



CONNECTIONS

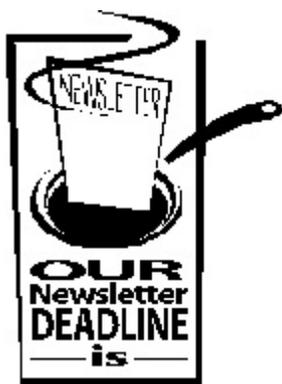
Making Christian Disciples

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Thursday
November 20
email articles to
Terry@appfumc.org

God Loves a Cheerful Pledger!

It's almost time for our 2015 Pledge campaign!! This year we'll be starting in early November and building to Pledge Sunday on November 23rd. This is a special time to express our gratitude to God for His many blessings as we consider our commitments to *Prayer, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness*.

You will receive additional information and reminders as well as Pledge Cards. It will all start with an announcement in the November Newsletter.

Second Annual Church Family Fall Event

This year's Fall Event will be a potluck and take place November 1st. Admission is a dish to pass and a non-perishable item for St. Joseph's Food Pantry. We will have games, face painting, balloon animals, crafts, and a family friendly raffle.



This is a great way to spend some time getting to know your church family, and a wonderful way to spend some quality time with your own family! **This is a church wide event! Look for more information coming this month.**

October Memory Verse:

Jesus said: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:35

REFLECTIONS

On Sabbathing

“Myth #1 - I have to keep a sabbath for 24 hours in order for it to make any difference.

“Many people find benefit in taking half day sabbaths or even two-hour sabbaths. While many long-time sabbath keepers find it takes 24 hours to come to a place of rest, others enjoy watching for and taking opportunities throughout the week to slow down and listen to God.”

from *Five Myths about Keeping the Sabbath*

by Lynne M. Baab

Some pastors talk about their day off, and this may work for them, but I find that I need sabbath time and I believe that calling it that helps to keep me – and the people around me – aware of my focus. True, I need for errands, just like the next person, but what I need even more is time away from what I do the rest of the week, the rest of the month. For me, sabbath is about setting aside some space and time to be – without expectations or demands – to reconnect with who I am, to rest at a soul level.

My day off is Monday. That’s the day for shopping and dentist appointments, for yard work and homeowner’s projects. But my sabbath begins about noon on Sunday, or as soon thereafter as I can manage. And when it starts, I stop – stop checking the cell and church email. I *do* yoga. I write in my journal.

Sometimes my sabbath extends for 24 hours, but that’s a rare treat. I remember reading *The Artist's Way*. The author, Julia

Cameron writes about giving yourself the gift of 2 hours weekly to do whatever feeds your soul, says this time apart is vital for nourishing your creativity. I don’t nearly do this every week, but I remember how nice it feels in March to go to a greenhouse and just wander around smelling the spring, or in January to just stare out the window at the birds in the feeder while a ginger cat sleeps on my lap. Even remembering those times when I did this is a mini-sabbath for me.

When we pray “Give us this day...” what is it that *you* really need? For me, it’s sabbath moments.

Myth #2, next month.
Until then,




October Pulpit Preview

By Pastor Markus

Welcome to the Ocean of God's Grace

“Don’t go into the water right after you eat.” That was a sentence that I heard countless times when I was little. “It’s too much for your body to handle, you can’t digest a big meal *and* go thru the exhaustion of swimming.”

I don’t know how the many teachers of my childhood would feel if they knew that I want to invite you all to do exactly this in the month of October: Let’s go for a swim, just after we’ve been fed!

This last September I feel we’ve truly been fed; fed on a

spiritual level that is: We’ve heard great uplifting music in worship as choirs, bells and brass have joined our worship experience; we’ve started our fabulous Wednesday Night Live dinners that feed both body and soul; the Sunday School had their great kick off and some adult classes have already started taking place. We truly experienced an increase of spiritual calories that are offered at First Church. Indeed, it was our September theme in worship to consider the great “Faithfood” that God has provided for us and I’d say that many of us are truly lovin’ it.

And now, as October rolls along and our souls are being stuffed, I invite you to follow us into the ocean! The theme of our October weekend services will be: “Welcome to the Ocean of God’s Grace.” It is a theme that will help us explore different stages of our discipleship based on the so-called “Ocean Diagram.” I have to tell you I am really excited to find out with you what the Bible has to tell us about the fact that discipleship and faith-development are experiences that are not static but rather dynamic – as dynamic as our ever changing life-situations.

I hope that this series in October will help you to find your own individual and personal state in your discipleship and I hope even more that you get a sense of God’s great passion for you; a passion that invites you to dare ever new steps in the ocean of his grace.

So what do you say? Are you ready to follow me into the ocean of God’s grace with your friends of First Church? See you in worship.

Truly yours,
Pastor Markus

Church Records

Deaths

9-3-14 Al Olson

Missionary Visitors from Cameroon

On Wednesday, October 1st, the Ndjungos will be visiting First Church in Appleton. They will join us for our Wednesday Night Live meal at 5:00 p.m.

Then at 6:00 p.m., we will gather in the chapel as they share with us about their work in Cameroon. Plan to come for dinner and to stay and hear their stories.

Church Financial Update

By Your Finance Committee

August Results and Status

August ended the summer months as one of the best months of the year! Income was up and expenses were down:

- **Income**
 - Total income was nearly \$10,000 greater than plan!!
 - The majority of the increase came from Pledged & Unpledged contributions that were \$9,000 more than expected!
- **Expenses**
 - Total expenses were lower than planned by about \$4,500.
 - This was mostly the result of timing issues so we will be seeing these expenses show up in the next few months.
 - Given the above we were still slightly under planned expenses.

Bottom line is that August was a very good month for our Church budget!

Big Picture

The summer months of June, July and August are typically a tough time for our Church budget.

The good news is that this year we did slightly better than expected. As we head into final months of the year the many cost overruns caused by the 2013/14 winter as well as a few other unpleasant surprises have been covered.

The challenge is the one we started the year with – our \$16,000 budget deficit. There is reason for optimism regarding the deficit:

- Early results for September are promising.
 - The last quarter of the year is our strongest historically.
 - The Finance Committee continues to pursue options to address the deficit.

We'll know more next month!

2015 Budget

Work has begun on the 2015 Budget. The Budget development process goes through many steps, reviews and changes. The process involves our Pastors, Business Office, Finance Committee, Staff and many of the Committees. Our Church Council provides the final review and approval. The approved Budget is presented at the Church Conference on December 2. Finally, there will be a "Listening Session" on Sunday, October 12 following the 9:00 a.m. worship service where you can provide suggestions to or ask questions of Finance Committee representatives. Please also feel free to provide any budget suggestions or ideas directly to the Finance Committee. Updates on the process will be in upcoming Newsletters.

On behalf of the Church, thank you for your Christian Stewardship and Faithful Giving.

October M.O.M.

Villa Phoenix, our mission of the month for October, serves adult male and female residents who have chronic mental illness, developmental disabilities, and AODA and legal issues. Established in 1971, Villa Phoenix has provided its residents with a supportive, secure, stable, home-like residential setting while offering encouragement and services to help each person reach his or her greatest potential.

Villa Hope is also a community based residential facility serving adult males with mental, developmental, and/or physical disabilities. With more than 30 years of care service to the community, Villa Hope gives attention to the overall needs of the residents focusing on strengthening coping mechanisms and giving each resident a sense of being valued by the community. While receiving care, the residents are encouraged and challenged to gain the necessary skills for independent living needed to function either within their immediate family or in an independent community setting.

As our Mission of the Month, Villa Phoenix and Villa Hope are in need of the following: Hygiene Supplies (shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, refills size for hand soap and body wash dispensers), Gift Cards (Cost Cutters, coffee shops, restaurants, etc.), as well as canned goods, bus passes, used bikes, men's clothing (all sizes), towels, washcloths and twin size sheets and pillow cases (extra-long length appreciated).

Please consider making a donation to these worthy organizations. Donated items may *continued on page 4: M.O.M.*

Continued from page 3: M.O.M. be placed in the bin located next to the Wesley Room beginning October 1st. Any questions should be directed to Donna Frick (730-8584) of the Mission Team. Thank you for your generous efforts!

Thank You!

Kudos to all the First Church members who contributed to the silent auction baskets for the Fox Valley Warming Shelter's *Grateful Plateful*. As a result of your generosity, three baskets (Tea Lover, Wisconsin Products, and Grilling Out) were created and will be available for the October 9th event. Thank you!

Communities
Responding to
Overcome
Poverty



October 12, 2014

Registration is at 12:30 p.m. Walk begins at 1:00 p.m. Meet at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 803 E College Ave., Appleton, corner of Meade and College Streets. Walk 1, 3, or 6 miles in recognition of world poverty.

If you can't walk, please consider a financial donation. Please make your check payable to "CWS-CROP. The contribution is tax deductible. Volunteers will be taking donations during coffee hour. 25% of donations stay locally. Questions? Please contact the CROP Walk coordinator, Paul Siket, 993-1446.

Celebration Women's Ministry

Attention All Women - mark your calendars and join other women for a morning of fellowship, praise and worship, and prayer! Held Saturday, October 11, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Faith Community United Methodist Church, N1966 Julius Drive, Greenville. The event is free. A Freewill offering will be received.

This is a woman-to-woman ministry of sharing, encouraging, discipling, and mentoring in the faith. Celebration focuses on salvation, healing, and equipping.

Questions or if you need a ride: call Kathy Wilke 920/915-1400 or email Kathy at kathleenwilke1@gmail.com.

The Festival Choir starts rehearsing

If you are interested in singing in the Festival of Carols to be held on Friday, December 12, please join us in rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. We started September 24, but there is still time to join us. We would love to have you join us!



Mission Statement: *Making Christian Disciples by teaching children to honestly, faithfully, and openly walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.*

Hello Families!

The first few weeks of Sunday School has been amazing! We are so excited to have everyone together again.

We have many people that are working behind the scenes to make sure your children get the best

Christian Education they can every week. The following are just some of the ways we accomplish this goal:

- **Kidz Konnection** will be starting back up on October 1 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. It is our sincerest hope that the families in our church have the opportunity to attend one of the many adult classes offered on Wednesday nights! Drop your 1st – 5th grader off at Kidz Konnection, and take advantage of our adult classes. There is childcare available in the nursery for younger children.
- Bible Sunday is October 12th during the 9:00 a.m. service. Please come and share this milestone with our third grade students. Afterwards, the students and their parents will participate in *Get to Know your Bible* classes and learn how to use their new bibles.
- Second grade students will begin the *Come Taste the Bread* classes November 9th - 23rd. Students will learn about the importance and symbolism of Communion. Parents are invited to join their children!
- Communion Sundays: Starting in October our 2nd – 5th grade students will begin attending a special worship just for them! They will sing, hear a Bible story and learn how to apply it in their own life, and receive communion. We are very excited about this program and being able to offer the children a way to worship and receive communion in a relevant and meaningful way.

Continued on page 5: KIDZ

continued from page 4: KIDZ



**Have you heard about
God's Green
Space?**

Well it's our new 10:30 a.m. Sunday school class. God's Green Space is full of great bible stories centered on what God has given to us, and the need to take care of it! We will upcycle common household items that would normally be thrown away, and create useful items that can be used again and again! We meet in the Art Classroom, room 311, on the third floor. This class is for children 3 years – 5th grade.

***See the front page for the
Second Annual
Church Family Fall
Event. It should be
lots of fun for the
whole family.***



Thank you to all the wonderful people that served in our Sunday School classrooms and the nursery in September! Your commitment to our children's ministry is vital! Children's ministry is for everyone! Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and everyone that has a special place for Jesus and children in their hearts! If you haven't signed up to help it's not too late! Fill out the You Can Count on Me bulletin insert or email Christine Ladewig cladewig@appfumc.org.

Children's Ministry Team is Looking for People

The Children's Ministry Team is looking for interested people to join our team. As a team member you would be part of a group that guides our ministry, supports the Children's Ministry Director, and implements fresh new plans that will benefit the children of our church. We meet on the third Sunday of the month. No experience is necessary. Please contact Christine Ladewig at cladewig@appfumc.org for more information.

Youth Ministry Update

Once again, we will be offering opportunities to meet in Christian Fellowship, Study, and Mission as we strive to fulfill our Youth Ministry Mission Statement, "Equipping Youth with the tools and experiences so that they may become authentic followers of Jesus Christ."

Wednesday Night Youth Group will begin October 1. We will meet for Youth Group (grades 6-12) in the Youth Lounge from 6:00-6:40 p.m. We will continue our time together with individual classes for Grades 6 & 7, 1st Year Confirmation (Grade 8), 2nd Year Confirmation (Grade 9), and the Jesus League (Grades 9-12) from 6:45-7:45 p.m.

On Sunday, October 5, our Youth and Adult Leaders, who served in Brooklyn, New York and Savannah, Georgia will be sharing about their mission trips in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. at our Celebration of Youth Mission.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear and see how God powerfully worked in and through our Youth and Adult Leaders.

Our Youth will once again be holding their Fill 2 Fulfill Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit our Youth and Adult Leaders serving next summer in Sisseton, South Dakota; Lame Deer, Montana; and Arecibo, Puerto Rico. Soda will be distributed following worship services. Take a can, drink it, rinse it, fill it with change, cash, or a check, and return it by Sunday, October 26. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

On Saturday, October 11 from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., our Youth will participate in a Mission Blast. We will visit Jeremiah's Crossing, a non-profit therapeutic horseback riding ranch located in Babcock, Wisconsin, dedicated to helping horses help children and adults with diagnosed physical, cognitive, emotional, and academic special needs at no cost to the riders or their families. We will learn about their ministry, get a tour, and help with work projects. To be part of this unique mission blast, please contact Brian Stahl at 920/840-5075 or bstahl@appfumc.org.

On Saturday, October 18 from 5:00-9:00 p.m., our Youth will supply the Congregation with a "Date Night." Babysitting for children age 3 through 5th grade. A free will offering will be collected and proceeds will benefit our Youth to offset future Youth events. If you would like to drop off your kids, please contact Brian Stahl at ***continued on page 6: Youth***



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.



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

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Ministers. All members and friends

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continued from page 5: Youth

920-840-5075 or bstahl@appfumc.org. Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 a.m. - Noon, our Youth will serve the congregation with Raking Acts of Kindness. If you would like to have the Youth group come to your home, please contact Brian at 920-840-5075 or bstahl@appfumc.org.

Update on 2015 Youth Mission Trips: South Dakota (grades 6-8) June 14-19, has 8 open Youth spaces. Montana (grades 9-12) August 1-8, has 5 open Youth spaces. The South Dakota and Montana trips are \$500 with a \$100 deposit. Spaces will be filled on a first come basis.

Serving Him!

Brian Stahl

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

bstahl@appfumc.org Office: 734-2677 Ext 315 Cell: 920-840-5075

Don't forget to sign up to have your picture taken in the pictorial directory. Sign up on our web site www.appfumc.org or call the church office.