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Meal with the Congolese Church Members
Join us on Sunday, November 17th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a joined meal with the people from our Living Water United Methodist Congolese Congregation. Please bring a dish to share and register with the church office so we can plan for set up. You can also register via the You Can Count on Me insert in the worship bulletins. It will be a great time to get to know each other a little better.

God Made Us Unique: Diversity Awareness
Adult Christian Education and Concern & Action Ministry Teams have joined together to bring a very important topic to First Church. Join us on November 3rd from 10:30 a.m.-noon in the Asbury Lounge as Celebrate Diversity partners with us to learn how we can better know and understand our neighbors. The workshop is free and all are welcome.

Sign up on the You Can Count On Me insert in the worship bulletins to learn more.

November Memory Verse:
7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?
8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
Psalm 139

For November newsletter
All articles are due by November 14th
Email articles to office@appfumc.org
What a diverse month we’re expecting here at First Church. On the first weekend we observe All Saints’ weekend. Then we are invited to let ourselves be drawn into contemplating our personal stewardship. The theme for this year is based on the Capital Campaign that we will be completing in May of next year: “Growing into our future.” My wife, Pastor Carrie, and I will be applying the scriptures focusing on the theme of God’s future as we contemplate our financial commitments to the church. And then Pastor Liz will invite us into the season of Advent as Advent starts with the last day of the month, a Saturday.

~Pastor Markus

Pastor Ponderings November 2019

A Potluck and the Future

On November 17th we share in a joined meal with our friends from the Congolese Congregation (see separate article in this Connections newsletter for details). This month we also hold our annual stewardship focus and invite members from our church to make a financial pledge for the coming year. Thinking of these two events in November makes me wonder what it is like for our Congolese friends to approach the new year from a fiscal perspective. As refugees here in the Fox Valley their life situations and their situation as a church are so different from ours. I don’t know it they are in the habit of doing a stewardship focus in church but I do know that they have significant expenses as well to pay for their part-time pastor. It was important for the leaders in our Church Council to agree that we will not charge them a fee for using our church building. I’m also pleased to share that we have found several other avenues to support them (Transportation Ministry, Hygiene Bank and Literary Services).

I am excited for our two congregations to have the opportunity to join in having a meal together. For some of us it will be the first time to meet members of the Congolese congregation. I think it is also a great opportunity for us to be grateful about the resources that we already have and can share. This, in my opinion, is the best way to contemplate our own stewardship for the coming year – approaching it from the perspective of thankfulness for what we already have. We are all invited to maintain it and to help it to grow, so that we are able to help out others – including our Congolese friends and the greater Appleton community – even more.

Truly yours,
Pastor Markus

November 2019 Preaching Plan

November 2/3 – Pastor Markus preaching, All Saints weekend. No communion!
Theme: Finding God in Death

Three Week Stewardship Focus
“Growing Into Our Future”

November 9/10 – Markus preaching, Stewardship Campaign kick-off, 9:00 a.m. 3rd grade Bibles, Communion
Theme: What is a future with hope?
Text: Jeremiah 29:10-14

November 16/17 – Pastor Carrie preaching, Befriender Weekend
Theme: Future Voices Speaking
Text: Deuteronomy 6:20-25

November 23/24 – Markus preaching, Stewardship Commitment weekend
Theme: How do you achieve a future with hope?
Text: Jeremiah 29:10-14 & Matthew 7: 7-12

Our Advent series will start the weekend of November 30th/ December 1st with Pastor Liz preaching
The last weekend in September our church was represented at Octoberfest! Over 25 hardworking volunteers helped to make rice crispy treats and sell them. What a joy to share First Church with thousands of people on the streets of Appleton! All profits from this event will be donated to Iris Place – which is also our Mission of the Month for October. Iris Place provides a safe and welcoming environment that offers an opportunity for individuals experiencing emotional distress or crisis to grow and change through the support of others with lived experience. We were able to donate $1083.55 and were spread the name of First Church throughout the downtown visitors. Last year, we created a ministry team named: Evangelism and Outreach. The idea of this group is to show First church in the community. We are great at doing things in our building, and yet there is whole world outside of us. Evangelism and Outreach focuses on giving things away with our name on it, so that when people see the act of kindness they may know that we are being Jesus’ hands and feet. Each year Evangelism and Outreach has and will hand out free hot chocolate before the Christmas Parade. Since Octoberfest does not allow giveaways, we sell so that we may donate it to another worthy cause in our community. Join us in this effort of showing God to our community. Be extra kind. Tell a friend about First Church and what we do. Let the Fox Valley that First Church is here.

With God’s love,

Pastor Liz

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**A Message from Pastor Liz**

**CHARGE CONFERENCE**

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held together with Faith Community UMC of Greenville of our circuit on Monday, **November 18th at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting will be held at Faith Community UMC, N1966 Julius Dr., Greenville. Please mark your calendars and plan for a 1-2 hour gathering. Our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Kate Croskery Jones will lead our time together.

**SCRIP**

It’s never too early to start thinking about holiday gift giving - and SCRIP has you covered!!! Plan now so you are ready when you need a little something for that coach, babysitter, co-worker, teacher, secret Santa, or boss! For a limited time, you can order $5 and $10 gift cards from top brands like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Starbucks and more! And remember, you can get gift cards to almost anywhere for the hard to buy for people on your Christmas list. Stop by the Scrip table at any service or stop in the church office for the full list of brands. Get your shopping done the easy way while also financially supporting the Church!!!!

**All Saints’ Day**

Sunday, **November 3rd**

9:00 a.m. Worship
In the Sanctuary

**CHURCH RECORDS**

**Baptisms:**

10-13-2019
Sophie Christine, daughter of Joseph and Melissa Thiel

10-27-2019
Beckett Benjamin, son of Corey and Sloan Sullivan

**New Members:**

9-22-2019
Marlene & Paul Dozier
Lynn Petersen
Vann Willett

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**Church Records**

**Baptisms:**

10-13-2019
Sophie Christine, daughter of Joseph and Melissa Thiel

10-27-2019
Beckett Benjamin, son of Corey and Sloan Sullivan

**New Members:**

9-22-2019
Marlene & Paul Dozier
Lynn Petersen
Vann Willett
Equipping Youth with tools and experiences so that they may live each day as authentic followers of Jesus Christ!

Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box Assembly is Wednesday, November 13 during Youth Group @ 6 pm!

Congregation Members who would like to assemble their own box can pick up a box and list of desired items in the hallway near fellowship hall!

Please return boxes by November 17

Wednesday Night Youth Group off to a Great Start!

Average Attendance is 53 Youth with 68 different Youth attending!

Wednesday Night Youth Group Class Challenge Underway!

Let’s see which class can collect the most $$$ to buy WOW gifts for Operation Christmas Child!

Donations will be collected until November 6!

Parking Fundraiser Appleton Christmas Parade

Tuesday, November 26

5:00 – 7:00 pm!

To help please RSVP to bstahl@appfumc.org by November 15

YOUTH LITURGISTS

ONCE A MONTH YOUTH WILL BE FEATURED AS LITURGIST AT 9 AM WORSHIP.

YOUTH COMMUNION SERVERS

EACH MONTH A YOUTH WILL BE FEATURED AT 9:00 AM WORSHIP

INTERESTED? RSVP TO

bstahl@appfumc.org
Sneak Peak...
Join us for our 2019 Advent All-Church Study:
“While We Wait: Living the Questions of Advent”
Written by Mary Lou Redding
Order your books through the office today!
(920)-734-2677 or office@appfumc.org

Host during our All-Church Study
What does it take to host??????
⇒ Pick a time that works for you to gather with a group
⇒ Pick a location (can be anywhere like the church, coffee shop, restaurant, your home, etc.)
⇒ Invite your friends to come!
⇒ Follow the easy to use Leader Guide to dig deeper in conversation
Contact Pastor Liz (lwhitford@appfumc.org) to host!

Wednesday Study Group
October 30th-November 20th
Asbury Lounge
11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Blessings of Aging
Regret, Fear, Time; Joy, Transformation...some of the topics presented in this course developed by Sister Joan Chittister, Aging is an exciting time! Based on her book, “The Gift of Years,” although reading the book is not necessary. Call the church office to sign up (920-724-2677).

Continuing Groups in November:
Sunday Bible Study—“The Story”
The Bible is hard to understand, and often we don’t really understand when things happen. Join us as we go through the Bible chronologically with “The Story”. The whole study is 31 weeks but will be broken up into segments. Books cost $12. We started on Sunday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m. in Asbury Lounge.

Sunday Bible Study—The Parables of Jesus
Learn more about what the parables Jesus told mean in this 12-week class led by Wendy Anzelmo. This class focuses on what the parables tell us about the Kingdom of Heaven. The class will be using their own Bibles and a supplement ($4) and will began Sunday, September 15th at 10:30 a.m. in Wesley Room.

Men’s Thursday Noon Bible Study
Join the Men’s Study for “Mark Revisited: a continuation of discovering how the Gospel of Mark speaks into a Modern Man’s Life.” Men meet in the Wesley Room from noon-1 p.m. on Thursdays started September 12th. No book needed.

Women’s Thursday Noon Bible Study
Our women’s group this year will be focusing on the Gospel of John. This gospel is known for its theological depth, and we are looking at one area, in particular, light. So join us Thursdays started September 12th at noon in the Conference Room for “The Light in Our Lives: Seeing God in the Gospel of John.” No book is needed.

Financial Education with Russell Bold
Have questions about your retirement fund? Don’t understand what steps to take next financially in life? Any questions or conversation that you would like to have with Russell is welcomed with no pressure. Feel free to sit down with him the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month in the Conference Room at 10:00 a.m.
Our Mission of the Month for November is COTS, an organization helping individuals experiencing homelessness by providing temporary transitional shelter for individuals in Outagamie, Winnebago and Calumet counties. Their goal is to end homelessness by enabling individuals to transition to self-sufficiency and independent living. COTS is home to over 60 individuals on a daily basis. Case management, living skill classes and basic needs (shelter, utilities, food and household and personal needs) are provided to each resident in our program for up to two years, then following successful transition, they provide three years of Positive Placement Services. Current top wish list needs include NEW pillows, twin sheet sets, twin comforters and twin blankets along with cleaning supplies including dish soap, vinegar, floor cleaner, laundry soap and bleach. Additional items needed for the holiday season include NEW winter hats, gloves, scarves, grown-up coloring books, and colored pencils, batteries and lotions. For a full list of needs, please see the November Mission board. Please place donations in the appropriate large wooden bin located next to the Wesley Room. Any questions may be directed to Laura Nobbe (205-3723) or Cynthia Whitely (731-8035) of the Mission Team. Thank you for your generous support!

The October mission of the month to collect hygiene related supplies for our Congolese friends was very successful. Thank you, thank you! Our A-1 church community is so very generous. Over 260 items were donated which included: 56 bars of soap, 58 toothbrushes, 23 containers of dish soap, 24 toothpaste tubes, 30 deodorants, 41 rolls of toilet tissue, 11 laundry detergent containers, a variety of diapers, wet wipes, feminine products, facial tissue ...and much more! The LESI tutors have started using various items as tools to teach math, U. S. currency and shopping skills as well as then donating items to the student. The first general distribution to the Congolese Sunday afternoon congregation will occur on Sunday October 13 and will continue periodically as the supply and need continues. The Mission Committee continues to express appreciation for all the support you generously give each month for our Mission of the Month requests for those who are in need. A-1 truly is the best!
**2019 Budget Update as of September 30, 2019**

We are pleased to announce that through the month of September, contributions are nearly $15,000 over budget. Thank you for your continued support of the church during the busy summer months. Some of you have even fulfilled your entire pledge for the year! Keeping expenses in control has left us in a positive financial situation through the 3rd quarter.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September</th>
<th>Year to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td>$82,343</td>
<td>$658,781</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budgeted Income</strong></td>
<td>$75,859</td>
<td>$644,033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$66,600</td>
<td>$632,625</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Statements were recently sent to all members. *Please look it over and let Lynn in the office know if you have any questions or changes to distribution.*

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**New Member Ocean’s Class**

Wednesday, November 20th
6:00-8:00 p.m.
in Asbury Lounge

Call the Church office today
To sign up
(920) 734-2677

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**THEOLOGY ON TAP**

**NOVEMBER 25TH**
6:00-8:00 P.M.
OFF-SITE
SIGN UP THROUGH THE CHURCH OFFICE
(920-734-2677)

**Monday, November 4th, Game Night**
in Asbury Lounge
6:00-7:30 p.m.

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**Sunday Ushers Needed**

Do you attend church Sundays on a regular basis? Are you looking for an important but not difficult way to help out? The friendly 3rd Sunday ushers’ team would love to have you join them. Ushers arrive 20-30 minutes before the service, serve as a second greeter as they hand out the bulletins, help pass the offering plates, and then clean up the area of the church where they collected after the service. This includes collecting the attendance sheets and any items left in the pews as well as straightening the hymnals. This usually takes 5 - 10 minutes. You are able to sit with other family members after the offering is taken. It is not necessary to be there every 3rd Sunday as we realize you may be away sometimes. If this sounds like something you would be interested in doing, please contact the church office and let Amy know. Also let her know if you are interested in ushering for the 9:00 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. service. Thank you.

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**Christmas Parade**

On November 26th, the Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Team will be handing out hot chocolate to people attending the Christmas Parade in downtown Appleton. We invite you to pray for us as we give the gift of warmth to the community.

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**Fall Back**

Don’t forget...
November 3rd at 2 a.m.
set your clocks
back an hour!
Memorial Gifts

The Memorial Ministry Team would like to acknowledge purchases since November 2018 in memory of the following loved ones:

- Stephen Ministries Grief books given in memory of Richard Stowe
- Robe Stoles for Sanctuary Choir in memory of Marie Boardman
- New drinking fountain installed in the hallway by the Sunday School classroom area in memory of Bob Christenson
- Some furniture pieces in the youth lounge given in memory of Kathy Tralongo
- Three scholarships for youth mission trips given in memory of Jean Chase
- The purchase of LED lights with built-in rechargeable batteries for 34 music stands in memory of Peggy Hays
- 30 Spark Story Bibles given to families of babies being baptized, in memory of Jane Ruth, Archie Mauk, Lucille Mauerman, Bob Latzko, Dave Husman, Don Hayford, Pete Christensen and Dale Timm
- 30 GriefShare participant workbooks, in memory of David Day, Katie Van Beek, and Bob Latzko

Memorial Gifts are also permanently recorded in a red memorial book which is located in the narthex in a drawer with a glass top. It is updated a couple of times per year. Anyone is able to look at it. Just pull it out of the drawer. Please do not remove it from the building and place it back in the drawer when finished looking at it.

The Memorial Ministry Team continues to find appropriate ways to use memorial funds. Memorial gifts are made to the church by the family and friends of a loved one. Making a memorial gift to the church is one way to celebrate a beloved person’s life. It can be given at any time including in celebration of a loved one’s birthdate or any date that is special or meaningful to the family. Memorials can be listed as designated or undesignated. In the case of larger donations, the Memorial Ministry Team is dedicated to working with the family to identify an appropriate purchase(s) or designation for the memorial fund gift. Questions contact any Memorial Team member: Terry Weinfurter, chair, or Audrey Brandt, JoAnn DuVall, Phyllis Freeman, Doris & Ruel Gatewood, Martha Kulhavy, Bonnie LeClair, Edna Luckow, Lynda McLaughlin, Sue Tabbert, or a pastor.

GriefShare is a 15-week video seminar series that features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery topics. The video seminars are combined with group discussion of the materials presented during the video, as well as participants sharing how they themselves are dealing with the death of their loved one. Each week is a different topic. People can join at any point. Classes are Tuesdays from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Wesley Room. If you have any questions please contact Phyllis Freeman pfreeman1@new.rr.com or 920-574-2859. There will be a “Surviving the Holidays” seminar on Tuesday, December 17th from 1:00-3:00 p.m. This seminar will help you to better prepare for dealing with your emotions during the holiday season, and assist you in deciding what to do about traditions you may have had from the past. You will also discover tips for surviving the many social events that often go along with the holidays. Refreshments will be served, so please feel free to bring a neighbor or friend!
Women’s Retreat 2020
Creating a Livin’ in the Fruit of the Spirit Life!
February 7-9, 2020
Pine Lake United Methodist Camp
Registration Fees: (includes Fri & Sat lodging and Fri dinner-Sun brunch)
December 10: $50 deposit due
(Scholarships are available)
Register today by calling the church office!

Health Weekend
First Church provides a free blood pressure check and glucose screening by trained professionals the fourth weekend of each month. On Saturday we can be found in the Conference Room at 6:15 p.m. and on Sundays are found in the Wesley Room between services. Just stop in, no appointment is needed.

Advent Devotional Writers
We are only a month away from our amazing First Church Advent Devotional. We have 14 volunteers to write one devotional for our booklet, and are looking for 5 more! Devotionals are as easy as picking one of four themes, which will be provided, identifying a Bible verse, and writing briefly about it. Upon interest, volunteers will be given more information. Call the office today, to contribute to our Advent Devotional!

Part of a story in an Ann Hillerman novel relates how a character needs a healing ceremony. And why the ceremonies are effective. “The realization that dozens of friends and relatives would come to support you, bringing food, firewood and their songs and prayers gave powerful energy to the person”. This sounds so much like the community of our church when one of us is in need. (Except maybe for the firewood.) The strength of others caring and praying passes over to the one in need and holds them up. Befrienders are here to offer their support in consoling, listening, and praying with you in need or in joy. People coming together joins the power of community to the spirit of the Lord.

~Linda Webster, Befriender
Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 3, 10, 17, 24</td>
<td>Getting to Know Your Bible Classes</td>
<td>9:00 – 10:00</td>
<td>Room 314</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 10</td>
<td>Third Grade Bible Presentation</td>
<td>9:00 in Sanctuary</td>
<td>NO KIDZ WORSHIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 17</td>
<td>Acolyte Installation</td>
<td>9:00 in Sanctuary</td>
<td>NO KIDZ WORSHIP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>NO KIDZ Konnection</td>
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Dates and activities are subject to change. Please check updated schedules on Children’s Ministry board and updated newsletters.

Kidz Konnection

Kidz Konnection meets on Wednesdays 6:00 -7:30 p.m. in room 314. This program is for children in k-5th grade. Choir children are invited to come join us at 6:30!

Acolyte Installation

On November 17th all of our current acolytes will be given their blessing by our pastors during the 9:00 worship service. We hope you will join us as we pray blessings on this important ministry.

Third Grade Bibles and classes

Parents and third graders! Join us for Getting to Know Your Bible classes on November 3, 10, 17, & 24 during the 9:00 Sunday School hour in room 314! On November 10th all third grade children will be presented with their very own Bible during the 9:00 worship service. If you have not received an email from Ms. Christine please, contact her with the name and information of your third grade child as soon as possible!

Sunday School Tithes

Did you know that we take an offering in Sunday School? We do each week all year long. Children’s offerings go to organizations that help people living in poverty all over the world. A small portion of the offerings stay in our ministry to help with the upkeep of our classrooms and purchasing supplies. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin the conversation about tithing with your child(ren). We will be talking about this during Kidz Worship in November.

In September we began Kidz Worship in the chapel at 9:00. It has been going great. To date we have learned about: what worship is and why we do it, about communion and communion etiquette, manners and saying “Thank you” to God each day, and we have had some good conversations during their message. Ms. Kelci comes in each week and sings some very fun and meaningful songs with everyone. We also take an offering and sing our doxology. Thank you to all of our families who have given this new format a try. We are still in our trial phase and would love for all of our families to give it a try, and share your feedback with us! All parents are invited to join us anytime or all of the time!
Festival of God's Harvest

Once again (for the twelfth year) the Mission Ministry team is calling on church members to provide canned and boxed food items to be shared with the St. Joseph Food Program. This program touches over 5,000 lives in our community each week, as hunger remains a quiet yet persistent issue in the Fox Valley. Traffic remains high at the food pantry, and the St. Joe's program also provides backpack food assistance to 1,548 students annually through area schools. First United Methodist Church has always been a major contributor in the fall food drives. Our participation will be particularly appreciated this year as the Boy Scouts have delayed their annual food collection to the spring.

The top ten requested food items are as follows: canned chicken, canned tuna, soup, canned fruit, hamburger helper, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, and mac & cheese. Start searching through your cupboards or make an extra trip to the grocery store to help those less fortunate.

For your convenience, grocery bags will be handed out before or after the services on November 9/10 and 16/17. Filled bags may be returned to the church on November 16/17 or November 23/24. Bags may be placed behind the Welcome Desk. The St. Joe's Food Program will pick up our donations at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, November 25th.

Help is always appreciated for loading bags onto the truck.

We look forward to the generosity of FUMC members as we fill those grocery bags for a good cause. Our church's contribution will be a huge blessing for the upcoming holiday needs for the St. Joseph Food Program. Thank you from the Mission Ministry Team.

Wednesday Night Live Plus (WNL+)

October 9th-November 13th
6:00-7:30 p.m.

Continuing through November 13th First Church is offering Wednesday Night Live Plus. There is something for your whole family! You can start the evening by enjoying a family dinner before going to class. Dinner will be served from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. At 6:00 p.m. Adults will have the opportunity to join Bible Journaling, learn the history of Methodism, join the Love and Logic class, or gain strength in the gym. Kids and Youth are invited to attend Kidz Konnection, or Youth Group. All are invited to join one of our Music Ministries. There is something for everyone!

Come and see what a difference A1 can make in your week. Church, it’s not just for Sundays.

History of Methodism
In this class, we will explore the soul of Methodism. More than just looking at the history of the church, we will learn what Methodist Heritage - including its doctrines and emphases – entail. Join Pastor Markus in the Wesley Room for no cost.

Bible Journaling
Looking for something more than just reading your Bible? Join Julie Hammen in Room 224 as the group takes an introductory look at how we can study our Bibles through color, guided questions, and our creative minds. No artistry necessary, and no cost to you.

Love and Logic
Never before in history have parents faced so many challenges! We invite you to come and see the “Love and Logic” approach which provides a variety of simple and effective strategies for parenting children birth to adulthood. “Love and Logic” is a nationally known Christian-based program that is dedicated to help adults achieve respectful, healthy relationships with their children. Cost for the class is $25 (book included) and meets in the Asbury Lounge.

Zumba
Join our very own, Channon Jordan, for 45 minutes of Zumba (easy-to-follow choreographed cardio to energizing music) followed by 15 minutes of strength & stretching. Variations will be demonstrated for different intensity levels, so don’t worry about your ability. Participants should wear athletic shoes and plan to do some strength and stretching on mats on the floor. Stay hydrated by bringing a water bottle. We hope to see you here!
First United Methodist Church would like to invite its members and friends to our Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, November 28th at noon, brought to you by our very own Bonnie LeClair.

We will provide:
- The bird
- The potatoes/gravy
- The stuffing
- The green beans
- The rolls

Who’s invited?
- If you or you and your spouse are alone on Thanksgiving, this is for you!
- If you are a young family alone on Thanksgiving, this is for you!
- If you have a family of teenagers and will be alone on Thanksgiving, this is for you!
- If you have a neighbor or friend who is also alone on Thanksgiving, this is also for them!
- If your grown kids aren’t coming here and you can’t go there, this is for you!
- If a grown kid or two are coming and you hate going to a restaurant, this is for you!
- If you have a brother and one son who are coming, and it is only the three of you because your other son and his girlfriend are going to Aruba, this is for you!

In other words, you are invited to this dinner if you are not able to be with family or friends.

Do we need help? Yes, of course!

Will you do one, two or all – or none – that’s okay

- _____ Bring a salad or _____ dessert (it is Thanksgiving so pumpkin pie might be good)
- _____ Help cook the bird and the accompanying dishes
- _____ Help set up the Fellowship Hall – approximately 11:00 a.m.
- _____ Help serve the bird and the accompanying dishes
- _____ Help clean up the bird and the accompanying dishes

Anything else?

Yes, we will accept a free-will offering.

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
Your name, your phone number, number of people attending, whether you need a ride or not, and what from the above list you will do.
Members and Friends of First Church,

With the end of our Capital Campaign coming up in May of 2020, it is the perfect time to revisit the theme that started the adventure: ‘Honoring Our Past, Growing Into Our Future, Making Christian Disciples’. How do you think we have done? To date your generosity has allowed us to complete over $1.5 million of projects to our beautiful building, and we built an entire one family home with Habitat for Humanity! That is truly ‘Honoring Our Past’ and ‘Growing Into Our Future.’ Thank you so much for all of your support.

We are so thankful about the upcoming completion of our Capital Campaign that we want to use its theme for our 2020 Stewardship Focus. On the second weekend of November we will start a three week sermon series with the title “Growing Into Our Future.” As always we will conclude this series with a commitment weekend on November 23rd and 24th when we invite you to return your completed 2020 pledge card.

As you consider your annual pledge for next year, please prayerfully discern how generous you can be. Some of us may be able to direct a portion of our Capital Campaign giving to the operating fund next year. Think how our church can grow into the future if everyone added just a small portion of their capital commitment to next year’s budget commitment. It gives me goose bumps to think about the possibilities to transform our church, our community, and our world!

I am excited to grow with you in 2020,

Rev. Markus Wegenast, Lead Pastor with

Rev. Liz Whitford, Pastor of Discipleship

Rich Elrod, Finance Committee Chair

Steve Slocum, Church Council Chair

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This August, the Finance Committee made a 3 year commitment with the Wisconsin United Methodist Foundation when applying for a Stewardship Challenge Grant aimed at helping churches achieve the stewardship goals of the congregation. After completing the tasks, First Church will receive $500-700 each year! One of the first tasks was for our church to complete a Narrative Budget; a document that helps members understand how their money is used in the church. Watch for our Narrative Budget which will be included with your stewardship pledge letter and card. This mailing should be coming to you around November 1st. The brochure identifies all of the many areas of our church life and how your contributions fund everything from the staff salaries to heating the building to helping local organizations. Please take a minute to look over the Narrative Budget as you prayerfully consider your pledge for 2020.
This year's Christmas play will offer Mary's story of all the things she treasured in her heart. This is a multi-generational play with a role for anyone who would like to participate. Children (3, 4 and 5 year old) are invited to come to the dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 14 for a non-speaking role. Children (6 years and older) and adults who would like a speaking role (one line, five lines or parts with lots of lines available) should attend the try outs on Sunday, November 10. Everyone must try out and there is a role for everyone who tries out. This play also has two specific parts for a 'mature' male and a 'mature' female. Attendance at the rehearsals is highly encouraged while attendance is required for all play participants at the dress rehearsal. If you are not able to attend the dress rehearsal you will not be able to be in the play. Please email Carrie Kreps Wegenast at carriek007@yahoo.com with questions or interest.

Important dates:
Sunday, November 10 - speaking role tryouts at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary
Sunday, November 24 - speaking rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary
Sunday, December 8 - speaking rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary
Saturday, December 14 - dress rehearsal from 9-noon in the sanctuary
Sunday, December 15 - Christmas play during the 9 a.m. worship service

Nothing quite captures the Christmas season like...COOKIES! Just imagine tables full of iced cut outs, gingerbread, fudge, and everything delicious in between. In a few short weeks this cookie deliciousness will be your reality and all for a good cause. In the past few years, the Mothers of Growing Disciples has used Cookie Walk profits to buy suitcases for children in foster care, sponsored a Christmas for a family, helped finance VBS and Sunday School curriculum and provided support for church and community moms. On Sunday, December 8th, you can be a part of this delicious cause. How?
- Bake! The Mothers of Growing Disciples will accept baked donations on the afternoon of Saturday, December 7 (leave in kitchen) or before 8 a.m. Iced cookies sugar cookies, decorated gingerbread, fudge, Hershey kiss cookies, and unique Christmas cookies are the best sellers.
- Buy! Christmas cookies can be purchased by the pound between 8 a.m.-Noon on Sunday, December 8, in the fellowship hall. On December 8, enjoy the cookies of Christmas while supporting the work of caring for children and mothers in our church and community.
We would like to introduce you to the Coley family. Their story as written by Bernie.

Now married 50 years, Gary and Bernadine (Bernie) were born and raised in Houston Texas. It was the Military that brought us to the North, first to Chanute Air Force Base, Rantoul Illinois, and later to Appleton, when Fox Valley Technical College hired both of us at the same time. We’ve recently learned to remember this as one of our “thin place” moments. Our entire transition journey from South to North was never planned, but we followed what we felt was God’s plan, with many “thin places” along the way.

We lived eight blocks apart while growing-up, but went to different elementary and middle schools. In High School we were seniors before we met for the first time. We became HS sweethearts but still had 4 years of college ahead of us. Bernie went away to school the 1st year of College, but soon realized the misery she felt, and transferred back to the University of Houston the second year, majoring in Dietetics. Gary’s goal was to be able to teach History/Political Science in Houston. We never felt that we would leave Houston after graduation.

Gary applied, and was granted a $900.00 Education Loan offered by the Methodist Church, and he paid it back at $15.00 per month after he graduated. Tuition per semester in those days was $50.00. We both worked part-time jobs at Methodist Hospital. We both graduated in 1969 and were married shortly thereafter.

In 1969 a lottery system for the draft was enacted. Gary’s number was low, and he was advised that an “early enlistment” would allow him the choice of joining the U.S. Air Force. His appointed date to report to Lackland AFB, San Antonio, for Basic Training, was the day after Thanksgiving. We thus got three months to act like normal married people, working as substitute teachers for the Houston Independent School District. Our short-term plan was that I would move back-in with my mother to save money and take a “wait & see” approach to what came next.

Gary was assigned to the Fire Training School at Chanute AFB, Illinois to learn Fire Training. Three months later he was sent back to Brooks AFB, San Antonio, for on-job training. It was then that I was able to join him, and we were given base housing. Our daughter, Julie, was born during this transition time.

When Julie was 9 months old Gary was assigned back to the Fire Training School as an Instructor in Fire Training. During the final six months of his 4-year commitment, representatives from Fox Valley Technical College came calling into his military classroom to observe what went on in a typical Fire Training classroom. FVTC had just begun a new Program in Fire Training. They asked Gary if he could get a 3-month early out so that he could be in Appleton the first day of the new semester. Gary was told that an early out was unlikely, but that the paperwork would be sent through channels. It was returned as “Approved”. Again, a “Thin-Place” moment!

Bernie’s Dietetics Degree, plus many hours of work in her related field qualified her for State Certification, thus was able to teach Food Science, Nutrition & Food Sanitation within the newly formed Culinary Arts Department. They both retired after 30 years, and now have been retired for 15-years. Currently daughter Julie has taught 1st grade in Appleton for 25 years, at Badger, Houdini, Ferber, Franklin, and now Edison. At age 31 it was discovered that she had Celiac Disease, thus has to be Gluten Free. She puts all of her energy into these 6 year olds, and says that when she finally retires she looks forward to teaching Sunday School.

Son Greg got his Computer Systems Degree from UW-Whitewater, and after 12 years with Kimberly-Clark, he started his own consulting business. He has two children, Ellery and Greyson. Greg is an avid cyclist, having achieved his first Iron Man Metal in Madison a year ago. His daughter, Ellery, a 5th grader, did also “medal” in her age category at her first triathlon in Door County last July. His son Greyson is a 3rd grader at Huntley this year.
Come worship with us!
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. or Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.
Children’s Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the First Weekend of the Month.
Office Phone 920-734-2677  Fax number 920-882-1461  Website www.appfumc.org
Want to receive this newsletter by e-mail? E-mail office@appfumc.org with that request.

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Custodians:
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  Doug Herge
  Norm Ladewig

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Save the Date!
Festival of Carols
December 13, 2019
7:00 p.m.
in our Sanctuary
You do not want to miss this joyful celebration of the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!