Dear Friends,

Last Sunday was our Commitment Sunday, when we made our financial commitments for the coming year, 2018. I want to thank all of you who have made your commitment for the ministry of First Church for the coming year. I want to encourage you, if you haven’t already done so, to bring by or mail in your commitment card.

Sunday’s service was a good service, even if it did rain; the brunch afterward was a great time of fellowship. As I shared previously, the brunch is our opportunity to fellowship together as a church family, which we don’t do very often. Over 200 people attended the brunch, which was great to see! In the coming days, the Finance Committee will look at the commitments that were made, look at the budget of the church for the coming year, and determine what the final budget will be for 2018. As we approach a new year in the church, I always begin to assess what we have done in the past year and what new areas of ministry are opening up for the coming year. As a congregation, the various work areas of the church will be looking at ways to grow our ministry and reach out to more people in the name of Christ. There is never a time, in the church, to sit back and look at what we have accomplished and feel that our task is complete. Our task, or more correctly, our mission, as a church never ends. There never comes a time when we can say to ourselves, “Well, I guess we have done all we need to do.” There will always be new ways to minister and there will always be people who need to know the love and grace of Christ.

In the Post-Modern Era, as it is called, we have the challenge of ministering in ways that may stretch us a bit and lead us to have to think of the church in a different way than we have before. The big question is, we are called to share that love and grace, and we know it. How to do it in our day and time is our unique task. Each generation is faced with the same need, and each generation has to find the key to accomplishing this task. And we are no exception.

My hope and prayer for this church is that we never stop trying to find the most effective way to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” – which will always be our mission. Will you join me and spend time in thought, study, and prayer for the ministry of First Church in the coming year?”

See you Sunday,

Alan
This Sunday, October 29, we will celebrate our pastors and church staff with a cake and card reception following both services. This will be our time to say thank you in person! If you forgot your note or card, it’s not too late! The “Basket of Thanks” will be in the Atrium through the second service. Your cards of thanks will be presented after the second service. Please join us for Pastor / Staff Appreciation This Sunday, October 29

This Sunday, October 29 will go toward Hurricane Relief. Please give generously.

SIT DOWN HOME COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16
Sign up by Friday, Oct. 27
Don’t miss this Kentucky Christmas Celebration, including lunch at Patti’s 1980’s Settlement, Badgett Playhouse presentation of Down Home Country Christmas, and holiday shopping. Call the Southern Illinois Group at 618-536-7751.

$92.00 per person

LIFE’S A GIFT. GIVE MORE OF IT. DONATE BLOOD.
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE HERE!
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6 - 1:45 - 6:00 P.M. HERITAGE ROOM
Sign Up Sheet is now available in the Narthex.
People with reservations are always taken first. Save time - make an appointment today.
There is a significant need for blood donors right now. Catastrophic fires, floods and hurricanes have disrupted the blood supplies as communities have had to cancel blood drives. Patients are depending on us. Can you help?

Go to www.redcrossblood.org/rapid for the fastest donation experience possible!

Disciples for Sunday, October 29, 2017
Outside Greeter: Kathy Hollister
Van Drivers: John Craig, Brian Gorecki
Welcome Center: 8:15 Deanna Diel; 10:45 Irene Carlton
Nursery: - Info, - Youth
Children’s Church: K-2nd: Necia Jannings; 3rd - 5th: Sam Indorante, Carolyn Gibson
Children’s Church Registration: JoVonna Noble
HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WITH BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

November 1  Jill Misner
November 2  Sydney Davis
November 3  Sandy Gobert
          Sue Peterman
          Mike Peterman
          Lexi Frick
November 4  Martha Campbell
          Carl Herzog
          Tucker Poshard
          Janet Toe
November 5  Sharon Ranmar
          Jordyn Crippen
November 6  Barry Beaupre
          Gail Gilbert
          Tyler Funk
November 7  Ron Browning
          Angie Brown
November 9  Karl Bartelsmeyer
November 10 Lavina Thomas
            Joe Swindell
November 11 Emma Jean Durr
            Janet Earnest
            Erik Oberg
November 12 Paul Sorgen
November 14 C. W. Thomas III
            John Voss
November 15 Anita Hutton
November 16 William Bailey
November 17 Pat Cuendet
          Paula Lyle
          Sue Misner
November 18 John Jennings
          Barbara Shiplett
November 20 Ron Rodgers
November 21 Neil Voss
November 22 Al Morgan
November 23 Chuck Walker
November 24 Bobbi Levelsmier
          Alexa Small
November 25 Kay Hickey
November 26 Donna Butler
November 27 Kathy Harrison
            Levi Jost
November 28 Larry Smith
            Seth Richards
November 29 Marsha Easterly-Seibert
            Louise Jeffords
            Chuck Reno
November 29 Jack Meyer
            Matt Rice
            Nancy Keenan
            Lois Payne
November 30 Ken Buzbee

Kids Movie Night
Friday, Nov. 17  5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
4 years - 5th grade
Bring your sleeping bag or blanket and pillow
We will sack out on the Fellowship Hall floor as we watch
*Merry Larry and the True Light of Christmas*
Pizza, popcorn, and drinks will be provided  Crafts, games, and lots of fun!!!
Pre-register by Nov. 12 in the Atrium  Contact Necia for more information

Parents and children are invited to join us
Wednesdays 10:00 - 12:00 a.m.
Diane Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
Join Ms. Jane for stories, music, games, and crafts as we learn about the Bible and how Jesus taught us to live and love.

CHECK IT OUT!!!...
in the Diane Neill Dorsey Memorial Children’s Library
*The Very Beary Tooth Fairy*
by Arthur A. Levine
“Zach is a little bear with a very loose tooth who hears a boy and his mother talking about the tooth fairy. Will the very “beary” tooth fairy come to his bedroom tonight?

EPIPHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 4TH ANNUAL CRAFT BAZAAR
Bake Sale and Silent Auction
Saturday, November 5  9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO Good Sam’s Food Pantry & Ministries, Shawnee Alliance, LSSI Children’s Community Svs, LSSI Prisoner & Family Ministries, Poshard Foundation, Wells in Africa, Women’s Center, ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger, Thrift Shop, Spirit of Christmas and Katie’s Fund.
**SUNDAY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Children’s Opportunities**

- **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Children’s Sunday School** - (K - 5th grade) uses *Deep Blue* from Cokesbury. The morning begins with music at 9:30 a.m. in Room 415.
- **Sundays at 10:45 a.m. Children’s Church** - (K - 5th grade). All children are invited to Children’s Church following the Children’s Time at the 10:45 a.m. worship service.

**October Children’s Church, The Boy’s Lunch (John 6:1-14)**

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” (John 6:9) Jesus accepted a boy’s simple, yet generous gift of two fish and five loaves of bread. Jesus blessed this gift and turned it into a feast for more than five thousand people.

**Youth Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.**

Faith development through Bible lessons, emphasizing a relationship with God through Jesus.

- **Middle School** meets in Room 410 and uses *On the Go*.
- **High School Class** meets in Room 409 and uses a variety of materials connecting the lessons of the Bible with issues relevant to today’s youth.

**Adult Opportunities, 9:30 a.m.**

- **Renew** - Renew is a group of women seeking deeper meaning in their lives through Bible study, reflection, and prayer. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 402. Women of all ages are welcome.
- **The Investors Class** - Investors is an intergenerational class for all adults. They are studying, “All the Places to Go!” by John Ortberg. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in Room 404. Everyone welcome!
- **The Electives Class** - Scripture studies are led by John Sims. They meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room. Join us!

**Small Group Opportunities**

- **The Daniel Plan** meets in Room 402 at 9:00 a.m. on most Tuesdays. Check the church calendar. Everyone welcome.
- **Grateful Hearts** meets Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in Room 308.
- **Jr. High Youth** meets at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room 409 and Fellowship Hall. Please gather in the Atrium upon arrival.

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**Youth Fundraiser Nut Sale**

**Order Form**

(All of these are 1 lb. bags & available while quantities last)

- **Fancy Mammoth Pecan Halves** $11 x _________ = __________
- **Fancy Pecan Pieces** $11 x _________ = __________
- **Light Walnut Halves & Pieces** $10 x _________ = __________
- **Deluxe Mixed Nuts (No Peanuts)** $11 x _________ = __________
- **Heart Healthy Nut Mix** $8 x _________ = __________
- **Giant Salted Whole Cashews** $11 x _________ = __________
- **Colossal Natural Salted Pistachios** $10 x _________ = __________
- **Honey Roasted Cashews** $10 x _________ = __________
- **Whole Salted Almonds** $8 x _________ = __________
- **Fruit & Nut Mix** $7 x _________ = __________
- **Sweet and Salty Trail Mix** $7 x _________ = __________
- **Chocolate Pecans** $10 x _________ = __________
- **Praline Pecans** $10 x _________ = __________
- **Dark Chocolate Almonds** $9 x _________ = __________

**Order Total** (Paid at time of placing the order) $__________

**Name:** ____________________________________________

**Contact phone #:** __________________________________

**PLACE YOUR NUT ORDER SUNDAYS IN THE NARTHEX OR THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

**THE NUT SALE BEGINS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FUMC/ASP**

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