



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.

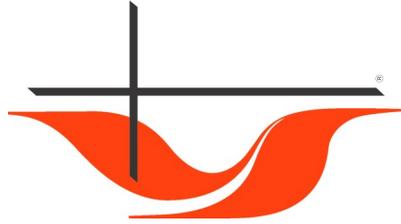
Now You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U>
<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook &



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August 2021

Crossbeams

First United Methodist Church

Crossbeam Publication

♪ Nancy's Notes ♪

I did not realize how thirsty I was until I took time away this summer for vacation, a sisters weekend, and Choir School.

Often, my vacations have been a week long and I would preach on one Sunday, leave that afternoon, and return in time to preach the next Sunday. This meant I was physically away, but I was not away away. This year I changed my pattern and spent 2 weeks away.

I did not realize how thirsty I was for sabbath and retreat. I needed to refocus on my life with God. I needed to fill my eyes with the beauty of mountain and ocean, my heart with the presence of loved ones, and my spirit with fun. I needed to sing in a group, not alone with Joe. I needed to drink from Jesus' well of life gifting water and to rest.

I am not alone. We have come through an incredibly difficult 18 months, and for many of us we have been on a dead run. Even though the office was closed for much of that time, the work of the church did not stop. And, in some ways, for your church staff it became harder than ever as we all had to learn new things about being a church. Your lives didn't stop either. Many of you too had to relearn how to do your jobs, and most of us have missed being with loved ones, or even meeting a friend for a cup of coffee. It's as if we all have been on a marathon.

I read an article not too long ago that reminded me that marathon runners don't go from marathon to another, one race to another. They find time for sabbath and rest. They replenish their body and souls with rest, good food, time for friends, and deep water.

As the stress of the past year winds down, perhaps a bit, I urge you all to replenish. Drink from the well of God's love, rest, have fun, worship, play, and give grace to one another.

Shalom,

Pastor Nancy



MC^{1st} kids

Our last "Try-It in the Park" will be August 11. Watch for a special announcement about special wrap up party for our last week! We will take a two- week break for the rest of August and begin meeting again IN THE CHURCH in September. We've been having so much fun! If you haven't joined us yet, there's still a couple of chances.



EXCITING NEWS FOR MC1ST KIDS AND YOUTH! After Labor Day, we're moving back inside into our brand- new spaces. We'll be using the TWO classrooms on the main church level (the former nursery and the room next door).

beginning on September 1

**Try-It is on Wednesdays
from 4:30- 6:00 PM**

in our brand - new classroom combo, on the main level of the church (former nursery and classroom next door).

Come and learn new music with Ms. Bev, while you try different instruments with your friends!

After a snack, Ms. Trish will lead a time of "kid's worship" when we'll have plenty of time to play together! Don't worry, the Legos and the puppets are at home in our new room, too.

beginning in September

**Youth Group meets on the 4th Friday of the
month at 6:00 PM!**

in our brand - new Youth Room, right next door to the former nursery. Have no fear, the comfy couches and the foosball table have made the move and are awaiting us in our new space!

THERE WILL BE PIZZA. 😊

**Youth Group is also providing leadership
during Messy Church on the 1st Friday of
the month.**

An important note about safety precautions: because children under the age of 12 have not had the opportunity to be vaccinated yet, all children attending will be asked to wear a mask when we are in the building. We will be observing social distancing and taking extra cleaning measures to provide for the safety of all involved. Likewise, any youth member or adult who is unvaccinated is asked to continue to mask and distance. Our return to the building is conditional on our county and school system's Covid- 19 case rates. At the time of publishing this, our county remains "in the blue." Should our positivity rates increase, new precautions may be established with the guidance of our church's "open doors" team.

Worship Plans For August 2021



August Messy News!



God's Big Family Picnic was a wonderful evening on July 2! The weather was perfect, the music was amazing, and many new friends and neighbors came to worship and play with us!



Planning to check out the "Taste of Michigan City" on Friday, August 6? Stop and see us! Invite friends and neighbors!

1st Annual MC1st Grand Prix Rain Gutter Regatta

Kids! Come and make your own boat, then race it!

Friday- August 6, 2021 @ 6:00

1st UMC parking lot on the corner of 7th and Franklin Street during the "Taste of Michigan City" and the Grand Prix Boat Races

Find out more about Messy Church and everything else happening at 1st UMC by following us @ [facebook.com/MC1stfamily](https://www.facebook.com/MC1stfamily) and [facebook.com/FUMCMC](https://www.facebook.com/FUMCMC)

For more info: contact the church office @ 219- 872-7200 or Trish Johnsen, Family Ministries Director at trishatchurch@gmail.com



Beginning on August 8 we will begin a new worship series: *Patterning Ourselves After Jesus: Practical Christianity for 2021*. Using texts from **Ephesians and James** we will examine what it means to be followers of Jesus who are just piece of the whole. This series will take us through the month of September.

August 1: Quest: Returning Home

John 15:1-7

Theme: as we bring our series on travel to a close, we contemplate what it means to return home.

August 8: Patterning Ourselves After Christ: Practical Christianity for 2021

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Theme: Imitating Jesus

August 15: Patterning Ourselves After Christ: Practical Christianity for 2021

Ephesians 5:15-20

Theme: Living as Wise People

August 22: Guest Preacher:

The Rev Evan Lash will preach while Pastor Nancy attends her High School Reunion.

August 29: The Armor of God

Ephesians 6: 10-20

Theme: Taking God With Us.

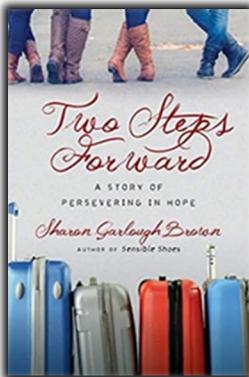
Spiritual Life Group

The Spiritual life group will continue meeting this summer on zoom. Please consider joining us as we continue reading through the *Sensible Shoes* series by Sharon Garlough Brown. Even if you didn't join us for the first session feel free to join us this time, although it does help to have read the first book in the series: *Sensible Shoes: A Story About the Spiritual Journey*. This month's book is *Two Steps Forward: A Story of Persevering in Hope*. We will continue engaging with the characters in the first book and journey along with them as they deepen their (and our) spiritual lives. We will meet on **Wednesdays at 7:30 pm**

Topic: Sacred Journey <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85493896654?pwd=Z1VzdHJGZEIhdHpXK1dpbnVKL1R1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 854 9389 6654

Passcode: 128251



Communion

On August 1st we will receive communion at the front of the sanctuary. You will be invited to come forward with your hands outstretched, palms up. The bread will be dipped into the juice and then placed in your hands. Helpers will be present with moist towelettes if you need to cleanse your hands following. This seems to be the safest way we can return to receiving up front. The small communion kits we have been using will be present if you need a gluten free option or are uncomfortable receiving in this way.

FROM THE GREEN TEAM, ETC . . .

Thanks so much to all of you who have already helped protect our planet by bringing in some harder-to-recycle items - things that our county doesn't take which usually end up in landfills. Our first big load went to SCARCE in Addison, Illinois last month where its amazing team finds use for many of those things in creative and imaginative ways.

Here are a few pics of their facility - it is amazing! For a flat \$5 fee per box, area teachers can take what they need for their students or classrooms; many come for text books that their schools can't afford to supply. SCARCE benefits area teachers students, and children around the globe with its book rescue and clearinghouse for unwanted or gently used items - microscopes, medical equipment, musical instruments, school supplies, art and craft supplies, office supplies, etc. etc. etc.

Our ETC corner awaits your pens, pencils, markers (all working or not), corks, crayons, amber pill bottles (please make sure to include their caps and take off the labels), keys, electrical cords, computer cords, holiday lights, LP records, ink jet cartridges, cell phones, yarn, CD & DVD disks (no cases), bread tags, unused greeting cards, jewelry, Brita and Pur water filters & accessories, sheet music, and musical instruments. For more info, check out SCARCE at www.scarce.org.

Thanks for making a difference, and for being part of the Green Team!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

What began in 1869 with 8 women has now grown to about 800,000. The vision is “Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.”

The UMW of our church has served many through donations of time and/or money. Following are some of the causes that have benefitted:

| | | |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| STEPPING STONE SHELTER | GRACE LEARNING CENTER | MEALS ON WHEELS |
| YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND | SAND CASTLE SHELTER | SALVATION ARMY |
| LUCILLE RAINES HOUSE | FUNERAL DINNERS | CLOTHESLINE MINISTRY |
| SOUP KITCHEN (250+ BOTTLES OF WATER & GLOVES) | | |

Joining UMW is a great way to help others while having fun and forming long lasting friendships.

Would you be interested in any of the following?

- Becoming a member of an existing circle
- Being part of an internet/Zoom circle
- Helping with the Cookie Walk or Valentine Tea
- Helping with Funeral Dinners
- Attending gatherings and programs that are offered (ideas welcome)
- Do you have any other suggestions?

Please contact one of these members

Yvonne Bancroft at 219-229-3951 or ybancroft@comcast.net
Karen Durnell at 219-873-7152 or dkdurnell@comcast.net



Memorials For August 2021

In Loving Memory of

Verne Hixon

Lewis Timberlake

Marge Luther

In Loving Memory of

Ralph Leonard

Austin & Sylvia Wilkins

In Loving Memory of

Alice Kroening

Chalin & Frederick Anton

The Martinez Family

Carolyn Stevens

Sharon Stich

Jill Nygren

Janet Stanaszek

Mike Schwermer

Matt & Sandy Henry

Sue Piecuch

Patricia Howard

Bob & Daryl Kaniewski

Robert & Valerie Eilers

Barbara Brandon

Ted & Marlene Woodfield

Wanda Jones



THE BOOK CHURCH

First United Methodist Church of Michigan City - the Book Church - maybe that's us! Can we add that to be a mission of our church? SCARCE, the Environmental Education group that helps us with ETC has given us twelve boxes of brand new children's books to be distributed to the kids of Michigan City and its surrounds.

What's better than a book given with love to a kid? This could be a good way to share our gifts with the community and would be a great way to bring a little joy and delight to our next generation. And it should be really fun!

Stay tuned as this develops - meanwhile, do you have ideas that would help us in this endeavor? We'd love to hear them.

Thanks!

*The Book Team
and Bev*

Thursday Morning Walk Abouts 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!

Homebound August 2021

Time moves so fast during these wonderful days of summer, and it at least seems to me that there are so many different activities we can get engaged in. Please try to add an additional activity by visiting someone who is unable to come to church or we can all send birthday cards or give one of our members on our Homebound list a call. This past month and in August we have people on our Homebound list who have birthdays. I'm sure if you are early or late with a birthday greeting a card telling the individual you are just thinking of them would be great.

When I write this article for the Crossbeams it is difficult because we don't give out names or information about our individuals who are on the Homebound list for security reasons. It is hard to share with you due to not being able to publish who I refer to, but we know that privacy is important to keep people safe and secure.

Remember the saying "It takes a village to raise a child", this saying could also be used by our Homebound Ministry. It takes an entire church to show all our members we care and especially those members who are unable to attend a church service. Many thanks to those individuals who visit with our friends in our retirement centers and in their homes.

When writing these articles I refer to our friends unable to attend church so, consequently I googled Bible verses about friendship, and in my search I found that Jesus taught us about friendship. He treated everyone he came in contact with as a friend and he chose his disciples to be his special friends. We can be disciples ministering to others. Just taking the time to see or talk to another person shows our love, and we all know everyone wants to feel loved.

If everyone could contact a church member who you miss seeing wouldn't that be fun and a great way to be disciples?

Thanks to everyone this month that does contact a church member who you have not seen for awhile. I'm sure you will be rewarded - friendship is contagious. If someone would like to have a list please contact me by phone 219-363-0103 or by email judycommers@gmail.com or contact the church office.

God be with you all!

Judy Commers