

Windows of Faith



First United Methodist Church
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January, 2019

Pastor's Perspective

Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?" "I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply. "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do." (Acts 9:5-6 CEB)

Starting New, Starting Fresh is the theme of our New Year for Fairbury UMC. New Year is a time when we naturally look to making resolutions, changing lifestyles, finally getting to that project that was set aside during the holidays, and reflecting on how we want the future to be different than our past in ways big and small.

This is often done by individuals but it can also be done by groups, businesses, and yes, churches. We are doing wonderful things as a church in the name of Christ. We have United Methodist Women working on spiritual growth, fellowship, global and local missions. We now have a United Methodist Men's group restarting and working on their goals for spiritual growth and service. We have Sunday school classes and special studies. We help support many missions in our community and around the world. We have two worship opportunities each week.

The mission statement of the church is "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." Being a disciple takes energy and attention. It is about relationships—with God in Jesus as well as with people we know and ones we may never meet. It is about listening to God through the study of scripture, worship, prayer, and Christian conversations. It is also about works of mercy that not only provide some assistance when people are in need but also help people know that God loves them and is working on their behalf, often through other persons.

To help us be disciples who model what it means to follow Jesus and invite others to join us in being disciples we are always being guided by the Holy Spirit to go one step further on the journey; to try something new or get back to doing something we stopped doing for some reason; to invite others and bring them to worship, study, special service events, or conversations around a table in our homes; to connect with God in some way.

In worship on January 6 you will hear about how you can join in starting new, starting fresh for 2019. There is a free meal after worship and you can add your ideas to the conversation and we can all work together to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world as well as making disciples. Please make meal reservations in worship or contact the church office so we know how much food is needed. Pray for our congregation that we have clarity for what God is calling us to do and the desire to answer that call.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Jeremy Walter
5 - Lynn Dameron
6 - Tara McDonald
7 - Steve Metz
7 - Erika Wenger
7 - Jayne Trowitch
8 - Matthew Schahrer
9 - Mike Coppinger
11 - Sharon Kurth
12 - Mary Lynne Bailey
12 - Jess Tinges
14 - Brady Quinn
14 - Gina Monson
16 - Chelsea Dohman
18 - Beth McCleary
19 - Mary Zimmerman
20 - Brent Scherr
21 - Ben Morris
26 - Lois Rapp
27 - Pat Perkins
27 - Loris Lane
27 - Kyrsten Dempsey-Atkins
29 - Daniel Schahrer
30 - Bruce McCleary
31 - Eli Aupperle

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1 - Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brown
1 - Mr. & Mrs. Bruce McCleary

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 - Lucille Moser
1 - Don Trowitch
4 - Gail Schladenhauffen
4 - Denny Spafford
5 - Dale Atkins
5 - Easton Friedman
7 - Landon Cottrell
7 - Teegan Quinn
8 - Randy Lane
9 - Randy Zimmerman
9 - Desiree DeWeese
11 - Roger Friedman
11 - Karen Walter
11 - Marge Mishler
12 - Garrett Monson
13 - Ruth Doran
15 - Warren Ulfers
17 - Renee McDonald
19 - Bernice Bender
20 - Jenna Schroen
21 - Michelle Barsema
23 - Bobbi Blackard
23 - Bethany Meiss
25 - Mitchell McDonald
26 - Patty Hofmann
28 - Jennifer Barsema

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gibson
9 - Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Rapp
10 - Mr. & Mrs. Keith Bittner
14 - Mr. & Mrs. Tracy DeWeese
17 - Mr. & Mrs. Don Perkins
17 - Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Weber
26 - Mr. & Mrs. Daren Friedman



Please keep the following people in your prayers:
 Brent Edelman, Jordan Broquard, Jamison Davis,
 Jerry Kaisner, Mari Lynn Hoselton, Mary Lynne
 Bailey, Robert Freeman, Wanda Kupferschmid

These individuals all need prayer for health
 needs.



Clark Lindsey Village, Urbana-
 Ray Householder
 Evenglow, Pontiac -
 Walt Kohlman
 Fairview Haven Nursing Home-
 Joyce Crews Jim Steidinger
 Joan Steidinger Warren Ulfers
 Dean Moser Lucille Moser
 Meadows Mennonite Retirement Community-
 Glen Oakland
 Good Samaritan, Pontiac-
 Janet Metz
 Meadows at Mercy Creek, Bloomington-
 Florence Voigt Eli Aupperle



Nursing Home Ministry

The Fairview Haven Communion Service will be
 held Sunday, Jan. 13, at 2:00 p.m. in the
 Independent Living dining room. All are welcome!

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday,
 Jan. 6, at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast at Diner 24.
 Contact Randy Lane with any questions.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

Executive Committee - Tues., Jan. 8, 1:00 p.m.
Mary Martha - Tues., Jan. 15, 7:00 p.m.
 (meet at Fellowship Hall)
 Hostesses - Jayne Trowitch & Kathy Fogarty
 Program - Janet Kilgus
SOS - Thurs., Jan. 17, 6:30 p.m.
 (meet at Shannon Brown's home)

January Lay Servants

Liturgist - Jan. 6, Wayne Kurth
 Jan. 13, Shelley Schahrer
 Jan. 20, Pam Krominga
 Jan. 27, Roger Beasley
 Greeters - Jan. 6, Roger and Denise Brown
 Jan. 13, Roger and Christine Beasley
 Jan. 20, Ken Broquard
 Jan. 27, Ron and Sharon Monroe
 Altar Flowers - Jan. 6, Roger and Denise Brown
 Jan. 13, Shirley Vedder
 Jan. 20, Ken Broquard
 Jan. 27, Kathy Cook
 Children's Message - Jan. 6, Sarah Morris
 Jan. 13, Keith Dunahee
 Jan. 20, Pam Krominga
 Jan. 27, Pastor Ann

**Greeters and Altar Flowers are
 needed for February! Please contact the
 church office to secure your spot!**



Thank you so very much for all the cards, gifts, and blessings throughout the season. I appreciate everyone's thoughtfulness and kindness. You are all very generous.

Pastor Ann



Pastor Ann will be on vacation January 11-25. Thanks to Calvin and Wayne who are preaching on the two Sundays she is gone. If anyone has need for a visit or call from a pastor, Sharon Monroe will be available. Her cell phone number is 217-549-0812. You can call or text.



The 2019 directory is available in the narthex, by the usher's table and by the fellowship hall.



Food Pantry needs: boxed potatoes, canned pineapple and canned peaches



AWAKEN WORSHIP

Have you tried Awaken? Have you wondered what happens on Wednesday nights? Have you been unable to attend Sunday morning worship and feel like you're missing something? Do you even realize that we still meet mid-week?

Awaken can give you that boost that you need to get through the week. Music, a message, prayer, fellowship with Christian friends and a time to worship our Lord is all that is involved.

You don't have to be a certain age to attend. You don't have to dress a certain way. You don't have to know the songs to benefit from the meaning and feel the joy of the Lord fill your heart. We don't sing from the hymnal, as we sing current contemporary Christian music, however, some of the music uses traditional hymns.

Awaken gives you the opportunity to keep your heart full of the love of Jesus! We gather in the fellowship hall at 7:00 p.m. and the service generally runs 40 minutes and is very casual. We would love to have you check it out!



The overflow room was full of Reverse Advent Bags filled with donations for the Food Pantry! Thank you to everyone for the monetary and/or food donations. You are very generous and it is greatly appreciated.