

If you are hospitalized and would like Pastor Nancy or one of the hospital visitors to know about what is going on with you, please call the office (219-872-7200) or Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418)

If you are hospitalized

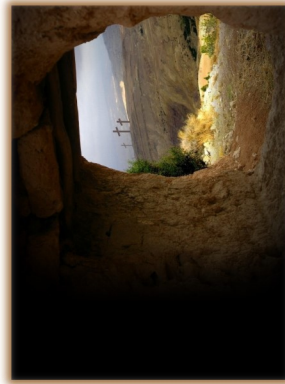


First United Methodist
Church
121 E. 7th Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-7200

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April 2019
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication

Nancy's Notes

Greetings,

For the past several months I have been preparing us for the actions of the 2019 General Conference that was held in St. Louis in February. The purpose of this gathering was to find a way to move forward as a global, diverse, and inclusive denomination especially as it concerns attitudes toward human sexuality. The outcome of that meeting, The Traditional Plan, by a margin of 54 votes, retains language in the United Methodist Discipline that *'conveys a hurtful message of exclusion with proposed penalties for pastors and bishops and obstacles for persons who are LGBTQ to answer their call to ministry in our Church'* (Bishop Trimble).

Nearly 2/3rd of those voting from The. United States supported a plan that would allow individual conferences and churches to determine how to be in ministry with and to persons who are LGBTQ. However, because we are a global denomination, other voices were an important part of the decision making process.

Quoting Bishop Trimble,

Our actions as a Church have caused anger, hurt, and opened a door of discouragement when so many thousands of people were anticipating a Way Forward for a diversity of perspective and all persons to worship under the big tent of United Methodism. I am deeply pained and sorry for the harm we have done, and the fact that our attempt as a Church to resolve a long-standing division has left us no less divided.

The legislation that was passed has been sent to the Judicial Council (the UMC Supreme Court) after Easter for a constitutional review. There is a strong possibility that much of what was passed will be deemed unconstitutional, however, the original language that denies marriage, ordination, and complete inclusion of people who are LGBTQ will remain. Nothing new will go into effect until January 1, 2020.

Meanwhile, at Michigan City First UMC

...we continue to love, care for, nurture, support, and celebrate the gifts of all persons.

...we recognize that not all of us agree on how certain scriptures should be interpreted.

...we will keep making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

...we will keep the main thing (showing the love of Jesus to the world) the main thing.

...We will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus on Easter and each day of our lives.

Prior to General Conference 2019 I asked you to spend time each day praying for our beloved denomination. As a reminder I put it in my calendar. Each day I received a message to stop at 2:22 to pray. I still receive that message and I still stop to pray, for our denomination, for anyone, no matter what their perspectives, who has been hurt by this decision, and that we all will live lives of love and non- judgement.

Peace,

Pastor Nancy



**1st United Methodist
Galveston's Give Back
April 25th, 2019
4PM until Closing**
Do not pass out coupons on Property



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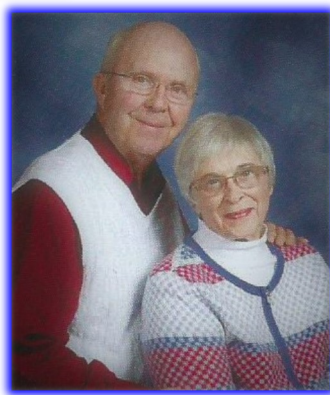
Sponsoring The Crossbeams

Jim & Maryann Cross

In honor of their 59th Wedding Anniversary!

Happy Anniversary!

Thank you so much for sponsoring this month's Crossbeams!



Please check the Welcome center or call the Church office if you would like to sponsor a month of the Crossbeams. The donation to the Church that covers the Crossbeams is \$100.



You Are Invited...

Monday Musicales will host a Scholarship and Awards Concert at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 28, starting at 2 p.m. Winners of the club's annual Student Awards Competition will perform. The free event takes place in the sanctuary and is open to the public.

Each spring, Monday Musicales hosts a scholarship competition in an effort to recognize and encourage musical talent and accomplishments by students in grades 4 through 12. Past winners have performed selections for voice, piano, violin, flute and a variety of other instruments. Certificates, engraved plaques and monetary awards will be presented at the April 28 concert.

*Submitted by Sue Cassler,
Publicity Chairman for Monday Musicales*



2019 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications are now on display in the Gathering Room. Ten scholarships are offered to 1st UMC members entering or returning to an accredited college or trade school, regardless of age. Three awards are also open to community members. Scholarship amounts range from \$200 to \$800. All awards are listed on a single application form. Please note the eligibility requirements and apply for only those awards for which you qualify. Applications are due in the church office **on or before Thursday, May 2nd.**

SPONSOR A SCHOLARSHIP

If you wish to co-sponsor a scholarship with a donation in any amount, you may fill out one of the envelopes located on the display board in the Gathering Room. Tuck your donation inside and drop it in the collection plate or hand it to any member of the Higher Education Committee. (Please write "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of your check, payable to First United Methodist Church.) Your name will be included in a bulletin insert on Scholarship Sunday. Your generosity and support of this ministry are sincerely appreciated!

--The Higher Education Committee:

Sue Cassler, Chairperson, Jon Bausback, Judy Commers, Dottie Evett, Nancy Kahn, Melissa Morse, Linda Peo

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

On Scholarship Sunday, 1st U.M.C. wishes to honor congregation members who are graduating from high school or college this year. If you are a 2019 graduate, or know of one, please notify the church office. Thanks!

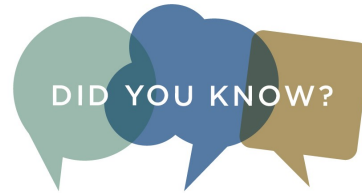
Did you know?

Did you know we have a Staff (Pastor) Parish Relations Committee? Its purpose it is to build strong relationships between the staff and the congregation and between the congregation and the conference superintendent so that the mission of the church may move forward.

The members of this years are:

Clyde Zeek, Todd Bitter, Steve Helmken, Karen Nye, Deb Reason, Linda Williams

Lay Delegate: Joe Stewart. Deb Reason is the chair.



5th Sundays Replaced with Worship Together!

At January’s board meeting we held an honest discussion of 2018’s practice of having both services worship together whenever there was a 5th Sunday in the month. While we loved worshipping together, we weren’t sure that the 5th Sunday is the right Sunday. So, in 2019, we will continue worshipping together several times a year. Here are the dates:

Pentecost and Confirmation: June 9th,

Children's Sunday: June 30th,

Back to School and Blessing of the Backpacks: August 18th,

All Saints Sunday: November 3rd

Christmas Sing Along: December 29th.

Worship Together! Sundays begin at 9:30!

April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm Staff Parish Meeting 7pm	2 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm	3 Mary Martha 9:30am Lenten Lunch & Chat 11am Finance Meeting 1:15pm AA 7pm	4 Soup Kitchen 11am Ruth Circle 6:30pm	5 Overeaters Anonymous 9am First Friday 5pm-8pm	6
7 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God’s Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor’s Bible Study 5pm Last day to order from the Chocolate Chicks	8 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	9 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm	10 Lenten Lunch & Chat 11am Esther Circle Olive Garden 1pm Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm Chancel Choir 7pm AA 7pm	11 Soup Kitchen 11am	12 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	13
14 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God’s Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor’s Bible Study 5pm	15 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Gs Leader Meeting 6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	16 Faith By Music 6pm S.S. Camera Club 6pm	17 Lenten Lunch & Chat 11am Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm Chancel Choir 7pm AA 7pm	18 Soup Kitchen 11am Dunes Country Quilters 6pm Holy Thursday 6pm	19 Overeaters Anonymous 9am Good Friday Ecumenical Service 12pm-3pm Good Friday Cantata 7pm	20 Holy Saturday Outdoor Service 5:30pm
21 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am Breakfast 9:30am God’s Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am <i>Happy Easter!</i>	22 UMW Board Meeting 9:30am Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	23 Office Closed Faith By Music 6pm Trustee Meeting 6pm	24 Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm Chancel Choir 7pm AA 7pm	25 Soup Kitchen 11am Galveston Give Back 4pm– Close PEO 6pm	26 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	27
28 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God’s Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Monday Musicales 2pm	29 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	30 Faith By Music 6pm				



Give+ Church

Making Donations Using The GivePlus Mobile App

Where can I download the GivePlus Church App?

GivePlus Church is available through the App Store & Google Play. Search for “GivePlus Church” to download the app, then be sure to allow access to location services if you’d like to use the app’s Find Churches Near Me feature.

Is the GivePlus Church app free to use?

Yes! The app is free to download and you are not charged a fee to make donations using the app.

How do I find my church in the app?

When you open the GivePlus Church app for the first time, you will be prompted to enter the name of the church you want to give to. You can enter as much of the church name that you know, and then select the church from the list. Or, use the find churches near me feature to search for churches in your area. If you can not access this feature, go to your phone settings > GivePlus and allow the app to access your location.

Will I have to search for my church every time I want to donate?

No. After you select a church, it automatically becomes your “Home” or “Default” church. The next time you open the app, the church you last selected will already be displayed.

What Payment methods can I use to donate?

GivePlus Church donations can be made with all major debit/credit cards currently accepted by your church. Use your phone’s camera to quickly scan your card information or enter it manually. You can also give using your checking or savings account.

Thank you,

Tom O’Brien



Worship Notes

During the first part of April we will continue with our Lenten Worship Series *Reconnecting With an Unhurried God* as we move into the power of Holy Week.

April 7th – Lent 5 Theme: *A Time for Every Matter*’ Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13

April 14 – Psalm/Passion Sunday – “Give it a Rest” Luke 19: 28-40;
Mark 2: 21-28

April 18 (6pm)- Holy Thursday – “Stripped Down to the Essentials

April 19 (Good Friday)

9:00am-11:45 pm the sanctuary will be open for quiet prayer.

12:00pm-3:00pm Ecumenical Service at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church

Pastor Nancy will be preaching the Seventh Word at 2:35 *Father, into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit* (Luke 23:44-49)

7 pm Good Friday Cantata

April 20 (Holy Saturday) 5:30 PM Outdoor Service

April 21 (Easter) Theme: *Believing* John 20: 1018

8:30 & 10:30 with breakfast between

Easter is more than just a day. It is a 50-day season that marks the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the ways we live into that reality, just as his disciples did. So, after a joyous Easter celebration we will continue celebrating the 50 days of Easter by focusing on Believing, Following, and Listening.

On April 28th Theme: *Thomas. Believe!* John 20: 19-31

March 6, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

May God continue to richly bless you as you continue your walk in faith. Your continued participation at our church's give back fund raising activity is greatly appreciated. Even more so, bringing your friends helps to support our church's outreach mission. Tell them of some of our activities. It is easy to speak about our Soup Kitchen, the Madrigal, our provision of educational scholarships, the cookie walks, our children's outreach, bible studies, and the openness of our church to host groups like AA, Girl Scouts, and Quilters. You will find your invitation is spiritually uplifting as you engage others in the love of Christ. Your interaction with those you invited may provide the touch needed to re-energize their faith and strengthen their lives through the love of Christ.

Our 2019 Schedule....PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND PLAN ON JOINING US.

On January 17, at Galveston's we raised \$200 for the our General Fund	\$200
February 21, Galveston's (proceeds to Keys to Hope)	\$210
March 21, Galveston's (proceeds to First Friday events)	
DATE CHANGE April 25, Galveston's (proceeds to Soup Kitchen)	
May 16, Galveston's (proceeds to Higher Education)	
June 20, Galveston's (proceeds to Children's Ministries)	
July 18, Galveston's (proceeds to Salvation Army Food Pantry)	
August 15, Galveston's (proceeds to Music Department)	
September 19, Galveston's (proceeds to the Samaritan Center)	
October 17, Galveston's (proceeds to the General Fund)	
November 21, Galveston's (proceeds to Christmas Star, children in need)	
December 19, Galveston's (join us in celebration of Christ's birth)	
Total Year to Date	<u>\$410</u>

Hopefully you will be inspired by the events listed above. Please invite your friends, family members, service club members and work associates to attend. Thanks.

Also, please don't forget to make reservations for parties of 6 or more.

Have a blessed new year,
Karen Vander Wagen

Order

Your

Easter Plants

This year for Easter. I am hoping to get all daffodils, but will have whatever plants I am able to get. The cost of the plants will be \$10.00 each. I am asking that you not specify the kind of plant you want. If you order a plant, you will be able to take one of your choice home after the second service on Easter Sunday. I will be taking orders starting Sunday, March 31st through Sunday, April 14th.

Name _____

Easter Plants - Quantity _____

Is your Plant:: " A Memorial " A Dedication

Text to read: _____

Please fill out this form & make your checks payable to:

First United Methodist Church

in the amount of \$10.00 for each Plant ordered.

The deadline to order is Sunday, April 14th.

Clothesline Ministry

WOW, what a month we have had for the Clothesline Ministry. We can't thank everyone enough for stepping up and taking names off of the line and boy did we have the names and needs! A very special thank you to Pastor Nancy for getting all of the shoes we needed (seven pairs). We had needs of size toddler 10 to adult 6's in shoes, plus all of the clothing that was needed. Pastor worked her magic at Kohl's and was able to get some great deals on all of the shoes. Thanks also to Kohl's for helping. Miss Trish also worked her magic on getting some things off of our list. So as you can see it was truly a joint adventure. Dottie and I can't thank all of the great people of our church enough who reach out to help the children in their time of need. We are so proud when we deliver to the schools and the schools are always very thankful for the help.

May God bless you all,

Dottie Evett and Joyce Dalton



Kaitlynn, Taylor, & Jade at February Galveston Give Back



Using one of these Easter Eggs as a favor for each person at your Easter table makes for an attractive setting.

Confirmation Notes

The confirmation class will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 5:15-6:00 with visits to St. Ann of the Dunes in Beverly Shores and Temple Sinai to be arranged in May. During April and May, we will be finishing up our discussions of basic Christianity and moving into what it means to be United Methodist. Confirmation will be held on June 9th during a Worship Together Service at 9:30 AM.



Calling All Lost Keys Home

If you have a key to the church building and are no longer using it we would really love to have it come back; We are sure it's missing home! If you could drop it by the office during office hours or give it to Verne Hixon it would be appreciated. Thank you.



Trustees

The trustees have been hard at work as work is being done at both the parsonage (kitchen and laundry updates) and the church (heating and cooling). Taking care of an almost century old building is no easy task and they deserve our thanks. At the last meeting, Chris Johnsen was elected as the chairperson. Welcome aboard Chris!



Chocolate Covered Easter Eggs

Now Available!

Our Easter Egg production team is busy making the delicious chocolate covered Easter Eggs which so many people have enjoyed over the last 10 years. We will finally see the results of our efforts with the restoration of our beautiful stained glass windows before the end of this year.

We have 5 of our traditional fillings available: Peanut Butter, Maple/Pecan, Caramel/Nut, Butter Crème and Double Chocolate. Two NEW flavors have been added this year: Fruit and Nut (cherries, coconut and pecans), and Raspberry. The cost is \$4.00 per egg.

We hope you will take orders from your friends, co-workers and neighbors. Just fill out the order form below, collect the money, put it in an envelope and bring it to the “egg table” on Sunday mornings between services. **All orders MUST be in by April 7 for delivery.**

Chocolate Covered Easter Eggs

To benefit the First United Methodist Church of Michigan City, IN stained glass restoration fund

COST PER EGG: \$4.00

Ordered by: _____ Date wanted: _____

_____ Peanut Butter (yellow) _____ Butter Creme (lavender) Total amount due: _____

_____ Maple/Pecan (blue) _____ Chocolate (orange) Collected with order: _____

_____ Caramel/Nut (purple) _____ Raspberry (pink)

_____ Fruit and Nut (green) Sold by _____

FIRST FRIDAY FUN COMING TO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!!

Photo Extravaganza

Our church First Friday event for April 5th will feature the Sharp Shooters Photo Club displaying their creative talents in the Gathering Room. The event runs from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm.

The club members use multiple techniques to create their photography making it different from the average point and shoot pictures the average person makes. Composition, light, subject, and general creativity are all considered making their exhibit definitely worthwhile to see.

Pastor Nancy also will be displaying landscape photography that reflects the varied places she has lived in and visited for the past several years. From Southeast Indiana to the Atlantic coast and back, and then to Michigan City, Nancy's camera captures the beauty and wonder of God's creation.

See you then,
The First Friday Team

IN MY PLACE

Remembering Christ's Sacrifice of Love

The Music Department of First United Methodist Church invites you to join us in community on Good Friday, April 19th at 7:00 pm in the church Sanctuary as we present Craig Courtney's work, In My Place.

This Holy Week cantata takes us to the cross where we experience Christ's Passion as if we ourselves were there. The reality that He bore all the sins of humankind, including yours and mine, transcends time and place; in this moving work we behold the Son of God, the sinless Lamb, for all crucified.

"None of these who come to Me will I turn away, the lowly or the powerful, betrayer or betrayed. When I am high and lifted up for all the world to see, my arms outstretched to welcome them, I'll draw them all to Me."

Plan to join us, and invite your family, friends and acquaintances - all are welcome.

MEMORIALS

In Loving Memory of

Larry Dalton

Gene & Katie Gielow

Brian & Meg Kanyer

Tom & Ann Berg

Wallace & Sylvia Hook

In Loving Memory of

Frank Nowak

Wallace & Sylvia Hook

Linda McLean

Gene & Katie Gielow

Crystal Domke

In Loving Memory of

Robbin Dunning

Sue Cassler

Wallace & Sylvia Hook

Tom & Ann Berg

John & Karen VanderWagen

Crystal Domke

In Loving Memory of

Regina Poulard

Judy Barsic

Forsythe Family

Wallace & Sylvia Hook

In memory of all members who passed away

in 2018 and January & February of 2019

Doris Wilson



MC 1st
kids



Did you hear the big announcement?

Have you checked out the MC1st Kids website? It has all of the updated information about MC1st programs, upcoming programs, and will be the future home of the MC1st Kids newsletter! Check it out by visiting... mcindianaumc.org and clicking on the tab that says "Children, Youth, and Family".

Coming...
Summer of 2019...
Here at First UMC of Michigan City
June 24-28 Time: TBD (evenings)
Ages 4-14 Come and join us!
Invite your friends!

SEARCHING FOR THE WORD
feel it in our hearts...



We're still collecting items for the Michigan City High School Caring Closet Project. For the month of April, please consider donating liquid body soap, liquid hand soap, and band aids.

Homebound Ministry
April 2019 Edition

Lenten Learning Notes

As I write this article I think of the saying: The Luck of the Irish. I would like to change that saying to say: "The Luck of First United Methodist Church in Michigan City." We are lucky to have such wonderful individuals to visit and talk with. They enrich us with their stories about their lives, our church back in the day and the history of Michigan City. When you talk with them you learn that they had such exciting lives and I can almost see their excitement and visualize what the times were like back in their day.

We are lucky that we can grow as a christian when we visit with our home bound individuals who share so much love in return.

Maybe I am not really thinking of luck, maybe it is God who has planted these unique friends who have so greatly enriched our lives.

Please go and enriched the home bound lives by visiting with them or by sending a note letting them know you are thinking of them.

If someone needs to be added to the list of Home bound individuals please contact me by email: judycommers@gmail.com or by phone: 219-363-0103 (my cell phone) or 219-326-0597, my home phone.

Enjoy the start of Spring!

Judy Commers



It's not too late to join us for our Sunday Evening 5 PM Lenten Study of our Old Testament Ancestors. Plan on lots of giggles (from the adults) and deep sharing. We have decided to meet from 5:00-6ish and then go out for dinner.

Wednesday's Lenten Study is truly a Lenten Lunch and Chat as we gather at Dune Billies (Center St) at 11:00 to share conversation, coffee, and great food.

APRIL IS EARTH MONTH - DO SOMETHING KIND FOR OUR PLANET

Our poor planet - we're pretty darn rough on it these days! Unless you want the next landfill to be in YOUR backyard, please consider taking time this month to find some ways to be a better steward of the Earth.

Here's a great web site with a million suggestions for pitching in and doing something good: SCARCE.org is a 501-(c)(3) non-profit group in the western suburbs of Chicago that rescues books, teaches environmental education programs, conducts composting workshops, makes super crayons, writes new environmental legislation, and works tirelessly to make our planet a healthier place for us all. You'll find something inspiring and amazing that you can put into action right here in Michigan City.

EVEN THE BIBLE IS GOING GREEN

Bet you didn't know that there's such a thing as the Green Bible! It's a New Revised Standard Version Bible meant to equip and encourage readers to see God's vision for creation and to help us engage in the work of healing and sustaining it.

Originally published in 2008, it emphasizes the Bible's message on the environment (even highlights those verses in green!) and takes the issues of sustainability, stewardship of the earth, and creation care very seriously.

(AND, it's printed on recycled paper with soy-based ink, and the cover is made from renewable cotton linen . . . how green can you get??)

Pick it up as a good read for Earth Month, and consider the powerful message the Bible has for us as we are called to care for our planet.

Happy Spring, Happy Earth Day - -

Thanks!

The Green Team