

If you are hospitalized

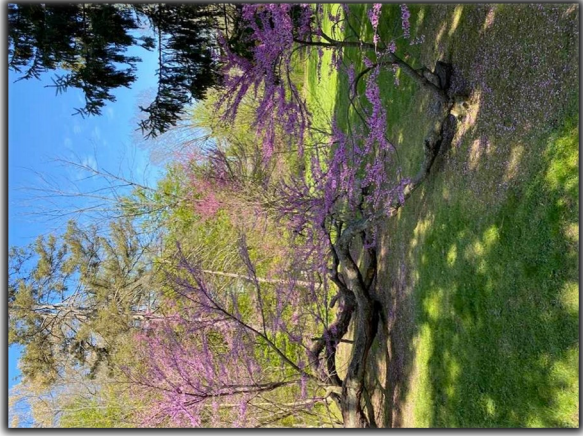
If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, the hospital visitor coordinator, to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan.

Now You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U>
<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook &



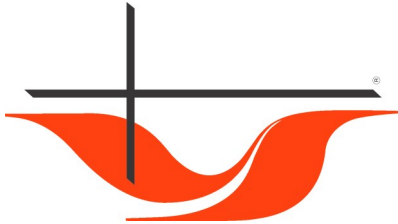
First United Methodist
Church
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June 2021
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication



♪ Nancy's Notes ♪

Licorice has been full of.... something this week! My sweet, relatively quiet bundle of sweet joy has been carrying on highly punctuated conversations with anyone who will listen – including the critters outside. I think she is trying to tell me that there is something or someone outside of our regular experience that has invaded her yard and she wants to make sure that I know all about it. I cannot ignore her. If I try to, the pitch of her bark gets higher and higher until I'm afraid she will break the crystal ice cream goblets in the buffet. I do not find this amusing! Indeed, it is quite bothersome. But, it does get my attention.

While I love the imagery of God speaking to me as a still small voice in the quiet gentleness of the darkened night, in reality I know that most of the time I need God to speak to me so clearly that it becomes painfully real what God is trying to communicate with me. In Methodist speak, that is prevenient grace – the grace that pulls us deeper into God's love or sanctifying grace – the grace that helps us grow in maturity of faith

How is God speaking to you? How do you respond? May God's loving voice, however you experience it – as gentle, painful, loud or silent – bring you deeper faith.

Shalom,

Pastor Nancy



Sharing our Gifts & our Joy



MC 1st
kids

Summer is here! Hooray!

Try- It meets in the parks all summer long! This is going to be so much fun!

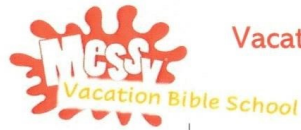
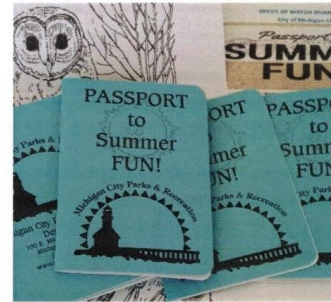
Starting on Wednesday, June 2, we will meet at one of our city parks to take part in Michigan City Parks Department's "Passport to Summer Fun"! I have a passport for every one who participates. Each week will be in a different park, where we will find the challenge that is posted, record in our passports, talk about a bible story, and have plenty of time to play. This is GREAT opportunity to meet new neighbors and make new friends.

MC1st congregation: this is for you too!

Is the "park of the week" in your neighborhood? Or somewhere you've never been and it looks like fun? Come out and hang out with us! This is an opportunity for us to meet our Michigan City neighbors, and to share the love of Jesus outside of the walls of our church.

The "park of the week" will be announced the Sunday before each meeting, plus posted on the church Facebook page(s). Watch for fun clues and announcements throughout the summer, and join us every Wednesday (weather permitting) from 5:00- 6:00 PM.

The first announcement will be made on May 30!



Vacation Bible School is hybrid this year!

June 28- July 2

Please let me know that you would like a VBS- at-home kit reserved for your children, grandchildren, neighbor, or children in your life.

A special VBS activity will take place at the Wednesday "Try- It" in the park, and families are invited to "God's Big Family Picnic" Messy Church on Friday, July 2 from 5:30- 7:00.



Worship Plans For June 2021

Worship is, of course, about God and not about us. And yet there is a dimension where when we come to completely focus on God, and God in Christ, then we are renewed in the Spirit to continue our discipleship path. From Pentecost to the First Sunday of Advent, the story shifts to us—to all the followers really, to how we seek to live out that call to discipleship, to how we fulfill the commission that Jesus gave us as he ascended. For the next several weeks, as the kites in the sanctuary will remind us, worship will challenge us to move with the Holy Spirit as we become deeper disciples of Jesus.

June 6 – When the Spirit Moves: Being Renewed:

Mark 3:20-35

June 13 - When the Spirit Moves: Growing in the New Creation

Mark 4: 26-34

June 20 – Guest preacher

June 27 – When the Spirit Moves: Giving What You Have

Higher Education Sunday, Trish Johnsen preaching

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Spiritual Life Study

Beginning in mid-April, we started on a focused Spiritual Life Journey. Using the novel, *Sensible Shoes: A Story About the Spiritual Journey* (available from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Cokesbury), we have been exploring different aspects of walking the dance of faith. This has been a tremendous experience for us as we have used a variety of spiritual practices to deepen our own spirituality while engaging in discussion about the characters in the novel. It is not too late to get and read the novel, join in our zoom discussions, or ask Pastor Nancy to start a second group using the same materials. Currently we are meeting on Wednesdays at 7 pm on zoom. The zoom address may be found in last month's Crossbeams, in the weekly emailed announcements, and on the church website.



Reopening Committee letter

Greetings,

Since March of 2020, the leadership of First United Methodist Church has been prayerfully making decisions about keeping the church safe during this time of Covid-19. The Reopening Open Door Task Force met Thursday evening after the CDC loosened the mask mandates for people who have received their vaccines. For the past year we have kept John Wesley's Three Simple Rules at the forefront of our decision-making: **Do no harm. Do good. Stay in love with God.** They were at the forefront of our minds and hearts as we met on Thursday evening.

Both the CDC and the Office of the Bishop have recommended that each locale or congregation seriously consider their local context as they make decisions concerning masking in public.

Here is our context. As of Wednesday, May 13, LaPorte County is still in the orange and our positivity numbers are climbing. Many individuals in our congregation have not yet been fully vaccinated. Some are choosing not to be, our younger members are just now receiving their second dose of the vaccine, our teens are just now eligible, and our younger children are not yet age eligible, and others have health issues that preclude them from receiving the vaccine.

Several of our Soup Kitchen guests have not yet received or will not receive the vaccine. We have managed to feed thousands of meals a month to the most vulnerable in our city and, due to our vigilance, we have not had to close the soup kitchen one day because of Covid!

Because we are all in this together, at the beginning of the pandemic we made decisions to protect and care for our older members. Now we are making decisions to protect and care for our children, teens, and young adults, and to continue protecting and caring for our Soup Kitchen guests and volunteers.

You can probably get the sense of this letter by now. **The Reopening Open Door Task Force made the decision to maintain the mask mandate at First United Methodist Church at least until our county reaches and maintains yellow status and at least those members of our church who are ages 12-15 can be fully vaccinated.**

May we continue to care for one another in the best way we can.

Prayerfully,
Amelia Black, Judy Commers, Karen Durnell,
Bev Griffith, George Jenks, Chris Johnsen,
Trish Johnsen, Nancy Nichols, Deb Reason

Hospital Visits

After receiving her second vaccine shot, Pastor Nancy is now allowed to visit at Franciscan Hospital and is hoping at the other hospitals as well. Please let us know if you are hospitalized so she may visit.

Worship Opportunities

Although we are worshipping in person, you may worship virtually.

We have added yet another way for you to join in worship. We have opened our very own YouTube channel. However, we need your help to make this work. The more followers and subscribers we have the more easily people can find us. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U> . Please like, subscribe, and share. We need 100 followers.

Of course, you may still join us on Facebook as we livestream every week, on Access Cable TV, and occasionally on zoom.



Homebound June 2021

As we welcome the weather - hopefully warmer June weather - we now have the opportunity to visit our friends and family. When visiting our Homebound friends I always think of topics I can ask. For example: If someone was married, I would ask "When were you married?" Then knowing that June was called the wedding month we probably would discuss that. Questions like: "How hot or cold was it the day you were married? Did anything out of the ordinary happen at your wedding?"

I remember a few years ago we had a program for the ladies of the community and it was a style show of formerly worn wedding dresses. Lois Chase's dress was worn by her granddaughter, Collette (Letty). Many beautiful dresses were worn and on display. It brought fashion into the present just showing styles of wedding dresses. I loved hearing Lois talk about her dress and what her wedding day was like. It put history in mind when some ladies wore military uniforms and not the elaborate wedding dresses we see now.

In asking questions we learn all wonderful things about people. If you are like me, I wish I would have asked my grandparents more questions, because now I have some questions and I have no way of learning the answers.

A few years ago I was taking a summer workshop and our assignment was to go to a retirement center to visit someone and to write their story. I had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman who was in the retirement center with his wife. He was worried about her and he told me his story. I call his story a love story. His name was Mr. Smith and he told me of the only time he ever left his wife. You see she loved spending time in Florida during the winter. (I know many of us can understand that feeling.) He said his relatives thought that he spoiled her by taking her to Florida every year, but he didn't feel that way. On one car trip they stopped at a gas station and she had been sleeping in the back seat so he proceeded to fill up the car and then he left. After a while he evidently looked in the back seat and she wasn't there. He still was beside himself telling me the story bringing tears to his eyes that he left her at the gas station. He drove back and sure enough his lovely wife was there waiting for his return.

After I wrote his short story I sent it to him and a few weeks later I read in the paper that Mrs. Smith died. I was sad knowing that she was not in his life any more but was happy that I had had the opportunity to visit with him and to see her briefly. My hope was that my short love story would help him in some way.

Do you think God cries when we are out of his sight? How thankful we are that we have his words in the Bible and can find answers to questions throughout our lives.

Dear Heavenly Father, please bless the men in our lives on this special day called Father's Day. Most of all we thank you for always being with us no matter what we do or where we are.

In your name, Amen

If you know of members who should be added to our Homebound list please call me at 219-363-0103 or email me at: judycommers@gmail.com

God Bless You! *Judy Commers*

Memorials For June 2021

In Loving Memory of

Verne Hixon

Austin Wilkins Family

Lorraine Barr

Randy & Becky Popplewell

Ted & Marlene Woodfield

Gene Gielow

Karen Durnell

Annie Trout

Chris & Suzie Hall

Larry & Jan Mitchell

Crystal Domke

Cheryl Tempo

John & Karen VanderWagen

Kathy Granzo

Jon & Nancy Bausback

Judy Commers

Gwen Graf

Margaret Zeek

Joan Presser

Stephen & Lisa Oshinski

Raymond & Linda Kowalski

Tom & Ann Berg

Dottie Evett

Jim & Maryann Cross

Wilfred & Joan Brill

Susan Cassler

Valerie Heinz

Glenn Bridwell

In Loving Memory of

Marcella Radcliff

Mary Martha Circle

In Loving Memory of

Harry Johnson

Wanda Jones

Jon & Nancy Bausback

In Loving Memory of

Wayne Sommer

Unity Foundation of LaPorte County

(by Ellen Volk Family)

Carrie & Daniel McKibben

Daniel & Janice Edquist

In Loving Memory of

Rev. Tom Rough

Larry & Mary Jo Houseman

In Loving Memory of

Betty Emigh

Ted & Marlene Woodfield

Monica Nowatzke

Janson & Penni Nowatzke

Robert & Michelle Zeese

In Loving Memory of

Phillip Conaway

Joan Presser

Austin & Sylvia Wilkins

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Krivak

Frontier Electric Supply

Kay Hinshaw

Leta Janisch

Patrick Williams

Red Cross Blood Drive

Once again we will be having our blood drive. The next one is July 24th from 10am-4pm. IF YOU CAN HELP, please contact Yvonne Bancroft. You may register to donate at RedCrossblood.org.



Thursday Morning Walk Abouts Are Back! Thursdays at 9

Last summer several of us started meeting at Friendship Gardens on Thursday mornings at 9am to walk, pray, and connect with one another. The cost of entrance on Thursdays is \$6 and Pastor Nancy can take in 3 guests for free. Please consider joining Pastor and Licorice as we continue to explore this beautiful garden in our own community! **She will meet you at the front gate at 9am.** There may be Thursdays when she is not available, but she hopes you will still gather anyway!



Joy Spots

As groups within the church begin to gather in person, one thing is apparent. We find joy in being together and need to find ways, outside of worship, of doing just that. I am envisioning a series of **Joy Spot** gatherings that bring us together for fun, fellowship, and even (when it is safe) food. These are opportune times to reach out to friends and neighbors who might wish to be part of our fellowship as well as to reconnect after a long season of separation.

In addition to our regular First Friday Messy Church events, and Try It, our first planned outing is scheduled for **2 pm on May 23rd** at a Kite Flying party at Bev and Bill Griffith's place.

What ideas do you have for fun gatherings?

Perhaps it is gathering at Friendship Gardens on one of the nights **Johnny V** plays. Those dates are June 18, July 9, August 13, September 10, and October 9. There is a \$10 fee for adults. 12 and younger are free.

Maybe it is going to one of the Car Shows at Al's on Franklin and supporting our church members who show their cars.

Or perhaps you have an idea of a low key, fun opportunity for gathering.

If you have an idea AND are willing to plan it, PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE let Pastor Nancy know.



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Beth Ann Cook →