



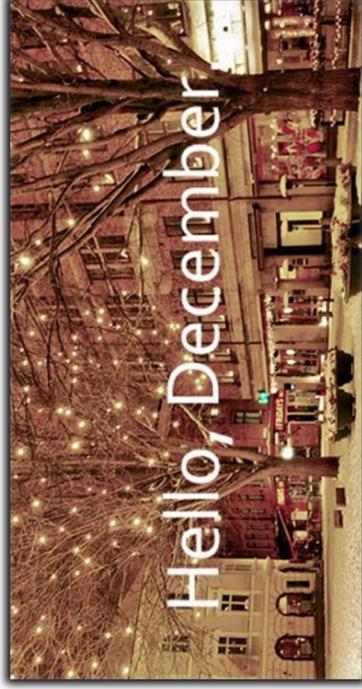
*If you are hospitalized and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, The hospital visitor coordinator to know about what is going on with you, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan.*

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

### ***If you are hospitalized***

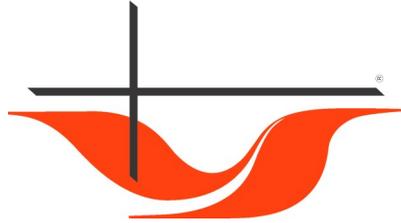


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Church  
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*December 2020*

*Crossbeams*

**First United Methodist Church**

**Crossbeam Publication**

## *Nancy's Notes*

Greetings,

What brings you **hope**? Where do you find love in your world? How may you create joy for those around you? What changes can you make to bring peace to the world? And what does Advent have to do with it? **Hope**, love, joy, and peace are traditional themes for the Advent season that lead us toward the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Eve. Oh, how we need to explore them this year, when nothing seems familiar or traditional. And we especially need **hope**.

We yearn toward the familiar. We want to gather in the sanctuary on Christmas Eve, light our candles, and sing Silent Night. We want to purchase pounds of cookies from the UMW Cookie Walk and justify it because of the good work they do with the proceeds (see their article in this issue of Crossbeams). We want things to be the way they always are. And they are not. There is no doubt that the world has changed, and we are struggling to find our Advent **Hope**.

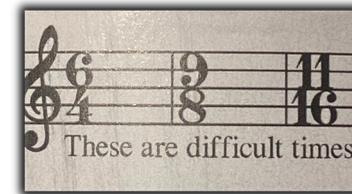
And yet, this is the season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus and all that means. We look to Bethlehem and the story of **hope** that unfolds there as Jesus was born to bring light to a struggling world. We follow the star and allow it to shine **hope** into our lives and then we share that **hope** with those around us. We listen as Mary sings a love song to her baby and watch as Joseph murmurs words of courage and faith to the child he will raise. We shudder as an angry ruler sends mercenaries to destroy this gentle family, and we tightly close our eyes as the Magi travel away from Herod's rage and toward the presence of God's love. And we **hope** the world will be different.

This is what we celebrate. Unbounded love and grace. Much as we love everything else that goes along with the season, it truly isn't about Christmas trees, decorations, too much food, and presents under the tree. It isn't even about being together with your family. It is about love, joy, peace, and this year, most of all – **hope**.

Find your **hope** this year and enter into the seasons of Advent and Christmas

Shalom,

Pastor Nancy



## THESE ARE DIFFICULT TIMES

Indeed . . . who would ever imagine that singing (of all things!) would be something to avoid for safety's sake - truly, only in 2020!!

For the past eleven years this has been the busiest time of the year for the Music Department at First United Methodist as our merry band of musicians and helpers devote countless hours to all things musical and gastronomical in preparation for the annual Madrigal Dinner. This year is different (there's an understatement!) and we will truly miss bringing this event to our community in December.

There is a silver lining - we'll return renewed, refreshed, and re-determined to be back in full force as the important (not to mention, really fun!) fundraiser that the Madrigal has been for First United Methodist each year. We **hope** you feel the same way.

Here's a suggestion - in the spirit of the season, in thanksgiving for our countless blessings and for our good fortune to have attended and enjoyed past Madrigals - please consider making a contribution to the Downtown Emergency Soup Kitchen. The capable and untiring hands of Chef Erik Tannehill and volunteers that help and serve have provided almost 25,000 meals since March to our neighbors who need help. This is yet another **hopeful** sign that the church is still the church. Especially in 2020!

We dedicate the Madrigal Dinner of 2020, that would have been, to this truly humanitarian effort.

Please be generous, and don't forget to mark your calendars for the 13th Annual Madrigal Dinner, December 3rd and 4th, 2021! In the meantime, enjoy pictures from years past, found on the church web site, [mcindianaumc.org](http://mcindianaumc.org).

Everlasting thanks to those who have made this event happen year after year. We wish you all every blessing during this wonderful season!



## Worship Plans December 2020



As a gift to the entire congregation, the Messy Church team is assembling Messy Advent- at- Home bags with activities that EVERYONE can do together! Thank you, Messy-Church team!

### Messy Advent- in- a Bag

Sundays during Advent:

November 29, December 6, December 11, and December 20

Pick up Messy-Advent-at-Home bags at the alley entrance door from 1:30 -2:30 PM

Then, meet on Zoom at 6:30 PM to assemble the craft and worship together!



This year during Advent we will once again be using a worship service designed by the Worship Design Studio and adapted by Pastor Nancy, Bev, Trish, and the worship team. Focusing on a poem written by an anonymous Jewish poet that was discovered on the walls of a concentration camp, this year we are called to view Advent from the perspective of human experience and to discover the **hope** that is found in the Advent story.

*'The history of humanity is fraught with pain—especially the pain that comes accompanied by fear and leads to oppression and violence of one people against another. This is the world into which Jesus was born and through which his teachings would challenge and call for transformation. The opening words of an anonymous Jewish poet, "I believe in the sun, even when the sun is not shining," were scrawled on a wall during the Holocaust. This theme song for our season calls us to examine our penchant for annihilating fear by annihilating each other. The power of narrative and music will call us to a different response— transformation and reconciliation through **hope**, love, joy, and peace. This Advent and Christmas, let us fill the night with music and light and affirm and act on the reasons why we can still "believe, even when" we are discouraged.'* ... Taken from The Worship Design Studio

**November 29 – The First Sunday of Advent: "I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow"**

Scripture: Mark 1: 1-15 and Isaiah 40: 1-11

"Prepare the way..."

"Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news."

"Raise your voice... raise it; don't be afraid"

**December 6 – The Second Sunday of Advent: "I Believe in Love: Daring Right Relationship" 14**

Scripture: Matthew 1:23 and Isaiah 7:14

"Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, And they will call him, Emmanuel 'God with us'."

**December 13- The Third Sunday of Advent: "I Believe in God: The Ode to Joy"**

Scripture: Luke 1:52 and Isaiah 57:15

"He has pulled the powerful down from their thrones and lifted up the lowly."

"I live on high, in holiness, and also with the crushed and the lowly, reviving the spirit of the lowly, reviving the heart of those who have been crushed."

**December 20 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent: "I Believe in the Light: Illuminating Peace"**

Scripture: John 1: 3-4 and Isaiah 9: 6

"What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people." "A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace."

**December 24 - Christmas Eve "We Believe, Even Now"**

Scripture: Luke 2: 13-14 and Isaiah 52:

"Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace..."

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of a messenger who proclaims peace, who brings good news..."

**December 27 - Sunday After Christmas "Believe This: The Time has Come"**

Scripture: Luke 2:31-32 and Isaiah 62:1

"You prepared this salvation in the presence of all peoples. It's a light for revelation to the Gentiles and a glory for your people Israel."

"For Zion's sake I won't keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I won't sit still until her righteousness shines out like a light, and her salvation blazes like a torch."

## Ministry Opportunities

### Soup Kitchen

If you can help out in the Soup Kitchen it would be greatly appreciated. There have been days when Chef Erick has only had 1 or 2 volunteers, and he still makes it work. All volunteers must wear masks and distancing is practiced as much as possible of the jobs – such as cutting and bagging deserts. If you cannot help in person please consider donating bottled water or food handling gloves. We are bringing **hope** to our neighbors

You may call or text Chef Erik at 219-243-3331.

### Cindy's Office Hours

At this time, Cindy is in the office Monday.-Thursday from 7:30 – 2:30. Please call before you come and refrain from coming during soup kitchen hours – 12:00-1:00. 219-872-7200

### Warming Trees

We will continue our ministry of the Warming Trees by providing gloves, scarves, mittens, hats, and socks and placing them on the trees by the big parking lot for people to take if they need them. If you would like to donate some for the trees, you may bring them to the outdoor communion on Sundays at 1:15, place them on the trees yourselves (please bag in a ziplock) or contact the office during business hours . Thank you for all you do for our church and community.

The Church Office Staff

### Announcements

We are sending out Sunday's announcements via email. You may also find them on the church website. If you are not getting the emails, please contact the office with your up to date email address.

### Pastor Appreciation

Pastor Nancy wanted to thank you for all of the appreciation, gifts, parade and your love. We are very blessed to have each other!

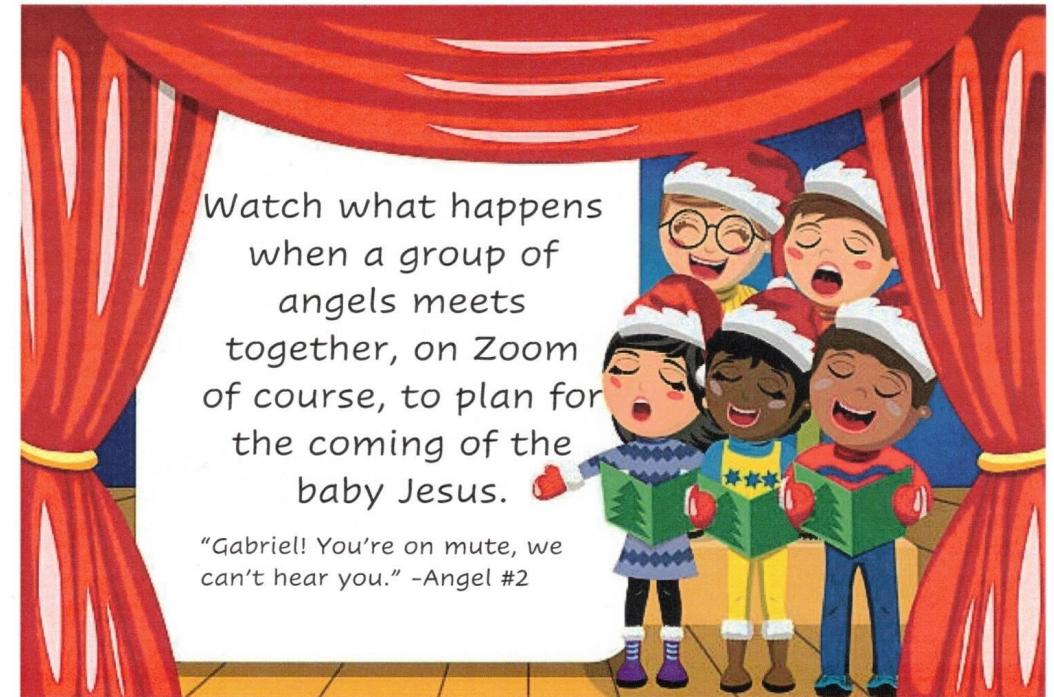
### O Zoom all Ye Faithful

Did you think that since we aren't worshipping in our sanctuary this year, that there wouldn't be a Christmas program?

Well, have no fear!

The MC1st Kids and Youth members present:

**O Zoom all Ye Faithful** by Rev. Corey Turnpenny 2020



The MC1st Kids and Youth will be recording their Christmas Play and sharing it with the congregation in true 2020 style- online! Watch for emails and Facebook posts for show times.

Parents, watch for information about meeting to practice and record.

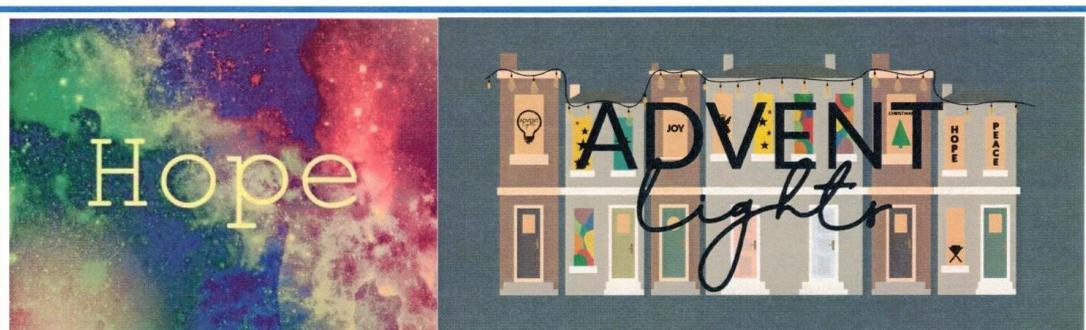
Any questions? Ms. Trish 765-490-1994 or trishatchurch@gmail.com

## Shop & Help The Downtown Soup Kitchen

### A message from First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian will sponsor a SERRV & Earn sale, held totally online. Now the entire catalog of beautiful and delicious artisanal fair trade items is available to you. Shop in your jammies from the warmth of your home; your packages will arrive at your door. Comfort, convenience, and, to top it off, the bonus - First Presbyterian will receive 20% of your purchase, to be added to the Soup Kitchen Fund.

Here is our unique link for the sale! Be sure to shop through this link, so that we receive the 20% commission. You should see an orange banner at the top of the page, confirming your contribution to First Presbyterian. <http://serrv.org/?a=1stPresMission>  
Shop early; shop often. There are several special sale events coming up.



*"My very favorite Christmas memory is filling mugs with hot chocolate and driving around with the family, looking at Christmas lights." – Ms. Trish*

#### Advent Lights

Is a worldwide campaign to help spread the message of HOPE this Christmas season. Check out the ideas and inspiration at [facebook.com/adventlights2020](https://www.facebook.com/adventlights2020). We would love for all of our MC1st families to participate by putting some message of HOPE in your windows, front porch, or yard as part of your Christmas decorating. Then, contact the church office or Ms. Trish by December 15 with your address (and a photo if you can!) and we will be putting together a map of all of us that are participating so that we take a drive and look for each other's HOPE.

Watch the church Facebook page for some simple ideas and inspirations!

Trish Johnsen- [trishatchurch@gmail.com](mailto:trishatchurch@gmail.com) or 765-490-1994  
or call the church office at 219- 872-7200

## UMW Cookie Walk

Methodist Women annual COOKIE WALK.

To help the United Methodist Women continue their Mission Out Reach projects locally, state, and nation wide, we have raised money through our very popular and wide selection of an assortment of delicious home baked cookies to support these very needed programs.

Due to Covid 19, we will not be having our regular cookie walk. **Sooooo** how about a "Bakeless Cookie Walk" ?

Your donation of the money, you might have spend on ingredients, time and effort to bake 10 dozen cookies, or the amount you may have spent to purchase, several pounds of these delicious cookies, can be given, to help our UMW continue with Mission Out Reach donations.

To take part in this UMW Bakeless Cookie Walk, make your check out to United Methodist Women and place your donations in an envelope, give it to any UMW member or send it to:

United Methodist Women  
121 E. 7th Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360.

**[DEADLINE of December 18, 2020.](#)**

Blessings to each of you for your support during this difficult time.  
UMW Officers

## Advent Wreaths

If you don't already have an Advent Wreath you are invited to create one for this Advent Season and use it during our Sunday worship services and on Christmas Eve. You can purchase or make our own. You need 4 candles surrounding a center candle. While the Advent candles have traditionally been either purple or blue (with one pink candle used on the Joy Sunday), and the Christmas Eve (Christ) Candle white, they can truly be of any color. The idea of the wreath this year is to surround yourself with the brightness of God's light. And to find **Hope**.

## Outdoor Communion for Advent

During Advent weekly communion will resume on Sundays at 1:15 in the parking area near the alley entrance. You may also bring your offering, toilet paper, and any items for the Warming Trees. Stick around to see what treats Messy Church might have to share with you from 1:30-2:30. Advent- at- Home bags gifted to you by **Messy Church** will be available for pick up. All the information for this **Messy Advent** is on the website and Facebook or you may call the church on Tuesday or Wednesday mornings to speak directly with Trish. We **hope** to see you for both communion and as you pick up your Advent-at-Home Bags.

## Advent Study

Join us for Sunday Evening **Messy Church** activities on a 6:30 zoom gathering and then stick around for an Advent Discussion at 7 pm. We know this may conflict with the Local Access TV programming; however, it is the only time we have. We **hope** that this will give the majority of us another option for Advent worship and experience.

## Christmas Eve Notes

As this issue of the Crossbeams goes to print, we have not yet finalized plans for our Christmas Eve Celebration. We know it will not be the same, but we **hope** it will still be special. We will be sending out an additional Crossbeams closer to Christmas to share with you our plans.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

The next Red Cross Blood Drive at First UMC will be held on Saturday, January 23rd from 10:00-4:00. You may book a donation time by calling 1-800-REDCROS (733-2767) or signing up online at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code fumcmc. The need for blood continues to be crucial. At this time elective surgeries are still being scheduled, folks still get in car accidents, and cancer patients are still receiving treatment but the amount of blood donors is dropping as folks stay at home. We can safely donate using physical distance, masking, and healthy hand hygiene. Remember your 3 W's: Wash Your Hands, Wear Your Mask, Watch Your Distance.

## Zoom in to Worship

We know that many of you do not use Facebook, Local Access Cable TV, or other social media outlets. We want, however, for you to have the opportunity to join in our virtual worship and have been discussing ways for this to happen. We **hope** that we have come up with a solution that uses the most familiar of technology – the telephone.

Using Zoom, we will offer an audio version only of the worship service. You can call in or dial in, and using the passcode given below join us for worship. Hang on to this Crossbeams for the same passcode will be used weekly. **Hopefully**, this will give us all an opportunity to be together. If this is an option on Christmas Eve we will send you that information later.

You may dial in between 9:15 and 9:30. This begins on November 29<sup>th</sup>. Here is the information:

One tap mobile  
+13126266799,,89187110397#,,,,,0#,,918903# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location  
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 891 8711 0397  
Passcode: 918903