

# First Connection

## A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs

January 2, 2019

Volume 13, Issue 1

### **Christmas Eve Offering** ***Feed My Starving Children***

Our Christmas Eve offering giveaway in December is going to Feed My Starving Children. Due to your generosity, we collected \$17,500. Please put February 1 and 2 on your calendar to help pack meals. See the missions information on page 5 for details about how to register.

### **January Sermon Series** **New Year, New Choices**

Each of us has many choices that we make each day, from what we will eat for breakfast to how we will spend our day. In addition to these smaller choices, we have big choices that shape our lives. During January, we'll look at four important choices we can make in 2019 to live life to the fullest and develop a deeper faith and trust in God.



### **February Sermon Series**

Everyone loves a good movie, especially family-friendly stories of love, heroism, drama and more. This February, we'll look at four movies that make list of All Time Greatest Family Movies. Join us as we allow these movies to teach us about important issues such as living into our destiny, pursuing our goals, staying together no matter what, and finding our way home. Best of all, we'll be showing each movie in its entirety on Saturday nights at 6:05 p.m. in our sanctuary. Bring the family and spend some chilly winter nights basking in the glow of some great movies on our big screen.

February 2/3: Lion King  
February 9/10: Akeelah and the Bee  
February 16/17: The Sound of Music  
February 23/24: ET

First UMC's Mission Statement:  
Making faithful, hopeful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Dear First Friends,

Some years, the passage of a year seems of little note. This year, however, a new year feels especially meaningful. The difficulties and loss of the past weeks will always be a part of our identity. We will hold memories dearly and continue in thankfulness for all that we have been given, but we can begin to look towards the future. As people of faith, we understand that God is always paving a new way ahead of us. We've got 365 fresh days ahead of us, days where we can see what new thing God has designed. New opportunities seem possible, and new hope begins to dawn.

As we move into 2019, I encourage you to deepen your faith life. How is God calling you to take a step forward in faith this year? Perhaps you'll begin to read your Bible daily. If you're already reading your Bible daily, then this new year could be the time to read the Bible in a more directed way. For instance, we've got a guide to reading through the Bible in a year available at the information desk in our lobby.

You might dive more deeply into your prayer life. Pray daily, lifting up joys and needs in your world, and close with the Lord's Prayer. You might try a new devotional guide, such as *Jesus Calling*. We have Upper Room daily devotional guides available in the lobby, also.

This year is a great year to increase how you serve God's world in service and mission. I'm excited about leading a mission team to Puerto Rico later this month, including many first-time missionaries. I hope that everyone reading this newsletter will be a part of our mobile food pack for Feed My Starving Children on February 1-2. Sign-ups happen online only, and you'll see information about those sign-ups elsewhere in this newsletter. If you need assistance signing up online, simply call the office, and someone will help you.

What will 2019 hold for each of us? God has made us to be people of hope. My hope for each of you in this year ahead is a renewed faith and trust in the One who made and loves each one of us.

Yours in hope,  
Sally

Contact me at [shaynes@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:shaynes@bluespringsumc.org).

December 23-30, 2018

2018 Summary

<u>Giving:</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
YTD One Fund	\$ 1,029,575	\$1,072,700
YTD Total	\$ 1,154,117	\$1,210,380

Worship Attendance December 23:

Worship.....	344
Sunday School	
Children.....	42
Youth.....	5
Adults.....	100
Total	147

Worship Attendance December 24 :

Worship.....791

Worship Attendance December 30 :

Worship.....241

Wednesday Evening Youth: 18

# January

## First UMC Children's Ministry

Weekly Sunday School—Join us every Sunday morning at 9:15 and 10:40. There are classes for 3-year-olds and up. Nursery is available for all worship services, birth through two years old.

## IMPACT YOUTH ministry

Join us:  
—Sunday mornings at 10:45 in room 014 for Sunday School!  
Youth Groups meet on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 in room 014!  
Youth Fellowship Groups meet on Sunday evenings in room 014.  
\*All Youth Small Group at 4 p.m. (weekly)  
All are welcome—students and parents!

## First Connection

# First Kids

### Wee Singers, Children's Chimers and Power Praise Kids

Wee Singers is for children ages Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1. They meet on Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in room 116. Contact Brooke Roskop at [broskop@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:broskop@bluespringsumc.org).

#### Children's Chimers

Children in grades 2 through 5 have the opportunity to develop their musical skills through Children's Chimers (hand chimes). Chimers meet on Sundays at 10:40 a.m. in room 154. Contact Liz Mueller at [e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net).

#### Power Praise Kids

Are you ready for some Really, Really Good News? Can you help us solve the mystery of the Good Samaritan?

If so, come join our Power Praise Kids this year! Detectives must be 2-5th grade to go on the hunt. We'll be looking for clues to reveal the modern-day good-guy (or girl?) and shout the Good News!

Come explore our music, snacks, and recreation every Sunday afternoon, from 4-5 p.m. in room 116. For questions, call the Lead Investigator: Linda Cox, 898-3608, or Assistant Investigator: Stephanie Marker, 220-9094.

# Impact Youth Ministry

Contact Erika Braun at [ebraun@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:ebraun@bluespringsumc.org)

#### **January:**

January will be a fast, fun-filled month for the Youth group! We have created a new T-shirt design for our Youthpalooza weekend and will be selling those soon! Thanks to a donation received in 2018, we will also be purchasing tickets for Young Christians' Weekend!

This is a Youth Conference put on INSIDE Silver Dollar City that includes guest speakers, live music, and all the roller coaster rides! Young Christians' Weekend is April 5-7, so there is still time to sign your youth up! **We will have a parent meeting on January 13 at 4 p.m. in room 014, to discuss logistics!**

If you would like to see what the Youth Group is up to, who comes, and how fast they can eat, please consider signing up to make a meal for us! There is a sign up through SignUp Genius that is on our website, Facebook, and goes out on the First Look email!

We love meeting new people who bring us food! On average we have about 25 total people on any given Wednesday night, so think about joining us, get a crew to come with you, and come see how much fun we are! (Plus bring the food!) Any questions, please contact Erika!



**HEALTH CONCERNS**

Marge Bradford	Shirley Connelly	Marti Dietrich
Jody Fails	Harriet Fortel	Judy Gregston
Maxine Hall	Vicki Kerr	Gloria Kniffen
Jean Moore	Wayne Ogilvie	Pat Parr
Phyllis Sell	Chere Semple	Bobby Tiffin

Steve Young  
 Angela Pagel, per Michelle Leske  
 Arthur Galendez, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Beverly England, friend of Gwen Wheeler  
 Bill and Jean Best, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Brie Gallagher, Mike Gallagher's brother  
 Brad Moretti, per Steve and Donna Bell  
 Bryce Long, per Michelle Leske  
 Carla, Jan Harris' cousin  
 Chris Whippo, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Cliff Brandenburg, per Jim and Linda LaShure  
 Cynthia Payne, per Annette Hoel  
 Dakota Sawyer, per Marisa Gilbert  
 David Finkemeyer, per Cyndi Sloan  
 Ellen Sartain, Carol Sartain's mother-in-law  
 Helen Merrill, Joyce Maggard's sister  
 Jerry Andersen, Kris Allen's sister  
 Jim Eddens, Jessica Harwood's father  
 Jodie Gallagher, per Mike Gallagher  
 John Pettineo, per Dee Meek  
 Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler  
 Kelly Campbell, per Roma Troxel  
 Ken Eshelman, per Linda Platt  
 Leila Lenning, Richard Lenning's mother  
 Lester Williamson, per Jan Balcom  
 Marilyn Callighan, Jean Moore's sister-in-law  
 Mike Paul, Susan Delap's brother  
 Nancy Forth, per Jan Balcom  
 Nieko Glesbrecht, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Pat Carey, per Keith Barker  
 Pat Meyer, per Aline Eilert  
 Raine Herren, Jean Moore's great-niece  
 Reba Morgan, Roswell Morgan's mother  
 Rita Thompson, Jean Moore's sister  
 Shirley Kalkofen, Cheryl Sims' mother  
 Shirley Long, friend of Jean Moore  
 Sue Grinlinton, Kris Allen's sister  
 Teresa Hankins, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Terrilyn McCormick, Perry and Kay McCormick's daughter  
 Tirso Esquerro, per Marisa Gilbert  
 Tommy Kotalik, Barbara Kotalik's son  
 Tucker Dye, Kathy Bozarth's nephew

**SYMPATHY**

To Peg Tesar and family on the passing of her husband, Tony Tesar, on December 14

To the family and friends of Michelle Mueller-Hinton, who passed away on December 15.

To Brian Seydlitz on the passing of his brother, Ken Seydlitz, on December 17.

**JOYS**

To Gary and Sandra Meinershagen on their 45th wedding anniversary.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Sunday, January 6</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15 a.m.	116
Children's Chimers	10:40	154
Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.	116
Youth Small Group	4:00	014
<u>Monday, January 7</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	150
<u>Tuesday, January 8</u>		
ROMEO Men's Lunch	11:30 a.m.	Olive Garden
Tuesday Team	2:00 p.m.	Office
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Wednesday, January 9</u>		
Impact Youth Group	5:30 p.m.	014
Glorious Spirit Handbell Rehearsal	6:00	154
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
<u>Thursday, January 10</u>		
Ruth Circle	10:15 a.m.	112
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Friday, January 11</u>		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Saturday, January 12</u>		
Worship Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, January 13</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15 a.m.	116
Children's Chimers	10:40	154
Disciple Bible Study	10:40	117
Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.	116
Youth Small Group	4:00	014
<u>Monday, January 14</u>		
Leadership Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	103
<u>Tuesday, January 15</u>		
Methodist Men's Lunch	noon	015
Wesleyan Women	1:30 p.m.	
Tuesday Team	2:00	Office
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Wednesday, January 16</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30 a.m.	First Watch
Impact Youth Group	5:30 p.m.	014
Glorious Spirit Handbell Rehearsal	6:00	154
Men of Praise Rehearsal	6:30	150
Worship Team Rehearsal	7:00	Sanctuary
Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00	103
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, January 17</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	100
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Friday, January 18</u>		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Saturday, January 19</u>		
Worship Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, January 20</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15 a.m.	116
Children's Chimers	10:40	154
Disciple Bible Study	10:40	117
Power Praise Kids Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.	116
Youth Small Group	4:00	014



## First UMC Missions News



### Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Pack

February 1 and 2

Sign up at <https://give.fmssc.org/bluesprings>

Invite friends and family to this fun and meaningful event. There will be jobs for anyone from age 5 up to 105!! There plenty of shifts to fill. Everyone had a great time at the mobile pack.

Feed My Starving Children® is a Christian non-profit committed to feeding God's starving children hungry in body and spirit. The approach is simple: children and adults hand-pack meals specifically formulated for malnourished children, and we ship these meals to distribution partners around the world. Mark your calendars and invite your friends to pack these special meals. We will host a mobile pack in our gym on February 1 and 2.

### T-Shirt Orders

The youth mission teams are taking more orders for church shirts. The price ranges from \$15 to \$25. There are short and long sleeve t-shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, and hoodies.

The colors include ivory, dark gray, and light gray.

To order your shirt, please contact Brooke Roskop ([broskop@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:broskop@bluespringsumc.org)) or Erica Braun ([ebraun@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:ebraun@bluespringsumc.org)) in the church office or via e-mail.

### reStart

On December 16, we had 14 of our wonderful youth and their families go to reStart to serve lunch! We took baked ziti pasta, green beans, salad, lots of cookies, and 40 pounds of bananas! We took so much food, that they had enough leftovers to feed lunch the following day. This was a wonderful opportunity for the youth to be a part of this ministry that happens every other month. We served over 50 people and made a couple new friends who really liked our pasta! Thank you, Kay McCormick, for setting this opportunity up for us all year long!

**Tuesday Team**

Calling all handymen (and handywomen) who have availability on Tuesday afternoons! Would you like to join with a group of others for a couple of hours on Tuesday afternoons to do odd jobs around the church? The next gathering will be Tuesday, January 8, at 2 p.m.

**Widows' Support Group**

The Widows' Support Group will meet on Wednesday, January 16 at 11:30 a.m.  
 First Watch  
 1077 SW Highway 7  
 Blue Springs

Contact Joyce Maggard at 229-1300 or Carol Sartain at 229-9753 for reservations or more information.



Join us for Food, Fellowship and Service the first Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. in room 015.

Our next gatherings are January 5 and February 2 . All men of the church are welcome!

**Small groups**

It is January, and many of us are making resolutions and plans to be better in 2019 than we were in 2018... isn't life so busy? It can be really hard to find any extra time to join a life group, but I am struck by how important life groups are every time I think to myself that I just don't have any time. Instead of feeling negative about the possibilities, I invite you to feel positive with me over the possibility of God. Because God is the one calling us to start life groups together.

God is the one calling to us each and every day to have a closer and more honest relationship with Him. God is the one nudging on our hearts, telling us that we could be impacting someone else's life by simply showing up somewhere and sharing life together. Life groups are a gift from God. They allow for us to meet in a space together and have honest, open conversations about real life. I don't know about you, but I rarely get time to have real conversations about my life or my spiritual life; life groups cover both aspects (and they often involve food!)

If you are feeling that nudge to start a group or join a group, would you please say something to me? Speak up and let God guide you in your bravery. Your willingness to take this step can only be rewarding. We need life groups/small groups/fellowship groups, whatever it is you want to call them, we need them here in our church. We need them as a church family.

Whether it is a mom group, dad group, couples' group, singles group, widowers' group, those affected by addiction group, those grieving group, college-age group, empty-nesters group, multi-generational group, baking fanatics group, quilting lovers' group, whatever kind of group you think would benefits your spiritual and literal life, let's make it happen!

Contact me, Erika, directly and let's see what we can put together so that our spiritual lives can grow closer to God with the help of those around us. God is asking for us to grow, what excuse do we really have not to? My email address is [ebraun@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:ebraun@bluespringsumc.org).





A special thank you to all who visit shut-ins. You are the church to them. Blessings and Christ be with you.

### Cancer Support Network

The Cancer Support Network meets the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30. Our goal is to provide support and education to cancer survivors, those currently diagnosed with cancer, and their family members. All are welcome. If you'd like more information, please call the church office.



### BANDANA UPDATE

UMW Ladies,

At our Christmas luncheon, a new mission project for sending 100 orange bandanas to the Strongtower Orphanage in Caracol, Haiti, was approved with a free will offering.

The offering covered the expense of the bandanas. They have been purchased and are being sent to Lori Holt, one of the founders of the orphanage.

The bandanas will be used for a city-wide Vacation Bible School to be held this coming June. Thank you for your generosity in supporting this mission project!

### January First Meal Ministry

Our First Meal Ministry will be Wednesday, January 30, 2018; 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Please contact Kristi at [kharris@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:kharris@bluespringsumc.org) for more information or to volunteer your time.

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Several opportunities for scholarships will be available at First UMC.

Additional details will be provided in the February newsletter. The application deadline will be March 29, 2019.

### Disciple Bible Study

We'll be offering another Fast-Track Disciple class this winter with a study of Luke and Acts.

This session will begin on Sunday, January 13, in room 117 from 10:40 a.m. – noon. The class will conclude on March 31. Please RSVP to the office if you'd like to participate and to get a copy of the book. Please read Chapter 1 before the first session. If you have questions, contact Ronda Brewer at [ronda.e.brewer@gmail.com](mailto:ronda.e.brewer@gmail.com).

**First Connection**



Ministers

All members who have pledged to uphold First UMC with their prayers, presence, service, gifts, and witness.

Pastors

Rev. Dr. Sally Haynes  
email:  
[shaynes@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:shaynes@bluespringsumc.org)

Erika Braun  
email:  
[ebraun@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:ebraun@bluespringsumc.org)

Worship

Saturday, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, 8:15 a.m., 9:30 a.m.,  
and 10:45 a.m.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.—noon Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108  
Church fax: (816) 229-6705

Email

[office@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:office@bluespringsumc.org)

Learning Ladder Preschool  
(816) 229-9949

Church Website

[www.bluespringsumc.org](http://www.bluespringsumc.org)

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Blue Springs UMC



*January 2, 2019*

First United Methodist Church  
of Blue Springs  
301 SW Woods Chapel Road  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

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**Summer Day Camp**

**Early Registration is NOW OPEN**

Day Camp – July 15-19, 2019, ages 6-13. \$100  
9–4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Register BEFORE January 30 and receive \$25 off of your registration.**

Refer a "First Time Camper Friend" and both the "friend" and the person referring them will receive a \$20 discount. [www.eaglelakecamps.com/FirstBlueSprings](http://www.eaglelakecamps.com/FirstBlueSprings)

Have any questions/Interested in Volunteering or Sponsoring a Scholarship, contact Kristi Harris at [kharris@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:kharris@bluespringsumc.org).

**5th Sunday Update**

Well, church, we did it! We did something NEW and it was a SUCCESS!! On December 30, at 10 on Sunday morning, 241 of you lovely congregants came to see what a combined worship service was all about and then most of you stayed for a meal together! Huge thank you to Kristi Harris, the musicians, the ushers, the greeters, all the willing volunteers who prepped the food, and the wonderful people who set the tables up and took them down! The service was full of music and laughter! The HAM was delicious and so were all the shared dishes! I feel truly a part of this Church Family now that we have shared a meal together! It was very cool to tell you all about the many ways we impacted the community, each other, and the world in 2018! If you missed it, we touched 100,000 lives through all of our ministries and groups. I can't wait to see how many lives we will touch in this new year!

I am so excited and already planning the next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Combined Service that will be on March 31! Mark your calendars now! If you have any questions or would like to help with the next service, please contact me! Thank you for rallying behind this new idea and making it such a huge success!