**First United Church**

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of Christian faith, proclaiming and celebrating the love of God in Jesus Christ through the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit*

**LIFE & WORK OF THE CHURCH**

**February 3, 2019**

**Happy birthday to**: Debbie Alward, Kirk O’Brien.

**\*TODAY:** You are invited to gather for refreshments in the Fellowship following worship.

\*There are still lots **of 2019 Offering Envelopes** waiting to be picked up in theLibrary! If you haven’t already picked yours up, please do ☺

**This week:**

**Tuesday: \*EarlyON Playgroup** in the AH - 9:30 – 11:30am

**Thursday –** \***First Youth** with Chris Ross (grades 8-12 every week) & Justin Chute (grades 5-7 every other week) in the Gym from 7-8:15pm.

**\*Sr. Choir @ 7:30pm!** Don’t be shy – singing’s great for the soul – come and give it a try!

**Next Sunday, February 10** – \*Informal Service! Special Music!

\*Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

**Minister’s Drop-In Office Hours**

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10am to 12 Noon

*\*Other times available by appointment, call 519-631-7570 ext. 22*

***Future Dates / Events***

*\*Informal Services – Sun., February 10 & 24 (2nd & last Sunday/month)*

*\*Official Board - Tuesday, February 12 @ 7pm*

*\*Communion – Sunday, March 3*

*\*Pancake Supper - Tuesday, March 5 – 4:30 to 7pm*

*\*Ash Wednesday Service – Wednesday, March 6 (time: TBA)*

*\*Official Board Executive – Tuesday, March 19 (note date change)*

*\*Anniversary Sunday – March 31st*

*\*Spring Rummage Sale – Saturday, April 27 from 8:30-11:30am*

*Donations being accepted now ☺*

**TODAY’S MESSAGE**

As a community of faith, First United has a vision of becoming a ***vibrant*** church …

* a church that *worships* the Lord with joy;
* a church that *engages* the youth and young families in ministry;
* a church that *reaches out* to others with the love of God in Christ.

One of the marks of a vibrant church is ***prayer***. We find this in the life of the early believers in the New Testament. Theirs was a vibrant church because it was a ***praying*** church. The Early Church models for us what it means to be a praying church.

1. Prayed together – first congregational prayer meeting (Acts 1:14)
2. Prayed before choosing replacement of Judas (1:24)
3. Prayed in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1)
4. Prayed for boldness after persecution (Acts 4:24-31)
5. Prayed before choosing leaders – great growth resulted (Acts 6:6-7)
6. Prayed the dead back to life – resulting in growth (Acts 9:40-42)
7. Prayed for the release of Peter from prison (Acts 12:12)
8. Prayed before sending forth the first Missions Team (Acts 13:1-3)
9. Prayed in prison – jailer and household converted (Acts 16:25)

**Think about this:**

* God acts in response to the prayers of God’s people.
* Make a commitment to be a praying believer; Keep praying for First United, youth and young families, and our city.

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