

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.

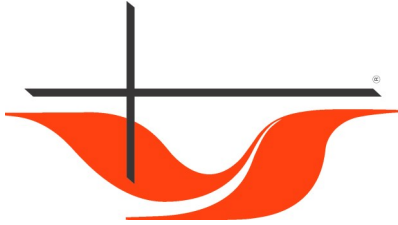
Now You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U>
<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook &



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October 2021

Crossbeams

First United Methodist Church

Crossbeam Publication

Nancy's Notes

Yesterday (September 14) Licorice and I walked down into Friendship Garden. Although she too (just like her human mama) appears to have seasonal allergies, her nose was wiggling and ready to go. She scouted out new places to smell, a new location for a good roll in the grass and hid behind my legs as someone was ringing the Elston bell. It was still hot and humid, but she was totally enjoying herself. I was not! I do not like the hot, pollen filled days of mid-September. Oh, those few breeze kissed days when the humidity is low and the air is cool are wonderful. I much prefer the promise of October.

October is breathtaking. Even if the leaves do not take on the rich, multi-colored hue of autumn there is a crispness in the air, a depth of color in the lake, and those amazing fluffy white clouds to celebrate. God is an amazing designer and artist, don't you think?

I do a much better job of seeing God in the beauty around me than I do in the still small voice in which God often speaks.

I do a much better job of seeing God in the thunder of falling water or slapping waves than I do in hearing the roaring voice in which God often speaks.

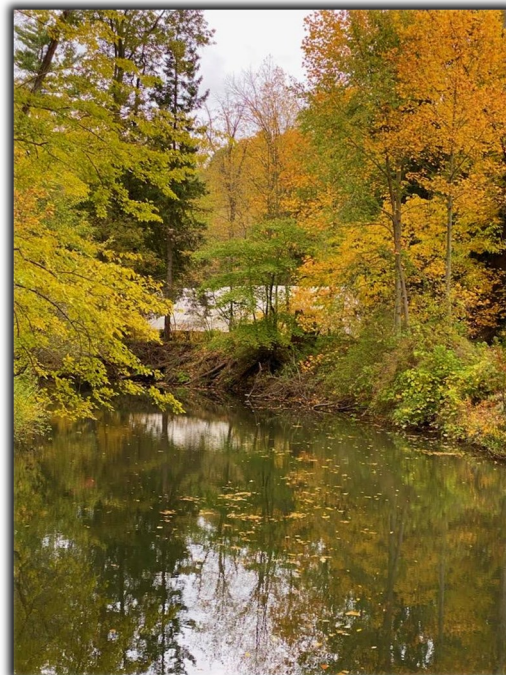
I do a much better job of seeing God in the vastness of creation than I do in the small den of my limited prayer closet.

I do a much better job of seeing than listening.

As you will see in the worship plans for October and November, we will spend several weeks practicing listening to God, both in church and in selected activities that will help us listen more to the one who creates the beauty of October skies.

Shalom,

Pastor Nancy



Friday, October 1- Pastor's Pumpkin Patch

It's time for our annual tradition- the Pastor's Pumpkin Patch! Join us outside in the church parking lot for pumpkin decorating and more. Invite friends and neighbors to join us for one of our favorite yearly events on Friday, October 1 from 6:00-7:30 PM.

Friday, November 5- Let Us Give Thanks

Meet your Messy Team in the church parking lot to pick up a "Messy Church at Home" kit for your family. Inside, you'll find everything you need for your own Messy Worship, including the supplies and instructions to make your own tree ornament that you will bring back to decorate a Messy Christmas Tree in December! Pick up your kit between 5-5:30 PM on Friday, November 5.

Friday, December 3- Messy Caroling!

Come and join this great evening of caroling for our neighbors during the Downtown Arts Walk! Join us in the church parking lot on the corner of Franklin and 7th Street (time TBD, stay tuned) Don't think you can sing? We bet you can! After all, this is "MESSY CAROLING!" Don't forget the ornament you made last month!

MESSY CHURCH IS CHURCH... BUT DIFFERENT

Other Messy News...

On Saturday, October 23, several members of the Messy Church team will be participating in a "Massive Messy Day of Training" called "ReStart: Messy Church". Please pray for us, that we will find instruction and inspiration that we can bring back to Michigan City, so that we might grow this ministry to reach more of our friends and neighbors with the love and hope of Jesus. If you think you might like to join the team- let me know!

-Trish



Try-It is back inside! Try- It is for all kids age 4-14

at the church every Wednesday from 4:30-6:00 PM

4:30-5:00- learn new music and instruments with Ms. Bev!

5:00-6:00- Kid Worship with Ms. Trish

As we know, plans are constantly changing in today's environment, so please like and follow the Family Ministries Facebook page @facebook.com/MC1stfamily and make sure that I have your contact information for last second updates. -Ms. Trish

MC1st Youth!

Help with Messy Church: Friday, October 1-set up begins at 5:00 PM. Stay and help with the pumpkin patch! Youth Group is at the church on Friday, **October 29 this month!**

Youth Group welcomes anyone in 7th grade through recent High School grads. Join us!

We need Try-It volunteers!

I am in need of one grown-up per evening to hang out with me, Ms. Bev, and our great group of kids every Wednesday evening from 4:30-6:00. Adult volunteers are asked to be fully vaccinated against Covid 19 and background checks are mandatory. The only other requirement is a willingness to love our kiddos as we learn about being good neighbors like Jesus teaches!

"Ms." Trish trishatchurch@gmail.com

MC1st kids have been sponsors of the **Michigan City High School Care Closet** in the past, and are doing so again this year- as students have returned to in-person learning. From MCHS: *"The Care Closet, operated by Open Door Adolescent Health Center, is a donation based, free service offered to our students who may need assistance in obtaining basic hygiene items. These items include, but are not limited to, shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, body wash, etc. Items are obtained through donations of items and through sponsorships from our community organizations and businesses. Please consider becoming a sponsor and help us help our students meet their current basic needs so they can focus on successful futures."*

How can you help? Donate items in the collection basket labeled "Care Closet" in the Gathering Room. **For the month of October, we are collecting facial care items such as acne wash pads, acne care items, moisturizer, and other facial care items** that high school students need. Our Youth Group members will be assembling care kits.

Worship Plans For October 2021

For the past several weeks we have looked to see how we, as a congregation, are quilted into a community of faith that makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we move into the fall, we will shift our focus to what it means, as both individuals and the church, to develop spiritual practices that allow us to listen more closely to and for God. As we move toward the final weeks of the Christian year, we will quiet things down and heighten our attention to the "still, small voice" of God and our own True Self. Listening through prayer as well as meditation on holy texts is an ancient Christian practice. Come and rest, come and listen.

October 3: Finding your Life: Listening Deeply (Luke 1:9-15). World Communion Sunday

October 10: Finding your Care: Listening Spaces (I Kings 19:11-12)

October 17: Finding Your Breath: Listening to Our Bodies (Romans 8:26-30, 38-39)

October 24: Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts: (Proverbs 1:20-23)

October 31: Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing (Mark 24-34)

November 7: Finding our Roots: Listening to the Ancestors: All Saints Day

November 14: Finding your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart

November 21: Finding your Joy: Listening for Thanksgiving

All Saints Day

We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 7th, the first Sunday in November. If you have a loved one or a friend whom you would like remembered who has died since October 28, 2020, please call or email the church office with that information.

Staff Pastor Parish

Do YOU love your church's staff? You know that you do! We're anticipating having a celebration of our terrific staff sometime in the month of October, pending our county's color designation in keeping with our commitment to "do no harm." Watch your mailboxes for more information!



The Bells Are Back

Every Wednesday at 6pm you'll find these ringers (plus at least two more not pictured) making music in the Gathering Room as they rehearse selections that we'll all get to hear in worship very soon. They have some great new pieces to share - can't wait!

Under George Jenks direction, this year's Memorial Bell players are Ashley, Bev, Claudia, Maryann, Molly, Pam, Steven and Tom. There's always room for more - if you're interested in being a part of this team, contact George at gjenks@comcast.net.

(And that magnificent sunshine - it felt like God was smiling on our practice!)



UMW

In case anyone is wondering what the UMW is doing these days. One of the projects that we have taken on is to help make sure the Soup Kitchen has bottled water for the clients.

Here are some statics for you to ponder over, to date we have made six water deliveries; with each delivery we have 50 cases of bottle water. Now let me break it down a little more for you.

Our first delivery was 50 cases and each case had 36 bottles in it. Since then we have made 5 more deliveries bringing in 50 cases of water with 24 bottles in each case. Now, you ask how many total bottles of water is that, let me tell you, 9,000 bottles. WOW

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for my son Grant Durnell, Sandy Kalinowski, and David Jocelyn. I make the call and I know that they will not say NO to me. They do it as they know this is one of the ways that God is helping those less fortunate.

If you would want to help the UMW with this out reach and make a donation, you may give it to one of the officers in a separate envelope marked bottled water, or put it in the offering box. We **THANK YOU** ahead of time for any help that you feel you want to offer.

Officers for UMW: Yvonne Bancroft,
Karen Nagy, Sylvia Wilkins,
Karen Lyness, Annie Trout &
Karen Durnell

Blessings to each of you,
United Methodist Women



Memorials For October 2021



In Loving Memory of Jackie Hillsamer

United Methodist Women
Industrial Opportunity Partners, LLC
Jennifer McBride
James J. Thayer
Janet Marie Sypnieski
Johnie & Carol Skeen & Family
Jim & Maryann Cross
Ted & Marlene Woodfield
Kathleen Granzo
Dan & Sue Berner
Dottie Evett
Austin & Sylvia Wilkins
Judy Commers
Doris Wilson
Sharon Runnels
Wanda Jones
Norma Gushrowski Family
Angie Zybd
Jeff & Daniel Debald
Cathy Laughlin
Tillie Thompson

The Kelly Family
Gayle Finney
Tom & Ann Berg
Nan Birmingham
Sue Ellen Rozzi
Diana Harvey
Dennis & Connie Alkire
Randall & Patricia Russell
Sara McBride
Douglas & Glee Sterner
Andrew & Ellen Weller & Family
Lois Runyon
Larry & Linda Novak
J. Michael & Melonie Colaianne
Will & Joan Brill
Nanci Rosinski
Sagamore Surgical Services, Inc.
John & Amy Vangemeren
Roger & Pan Pund
Doug & Glee Sterner

WalkABOUTS Thursday's at 9am & 4:30pm

Last summer several of us started meeting at Friendship Gardens on Thursday mornings at 9am & 4:30pm to walk, pray, and connect with one another. The cost of entrance on Thursdays is \$5 and Pastor Nancy can take in 2 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 & 4:30pm.** There may be Thursdays when she is not available, but she hopes you will still gather anyway.

What Is it?

Have you seen a bright pink, twisted path sprayed in our parking lot? Yes, it is meant to be there – at least until it wears off! Welcome to the First United Methodist Labyrinth. A labyrinth is a means of entering a space of reflection and prayer. Unlike a maze, the single path of the labyrinth twists and turns towards a center point, and then returns by the same path to the entrance.

Labyrinths are closely associated with the concept of spiritual pilgrimage: that our life's journey is one of discovery of God as the source of our being and of return to God, our true home.

As you walk toward the center consider the ways you walk toward God. Linger at the center for a bit as you sink into the presence of God, and then, take God's strength with you as you walk out.

Our labyrinth was used for the September Messy Church. Please plan on stopping by and exploring it.



UMW NEWS

Covid-19 may have slowed the UMW down and forced us to cancel things, but it has not stopped us from helping others! Here are some of the causes we have made donations to:

Water for the Soup Kitchen

Food Handling Gloves for the Soup Kitchen

Josh and Amelia

Lucille Raines House

Scholarship Fund

Salvation Army Diaper Fund

Memorial Funds for Past Members

Please start thinking about what type of cookies you want to make for the Cookie Walk in December. We are hoping to be able to safely have it on Saturday, December 11th.

PICKLES ARE BACK!!!! Pre-orders will be taken in November.

As always, UMW welcomes new members. There are 3 circles to choose from.

Elizabeth Circle meets on 1st Monday afternoon

Mary Martha Circle meets on 2nd Wednesday morning

Ruth Circle meets on 1st Thursday evening

A Fabulous Messy Church

On Friday night, September 3rd we gathered in the church parking lot for a wonderful Messy Church experience where friends and neighbors joined us for music, food and worship in a come-as-you-are, all-are-welcome time together. If you missed it, mark October 1st on your calendar and be there for the next one! You'll love it.

To add to the fun Judy Commers read to the kids from a selection of books that they could choose to take home. Over twenty kids went away with a brand new book of their own, given by First United Methodist, donated by our friends at SCARCE. If you don't know about all of the amazing things they do, check them out at scarce.org.

If you have a child in your life that might benefit from the gift of a good book- a niece, nephew, grandchild, great grandchild, neighbor, friend- let Bev know and we'll try to find something that would be age and interest appropriate for them. We're working on getting book suitable for older children as well.

This is an ongoing project of First United Methodist Church. (Wouldn't it be fun to be known as the book church?) Thanks for your help - see you in church - Sunday and/or Messy

Bev

beverlyegriffith@gmail.com

Homebound October 2021

As you already know, our articles for the Crossbeams have to be sent in by the 15th of the month for the next month.

Today, I write at a time that the United States looks back on 9/11. What changes we have made since that day. As with all tragic incidents in our country, we can remember where we were on that day and how everything unfolded.

As a teacher, my students and I watched the planes go into the second tower and then the Pentagon. I still could probably tell you where all my 22 students were sitting in my classroom. That year my entire class was probably one of my best classes and from that day on they all worked together. My entrepreneurship students bonded together and at Christmas time one of the students in class lost his father. Another student called me and the majority of students went to Portage to the visitation for David's Dad.

How things have changed since then, and just maybe we need to do what we did at that time. We contacted friends and family to see how they were. Hopefully you weren't like me - my youngest daughter has told me many times that we didn't call our girls to see how they were on 9/11. I believe back then we all paid for long distance calls, and we didn't have a cell phone.

In our Sunday School class, we had discussions about life while we read over the Upper Room and I loved having Jackie Hillsamer in our class. Jackie wrote in a journal every day and would go back to reference the temperature, and events especially when her children would ask her about the past. When we lose a church member we are filled with sadness, and Jackie was one wonderful lady that epitomized what being a true Christian was. She made us better just by knowing her.

As things change the basics stay the same. Communication is so important and no matter what our age is we need communication. Writing in a journal like Jackie did or by calling or writing someone we also benefit.

We have added some church members to our Homebound list. If you want to receive the list just let me know by calling me at 219-363-0103 or by email at judycommers@gmail.com

We have gone through rough times so if you want to be added to the list please let us know. The Privacy Act doesn't allow us to know someone has been admitted to a hospital so please call the church office or Pastor Nancy so we can help in your time of need.

Thanks to our church members for always reaching out to each other. Have a Great October! God Be With You!

Judy Commers

He Has Done Marvelous Things

And who can argue with that?

Each one of us here at First United Methodist Church can agree with that truth - (can I get an AMEN?). Marvelous Things is also the song we've chosen as a warmup for choir this year. It's awesome, and you'll get to hear it soon - stay tuned!

Choir is off to a wonderful start, and we welcome sixteen eager musicians (well, fifteen plus George . . .) to a new and much longed for return to providing music for worship. We have many favorites that we can't wait to share again with you, and several new anthems that you'll love as well.

Join me in a big shout out to those who will make music happen here: Candace, Claudia, George, Joe, Karen (hurry back!), Lew, Linda, Sr. Melanie, Pastor Nancy, Pam, Pam, Steve, Steven, Sue, Trish and me. YAY!! So very glad to be back.

Here's to lots more music sung to God's glory - cheers!

Beu



Spirituality Notes:

The Sacred Journey group that began meeting on zoom last summer while reading the book *Sensible Shoes* has decided to continue our evening meetings on zoom but meeting on occasion for a face to face activity. Even if you have not joined us yet or read the novels we have been discussing, please consider joining us now. We have read *Sensible Shoes*, *Two Steps Forward*, and *Barefoot* by Sharon Garlough Brown. We will gladly give everyone a catch up session. In October we will move to the final book: *An Extra Mile*.

Each Tuesday we will gather for a zoom study at 7:30. The zoom address will be sent out as an all church email and also posted on the facebook page. Join us and we will catch you up.

Those who have participated in this study have found it to be one of the best they have ever done as we discuss practical ways of staying connected with God during life events. We hope you will join us.

