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# THE HERALD

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*Listening to God's Heart From the Heart of the City*

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## **GETTING IN GEAR**

As the month of August brings many of our schedules back into a sense of normalcy and routine, we invite you to explore the pages of this newsletter to find out ways that you can get into gear with First UMC and your faith.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Where has the time gone? When did a year pass by? It was just a year ago that I was moving my belongings into the parsonage on Scott Drive and unpacking boxes in my study. So much has happened in this past year, as we've been working together to build a foundation of trust, dynamic worship, and gathering around Scripture together. Should we sit back and rest and take stock in all that God has accomplished in and through us? While we celebrate some major shifts in our financial outlook, a completed building project, increasing worship attendance and participation in Bible studies, thriving ministries for children and youth, and new outreach ministries, we are just getting started.

I'm not a machinist, but I do know how important it is for parts to be tinkered with, lubricated, and sometimes jump-started in order to get into gear. When I think about our life together, I am certain that much of what we've done over the past year is to get ourselves primed and ready to shift gears. Our worship life and study helps to get us going. Committees are functioning at a much higher level.

And all of that is to say, that for all that has happened in this past year, there is more yet to come! We are just getting started here at First United Methodist Church. August is often a time that we look ahead, with school starting and turnaround happening. There is a natural opportunity to shift gears in our lives. In the pages of this month's newsletter, you'll have the opportunity to read about some ways that you can change gears with your spiritual life. That shift may be as simple as volunteering with our youngest children once a month in the nursery or to help with a Sunday school class. It may be signing up for a Bible study or discovering your spiritual gifts. It may be making a commitment to be a part of our all-church study in September (taking place during Sunday school). It might be helping with Kids' Club, bringing dinner for a youth gathering, or helping with a worship service at Heritage Health. It may be helping bag food for the NOW program or helping with the Kids' Shopping Day.

That change in gears may also be something that is not a church ministry, but something in your personal life. Perhaps you will pick up a practice of exercise; collecting trash on a daily walk; changing your eating or sleeping habits; finding a place to volunteer; setting a goal to read your Bible daily; or putting aside time for prayer. Perhaps your gear shift might be away from gossip; visiting someone who is lonely; or making a commitment to pray for your enemy. Whatever shift you make, may it bring you closer to God, and help our congregation continue to move forward to growth and wholeness.

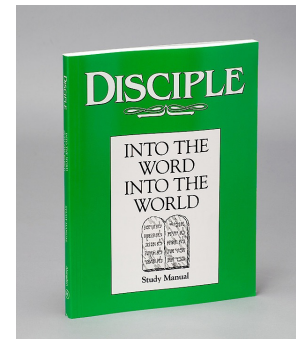
Grace and peace,

Pastor Jay

## Shifting Gears for Deeper Faith

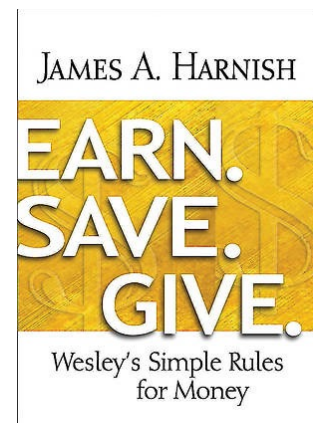
Want to deepen your faith this year? Get in gear by signing up for one of these classes this fall:

**Disciple II** is a 32-week Bible study that focuses on Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts. We are offering two opportunities to participate in this study. The first is on Tuesday nights, beginning September 8, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The Tuesday night session will be held at Otterbein UMC, as several of their members will also be joining us. There will be a second session on Thursdays from 9:30-11:30 am, beginning September 10. The cost for materials is \$40. If you are interested, please sign up at the welcome center by August 23, so that we can make sure you have materials before your first class. Childcare is available upon request.



**Serving from the Heart** is a three-hour session on spiritual gifts. Do you know your spiritual gifts? How can you use them. These simple sessions are free, and you get materials where you discover your spiritual gifts and other important lessons about yourselves. If you're interested in participating, our next sessions are August 16 from 1-4 pm; September 12 from 9 am-noon; and September 13 from 1-4 pm. We appreciate if you can sign up ten days ahead of time in the welcome center, so that we can be sure to have enough materials for you. Childcare is available upon request.

**Earn. Save. Give.** is an all-church study that we will be doing in September. Our worship services will be based around these themes from Wesley's sermon on money and stewardship. As part of our time on Sunday mornings, our Sunday school classes for all ages will be studying this same material. Written by James Harnish (who authored the study *A Disciple's Path*, which we did during Lent), children, youth and adults will look at these themes and Scriptures together. You don't have to sign up to take part in the study, but please feel free to visit different classes, particularly if you've never been a part of Sunday school before, and see what class might be a good fit for you. Then, after this study concludes at the end of September, you're encouraged to continue in your class.



## Helping Kids Get in Gear

August 10 and 11 the NOW program is offering its 1st annual Back to School Shopping Day. This is a new extension of the NOW program. The Back to School Shopping Day will offer the students an opportunity to choose a couple of new or gently used outfits to begin the new school year. They will also receive new socks, new underwear, and new tennis shoes, in addition to, toiletries and some school supplies.

Much like the weekend food section of the NOW program, the Back to School program is carried out in many surrounding counties. Wabash and Lawrence County have had these programs in place for several years. Lawrence County serves over 600 students annually at their shopping day. During a worship service at Parkside Church in Mt. Carmel, the leader for their Back to School Shopping Program made a statement that struck my heart... giving these students this opportunity allows them to walk in to school on that first day with a little bit of dignity.

What an awesome service to provide these students! A chance to be bright and shiny on the first day of school, just the same as their peers. What an awesome service to provide the parents/guardians of these students!! Relieving them of the enormous cost and burden of purchasing back to school clothing and shoes.

Thanks to your help in supporting the NOW program, supplying the needs for the Just One program, Midwest Transport for supplying the tennis shoes, and Turn About Consignment Store for supplying the nice/gently used clothing, the NOW program students will have an awesome shopping experience!

The Back to School Shopping Day will be held on August 10 from 4-7pm and August 11 from 9-12pm. This will be in Asbury Hall. There will be a need for volunteers to go "shopping" with the students, volunteers to help set up and tear down. If you want to have an amazing time serving and see some pretty sweet kids, volunteer! It will warm your heart!!

If you can help, please contact Michele Elliott (618-554-6889) or Sheri McGahey (618-553-3502).

## Putting Gears into Motion



## Old Time Religion and Grandparents Day Picnic

Make sure to mark your calendars for Sunday, September 13. Our second annual Crawford County UMC picnic will take place at the Crawford County Forest Preserve from 11 am - 4 pm. The day includes a picnic (meat and beverages to be provided; please bring a dish to share), entertainment, games for kids, and a worship service.

## Lifetouch Church Directory



**CHURCH**  
DIRECTORIES  
AND PORTRAITS

Lifetouch is working with First UMC to put together a new pictorial directory. Photography days are Thursday, September 3 (2-9 pm), Friday, September 4 (2-9 pm) and Saturday, September 5 (9 am- 2 pm), at the church. There are two ways that you can sign up to participate. During the workweek, you can visit the church website, [www.robinsonfumc.org](http://www.robinsonfumc.org), and click on the picture for the church directory. On Sundays, you can sign up in the narthex. Once you have signed up, you will receive a reminder via phone call or e-mail, depending upon the way you request the reminder.



## Getting in the Grove

### Prayer Requests

Please pray for the following persons:

Charlie Clark; Bev Harness; Donita Holmes; Jerry Phillipe; Vicki Lewis; Debbie Doom; Harold & Bernie Limper; Margie Moore McNamara; Sam Mitchell; Taya Harmon; Jim Currie; Greta Rich; Eleanor Laswell; Peg, John, Jeremy, and Greg Markello; Ruth Rice; Nora Busby; Ashley Reed; Dee Dee Trout; Erma Baum; Tom Carrow; Deb Goff; Carolyn Enlow Nickum; Lucille Hedges; Jay Holtzhouser; Ken Martin; Jennifer Null; Donald Boehm; Waneta McCann; Tom Willey; Kathy Allen

If you have any prayer requests, please contact Shirley Treadway at [gwtsea@hotmail.com](mailto:gwtsea@hotmail.com), so that the request can be shared with the prayer chain.

### Youth Return to the Grind

UMYF (grades 6-12) begins again on Sunday, August 23 at 3:00 pm. Greg and Janis Daugherty are hosting us at their home for a pool party and a photo scavenger hunt.

Please check the website under events to download the 2015-2016 UMYF calendar.

### August Birthdays

- 8/3 Colt Duke, Alice Holtzhouser, Jay Holtzhouser
- 8/4 Mike Parker
- 8/6 Janice Kelly
- 8/7 Tyler Carter, Ellen Wilson, Nancy Mattsey
- 8/8 Brian Wilson
- 8/9 Janis Brigham
- 8/10 Phuong Quick, Kevin Harness, Daphine Devonshire, Hannah Britton
- 8/12 Matthew Schmidlin
- 8/14 Don Heleine
- 8/15 Janet Clark
- 8/16 Leslee Thomas
- 8/17 Emmanuel Regennitter
- 8/22 Myra Jones, Joyce Owen, Janelle Oxford
- 8/24 Lois McConnell
- 8/25 Lucille Hedges
- 8/27 Brent Owen
- 8/28 Mike Bell
- 8/29 Margaret DeMent, Antje Pippin
- 8/31 Jason Holtzhouser

### August Anniversaries

- 8/3 Brandon & Melinda Harmon
- 8/4 Jim & Suzanne Wallace
- 8/10 John & Thelma Gifford
- 8/15 Brian & Julie Wilson
- 8/28 Gerald & Karen Gordy

### 2nd Wednesday

2nd Wednesday dinner will take place this month on August 12 at 5:30 pm. This month, we'll have a carry-in dinner so that you can try one another's best dishes.

August 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Sunday School	3 <b>9:30 am</b> Chrismon Ladies	4	5 <b>9:00 am</b> VBS at city park	6	7	8
9 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Sunday School <b>2:30 pm</b> Worship at Heritage Health	10 <b>9:30 am</b> Chrismon Ladies <b>4:00 pm</b> NOW kids' shopping day	11 <b>9:00 am</b> NOW kids' shopping day	12 <b>5:30 pm</b> 2nd Wednesday Dinner 6:30 pm Worship	13 <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail ministry	14	15 <b>9:00 am</b> Choral music session at Effingham Centenary UMC
16 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Sunday School <b>1:00 pm</b> Serving from the Heart	17 <b>9:30 am</b> Chrismon Ladies	18	19 <b>6:00 pm</b> Lay Leadership/ Nominations	20	21	22
23 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:15 am</b> Sunday School <b>3:00 pm</b> UMYF pool party	24 <b>9:30 am</b> Chrismon Ladies	25	26 <b>5:30 pm</b> Trustees	27 <b>6:00 pm</b> Jail ministry <b>7:00 pm</b> Handbell Choir rehearsal	28	29
30 <b>8 &amp; 11 am</b> Chancel Choir <b>9:00 am</b> Worship <b>10:05</b> Children's Choir <b>10:15 am</b> Sunday School	31 <b>9:30 am</b> Chrismon Ladies					

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## **First United Methodist Church**

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Nursery Staff: Tara Wever