

# First Connection

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

June 7, 2017

Volume 11, Issue 6

### *Congratulations to our 2017 Scholarship Recipients*

Inez Dexheimer Scholarship: Katie Hendricks

Methodist Men Scholarship: Aaron Brewer

Independents' Scholarship: Tasia Saye

Invitational Ministries Scholarship: Riley Garrett

#### First United Methodist Church Scholarships:

Kate Davis

Trent Higgins

Taylor Kreissler

Charlotte Leske

Kate Ludwig

Maddie Ludwig

Mallori Morgan

Mariah Peters

Lauren Roberts

Rachel Roberts

Kaitlyn Stacy

### *Congratulations to our 2017 Graduates*

#### Blue Springs High School

Sean Batulis

Blake Brunner

Trent Higgins

Kate Ludwig

Mallori Morgan

Claire Roberts

Blake Summers

#### Columbia College

Cleve Harwood B.A.-Human Resources (December 2016)

#### William Woods University

Kelly Ogle-Education Specialist's Degree

#### Air Force Academy

Zachary Knoche

#### Blue Springs South High School

Lauren Roberts

Dakota Staggs

Tyler Trent

Alec Wons

#### Blue River Community College-Associate's Degree

Kaitlyn Stacy

#### Grain Valley High School

Charlotte Leske

Lake Sloan

#### Central Methodist University

Alex Brewer

#### Missouri State University

Erica Zink-Bachelor's Degree in Education

#### Northwest Missouri State University

Michael Keefe-Bachelor of Science-Chemistry/Biochemistry

First UMC's Mission Statement:

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



First Connection



Dear First Friends,

School's out. Memorial Day weekend has passed. Pools are open. Summer has officially kicked off! Winter is gone and Summer is upon us. I hope that your summer mode is filled with hope, new life, new adventures, and new opportunities to serve God and your neighbor.

One thing I hope you are doing every day is reading the daily Bible passages from "Through the Bible in a Year." I know I am enjoying reading the history stories from Genesis and Exodus as the characters come alive in my reading and life struggles are engaged. I enjoyed the Psalms with their poetry, their laments as the psalmist approaches God with such openness and honesty. Proverbs share wisdom and insight that I need in my life each day. It will be good to regain those wise teachings in my life as I continue reading the Bible this month. The Gospel of Luke brought alive the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus as we walked with Him, as did the disciples. Hebrews has once again been most instructional to my faith journey. I am basically saying these things because I don't want you to miss out on the blessing you will receive each day as you read these selected scriptures.

I hope you have been taking advantage of the special worship events this summer. It has been such a joy to welcome Jackie Clevenger, Gary Rhodes, and "big Al" Cherry to lead worship. We always get a new perspective and insight when we hear new voices. Still to come are Rev. Lesley Hansher, Rev. Dr. Steve Cox, Dr. Marcia McFee, and Rev. Tina Harris (Pastor Mark and Pastor Jan, we count as "regulars" leading us in worship). You will not want to miss hearing from these dedicated and inspired ministers of God's Word.

Our mission teams are gearing up for their trips this summer. Our adult team is going to Costa Rica. Please keep them in your prayers as they will be leaving June 10. This year there is a large group and I know they will be a blessing to those they will be serving. Our Senior High will be serving in the area on Wednesdays beginning June 21. God will bless those they serve and they will receive a blessing from the service they will be doing for others. In July our Mid-High group is headed to Northwest Arkansas to work in the Bentonville/Bella Vista areas. Once again these youth, new to mission projects, will learn and grow as they serve others.

Jesus reminds us that we are to do two things: love God and love neighbor. That is what is happening at First UMC this summer. Worship and reading the Bible encompasses our devotion to God. Our mission teams will serve many on those trips. May each of us as well, renew our walk with Jesus this summer in all we say and do.

Agape, Jan

May 20-21, 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$15,983	
YTD One Fund	\$436,823	\$383,651
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	433	
Sunday School		
Children.....	25	
Youth.....	Big Al Cherry	
Adults.....	100	
Total	125	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 18		
More detailed financial information is available on the wire kiosk next to the coat closet or in the church office.		

May 27-28 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$9,152	
YTD One Fund	\$445,975	\$390,317
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	279	
Sunday School		
Children.....	31	
Youth.....	0	
Adults.....	73	
Total	104	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 18		
More detailed financial information is available on the wire kiosk next to the coat closet or in the church office.		

June 3-4, 2017		
Giving:	2017	2016
One Fund.....	\$14,943	
YTD One Fund	\$460,918	\$411,822
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	405	
Sunday School		
Children.....	32	
Youth.....	8	
Adults.....	111	
Total	151	
Wednesday Evening Youth: 26		
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)

## Vacation Bible School 2017

Save the Date

July 25-27

9:30am-12:00pm

Registration will begin in early July.



## Impact Youth Ministry

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

June:

Impact Youth Ministry is so incredibly excited to welcome our incoming 6th grade students to be a part of our youth! For anyone with questions about our regular schedule during the week, all information has been updated on the church website.

Since we have a bunch of new students that we are excited about, we wanted to welcome them in with a bang! And with a mess!

Wacky Olympics makes its annual return on June 28! If you don't know what this event is, imagine playing musical chairs but with ice cream sundaes on the chairs... or having to compete in a waffle-making competition, where you have to throw all the ingredients at each other to win!

We get messy, dirty, and at the point where we have to hose you down at the end of the night! And a forewarning this year: **BRING A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!** What you are wearing at the beginning of the night will probably need to be thrown away by the end of the night!

This is another great opportunity to bring friends and is just a great time to hang out and have a lot of fun! We will still be providing a meal this evening, but will push up mealtime to 5:00pm, so we can start having all sorts of chaotic fun ASAP!

Come join us as we kick off summer right!



**First Connection**

**HEALTH CONCERNS**  
 Doris Brooks Marcia Curts Marti Dietrich  
 Maxine Hall Linda Hinkle Gloria Kniffen  
 Wayne Ogilvie Pat Parr Joan Petty  
 Jackie Renfro Marvin Rinne Judy Witte  
 Steve Young  
 Christine McKinney, per Janet Tabler  
 Cindy Schnelle, Michelle Sartain's sister  
 Evan Tabler, grandnephew of Joe and Janet Tabler  
 Judy Gregston  
 Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler  
 Angie and Steve Huitt, per Todd and Ronda Brewer  
 Paige Rone  
 Paul Hesse, Traci Menke's cousin  
 Phillip Clark, JoAnn Baker's brother-in-law  
 Rita and Bill Thompson, per Jean Moore

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

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

**SYMPATHY**  
 To Annette Hoel and family on the passing of her husband, Jim Hoel, on May 4.  
 To Lori and Roswell Morgan and Patty and Mark Grasinski on the passing of Lori and Patty's father, Jimmy Anderson, on May 11.  
 To Steve and Kim Hamadi on the passing of Jennifer Hamadi.  
 To LeAnne Wilson on the passing of her cousin, Jack Shelton.  
 To Dave Tharp on the passing of his great-niece, Anna Hitzhuzen, on May 14.  
 To Gloria Kniffen on the passing of her cousin, Bob Humphrey.  
 To Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein on the passing of their grandson, John Michael Baker, on May 23.  
 To John and Elizabeth Braden on the passing of Elizabeth's mother, Mary Drake, on May 24.  
 To Carol Seguin on the passing of her sister-in-law, Kathy Hein, on June 1.

**JOYS**  
 Congratulations to Cody and Stephanie Whitfill on the birth of a son, Ethan Andrew Whitfill, on May 24. Grandparents are Ray and Jan Harris. Aunt is Christine Harris. Older brother is Collin.  
 Congratulations to Stewart and Megan Kemper who joined First UMC On June 4. Their son Stephen was also baptized.

Date	Time	Place
<u>Sunday, June 11</u>		
Youth Fellowship Group-High School Girls	5:00pm	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Mid. High Girls	5:00	011
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	6:30	014
<u>Monday, June 12</u>		
Parking Lot Repaving	6:30am	Parking Lot
<u>Tuesday, June 13</u>		
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Wednesday, June 14</u>		
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
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
<u>Thursday, June 15</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Friday, June 16</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30am	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Saturday, June 17</u>		
Worship Service	5:00pm	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, June 18</u>		
Youth Fellowship Group-High School Girls	5:00pm	014
Youth Fellowship Group-Mid. High Girls	5:00	011
Youth Fellowship Group-Boys	6:30	014
<u>Monday, June 19</u>		
Susannah Circle	1:30pm	103
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00	150
Trustees Committee Meeting	7:00	Office
<u>Tuesday, June 20</u>		
Methodist Men's Lunch	noon	015
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Wednesday, June 21</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30am	Powell Gardens
Impact Youth Group	5:00pm	014
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
<u>Thursday, June 22</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30am	100
Pickleball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Friday, June 23</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30am	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00pm	Gym
<u>Saturday, June 24</u>		
Worship Service	5:00pm	Sanctuary
Young Adult Game Night	6:30	Offsite

# First UMC Missions News



## Time to start praying for our summer mission teams.

Our annual Costa Rica team will be leaving on June 10. There are 14 people heading to Costa Rica to work with our good friend Wil Bailey and his team for a week.

Our high schoolers will be heading out to several different worksites in the Kansas City area on Wednesdays in June.

Seven middle schoolers and four adults will head to Northwest Arkansas at the end of July to serve folks there.

Please keep these teams in your prayers. Our goal is to make faithful, hopeful, loving disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Your prayers help!!



## The Giving Brick

You have read and heard a lot about Big Al Cherry's visit in May. It was a great experience and a blessing for us to get to know him. One thing you may not have known is that the youth that were here on that Saturday afternoon did a service project. We helped The Giving Brick sort and organize Lego bricks to go into kits for Foster Kids.

Did you know?... LEGO plastic is not always recycle-able? Yep, it's true. LEGO bricks are mostly made of ABS (acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) plastic. LEGO pieces can't go in your recycling bin unless your community accepts the unmarked plastics or the plastic with the mysterious #7 "other plastics" code. Many cities with recycling programs still sort out LEGO bricks when they are collected and dump them in landfills where they sit for millions of years! The Giving Brick is a wonderful alternative. Check them out at [www.thegivingbrick.org](http://www.thegivingbrick.org) and watch for more opportunities here at First UMC to participate.



A big Thank You to everyone that has given so generously to the Back Snack program. We made it to the end of the year with money to spare!!

Later this summer, we will have a food drive to supply the program for the next school year.

Keep an eye out for more information in July.

**First Connection**

**Parking Lot Repaving**

We are scheduled to have our parking lot repaved on Monday, June 12.

The parking lot will be closed on Monday, June 12, and should be open for evening activities on Tuesday, June 13.

**Widows' Support Group**

All widows of the church are invited to  
Powell Gardens  
Wednesday, June 21  
Meet at 9:30am to carpool  
Contact Carol Sartain at 229-9753 or  
Joyce Maggard at 229-1300 for more  
information.

**Wesleyan Women**

Wesleyan Women will meet at the home of Carol Jo Lenning  
1520 SW Cross Creek Place  
Blue Springs  
Tuesday, June 20, at 1:30pm  
All are invited!



A **big Thank You** goes out to all those who volunteered for the First UMC Spring work-day on April 8. Over 30 people assisted with tree removal, took out rosebushes, power washed, cleaned flower gardens, mowed lawns, spread wood mulch, cleaned parking lots, put shingles back up, and so much more. These individuals and all our volunteers who come to Church each and every day to do the Lord's work with a beautiful smile and a happy heart are greatly appreciated. **First Church is so blessed!**

If you didn't get a chance to come on our work day and would like to volunteer, please call/text Betty Hartwig at 225-9458 or email at [bthurmanhartwig@gmail.com](mailto:bthurmanhartwig@gmail.com). She will be more than happy to provide you an opportunity.



**Worship Schedule  
This Month**

June 10-11: Rev. Lesley Hansher  
June 17-18: Rev. Mark Hansher  
June 24-25: Rev. Dr. Steve Cox



**Congratulations to Nancy Tharp on her Retirement**

The Staff Parish Committee would like to express our deepest gratitude to Nancy Tharp for her 14 years of dedicated service as our church Membership Secretary. Nancy retired effective May 31, 2017. Kristi Harris has assumed Nancy's Membership Secretary duties.

We'd like to wish Nancy and Dave many happy years of traveling and time with family!



**FIRST UMC 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*

At 6:30pm, come join the young adults of First UMC at Cave Springs in William M. Klein Park for an easy hike and some beautiful time outside. Every month the location will be different but the fun will be the same. **Our next event will be June 24.** If you'd like to attend, please email Lesley at [annlesley91@gmail.com](mailto:annlesley91@gmail.com).

*Jesus and Coffee*

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, June 25.**

To keep updated on news for the young adults, email Lesley Hansher at [annlesley91@gmail.com](mailto:annlesley91@gmail.com).



June Communion

June communion will be served the weekend of June 10-11. The communion offering will go to Community Services League.

Wednesday Evening Youth Meals

Our youth on Wednesday nights are in need of wonderful people like yourself to provide a meal for our youth group! We traditionally share a meal together at 6:00, and it's a wonderful opportunity for members of this church to see what our awesome teenagers are up to! Whether you want to cook, or simply pick up some food, we'll eat anything, especially if you sit down and share in the meal with us (we cannot accept food with peanuts)!

Individuals, Sunday School classes, Small Groups, it doesn't matter the size...we would love to have your help!

Dear Scholarship Committee and First UMC members,  
Thank you so much for the generous Inez Dexheimer Scholarship. It means a great deal to me as I go back to school (again!). I am almost halfway through a Master's degree in Urban Education and will be working in a low-achieving or Tier 1 school for the next few years. It's a big change from teaching college, but your prayers and support (and these funds) will help me to succeed. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

Katie Hendricks



Dear Scholarship Committee,  
Thank you very much for awarding me a First UMC scholarship. Your generosity really will help me as I move forward in my academic career. I also appreciate knowing that my church is behind me as I take the next step in life. Thank you so much!

Charlotte Leske

Dear Church Family,  
I am writing to express my appreciation for the scholarship I received. This scholarship will be a big help with my education expenses. I will be attending Rockhurst University in the fall to pursue a nursing degree and plan to make the very most of the opportunity. My church family is a very important part of my life.

Sincerely,  
Kate Ludwig

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for awarding me with the First UMC scholarship. Your generosity and dedication to my education the past four years has made a world of difference to me and my family. I am currently working on a degree in biological engineering at the University of Arkansas. I am so blessed to be able to call First UMC Blue Springs my church home.

Many Thanks,  
Maddie Ludwig

**First Connection**

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)

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Blue Springs UMC 

*June 7, 2017*

First United Methodist Church  
of Blue Springs  
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During the weekend of May 20-21, First UMC was blessed with a visit from motivational speaker "big Al" Cherry.

Our youth had the opportunity to take part in a community service project, dinner, fellowship and worship.

The congregation had a chance to hear his inspirational testimony and how God has used his special gift of music to reach others.

