



First Church News

April 2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New sermon series starts April 11

One day Jesus shows up in your life and says, "Follow me." What do you do? Where do you even begin? Part of the process involves figuring out what does it even mean to follow Jesus? Am I qualified? Do I have what it takes? When Jesus says follow me...where are we going and how long is this going to take? Maybe we're making discipleship more complicated than it needs to be. Join us for FOLLOW: WHAT DISCIPLESHIP LOOKS LIKE as we aim to simplify and clarify discipleship so that we might be encouraged to say:



"Yes!"

Starting April 11, 2021

OPEN YOUR HEART

Assisting Shepherd's Cupboard

April's Open Your Heart project will provide food and assistance to the Shepherd's Cupboard.

The Shepherd's Cupboard is the old Bethany Food Bank in its new location at the Christ United Methodist Church. Shepherd's Cupboard distributes food twice a month on the first and second Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m.

Our congregation can help by donating canned goods, ramen and other non-perishable goods. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

If you have a strong back and would like to be in service, they could use help on Tuesday, April 6 around 9:30 a.m. to unload their food truck. Volunteers are also welcome to help with distribution on the dates listed above.

Feel free to call Chrystle at the church office with any questions.

Open Space: Silent Hike at Gloss Mountain

Between death on Friday and resurrection on Sunday there was silence.

Join the Open Space community for a reflective silent hike and picnic lunch on Saturday, April 3 from 10 a.m. to noon. Meet in the parking lot of Gloss Mountain State Park.

Bring your own: water bottle and picnic lunch.

Church on the Lawn May 5

Church on the Lawn will resume on Wednesday, May 5 at 6 p.m.

DEVOS WITH DEVON

Yes to Jesus



Pastor
Devon Krause
[seniorpastor@
firstkirchenid.com](mailto:seniorpastor@firstkirchenid.com)

In March, we journeyed through Lent—a time of introspection—and what a gift it was to confirm 12 students into our faith family during that time!

Through confirmation we are initiated into the body of Christ and part of that process involves saying no to some things so that we can say yes to Jesus. We say no to the idols of pride, insecurity and defensiveness so that we can say yes to the way of Jesus.

But it doesn't stop there. Every day we choose. Every day the serpent is waiting...telling us, to eat the fruit of selfishness, greed, and envy: "Your eyes will be open

"it's several little decisions that lead to broken cisterns..."



and you will be like God."
(Genesis 3: 5)

Every day we choose—will we dig cisterns as ancient people did? Cisterns were used to collect rain water and they were always breaking...
...Or will we come to the well of living water that will never run dry? (John 4: 14)

It seems like a no brainer, doesn't it? In reality, it's several little decisions that lead to broken cisterns and we often don't realize it often until it's too late and we're standing there wondering where it all went wrong.

This is why our vows as believers are so essential: prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. 1) *praying* for others in joy and pain, 2) being fully *present* with one another, 3) sharing *gifts* for

the greater good, 4) *servicing* so others might experience God's grace and love, and 5) sharing what we've *witnessed* in our faith in both word and action.

If you look closely you'll notice a pattern in our vows—they're not about you... they're about someone else.

Everyday we choose—will we dig cisterns as a source for me and my own? Or will we come to the well and find a source we cannot possibly contain for ourselves alone?

Confirmation for youth, like joining the church as an adult, is a lifelong journey of faith and every day we get to choose. What will you say no to today so that you may say yes to Jesus?

Grace and Peace
Pastor Devon

Fundraiser brings in more than \$3,000



Ginger Diel
Director of
Learning Tree

Spring is here and Learning Tree is busy learning about springtime weather and baby animals. Learning Tree kiddos enjoyed participating in FUMC Easter Egg hunt. Everyone had a “EGG”ceptional time!!!

Warmer weather allows us all to get outside and celebrate the beauty God brings to us in spring. Students are taking

spring walks to observe signs of spring as well as playing outside on the playground. Speaking of playground, the Eileen’s cookie fundraiser brought in over \$3,000. Thank you for your support. We will be adding this money to our playground renovation project. Here’s a few reasons a renovated playground is needed:

- To meet safety standards for all ages at Learning Tree as well as the children of the church
- Enlarged playground to meet our increase in enrollment
- Rocks on playground do not allow a safe environment for

babies and 1 year olds and are also are dangerous when tracked in to the building for our younger children.

- Equipment is showing signs of wear and needs replaced
Playgrounds that promote different types of play are vital for a child’s cognitive, emotional and social development. Commercial playground equipment, that meets national safety standards as well as being durable, is expensive! I am currently seeking grants and would love to hear from anyone who may have creative ideas on how to help fund this project.

Father/Daughter Dance



Game Night



Confirmation



Gracie Atkinson



Emma Cummings



Madelyne Edwards



Maddie Finnegan



Tayden Hamilton



Evan Hoopingarner



Confirmation was held March 7.



Reed Hoopingarner



Confirmation Retreat



Confirmation Retreat



Elliott Kruska



Dexton Mantz



David Shepherd



Sloan Turnbow



Ross Wyant

BIG Class goal to walk together in

By Andy Swann
BIG Class Member

The BIG (Believers in Christ) class is an exciting group of Jesus followers. Our class is strongly based around families and the relationships we have with each other. Our membership averages in the 40-something age bracket with kids in grade school all the way up to college-aged and beyond.

Our main goal is “to walk together and support each other in the journey of life.” Our studies vary on topics, but usually focus on how we can apply God’s word to the joys and concerns of our everyday lives.

Our class is not just “a show up

on Sunday” group. We are very active in the church, as well as, have many get-togethers outside of the classroom. Our annual Christmas party was recently ranked #1 in the world by People magazine, HGTV and TMZ. Our class was also voted “Most fun to be around,” “Best Sunday Breakfast (Pre-COVID),” and “Most likely to succeed” in the 2020 First United Methodist yearbook.

We like to have fun, build strong supportive relationships with each other, and learn how to follow Christ on a more consistent basis.

Whose class would you want to join? Come see us!

To Our First Church Family:

Thank you for all the love, prayers, phone calls, cards, food and memorial gifts. It is heart warming to feel all the concern you have shown us at this time. Thanks for being there for us.

**Love in Christ,
Stu and Barbara Meulpolder**

Youth events set



Kristia Oney
Director of
Youth Ministry

March FUMY Lookback:

March was a very full and exciting month for FUMY! We had an amazing confirmation weekend with a retreat March 5-6 and the celebration of Confirmation Sunday on March 7! Thank you to everyone who helped make this confirmation journey such a meaningful experience for our young people!

April FUMY News

This month we will be

celebrating Easter and having a FUMY Easter Brunch in the youth room on Sunday April 4 at 10 a.m.

Sunday April 18th: Phillip Whitaker will be our guest for the evening! We look forward to an evening learning about, building, and flying kites! 5-7 p.m. at FUMC.

Sunday April 25th: Creation Care Sunday

This week FUMY will participate in a creation care service project at the church and then end the evening with a s'mores bonfire at The Oneys. *(Exact times and project details will be emailed out to parents by Kristia Oney.)*



The youth hosted Welcome Table in March.



CARE NOTES:

Intercessory Prayer team prays for requests



Mary Miller
Director of Care
Ministries

The Care Ministry volunteers of First Church strive to be the hands and feet of Christ. One of the many ways they serve

our congregational members is by providing a prayer ministry. However to provide love and support, it is necessary to identify those in need of prayer. You are encouraged to take advantage of the two ways to request prayer: the prayer cards available in the sanctuary, or by calling the church. Contact Mary at 237-2041, ext. 102. The

requests are relayed to the individuals who serve on the Intercessory Prayer team. They pray for those requesting prayer. Please know that we are here for you.

Loving God, thank you for being with us in our darkest moments. Thank you for being with us even when we feel abandoned and alone. Amen.

Church holds Father Daughter Dance, game night



Crystal Howard
Family & Community
Outreach Director

So many fun/important things are going on I don't know where to start! How about all the way back in February with the Father Daughter Dance. We had over 20 church families including Learning Tree dads and daughters attend. We played games, danced and enjoyed fellowship together. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this

event a success!

Next, we ventured out of the church building to get together for game night at the Enid Brewing Co. & Eatery. We had a great turn out for games, live music by the Praise Band and good food and drinks. We will definitely have to do this event again! Especially, when the weather gets better.

Our church continues to serve meals once a month at the Christian Church Welcome Table. If you have not had an opportunity to participate in this event, I encourage you to do so. There are several ways to serve either by donating the

planned prepared dishes or serving in person. Look for sign-ups each month. Thank you Melissa Tesson for making this happen for our church.

Our church will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt this year on Saturday, April 3 at 10 a.m. on the church lawn. The egg hunt will be for children ages pre-school-5th grade. The church is collecting candy/prize filled eggs for the egg hunt if you wish to contribute.

Finally, we are still planning an all church spring cleaning date on April 17. Let me know if you have seen an area around the church that needs some extra TLC. Happy Easter all!!!!



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