

Step By Step Ministry Update

Step By Step’s Staff Christmas Party will be on Thursday, December 6 at 5:45 pm. Staff will enjoy a delightful dinner and play Christmas games. Our party will be hosted by Judy Kitchen and the Step By Step Child Care Board. Thank you, child care board for sponsoring our party.

The Step By Step Christmas Program will be Friday, December 14 at 6:00 pm. Please join us for a night Christmas songs and refreshments.

The Children’s Christmas Party will be Tuesday, December 18 at 9:30 am. We will have a pajama day, play Christmas games, watch a Christmas movie on the big screen and have pizza for lunch. More information to come about specific items needed for the party.

Step By Step will be closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the day after, December 24, 25 and 26, 2018. Step By Step will also be closed December 31, 2018.



Emmaus

Our local Emmaus Reunion group is meeting on Wednesdays at 11 am at the Church instead of Keen Bean. We encourage anyone who has attended or who just wants some information to come and find out what Emmaus is all about.



Advent and Christmas Eve Worship

Advent is upon us. This year we have ample opportunities to get involved with your Church, anything from doing an advent reading to special music.

We will have the Christmas Card box out again this year. You can save postage on Christmas cards to your Church family. The box will be located on the shelf at the coat rack in the foyer.

This year we are doing things a bit differently, Christmas Eve worship will be at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve. Instead of having a meal beforehand we will have a fellowship time with cookies and snacks at 5 pm. A special visitor may stop in for a visit with all the children.

Come and Worship with us.

Our Christmas Eve service will be filled with music, the Christmas story and ending with singing “Silent Night” by candle light.



Way-to-Go

Do you need a way to go? If so, there may be an answer to your dilemma! Our transportation ministry assists in transporting church members to such places such as doctor appointments, the grocery store, or to other nearby places. There is no cost for this service.

However, a minimum of 48 hours notice is required. For more information, or to schedule a ride call Ann Knott at 417-466-8575.



Do you surf the web? Have a Facebook page? Like us on Facebook or you can get an update on what is going on at Church on our website:

www.mtvunited.org

If you would like to announce an event you can email the church office at:

office@mtvunited.org

or drop off your item in the “website/social media” mailbox outside the church office.



Youth News

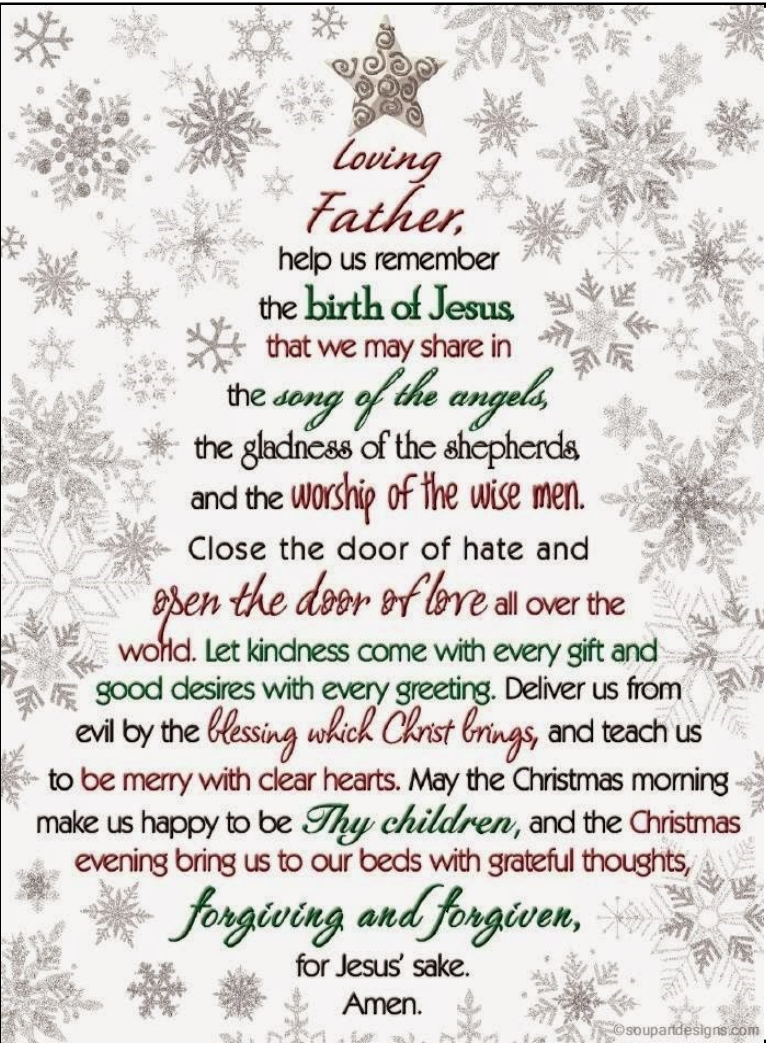
Youth Sunday Morning Study

Starting after Worship

Based on a series following
the book of Acts

Youth Wednesday Night Study

Soul Surfer
starting at 6 pm



Sunday Evening Bible Study

Join us on Sunday Evenings at the Church
Study begins at 5 pm with a potluck dinner at 6 pm.

We will be finishing up the Seamless study and starting a new study
after the first of the year.

Mark's Message

KID STUFF

In Matthew chapter 19 we read the story of how when Jesus was in a certain town, that the parents were bringing their children to Him so that he could pray for them. Although the Scriptures don't tell us if those children were sick or had other needs, I would imagine that some of them did have needs. And maybe others were just being brought to Jesus so that He could bless them so that they might have fruitful lives.

But Jesus' disciples were also there, and they saw this mob of parents and children around Jesus and were concerned for Jesus' being tired and harried by all those kids. So, in their "wisdom" started pushing away those parents and chastising the children who by then (I would imagine) were climbing all over Jesus. Certainly we can understand why the disciples would do such a thing. I mean here is their Master who has been preaching and teaching all day, walking out in the hot sun, and now He is weary. He certainly doesn't need a whole bunch of kids climbing all over Him, or a whole bunch of proud mammas and papas worrying him with their individual requests. But praise God, that's not how Jesus felt! In verse 14 He says, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."

Then Jesus placed His hands on each of them.

We are called to come to Christ as little children. He tells us when we pray to him to call him "Abba" or Father, Daddy. We are to come with that wide-open all accepting faith that only comes from a child. The faith that believes without question whatever our Father tells us. We are to know that He loves us (even when we are not obedient, although obedience shows our love for Christ and draws us closer to Him) and that He is always faithful to us.

When we were little, we thought our Dads could fix or do anything. But as we grew older, we began to find that Dad wasn't all powerful, and that he sometimes made mistakes. How wonderful then it is to know that we have an all-powerful, all knowing Father in heaven that is always faithful, always loving, and always good. How wonderful it is to know that His will is perfect, and that as long as we seek His will and follow His will in our lives, we will receive the blessing of that perfection.

Let us come to Him today as a child, crying Abba! Abba! Let us have the faith to be all trusting, fully relying on God's Grace and Perfect Will.

Abba, we come to you today thanking You for who You are and everything that You do for us. Help us to live in child-like faith, ever expecting, ever expecting. Help us to seek Your will above all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First United Methodist Church
Worship 9 am
Sunday School 10 am

Check Us Out Online!

Check out our homepage at
www.mtvunited.org and leave
us a message!

Save Your Best Choice!

Thanks to everyone who finds
the Best Choice labels and turns
them in. We are well on our
way to another payment. Keep
up the good work.

Please make sure the number
underneath the barcode starts
with "70038", these numbers
denote the Best Choice brand. You
are appreciated and you are
helping fund the education of our
children.

December 2018

Leadership

Lead Usher:

Jean Duwe

Audio/Visual Technology:
Luke & Shannon McKinzie

Offering Counters:
Ann Knott & Hope Morris

Bus Driver:
Garrison Earnest

**Children's Church
& Sunday School**

December 2:	Judy Kitchen
December 9:	Danielle Tabor
December 16:	Kristen Earnest
December 23:	Kristen Earnest
December 30:	Judy Kitchen

Pastor Mark Hansche

Volunteer Opportunities

Check out the volunteer sign-up
sheets for 2019 on the shelf at the
coat rack in the foyer. There are
plenty of opportunities to:

count money
usher
operate the PowerPoint
and drive the bus.

The Children's Sunday School
Winter curriculum is in the office
and it is VERY easy to use. If you
have had the Safe Sanctuary
training you may join us in teaching
our amazing young children. It is a
rewarding task and you will enjoy it.



UMW

Our group had a nice trip to the Marionville Methodist Manor on November 13th. We delivered gifts for their Christmas party. Also, we had a nice lunch in the dining room where we visited with several of the residents

Our December meeting will be on the 1st Tuesday, December 4th instead of the 2nd Tuesday of the month. We are going to Maggie Mae's in Miller for our Christmas lunch and meeting. All are welcome to join us; meet at the church at 11:30 to carpool to Miller.

First United Methodist Church
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U.S. Postage Paid
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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 2018



Tuesday thru Friday

8:30 to 2:30

Lynn McDonald

Administrative Assistant

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The Messenger

Mark Your Calendar

December 11	Safe Sanctuary Training at 6 pm
December 14	SBS Christmas Program at 6 pm
December 24	Christmas Eve (fellowship at 5 pm) Worship at 5:30 pm SBS Closed
December 25	<i>Merry Christmas</i> Office Closed SBS Closed
December 26	SBS Closed
December 31	SBS Closed

Coming Soon!

January 1 Office Closed
SBS Closed