

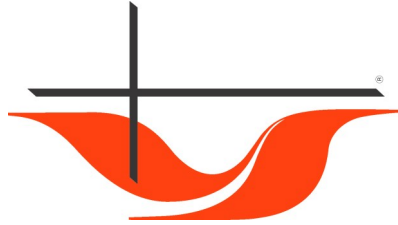
If you are hospitalized
If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, the hospital visitor coordinator, to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan.
<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook &
You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U>



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March 2022
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication

Nancy's Notes

When I was a child, my family did not keep regular Lenten practices; at least, not that I remember. The church did send out Lenten folders to collect \$10 of quarters during Lent, but I suspect that my parents provided some of that for I surely did not receive an allowance that would have covered that expense! My friends who were Catholic gave up something, usually chocolate, but us Methodists did very little. I suppose the men might have had a Lenten breakfast and there was an ecumenical service for 3 hours on Good Friday.

I suppose it was when I was in college that I began thinking about keeping a Lenten practice, although I don't remember much of what I might have done. That discipline has certainly developed through the years and now Lent is one of my favorite times of year. According to the website Ask The UMC, Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others. (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>, retrieved 02/14/2022).


For the past several years I have focused focusing on adding a spiritual or personal discipline during Lent. That doesn't mean, however, that I don't also give up something that is not particularly healthy or helpful in my life.

What will you do this year during Lent to prepare Easter?

Pastor Nancy

**Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 6:30pm**

March 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Zoom Study 7:30pm	2 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30pm AA 7pm	3 Ruth Circle 5:30pm	4 Messy Church AA 7pm	5
6 Worship 9:30am	7 Elizabeth Circle 3:30pm	8 Zoom Study 7:30pm	9 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	10 PEO BR 5:30pm	11 AA 7pm	12
13 Worship 9:30am	14 Michiana Clowns 6pm	15 Trustee Meeting 5:30pm Zoom Study 7:30pm	16 UMW 9am Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	17	18 AA 7pm	19
20 Worship 9:30am	21 Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm	22 Zoom Study 7:30pm	23 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	24 PEO BR 5:30pm	25 Youth Group 6pm AA 7pm	26
27 Worship 9:30am	28	29 Zoom Study 7:30pm	30 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	31		

Worship Plans For March 2022



One of the most powerful Lenten hymns I know is *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. I can barely make it through without crying. This Lent, join us for our Lenten Worship Series *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*. Experience Lent from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross. We prepare for Easter by walking the path of the cross. Once again using resources from AJ Levine, this time the book *Witness at the Cross: Good Friday for Beginners*, we are challenged to look at the events leading up to Jesus' death with new eyes. Each week's service starts with a question to ponder.

March 3, 2022: Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 pm

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 6, 2022: First Sunday of Lent

Bystanders and Scoffers

Mark 15:29-32 and John 19:19-22

The question: Can bystanders be innocent?

March 13, 2022: Second Sunday of Lent

The Other Victims

Mark 10: 35-45 and Luke 23:39-43

The question: How does the death of the two 'criminals' by Jesus challenge our views of criminal justice and move us to live as good neighbors to our fellow human beings?

**Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 6:30pm**

Worship Plans For March 2022 cont.

March 20, 2022: The Third Sunday of Lent

The Soldiers

Matthew 8:5-13; Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39, and Luke 23:47

The question: To what extent does those soldiers' apparent indifference to Jesus's death indict us as we go about our business while innocents die—and, in contrast, to what extent can we make the centurion's profession of respect and awe as Jesus dies our own?

March 27, 2022: The Fourth Sunday of Lent

The Beloved Disciple

John 13:21-26; 33-35; John 21:20-24; John 19:25b-27

The question: What can this anonymous but important figure teach us about Jesus's "new command" to love each other and about observing all our time as sacred time?

April 3, 2022: The Fifth Sunday of Lent

The Women

Luke 8:1-3 and Luke 23:27-31

The question: What roles can women and men play in bearing witness to God and Jesus in powerful ways.

April 10, 2022: Palm/Passion Sunday: (The Sixth Sunday of Lent)

Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

Mark 15:42-46 and John 19:38-42

The question: How Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus relate to Jesus before he died and how do their actions in burying his body provide a model for modern "sympathizers" of Jesus?

Green Team

GREEN TEAM NEWS, ETC, ETC, ETC!

So

Lots of long, snowy, cold, dark days - the perfect time to de-clutter and clean out?? If you have stuff, stuff and more stuff that you no longer use, consider giving it to people who can. Our ETC corner is a place to bring it - we'll get it to SCARCE (www.scarce.org - if you'd like to see all the great things they accomplish) and you'll have done a really good thing that helps many people. There are bins in the coat rack area of the gathering room that you can use for your recycling efforts. :)

The list is long - books in any condition, crayons broken or whole, school supplies, office supplies, arts & crafts supplies (all supplies should be in new or gently used condition), musical instruments, sheet music, medicine bottles with caps, electrical cords, computer cords, holiday lights, keys, LP records, ink jet cartridges, eyeglasses & sunglasses, hearing aids, cell phones, corks, yarn, CD & DVD disks (no cases), bread tags, unused greeting cards, Brita and Pure water filters and accessories.

In short, lots of stuff we used to put in the garbage to go to the landfills. Thanks for your efforts to protect the planet - it's the only one we have - Your Green Team (Come join us!)



Clothesline Ministry

Requests are coming in for the Clothes Line Ministry. If you are unsure how it functions, let me explain. Staff from the schools or social service agencies, make requests which are placed on our display in the Gathering Room. One of you selects a card, signs the sheet indicating which card, purchases the needed items, and returns the clothing to the church office. A volunteer then delivers the clothing to the school office. The Michigan City Area School are not requiring uniforms this year so shopping for clothing items should be easier. Because of your compassion, students in MCAS feel warmer, more comfortable, and have the knowledge that someone cared. If you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer to help deliver the items to schools, please give me a call.

This year we have already helped several children who were in such need we didn't wait for Sunday to start the process of providing for them but rather used monies we had on hand to purchase the needed items. If shopping is difficult for you please feel free to make a donation and mark it clothesline.

God bless you for your generosity.

Dottie Evett



Ash Wednesday

We will gather in the sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd at 6:30pm, for a service of the imposition of ashes. This time of solemn gathering will start our journey toward the Cross of Good Friday and the power of Easter Sunday.



March Messy Church

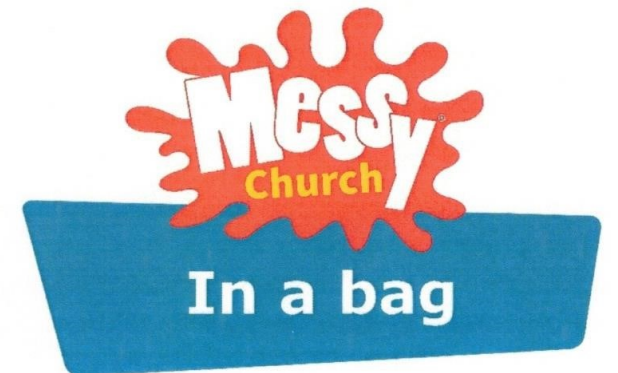
The Messy Team has made the decision to continue with a take-home version of Messy Church for the month of March. We hope to be able to meet in person in April- hopefully outside!

The observance of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. The Messy Team has a wonderful way for your family to talk about Lent together this year. We will have "Lent in a Bag" kits prepared with everything you need to share the Lenten season together in a way that is meaning-filled and accessible for any age. It's also very simple, so that busy families can easily find time to share it together. You may get your family's Lent in a bag:

At the church on March 2,
Ash Wednesday

At the church on Sunday, March 6,
the first Sunday of Lent

or request that a team member
deliver it to your home! You can
make this request by calling the
church office or email
trishatchurch@gmail.com



Adult Study Opportunities

Tuesday Evening Study Group

The Tuesday evening study group will finish our study of *Shades of Light* on March 8th. We have yet to choose our next book, but you are invited to join us and then help us choose what we study next.

The Zoom address is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87040245725>.



Lenten Study

If you wish to take an in-depth look at the themes of our Lenten Worship series, please contact Pastor Nancy. She is willing to meet on Zoom, offer a face to face class, or hold individual conversations.

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 6:30pm

MC 1st kids

Try-It is for kids 4-14

and meets every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30!

Come and learn something new, try something fun, and have some fun! Invite a friend to come along!

Youth Group is for 7 graders to recent graduates and meets on the 4th Friday of every month!



Please make sure that you are following [facebook.com/MC1stfamily](https://www.facebook.com/MC1stfamily) and that Ms. Trish has your contact information to stay informed about changes or cancellations. If there is no school on the day of Try-It or Youth Group, then we do not meet.

Trish Johnsen – children, youth, and family ministry director-
trishatchurch@gmailcom- 765-490-1994

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 6:30pm

Music Department

GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS From the Music Department here at First United Methodist

WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME, new members! We are so very happy you have made our church your spiritual home, and we sincerely look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

To those of you who are already involved in music ministry here, a huge shout-out of thanks for being part of teams that work to bring forward God's love for all through music each week. To those of you not yet involved - even if you're not a new member and it's been awhile since you've been in a music group - we'd love to have you join us!

If you are interested, you have options :) - Memorial Bells, directed by our one and only George Jenks meets Wednesdays at 5:45 pm; Choir, directed by Bev Griffith (that's me!) meets Wednesdays at 6:30. As you've probably noticed, both Bells and Choir remain masked; additionally, we ask that singers be vaxxed to help avoid sending everyone home with more than they bargained for.

If you love music and think you might like to be a part of either (or both!) of these groups, please contact me at beverlyegriffith@gmail.com. I welcome your questions, comments and suggestions.

Glad you're here

Bev

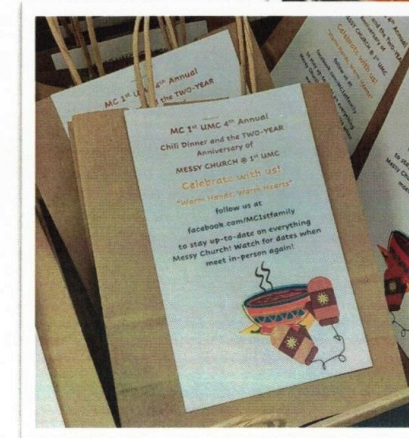
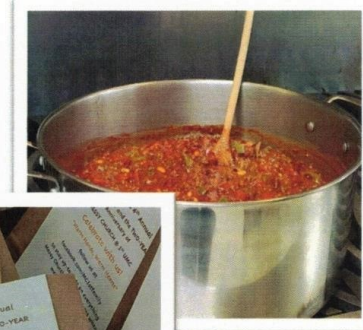
P.S. Also, if you are an instrumentalist and would like to share your talent, consider playing - the more, the merrier!



One of the core values of Messy Church is CREATIVITY!

We've learned to be creative to reach our community in so many ways in the last two years. This month, we celebrated our Annual Chili Dinner and the SECOND ANNIVERSARY of Messy Church by preparing Take-Home bags that were available during worship and delivered to folks. Inside the bag was chili seasoning, activities, and recipe cards with our team's favorite personal chili recipes!

In addition, we met on a cold Friday morning to prepare chili and all the fixings for some grateful neighbors. We were able to deliver a chili dinner and take-home Messy Church bags to 7 families with 17 children to enjoy together. Thank you all for your generosity and continued support of Messy Church.



Sunday's Worship Service Online

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoFHsIGJJH17_YTCcprXHw

Facebook Live at 9:30am

<https://www.facebook.com/FUMCMC>

**Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 6:30pm**

Liturgical Arts Work Area

Maryann Cross and Annie Trout, along with help from Jim and Andy Cross, have done an amazing job designing lovely worship settings that resonate in the sanctuary, on-line, and on Cable Access TV. Working closely with Pastor Nancy, they discuss the upcoming worship series and create worshipsapes that help reflect the gospel in ways that give a visual emphasis to the message of Jesus. They need help. If you are willing to help in any way, please let either of them or the church office know. Don't be afraid that you 'can't do it as well as they can,' we need your help.



Did you feel the love of Valentine's Day? I hope we all enjoyed the day and as I read the article from our Bishop stating that everyday should be about loving each other not just Valentine's Day - I really have to agree.

I didn't really know until I was older that my mother didn't enjoy Valentine's Day. However, I did know from an early age that my parents first child, Michael was born and died on Valentine's Day. My mother did a great job of not letting us know her sorrow and always showed us love when it probably was difficult especially on February 14.

As we age, we reflect on our memories and hopefully we remember with love the close connections we have with each other. It might be the friends we had growing up, the fun we had at church, maybe the MYF group, and the experiences at church camp. Many thanks to those members of church that helped guide our church when we grew up.

I know we don't have assigned seats in church but doesn't it seem like we do? While I enjoy sitting in the back of the sanctuary, I love seeing my fellow parishioners in their regular seats. Many of us miss those individuals not sitting in their unassigned spots and some of these people are on our Homebound list.

When someone new comes in it is exciting to see them and hope that they choose First United Methodist Church of Michigan City as their home. We hope they see the love we have for each other.

We know it is easy to love a baby, a child and family, but let us continue to love as Jesus showed his love to us. To quote one of the favorite wedding verses commonly read.

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails."

Thank you God for always reminding us that love should lead us in making decisions. Please be with our Homebound members and help them experience your love. Amen

Please show someone you love them each and every day. If you need a list of our Homebound members please contact me at judycommers@gmail.com or call me at 219-363-0103 or the church office.

Much love,

Judy Commers