



CONNECTIONS

Making Christian Disciples

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September Treasurer's Report

**Newsletter
DEADLINE**

December newsletter articles
due
Wednesday,
November 23
Terry@appfumc.org



Commitment Weekend November 12-13, 2011

Our theme this year for our 2012 Stewardship Campaign is ***GIVE... GIVE GENEROUSLY***. The graphic illustrates what we believe to be at the heart of all our giving, whether that be time, talent or treasure — it is responding to the generosity of God in giving us Jesus, to show us the way to life and giving us such a great salvation.

We hope and pray as you consider your financial commitment to the ministry of First United Methodist Church, you will explore the many reasons why you give. We hope the first and foremost reason is to make an adequate response to the Gift of Jesus.

You will be receiving your PLEDGE CARD in the mail in the very near future. As you look over our narrative budget, reading and hearing testimonies of how First Church is making a difference in the lives of people, we thank you in advance for your prayerful and thoughtful response. We are counting on you to undergird this church with the support it will need to move forward and expand its influence in this community and beyond.

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to give our office a call. We thank you for your partnership in this great adventure of serving God.

*Steve Price,
Chairperson of Finance*

*Doyle Blanton,
Lead Pastor*

REFLECTIONS

Welcome to our New Visitation Pastor

Below you will read Dave Farina's letter of introduction. We are happy to let you know that Dave will be joining our staff as of December 1, 2011 to serve as our Pastor of Visitation. His two primary areas of visitation will be to visit our shut-ins two quarters per year. Pastor Krystal and I will visit during the other two quarters. This way our shut-ins will have a pastoral visit at least 4 times per year.

At the time we were making plans to add this position to our staff, we had 160 families with little or no pattern of worshipping with us in the past 2+ years. Dave will be visiting each of these homes over the next 13 months. We want the whole congregation to know that we love them and care for them. It will be exciting to see how God will use Dave with his many pastoral gifts as we reach out in love and concern. Again, WELCOME DAVE! We are happy to have you on our ministry Team.

Dear Members and Friends of First Church,

My name is Dave Farina and I am a retired United Methodist pastor who has been hired to be your Pastor of Visitation. In order for you to get to know me, I'd like to share some biographical information.

I was born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin, the youngest of five children. I attended North Central College and Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary in the



Thanksgiving Eve Interfaith Worship

Wednesday

November 23, 7:00 p.m.

at

First United Methodist Church, Appleton

Refreshments afterwards

in Fellowship Hall

Chicago area. I met my wife, Linda, in college. This year we celebrated 40 years of marriage. Linda is a retired High School English teacher.

We have two adult children; a son, Mark, and a daughter, Lindsay Sulik. Mark and his wife, Cheri, are expecting our first grandchild in February. Mark works as a financial planner for Edward Jones in Glen Ellyn, Illinois and Cheri currently works in his office. Lindsay served as the Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries at First Church for 3½ years and as Director of Education for 1½ years before that. Lindsay now works as a Massage Therapist at Sunflower Spa in Appleton. She is married to Matt, a registered nurse at Mercy Medical Hospital in Oshkosh and both are members here at First Church.

In 1974 I started my ministry here in the Fox Valley serving Faith United Methodist Church in Greenville and Center Emmanuel UMC. We then moved to Evansville, WI in 1982 and served there until 1990. In 1990 our family moved to Baraboo where we lived until 2004. In 2004 we moved to Reedsburg, where we

retired in June of this year.

I have enjoyed my 37 years of ministry immensely, especially preaching and visiting people in their homes, in the hospital, and at various times of need in their lives. I believe I have made friends all over the state, and those friendships will remain forever. I look forward to getting better acquainted with each one of you as we attend worship at First UMC, or as I visit you in the hospital, or at home. I will be calling on shut-ins as well as people whose attendance pattern has changed. We want everyone to be involved in the life of the church as much as possible.

I look forward to working with Pastor Doyle and Pastor Krystal, other staff members, Stephen Ministers, and the Caring Ministry Coordinator.

*Yours in His Service,
Pastor Dave Farina*

Church Records

Deaths

10-11-11 Luella Liscombe

Baptisms

10-1-11 Antonio Beasom

10-15-11 Addison O'Rourke

10-22-11 Adilene Jones



COOKIE Walk

Sunday, December 11

Asbury Lounge

sponsored by

Mothers of Growing

Disciples - If you are able to bring cookies to sell, sign up on the You Can Count on me

Festival of God's Harvest November 19/20

The local Missions Ministry Team, for the 3rd successive year, is sponsoring the *Festival of God's Harvest* to benefit the St. Joseph's Food Pantry. "Festival Food" grocery bags will be handed out to church members on November 12 and 13, with the hope they are returned the next Sunday filled with canned goods or non-perishable food items for the St. Joseph's Food Pantry. Attached to the bags will be a list of most needed items.

The following weekend, November 19/20 the bags will be collected as you enter the chapel or sanctuary. Monetary gifts will be accepted as well. Make your check payable to "FUMC" and mark on the memo line "Festival of God's Harvest."

More and more families are signing up for assistance, so it is imperative the local community reach out to needy parishioners, friends, neighbors, or relatives. Please join us in giving thanks by contributing to the Festival of God's Harvest on Saturday, November 19 or Sunday, November 20. Thank you!

Sacrament of Communion

Pastor Krystal will be offering weekly communion on Sundays during Advent, November 27 through December 18, 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m., in our chapel. You are welcome to come for communion, stay and pray, or leave as soon as you take communion.

Ringling in the Season

Once again we have volunteered as a congregation to help the Salvation Army by ringing bells at selected locations for one evening in December. This year it will be Friday, December 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. This is a big shopping night, so our efforts should be rewarded by raising a lot of money to help the needy in this area.

Almost all of the sites we have reserved are indoors (between the doors) or in heated booths, and split shifts can be arranged. You don't have to ring alone. This can be a meaningful family event or a chance to catch up on the news with a friend. To sign up or get information call Don Hayford, 739-3082, or the church office. The first volunteers get their choice of sites. It will also run in the "You Can Count on Me" bulletin insert.



This church makes lots of good music! It comes from the big and the small, the older and younger, with voices and other instruments. Being a part of that music has enriched my life more than I can say. I must admit (with much pride) to claiming many as *my kids*, even as they moved on from the Genesis Choir to Sonshine Singers, when they were confirmed, and when they graduated. Now they are getting married!

With an accompanist like Liz Kulhavy, a music director like Bob Butler, a church staff and a group of parents that readily said, "sure, go ahead and try it!" I always felt encouraged and supported as the director of Genesis Choir. If in the midst of it all, God smiled and was honored, then we can truly celebrate.

Thank you for the donation to the Emergency Shelter as a tribute to our making music together.

Shelby Knezel

Volunteer in Mission Trip to Mountain T.O.P.

On Sunday, October 2, fourteen Volunteers in Mission (VIM) members left Appleton caravanning to Altamont, Tennessee to take part at Mountain Tennessee Outreach Project (T.O.P.) Under the leadership of Pastor Krystal Goodger, the group included Jeff and Shelby Knezel, Bob and Carol Christenson, Bob Schottmuller, Chris Hartman, Bonnie LeClair, Julie Hidde, Roxie Strick, Bonnie Kuehnl, Kathy Rowe, Ellen Darcourt, and Donna Frick.

Mountain T.O.P. is a Christian organization affiliated with the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church dedicated to a mission of rural life ministry in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee. Mountain T.O.P. is an organization that works to meet the physical, social, spiritual, and emotional needs of the Cumberland mountain people.

We were assigned to nine sites to do a variety of work such as putting up drywall, mudding and sanding, lots and lots of sanding. Doors and windows were installed as well as roofs replaced, and a 75 foot wall was built at the local food pantry. Demolition, painting and electrical work was also involved.

Each morning and evening we gathered for devotions and to reflect on our day. On Thursday, October 6, we were joined by other volunteer groups from throughout the southeast. What a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, join together in fellowship and work side-by-side on restoration projects. Many bonds were made during the week. As we journeyed back to Appleton, we were exhausted, but much richer in spirit.

The Stockholders Dinner is Sunday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m. where a power point presentation will show the work that VIM accomplished. *If you haven't already purchased tickets for the dinner and would like to, please call the church office ASAP.* You will find the program very interesting. Perhaps you would like to join the VIM team on a future mission trip! Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers and for your support of our Volunteers in Mission group.

Top Five Reasons to Attend Kum Dubs Progressive Dinner

5. Great food, greater prices.
4. Good time guaranteed.
3. Methodists, as far as the eye can see.
2. You'll only be seated next to great, interesting people who want to be your friends. *Did we mention they are Methodists?*
1. **NUMBER ONE** reason you should attend Kum Dubs Progressive Dinner on Nov. 12 is you know you have time to kill while waiting for opening day.

Who: All couples.

What: A progressive dinner means we'll be moving to several locations to share different parts of the meal. In this case we'll begin with appetizers in one home, move to assigned homes for salad and main course, and to Asbury Lounge for dessert(s). You'll be asked to sign up for a portion of the meal.

Menu: Assorted appetizers,

Lasagna, vegetable, salad, breads, and assorted desserts.

When and Where: Saturday, November 12, 6:00 p.m. until approximately 9:00 p.m.

6:00-6:45 p.m. Appetizers at Bob and Carol Christenson's home. (For those who chose to attend Saturday's worship service, you will meet at an assigned home starting at 7:00 p.m.)

7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Salad and main course at assigned homes.

8:00 - 9:00 p.m. Dessert will be in the Asbury Lounge at church.

Why: See reasons above.

Please respond with which item you would be willing to provide by e-mail to nschottmuller@new.rr.com or by phone to Birdie Schottmuller, 788-5451, or by filling out the "You Can Count on Me" bulletin insert. Responses needed by November 9.

November Mission of the Month

LEAVEN, the *Financial Emergency Room* for Calumet, Outagamie and northeastern Winnebago counties is the November M.O.M. Founded in 1987, LEAVEN is a non-profit organization that provides emergency financial aid, referrals to other service agencies and limited advocacy and service coordination to people in crisis with basic needs that cannot be met elsewhere. Assistance is usually immediate, short-term and financially based. Current needs are: diapers (all sizes), shampoo and conditioner, tooth brushes and toothpaste, garbage bags (all sizes), cleaning supplies, gift cards for Office Depot or Sam's Club, and volunteers. For more information contact church Linda Michaelis, 733-4301.

Mothers of Growing Disciples

All mothers of young children are invited and encouraged to join us from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 14 in room 214 for Mothers of Growing Disciples (MOGD).

Come and learn the *Power of a Praying Parent* and enjoy being with other moms who are striving to be the best MOGDs they can be! We will be planning our annual Cookie Walk (to be held December 11) so get in on the fun! Childcare is provided in the toddler room.

Adult forum and food: the great recovery – dealing creatively with debt and money management

**Coming, Thursday,
November 17, 2011
Asbury Lounge
Cost \$5 for supper**

- 6:00 p.m. light supper
- 6:45 p.m. Presentation of highlights from “Financial Peace University”
- Presenters: Brian and Judy Ulrey
- 7:15 p.m. Table group discussions
- 8:00 p.m. Sending Forth

Many of you are unable to commit to a long or short term class so the Adult Education Team will be providing monthly forums of one night in length. We hope you will register your intention to attend November’s forum by Monday, November 14 so we can make adequate preparations.

Hello FUMC families!

Autumn is officially upon us, and along with that, the cold and flu season has reared its ugly head! Many of our families have been struggling with these illnesses, and it is our sincere prayer that everyone affected by these bugs recover quickly and fully. As a reminder, anyone who suspects they may be sick should not attend Sunday school. Although joining the fun in Sunday school is the highlight of a long week, we certainly do not want to share any germs with others if we can help it!

Likewise, if you are scheduled to volunteer in a classroom and believe you might be ill, please attempt to find a substitute and contact Jill as soon as you can. For individuals who do attend church, tissues and hand sanitizers are available throughout the building and classrooms. We can all work together to keep our church family safe and healthy during this year’s cold & flu season.

Our Sunday school classes have been busy this fall. The Two-year old room has been an active place. Children here are acclimating to their new classroom and becoming comfortable with their classmates, surroundings, and basic church vocabulary. In the Nurturing Faith program (age 3 – grade 1), we are working our way through some classic Old Testament stories. Examples include Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, The Exodus, and more! The Rotation Workshops (grades 2 – 5) have studied Joseph, and How the Bible

Came to Be. This month, they will learn about the Exodus. And of course, during October our 3rd grade friends learned all about their new Bibles and how to use them. There will be a special event during Thanksgiving weekend, Sunday, November 27th, for students age 3 – grade 1. We will meet in the Gym during Sunday school and celebrate the beginning of Advent. Two year olds are welcome in the nursery, while students in grades 2 – 5 will have class as usual.

Advent and Christmas are just around the corner! This year, our children will present their Christmas program “A Capital C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S” on Sunday, December 11th during both services. If your child is interested in being involved in the production, please contact Jill. We need children to fill narrator roles (no memorization required), as well as non-speaking roles. There will be just one rehearsal, on Saturday, December 10th. Sign up today to get involved in this ministry opportunity as we reflect on the Christmas story through an original poem.

Did your family Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF this year? Please return collection boxes and donations to your child’s Sunday school classroom by Nov. 13th. Thanks for empowering your child to make a difference in this world!

Do you have questions? Concerns? General feedback? I would love to hear from you! Please contact me at jgeurts@appfumc.org or 920-734-2677 ext 317.

Give thanks for God’s many gracious blessings this month. Happy Thanksgiving!

Jill Geurts, Director of Christian Education Ministries

Youth Ministry Update

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."

Junior High Youth Group meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. This year our meetings will be filled with a time to connect, crazy games, and a discussion on the Fruits of the Spirit, found in Galatians 5:22-23. What are the Fruits? What do they mean to Junior High Youth? How can we make the Fruits visible in our lives?

Senior High Youth Group meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month from 4:30-6:00 p.m. They will continue their search through the Parables of Jesus. What is a Parable? What are the universal truths found in the Parables? How can we apply these truths to our lives as High School Youth?

The Junior High Fall Retreat was held October 14-16 at Lake Lucerne. The weekend saw 14 Youth and 4 Adults learn what God requires. Our focus was Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." Participants were challenged to put God's requirement into action in their lives as Junior High Youth.

Each month the Junior High/Senior High Youth Groups will be participating in a Mission Blast, an opportunity to do some hands on mission work locally. November's event is Operation Christmas Child. Youth will be collecting shoe boxes and items to fill those boxes to send overseas to

children. Our Mission Blast will be held on Wednesday, November 16 as part of LOGOS from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Donations are due by November 13.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support.

The Senior High Convo will be held on November 11-13 at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. The event is for all United Methodist High School Youth in Wisconsin. This year's theme is "God is Timeless" and is taken from Malachi 3:6, "I am the Lord, and I do not change." The weekend will be filled with opportunities for Faith, Fellowship and Friends. The cost of the weekend is \$135. Sign up deadline: November 6.

Mission Trip Update: We have been blessed with a great response. The Senior High trip to Boston is June 16-23. We have 4 Youth spaces available. The cost is \$450. The Junior High trip to Cincinnati is July 8-13. We have 3 Youth and 1 Adult Leader spaces available. The cost is \$350. A deposit of \$100 will guarantee your space to serve God on one of the trips. We strive to give as many people opportunities to serve. 25 of 51 are first time mission trip participants. Are you ready to serve next summer?

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.

*Serving Him! Brian Stahl,
Director of Youth & Young
Adult Ministries*
bstahl@appfumc.org

Upcoming Youth Ministry Opportunities:

- JH/SH Power of One Concert: November 5 @ 6:30 p.m.
- SH Convo @ Chula Vista Resort: November 11-13
- JH/SH Peder Eide Concert: November 13 @ 7:00 p.m.
- JH/SH Mission Blast: Operation Christmas Child: November 16 @ 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Operation Christmas Child

Our Youth will be assembling shoe boxes to send to children overseas on Wednesday, November 16 during LOGOS. If you would like to help with this project, please donate shoe boxes, wrapping paper and the following items to fit inside the shoebox to the Church Office by Sunday, November 13. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

- **Cost** – Each shoe box costs \$7 to ship. You can write a check to Samaritan's Purse (note "OCC" on memo line) and place it in an envelope on top of the gift items inside your box.
- **Small Toys** – cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, yo-yos, harmonicas, jump ropes, etc.
- **School Supplies** – Pencils and sharpener, pens, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring books, etc.
- **Hygiene Items** – Toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth
- **a Personal Note** – In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family.
- **Do Not Include:** Used, damaged or breakable items; no toy guns, knives or military figures; no chocolate or food

New Roof over the Sanctuary and Transepts

The church facility will be getting a new roof over the Sanctuary and North and South Transepts. The current asphalt shingle roof was damaged earlier this year due to wind and hail. Our insurance carrier, Church Mutual, has awarded us \$56,000 to replace the roof. The Board of Trustees looked into several options for replacement and decided to replace the roof with a new roof that has a much longer life (up to three times longer); a metal roof which is higher profile in appearance. Although the roof is metal, it will still have the look and texture of asphalt shingles. Work on the roof is to begin early November and last approximately one week.

With the assistance of additional funds needed to replace the roof with a higher quality, the Endowment Committee was asked to fund the difference in cost. Endowment Committee has agreed to pay for the difference of approximately \$15,000 for the upgrade to a metal roof. We all should be very thankful for the additional funds provided from the Gladys Huhn Capital Projects Endowment Fund, the Ballinger Renovation and Modernization Endowment, and the General Operating and Capital Improvement Endowment Fund. We have been very blessed to have these funds available!

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, Thomas Weinfurter, chairperson

A Festival of Carols

Friday, December 2, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

Presented by
the Choirs and Orchestra of

First United Methodist church

325 East Franklin Street

Appleton, Wisconsin 54911

920-734-2677; www.appfumc.org

100% of a free-will offering will be given to the Salvation Army Food Pantry. Matching funds for the Salvation Army Food Pantry are available up to \$3,000.



Chili Supper put on by the adult softball team

Friday, December 2, 2011, 5:30 – 6:30 P.M.

Adults \$5, children 12 and under \$3., or \$12 per family



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

Want to receive this newsletter by e-mail instead? E-mail Terry@appfumc.org with that request.

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Nominations for 2012

Lay Leadership Nominations will be meeting soon to begin the task of filling vacancies on the committees mentioned below. Most commitments are for three years and begin January 1, 2012. There are a few one or two year commitment slots. If you would like to serve on one of the following committees, please fill this sheet out to let us know of your interest and drop in the plate offering, or return to the church office. Filling out this sheet does not make a firm commitment. Someone from the Lay Leadership Committee will be in touch with you to talk about this possible commitment.

Yes, I would like more information about being on the following:

- Church Council (meets about six times a year in the evening)
- Board of Trustees (meets monthly or less in the evening or late afternoon)
- Endowment Committee (meets monthly. Have been meeting at 4:00 p.m. but that is open to discussion by the committee.)
- Finance Committee (meets monthly in the evening.)
- Lay Leadership Nominations (meets three times in November in the evening)
- Staff Parish Relations Committee (meets monthly in the evening)

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Deadline to return this form is Monday, November 7.