



Your staff is still keeping in contact and having Staff meetings! (Via Zoom)

Nancy's Notes,

I miss you! I'll just get that out of the way. And it appears that we won't be seeing each other, at least face to face, until at least the end of April. Bishop Trimble has requested that all United Methodist Churches in Indiana continue to suspend 'in person' worship until at least the end of April. We will continue to provide Sunday morning worship via **Facebook livestream** and on the local TV Channel. Our 'live' worship is, for now, **Sunday at 9:30**. You may access our page at facebook.com and search for FUMC-MC. The worship service will remain pinned to the top for most of the week. I will also send out a video link following worship each week. I also am posting a daily meditation on the Facebook page and via the church email group as well as a daily digital offering.

So, to stay in touch we are sending out a weekly Crossbeams and mailing it to those folks we know don't have email access. If you know of someone who needs this mailed to them, please let us know. We are also calling folks who are not on social media.

So, how do you get in touch with us?

You may call the church phone at 872-7200. Those calls are being forwarded to the parsonage phone. However, we don't have caller id enabled on this phone (or at least I can't figure it out) and I'm not sure that I can access the church voice mail from home. SO! Your best bet is to call my cell at **812-584-2418**. Of course, you may also email me at Nancy.nichols@inumc.org. To get hold of Cindy Jackson, who is currently working from home, you may email firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com.

Holy Week Schedule

I know it is difficult to imagine not being together for Holy Week. Here are our plans for walking through this Holy Time.

Palm Sunday Worship: 9:30 Facebook livestream.

On that first triumphal entry people used palms because that is what they had. Please feel free to step outside, find a branch to wave during worship and then consider turning it into a wreath for your door (I may have to go swipe some of those pussy willows I found earlier this week). Ms. Trish has a few other ideas up her sleeve, you may hear other ideas from us later this week.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday evenings at 7PM: Evening Prayer via Zoom

Zoom is a technology that we can use to be face to face through the internet. You will receive a link via email (or on the Facebook page) that you can click on, easily download the technology, and, with simple instructions, we can all be together in our own chat room. I will lead prayer, Bev will provide music, and we can be together. It is not as scary as it seems! You may use your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone to connect.

Maundy Thursday

Early in the week I will send out a home-based table worship that will include eating together, serving together, and caring for one another. I will also offer a 6pm **Zoom** service for those of us who live alone. Again, I will email the links.

Good Friday

There are several options for Good Friday worship.

At this time, St. Paul's Lutheran church is still planning on hosting a livestreamed version of their **Tre Ore Service**, (The 7 Last Words) which includes pastors from around the community speaking from **12:00-3:00**. I am speaking at 1:45. You may connect here: <https://www.stpaulmichigancity.com/index.php/contactus>

Check out our Webpage and Facebook page for other worship options. Obviously, the Good Friday Cantata has been postponed. WE WILL find a time when we can share it with you.

Holy Saturday 7PM

While we have not traditionally done an Easter Vigil, this might be the time. This is a special service of readings and psalms that move us from the First Garden (Eden) to the Second Garden (The Empty Tomb). This will be on **Zoom** as well.

Easter Sunday 9:30

On Easter we will share in the **Celebration of the Resurrection at 9:30 AM via Facebook live**. Next week I will help you prepare for that service.

In Other News

Please, be patient with all of us! We are having to adapt each Sunday when we are together with the technology that we have available. The Facebook live is being videoed on a cell phone (Thanks Billy Johnsen) that has a limited range. We are still using the cameras upstairs for the TV station, and are working with a NEW cameral that might allow us to do more... it is a learning curve! Beginning this week we will email you copies of the bulletin that you may print out – they will have the words to the hymns included.

Ministry continues at First UMC. The soup kitchen continues to grow and expand with volunteers from all around the community. From Monday March 16th until today we have provided more than 1000 meals! These are unduplicated numbers – people are not receiving seconds! The meals are prepared under the guidance of Chef Erik Tannehill and a plethora of volunteers. When I left the church today, he had a crew up laid off food service workers helping him. They were thankful for something to do.

I received a call this morning from a community social service agency who had been contacted by a brand-new mama who was home alone with 3 children, one with disabilities, one a toddler, and her baby. She needed help with food but is recovering from a c-section and has not yet been cleared to drive. We dug into our freezers and pantries and delivered not only food from the soup kitchen but also enough food to tide her over until she can drive again. We also connected her up with one of the volunteers who offered to be a support system for her. THIS is what it means to be a missional church driven by love for Jesus and neighbor.

Ministry is happening! Stay in touch, stay safe, and we will soon see one another face to face.

Shalom, Pastor Nancy

Other things:

During this time of physical distance from one another we still need your support to meet the financial needs of the church. Frankly, if possible, it is easier (and safer) for us if you would take advantage of our on-line giving through the church webpage (mcindianumc.org). Look for the on-line giving tab. Giving in this way ensures that our counters and staff can comply with the stay at home mandate of our state and community. It helps us all.

The Local TV Station channel 99 shows our church service Wednesday's at 2:30 pm , Friday's at 4:30 pm, & Sunday's at 7 pm