

First Connection

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs

September 5, 2018

Volume 12, Issue 9

Fall Fun Fest

Attention all Pie Bakers – It is time to dust off your rolling pins and get ready for Fall Fun Fest, September 14 – 16!!! The sign-ups and donation forms are in the lobby. Please consider preparing a pie or 2 or 10!

This year the church members will be joining the Men of Praise in the parade. We will be providing a shuttle service again from the First UMC parking lot to just outside our pie booth for the community.

If you plan on joining us in the parade, please sign up at the pie booth table in the lobby, or contact [Kristi Harris at: kharris@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:kharris@bluespringsumc.org) or at the church office (229-8108).



This event is one of our LARGEST outreach events for this year – please plan on joining us!

September/October Sermon Series

Five Things that will Destroy Your Relationships: Meaningful relationships are a gift from God. If we don't treat them well, however, our closest relationships can wither away. If you've got someone you love, you'll want to be a part of this sermon series to strengthen the ties that bind you and the people you love the most.

September 15/16: Leftovers (Don't give your beloved your left-over time, energy.)

September 22/23: Expectations (Don't focus on your false expectations and perceived rights, but focus on your shared ideals.)

September 29/30: Leaving God Out (The very best relationships have God at the center.)

October 6/7: Failing to Forgive (Don't hold grudges.)

October 13/14: Withholding Truth (Not just about our own wrongdoing, but about our true selves.)



First UMC Meal Ministry

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or donated items for our first meal.

We served 13 meals on August 29!

Our next meal will be served on **Wednesday, September 26, from 5:30-6:30 p.m.** in the gym. Please see page 5 for details on what will be needed. We'll have a board in the lobby beginning the weekend of September 8/9.

First UMC's Mission Statement:

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



First Connection



Dear First Friends,

A couple of weeks ago, I was invited to be part of a panel at a United Methodist Church in Kansas City. Our topic was how to help that congregation become more welcoming to all people. As you may know, the United Methodist Church advertises having "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors." The church I was to speak at wants to live fully into that promise. The discussion was to begin around 12:30 on a Sunday afternoon, so I told the leadership that I would get there as quickly as I could after our own worship services, but that I would be late. They told me they would save some lunch for me.

Upon arrival, I went to the main door of the church. It was locked. I rang the bell. No answer. I knew the meeting was happening in an interior room, and I was locked out. I started walking around the church in a steady drizzle. Every door was locked. Eventually, I ended up at the main door again. By now, I was damp, hungry, and wondering if this post-church trip was a waste of time. Right about then, someone happened by and let me in. By the time the event was over, I was glad I could be there and be helpful to this church in their journey. I still remember, though, how locked out and forgotten I felt as I wandered around the church in the rain. "Open Hearts. Open Minds. Locked Doors." The irony wasn't lost on me.

When the church is at our best, our doors are open, both literally and metaphorically. Not only are our doors open, but within our doors, we are a community of love, trust, and forgiveness. Outside our doors lie so much anger and distrust and name-calling. More than ever before, we are called to offer an alternative to the outside world. We are called to offer love to one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. Anything less is a disappointment to the One who made us into community.

The United Methodist Church as a denomination is entering into a time of discerning whether we'll be able to live in community in the same way that we currently are, or if we will allow ourselves to be split apart. My conviction is that Christ calls us as a denomination into a community of love, trust, and forgiveness in the same way that Christ calls us to act as a congregation. I believe that our shared mission of making faithful, hopeful, and loving disciples of Jesus Christ transcends any differences over temporal issues.

I ask you to join me in prayer. Pray for our denomination. Pray for our congregation. Pray for each other. Pray for me. I'm praying for you. And when you rise from your knees, I ask you to get on your feet and live out your prayer. Live out love, trust, and forgiveness in your home, your church, and your part of the world.

With great faith, hope and love,
Sally

August 11-12, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$18,570	
YTD One Fund	\$590,695	\$619,627
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	330	
Sunday School		
Children.....	37	
Youth.....	9	
Adults.....	108	
Total	154	
Sunday/Wednesday Evening Youth: 26		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

August 18-19, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$11,083	
YTD One Fund	\$601,777	\$631,044
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	371	
Sunday School		
Children.....	45	
Youth.....	5	
Adults.....	128	
Total	178	
Sunday/Wednesday Evening Youth: 37		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby or in the church office.		

August 25-26, 2018		
Giving:	2018	2017
One Fund.....	\$19,112	
YTD One Fund	\$620,890	\$652,779
<u>Worship Attendance:</u>		
Worship.....	369	
Sunday School		
Children.....	35	
Youth.....	7	
Adults.....	115	
Total	157	
Sunday/Wednesday Evening Youth: 24		
More detailed financial information is available at the information table in the lobby 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 10:45 in room 112 for Sunday School! Fellowship Groups meet on Sunday evenings.

—and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 for youth group in room 014!

All are welcome—students and parents!

First Connection

First Kids

Contact Michelle Mueller-Hinton at mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org

**Wee Singers, Children's Chimers and Power Praise Kids
Rehearsals resume on Sunday, September 9**

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.

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.

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

September:

Youth on Wednesday has been going great with our new start time and we have been discussing fundraisers for the upcoming year as well as even starting to plan our annual Youth-a-palooza! I have made an extra point of making sure the Youth are involved in the planning and deciding of our events, because this is really their party. I just bring the cake!

I am still seeking volunteers for all Youth times. Last Wednesday, I only had two volunteers. This simply won't do if we want to protect our Youth while also growing their spiritual life. I encourage you to discern if you are being called to assist with this need. If you are interested, please contact Erika.

Planting the seed of faith in today's Youth is what continues and grows the Church of tomorrow. With them, God's Kingdom will flourish.

Wednesday Youth Group: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.

Sunday Small Groups (all ages): 4 p.m. every other Sunday

High School Bible Study: 5 p.m. every Sunday



HEALTH CONCERNS

Mary Arth	Leola Bennett	Shirley Connelly
Marti Dietrich	Judy Gregston	Maxine Hall
Ed Jones	Vicki Kerr	Gloria Kniffen
Gloria LaDue	Ednabelle Menditto	Sandra Meinershagen
Jean Moore	Wayne Ogilvie	Pat Parr
Carol Seguin	Chere Semple	Bobby Tiffin
Steve Young	Karen Zymball	

Aimee Rea-Scott, friend of Kathy Ford
 Allen Klinger, per Ardith Dorris
 Baby Kian Jackson
 Beverly England, friend of Gwen Wheeler
 Bill and Jean Best, per Marisa Gilbert
 Chris Whippo, per Marisa Gilbert
 Chuck Keeter, per Mary Meeker
 Cliff Bradenburg, friend of Jim and Linda LaShure
 Dakota Sawyer, per Marisa Gilbert
 Jodie Gallagher, per Mike Gallagher
 Karen Gangestad, friend of Gwen Wheeler
 Kelsey Kwapnoski, Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein's granddaughter
 Lester Williamson, per Jan Balcom
 Mandy Boone, friend of Kathy Bozarth
 Marilyn Callighan, Jean Moore's sister-in-law
 Nancy Forth, per Jan Balcom
 Nieko Glesbrecht, per Marisa Gilbert
 Rita Thompson, Jean Moore's sister
 Robert Case, per Kenny and Lenora Stoecklein
 Steve Blomme, friend of Chuck and Kathy Ford
 Sue Grinlinton, Kris Allen's sister

MILITARY

Sean Batulis	Brenton Jones	Hunter Smith
Tyler Byrd	Drew Kerber*	Jason Tisdale
Emily Brittingham	Ben Patillo*	Cole Sims*
Tim Gorsline	Isaiah Rivas	Ryan Stacy*
Henry Grubb*	Christian Schroeder	Jonathan Tucker*
Rick Hansen	Justin Schroeder	Brandon Walls

Highlighted names—FUMC members *deployed overseas

SYMPATHY

To Cheryl Leppert on the passing of her father, Kenneth Herman, on August 1.

To Leola Bennett and family on the passing of her husband, Harry Bennett, on August 6.

To Nathan and Karen Ninemire on the passing of Nathan's mother, Doreen Ninemire, on August 8.

To John Stone and family on the passing of his wife, Mary Stone, on August 8.

To Cleve Harwood and family on the passing of her brother, Wes Brown, on August 19.

To Aline Eilert and family on the passing of her husband, Harry Eilert, on August 23.

To the friends and family of Bob Rhodes, who passed away on August 29.

JOYS

To Jon and Karen Shepherd, who joined First UMC on August 19.

To Phil and Nancy Geary and Diane Frisbie, who joined First UMC on August 26.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
<u>Sunday, September 9</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
High School Bible Study	5:00	014
<u>Monday, September 10</u>		
Leadership Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	103
<u>Tuesday, September 11</u>		
Tuesday Team	9:00 a.m.	Office
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Wednesday, September 12</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
Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:30	150
Rhapsody Ringers	7:30	154
<u>Thursday, September 13</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	100
Ruth Circle	10:15	112
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Friday, September 14</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
<u>Saturday, September 15</u>		
Worship Service	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
<u>Sunday, September 16</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
High School Bible Study	5:00	014
<u>Monday, September 17</u>		
Gospel Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.	150
<u>Tuesday, September 18</u>		
Tuesday Team	9:00 a.m.	Office
Methodist Men's Lunch	noon	015
Wesleyan Women	1:30 p.m.	112
Food Pack Event	5:30	012
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Wednesday, September 19</u>		
Widows' Support Group	11:30 a.m.	Winstead's
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, September 20</u>		
Back Fence Bible Study	9:30 a.m.	100
Embrace Group	6:30 p.m.	103
Pickleball	7:00	Gym
<u>Friday, September 21</u>		
Joy Ringers Handbell Rehearsal	9:30 a.m.	154
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym



First UMC Missions News



Dresses and Shorts

So far this year, First UMC has sent a total of 270 dresses and shorts with mission teams from our church and other area churches. These items have gone to Mexico, Costa Rica, and Mozambique. We hope to send more to Nicaragua at the end of the year. If you like to sew and would like to help with this mission, there are patterns for the dresses and shorts at the information table in the lobby. Pick up a pattern this weekend and make some clothes for girls and boys around the world. If you have questions about making dresses and shorts, contact Linda Carey at rlcarey4143@gmail.com.

2019 Youth Mission Trips

First UMC Impact Youth will have two great opportunities during the summer of 2019. There will be an information and planning meeting on Sunday, September 23, at 4:00 p.m. in room 015. If you have a child in 6th grade through 12th grade, please come and see what is in store for them next summer. Please contact Brooke Roskop, broskop@bluespringsumc.org, or 229-8108 with questions.

Healthy Foundations

First UMC will start delivering weekend food packs to Brittany Hill Middle School and Valley View High School in September. We need to get packing!! There will be a food pack on Tuesday, September 18, at 5:30 p.m. in room 012. It will take about 30 – 45 minutes to pack 100 packs. Come and join the fun!! There is another opportunity to help with this ministry. The food packs are delivered every week on Wednesday or Thursday during the school day. This is being done by one person at this time. It would be great to have some other people to help with delivery. It takes about an hour and a little bit of muscle to transport the boxes to the two schools. Please contact Brooke Roskop, broskop@bluespringsumc.org, or 229-8108 if you are interested or have questions.

First UMC Meal Ministry

Here's a list of what we need for our next meal on September 26. Look for a new board in the lobby beginning the weekend of September 8/9.

Donations: We will have a donation board in the narthex for food donations and supplies. Please make sure when you take a note that you also mark it down on the clipboard.

Volunteers—We will have a volunteer sign-up sheet at the Information Table. Some of the volunteer jobs that we are needing are:

Setup—4–5:15 p.m. (this will include setting up tables and chairs; posting signs on the property; making sure we have plenty of trash cans; drink containers and condiments out on the tables)

Meal Preparation—4–5:30 p.m. (this will include prepping of all food, cooking, and plating)

Serving—5:15–6:30 p.m. (this will include taking the plates from the kitchen and serving them to our guests)

Hospitality—5:15–6:45 p.m. (this will include walking around the gym, making sure people are comfortable, helping them to feel welcome and assisting them with additional needs if warranted)

Cleanup—5:30–7:15 p.m. (this is a shift that will start early and end when cleanup is over, including washing dishes as we go and packing leftovers if merited)

If you have questions, please contact Kristi Harris (kharris@bluespringsumc.org) or Brooke Roskop (broskop@bluespringsumc.org) in the church office, 229-8108.

First Connection

GENERAL CONFERENCE 2019

In February 2019, a special General Conference will be convened in St. Louis to discuss the stance of the UMC regarding human sexuality. In particular, the Conference will address standards around same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBT persons.

If you would like to know more about the various proposals coming before this Conference, Sally will be holding an informational meeting on Sunday, October 14, at 3:30 p.m. in room 117. Sally will be holding other meetings as we get closer to the General Conference, which will be helpful as the information continues to change.



Tuesday Team

Calling all handymen (and handywomen) who have availability on Tuesday mornings! Would you like to join with a group of others for a couple of hours on Tuesday mornings to do odd jobs around the church?

The next gathering will be Tuesday, September 11, from 9-11ish, beginning in the church office with coffee and donuts.

If you've got questions, check with John Rosendahl (224-5660). All skill levels are welcome!

Widows' Support Group

The Widows' Support Group will meet for lunch on Wednesday, September 19, at 11:30 a.m.

Winstead's
905 Highway 7
Blue Springs

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

Handbell Opportunities

The Rhapsody Ringers have open slots to fill this coming fall.

We practice on Wednesday evenings in room 154 from 7:30-8:30 p.m. and typically play one service a month. A basic understanding of note reading and rhythms is helpful. Please contact Jenn Arth at jennifer_arth@yahoo.com for more information.



The **Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** program focuses on improving the health and well-being of older adults. The goal of the program is to provide safe, structured and effective strength training for older adults.

The curriculum used for this program is modeled after the StrongWomen program designed by Dr. Miriam Nelson and Rebecca Seguin, MS, CSCS, from Tufts University.

The **Stay Strong, Stay Healthy** program sessions are 8 weeks long and led by a University of Missouri Extension Instructor. Brochures are available on the information table in the lobby.

The class schedule will be Tuesday and Thursday (class meets twice a week) beginning October 9, in room 011, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. The first class on October 9 will be 2 hours. We will not meet the week of Thanksgiving. To register, call Andrea at the church office.

The cost is \$50. Checks should be made payable to the Jackson County Extension.

For questions about the class contact:

Lydia Kaume, Ph.D, RDN LD.

University of Missouri Extension, Phone: 816-252-5150, E-mail: kaumel@missouri.edu



Labyrinth Update

You have probably noticed that our labyrinth is being built under the grove of trees on the front of our property. This location is beautifully shaded, making it walkable in every season, and it will allow easy access by the community. Signage and benches and a formal dedication are yet to come, but you are welcome to go ahead and visit and walk this prayer path anytime you would like. Next month's newsletter will contain more information about the history of labyrinths and how they have been used for prayer for centuries. Our labyrinth has been made possible by the family and friends of Annetta Baker, in whose memory it will be dedicated, and we are deeply grateful.



Welcome to our New Members who joined First UMC in August!

Jon and Karen Shepherd (9:30 service)
Phil and Nancy Geary (10:45 service)
Diane Frisbie (10:45 service)



Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events!

- Fall Fun Fest Pie Booth—September 14-16
- Hillcrest Gala, Transition to Transformation, October 18, at the Arrowhead North Club. Go to www.hillcresttransitionalhousing.org/special-events for details.
- Fall Festival (including Trunk or Treat)—October 27
- Confirmation Service—November 17
- First UMC-Sponsored Blood Drive—November 18
- Hanging of the Green—December 1
- Chancel Choir Cantata—December 8, at 5 p.m. and December 9 at 10:45 a.m.
- Advent Music Fest—December 15
- Meet at the Hillcrest Thrift Store in Lee's Summit on December 10 at 10 a.m. to help wrap gifts for Hillcrest's adopted Christmas families. Expertise not required.

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

Erika Braun
email:
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

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website
www.bluespringsumc.org

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Blue Springs UMC



September 5, 2018

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of Blue Springs
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Blue Springs, MO 64015

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First Fellowship Groups

Outreach Ministry of First UMC



First Fellowship is what we have named our small groups. Small groups provide a place for people to intentionally join together to actively pursue Christ through relationships, learning, living, and sharing. These groups will meet at least twice a month but could be more. Ideally, groups will meet in the home, restaurants or other public locations—anywhere with a room! They are made up of 10-12 people who will build Christ-centered relationships within the Church by:

- Breaking bread together
- Socializing together
- Studying together
- Praying together and for each other

How do I Join?

- The most natural time to join a group is when new groups are forming. New groups will form late September and again in January.
- Groups are forming now! If you would like to be in a group, fill out The First Fellowship registration form which will be on the information table in the lobby. The last day to register is September 23. If you have a group that you would like to be together, that is great!

Host/Coaches are very important to the success of the group. You will be given support/training to ensure your group is healthy and thrives.

For more information, please contact Michelle Mueller-Hinton
mmueller-hinton@bluespringsumc.org
or 229-8108.