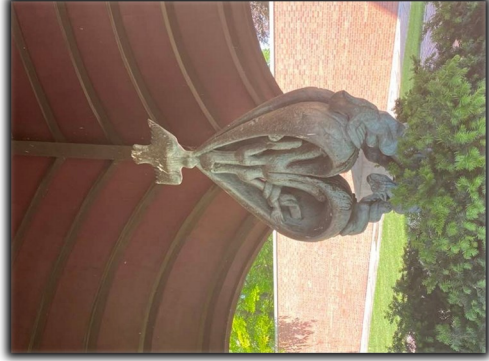


If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, the hospital visitor coordinator, to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan. <http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook & You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sq4PALP2q6U>

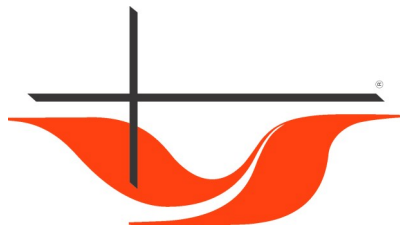


First United Methodist
Church
121 E. 7th Street
Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 872-7200

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July 2022
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication



Nancy's Notes

On June 1st I celebrated my 38th year under full time appointment in the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church and its predecessor The North Indiana Conference.

During my first appointment I was responsible for Children and Youth ministry, and I was in no way prepared for it (I needed a Ms Trish!). You see, that was a time when multiple generations of the same families attended church and worship together. Instead of working with a few leaders and a dearth of kids, I had a plethora of both. My confirmation class, for instance, started with the last name of A and ended with a W and we covered almost every other letter except Q, X, and Z. But that began to change. Just 5 years later, in another larger church in a different community, I was once again responsible for youth ministry (I had gotten better at it) and I was again teaching confirmation. I had about half the number of kids I'd had at the first church. And, in the subsequent years I experienced more of the same.

While this may not be true across the board, it is true in most United Methodist Churches, regardless of size. Adult Sunday school involvement, small group studies, and even worship attendance have experienced the same thing. Denominational and even congregational loyalty is also slipping away as individuals and families make other choices on Sundays (work, sports, rest).

I don't share this to be defensive but to challenge us to look at new ways of being church. For almost 40 years I have watched as everything we tried to do to bring people to the church began to fail. As I look at that experience critically, through conversation with my peers, reading the work of church experts and researchers, I am beginning to see that we failed because we were trying too much to be like others. We tried to be like the world (give them entertainment and they will come). Or we patterned ourselves after growing congregations that were housed in demographically growing areas or used a fear-based theology that manipulate emotions.

I think that most of these things ultimately failed because we forgot one thing. Church is not about what makes us comfortable and our own preferences. It is about making sacrifices that continually shift and change as we move into an always unknown future.

We are now in a time of change. We are watching (and grieving) as beloved church members die. Our in-person attendance at worship hasn't rebounded since we closed the doors to the sanctuary in 2020, although our on-line worship attendance is increasing. Our attendance at adult study, youth and children's activities have remained consistent for the past year and a half but those numbers are not increasing. And nothing that worked (or didn't work) in the past seems to work now.

But, there is good news! The BEST news.

July 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 VBS Messy Church 5pm-7pm Corey Voss 6:30pm AA 7pm	2
3 VBS Sunday Worship 9:30am	4 Office Closed for Independence Day 	5	6 Try It 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm AA 7pm	7 Ruth Circle 6:30pm	8 AA 7pm	9
10 Worship 9:30am	11	12	13 Try It 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm AA 7pm	14 Walk About 9am PEO BR 6pm	15 AA 7pm	16
17 Worship 9:30am	18 Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6pm	19 Trustee Meeting 6pm	20 Try It 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm AA 7pm	21 UMW Board 9am	22 AA 7pm	23 Blood Drive 10am-4pm
24 Worship 9:30am	25	26	27 Try It 4:30pm Choir 5:30pm AA 7pm	28 Walk About 9am	29 Lew Timberlake Memorial 11am AA 7pm	30
31 Worship 9:30am						

Nancy's Notes cont.

Children, youth and adults are being disciplined in the same kind of small group ministry that grew the Methodist Episcopal Church from a few congregations on the east coast to a strong and powerful denomination that has led the way in sharing the gospel with the world.

We have seen more new members and attendees in the past 9 months than we had in the previous 4 years. And they are sharing their giftedness with us. They mention that they love the music, the vitality of worship, and most of all, the friendliness and joy they feel as they worship and meet us.

We are reaching into our community through the expansion of the Downtown Soup Kitchen, we are a visible presence at neighborhood parks (weather permitting) as we move into our second summer of 'Try It in the Park', our children's weekly ministry program. Messy Church has relaunched (you don't want to miss July 3rd), and we continue to be a place of welcome for all of God's Children.



As Joe and I drove to this year's Annual Conference we drove toward a rainbow – the sign of God's promise and presence. May we claim that promise, proclaim it, and live into it as we reach

out to others with the love of God, the grace of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

To sort of quote Bishop Trimble, 'Be encouraged.' God isn't done with us yet.

Shalom, Pastor Nancy

Worship Plans For July 2022

The worship series during July is 'Favorite Hits'. We will use familiar and beloved scriptures, the choir is choosing their favorite anthems, and each Sunday you will have the opportunity to request favorite hymns that we will sing sometime during the month. On July 24 we will have a hymn sing, and if the Epworth Forest Choir School folks have any voices left, we will share some of our choir school music with you.

On July 3rd we will join our VBS children in singing Jesus is the Light of the World as we celebrate Jesus who IS the Light of the World. On July 10th, Ms Trish will continue that theme during Sunday worship. The rest of the month will unfold as we see what hymns you choose, what anthems the choir chooses, and then put it all together! It should be exciting so come and check us out!

In Loving Memory of Jane Nichelson

Ted & Marlene Woodfield



In Loving Memory of Tom Berg

Ted & Marlene Woodfield

Sarah & Dan McNabb

Ann Berg

Sunday Flowers

Each Sunday in July, and probably throughout the rest of the summer, there will be vases on the round table in the gathering room. If you have flowers that you would like to bring and share with the rest of us during worship, please use those vases. Feel free to mix YOUR flowers in with someone else's flowers. Won't it be fun to see how colorful we are? Of course, there are special occasions you may want to celebrate (anniversaries, birthdays, etc) with flowers from the florist, and that is okay as well. Our chancel space is big enough for all!



To First Church

We want to thank everyone who has helped us and kept us in your thoughts from the bottom of our hearts. Every little bit helps and it gives us some hope getting through this difficult time.

Alyssa & Justin



It's that time of year again!

We can help to ensure that every child in Michigan City starts the school year with the supplies they need! Collection begins on **Sunday, July 3** and concludes on **Sunday, July 24**. You may drop items in the collection wagon in the Gathering Room or bring them any time the office is open.

Suggested needs: earbuds and headphones, pencils, black pens, spiral notebooks, 3-hole notebook paper, dry erase markers, glue sticks, pink erasers, pencil boxes, 2 pocket folders, anti-bacterial wipes, facial tissues, backpacks, colored pencils, rulers, highlighters, composition books, calculators, washable markers, 3-ring binders, and 3x5 index cards.

If you have any questions, or would like to know how to make a monetary donation, please talk to "Ms." Trish

SAVE THE DATE

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUR NEXT EXCITING EVENT!

We're thrilled to announce that Corey Voss, worship leader and artist, will present a concert here at First United Methodist in connection with our Vacation Bible School and Messy Church celebrations on Friday, July 1st at 6:30 pm. The concert will be in the Sanctuary and a free-will offering will be accepted.

Corey (our own Pam and Rick Voss's son) is a renowned singer/songwriter in the Nashville area who has a presence in the national music scene. While in town a few weeks ago he shared several songs in Worship, and just WOW. His songs include "Let There Be Wonder", "Praise the King" and "Psalm 92 (O Most High)". His latest project, "Looking for the Light" has special significance - our VBS theme this year is Light of the World - what a wonderful way to wrap up our week of outreach ministry. We hope you'll join us for this special event.

Bev Griffith



Try-It continues to meet on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30. When the weather permits, we meet in local parks. Make sure that Ms. Trish has your updated contact information to always be kept in the loop. Updates are always posted at facebook.com/MC1stfamily

Try It in the Parks isn't just for kids! Come out and join us and meet the neighbors and help us spread the word about all the great stuff we have for families at 1st UMC!

Family First Sundays are the 1st Sunday of every month! Kids lead a time of music and worship and then get to go to Sunday School together! Mark your calendars for July 3 (VBS SUNDAY!) and August 7!

Make sure you check out next month's Crossbeams issue for photos and stories from Vacation Bible School, the whole Family Messy Church, the Corey Voss concert, and combined Youth Group Mini Golf outing and backyard bonfire at Trish's house! We had an awesome month of June!

Regularly scheduled Youth Group will start again in the fall, and Try Continues year -round! If you would like to volunteer to help, please let Trish know!

Trish Johnsen, Director of Family Ministries trishatchurch@gmail.com

A Variety of Opportunities

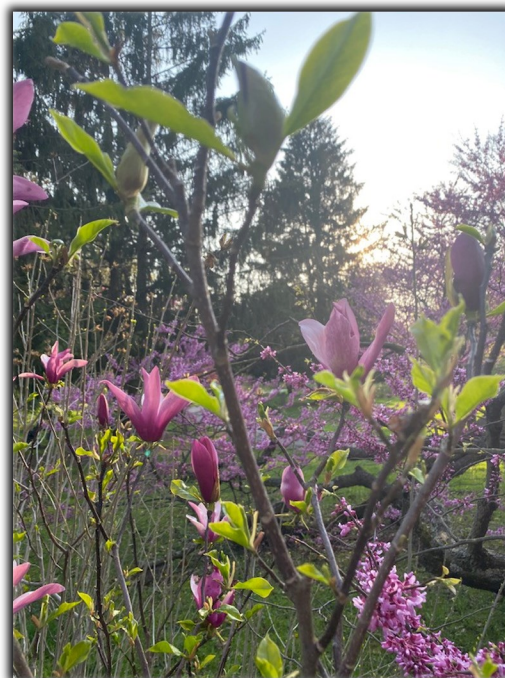


Tuesday Evening Study Group

Because we will finish our current book on June 28th and several of us will be away in July, the Tuesday Evening Study group is taking a break during the month of July. We plan on regathering on August 2nd at 7:30 via zoom to discuss our next study opportunity. This is a great time to either reconnect or join in for the first time.

Thursday Morning Walk About

Pastor Nancy will continue spending time in Friendship Garden on Thursday mornings. If you would like to walk with her there at a different time just let her know. She and Licorice love to go down there!



Dishin in the Kitchen

As of June 1, 2022, First UMC has taken over the fiscal responsibility for the Downtown Soup Kitchen. While other churches are still making donations toward the soup kitchen ministry, it is basically all ours. We continue to serve 5 days a week. We are seeking grant monies as we continue to show Jesus's love to our neighbors by sharing our resources with them as we share water and food. Until the grant monies begin to come in however, we will need more help than normal as we continue to take on the primary responsibility for making sure the Soup Kitchen remains solvent. Any help you can give is welcome: water, donations of fresh vegetables from your garden, financial gifts, and, of course, your time.

May our guests see the love of Jesus even if we never say a word. Please keep Chef Erik, King of All Kitchendom, and his faithful band of volunteers in your prayers as they continue to keep those meals coming.

So that you have an idea of just how much we are doing, we will begin sharing monthly statistics with you.

Here are the statistics we have for May:



Meals were served 27 days
2500 meals
2200 bottles of water
700 volunteer hours
1550 lbs. of food served as meals
2240 lbs. of additional food given to guests

Soup Kitchen Sundays

We are looking for volunteers who will work in the Soup Kitchen at least one Sunday a month. Tami & David Schoff have not been in worship regularly since 2020. They have served us in the Soup Kitchen. Let's give them some relief.

NEWS FROM THE GREEN TEAM

1st UMC 2nd annual car show

Saturday, September 24

to benefit the Downtown Soup Kitchen

The date is set, but your help is needed for this amazing event! Please see Chris or Trish Johnsen to find out how you can help. The first meeting of a committee will take place in early July, so please let us know that you'd like to be involved! With dozens of great cars, amazing music, and delicious food, this event raised a great total for last year's benefit. This year, we can take what we learned and do even more for our community!

Chris: water1guy@gmail.com

Trish: trishatchurch@gmail.com

765-490-1994



June is Bustin' Out All Over!

(Thanks, Rogers & Hammerstein, from Carousel)

Our ETC corner is overflowing with castoffs that will benefit education efforts at SCARCE (Scarce.org) to reduce, reuse and recycle. All of what has been collected can be used in one way or another - many thanks to all of you who have brought things for keeping this stuff out of the landfills.

We're so excited to welcome our new Green Team member, Kathy Granzow! She's one of the wonderful people who volunteers in the Soup Kitchen Ministry here at First UMC, helping in so many ways. Way to go, Kathy - keep those big bags of recyclables coming. :) If you're interested in joining us, contact Bev at beverlyegriffith@gmail.com.

Green's a great way to be - we'd love to have you on the team!

Bev



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/UCloFHslGJJH17_YTCcprXHW

Facebook Live at 9:30am

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

Please note that all articles for the Crossbeams are due by the 15th of every month.

Coffee For Sale

We have some coffee from coffee hour for sale. \$4 a bag.

The coffee is good it's just 2 1/2 years old.

Here is what we have left. You may come to the church office during the week but please bring exact change.

- 3 Decaf Colombian
- 2 Highland Grogg
- 1 French Apple Crumb Cake
- 1 Peppermint Mocha
- 1 English Toffee
- 1 Blueberry Cinnamon Crumble
- 2 Unknown



As I write this monthly article, I am saddened because our church has lost too many members this last month. These individuals were so vital in keeping the church functioning. They served in key positions throughout their lives and the life of the church. We looked for their comments, their guidance, their direction and the message they were able to give us. I'm sure many of you, like me, may have sat across the table or at a meeting with these members and appreciated their common sense as we made church decisions.

My favorite verse of the Bible is: Matthew 5:16: "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Their light did shine and we witnessed their good deeds. Their lives definitely have us glorifying our Father in heaven.

We celebrated Fathers' Day on June 19 and we thanked our fathers for their love and care. Many of our fathers are no longer with us. Maybe you, like me, learned many valuable lessons from your father. My Dad, Bob Jones, taught me a lot, but the best thing he did for me was to make sure that we, as a family, went to church every Sunday. My dad taught a 3rd grade Sunday School class for many years. I think he started teaching my class because there were 20 children in that grade attending our church and some very active boys. I believe they told my dad that they needed someone to discipline the boys and he could discipline anyone. Of course, he bribed us by taking us to play miniature golf, and by hosting parties in the church basement.

As I look over the names on our Homebound list, I remember the caring individuals who taught us, and mentored us as we journeyed through this wonderful church. If you don't have a Homebound list – one is available on the Welcoming Center in the Gathering Room, or you can email me at: judycommers@gmail.com and I will send you one.

We thank our Heavenly Father for always being with us, and for the wonderful devoted individuals who have entered our lives.

God Be With You All!

Judy Commers

