



January 2018

# THE FOCUS

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

## Welcome to 2018!!!

Maybe you are like me, and turning the calendar to a New Year brings renewed anticipation and excitement. There is something so hopeful about a fresh start. If the past year was great, there is a desire to build on that and make the new one even better. If it held sadness and mistakes, then it is a relief to put it behind you and look forward to a more promising year ahead.

As Christians, we worship the author of Fresh Starts. God has promised that when we come to Him with repentant hearts, He will forgive us, forget the past, and make us new. Although we may not be able to see what the days and months ahead will bring, God knows what is in front of us, and we can trust in His guidance and His presence with us.

2018 is sure to bring surprises and change. That is good and as is should be. As a former biology student, I can tell you that when organisms stop changing – they are no longer alive! Human nature tends to resist change, but we need to embrace and celebrate it, because it is proof of vitality and life. As we move into 2018, let us do so with hopeful anticipation as we look to our Faithful God for direction.

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” II Corinthians 5:17*

*Pastor Colleen*



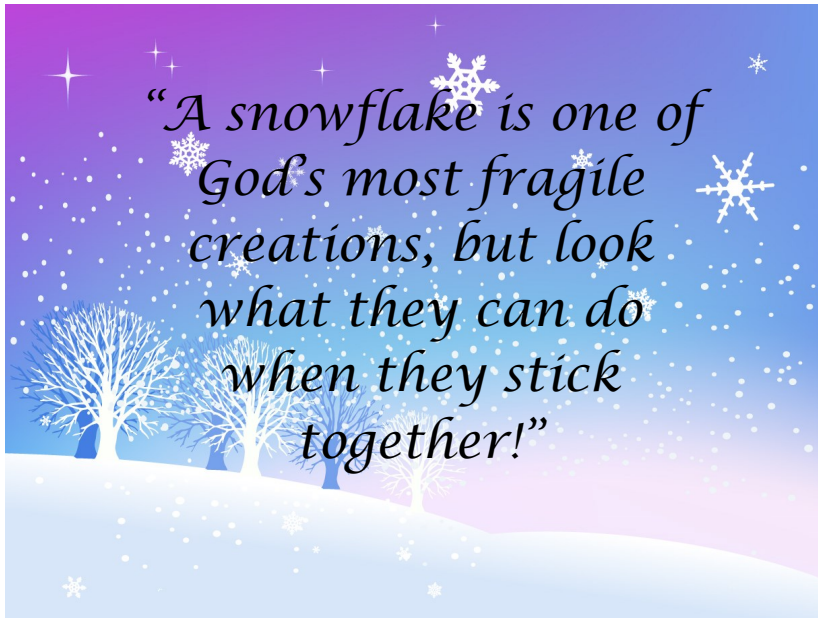
INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY—**REDEEMED** singing group will be with us on Sunday, January 28th in the Morning Worship Service at 10:45 AM. We will be having a carry in dinner after the morning worship service. A freewill offering will be taken for during the service for the group. Invite a friend to join you to enjoy the music during the service and fellowship at the meal.

### CHURCH DIRECTORIES

The church directories are here! If you ordered a directory from the church or Jennifer Swathwood they will be available in the church office. If you didn't and want one, you can purchase one for \$5.00 in the church office.

**THANK YOU!** We would like to thank Jennifer Swathwood for making the new 2018 directory. Jennifer put a lot of hours in. Thank you for putting the directory together.

**COMMITMENT CARDS** – If you haven't turned in your commitment card yet, please do so. This is our way of setting a budget for next year. If you need a commitment card, call the church office and we will send you one. Thank you for your support!



### HIGHLIGHTS of the DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:

1. Pastor Colleen thanked everyone making the church presentable for the MPO Concert.
2. Christmas Eve Service will be on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.
3. The Annex has not been rented yet. A few organizations know that it is for rent.
4. The pledge for 2018 is at \$149,476.
5. Someone is willing to donate a 112 foot pre-lit Christmas tree for the Sanctuary.

*Full report of the November meeting is on the bulletin board in the church office hallway.*



## 2018 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE DONUTS

January—Koinonia Class  
February—J.O.Y. Class

**WICK PIES** – FUMC Preschool has pies for sale. If you would like to buy a pumpkin pie or two, see Donna Wiley or stop by the church office. One pie is \$6 or 2 for \$10. *Also, we have sweet dips for sale, \$3.75 a package or 2 for \$7.00. Good for gatherings!*



## CHANGE FOR MISSIONS

The first Sunday of each month we pass a galvanized bucket around to collect change for missions.

September-Shoe Drive	\$158.41
October—Operation Christmas Child	\$72.00
November– Sunnycrest UMC Food Pantry	\$112.00
December—Angel Tree	\$111.00

## 2017 Church Spending Plan

Monthly	November	Year to Date
Income	\$11,024.29	Income \$130,562.28
Expense	\$19,216.75	Expense \$197,274.68

\$37,000 was taken from the Endowment Fund from the Foundation since April 2017. \$8,000 was taken from the Scrip Fund and The Crossing.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Sharon Gunyon
2	Ed Aguilar
12	Sidenia Stace
12	Cheryl Gulley
13	Ruby Hartgraves
18	Jean McCarty
22	Megan Wiley
26	Sheila Todd
30	Marguerite Murrell
31	Grace Curfman



1/08 Davis & Amy Clark  
1/25 Ed & Dee Aguilar

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary on the list, please let the church office know..



First United Methodist Church  
624 S. Adams St.  
Marion, IN 46953

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

***Making disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the  
world.***

**January 2018**

**THE NEXT FOCUS DEADLINE**  
**January 17, 2018**

PASTOR—Rev. Colleen Harden

Home: 765-662-2414

Email address: colleen.harden@inumc.org

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT— Rita Forsythe

PIANIST — Sheila Todd

ORGANIST— Susan Seacott

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR— Donna Wiley

CHURCH PHONE — 765-664-5177

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**H O P E**

*Discovering it*

*Living it*

*Sharing it*

**SERVICE TIMES**

SUNDAY SCHOOL—9:30 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP—10:45 A.M.