



New Ministry at First UMC

Dear Church Family

In the Bible, there was a famous town called Bethany. It was the place where Mary and Martha welcomed Jesus into their home, it was the place Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, it was the place where another Mary anointed Jesus's feet with extraordinarily expensive perfume, and it was the home of Simon the Leper. It was a place of healing, hope, and hospitality.

Jesus loved Bethany. He felt at home in Bethany. Bethany was the last place that Jesus went before he entered Jerusalem to die, and the place he spent Passover week after his triumphant entry into Jerusalem. In addition to hospitality the town cared for the poor. Some scholars

argue that the name Bethany literally means, "house of the poor." This seems to be a fitting name because Bethany was well known as a city with an almshouse for the needy.

First United Methodist Church is beginning a new ministry that we are simply calling "Bethany." Like the Biblical Bethany we want to be a place that welcomes those in need with love, knowing that we might just welcome Christ. I pray that our Bethany ministry will also be a place of healing, hope, and hospitality.

One of the goals set by the Pastor Parish Committee for the next year is to "develop a specific identity in the community related to missions." I hope and pray that Bethany might be the source of that identity.

There are places in the community for the poor to receive food and clothing. However, after much discussion with our Worship and Ministry Team, our PPR, and other ministries in the community, we believe that there is a need amongst the disadvantaged in our community for basic household items, and hygiene items (toothbrush, toilet paper, feminine products, diapers, laundry detergent etc.)

In the coming months, we will be transforming the first classroom on the left at the north entrance to the church by the parking lot into "Bethany." It will be a place where the needy in the community can come and receive hospitality and a needed gift from our congregation. Our congregation has a rich history of helping those in need by collecting goods, but now we will put a face and a relationship to those we serve.

All of this, of course, will take work. We will need a rotating list of servers at Bethany once or twice a month to assist our guests; we will need others to help



stock, organize, and re-shelve items; we will constantly need donations to replenish our shelves; and we will need others to help us get the word out about our new ministry.

If you think that Bethany sounds like the place that Christ is calling you to serve, I hope you will join me for an organizational meeting on Tuesday, August 1, in Wesley Hall at 6:00 pm. Our goal is to have Bethany up and running on the first Tuesday after ShareFest (October 3).

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Ron

Organizational Meeting
August 1 at 6:00 p.m.
Wesley Hall

Bethany
 A Ministry of First United Methodist Church

HERO CENTRAL VBS



We are gearing up and getting ready for VBS here at Dexter First UMC! We are partnering again this year with the First Christian Church of Dexter. VBS will be on July 24, 25, & 26 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Please get out and INVITE, INVITE, INVITE all the kids that you can.

We also need donations for snacks. We plan to serve specific snacks, so contact me if you would like to donate.

We need people to help with decorating the week before VBS (especially July 21 and 22). We also need people to be there during

VBS. There are some specific jobs like taking pictures of the kids each night or going through the activities with a small group of kids each night. Anything you can do will be a great blessing to these children.

We are planning a **Hero Central Picnic and VBS Dedication Service** on Sunday, July 23, after the 10:30 service. We will have grilled burgers and hotdogs and a short dedication service for the volunteers. We hope everyone will attend!

Let's all be in prayer that VBS will be a success and that children's lives and hearts will be changed.

Our Mailbox

Dear ladies of Agape Circle, Thank you so much for the AWESOME table shower! I would rather have been there in person but my new job and crazy pre-wedding schedule did not allow for that. Your gifts and thoughtfulness are so appreciated. What a wonderful church family. Sincerely, Alex & Cody Dusenberry

Dear United Methodist Church, I want to thank everyone for your extreme kindness during this difficult time. Pastor Ron, the funeral message was so representative of my family history. The kitchen crew served my family and friends an amazing meal that was so appreciated. Many of you sent food, cards, flowers, and made donations in honor of my mother. Many prayers and words of kindness came when I truly needed them. My mother loved her church family and would be so proud of all the love you've shown. Thank you all. David Clark & family

To my church family, I want to thank everyone for their expressions of condolences for the loss of my sister, Julieanne Patterson. All the hugs, calls, cards, and visits were very comforting. I have appreciated all of you! May God Bless All of You, Janice McCane

Growth Groups

For Fall

Sign ups begin on **August 6**

Leaders are needed. Contact Pastor Ron if you would like to serve as a group leader.



Wedding Shower for **Alexis Rauls** and **Joseph Lovins**

Saturday, August 19 10:00 a.m.

The couple is registered at Wal-Mart and La Boutique in Poplar Bluff.

Educator Goody Bags

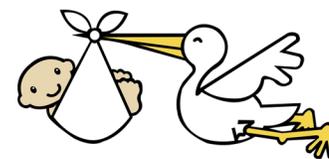
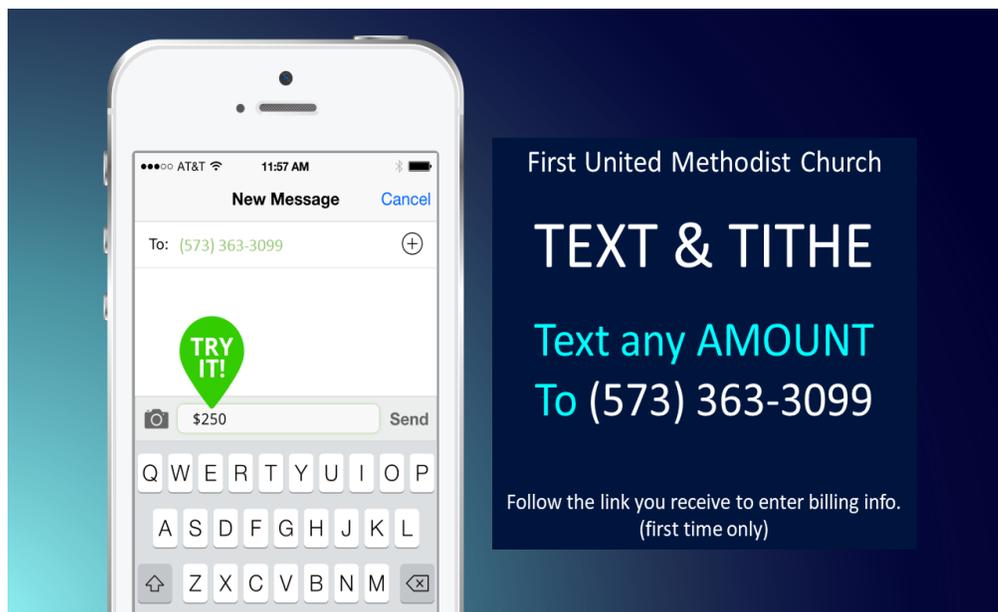
It is time to prepare our Educator Goody Bags for employees of the Dexter School system. You are asked to bring the following items for the bags by Sunday, August 6.

- Candy
- Post It Notes
- Pens & Pencils
- Highlighters
- Small packs of Kleenex
- Nail Files
- Snack Crackers
- Hot Chocolate Packets
- Granola Bars



Collection bins are located in Wesley Hall and outside the church office. Cash donations to purchase supplies are also welcome. Indicate Goody Bags on your check or envelope.

You are invited to a Baby Shower for *Kaitlyn Heil Schneider* at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 26, in Wesley Hall.



Congratulations to Austin & Mallory Matthews upon the birth of their daughter, Kamryn Irene, who was born on July 17 weighing 7 pounds and 11 ounces. She is welcomed by big sister, Kennedy; grandparents, Bryce & Sherry Matthews; and great grandmother, Peggy Matthews.

Trustee Meeting Monday, August 7 6:30 p.m.

Our Prayer Ministry

Current Prayer Requests

Brandy Pickett, family of Sandy Harty, Gay Lynn Russell, Chris Halcomb, Bea McKillip, Leonard Palmer, Gerald Jackson, Jamie Jackson, Rosemary Walker, family of Pot Anderson, Jamie Cook, Matt Thorn, Kevin Rimel, Terry CoLove, Mike Duncan, Kay Wooley, family of Berladean Clark, family of Julieanne Patterson, Anna Williams, Clyde Dixon.

Our Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Janice McCane upon the death of her sister, Julieanne Patterson; to David Clark and his family upon the death of his mother, Berladean Clark; to A.J. Nugent upon the death of his brother, Sam Nugent.

Special Giving

In memory of Marv Ferguson-Rita Mitchell-Waldoff. In memory of Berladean Clark-Sam & Elke Powell; Scott, Cynthia, Austin, & Matthew Chesser; Mike & Kristi Williams; Charlie & Jana Flannigan; Judy Rimel; Marie Quinn; Gene & Janice McCane. In memory of Sam Nugent-Jim & Brenda LaBrot, Larry & Carol White.

Members and Friends in Dexter Nursing Homes

Central Gardens: Elsie Temples, Wes Eskew, Peggy Matthews, Georgia Newcomer, Marie Quinn, Leon Ward, Doc Palmer, Marvin Wheeler, Gary Corlew, Elmer Wilson, Elsie Buttry, M.A. Hart, Ginny Martin. Cypress Point: Karen Tippen, Wilma Quick, Bea McKillip, Gerald Jackson, Carolyn Montgomery, Mildred Wheeler, Maxine Hedrick, Elsie Temples. Golden Living: Annabeth Miller, John Brotherson. Crowley Ridge: June Manlove, Chuck Asberry, Marsh Watkins, Audrey Pulling. Sikeston Convalescent Center: Jane Robertson.

First United Methodist Church

Ron Beaton, Pastor
P.O. Box 156
501 South Walnut Street
Dexter MO 63841

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Permit #31
Dexter MO 63841

Sunday Worship Services

Morning Grace 8:15 a.m.
The CrossOver 9:15 a.m.
Traditions 10:30 a.m.

www.umc-dexter.org

ShareFest 2017

September 30
Wesley Hall



This year we will be collecting

Family Food Boxes
Paper Product Packs
Blankets

Shopping lists will be available at each entrance to the church and on our website at umc-dexter.org.

First Christian Church
First United Methodist Church

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 24, 25, 26
5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

First UMC Wesley Hall

Age 3 years thru 5th grade

Register online at
umc-dexter.org

Kick Off Luncheon
Everyone Is Invited
Sunday, July 23, at 11:30

