

# First Connection

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

May 3, 2017

Volume 11, Issue 5

"big Al" Cherry is Coming to First UMC!  
Sunday, May 21  
9:30 and 10:45am



*Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to see big Al Cherry in person.*

Louisiana-based Gospel Hip-Hop/ R&B artist, Al "big AL" Cherry is a family man, motivational speaker, preacher, and program director of KBYO – 92.7 FM.

As a child, music was an escape route into a limitless realm of comfort and joy to him. This medium was the tool that God used to draw him into a relationship with the Lord. He actually accepted salvation in his bedroom while listening to gospel music. Since that time, his singing ability became an expression of his love for Jesus Christ.

During his college career at Grambling State University, the Lord allowed him to serve as praise and worship leader for a campus ministry and a local church. After accepting the call of God to youth ministry, big AL served his home church as youth pastor for more than a decade. Simultaneously, big AL took on the role of educator. In addition to music and preaching, he served as the mathematics department head of Richwood High School, teaching Geometry, Trigonometry, AP Calculus; and administering dual-enrollment for the University of Louisiana-Monroe in College Algebra, Calculus I, Statistics, and Psychology. big AL used the classroom as an extension of his ministry to be an example and role model to youths in inner-city America.

Throughout his years as an educator and youth pastor, Al came to understand the responsibility of having a special gift from God that he can use to draw people closer to HIM. He firmly believes that ministry is far more important than artistry, and it is his sincere prayer that God will use his music to lead people to Christ — just as he was.

**Youth Only Events:** Come and serve, eat and worship with big Al Cherry on **Saturday, May 20**, at First UMC.

Check out the schedule below:

- 12:00pm—Doors open and check-in
- 1:00pm—Lego Building Competition
- 2:00pm—The Giving Brick Community Service Project
- 5:00pm—Dinner
- 6:30pm—Worship and Performance by big Al Cherry
- 8:30pm—Heading home

Register at [bigalcherry.wixsite.com/events](http://bigalcherry.wixsite.com/events) by Wednesday, May 17. The cost is \$10 per youth and should be paid at check-in on May 20. Checks should be made payable to First UMC.

(Mark Hansher will be preaching at 5:00pm and 8:15pm)

First UMC's Mission Statement:

Making faithful, hopeful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



First Connection



Dear First Friends,

I hope you got to see the Power Praise Kids Musical, "Not Your Average Jo~~x~~." They did a marvelous job and blessed us with the story of Joseph. A big thanks goes out to Linda Cox and Stephanie Marker for directing the musical.

It is my hope and prayer that Rev. Sally's sabbatical is renewing and filling her with God's Holy Spirit and Grace.

It is said that April showers bring May flowers. Well, then we all had better get ready for more flowers than we usually have in May! I think this may be true especially if we think of the flowers as people, special events, and activities blooming at First UMC in May:

- Learning Ladder fills the education wing Monday through Thursday.
- Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Boy Scouts meet weekly.
- First UMC provides a Vesper Service at Benton House each month! The residents enjoy this time of worship.
- Saturday and Sunday worship (four services) share the Good News of God's love and grace.
- Three bell choirs, Children's Chimers, five choirs of all ages, and the Praise Band practice weekly.
- Home Communion
- Planning and Administrative meetings meet monthly.
- United Methodist Men and Women meet monthly.
- Creative Crafts/Prayer Shawl group meets on Wednesday evenings.
- Cancer Support Network meets the first Wednesday of each month.
- Youth Group meets on Wednesday and Sunday afternoons.
- Many groups/individuals from our community use the building for a variety of activities.

I'm sure there are others that I may have left out; but on top of all these there are special events that will happen. This Saturday at 9:00am, there is a Mother's Day Brunch sponsored by our United Methodist Men. Then on May 20, big Al Cherry will be here ministering with our youth and youth from other surrounding churches at 6:00pm. big Al will also lead worship at 9:30 and 10:45am on May 21.

Yes, the May flowers are beginning to bloom. How about you and your faith? It is my hope that as we plant ourselves in the activities/ministries of First UMC that each of us will take root and begin to bloom and grow in faith and our relationship to God.

Agape,  
Jan

April 15-16, 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$14,822	
YTD One Fund	\$344,417	\$286,641
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	900	
Sunday School		
Children.....	22	
Youth.....	No Meeting	
Adults.....	No Meeting	
Total	22	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 20		
More detailed financial information is available on the wire kiosk next to the coat closet or in the church office.		

April 22-23, 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$31,396	
YTD One Fund	\$375,814	\$302,838
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	404	
Sunday School		
Children.....	57	
Youth.....	7	
Adults.....	113	
Total	177	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 19		
More detailed financial information is available on the wire kiosk next to the coat closet or in the church office.		

April 29-30 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$10,187	
YTD One Fund	\$386,001	\$318,237
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	563	
Sunday School		
Children.....	28	
Youth.....	9	
Adults.....	107	
Total	144	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 22		
More detailed financial information is available on the wire kiosk next to the coat closet or in the church office.		



*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 10:40 downstairs in the youth room 014 for Sunday School! Fellowship Groups meet on Sunday evenings.

—and Wednesday evenings at 5:00 for youth group!

All are welcome—students and parents!

### First Connection

## First Kids

Contact Michelle Mueller-Hinton at [mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org)

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

Wee Singers is for children ages Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 1. They meet on Sundays at 10:15am in room 115. The last rehearsal for this school year will be May 14. Rehearsals will resume this fall.

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) or Power Praise Kids (vocal). The last rehearsal for this school year will be May 14. Rehearsals will resume this fall.

Chimers meet on Sundays at 10:45am in room 154.

Contact Liz Mueller at [e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net](mailto:e.a.mueller@sbcglobal.net).



### What a Terrific Performance by our Power Praise Kids Last Weekend!



## Impact Youth Ministry

Contact Mark Hansher at [mhansher@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:mhansher@bluespringsumc.org)

May:

As school begins to wind down for many of us, we will be transitioning into summer months before you know it.

But just because school's out doesn't mean we'll stop learning! Don't worry, though; we'll make sure to have plenty of fun this summer! With activities like our annual Wacky Olympics, that lock-in all-nighter that we promised you, and more, we'll have a blast!

You don't have to wait until school's out for some really cool events, though! On May 20-21, Christian Hip Hop/R&B artist, educator, youth pastor, big Al Cherry is visiting us. If you haven't heard this man's story or his music yet, make sure you put it on your calendars to be here!

We're excited for summer, and we're excited to have so many awesome students be a part of Impact Youth Ministry!



**HEALTH CONCERNS**

Doris Brooks	Marcia Curts	Marti Dietrich
Maxine Hall	Linda Hinkle	Jim Hoel
Gloria Kniffen	Jackie Landes	Wayne Oglvie
Pat Parr	Joan Petty	Jackie Renfro
Steve Young		
Bill Best, Marisa Gilbert's brother-in-law		
Christine McKinney, per Janet Tabler		
Cindy Schnelle, Michelle Sartain's sister		
Evan Tabler, grandnephew of Joe and Janet Tabler		
Grayson McCormick		
Jennifer Hamadi, Steve Hamadi's sister-in-law		
Jimmy Anderson, Patty Grasinski's father		
Jodie Gallagher, Mike Gallagher's sister-in-law		
Judy Gregston		
Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler		
Kay, friend of Kuri Bolger		
Paige Rone		
Paul Hesse, Traci Menke's cousin		
Phillip Clark, JoAnn Baker's brother-in-law		
Rita and Bill Thompson, per Jean Moore		
Tom and Carol Leppert, per Cheryl Leppert		

**MILITARY**

Tyler Byrd	<b>Ben Patillo</b>	Tim White*
Emily Brittingham	<b>Christian Schroeder</b>	
Mason Buckler*	<b>Justin Schroeder</b>	
Brady Dean	<b>Randall Schroeder</b>	
Tony DeMack	Jason Tisdale*	
Ethan Endicott	Randall Shaffer*	
Tim Gorsline*	Cole Sims*	
Henry Grubb*	<b>Ryan Stacy</b>	
Allison Hope	<b>Jonathan Tucker</b>	
Rick Hansen*	Seth Turman*	
<b>Brenton Jones</b>	<b>Brandon Walls</b>	
Drew Kerber	Michael Wagner	
Alec Kinder	<b>Angela Weigel-DeLuna</b>	
Werner Mangosing	Chase Weber*	

**Highlighted names**—FUMC members      \*deployed overseas

**SYMPATHY**

To Tom and Rosemary Martin on the passing of Tom's mother, Helen Martin, on April 13.

To Mark and Lesley Hansher on the passing of Mark's grandfather on April 21.

**JOYS**

Congratulations to Jenn and Cristin Marker on the birth of a son, Rhys James Marker, on April 20.

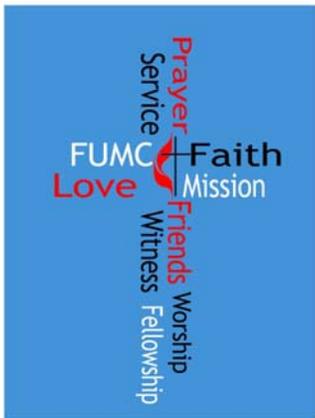
Congratulations to Kris and Aubrey Swank on the baptism of their son, Ryan Edward Swank, on April 23.

Congratulations to Brooks Jones and Sarah McCloud-Jones on the baptism of their daughter, Charlotte Sierra McCloud-Jones, on April 23.

To Dean and Patty Stock on the birth of a grandson, Elliott Randall Ross, on April 28. Parents are Sarah and Kenneth Ross.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
<u>Sunday, May 7</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15am	115
Youth Fellowship Group-Girls	5:00pm	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	6:30	014
<u>Monday, May 8</u>		
Finance Committee Meeting	6:00pm	Office
Church Council Meeting	7:00	103
<u>Tuesday, May 9</u>		
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Wednesday, May 10</u>		
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	5:30	154
Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	6:30	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 Handbell Rehearsal	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, May 11</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
Ruth Circle	10:15	112
Altar Guild	2:00pm	Office
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Friday, May 12</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30am	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Saturday, May 13</u>		
Worship Service	5:00pm	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, May 14</u>		
Wee Singers	10:15am	115
Children's Chimers	10:45	154
Youth Fellowship Group-Girls	5:00pm	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	6:30	014
<u>Monday, May 15</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00pm	150
<u>Tuesday, May 16</u>		
Methodist Men's Lunch	noon	015
<u>Wednesday, May 17</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30am	Saints
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
Glory Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	5:30	154
Spirit Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	6:30	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 Handbell Rehearsal	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, May 18</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Friday, May 19</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30am	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Saturday, May 20</u>		
Worship Service	5:00pm	Sanctuary
Young Adult Game Night	7:00	Offsite

# First UMC Missions News



**First UMC Blue Springs has great youth!!!**

The high school members of Impact Youth Group went to Harvesters to celebrate Souper Bowl Sunday!! They worked hard and repackaged cartons of ice cream for distribution to local food pantries. They unloaded pallet after pallet with smiles on their faces. After working, they had soup and learned about the problem of hunger in our area and our nation.



The middle school members of Impact visited the Uplift Organization in April. They worked in the distribution center repackaging dogfood to hand out to the homeless in Kansas City that have pets. Our kids also sorted water bottles and swept the floor of the warehouse. They were so fast and efficient that the organizers ran out of things to do!! The group loaded the bus early, headed back to the church, and, instead of going home, pitched in to help with the Trustees workday in progress on our church grounds!! The high schoolers were already working hard when the middle schoolers joined in. Ever wonder if we have good kids who are ready and willing to love their neighbor? We have proof of it here at First UMC Blue Springs!!



**Pass the Hat!!**

We are coming to the end of the school year here in Blue Springs. As many of you know, we provide supplemental food to students at Brittany Hill Middle School and Valley View High School with our Healthy Foundations or Backsnack program. These students and their families rely on free and reduced-cost breakfast and lunch during the week at school but need some help to get through the weekends. We provide 24 food packs each week. The funds have been covered in the past by generous donations and community fundraisers. We need to collect a bit more to continue feeding these kids until the end of the school year.

We are looking to small groups to pass the hat and collect what you can: Sunday school classes, choirs and bell choirs, Dinner for Eight groups, breakfast meetings, lunch meetings. Any amount collected would be greatly appreciated so we can continue to feed these kids!!

**First Connection**

**Parking Lot Repaving**

We are scheduled to have our parking lot repaved on Monday, May 22.

The parking lot will be closed on Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23 (weather permitting).

**Widows' Support Group**

All widows of the church are invited to lunch on

Wednesday, May 17, at 11:30am

Saints

20220 E. Jackson Drive, Independence

Contact Carol Sartain at 229-9753 or Joyce Maggard at 229-1300 if you can attend.



We have a couple of areas that need a volunteer to push mow the grass this summer.

If you like to work outside, please call the church office!

**Easter Photo availability**

Easter Photos will be available on the church website beginning Friday, May 5. Please click on the *Connect* tab, then click on *Easter Photos*.

**Be sure to check out the May 18 Message in The Upper Room!**

It features a piece written by our very own Alice Nathan, titled *A Mother's Gift*.

**FUMC Guide Book & Directory**

**Advertising Opportunity**

We are in the process of updating the annual Guide Book & Directory for our church. This book will provide helpful information about our church and directory information for our church family. As last year, the book will be provided at no cost to our church, including the mailing to each family, and is being subsidized by the local businesses who advertise in it.

**Update Membership Information**

Does our church database have YOUR family membership record correct? Here is your chance to update YOUR record for our annual Guide Book & Directory (if you haven't already done so). It is time for us to update our database with any changes, additions, or deletions that may have occurred in YOUR family over the past year. Contact the church (229-8108) or email [office@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:office@bluespringsumc.org)

**Note: We are planning to publish personal email addresses. If you do not want your email published, please call or email the church office.**



Check Out These Events for Young Adults!

Games and Goodies

3rd SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

From 7:00-10:00pm, come join the young adults of First UMC for game night. Every month the location will be different but the fun will be the same. Our next event will be May 20. If you'd like to attend, please email Lesley at [annesley91@gmail.com](mailto:annesley91@gmail.com). Jesus and Coffee

3rd SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

From 10:45am-12:00noon, come join the young adults at First UMC for a morning devotion and prayer. We will meet at Starbucks in Blue Springs. Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 21.

To keep updated on news for the young adults, email Lesley Hansher at [annesley91@gmail.com](mailto:annesley91@gmail.com).

Military Addresses

First UMC Care Teams like to send cards to our military personnel to let them know how much we appreciate their service to our country and that we pray for them every week.

If you have a friend or family member on our military list, please check with the office to ensure we have a current mailing address.

The Disaster Relief Ministry would like to say a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who donated items for our yard sale. Many "treasures" found new homes!!

All items that did not sell were donated to Hillcrest Ministries in Lee's Summit.

Thank you to Richard Lenning for bringing over the Hillcrest Ministries truck for our use. It was much appreciated.

First UMC-Sponsored Blood Drive

The Mizpah Sunday School class is hosting a blood drive on Sunday, May 21, from 8:00am-12:00pm in the gym.

Look for a sign-up table in the lobby.



Coming this Summer



- Celebration of Caring Weekend for Cancer Survivors—June 3-4
- United Methodist Men's Weekend—June 17-18
- Marcia McFee—July 15-16
- Vacation Bible School—week of July 24

First United  
Methodist Church  
  
Blue Springs

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)

Rev. Jan Bond  
email:  
[jbond@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:jbond@bluespringsumc.org)

Worship

Saturday, 5:00pm  
Sunday, 8:15, 9:30, and  
10:45am

Office Hours

8:00am—4:30pm  
Monday-Thursday  
8:00am—12:00pm 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)

Like us on Facebook:  
Blue Springs UMC



*May 3, 2017*

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Blue Springs, MO 64015**  
**PERMIT No. 21**

**Address Service Requested**



Scan this QR code to get an electronic copy of the newsletter

**Mother's Day Brunch—May 6**

The United Methodist Men are hosting the annual Mother's Day Brunch on Saturday, May 6, at 9:00am. All women of the church are invited as we take this time to say thank you for all you do for us.

Enjoy a delicious brunch of pancakes, scrambled eggs, ham, fruit, and drink for \$10 per person. All proceeds go to the UMM/Paul Rand Scholarship Fund.

Our guest speaker will be Shannon Gray, who is member of the Regional Advisory Board for Alex's Lemonade Stand. Shannon's family has been named a Missouri State Hero family in that Shannon's young son fought and continues treatment for childhood cancer. Shannon is a strong proponent, advocate, and representative of Alex's Lemonade Stand, as it raises funds to battle pediatric cancer. Shannon has a powerful story to share, one in which you might need some tissue.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$10.

**Scholarship Recognition**

We'll be doing scholarship recognition at the 10:45am service on Sunday, May 21.

**Graduate Recognition**

If you know a 2017 graduate you'd like us to mention in the June newsletter, please send an email to:

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

**Worship Schedule  
This Month**

May 6-7: Gary Rhodes  
May 13-14: Jan Bond  
May 20-21: Mark Hansher at 5:00pm and  
8:15am  
big Al Cherry at 9:30am and  
10:45am  
May 27-28: Jan Bond

