



Valparaiso First United Methodist Church

Our Mission is "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World!"

103 Franklin Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383

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March 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

THANK YOU for a terrific 2018. Because of your generosity, support, and mindfulness of the gap...

- People from Valparaiso to Sierra Leone are hearing about the good news of Jesus Christ.
- People are not alone and feel loved when they are facing trials, surgery, hospitalization or are in the nursing home.
- Children and youth are learning about and experiencing the love of Jesus.
- Mission teams of youth and adults are serving in places like Valparaiso; Winfield, Tennessee; Baldwin, Louisiana; Pawnee, Illinois; and Sierra Leone, Africa; just to name a few.



And there's so much more...so THANK YOU for making such a difference in the lives of so many! There is so much to celebrate at First United Methodist Church.

At the Church Council meeting on February 5, the **2019 budget of \$818,324** was unanimously approved (after much discussion). When we consider all sources of funding, we find ourselves only \$47,724 short of fully funding our ministry plan. Despite a similar shortfall in 2018, you helped "mind the gap" for our ministries. Many of you participated in the \$5 CHALLENGE – sharing an extra \$5 each week – to bridge this gap. Many of you helped with a one-time \$260 gift (52 weeks x \$5/wk.).

THIS IS WHY WE'RE INVITING YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE **5-ON-5 CHALLENGE** rolling out with **March Madness!**



Slam dunk just \$5 more per week into the (offering) basket.



Turnover 5 people by inviting them to worship at Valpo FUMC.

It's that easy! Take a *shot!* Forgoing a cup of coffee each week or donating what you might lose in a March Madness "work pool," could help the church "mind the gap." And inviting someone who is unchurched, or *traveled* away from their church, is a "core value" of FUMC.

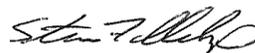
Let Kate in the office know or email kshifflett@valpofumc.org if you'd like to *Rebound* into this year's Challenge, especially if you participate in our Electronic Fund program. Please indicate on your gifts to the church the amount you're contributing to the "5-ON-5" Challenge so we can track your *slam dunks*.

Again, thank you for taking *charge* with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We are looking forward to another great year at First United Methodist Church.

In gratitude and service,



Rev. Kevin Miller
Senior Pastor



Steve Fullenkamp
Chair of Finance Committee