



113 Grand Avenue
Festus, Missouri 63028
636.937.6205
www.festusumc.org
revtish@festusumc.org

May 20, 2018

Members of First UMC of Festus/Crystal City,

It is exciting to report that over the past year 17 new people have committed to membership at First United Methodist Church of Festus/Crystal City! Each new member believes God has called them to live out their faith in the context of our Church and have committed to support God's work in this place through their prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

First UMC has been growing in attendance, moving from 139 average mid-2017 to now 182 in average attendance. We have also expanded our worship reach through livestreaming on facebook. This allows those who are homebound, or simply out of town, or unable to attend on a given weekend, to join in worship through a live video feed. I thought this would be a good thing when we began in October of 2017, but I had no idea I'd get calls from southern Missouri, emails from Colorado to Hawaii, and thank you's from around the nation, as our service has a far greater reach than I imagined.

In other good news, we have a record 120+ young people signed up to attend our Eagle Lake Kids Camp offered to our community right here at First UMC June 18-22! (www.festusumc.org/kids). We are renewing our commitment to be a resource for our community by hosting training presented by our Festus Police Department and by becoming a premier host site for the Global Leadership Summit, August 9-10 (www.willowcreek.com/summit). Our Food Pantry still serves the hungry and we continue to support the mission work of the United Methodist Church in Mozambique. Amazingly, this summer, we are sending our first missionary to Puerto Rico to begin building a medical clinic on the island of Vieques.

Somewhere along the way, you have made a commitment to membership at First UMC. You committed to be a part of the work of God in this place by uniting with this Church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Thank you for your commitment to Christ and your desire to express it in union with this Church. We are stronger together as we unite in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Today, I ask you to renew your membership commitment and strive to engage fully in the work of God through our Church. I invite you to engage, or re-engage, with God and First UMC. If you are no longer in the area, or feel First UMC is no longer the right fit for you, I encourage you to get connected to another Church where you can serve God and grow in your faith. Let us know and we will pray for your Church and send you with God's blessings.

Thank you for responding to the enclosed Membership Records update request. If you would like to speak with me about your membership, you can call the Church office at 636.937.6205 or email me at revtish@festusumc.org. Best of all, God is with us!

First United,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Tish".

Rev. Tish Green