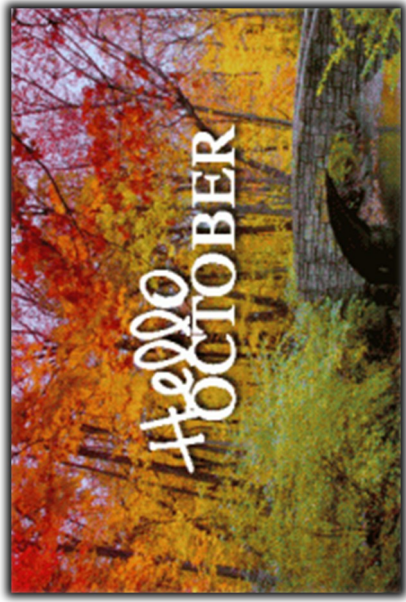




If you are hospitalized and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, The hospital visitor coordinator to know about what is going on with you, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan. <http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Look for us on Facebook

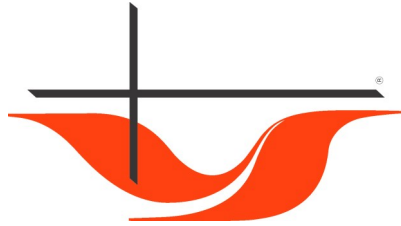
If you are hospitalized



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

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October 2020
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication

Nancy's Notes



What a difference a month has made. The weather (at least as I write this) feels like fall, we have been gathering for communion, Try-It and Messy Church have started back up in the church parking lot, and we have gathered in the sanctuary for worship. It feels so 'normal.' And yet...

Nothing seems normal. Loved ones continue to struggle with either the virus itself or the effects of the virus. 85% of the individuals coming to the soup kitchen are 'first timers' due to the economic impact of job cutbacks or losses. It is not a normal time. And yet...

Things that are important are still things that are important! We need community. It may be on zoom, livestream or in person, but we need community because God did not create us to be individuals of faith but rather a community of faith.

We need to learn. Our compassion and knowledge have been stretched in the past 6 months by the pandemics of Covid, social unrest, racism, and now – fire and flood. What does God say about this? How do we, as a people of faith, respond? We have asked some of these questions before so it feels so 'normal.' And yet...

We are coming into a time of special planning in the church. World Communion Sunday, All Saints Day, Advent, Christmas... how will they be this year? They will be, as all of 2020 seems to have been – the same and yet different.

But, we will celebrate, study, learn, pray, worship, and be together as your church. It may be face to face, on livestream, on zoom, YouTube or a combination of all of these. We will be together, and we will be the church!

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy



1st United Methodist, Michigan City

Galveston's Give Back

October 15th, 2020

4PM until Closing

Do not pass out coupons on Property



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Cindy's Office Hours Until Noted Otherwise

Monday 9am - 11am

Tuesday 9 am - 11 am

Wednesday 2 pm - 4 pm

Thursday 2 pm - 4 pm

If you need to come into the office, make sure that you call the office first. 219-872-7200. We want to eliminate traffic jams with the soup kitchen.

Red Cross

The Red Cross will be holding a blood drive at our church on Friday, October 23 from 1:00pm-7:00pm in the gathering room. You may sign up at 1-800-red-cross or go online to redcross.org.

If you could help that day by being a greeter (at the door or by sitting upstairs in the office please let Yvonne Bancroft (219-872-4280) know.

Thank You

Thanks to the Woodruff family for literally taking the parsonage backyard in hand and getting some of the weeds under control.

Communion Wednesday

The communion group decided that they wanted to continue gathering. Wednesday evening parking lot communion will continue in October. 5:40 PM

Worship Plans October 2020

Worship Series is Pressing On

During October we will be studying a variety of texts. From Paul's Letter to the Philippian Church then back to Exodus, and finally to Matthew we will see what it takes to keep on keeping on even when the going gets difficult. So, let us Press On together.

October 4th (World Communion Sunday)

Scripture: Philippians 3:4b-14

Sermon: That I May Gain Christ

Theme: The world with which we desire to be in communion is broken and that part of our ongoing hope as followers of Jesus is that we proclaim the kingdom of God until he comes. We announce the worldwide communion until it becomes a reality. We're pressing on toward what God has in store.

October 11

Scripture: Philippians 4: 1-9

Sermon: Think on These Things

Theme: What it is that is worth occupying our minds? Our world is full of all kinds of demands on our mental space, much of which is not really for our benefit or a way to enhance our faith or our discipleship.

October 18

Scripture: Exodus 33: 12-23

Sermon: Know By Name

Theme: The word for today is presence: God's abiding and constant presence — not a random, "force-like" presence that just is. This is an intimate presence, a personal presence, a presence that knows your name.

October 25 -Reformation Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

Sermon: On These Two Commandments

Theme: Every now and then, we all need to be reminded to keep the main thing the main thing in our worship. And what better way than to return to Jesus' reminder of the core of our gospel. When asked what were the greatest commandments, his reply was simple: Love God and love neighbor.

Gathering Opportunities:

Several of us have taken advantage of the Tuesday Morning WalkAbout in Friendship Garden. During October we will change the day to Thursday Morning at 9 am. That is half price day at the Gardens. Please consider joining us as we celebrate God's amazing creation, exercise, talk together, pray, and just have a basic good time.

If you are free from 9:30-1:00am Sundays-Thursdays (or any chunk of that time), please contact Chef Erik Tannehill to see about volunteering with the Soup Kitchen. We need help preparing, boxing up, and distributing meals (at the end of last month we were serving up in the 160s daily). You may call or text Chef Erik at 219-243-3331.

We are moving the weekday Bible Study to Tuesdays at 2:30. For now we will still be meeting on zoom. Please join us as we discuss the biblical texts used in the current worship series. If you are interested in an evening Bible Study please let the church office know or contact Pastor Nancy.

Every Thursday evening there is the opportunity to gather for a topical discussion of current events. The meeting is on zoom at 7 pm. The link will be emailed early in the week.

Melt Kitchen

Saturday 10/10/2020, Melt Kitchen will be having a give back day, to benefit the Michigan City Downtown Emergency Soup Kitchen, currently based at First United Methodist Church in Michigan City. We will expanding our hours until 7 pm that evening, so you can have the chance to come in and enjoy 20% of the days sales will be donated, to help ease the daily cost of paper goods, water, utensils, to go boxes, seasonings, etc. Let's make the best of this event to benefit our community of friends and neighbors, who may depend on this meal daily. The address is 800 IN-2, La Porte, IN 46350

Thank you for the continuous support!

MC^{1st} NEWS!

Try- It continues OUTSIDE in the church parking lot
Wednesday afternoons, 4:30- 5:30.

--Weather permitting--

Come out to play and run off some e- learning energy!

Masks and social distancing are required, and caretaker needs to stay present.

Weather related cancellations or updates will be posted to Facebook pages.

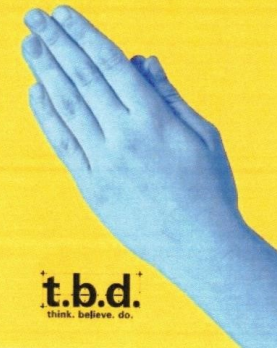
ALL Mc1st kids, 4-14 are invited to join us!

Invite your friends!



It is, right? Is it?
But why?

**prayer is
important**



t.b.d.
think. believe. do.

**After an August break,
Youth Group has resumed
on Zoom with a bible study every
Tuesday night at 8:00 PM.**

To be extra secure, Zoom invites will be emailed each week. If you have a friend you would like to invite, or know someone who may like to join us, just let Ms. Trish know! 765-490-1994 or trishatchurch@gmail.com

Join us for the next several weeks as we talk about prayer.

Get ready for some awesome conversation. To be ready each week, come to your computer with your bible and a notebook and pen or pencil.

Dear Friends in Christ:

Wow, it has been a long time since we even thought about a GIVE BACK for our church but the time has finally come to reconsider. In speaking with the Pastor Saturday, and again on Sunday, Karen and I realized how important it was to begin this initiative once again. So here we go.

The first give back will be arranged for the Community Soup Kitchen which is hosted by the our church. As stated multiple times during our virtual services we are feeding up to 160 people each day and need assistance to provide the needed funds to purchase packaging, spices and the many items not available from the Northwest Indiana Food Bank or the Citizens Concerned for the Homeless Food Recovery program.

We will again be holding a Give Back at Galveston's on October 15, beginning with the opening of their doors at 4PM. Masks are required to enter, your temperature will be checked and, when found acceptable, you will be seated. Tables are arranged to provide the needed "social distancing" requirements. All servers are masked and checked daily to insure that their health conforms to requirements set forth by the CDC task force and the State of Indiana.

Reservations are no longer accepted. It is on a first come, first serve basis.

Tables of ten are available and once seated those comfortable with removing their masks may do so at their respective tables. However, should you decide to move around in the restaurant to speak with others, use the facilities or to leave the restaurant you will be required to mask up once again.

Galveston's is being very gracious in re-opening this opportunity to our church so attendance which benefits both our church and our "host" is important. Please make every effort to attend.

Yours in Christ,
Karen and John

By the way, the next time you are in LaPorte please take a moment to stop by Eric Tannehill's new restaurant called the Melt (across from the Court House in LaPorte. Eric has been the chef providing the coordination for the community soup kitchen throughout the pandemic while beginning his new business and deserves our support too.

Parking lot blessing of the Animals! *October 4th from 2-3 pm*

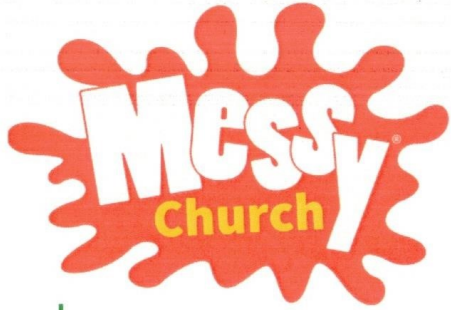
For the past several years I have wanted to do a Blessing of the Animals to commemorate the life and ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi and his dear friend Saint Clare of Assisi.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey. Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for Saint Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat!

I believe every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator. So, on Sunday October 4th from 2-3pm you are invited to bring your pets for a blessing. You may remain in your vehicle or get out into the parking lot however your pet must be contained and up to date on vaccinations. All pets are welcome.

For those of you who have no pets please come anyway as we celebrate this special part of God's creation. Please enter by the Franklin Street Entrance and leave via the alley.





Friday, October 2

5:30– 6:30 PM

Rain date... Friday, October 9

Join us for the annual "Pastor's Pumpkin Patch"!
Outside, in the church parking lot.

Masks and social distancing are required, please help us keep each other safe.

- **Music and worship for everyone!**
- **Donuts and cider**
- **Decorate a pumpkin**
- **Enjoy time together**
- **Invite friends and neighbors!**



World Communion

After a month of outside communion, we are planning to celebrate communion on October 4th – World Communion Sunday. We have ordered special cups with both the juice and wafer included and will be served in the pews. This will be a special time of worship for all of us!



Scrip

Any one interested in purchasing "Scrip" I am still selling from my home and you my contact me via 219-872-6623. If I'm not home please leave a message and I will call you back.

Hope you all are staying healthy & safe.
Karen Durnell

Homebound

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalms 27:12

Here is just another quote that helps me focus on not worrying about what I can't control - and putting my thoughts on God. Hope you like this verse.

It has been hard trying to reach out and see our Homebound friends and even see some of our family members. However, we now are back in our church home and can try to catch up on what is happening in all our lives. Please continue to share concerns through our prayer chain as well as contact me with changes on addresses for our Homebound. You can call me at 219-363-0103 or email me at: judycommers@gmail.com

Judy Commers



CITYWIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL RALLY

2020 Organizing Committee: American Licorice * Anthem * Indiana Black Expo *
* LaPorte County NAACP 3061 * Michigan City Area Schools * Sodexo

August 27, 2020

First United Methodist Church
Attn: Rev. Nancy Nichols
121 E. 7th Street
Michigan City, IN 46360

Dear First United Friends:

Please accept our sincere thanks for your donation of school supplies and backpacks for the Citywide Back-to-School Rally again this year!

Thanks in part to your efforts, we were able to provide much-needed backpacks and supplies for 1,700 Michigan City students, helping them begin the school year ready to learn, with the supplies they need.

We appreciate your support of our schools and community!

Sincerely,

Betsy Kohn
Michigan City Area Schools
Citywide Rally School Supply Chair

"Pastor Recognition Drive By"

October 25th at 2 p.m. !

This year we will be recognizing our pastor by driving by her house and giving her lots of toots as well as cards and notes of encouragement. Please plan to join us in this celebration.

We will meet at the Krueger Middle School parking lot (2001 Springland Ave.) at 1:50 p.m. and head to Nancy's house (311 Garden Trail) from there. If you have questions or need a ride contact Deb Reason 219-229-0030.

Hope to see you there!

Deb Reason



All Saints Day Celebration

This year we have lost many individuals, from our church and as well as friends and family, and have not had the life celebrations we would have had in 'normal' times. We do not know yet what our All Saints Day Celebration on November 1st at our 9:30 service will look like, but we will celebrate the lives of our loved ones.

Please send in names, and if possible, a scanned or emailed picture of anyone you wish to remember on this day who has died since October 27th of last year. We must have your information by October 27th of THIS year to be included in our celebration. As is true of all worship right now, this service will be face-to-face, livestreamed, and shown a week later on Access Laporte County TV.

You may drop off information during church office hours, by mail, or by email at

firstunitedmethodistchurchmc@gmail.com or call the church office.

