

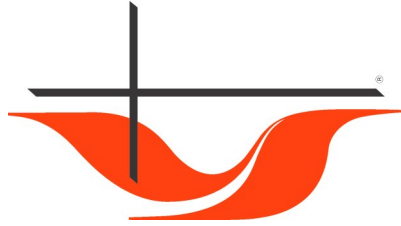
*If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, the hospital visitor coordinator, to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan. <http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook & You Tube: 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



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*April 2022*  
*Crossbeams*  
First United Methodist Church  
Crossbeam Publication

## ♪ Nancy's Notes ♪

I clearly remember some parts of Palm Sunday in April of 1965, and some parts are foggy. I'm sure we went to church that morning. Some of us probably sat in 'our' pew and the rest in the choir loft. More than likely, if there was any sun that day, I am sure I would have watched the way the stained-glass windows cast rainbows on the walls of the sanctuary, because I did that every sunny Sunday. I am sure we sang *All Glory Laud and Honor and Tell Me the Stories of Jesus*. The choir sang something triumphant and perhaps one of Daddy's students played the trumpet. We went home after church for one of Mother's Sunday dinners.

In many ways that was the last night of my young childhood, for later that evening, the tornados came, not through our town but in the area. We were hunkered down at my neighbor's home because Daddy was in the hospital awaiting hernia surgery. He had taken my sister's radio to the hospital with him to listen to a golf tournament. As reports of terrible tornado damage came through, he went to the hospital administration and warned them of what was coming. Daddy's surgery was put off, and instead of having a hernia repair, he helped gather and then hold flashlights and lanterns in the operating room because there was limited generator energy as the surgeons treated those who had been injured in the storm. At some point, two of my sisters went to the hospital to help and one heard a gentleman who was asking for his mother, not knowing if she was alive or dead. I remember that when the all-clear came we could return down the block to the safety of our own home. The Palm Sunday Tornados of 1965 destroyed communities throughout 6 states and killed 256 people.

I didn't realize it at the time, but that week of devastation was perhaps the holiest of Holy Weeks as people worked together to bring healing and hope to those who had lost everything. And the next Sunday, on Easter Morning, we sang *Christ The Lord is Risen Today*, and the choir sang and the trumpets blared; it was glorious.

I'm not sure why I thought of that Palm Sunday so many years ago as I sat down to write this month's article. Perhaps it is because of the devastation in Ukraine and so many other areas of the world. Children separated from parents, hospitals bombed, families not knowing if other family members are alive or death. May 8 marks the 77th anniversary of the end of World War II, and yet there continues to be armed conflicts around the world, in Sudan, Syria, the Mexican Drug War, Ukraine and so many other places.

I pray that the world will come together, as our communities did so long ago, to bring hope and healing to those in our world who have lost everything. I pray that we address systems of injustice that destroy families, devastate communities, and alienate individuals. In the meantime, in addition to prayer, may we work for peace, speak out against injustice, and stretch ourselves to understand and end the violence in our midst. If we sing *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, we are called to work for peace! May that be our Easter gift to God's world.

Shalom, Pastor Nancy

# April 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b> Messy Church 6pm-7:30pm AA 7pm	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Zoom Study 7pm	<b>6</b> Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>7</b> Ruth Circle 5:30pm	<b>8</b> AA 7pm	<b>9</b> American Red Cross 10am- 4pm
<b>10</b> Worship 9:30am <b>Palm Sunday</b>	<b>11</b> Michiana Clowns 6pm Messy Church Board Meeting 7pm	<b>12</b> Zoom Study 7pm	<b>13</b> Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>14</b> Maundy Thursday 6pm	<b>15</b> Stations of the Cross AA 7pm <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Worship 9:30am <b>Easter</b>	<b>18</b> Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>19</b> Trustee Meeting 5:30pm Zoom Study 7pm	<b>20</b> UMW Board Meeting 9am Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Youth Group 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>23</b> UMW District All Day
<b>24</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>25</b> Geisen Carlisle Luncheon for staff 11:30am Office will be closed for the luncheon	<b>26</b> NO Zoom Study	<b>27</b> Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>28</b> PEO BR 6pm	<b>29</b> AA 7pm	<b>30</b> Messy Church Event All Day



## **UMCOR Giving for Ukraine**

United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to Advance #982450, UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries.

Gifts to support the people of Ukraine can be made in the following ways:

Online at <https://umcmission.org/advance-project/982450>

- By toll-free telephone: 888-252-6174
- With a check made out to Global Ministries/UMCOR with “Advance #982450-Ukraine” written on the memo line, either mailed and addressed to Global Ministries/UMCOR, GPO, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY, 10087-9068 or given at or through any United Methodist church

One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause.

The United Methodist community in Ukraine, though quite small, is actively engaged in assisting neighbors in need. Global Ministries is in touch with the church’s leadership as well as with church leaders in countries welcoming those who are fleeing from violence in Ukraine.

If you give through the church please mark it as  
UMCOR/Ukraine



## **Worship Plans For April 2022**

April worship is almost always a bit confusing because usually the month is split into both Lent and Easter! This year is no different. During Lent we have been surveying the wondrous cross with those who witnessed the crucifixion. As we move into Easter our worship focuses on the book of Acts as we are called to be witnesses. Our Easter worship series, *We Are Witnesses*, will carry us forward until June 5th when we will celebrate the movement of Holy Spirit on Pentecost. The guiding material for this series is *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church’s Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship* by Darryl W. Stephens. This was one of the 2021 recommended study books for the Women United in Faith (UMW). It may be purchased through Amazon for \$10 or downloaded from Amazon Unlimited.

**April 3** Luke 8:1-3 and Luke 23:27-31 Lent 5

Theme: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: The Women

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

**April 10** Mark 15:42-46 and John 19:38-42 Palm/Passion Sunday

Theme: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross: Joseph and Nicodemus

The question: How do 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.

**April 17** EASTER! HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Luke 24:1-12; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Acts 10:34-43

**April 24** The Second Sunday of Easter

On this Sunday Pastor Nancy and Pastor Michael Lawson from Portage UMC will be ‘swapping’ pulpits. Pastor Michael will preach here, and Pastor Nancy will preach at Portage. Come and enjoy!

### ***Sunday Flowers***

Feel free to sign up for Sunday Flowers in the Flower Chart in the gathering room. We will be purchasing them from J&K Flowers on Franklin for the cost of \$30-\$35. Please designate which amount you wish use.

## Worship Plans For April 2022 cont.

**April 10**

*Palm Sunday*

9:20am

*Blessing of the Palms*

Gather on the outside steps of the church or in the Gathering Room to receive your palms. We will then move into the sanctuary to begin the service. If it is raining (or, heaven forbid, snowing) we will bless the palms in the Gathering Room only.

9:30am Worship

**April 14**

*Holy Thursday*

*6pm Communion & Tenebrae*

**April 15**

*Good Friday*

*All Day*

*The Stations of the Cross*

Spend time in reflective prayer as you pray for our world, our community, our denomination, our church, our families.... Weather permitting, this will be set up all day outside on the church lawn. In case of bad weather, the Stations will be moved to the sanctuary and will be open from 8:30am-11:30am. Please use the side door by the alley. If you would like a copy of the prayers emailed to you prior to Good Friday, please contact the church office with your email address by Monday of Holy Week, April 11th.

12:00-3:00

*The Tre Ore at St. Paul's Lutheran Church*

Listen once again as clergy from around the community reflect on the Last Hours of Jesus' life. You may come for all of it or just parts. Pastor Nancy will be speaking the Fifth Word, 'Today you shall be with me in paradise' at 1:45pm.

**April 17**

*Easter Worship*

*We will gather at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary for a Service of Celebration!*

## Green Team

When the Monday Morning Beach Clean-up program starts, we will let you know. Volunteers from the community gather at 8:00am at Washington Park to clean up following the weekend crowds. Plastic gloves and grabbers are provided. If you have time, please help keep our beach beautiful.

If you are on Facebook and would like to keep up to date with some of the 'Green' groups in the area, please check out these:

Friends of the Dunes: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsofindianadunes>

The Great Michigan City Green and Clean: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/549215926250423>

Monday Mornings! Beach Clean-up <https://www.facebook.com/groups/242279886537357>

Northwest Indiana Green Drinks: <https://www.facebook.com/nwigreendrinks/>

Save the Dunes: <https://www.facebook.com/savedunes>

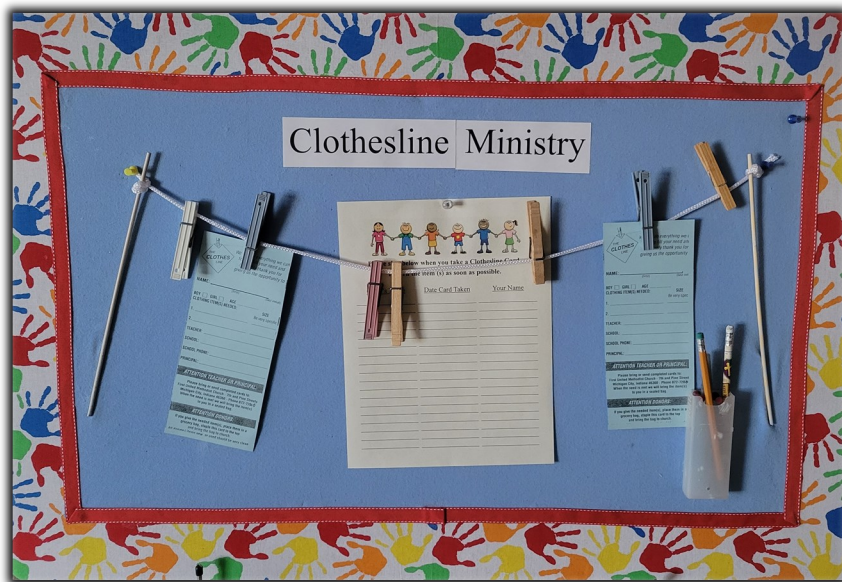
## Clothesline Ministry

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. We 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*



@1<sup>st</sup> UMC

Church... but different.

First Friday, every month 6:00-7:30 PM

We're back and in person on Friday, April 1 for a very special Messy Church Escape Room! Come and join us as we search for the light in this Lenten Season. 6:00-7:30! Invite friends and neighbors- this is a great chance to come and experience church...but different!



Messy Church meets again OUTSIDE (weather permitting) on **Friday, May 6**. Meet us in the church parking lot on the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Franklin St. for a time of music, food, worship, and fun for EVERYONE!



Michigan City, Indiana  
Saturday, April 30 9am-Noon

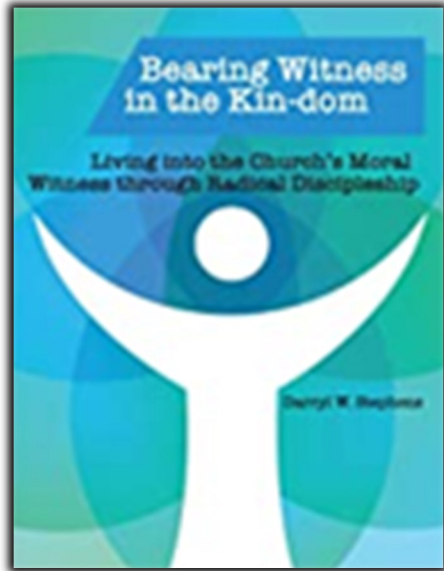
1<sup>st</sup> UMC has the privilege of hosting Rev. Roberta Egli, Director of Messy Church USA for the first ever "Messy Meet Up" here on Saturday, April 30. We will be hosting church teams from the Indiana conference as well as from Illinois and Michigan. Messy Team members can sign up to attend by following this link:

<https://messymeetup.aidaform.com/michigancity>

or talk to Trish. Everyone is invited to attend! Let Trish know if you would like to attend to hear more about Messy Church, or if you would be willing to provide a breakfast/brunch item or to serve as a greeter. This is an exciting opportunity!



## Adult Study Opportunities



### Adult Education

If you would like to read along with the materials Pastor Nancy is using for the Easter Season worship series We Are Witnesses, here is the information: is *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship* by Darryl W. Stephens. She is willing to offer a study group as well. Just let her know.

### Tuesday Evening Study Group

The Tuesday Study Group has completed its current book and is taking a reading break until May. We will still be gathering on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 on Zoom to check in with one another and share in discussion about the previous Sunday message. We will also spend time in prayer. Now is a GREAT time to join us.

Here is the link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830125426?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830125426?pwd=bmh1QXJLcFYwYTBtN3pmMkFUK0c4QT09)

[pwd=bmh1QXJLcFYwYTBtN3pmMkFUK0c4QT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81830125426?pwd=bmh1QXJLcFYwYTBtN3pmMkFUK0c4QT09)

Meeting ID: 818 3012 5426

Passcode: 120592

## Easter Flowers

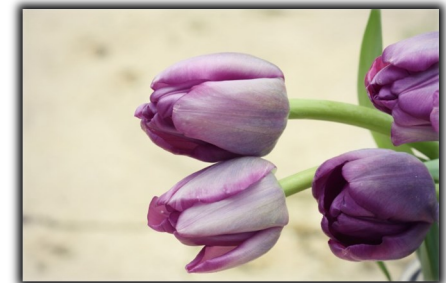
This year on Easter, as we did at Christmas, instead of having many individual plants, we are purchasing 2 large floral arrangements for the sanctuary and will supplement with cut daffodils and tulips if they are available. You may donate any amount to the cost of the flowers in honor or memory of loved ones. Any money received above the cost of the arrangements will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) and designated for Ukrainian Relief.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor/ In  
Memory \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

We know this is something different, but it will help in many ways. Those who are allergic to spring flowers (lilies and hyacinths in particular) will breathe more easily, members of the choir who are sensitive to spring pollen will not lose their voices, the arrangements will be delivered rather than a church member having to pick them up, store them in their garage, and deliver them on Saturday, and most important, we can support a country that surely needs not only prayer but financial and spiritual support.





Mark your calendars for all this great MC1st Kid stuff!

**Try It** is every Wednesday from 4:30-5:30! Kids 4-14 come to learn all kinds music with Ms. Bev and/or Mr. Steve and to join Ms. Trish for a bible lesson, activities, and a treat.

On the **FIRST SUNDAY** of each month-**beginning May 1**- MC1st kids and their families are invited to be part of a special time of worship during the 9:30 worship service. MC1st kids will lead a time of musical worship during the children's time, and then can either join their families for the rest of worship, or join a Sunday School lesson in the Grace Space.

There will be no Try It on Wednesday, April 6. Have a Happy Spring Break!



**Summer is coming!!**

Try-It will once again be meeting in the parks during the summer! Stay tuned for more information about this

time for EVERYONE to join us to play at the parks!

**Vacation Bible School is back!**

"Light of the World"

Wednesday, June 29 and Thursday July 30

5:00- 7:00 PM

Messy Church Celebration

Friday, July 1 6:00- 7:30



**A Message from Mark and Jary Tannehill**

We would like thank everyone so much for your love, concern, generosity and prayers during this difficult time. It is so comforting to know that so many people are pulling for us as we transition into this new chapter of our lives. Our church family has always been very important to us, but we have been surprised and overwhelmed by the demonstration of love from your congregation as well. We can actually feel the prayers! There is an old song entitled *They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love*. Indeed, this the case at the First United Methodist Church, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

In His love,  
Mark and Jary Tannehill

*Thank You*

**Youth Group** meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month at 6:00 PM. We meet on April 22 and May 27. We are growing! Come and eat pizza and meet new friends! Youth Group is for middle schoolers, senior high school students, and recently graduated friends!

**Sunday's Worship Service Online**

Please follow our Sunday Morning worship on both Facebook and YouTube. Or at least like us! That will make it easier for others to find us, especially on YouTube. We need 100 subscribers on YouTube to make it easier to find. Share & invite others to like and share.

YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoFHsIGJJH17\\_YTCcprXHw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIoFHsIGJJH17_YTCcprXHw)

Facebook Live at 9:30am

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

**Special Delivery!**



If you are participating in worship on Facebook, YouTube, or Access Cable TV and would like to have a palm for Palm Sunday, please contact the church by April 5th. One will be delivered to you sometime before Palm Sunday.

As we welcome this Lenten journey I first would like to welcome our new members and explain how our Homebound ministry works.

Members of our church who are unable to attend, whether it is by lack of mobility, living in a retirement community, or other various reasons can be placed on our Homebound list. For security reasons we do not name those individuals in this newsletter. If you would like to see the have a copy of the list it can be found on the welcoming center at church or you can email me at - judycommers@gmail.com or Kathy Granzow at - kathygranzow@yahoo.com

Many people had trying times during the last two years, however our Homebound friends had extremely hard times with lack of socialization in addition to health issues. The one factor that has led all of us during our lives and especially during these past years is our faith in God.

As long as I remember, Methodist churches always had the little booklets entitled "The Upper Room". Our Upper Room booklets can also be found on the Welcoming Center counter or anyone can also purchase them through the mail. Before the pandemic happened and we shut down in-person church services we had a Sunday School class that met in the Chapel and our lesson was always the Wednesday's devotion of The Upper Room. The Upper Room made it easy because in the back of the book were questions to reflect on.

In reading this past Wednesday's reading (it was Ash Wednesday) and questions for reflection I thought we all might ponder our answers as we journey with Jesus to the cross.

"March 2: Walking the Labyrinth

1. Have you ever walked a labyrinth? What walking journeys have helped you to grow spiritually?
2. As we enter the season of Lent how are you encouraged by imagining Jesus walking with you?
3. When you find that your path in life is not straight, are you frustrated or do you enjoy the twists and turns? What spiritual practices help you to find your way? How do you walk with God rather than journey to find God?
4. Where do you feel the Spirit leading you today? Is it a path you are comfortable taking, or does it make you apprehensive? What prayers and scripture passages bring you peace?
5. In what new ways will you seek God's guidance during Lenten? Name specific ways you will slow down to listen to God and enjoy your journey in this season." The Upper Room - March-April 2022.

Each day of The Upper Room has a Prayer Focus and on Wednesday, March 2 the prayer focus was: Clergy planning Lenten Worship Services. Thanks to our Pastor Nancy and all her preparation during this Lenten Season.

In closing, I can't seem to stop singing: *I walked today where Jesus walked . . . . .*

May we continue to walk with Jesus,

God Be With Us Till We Meet Again, *Judy Commers*