

### ***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>*

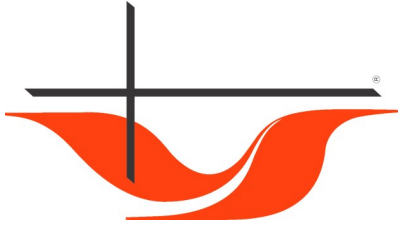


First United Methodist  
Church  
121 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
(219) 872-7200

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

# Nancy's Notes

Where do we go from here?

## The Setting

In 2019, as the specially called General Conference of The United Methodist Church moved closer, I tried to prepare First United Methodist Church of Michigan City for decisions that might lead to a denominational schism, centering in part around how we, as a global denomination, include persons who are LGBTQ+. At that time, I promised transparency as we waited to see what would happen. I was transparent with our confirmation class as they prepared to join a denomination that was not all they might want it to be. And I was transparent with you all. We are now 3 years out from that moment in the history of our denomination. And frankly, we are not much further along. I will attempt to help us understand where we are.

## The Timeline

The outcome of the 2019 General Conference was not as clear-cut as we might have hoped for as the many possible solutions suggested by denominational leaders were torn apart, rewritten, and voted upon with final action moved to the General Conference of 2020. That General Conference was postponed to 2022 because of the pandemic. Earlier this year, as the Omicron variant spread, as international delegates had difficulty obtaining needed vaccinations to allow them to travel to the US, as Russia invaded Ukraine, and as the time for the 2022 General Conference drew closer, the difficult decision was made to postpone General Conference yet once again. The global gathering will be in 2024 where official decisions will be made. Unwilling to wait any longer, some United Methodist individuals and congregations are making a move to 'disaffiliate,' that is, leaving The United Methodist Church for either a more progressive congregation or to join The Global Methodist Church, which is officially launching on May 1st. There are emotional, spiritual, and financial repercussions for both. There is neither time nor space to explain of these repercussions in this newsletter.

## The So What

Contrary to what national news sources have reported, and many in the denomination believe, I have always understood that the treatment of persons who are LGBTQ+ is the presenting issue of a deeper concern (for after all, people are not issues) for our denomination and those who wish to either leave or to judge harshly individuals who are gay. I will try to unpack that for you.

I am certainly concerned with how LGBTQ+ folks are treated in our denomination. I am also deeply concerned with what I understand to be a movement away from John Wesley's understanding of grace. To quote Rev. Dr. Paul Chilcote, a member of our conference, a colleague, fellow Valparaiso University grad, retired seminary professor, and the Director of the Centre for Global Wesleyan Theology, Wesley House, Cambridge,

*The church I think most people yearn for is a community of faith that puts love at the very center of its life and vision. This openness to all people as unique brothers and sisters deeply loved by God characterizes the UMC I know. All God's children are invited to put their gifts to use in the service of God's reign of reconciliation.*

<i>May 2022</i>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>2</b> Messy Church Team Meeting 7pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>5</b> Ruth Circle 6:30pm	<b>6</b> Messy Church 6pm-7:30pm AA 7pm	<b>7</b> UMW Tea 1pm
<b>8</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>9</b> Michiana Clowns 6pm Ad Council 7:30pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>12</b> PEO BR 6pm	<b>13</b> AA 7pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>16</b> Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm	<b>17</b> Trustee Meeting 5:30pm Zoom Study 7pm	<b>18</b> UMW Board Meeting 9am Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> AA 7pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Scholarship Sunday Worship 9:30am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>26</b> PEO BR 6pm	<b>27</b> Youth Group 6:30pm AA 7pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship 9:30am	<b>30</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b>				



## The Green Team

Monday Mornings changed to Monday Evenings- Beach Clean-Up:

This information was posted on the Monday Morning Beach Clean-Up Facebook page by Nora [Ryszka](#)

Hello Friends, Mike Kilbourne and I wanted to let everyone know that we will be cleaning the beach on Monday Evenings instead of in the morning.



When we began this mission we both had kiddos in preschool and jobs that had more flexibility. We chose the morning because it worked in our schedule, never imagining that this movement would take off the way it has!

Now our babies are bigger and we have jobs that we must attend on Monday mornings, so we are pivoting to evenings! We encourage you to clean the beach whenever it works best for you (the beach doesn't know what day it is!!) However, we will be there in community with buckets and grabbers on Monday Evenings at 5:30 pm.

We also have buckets and grabbers to lend at any time, just send us a message on the [Monday Evenings! Beach Clean-Up](#) Facebook page. Our kickoff is May 2nd at 5:30 pm, Washington Park Beach. We will meet on the east end of the Catwalk with the buckets and grabbers. See you there!

## Nancy's Notes cont.

Following the pattern of John Wesley, United Methodists have always understood scripture to be dynamic. By that I mean that we are, as faithful Christians, called to view scripture from multiple lenses as we determine what it means for us today. This means that we dig deeper than the surface level as we read, pray, and study. If the church is to remain relevant in this world we must act with love, grace, acceptance, and wisdom.

I am United Methodist because I believe in the amazing and dynamic grace that allows us to speak to current generations and avoid the hatred that results when we allow people to be seen as less than; an action I believe is happening with those who are choosing to disaffiliate because they don't want to see LGBTQ+ individuals retain power in the church.

In 1983, as I was making my final decision for ordination, I chose to remain United Methodist for several reasons. I loved how willing our denomination was to allow people to have a variety of theological perspectives and remain United Methodist. As a woman called to ministry, I knew that the connectional system was important for it was the connection who would validate my call to ministry. I didn't have to search out my own pulpit and convince the congregation that I had the right to be there. The movement away from The United Methodist Church by the Global Methodist Church is a movement away from a connectional church to a congregational model, something that is not part of our history, and something that I am afraid will ultimately limit the involvement of all kinds of people in the local and denominational church, and yes, the global church.

Some of you have asked what will happen to UMCOR and other boards and agencies of the church. I suspect they will remain in the purview of the current UMC. All of that will be made clearer, I pray, after the 2024 General Conference.

In the meantime, let us continue to be disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world as we seek to be faithful followers.

### *Shalom, Pastor Nancy*

If you would like to hear our Bishop's response to this, please consider attending the Resilience Seminar at Valparaiso First UMC on Sunday, May 1. We all have questions about the future of the United Methodist Church, especially with the news of the postponement of General Conference. Our Conference Superintendent, The Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy, is inviting us to a North District gathering to share what we currently know about our future together. We will hear from our Bishop (via video), Marti will share the latest updates, and we will have time for questions and answers. The details are below:

What: North District gatherings about the future of the United Methodist Church

When and where: Saturday, April 30th, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (ET) at Elkhart Faith UMC and Sunday, May 1st, 4:30-5:30 p.m. (CT) at Valparaiso 1st UMC.

You will notice that these sessions are immediately after our FREE Resilience Seminars, so if you have not done so already, register for the seminar of your choice at: <https://inumc.swoogo.com/ndrs43022>

## Worship Plans For May 2022

How will we live as the church in the new reality that Easter brings? Using the work of Dr. Darryl Stephens, *Bearing Witness in the Kin-dom: Living into the Church's Moral Witness through Radical Discipleship* (United Methodist Women, 2021), we examine the book of Acts as we make deeper commitments to being witnesses to the kin-dom of God.

### **May 1st Third Sunday of Easter: Who Are You Lord**

Theme: How do we hear the call of God and how do we respond?

Psalm 30

Acts 9:1-209

### **May 8<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday of Easter: Get Up**

Theme: Celebrate a life, not by titles but by labors

Psalm 23

Acts 9:36-43

### **May 15<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday of Easter: What God Called Clean**

Theme: Change is all around us and it is never easy.

Psalm 148

Acts 11:1-18

### **May 22<sup>nd</sup> Sixth Sunday of Easter: Opened the Heart**

Theme: Carrying on with the call from God, who is a constant presence.

Scholarship and Higher Education Sunday

Psalm 67

Acts 16:9-15

### **May 29<sup>th</sup> Seventh Sunday of Easter: Disturbing the City**

Theme: There are wrongs that need to be righted but it isn't easy. How will we bring good trouble to the places around?

Psalm 97

Acts 16:16-34

Pentecost Sunday is June 5<sup>th</sup> this year. Please wear colors of fire!

## SPONSOR A SCHOLARSHIP

If you wish to co-sponsor a scholarship, perhaps as a memorial or in honor of someone, donations in any amount are welcome. One-time electronic donations can be made through the church website:

[mcindianaumc.org](http://mcindianaumc.org). Click "Online Giving" on the Home Page menu and locate the button labelled "Higher Education". If you prefer, you may send a check to the church, payable to First United Methodist Church. Be sure to write "Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of your check. Your generosity and support of this ministry are sincerely appreciated!

--*The Higher Education Committee:*

Sue Cassler, Chair

Jon Bausback

Judy Commers

Dottie Evett

Melissa Morse

Linda Peo



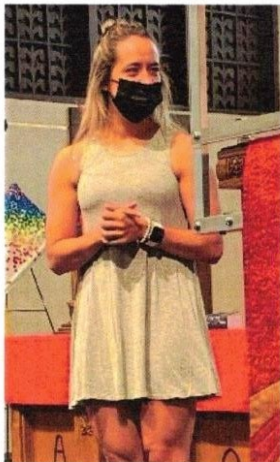


## 2022 SCHOLARSHIPS

Ten scholarships are offered to 1<sup>st</sup> UMC members entering or returning to an accredited college or trade school, regardless of age. Five awards are also open to *community* members. Scholarship amounts range from \$200 to \$800. All awards are listed on a single application form. You may apply for multiple awards. Please note eligibility requirements.

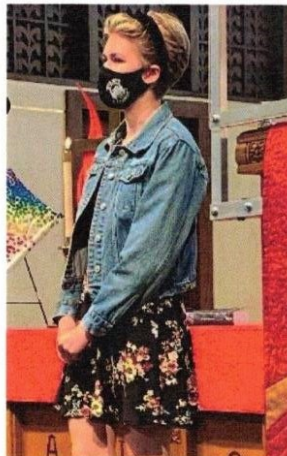
Application forms are available on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Room, or by contacting Higher Education Committee Chair Sue Cassler at [susan.cassler@comcast.net](mailto:susan.cassler@comcast.net).

Please submit completed applications, along with the required essay to Sue via e-mail (address above).  
Deadline for submission: Thursday, May 5th.



**Left:** Lauren Skeen accepts the UMW Scholarship in 2021.

**Right:** Anna-Lisse Lenard receives the 2021 Swinehart/ Bartholomew Arts Scholarship.



April 1 Messy Church Escape Room!

We found the light!

Searchers had to solve puzzles together to find the key that opened the door to a special room filled with light! We had a time of worship, music, and TONS of fun! If you missed it, don't worry, we'll do more escape rooms in the future!



Join us on **Friday, May 6 from 6:00- 7:30** for our next Messy Church- **"God's Good Earth"**. We'll enjoy a meal together, a time of celebration and music, and take part in activities that will remind us to care for all of God's good creation. This Messy Church will be **INSIDE**, in the church community hall (basement level).

Mark your calendar for upcoming Messy Churches!

Friday, June 3 6:00- 7:30

Friday, July 1 6:00- 7:30 (A special celebration of Vacation Bible School!)



## Adult Study Opportunities

### **Tuesday Evening Study Group**

The Tuesday evening zoom group continues to meet at 7:30. We continue to focus on the work of Sharon Garlough Brown, this time reflecting on her book Remember Me. We have discovered that we can have rich conversation even if you have not read the material, so please 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

### **Sunday Flowers**

Feel free to sign up for Sunday Flowers n 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.

Between Christmas & Easter flowers we raised \$510.00 for UMCOR.

Thank you so much!!

## A Note From Sylvia Wilkins

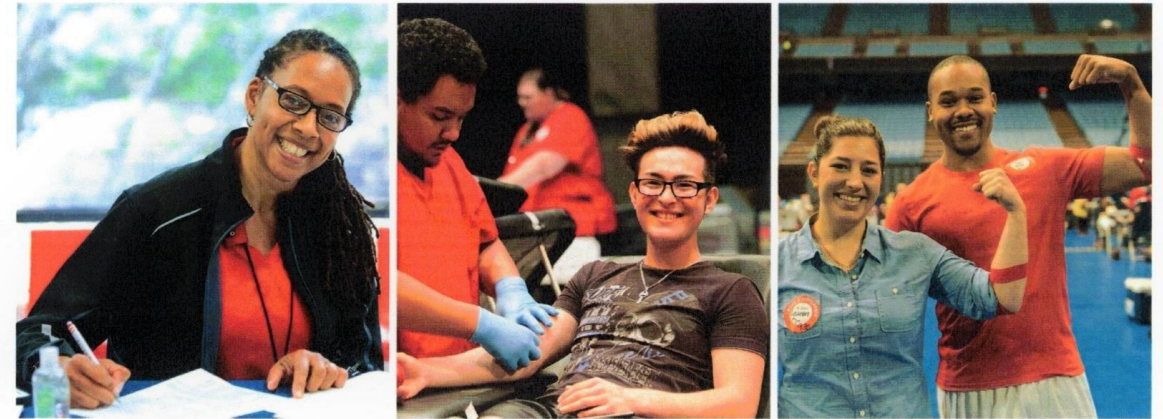
I would like to thank the church for the cards and the visits. They help.

*Sylvia Wilkins.*



**American  
Red Cross**

*Thank you!*



First United Methodist Church-Michigan City

Sponsor Group

**April 9, 2022**

Date of Drive

**18**

Total Number of Donors

**0**

First Time Donors

**16**

Units Collected

**48**

Potential Number of Lives Saved

**When you made the decision to host a blood drive, you helped change lives.**

MC 1st  
kids

It's May! That means it's the last month of the school year, can you believe it?

You know what that means- it's almost time for "Try It in the Parks" again!

We will continue to meet in the church building every Wednesday of May. There will be NO Try-It on Wednesday, June 1- and THEN...

Try It in the Parks will begin on Wednesday, June 8 at 5:00 PM. Just like last year, grown ups will be asked to stay during this time, but feel free to bring a lawn chair and make yourself comfortable and enjoy time to chat with each other. EVERYONE is invited to Try It in the parks! Come and have some good ol' fashioned summer fun.

### Youth Group News!

Stay tuned for announcements about special events through the summer- like mini golf outings and special projects. Any youth group member who would like to help with Vacation Bible School can let Trish know!

### Summer Camp is back!

Are you interested in Summer Camp? "That Thing" at Epworth Forest is an AMAZING experience for senior high students. There are also opportunities for middle school students, and camp scholarships and funds are available to help with costs. Check out [impact2818.org](http://impact2818.org) for all of the information and let Trish know by May 13 if you think you might like to attend one of the weeks.

## Vacation Bible School is Back! Light of the World!

### Vacation Bible School

First United Methodist Church  
121 E. 7th St Michigan City, IN

Wednesday, June 29 and Thursday, July 30

from 5:00-7:00 PM -meal served-

The whole family is invited to the Light of the World Messy Church Celebration on Friday, July 1!

All children ages 4-14 are welcomed!  
For more information, visit [facebook.com/MC1stfamily](https://www.facebook.com/MC1stfamily)  
or call the church office at 219-872-7200



You are cordially invited to our  
United Methodist Women's Tea

121 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Michigan City, In

May 7, 2022

1 p.m.



We are pleased to announce that  
once again we are hosting  
our tea. It's been a long time  
since we have been able to do  
so and are looking forward to  
an afternoon of fun and renewing  
old friendships and meeting  
new ones.



## Homebound May 2022

### 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>

### CALLING ALL GRADS!!

The Higher Ed. Committee wants to recognize 1<sup>st</sup> UMC members and attendees who will graduate from high school, college, a masters degree or trade school this year. If YOU are a member of the Class of 2022, or know someone who is, please notify Sue Cassler or Ms. Trish.

As I write this article we are going through Holy Week, and have the opportunity to attend the many opportunities to worship with friends and family.

Maybe you, like me, remember how we celebrated Easter as a child. Oh how fun it was picking out our outfits for Easter and then wearing them to church. Ladies, do you remember wearing hats, and gloves with our shoes and purses matching? I know I could probably find pictures to refresh my memory of Easter, but my most fond memory is singing in the choir at church and singing in the all city choir for the Easter Sunrise service which was so huge that it was held at the high school gym.

One of my favorite Easter songs is The Holy City which I know we sang a lot. Here is the last verse.

*And once again the scene was chang'd  
New earth there seem'd to be  
I saw the Holy City  
Beside the tideless sea  
The light of god was on its streets  
The gates were open wide  
And all who would might enter  
And no one was denied  
No need of moon or stars by night  
Or sun to shine by day  
It was the new Jerusalem  
That would not pass away  
"Jerusalem! Jerusalem  
Sing for the night is o'er  
Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna for evermore*

This last verse hopefully offers us peace of mind.

*I saw the Holy City  
Beside the tideless sea  
The light of God was on its streets  
The gates were open wide  
And all who would might enter  
And no one was denied.*

As we visit our Homebound friends they probably have the same memories of attending church and possibly having favorite hymns or Easter songs. My guess is they could probably sing or repeat some of the lyrics to their favorites. Many thanks to those we visit for being the members of our church who help lead us through the years.

Hopefully, you had a wonderful Easter and this year were able to share time with friends and family. Thanks to God for helping us realize the many blessings we have and Thank you God for our memories that have helped lead us through life.

Remember our friends who are unable to attend church. If you can, please visit, send them a card or call them. We have a list of Homebound members at the church on our welcome counter or you may contact me for the list at: [judycommers@gmail.com](mailto:judycommers@gmail.com)

God Be With You Until We Meet Again!

*Judy Commers*