

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

<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Look for us on Facebook

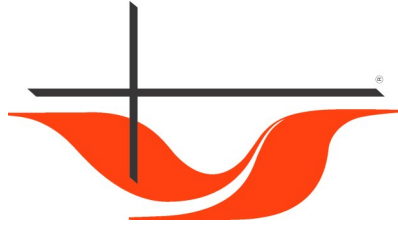
If you are hospitalized



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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
Michigan City, IN
Permit No. 41

Return Address Requested



May 22, 2020

Crossbeams

First United Methodist Church

Crossbeam Publication



Nancy's Notes

The summer stretches before us in ways we cannot imagine. We hope to be together again in our sacred space but frankly, we do not know when that will be. Our Bishop has asked us to be conservative as we contemplate reopening and our board is taking that seriously. We await further direction from him and from state and local authorities to guide our decisions. We know this much. It won't be before June 14th and it may be much later. We are being guided by John Wesley's imperative to Do No Harm and have a Re-opening Task Force who is carefully considering all of our options.

As much as we long to be together the practice of worship does not lend itself to safety. We stay in the same space for a prolonged period of time and it is so very hard to social distance when all you want to do is hug one another, sing the songs of our faith and loudly proclaim our shared faith. And while all of that brings us joy it also puts us at risk for spreading the virus.

Here is what we do know. We are finding imaginative ways of being together. Drive by birthday celebrations, chatting on zoom, youth group and Try It gathering in virtual spaces all are helping us stay connected. We can worship together on Facebook live and the tv ministry where we see the beauty of the sanctuary, hear the majesty of the bells, and see beloved and familiar faces.

So, moving into our summer months we will keep on keeping on! Regardless of when we open the building to in-person worship we will continue to livestream and of course provide for our TV ministry. We plan to begin our 6-week summer worship series, Beguiled by Beauty, on June 14th and will finish by July 19th.

During these 6 weeks we will explore images of beauty found in the Old Testament Scriptures, primarily in the Psalms. In addition to delving into these scriptures during worship there will be opportunity for study groups – again, probably on line.

Ministry continues. Outreach continues. God is with us, sheltering us and loving us.

Be safe!

Pastor Nancy

Vacation Bible School

Be on the look-out for ANIMAL CRACKERS - a Vacation Bible School take-out box that will be delivered to your door in the next couple of weeks! Delivery dates will be announced when Ms. Trish finishes assembling the boxes. It's going to be awesome!!

Trish



Summer Worship Series: *Bequiled by Beauty*

Try-It & Youth Group

Unfortunately, the current Covid- 19 situation means that all in-person Children's and Youth activities have had to be cancelled for the summer. We have made the decision to follow the lead of MCAS in decisions about when to meet again. HOWEVER! We are still meeting! Try-It meets on Zoom at 4:45 on Wednesdays, Youth Group meets on Zoom at 7:00 every Monday, and a special recorded God's Club lesson follows the morning live stream worship on Facebook every Sunday morning! Contact Ms Trish with questions, or if you need a Zoom invite at 765-490-1994 or trishatchurch@gmail.com

Trish



June 14 – Beauty, Contemplation, and Radical Compassion

Theme: “The difficulty and crisis of the world is overwhelming. It is virtually impossible to bear it without very deep resources. A life of prayer does not take us out of life but deeper into it.”

Scripture: Ezekiel 31:3-7

June 21- We Are Made for the Beloved

Contemplative practices invite us into union with the Divine One, healing the wounds of forgetfulness.

Scripture: Psalm 16:7-11

June 29-Awakening to Beauty, Falling in Love with the World

Awakening to beauty is to find the well that never runs dry.

Scripture: Psalm 147: 1-11

July 5 – Abyss, Mystery, and Wonder

The path of unknowing is to both savor what the senses can take in but also wonder at the mystery of unfathomable depths of even a single atom

Psalm 135: 1-3, 13-21

July 12 – The Beauty of a World Without A Why

As we let go of how everything relates to us, serves us, benefits us, we begin to appreciate all things for their own worth and beauty, and our desire for their flourishing intensifies.

Scripture: Song of Songs 4:1-7

July 19 -From Beauty to Compassion

A contemplative life can empty us and ready us to become instruments of the Good.

Scripture: Isaiah 52: 7-10

NEWS FROM THE BASEMENT

Who would ever have thought that this Covid-19 cloud could have a silver lining?

It turns out that with all kinds of extra time on our hands these days I've been able to do a little overdue digging out in the choir room. Those of you who spend time there know that it was an easy place to be a catch-all for lots of stuff - leftover VBS equipment, rhythm instruments, old magazines, broken bell handles and parts, mallets, Madrigal Dinner paraphernalia and leftover costumes . . . plus music, music, music everywhere!!

With many thanks to Alice Helmken for helping me get the ball rolling last year, we've gotten a good start on organizing. As of this very morning, I can honestly say (raising my right hand here!) that ALL of both Rejoice! and Chancel Choir music is catalogued on an Excel computer program, sorted by number and ready to be found in any number of ways. My job for the next rainy day is to put everything in the new (also finished!) sleeves and then put in the file cabinets. AMEN!

Meanwhile, the bells are safely back in their cases (Happy Birthday, George!) awaiting our much-anticipated return to ringing. Here's the pic to prove to you that I'm not making all of this up . . .

Now, on to patching those (censored) walls and getting back to making beautiful music in an organized, beautiful, welcoming, happy place - it might be a while, but it'll happen. "All things come to those who wait" - they'll be good things!

For now, see you at 9:30 am on Facebook -

So glad you're all part of our First United Methodist Church Family!

Lots of love,

Bev

Graduation Signs

Have you seen the banner and signs honoring our 2020 graduates? Take a drive by the corner of 7th and Pine to see how much we love our grads! Feel free to stop and take a picture of YOUR 2020 graduate with the signs as a backdrop. If you do, please share the photo to the church Facebook page so that we can all celebrate their achievements together. You may also email the photo to Ms. Trish at trishatchurch@gmail.com and she can share them for you.

Trish



Graduating

We will be honoring our 2020 graduates in a special worship service, live streamed at 9:30 AM on June 7. In addition to celebrating graduates from our own congregation, we are also taking a moment to recognize ALL graduates this year. Please share the names of any graduates that you know- from preschool to grad school- along with a photo of the graduate and any information you would like to share. Send your submissions to trishatchurch@gmail.com by the end of May.

Trish



Crossbeams

You have probably noticed a difference in our Crossbeams since we started social distancing. Believing it important, especially leading up to Holy Week and Easter, to stay in touch with one another on a regular basis, we shortened the Crossbeams but have sent it out more often. To be good stewards of our resources we have sent it via email to those folks for whom we have email addresses and mailed the others. It has also been available on the church webpage and Facebook page. While this is probably not saving us as much money as we had hoped it is easier for Cindy to do without volunteer help. You will find later in this issue of the Crossbeams a survey that asks how you wish to receive your copy. If you have not been receiving emailed copies please send your email address to the church office so we can make sure we have it. (firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com).

Questions from the Board

As we discussed how we are doing ministry these days some questions arose that we don't have the answers to, so we are asking you to let us know. If you have the capacity to respond to these questions via email that would be our preferred response. We will send out an email with these questions on a poll you can fill out. If you cannot, please mail your response to the church office at 121 E 7th, Michigan City, IN 46360.

Worship Question

How are you worshipping with us currently?

Facebook Live Stream

on Sunday

on other days of the week.

Using the Facebook Link after it is sent from the church office.

On our local cable TV

Crossbeams

I would prefer to receive my Crossbeams via

Email

Read on Webpage

Read on Facebook

Hard Copy in the mail

Homeward Bound

Homeward Bound has provided over 3000 in rent support to many from our homeless, abused and sheltered women with children. Salvation Army stepping stone, sandcastle and citizens concerned for homeless all received....po box 9214 Michigan City. Donations would be helpful.

John VanderWagon

Birthdays

If you do know of someone's birthday -especially someone who may live alone - please notify me or the church. Also if you would like to be a birthday party celebrator - just let me know. All ages can be involved. The more helpers the better.

Sometimes people like to cruise by especially if they have unique cars, well we could drive by the birthday person's house.

Please let me know by calling my cell phone at: 219-363-0103, or email me at: judycommers@gmail.com

Judy Commers

2020 Higher Education Scholarships

Ten scholarships are offered to 1st UMC members entering or returning to an accredited college or trade school, regardless of age. Five awards are also open to community members. Scholarship amounts range from \$200 to \$800. All awards are listed on a single application form. You may apply for multiple awards. Please note eligibility requirements.

You may request an application by contacting Higher Education Committee Chair Sue Cassler at susan.cassler@comcast.net, or by e-mailing firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com. Application forms are also available on the church website: mcindianaumc.org.

Send completed application forms to Sue Cassler at 4928 W. Schultz Rd., La Porte, IN 46350, or via e-mail (address above). Applications are to be received no later than Thursday, May 28th.

Sponsor A Higher Education Scholarships

If you wish to co-sponsor a scholarship, perhaps as a memorial or in honor of someone, donations in any amount are welcome. One-time electronic donations can be made through the church website: mcindianaumc.org. Click "Online Giving" on the Home Page menu and locate the button labelled "Higher Education". If you prefer, you may send a check to the church, payable to First United Methodist Church. Be sure to write "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of your check. Your generosity and support of this ministry are sincerely appreciated!

--The Higher Education Committee:

Sue Cassler, Chair; Jon Bausback, Judy Commers, Dottie Evett, Nancy Kahn, Melissa Morse, & Linda Peo