

# First News

## A Note From Pastor Toni

Friends,

We've celebrated Christmas and it was wonderful in a lot of ways. For years I've taken down my decorations on New Year's Day, but the last couple of years I've been a little later in doing that. I've enjoyed having a few extra days to appreciate their beauty.

I've been collecting nativities for a long time. I've brought them back from different places I've visited, and many of them I keep out all year around our house. I love seeing them and remembering the stories of where they're from, and being reminded of the original story they represent.

I read a story a few days before Christmas about a pastor and his wife who purchased a nativity last year online. The figures were hand-carved by a Chinese woodcarver. The set included stable animals, Mary,

Joseph, and baby Jesus. He said you could choose how many pieces you wanted and the price was set accordingly. They ordered the full set and before long the package arrived.



They pieced together the stable that was included, and then unwrapped the hand-carved pieces and placed them inside. It was all really beautiful: well-crafted and unique.

But then they noticed something odd. They couldn't find a baby Jesus.

The set came in a large wooden box that was full of Styrofoam peanuts. Old newspapers had been used for wrapping everything. They started sifting

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## God Always Welcomes My Prayers by Dorothy Steinke

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: rejoice. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

*Philippians 4:4-7*

All through Advent we sing rejoice. It is a happy time - a new baby was born - Christ the Lord. Again, I say rejoice. Another new year. I have nev-

er been one for making New Year's resolutions. I feel that every day is a new day to begin again. Every day when I get up I thank God that I am up and about and doing. Birthdays have never bothered me either - it's just another day as my father would say. I didn't just become another year older; just another day older.

### Mission statement

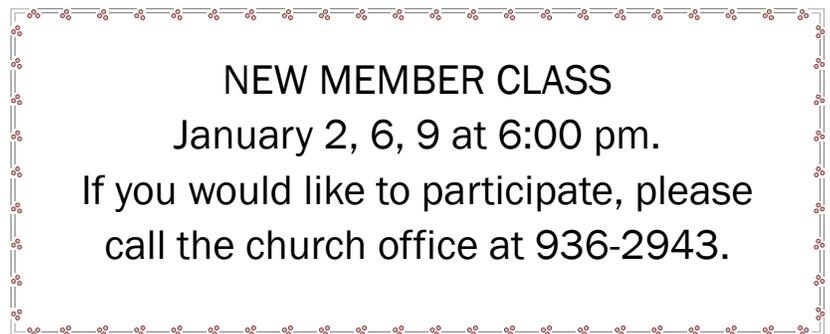
God went ahead of United Methodist Women 150 years ago and Global Ministries 200 years ago. Great works of mission were accomplished. Today, we celebrate God's

mission through "missionaries from everywhere to everywhere". To God be the glory!

### Grace Musuqa

United Methodist Women Regional Missionary, Central Africa

God is in every tomorrow, therefore, I live for today, certain of finding at sunrise, guidance and strength for my way; power for each moment of weakness, hope for each moment of pain, comfort for every sorrow, sunshine and joy after rain.



## ENDOWMENT FUND UPDATE by John Finlay, Endowment Chair

At the end of the last quarter of this year (9-30-18) our church endowment fund balance with the Marshall County Community Foundation was \$226,153.65.

The Foundation is very secure with a total value of over \$36

million.

Recently, our church received \$8,607 additional money from the endowment fund. This brought the total in spendable funds to \$36,836.91 in our account.

To date, First United Methodist Church has received \$111,139.44 from the MCCF. This is money that has gone for many projects that otherwise would have been requested from the general church budget.

### Social Concerns Committee by Mary Kaufman

The Social Concerns Committee is so grateful for your generous support of the Christmas Clothesline Project. Imagine the faces of 56 children representing 20 families when they each opened 3 gifts from our congregation on Christmas morning! You made that happen. A special

thanks to Jane Woolfington for coordinating this project! It's a lot of work, but for a very worthwhile cause.

We continue to support agencies in Plymouth that help the needy. The Neighborhood Center appreciates the food that you donate by placing

items in the grocery cart at the back of the church. They continue to need cold cereal and bread. You may also write a check to FUMC and write Social Concerns on the memo line. Thanks for being such a caring congregation. We are doing God's work right here in Plymouth!

### Boy Scout Troop 251 News by Michael Stephan

Troop 251 would like to thank the generous support for our December Christmas dinner. Proceeds enabled us to sponsor the two previously selected single parent families with gifts for their children and an

Aldi gift card and canned goods to help them through the holiday season.

We had extra funds left over so we were able to sponsor a third single parent family for Christmas with presents plus

an Aldi gift card.



### Knit 2, Pray 3

**Please note:** The January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 2nd due to the New Year falling on Tuesday this year. Next month the meeting will be on February 5th. Both meetings will be

from 10-12 noon. Please come and join us!



<http://www.photo-dictionary.com>

## Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) by Melissa Christiansen

**First UMC's Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) – Connecting the Pastor, Staff, and Congregation.**

**Committee's Function and Purpose – Including Assistance with "Conflict Resolution"**

This article is to address the purpose of the Staff Parish Relations Committee so you can help us effectively manage our most important task of leading and guiding our Church's Staff. The ministry entrusted to this committee is in its name – Relations. In every size congregation, the SPRC must focus on building strong relationships between the staff and the congregation, and between the congregation and the District Superintendent (DS). Finding a balance between building relationships and handling administrative tasks can be difficult, so the ministry of this committee is crucial for this aspect of a vital and effective congregation.

The Administrative function includes both leadership and management. Leadership is the role of "keeping an eye on the big picture". Even in the midst of meetings, celebrations, or crises, the SPRC members must remember they are part of the body of Christ with a mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ

for the transformation of the world. As members of this important committee, we operate by putting aside personal positions and desires in order to help our church move closer to God's vision. We very much recognize that Confidentiality is one of our most important guidelines to follow in our role as a SPRC member.

The Management function is the role of tending to daily activities so that details are taken care of and strategies are implemented. Management includes holding both staff and congregation accountable for carrying through with plans, promises, and dealing with both the celebrations and disappointments inherent in any human family and church.

### Summary of Specific Tasks:

- Encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor and staff and their families, including advocating for a healthy work/life balance.
- Promote unity in the church.
- Confer with the staff on the effectiveness of ministry and impediments to effectiveness.
- Conduct annual staff evaluations.

- Write job descriptions for staff and update them as necessary.
- Confer with staff about continuing education and spiritual formation.
- Confer with the District Superintendent about the clergy leadership for the congregation.
- Recommend staff positions to the church council.
- Create written personnel policies and misconduct policies for the congregation.
- Consult on matters of staff support including housing, vacation, insurance, pension, and other matters.

Our Church's SPRC membership is made up of:

- Nine members, each appointed for terms of three years each, in three classes. This rotation policy ensures continuity on the committee.
- Lay Member to Annual Conference; Lay Leader of Plymouth First UMC; Pastor

The SPRC meets 4 to 12 times each year, usually the third Monday of the month.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) by Melissa Christiansen (cont'd)

*(Continued from page 4)*

The 2019 SPRC roster of members are:

**Brent Kaufman – Chairperson**

**Mike Woolfington/Lay Leader - Secretary**

**Beth Pinkerton – Lay Member to Annual Conference**

**Toni Carmer - Pastor**

**Jon Van Vactor**

**Judy Guild**

**Pat Kyser**

**Jim Easterday**

**Genie Tobias**

**Linda Langfeldt**

**Judie Luther**

**John Wautelet**

### SPRC's Assistance with "Conflict Resolution"

Our committee receives questions as to the proper procedure that a staff member or member of our congregation is to follow if a concern or complaint arises. The following is the procedure we ask you to follow:

- Church Member and/or Staff Member should first have made an attempt to resolve the conflict themselves with the other party first (Common Sense Response for both parties of a conflict).
- If there is still a conflict to resolve, a member of the SPRC should be contacted by the person(s) to discuss the issues of this conflict. Note: FUMC's SPRC is to be contacted first, not our District Superintendent or our Bishop.
- This SPRC member confirms that there has already been discussion taken place with the two parties involved in the concern or complaint. If there has not been, it will be suggested that one occurs and the SPRC member will offer to be present for this meeting.
- Whether the issue is or is not resolved at this point, the SPRC member reports to the entire SPRC committee the concern or complaint.
- Discussion by the SPRC Committee on the unresolved issue(s) will then take place. The SPRC can involve The District Superintendent as backup for help in this resolution process.
- Confidentiality is required by all individuals involved in the conflict/resolution process.

## Longest Night Service Report by Susan Wautelet

Many, many thanks to those of you who participated/attended/helped with the Longest Night service last night. The sanctuary looked beautiful, the readings were meaningful, the music

(especially Tom's solo) was magical, and the candles and star tree were the perfect touches.

Although attendance was only about 30, it was the perfect service for those who were

there. I can't think of a more meaningful, reflective, inspiring, and blessed way to begin the Christmas week.

Thanks again to everyone,

**Susan**



## The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in These Events



**Lunch Bunch:** The third Friday of the month: RSVP Carol Beiter

January 18: Granny's at 11:30

**RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING MONTHS:**

FEBRUARY 15: CHRISTO'S

MARCH 15: LA DZERT

**Dominos and Euchre** will be featured on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month from 2-4:00 PM. Contact Dean Luther for further details at 540-2196.

**Christian Craftin' Mamas** continue to meet and explore the world of creativity. Contact Michelle Faulstich 941-2737 for further details.

**Blessed Bookies:** The 4<sup>TH</sup> Mondays of the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. January 28 the discussion will be about "Half Broke Horses".

Please come join this group as we explore diverse books.

**Bad Girls:** This lively group will take a break in January and will begin in February with a study of Mary Magdalene. Beginning February 12 and 26<sup>th</sup> we will discuss "The Unveiling of Mary Magdalene" by Liz Curtis Higgs.

This informative and entertaining author continues to enlighten us.

**First Sunday Brunch:** Breakfast is scheduled for January 6, 2019!! (this will be at **Symphony** after 2<sup>nd</sup> service) Sign up sheets will be at the back of the sanctuary.

**Knit Two...Pray Three:** Will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month from 10:00 to noon in the Memorial Room.

### *Please Note:*

*Knit 2, Pray 3 will meet on Wednesday, January 2 due to the New Year's holiday! Regular schedule, 1st Tuesday of the month, will resume in February.*

## CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

**Thank you!** - To everyone who helped put up the Christmas decorations. We had a great group of workers who volunteered.

**We will need help to take them down - Tuesday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m. -**

**Volunteers are needed to** take down and put away the Christmas decorations.

We need some men to help Jeff Mills take down the Christmas tree in the sanctuary as well as carry and put away a number of items. They will start in the sanctuary.

We also need plenty of other people to help take down and put away decorations from all three floors of the Christian Education Building, sanctuary, narthex, and Social/Coffee Room. This group will start in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks for helping!




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## Small Groups by Outreach and Support Committee Chair, Susan Wautelet

Many thanks to all of the church family members who have participated in the small groups offered at FUMC. These gatherings are a wonderful way to support, encourage, worship, and share joys and concerns with each other. The Outreach and Support Committee is eager to include new activities, groups, studies, etc. as a means of fulfilling our mission. If you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions, please contact any of the members of the 2019 Outreach & Support Committee:

Chairman: Susan Wautelet

Members: Carol Beiter, Norma Booker, Betty Kay Eley, Cindy Flagg, Ed Kelso, Beth Pinkerton, Bert Rans, Irma Slack, Sarah Smith, Dorothy Steinke, Genie Tobias





# ***Annual Sweetheart Dinner***



Saturday, February 16, 2018  
Serving 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.  
First United Methodist Church,  
Plymouth  
Fellowship Hall  
Donation \$15.00

## **Italian Menu!**

Spaghetti & Meatballs  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Yummy Dessert



**CHILDCARE:**  
\$5.00 includes meal, for  
children up to age 10.

Proceeds to benefit the  
Missions and Social  
Concerns Commissions.

*Tickets available from members of  
Missions or Social Concerns Commissions,  
or call the church office at 936-2943.*



## A Note From Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

through the mess in the box and on the floor and there was paper everywhere. But still no baby Jesus.

He wrote to the woodcrafter. The website said baby Jesus was included, but he wasn't there. Where was baby Jesus?

The woodcrafter replied that he had discontinued baby Jesus because customers usually lost the little baby woodcarving anyway.

The pastor asked if he wouldn't mind carving one for them and sending it. The woodcarver said, sure—but he couldn't get it to them in time for Christmas. Probably February. The pastor said that was fine. They'll have baby Jesus for their nativity next year.



It seems to me that including baby Jesus in a manger scene is pretty important. Whether or not he gets lost in the shuffle, he's what the story is about. But even more important than having him in our manger scenes, is keeping him in the middle of all the moments of our lives.

And so, even as we will sooner or later take down our decorations, let's keep the gift of Christ's presence at the front and center of all we do: guiding us, shaping our interactions and responses. Because it's his presence among us that makes all the difference.

In Joy and Thanksgiving,

*Toni*



### FIRST SUNDAY BRUNCH

January 6, 2019

Symphony Restaurant

Following 10:30 service

RSVP church office

or Susan Wautelet (936-2747)

## United Methodist Men by David Hogsett

The United Methodist Men met Saturday December 15th at 8:00 A.M. in the fellowship hall. Mike Woolfington and John Wautelet did a great job with the breakfast. Bill Hemmig gave an inspiring meditation on the history of the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day." The program was provided by Dean Byers who spoke about the work of Habitat for Humanity, especially their "Brush of Kindness" program. Dean brought someone with him who had received assistance from the program. Mike Woolfington talked about SAW.

"Brush of Kindness" is a program of Habitat for Humanity that restores and repairs houses. It also provides technical and financial counseling to the homeowner. The Methodist Men are undertaking "Brush" as one of its projects. Habitat will screen applicants for the project. When one is chosen Dean will contact the Methodist Men to provide workers. SAW (Servants at Work) is a local program that builds ramps. A number of men signed up to help with these two projects. If you are interested, contact Brent Kaufman for "Brush" and Mike Woolfington for SAW.

There is a Men's Bible study which meets every Wednesday at 6:45 A.M. at Christo's. If you are interested, contact Ed Pullen (935-9610). We are also looking for volunteers to fill in for Jeff Mills (Maintenance/Custodial) when he is on vacation. If you are interested, contact Brent Kaufman (935-3024). The Methodist Men would like to develop programs for grandfathers and their grandchildren (father/children's). If you have an interest in this area, contact Dave Hogsett (936-6927).

The next meeting of the United Methodist Men will be Saturday, January 19th, at 8:00 A.M. Don Balka will be giving the devotional. Representatives from Ameriprise Financial will be talking about the current conditions with the stock market.

For questions, suggestions, or information contact Dave Hogsett at 936-6927 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.



## January Preaching Plan

### January 6

*Epiphany of the Lord*

*Covenant Renewal*

Holy Communion

Text: Matthew 2:1-12

Title: Questions

Theme: We each are lights through which the love of Christ shines.

### January 13

*Baptism of the Lord*

*Reception of new members*

Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Title: Sifted

### January 20

*2nd Sunday after the Epiphany*

Judie Luther preaching

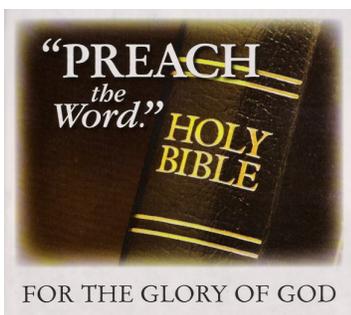
Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

Title: Gift Return

### January 27

*3rd Sunday after the Epiphany*

David Hogsett preaching



### LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

on JANUARY 12, 8:45-11:30 am

All leaders invited to come see how the pieces of First United Methodist Church fit together to serve the community and our world. Mayor Mark Senter and Chris Garner of the Marshall County Neighborhood Center will share with us about the emerging needs of our community.

## January Worship Participants

JAN	8:30	10:30	10:30	10:30	10:30	OLDER	ACOLYTES
	LITURGIST	LITURGIST	GREETERS	USHERS	SOUND TECH	NURSERY	
6	Jim	Deb	Ralph & Norma	Woody Schinbeckler, Barry Capper, Carol Beiter, Nick Pinkerton, Jim Causey	Tom	Kelsey	Emma
	Easterday	Dunning	Booker		Pedavoli	Heisler	Konefsky
13	David	Deb	Robin		James	Sarah	Logan
	Smith	Dunning	Cupka		Faulstich	Smith	Binkley
20	Susan	Ruth	Barb		Ralph	Stacey	Emma
	Wautelet	Van Vactor	Friesner		Booker	Jackson	Konefsky
27	Cathy	Ruth	Dean & Judie	Robin Cupka	Amanda	Jenny	
	Clough	Van Vactor	Luther		Dreibelbis	Cerrato	

First United Methodist Church

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

# January 2019

400 N. Michigan St.  
 Plymouth, IN 46563  
 Phone: 574 936-2943  
 Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Regular Sunday Services Schedule:</b> 8:30 am and 10:30 am WORSHIP 9:30 am BIBLE STUDY (for all ages) 5:00 pm THE WELL	1:00 pm WOW 6:30 pm Marshall/ Starke	 9 am Remove Christmas decorations 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Missions	6:45 am Men's Bible Study 10-noon Knit 2, Pray 3 6:00 pm New Member Class 7 pm Choir Practice	6 am Early Birds @ Pickups Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study	4	5
6 REGULAR SCHEDULE + 1st SUNDAY BRUNCH AT SYMPHONY 6 pm New Member Class	7 1:00 pm WOW 6:30 pm Marshall/ Starke	8 9 am Remove Christmas decorations 6:00 pm Worship 7:00 pm Missions	9 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 6:00 pm New Member Class 7 pm Choir Practice	10 6 am Early Birds @ Pickups Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study 6 pm Capital Team	11	12 8:45-11:30 am LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (January's Church Council meeting)
13 REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE + BOY SCOUT MEAL: HAM, BEANS & CORNBREAD	14 6:30 pm Trustees 6:30 pm Social Concerns 7 pm Mother's Club	15 6:00 pm Finance	16 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	17 6 am Early Birds @ Pickups Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study	18 11:30 Lunch Bunch at Granny's Crust	19 8:00 AM United Methodist Men Breakfast 
20 REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE	21 6:00 pm SPRC 6:00 pm Outreach	22	23 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 7 pm Choir Practice	24 6 am Early Birds @ Pickups Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study	25	26
27 REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE	28 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies @ Miller's ALF 7:00 pm Youth & Ed	29	30 6:45 am Men's Bible Study 5-7 pm Community Meal 7 pm Choir Practice	31 6 am Early Birds @ Pickups Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study	<b>NEW MEMBER CLASSES:</b> <b>JANUARY 2, 6, 9</b> <b>ALL AT 6 PM</b>	

## News From The Well by Cindy Flagg

2019...here we are with another New Year before us. A friend asked me just the other day what I have planned for 2019 and if I have made any resolutions for the New Year.

My answer to that question is the same as every year...NO! I stopped making resolutions years ago. I only end up breaking them. However, that doesn't mean I haven't been thinking about how I would like to improve my life in 2019!! I think about that all the time...even when there is not a new year upon us.

Pastor Toni made a remark in one of her recent prayers during worship service. I think it may have been the first Sunday of Advent but I can't say for sure. It was a real nice prayer but all of a sudden she said some words that just jumped out at ME. I really couldn't tell you anything else that was in the prayer except this one thought. She said, "and Lord, help us to keep our priorities in line". That is ALL I heard in that prayer. Those words were speaking directly to me. That is what I need to work on in 2019...my priorities...and not really MINE but GOD's priorities FOR ME!

2018 passed so quickly! And I feel as if I was busy every minute of every day of 2018. I feel like Ado Annie in the musical "Oklahoma" when she sings the song "I'm just a girl who can't say 'No'!" I know she was talking about falling in love too easily and that is not my problem. But I am a person who has a terrible time saying "no" to things. I have always had boundless energy and many interests. I want to "do it all". I'm also a person who doesn't seem to handle "down time" too well. So, I've always kept myself very busy.

In 2018 my family had their fair share of physical problems. I saw my brother and sister-in-law BOTH go through physical ailments that could have taken their lives. I've begun to ask myself, what is REALLY important in my life. What are my priorities? And yes, I'm even thinking about the fact that just because I can say yes to something or I am able to do something; does that mean I should say yes. Is it a priority in my life?

And even more than that, is GOD actually calling me to do it? Or am I just filling my life with busy-ness?? By keeping myself busy am I avoiding something else GOD is asking me to do?

This is not a new concept to me. I remember years ago a pastor preaching about the verse Psalm

46:10 – Be still, and know that I am GOD. This pastor talked about the simple act of "being". He said we don't always have to be "doing". What a concept that was for me. It was instilled in me from an early age that I must be DOING something to be productive and if I wasn't DOING something then I was lazy. So, the thought of "BEING" and actually "BEING STILL" was a bit alien to me. Yet, I was intrigued by it and really wanted to learn more about it. And after all since GOD said it; it must be important.

And I believe it is important. And 2019 is my time to be still, and know that HE IS GOD. And in that stillness I want to listen to what GOD has for me. I want to be open to what HIS priorities are for me and then I want to have the strength to set those priorities in order in my life. I don't want to be busy just for the sake of being busy. I

*(Continued on page 14)*



# News From The Well by Cindy Flagg



*(Continued from page 13)*

want to do what GOD asks me to do and to do it to the best of my ability through HIM.

In 2019 I want to spend more time BEING and less time DOING. And then in BEING I believe that I will become better equipped to accomplish

GOD's priorities for my life.

Perhaps you'd like to join me at The Well and take some time to just "be"?? See you there!

Happy 2019!!!!

Cindy Flagg



Because you are followers of Christ,  
who appeared on this day as a light shining  
in darkness,  
may he make you a light to all your sisters  
and brothers.

The wise men followed the star,  
and found Christ who is light from light.  
May you too find the Lord  
when your pilgrimage is ended.

God has called you out of darkness,  
into his wonderful light.  
May you experience his kindness and bless-  
ings,  
and be strong in faith, in hope, and in love.

Solemn blessing  
Roman rite  
From "Alive Now"

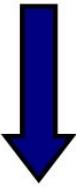
January/February 2005

*Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others*

**First United Methodist Church**

# January Birthdays



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>ALSO JANUARY 1ST</b></p> <p></p>	<p>Adam Schell</p> <p>David Smith</p> <p>Robert Thomas</p> <p>John Wautelet</p>	<p>1 Brian &amp; Ginger Bell</p> <p>Crystal Cerrato</p> <p>Amanda Dreihelbis</p> <p>Janet Macey</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Gloria Daily</p> <p>Angela Ganshorn</p> <p>Leanne Senter</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Elaine Dick</p> <p>Don Wilson</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Michele Faulstich</p> <p>Scott Michel</p>
<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Quintella Chaney</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Dan Bates</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Bill Hemmig</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Brent Kaufman</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Jay Kendall</p> <p>Ed Langfeldt</p> <p>Jim Weldy</p> <p>Mary Yates</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Eskie Straka</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Clarisse Byers</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Ralph Booker</p> <p>Jeanne Middleton</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ashley Corwin</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Joe Morris</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Phillip Berger</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Allen Hartman</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><b>If your birthday is listed incorrectly, please call the office with corrections. Thank you!</b></p>	

*Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others*

## **First United Methodist Church**



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Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

Email: [office@plymouthfirstumc.org](mailto:office@plymouthfirstumc.org)

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### **Looking Towards 2019** by Aaron Woodcox, ASK Director of Student Ministries

What a year we have had in Adams Street Ministries. We have restarted the high school program, with four of the young men being confirmed in their local churches. Our Jr High program is as strong as ever with one of our ladies being confirmed in her church, making a total of five young adults in the entire Adams Street Ministries program being confirmed. This is a huge accomplishment and step in the direction of leadership in the church. What is even more exciting for me as the Director of Student Ministries is that the young adults are beginning to share their faith with their families and friends. We have seen numerous young

adults begin to invite their friends and families to our Sunday evening meetings and outside activities. Over the past few months, we have been studying the book of Ephesians, the sixth chapter about the Full Armor of God. This study taught us with the Full Armor of God, we can tackle any life event at home or at school. I am so proud and excited to see what the young adults in Adams Street Ministries are becoming in Christ. I have been asked numerous times what does the future of the church look like? I say this is the future of the church—these young adults are shining in leadership roles in their local churches. I believe from the bottom of

my heart that Adams Street Ministries' greatest days are yet to come. I can't wait until January 6, 2019 to see what Christ is going to show these young adults in the days to come.

In Christ,

**Aaron Woodcox**

Director of Student Ministries

