



*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. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
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**March 2019**  
**Crossbeams**  
First United Methodist Church  
Crossbeam Publication



## *Nancy's Notes*

By the time you receive this issue of Crossbeams we will know of the decisions made at the 2019 General Conference of The United Methodist Church that was held in St. Louis last week. See last month's Crossbeams for more information.

By now we may know what disciplinary language has been adopted to include in The United Methodist Church's policies concerning people who are LGBTQ.

By now we will have certainly heard stories in the mainline press about what the UMC's stance on gay marriage and ordination is.

By now we will know...but what is it we will know?

We know that our mission as United Methodists is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. **No matter what.**

We know that we are called, as children of God, to treat other children of God with love and compassion. **No matter what.**

We know that Michigan City First United Methodist Church is a congregation of kind, accepting, committed Christians, who seek to love God and love one another, even if (and perhaps especially if) we don't always agree with one another. **No matter what.**

We know that somewhere in our lives there are friends, siblings, children, grandchildren, church members, and faith seekers who struggle with their sexuality and who seek acceptance in faith communities. Some feel or are condemned from other condemned from other faith communities



**1st United Methodist  
Galveston's Give Back  
March 21st, 2019  
4PM until Closing**  
Do not pass out coupons on Property



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*Sponsoring The Crossbeams*

*Louis Heller*

*In Memorial of Dottie Sipes*

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



*Nancy's Notes Continued*

faith communities. We are called to love them. **No matter what.**

We know that whatever happened in St. Louis some United Methodist's will grieve, some will celebrate, and others will wonder. **No matter what.**

We know that no matter what happened in St. Louis, we still have children to clothe (The Clothesline), teen to support (The Caring Closet), people to feed (Soup Kitchen), heads, hands, and necks to warm (The Warming Trees), artists and musicians to celebrate (First Friday), songs to sing (Music Ministry), Christmas to celebrate (The Madrigal), kids to love (Try It You'll Love It! and God's Club), lessons to learn (Bible Study), prayers to share (Prayer Ministry and UMW), hands and hearts to hold (Homebound Ministries), and *our God* to worship.

We are *still* the church. **No matter what.**

*Shalom, Pastor Nancy*



*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.*

**Did you know?**

Did you know that leadership in The United Methodist Church is the work of both laity and clergy? Pastors work with laity on the vision and ministry of local congregations, clusters involve laity and clergy, district operational teams involve lay and clergy leadership from district congregations, under the leadership of the appointed conference superintendent (formerly referred to as DS), delegates to General Conference are an equal division of laity and clergy and are voted upon by delegates to each annual conference. Lay persons vote for lay persons, clergy vote for clergy. Each conference, district, and congregation has an appointed clergy and a lay leader. During the coming year each issue of the Crossbeams will highlight those in leadership in our own congregation. The lay ministry group is still working to plug some holes in our leadership team for 2019 and beyond. You will find included on a separate sheet the 2019 Lay Leadership of Michigan City First UMC. Please support our leadership in your prayers and involvement.

**5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month. While we loved worshipping together, we weren't sure that the 5<sup>th</sup> 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!**

**Homebound Ministry**  
**March 2019 Edition**

*As I write this article for Crossbeams I think of Love - especially today because it is Valentine's Day. Think of all the love from the Bible. Jesus loves me, this I know.*

*Our church family members who are unable to attend church need to feel our love, especially during this winter time when all of us are trying to stay warm and inside. It is hard to find a time to pay a visit so if you can why not send a note or call them letting them know we love them and miss their presence. Our list of home bound members are available on the counter in the Gathering room.*

*If you think of a member who is unable to attend church please let us know.*

Call me or contact me at 219-326-0597 or at my email:

[judycommers@gmail.com](mailto:judycommers@gmail.com)

Judy Commers



# MARCH 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 Overeaters Anonymous 9am First Friday 5pm-8pm	2
3 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God's Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor's Bible Study 5pm	4 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	5 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm	6 Ash Wednesday Lenten Study 11am	7 Soup Kitchen 11am Ruth Circle 6:30pm	8 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	9	
10 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God's Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor's Bible Study 5pm	11 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Michiana Clowns 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm Ad Council Meeting 7pm	12 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm	13 Mary Martha 9:30am Lenten Study 11am Esther Circle 1pm Red Lobster Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm Chancel Choir 7pm AA 7pm	14 Soup Kitchen 11am PEO 6pm	15 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	16	
17 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God's Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor's Bible Study 5pm	18 Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Gs Leader Meeting 6:30pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	19 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm SS Camera Club 6pm	20 PEO 11am Lenten Study 11am Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm Chancel Choir 7pm	21 Soup Kitchen 11am Galveston Give Back 4pm- Close PEO 6pm Dunes Country Quilters 6pm	22 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	23	
24 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God's Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor's Bible Study 5pm	25 UMW Board Meeting 9:30am Soup Kitchen 11am Girl Scouts 5:30pm Cross & Flame 6pm Overeaters Anonymous 7pm	26 Chocolate Chicks 8:30am-1pm Faith By Music 6pm Trustee Meeting 6pm	27 Lenten Study 11am Try It 4:45pm Rejoice! 5:30pm Memorial Bells 6:15pm	28 Soup Kitchen 11am	29 Overeaters Anonymous 9am	30	
31 Worship 8:30am Bible Study 9:30am God's Club 9:45am Worship 10:30am Ancestor's Bible Study 5pm							

**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**

The season of Lent has often been a time when we think about "giving something up"—a holdover from its penitential flavor in the medieval church. But what if we thought less about "giving up" and more about "making room?" The theme draws on the need for self-care in order to continue our work of caring for others. It addresses the growing intensity and frenetic pace of life. The series will invite folks to practices of making room, clearing out, slowing down, and prioritizing for the sake of holistic lives. “This holistic life involves living with the rhythms that allow us to thrive, finding a balance between work, play, rest and reflection. Jesus calls his followers to more than just unbridled consumption or production. Rather, the Scriptures see our lives and bodies as gifts that should be nurtured.”

During Lent this year, we will find out what it really costs to be so busy. Let us reconnect to an unhurried God by refreshing ourselves through worship, daily prayer, and creative (and fun) study opportunities.

**March 6 (7pm) Ash Wednesday** Theme: Busy. (Matthew 6: 1-6)

So often we mistake being busy and performance as being faithful. During this worship service we will readjust our thinking and examine what it means to be simply and honestly present to God and one another.

**March 10 Lent 1** Theme: The Right Tempo (Matthew 11: 28-30)

What tempo of life fits you well? What energizes you? What gives you life and energy.

**March 17 Lent 2** Preparing a Table. (Psalm 23)

An unhurried God is present with us in the good times and in the difficult times and invites us to be present to each other in the same way. How have we been present to one another?

**March 24 Lent 3** ‘Tuning In’ (Luke 10: 38-42)

Do we take time to just sit and be with God? Tuning in to the holy may mean just taking time to notice. What contemplative practices do you use to notice the holy around you?

**March 31 Lent 4** ‘Living Light’ Luke 12: 29-34

How do we lighten the load of expectations and ‘should haves’ that seem to dominate our lives? How do we lighten the ‘clutter’ around us?

**April 7 Lent 5** ‘A Time for Every Matter’ (Ecclesiastes 3: 1-13)

Many of us have lost touch with the seasonality of life. We want what we want, when we want it. The lines between busy and rest, work and play, family and work, have become blurred. Do we need to regain a sense that ‘to everything there is a season’?

**Holy Week**

**April 14 Palm/Passion Sunday** ‘Give it a Rest’. Exodus 20:8; Mark 2: 21-28

What does Sabbath mean? How does it fit with this entrance into Holy Week?

**April 18 Maundy/Holy Thursday** (Times TBA)

**April 19 Good Friday** (Times TBA)

**April 21 Easter**

February 10, 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 our General Fund \$200
- February 21, Galveston's (proceeds to Keys to Hope)
- March 21, Galveston's (proceeds to First Friday events)
- April 18, 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 \$200**

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





## Open Door Adolescent Health Center

Michigan City High School  
8466 W. Pahl Road ♦ Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 873-2082 Ext. 4545 FAX: (219) 873-2211

Dr. Kroczek  
Board President

Deborah Briggs, MSW  
Director

February 14, 2019

First United Methodist Church  
Attention: Trish Johnson / Children's Ministry Director  
121 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360

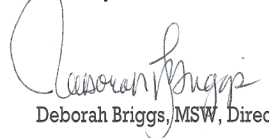
Dear First United Methodist Church and Ms. Johnson,

On behalf of the Open Door Adolescent Health Center and the Michigan City High School, we want to thank you for your very generous donation to our new "Care Closet." We are so excited by the community support of our new project and appreciative that First United Methodist Church has graciously jumped right in and partnered with Open Door Adolescent Health Center by providing so many hygiene products.

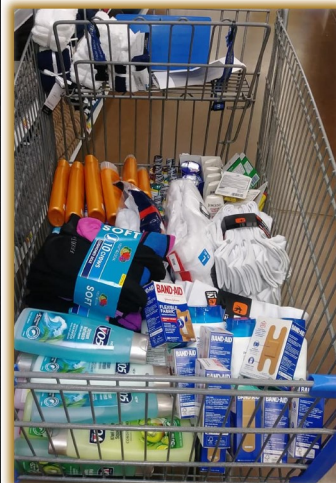
We are in the process of having a confidential on-line system in place where students can make request and have their order filled without having to use their names. They will be able to choose from 3 locations in the school to pick up and will use a 4 digit code of their choice to identify their order. We have also encouraged teachers, guidance counselors, and social workers to use the Care Closet for any students that are in need of the products we have on-site.

This is an exciting new project and we are so happy that First United Methodist Church decided to join us! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at (219) 873-2082. Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

  
Deborah Briggs, MSW, Director

  
Shawna Peek, MSW Intern



*Lent is the time of year when we get ready for Easter.* During Lent, some people might talk about "giving something up" to help them think about what Jesus did for us when he died on the cross. Some families use Lent as a time to think more about their faith, talk about it together, and pray more together.

Here at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC, we are talking about being "Busy" and how we can calm down, quiet down, and find time to think about God's love for us. The MC1st Kids will have an important part in worship and getting ready for worship, so I encourage you to come for Wednesday Try -It and Sunday Morning Worship!

Make sure you get your *Illustrated Lent for Families* devotion and prayer book. Ms. Trish has one for every family and they are full of great family devotions, prayers, and activities for the whole family.

In February, I started taking a class entitled, "The Changing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sunday School". At the time of writing this article, I haven't finished the course yet, but have learned some valuable and enlightening information. Mostly what I've learned is that we aren't the only church asking what has happened to Sunday School and how we make it work for today's families. While once upon a time, Sunday School classrooms were filled to bursting and every age level had its own class and teacher, it just isn't working that way anymore- anywhere. Many churches have started adopting what we refer to as the "one room schoolhouse" model for Sunday School. If you're wondering what that looks like for Children's Sunday School- this is it! Nine children, of all different ages, learning a bible story about how God's love can fill them up, just like a tree near a river can be filled up with the water it needs to live. If you're wondering if this new model works, it does!! The older kids get to be "teacher's helpers" and read to the younger children. ALL of the children are learning to use their bibles together, and have a great time learning together. The church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is changing and moving. It can also be growing if we find the right ways to grow with it! - Trish

### MC1st Kids Schedule...

There will be no "Try It You'll Love It" on Ash Wednesday- March 6, because there will be Ash Wednesday service here at church.

We DO have all other regular programming for the month of March...

Wednesdays 4:45- 6:00 - Try It

Wednesdays @ 5:15- Confirmation

Sundays 9:45- 10:15- God's Club Sunday School



## **Chocolate Covered Easter Eggs**

For the 10<sup>th</sup> year, your “Chocolate Chicks” will be busy hand making those delicious chocolate covered Easter eggs. They will be available for your purchase in the Gathering Room between church services beginning Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. The sale will conclude on Palm Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to pre-order them so that they are available on a particular Sunday, fill out the form below. You can also use this form to take orders from your friends and neighbors. The proceeds of the sale will benefit our stained-glass window restoration fund.

In the first 9 years of our egg sales, the total proceeds have been \$16,256.59!!

The eggs come with 5 of your favorite fillings: Chocolate, Butter Creme, Peanut Butter, Maple Pecan, and Caramel/Nut. We have added two new flavors this year: **Fruit and Nut, and Raspberry**. The cost is \$4.00 per egg.

In case you need a reason to purchase these eggs, consider these:

Reason # 1. First Church Easter Eggs taste like Fannie May but are much less expensive.

Reason # 2. Shopping in the Gathering Room is both convenient and saves you gas.

Reason # 3. They make inexpensive gifts to give to someone that has done something nice for you.



## **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!!**

Mark your calendars and make a plan to join us in the Gathering Room of First United Methodist on Friday, March 1st from 5:00-8:00 pm as we start our new season of fabulous First Fridays. 2019 promises to be a great year for the arts in Michigan City, and we're pleased to be able to be a part of the scene in providing a venue in which both established and budding artists and musicians can display their talents.

This month, Michigan City High School's art department will bring almost 50 original works made by students using several different mediums. These are one of a kind pieces that show imagination, ingenuity and creativity in these young artists. Music will be provided by a Krieger Middle School ensemble and our very own Pat Holkan & Rick Quarles. You won't want to miss it.

First Fridays provide a great opportunity for us to be an open and welcoming church in our Uptown Arts District. Come be a part of it, meet some new people, see some good art, and don't forget to have a Methodist Brownie while you're here!

See you on the 1st!

The First Friday Team





## Church Cancellation Policy

### Weekday Closings at First UMC.

First UMC follows the lead of The Michigan City Community Schools. If the Michigan City Schools are closed for weather the church office and all other activities, including children's programming, will be closed. If they proactively close the schools for the next day all programming will be canceled for that evening as well. The Soup Kitchen does close as well.

When the schools are delayed the office will be open. Please call first.

### Sunday Closing

We try not to close on Sunday mornings. **If, however, there is a snow emergency for the county or city we will be closed.** Pastor Nancy will make that announcement on Facebook and via email, as well as the local radio stations. You may always call Pastor Nancy at 812-584-2418 to clarify.

Should we close and you wish to make your regular offering, you may visit the webpage at [mcindiananumc.org](http://mcindiananumc.org), or download the mobile giving app GivePlus Church. You may find specific directions for doing this in January's Crossbeams.



## **And the winner is.....**

On February 1, First Friday took a different turn as the MC1st Kids sponsored the First Annual First United Methodist Church Game Night and Chili Cook-Off (try to say that in one breath!). Used as an opportunity to collect donations for the Kids' mission project of supporting Michigan City High School's Caring Closet, over 50 people flooded into the community hall to play games, eat chili, and break the tedium of the polar vortex.

Chicken Chili, Vegetarian Chili featuring cashews, chili with heat, chili without heat, chili with beans and chili without beans, chili for people who don't like chili (usually referred to as chicken noodle soup), all graced the food table. Through the generosity of our congregation \$268.12 was collected for the Caring Closet.

And the inaugural winner of the golden ladle award was:

Cheri Harrington!!!



## Learning Notes



*Chili Cookoff*



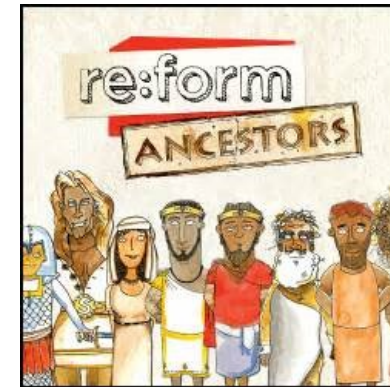
*First Friday Fun*

### Lenten Study Opportunity #1

Our confirmation and older MC1st Kids have been experiencing a unique form of Bible Study. Using a resource called re:form Ancestors they are learning traditional bible stories in a quirky, 21<sup>st</sup> century way – through video, line drawing, and humor. The adults who have joined them are enjoying the stories maybe even more than they are. This approach to bible study uses humor to help us learn about heroes, villains, and everyday folks of God. They have so enjoyed learning about these Bible heroes, villains, and everyday folks that God selected to do extraordinary things, that they think others in the church (kids and ADULTS) would as well. So, during Lent (beginning on Sunday, March 9) at 5:00 pm we will gather for study, laughter and prayer. The first week we will order pizza. Then, as a group, we can decide how we will feed ourselves in subsequent weeks. Even if you can't attend all the time please come. You'll be glad you did!

### Lenten Study Opportunity #2

Last year our Lenten study was the book *Blessed Endurance: Moving Beyond Despair to Hope* by John Wimmer. We were so challenged by this book that we decided to delve more deeply into our Methodist roots and revisit the same book this year. Come and join us on Wednesdays at 11:00 at Dune Billies Beach Café (01 Center St). You may order the book from Amazon in either soft back or kindle. There may be a few floating around from last year as well.



## Giving Envelopes

There are a few people who haven't picked up their giving envelopes. If you could come down to the church during business hours or during Sunday morning Worship that would be wonderful.