- 7 Faith on Fire a LOGOS ministry
- 7 Thank You Bell Ringers
- 7 Mission Team meals
- 8 Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Adult Education Brochure insert



articles for the February newsletter
due to office@appfumc.org
Thursday, January 19

Journey to Jamaica

Mark your calendars for the weekend of January 28/29. First United Methodist Church has partnered with World Vision, Inc. to bring Journey to Jamaica to our church congregation. Journey to Jamaica is a 34-minute film, designed to create a unique experience in which the congregation will take an unforgettable journey from poverty to hope. It will highlight the relevance of family and hope in the face of trial and offer practical opportunities for sponsorship, prayer, and education.

Please note, this film includes mature themes and parental discretion is advised for children sixth-grade and younger. As a result, childcare will be provided at both the Saturday, 5:30 p.m. service as well as the Sunday, 10:30 p.m. service. Children will go to Sunday school as normal during the 9:00 a.m. service.

In order to host an event such as this, we will need volunteers in the following areas.

- On Saturday, January 28, from approximately 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., we will need 4-6 volunteers to help unload the stage set/props and audiovisual equipment from the truck and assist with the set-up of these items under the direction of Synergy (the production company for World Vision, Inc.). You must be at least 18 years of age and able to lift up to 60 pounds.
- On Saturday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. service, we will need 1 volunteer to answer questions and collect sponsorship envelopes at the sponsorship display after the service. Brief training will be provided by Synergy prior to the service. You must be at least 21 years of age.
- On Saturday, January 28, 5:30 p.m. service, we will need 1 youth volunteer to provide childcare, if needed, during the worship service. You must be at least 13 years of age.
- On Sunday, January 29, 9:00 a.m. service, we will need 4 volunteers to answer questions and collect sponsorship envelopes at the sponsorship display after the service. Brief training will be provided by Synergy prior to the service. You must be at least 21 years of age.
- On Sunday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. service, we will need 1 volunteer to answer questions and collect sponsorship envelopes at the sponsorship display after the service. Brief training will be provided by Synergy prior to the service. You must be at least 21 years of age.
- On Sunday, January 29, from approximately 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., we will need 4-6 volunteers to help with dismantling the stage set/props and loading these items, along with the audiovisual equipment back on the truck. This will be done under the direction of Synergy. You must be at least 18 years of age and able to lift up to 60 pounds.

To sign up for any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact the church office, Pastor Krystal, or Denise Anderson (739-0706) or starting January 8, fill out the You Can Count On Me insert in the church bulletin.

REFLECTIONS

January, 2012

Dear Members and Friends,

Another Christmas has come and gone and we are now moving into a New Year together. I hope you had a most blessed Christmas and I hope good health and joy have greeted you in this New Year.

New years always offer each of us an opportunity to start over again. Through the power of love and forgiveness, we are given power to leave the old behind, restore brokenness, or admit some things will never change and take responsibility for making a new path for ourselves. Whichever path we take, I can assure you that God's dream for each of us is to live lives filled with joy, hope, faith, peace, and love. Even when life is in a very difficult place, these sustain us and help us move forward.

Christie and I will be taking a few days after the holidays to relax and enjoy a bit of sunshine --and then take a few days to prepare for the winter season of the church year. I joyfully look forward to this time with family and friends and find the time to be very refreshing and renewing. All of us need that kind of time in our lives and I hope you find it for yourself as well. I will be preparing a study for the winter spring semester and rewriting the Network curriculum to make it more user friendly. I hope to use this curriculum with all new member classes in the coming years and I hope it will be a

blessing to all who decide to take the Discovery challenge!

We have a wide array of worship experiences awaiting you during the month of January. We hope you will be in worship to enjoy all that is being planned.

Allow me to again take this time to say THANK YOU for all your acts of kindness during the Christmas season, the cards and letters were gifts of encouragement greatly enjoyed. Thank you for every commitment you made to the church this past year and for 2012. Welcome to all our new leaders for 2012 and welcome to all those leaders returning to serve another year. We hope you will find a place in 2012 where your greatest love and the world's greatest need meet. That ministry will be both exciting and greatly fruitful!

*In Christ's love,
Pastor Doyle*

Church Records

Deaths

11/23/11 Rev. Gordon Sorensen
11/28/11 Cy Christensen
12/14/11 Maloa Dutcher

TO: All Members and Friends

RE: Thank You for Your Pledge Response

I was taught growing up to say THANK YOU when someone gave me something or did something nice. So in the spirit of what I was taught, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of you who responded to the 2012 pledge campaign, GIVE... GIVE GENEROUSLY.

According to the report from Jim Hays' desk, I offer thanks to the 377 families who have responded so far to our efforts. Those responding increases every day and to all who have responded to date I say:

Thank you to the 109 families who were able to increase your pledge on an average of 12.7%. This is amazingly wonderful as we continue our economic recovery.

- Thank you to the 33 families who offered new pledges with a gift of \$25,208. Your partnership with this church is a blessing as you bring your insights and gifts to the congregation.
- Thank you to the 200 families who kept your pledge the same as in 2011. Being able to stay stable is a true blessing and we thank you for your confidence and commitment to your church.
- Thank you to the 40 families who found the need to decrease your pledge in 2012. We have to believe that you needed the \$34,679 more than the ministries of your church. For what you were able to give, thank you!
- Thank you to the 112 families who made a pledge of \$36,505 to the Building Fund, this is above and beyond your regular church pledge. I know as a fact that your Trustees work hard to employ every penny in a creative way. Thank you!

As we move into this New Year, I pray God's blessings upon you and your family. I pray you and your family will enjoy life in all its fullest and share in God's abundance.

*With deep gratitude,
Pastor Doyle*

Join an Adult Class this Winter!

I continue to celebrate the expanding offerings we are able to provide for your participation in some sort of study group during 2012. In this newsletter you will find the majority of our offerings for the winter semester, brought to you by our Adult Education Ministry Team. The classes are quite diverse and waiting for your registration. Due to the cost of ordering materials and shipping returns, we need you to register early. So, don't delay. Call the office with your interest and we would welcome your participation!

I have found the time in a small group to be a very dynamic process. From the presentation of the facilitator to the class engagement, I am offered many opportunities to stretch my thinking and engage my passion to make a difference with my life. I hope this year you will take the challenge to enjoy one of our many offerings from dedicated laity and staff who are preparing and making these offerings available to you.

Pastor Doyle

Kum Dubls Murder Mystery Event

You are invited to help solve a murder in the Asbury Lounge. Date, January 14, 2012. Time, 6:30 p.m. to approximately 9:30 p.m. You won't be the victim, but you may end up guilty of the crime.

A murder mystery will be the fourth in a series of couples' events staged by the group, Kum Dubls. If you commit, you'll be sent a copy of the guest list and

with a character outline of each guest (including your own). Costume is entirely optional as some may find it fun and integral to playing the part while others may find it quite the opposite. Four couples will be assigned to an investigation area and we will have multiple investigations going on at the same time.

To add to the mystery of the night, you are asked to bring a food (snack type or dessert type or fruit type) that starts with the first letter of your last name. For example, if your name is Anderson, you might bring avocado dip or apples.

Sign-up by calling the church office, filling in the You Can Count on Me in the weekly bulletin or by e-mailing Birdie Schottmuller at nschottmuller@new.rr.com. All sign-up must be done by Sunday, January 8th.



Meals for a family in crisis

When a family is in crisis, elation over a new baby, or the chef is sick (or has surgery) in the household and cannot prepare meals, we as a church family would like to step in and help with this basic need. If you would like to share a meal with a family or persons who need this type of care, come be a part of the food ministry!

These instances can be sporadic and short term, but your

name will be rotated on a list and called as it comes up.

If you are interested in volunteering or if you have any questions, please contact Julie Anderson, (h) 731-7899 or email her at zookeeper5us@yahoo.com.

Thank You!

Following my stroke last summer, our lives changed drastically. We would like to thank the congregation of First Church for helping us through this difficult time. Your thoughts and prayers were greatly appreciated, as well as the meals so graciously provided by church members.

*Thanks to all of you!
Bruce and Ruthann Hetzler*

Altar Flowers

Would you like to honor someone who is having a special anniversary or birthday? Why not do it with flowers on the altar? Check the flower chart on the bulletin board by the church office for available dates. Write in your name on the flower chart.

Flowers can be ordered by the church for \$40 or you are welcome to bring your own flowers. Call the church office to let us know how you would like the bulletin announcement worded. After the 10:30 a.m. service, or on Monday following you are welcome to take your flowers home.

Serving the Warming Shelter in March

Homelessness is a serious issue in the Fox Valley. One way to help is for churches to provide the evening meal and overnight "hospitality" for a week at the Warming Shelter which is located behind the Saint Vincent De Paul store in Appleton.

First Church helped out two different weeks in 2011. Our next week to help is Sunday evening, April 29 through Saturday evening, May 5. Many volunteers will be needed. Watch for more information and sign-up which will begin in March.

Bullying

A teacher in New York was teaching her class about *bullying* and gave them the following exercise to perform. She had the children take a clean piece of paper and told them to crumple it up, stomp on it, really mess it up...but do not rip it. Then she had them unfold the paper, smooth it out and look at how scarred and dirty it was. She then told them to tell the paper that they were sorry.

Now even though they said they were sorry and tried to fix the paper she pointed out all the scars they left behind. She explained that those scars will never go away, no matter how hard they tried to fix it. That is what happens when a child bullies another child...they may say they're sorry, but the scars are still left there forever.

The looks on the faces of the children in the classroom told her the message hit home.

8 Levels of Congregational Participation -

Which One Are You?

Presented by Rev. Dan Dick at our Church Conference on December 5, 2011

Diakonia - the Greek term from which our understanding of servant ministry springs. At this level, a person gives his/her entire life to Christian pursuits - engaging in prayer, study of scripture, service to those in needs, teaching, and worship. This is the life that radical discipleship prepares the servant leader for.

Radical Discipleship - at this level, a person devotes his/her life to Christian service, generally accepting a vocation within a church, spiritual movement, or religious order. We view most pastors, priests, and church professionals in this category.

Initial Discipleship - those who make their faith a guiding priority in their daily living, engaging in developmental spiritual practices, and committing a significant amount of personal time, energy, and resources into spiritual growth and faith formation, and service to others. These are the people who assume leadership responsibility.

Active Engagement - those who actively pursue personal growth and development through formation activities, small groups, study, regular worship, and support of ministries and services to others. People at this level are in "sponge-mode" soaking up as much as they can to grow in their faith, preparing them for discipleship.

Passive Engagement - those who come and receive and regularly

seek to be fed, nurtured, comforted, cared for, and included. People at this level may attend many activities, but they do not fully participate or engage. They connect in a variety of ways, but as observers. They enjoy the community and fellowship that the faith provides.

Active Connection - those who join and attend on a regular basis, who place a moderate value on church as a necessary aspect of the Christian faith. At this level, the church is an organization to join or a place to go, but is not deeply integrated into the person's sense of identity.

Passive Connection - those who join and keep a nominal relationship with the church, though they may not actively attend, give, or engage in more than the most basic spiritual practices (e.g., grace before meals, Bible on the bookshelf). Consider themselves *members*, but generally in name only.

Belief - the initial level of participation, where individuals make an affirmation that they believe in God, believe in Jesus Christ as God's Son. May or may not ever connect with a formal body of believers at any level.

Women's Noon Study Group

Starting January 11, the Wednesday study group will be reading and discussing the book, *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*, by Karen Armstrong. The group meets from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Wesley Room. Please join us!

Enjoy great conversation and lively discussions. Questions? Contact Cynthia Whitely, 731-8035.



Festival of Carols for 2011 was a great success! An outstanding concert was presented by nearly 140 musicians, including singers, ringers, instrumentalists, directors and accompanists. There were 752 in attendance, and a free-will offering was received to benefit the Salvation Army food pantry resulting in a gift of \$6,200.

Thank you to all who were involved in this special celebration of the birth of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Laity Weekend January 21-22

We will be celebrating the gifts of our laity on the weekend of January 21-22. First Church has a core of very devoted laity doing the ministry of the church. From the classroom to the kitchen, from the sanctuary to the nursery, from the community organization to the nursing facilities, laity of this church are doing ministry. Through the great variety of vocations members of our church make this a most wonderful place to live. To our laity, THANK YOU for all you do in and beyond the church.

Our lay speaker for all three of our services on January 21-22 will be Richard Ruhsam. Dick is the chairperson of our Church Council and a deeply committed member of this congregation. Every time the Council meets,

Dick always begins with a moving prayer and ends with a motivational devotional story. You will be greatly blessed to hear his message.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Once again, we will be offering opportunities to meet in Christian Fellowship, Study, and Service as we strive to fulfill our Youth Ministry Mission Statement, "To Equip Youth to Authentically Follow Jesus Christ."

Our second annual JH/SH Night of Fantastical Balloon Wonderment Event is Sunday, January 8 from 4-7 p.m. This year we have upped the total to 2012 Balloons. Celebrate the New Year with friends, balloon games, balloon challenges, and a room filled with 2012 balloons! Dinner = Taco Bar! Cost is \$5. We are looking for Adult Leaders to join the fun!

Our JH/SH Youth groups will enjoy a Lock-In at the Heart of the Valley YMCA on Saturday, January 14 from 9:00 p.m. -7:30 a.m. The cost is \$10. Youth are encouraged to bring friends and snacks to share. Sign up by January 8.

The 57 Junior High and Senior High Youth & Adult Leaders, who will be serving next summer in Boston and Cincinnati, will be holding their largest Mission Trip Fundraiser beginning January 21 and ending February 12. Participants will distribute soda cans following worship services. Congregation members are encouraged to take a can, drink it, rinse it, fill it with change, cash, or a check, and return it by February 12. Last year we collected \$4,500. This

year's goal is \$6,000. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping the Youth and Adults fulfill their mission next summer.

Our annual Senior High Winter Retreat is February 3-5, and will be held at Camp Zion in Ellison Bay. Activities include: Sledding, Tubing, Ice Skating, Broomball, and much more. We will be joining a number of local churches for a great weekend. The cost is \$100.

Finally, we are looking for College Student addresses. If you are a college student or have a college student in your family, please send addresses to bstahl@appfumc.org. We will be sending care packages in February.

As always, we are looking for dedicated and passionate Adult Leaders who will walk alongside our Youth. Remember, this is everyone's Youth Ministry, so if you have any questions, suggestions, or comments do not hesitate to let me know.

Upcoming Youth Ministry Opportunities:

- JH/SH Night of 2012 Balloons: January 8 @ 4-7 p.m.
- JH/SH YMCA Lock In: January 14 @ 9 p.m. -7:30 a.m.
- SH 2nd Annual Thrift Formal Dinner Party @ HuHot: January 22 @ 5-7 p.m.
- SH Winter Retreat @ Camp Zion: February 3-5
- JH/SH Mission Blast: Cookie Bake: February 11 @ 9-Noon

*Serving Him! Brian Stahl
Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*

bstahl@appfumc.org

Office: 734-2677 ext 315, Cell: 920-840-5075,

Text: 920-482-7299



First Church Families!

I hope your Christmas season was safe and happy, and that you were truly blessed by the miracle of Christ. As we begin a new year together, our Sunday school students will be busy learning and growing in their faith. I hope your child can join us! We will begin the new semester on **January 1st** by celebrating together in the gym. Join us during the 9:00 a.m. worship service for a movie, some snacks and games. Children age 3 through grade 5 are welcome to attend, and our two-year-old friends are welcome in the Toddler Nursery that day. All regular Sunday school classes will begin again on Sunday, **January 8th** during the 9:00 a.m. worship service.

We'd love to welcome your child to our classrooms in the New Year! Attending church and Sunday school are important factors in your child's faith development, and we strive to offer your family quality opportunities. The teachers and assistants in our classrooms are dedicated to encouraging your child's growing relationship with Christ – and they do an amazing job! However, what happens at home is even more important than what happens at church. The average child will spend about 3,000 hours with their parents each year versus the 40 or so that they will spend attending church

on Sunday. **No one has more influence over a child than his or her parent.** In comparison, church has limited potential to impact the heart of your child. In the coming year, how can FUMC further partner with you to provide the tools you need to lead your children spiritually? Please contact Jill or a member of the Children's Ministry Team with your ideas.

Watch for exciting events this spring! We'll again be fundraising for Heifer International during Lent, with a pajama party kick-off in late February. There are special events planned for some of our classes on Palm Sunday and Easter, as well as VBS pre-registration Sundays. May the New Year continue to bless you and your family!

Jill Geurts, Director of Christian Education Ministries

Special Worship January 7-8, 2012

On January 7 and 8 we will welcome back to the sanctuary our guest musician and speaker, Toby Waldowski. Toby is a song writer and recording artist, having recorded eleven CD's. He has served on the music staff of the Crystal Cathedral as well as serving as guest soloist in Billy Graham Crusades. Since 1977, Toby has offered over 4,000 concerts throughout North America. His home state is South Dakota.

Toby was with us last year and offered his music, testimony and message. He will again share his music, testimony and a message entitled: "*Possessing Our Possessions*"--- focusing on the importance of incorporating the

marvelous promises of God into our daily lives. After hearing Pastor Krystal's encouraging message for New Year's Day, come and enjoy a service of song and testimony. All three services will be in our sanctuary. Come and bring a friend.

Dear Pastor,
I have always wondered, what is the front part of the church called? (The level you preach on.)
Thanks,
Wondering

Dear Wondering,
That's a wonderful question! The front portion of the church is called the chancel. The organ, piano, and worship table are on the lower chancel.
Thank you for your question,
Pastor

If you have any question (theological, practical, or liturgical) please send it to the office email at office@appfumc.org and we will try to answer it!

We have a burning desire to serve Christ, and we're about to Combust!

LOGOS will now be known as "FAITH ON FIRE a LOGOS ministry". We will be kicking off the new name, and a couple other fun new changes, on Wednesday, January 25th. We are holding a special event to celebrate, and would like to invite you to join us for a fun night of dinner, games, education, fellowship, and worship...

You're Invited!

WHERE: Fellowship Hall & classrooms

WHEN: Wednesday, January 25th From 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

WHAT: The COMBUSTION Event!

This is your chance to see what Faith on Fire (LOGOS) has been doing this fall and winter. Meet and greet with Faith on Fire (LOGOS) teachers and volunteers. Learn what we have planned going forward. See the kids in action! Activities for all ages. All with a fun FIERY theme! Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, provided by Wednesday Night Live. Tickets will be on sale for \$6.00 per person, or \$13.00 per family. This includes dinner and all other proceeds go to the Faith on Fire (LOGOS) scholarship fund, ensuring no student is left out because of financial hardship. Pick up your tickets starting January 1st, between Sunday services or in the church office anytime during office hours.

*If you would like to attend but are not able to afford the ticket price, please contact Lacey

Reinhard (LOGOS Coordinator) by calling the church office and asking for extension 324*

January Mission of the Month

The Emergency Shelter of the Fox Valley is the Mission of the Month for January. This local charity provides temporary (up to 30 days) shelter with meals and life skills training for families and individuals in need. Because the Shelter provides new linens for the residents, there is a continuing need for pillows and pillow cases, twin-sized blankets, fitted and flat sheets. Because of the many infants given shelter, there is a need for baby monitors with batteries, baby dolls, rattles and matchbox cars for older children. For the laundry, detergents, fabric softeners and dryer sheets are needed. For the bathrooms, shampoo, conditioner and non-alcoholic mouthwash are needed. For take-out lunches there is a need for brown paper lunch and clear plastic bags, storage snacks (chips and granola bars), peanut butter and napkins. Canned vegetables and fruit help with regular meals. Donated items can be placed in the appropriate large wooden box in the lower lobby across from Asbury Lounge.

Gift cards from grocery stores, Fleet Farm, Express Gas and Valley Transit, etc. are a very practical way to help residents of the Shelter directly. Gift cards may be dropped off at the church office. And of course, monetary donations are always appreciated. Make your check payable to the First United Methodist Church and write "Emergency Shelter" on the memo line.

Thank you, Bell Ringers!

The Salvation Army and the local community thank all the families and individuals who rang bells on Friday evening, December 16. For once the weather was cooperative. We do not yet know the total money raised but we do know that, thanks to the Bemis Corporation, the results of your efforts were doubled. Take some comfort in the cold months to come in knowing that you have helped those in the local community who need help.

A Night Out for a Meal!

The Mission Team could use a few more volunteers to help with meals at the Emergency Shelter and the Salvation Army. We are committed to helping with about 10 evening meals per year at the Shelter, always on a Thursday, and about 2 noon meals per year at the Salvation Army, always on Sunday. The hours are from 4 to about 7:30 p.m. for the Thursday evening meals, and about 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Sunday noon meals. At both places you will be working with four or five other church members in a modern, commercial kitchen. You do not have to bring any food other than sometimes a dessert for the evening meals. Typically volunteers serve only once or twice per year. We can also use volunteers who can't help with the evening meals but are able to furnish a dessert. If interested, call Don Hayford (739-3082) or the church office.



Come worship with us!

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. & (10:30 a.m. September - May), or Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.,

Church School Program 9:15 a.m.



Or watch our taped worship service on Time Warner Cable channel 2 or 4, Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the First Weekend of the Month.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism is offered on the Fourth Weekend of the Month.

Office Phone 734-2677

Kitchen Phone 731-1377

Fax number 882-1461

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Join us on Facebook – become a fan of First United Methodist Church of Appleton

Ministers. All members and friends

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The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

It is our joy to offer the sacrament of baptism to children, youth, and adults. As a rule, we will offer the sacrament on the **fourth weekend of each month**. Since we, parents and congregation, are making a covenant to nurture the faith of the children and promising to support you in the process, it is important for you to be connected to this faith community. **Therefore, we encourage your active participation in the life of the church and highly recommend your attendance at worship at least 2 or 3 weekends prior to baptism.** This way it will give you the opportunity to get to know First United Methodist Church, and us a chance to become acquainted with you.

If you are seeking baptism for yourself or for your child, please give the office a call. We will collect the necessary information and send you a copy of the baptism service. **A week prior to the baptism, one of the pastors will meet with you to plan for the service. Please call to arrange this half hour appointment.** We are looking forward to sharing this gift of God's grace with you!