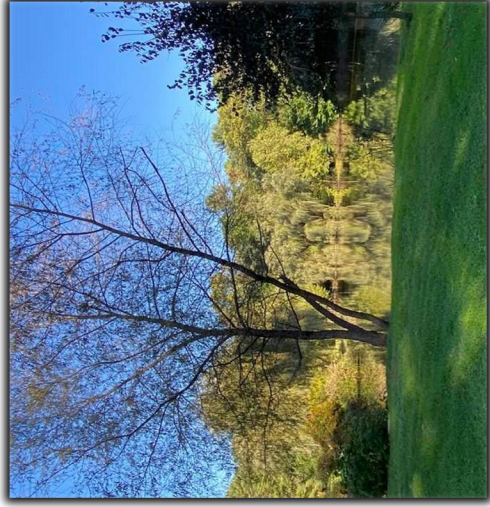


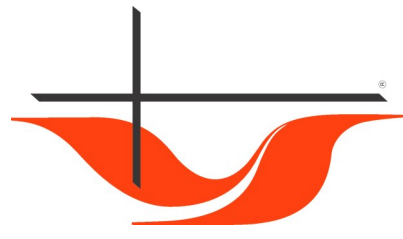
*If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy or Joan Osborn, the hospital visitor coordinator, to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418), or Joan. <http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook & You Tube: 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

Return Address Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE PAID  
Michigan City, IN  
Permit No. 41



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

# *Nancy's Notes*

*"I am the true vine,  
and my Abba is the vine grower  
who cuts off every branch in me that doesn't bear  
fruit, but prunes the fruitful ones  
to increase their yield. You've been pruned already,  
thanks to the word that I have spoken to you.*

John 15:1-3

I trimmed back some bushes this week. Being tired of not have a clear view of either my front walk or my bird feeders, I started in on overgrown azaleas, rhododendron, and some prickly shrub with orange berries that caused 'ouch' (among other grumbling) to come from the depth of my vocal cords. There is more to do, but at least for now Licorice and I can see more clearly. I can now see the birds (right now it is a red breasted woodpecker) as they come to the front yard buffet for 3 full meals a day and plenty of snacks. And Licorice can see and 'talk' to her canine friends as they walk their humans in front of the house.

I felt a certain freedom as I cut back the branches that blocked my view of the world. Yes, I am concerned that perhaps I did some damage to the bushes that grace the front of my porch, but the open view is already bringing me joy.

What is blocking your view of God? What gets in the way of seeing the beauty and challenge of God's world? As a Jesus follower are you brave enough to trust that the pruning that happens as you walk with him is part of the journey?

May this be a season of pruning and growth for each of you and for our congregation.



*Shalom,  
Paster Nancy*

# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Family First Sunday Worship 9:30am Blessing of the animals 2pm-3pm	3 Homeward Bound 2pm	4 Homeward Bound 2pm Zoom Evening Study 7:30pm	5 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	6 Walk About 9am Ruth Circle 6:30pm	7 Pumpkin Patch Messy Church 6pm-7:30pm AA 7pm	8
9 Worship Service 9:30am Charge Conference Valpo 1st 3pm	10 Homeward Bound 1pm	11 Homeward Bound 2pm Zoom Evening Study 7:30pm	12 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	13 Walk About 9am PEO BR 6pm	14 AA 7pm	15
16 Worship Service 9:30am Staff Reignition Reception after Worship	17 Homeward Bound 1pm Girl Scout Leader Meeting 6:30pm	18 Homeward Bound 2pm Trustee Meeting 6pm Zoom Evening Study	19 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	20 Walk About 9am UMW Board Meeting 10am	21 AA 7pm	22
23 Worship Service 9:30am	24 Homeward Bound 2pm Monday Musi-cale 7pm	25 Homeward Bound 2pm Zoom Evening Study 7:30pm	26 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	27 PEO BR 6pm	28 Youth Group 6pm AA 7pm	29 Blood Drive 11am-4pm
30 Worship Service 9:30am	31 Homeward Bound 2pm					



# Blessing of the Animals

After missing it last year, we are once again doing a Blessing of the Animals to commemorate the life and ministry of Saint Francis of Assisi and his dear friend Saint Clare of Assisi.

Francis, whose feast day is October 4th, loved the larks flying about his hilltop town. He and his early brothers, staying in a small hovel, allowed themselves to be displaced by a donkey.

Francis wrote a Canticle of the Creatures, an ode to God's living things. "All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures." And there was testimony in the cause for Saint Clare of Assisi's canonization that referred to her little cat!

Every creature is important. The love we give to a pet, and receive from a pet, can draw us more deeply into the larger circle of life, into the wonder of our common relationship to our Creator. So, on Sunday October 2nd from 2-3pm you are invited to bring your pets for a blessing. You may remain in your vehicle or get out into the parking lot however your pet must be contained and up to date on vaccinations. All pets are welcome.

For those of you who have no pets please come anyway as we celebrate this special part of God's creation. Please enter by the entrance closest to Franklin Street and leave via the alley.



# Worship Plans For October 2022

Using the 2nd Letter to Timothy as our scripture focus, our worship series for the first four Sundays in October shifts from the *Hard Sayings of Jesus to Not Ashamed*. This series is about claiming the faith we've been given with boldness and enthusiasm. But it is also about honoring those from whom we learned about Christ. So, there can be space for both: making new commitments to following or renewing commitments long standing.

From October 30th until November 20th, we will find ourselves Face to Face with Jesus as we finish off the gospel of Luke by looking at the encounters people and groups had with Jesus.

## October 2 Not Ashamed: Rekindle the Gift

Lamentations 1: 1-16

Psalm 137

2Timothy 1: 1-14

Luke 17:5-10

Focus: What does it mean to rekindle our love for Jesus?

This Sunday is also World Communion Sunday AND the Blessings of the Animals in the parking lot at 2 pm.

## October 9 Not Ashamed: Present Yourself to God

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-7

Psalm 66:1-12

2 Timothy 2:8-15

Luke 17:11-19

Focus: Let our prayers look inward and outward at the same time as we pray for a hurting and hungry world.

## Worship Plans For October 2022 cont.

### October 16 Not Ashamed: Itching Ears

Jeremiah 31:27-34

Psalm 19

2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Luke 18:1-8

Focus: This week is about distractions. Well, not about distractions so much as about loss of focus, or maybe even loss of trust in the foundations of the faith.

### October 23 Not Ashamed: Poured Out

Joel 2:23-32

Psalm 65

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

Luke 18:9-14

Focus: We conclude this worship series completely out of breath. This week, we're about giving our all.

### October 30 Face to Face with Jesus: Man Out On a Limb

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Psalm 119: 137-144

Luke 19:1-10

Focus: The Zacchaeus story reads more like a parable than real life. Yet, that is the power of being face to face with Jesus. If, indeed, every encounter with Jesus brings transformation, then we can sit back and be amazed at how it unfolds in this story.

All Saints Day – November 6

Have names turned in by October 31st

## FROM YOUR GREEN TEAM!

By way of Pastor Nancy

Wonderful news from our Green Team - we have again been gifted by SCARCE with children's books to distribute to our soup kitchen guests and Messy Church participants - a total this time of 8 boxes of great new titles that the kids will love. We have also given books to Tracy Wilkins that can be used in her classroom of second graders, gave out some on First Friday to families who came to listen to the LaPorte County Symphony, and of course we always share them with our own church kids. In September alone we have distributed more than 1500 books to area children. Several of our volunteers have shared that this is their favorite thing to do. They love watching children's faces light up when they realize that the books are theirs to keep! And the parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends are delighted to share books with the children in their lives.

The founder of the Methodist Movement, John Wesley, as well as the men and women who spread the Methodist Movement here in the states, believed in the power of education as a way of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Giving these books away is part of the DNA of our denomination and congregation.

A big thanks to Jon Bausback for his help in transporting them on delivery day (that was fun!) and huge thanks to Karen Burnside for stamping all of them - they're ready to go.

The Green Team invites any of you who care about helping us go green to join our merry group. For info, contact me at [beverlyegriffith@gmail.com](mailto:beverlyegriffith@gmail.com).

*Bev Griffith, Amelia Black, Kathy Granzow and Deb Reason*





# Memorials

In Loving Memory of

Lew Timberlake

Rick & Judy Commers

Sarah & Dan McNabb

Gary, Cyndy, Ryan & Kevin Downy

Jim & Maryann Cross

Dorothy Nowak

Ted & Marlene Woodfield

Tommy & Shirley Bryant

Barbara Richardson

Don & Dottie Evett

Sue Cassler

Scot & Felicia Thomas

Kathleen Granzow

Ann Berg

Johnie & Carol Skeen



# **Messy** Pumpkin Patch

A First UMC tradition continues!!

**First Friday, October 7**

**6:00 PM-7:30 PM**

outside, church parking lot on the corner of Franklin and 7th Streets

Join us to celebrate Fall! Decorate your own pumpkin, make a peace pumpkin, enjoy fellowship, music, and worship! Enjoy free hot dogs, chips, and our famous Methodist Brownies!





# A Variety of Opportunities

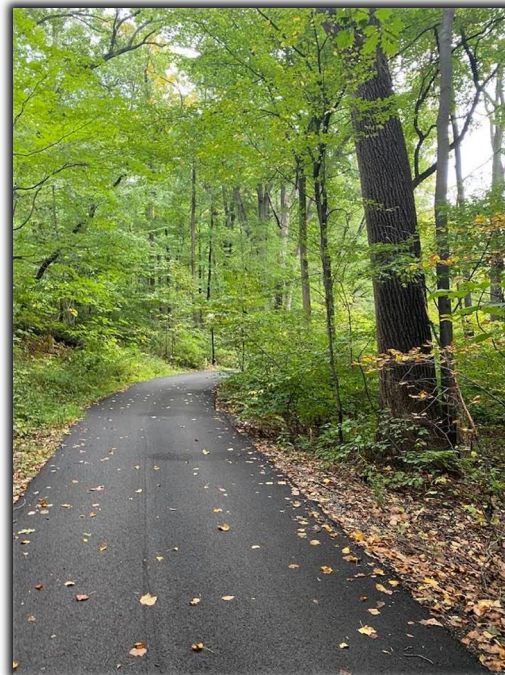
## Tuesday Evening Study Group

The Tuesday Evening Study group will continue to meet at 7:30 via zoom through October. Is there something you want to find out about? Join in and help determine what comes next after we conclude our study on the Minor Prophets. Here is the link:

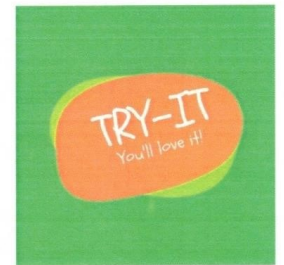
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81160944526?pwd=MDIwTFc1dUM1RXhCV2FRak5uR01PUT09>

## Thursday Morning Walk About

As the summer flowers fade, Friendship Garden takes on a different kind of beauty as fall flowers blossom, the blue sky deepens, and the hardwoods put on their autumn clothing. Pastor Nancy will continue to meet people there on Thursdays through October 20th. The time will either be at 9am or 2pm. If you wish to walk please let her know!



Try-It is for all kids ages 4-14! Come and join us on Wednesday evenings from 4:30- 5:30 for music, bible lessons, fun, and treats! We meet in the Grace Space on the main level of the church. Please come to the alley entrance door and buzz for entrance.



MC1st Youth Group is for grades 7-12 grades+ young adult helpers. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Come for the fun, activities, time with friends, great conversations- and of course- the PIZZA! Bring a friend or two!

The First Sunday of each month is Family First Sunday! Kids have the chance to lead us in a time of praise and worship during the morning worship, and then go to Sunday School together in the Grace Space where they will have a great time learning the stories of the bible with wonderful teachers. Join us next time on October 2 @ 9:30 AM.



A note from Ms. Trish:

I realize that it's a point of personal privilege to use my own newsletter page to share a personal message 😊 But, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been supporting, uplifting, and getting me and my family through these last several weeks. From the prayers during my own unplanned health crisis, to the continued response to pray for my dad through his transplant and the complications that have followed. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all who have been faithful to lift us in prayer. Thank you for the cards, texts, calls, and visits. I also want to thank all of those who have picked up the pieces and continued to keep things running in my absence. Thank you for keeping "Try It in the Parks" running and for kicking off a whole new year in the Grace Space. The support and love of this congregation has continued to hold me up through one of the hardest seasons of my life, and I don't know what I would do without all of you. God Bless, Trish



## All Saints Day

We will celebrate All Saints Day on November 6th, 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, 2021, please call or email the church office with that information. Please have the names turned in by October 31st.

## Charge Conference

This year's charge conference will be held on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm at Valparaiso First UMC. This is open to anyone in the congregation and especially members of the Administrative Council. Not only will we accept our yearly reports as we do the work of the church, we will join in with other congregations, worship together, and then we will also be asked to endorse Trish Johnsen as a candidate for ministry in The United Methodist Church. This is a special day for both Trish and our congregation as we send one of our own into ministry. Please come and share this day.

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

## 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCloFHslGJJH17_YTCcprXHw)

Facebook Live at 9:30am

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

## LET'S GATHER TOGETHER



George-Memorial  
Bells & Cameraman

After the church service on Sunday morning October 16th, a cake and punch reception will be held to recognize the staff of our church. These individuals share their time, talents and love of the Lord with us in various ways. Let us join together as we thank and support them.



Nancy-Reverend



Trish-Children's  
Ministry



Cindy-Administrative  
Assistant



Beverly-Music  
Director

## Dishin in the Kitchen

Here are the statistics we have for August:



Meals were served 24 days in August  
3567 meals  
3480 bottles of water  
610 volunteer hours  
42,804 lbs. of food served as meals  
1200 lbs. of additional food given to guests  
Gave books away 14 days

We always need bottled water and toilet paper for our Soup Kitchen guests. Thank you for your generosity.

## 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.

## Homebound October 2022

I don't about you, but sometimes I have problems getting to sleep. Is it that I think of everything I need to do, or thinking of what I could have done differently? Probably a combination, and it is my mind. I call it not shutting off.

From our Bible study group, I have taken one of the ideas from a book "I can't, but you can, God." So, when I have problems trying to get to sleep, I just tell God what it is on my mind and that I can't fix it, but God, you, can fix it.

Today, our friendly daily devotions lady sent out this message and I first want to thank her because she helped me decide what I would write. See God sent his living angel to help me and he's always helping us.

Probably, one of our favorite Bible verses: "I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. from Jeremiah 29:11

Mothers worry about kids long after they're "kids"-and mother or not, you may worry about nieces and nephews, friends and relatives, neighbors and coworkers. You might worry about yourself, too-what will your future bring? Whatever your worries and concerns, God's promise holds firm. Your future and the future of your loved ones rest in His hands. You have no reason to worry, but every reason in the world to give thanks."

As we begin Fall, let us remember that God can do all things and he has plan for us – so we don't need to worry – he gives us hope for today and our future.

We have made some changes to our Homebound List so if you need to receive a list of names, please contact me at: [judycommers@gmail.com](mailto:judycommers@gmail.com) or by phone: 219-363-0103 or by contacting the church office.

*Dear Lord,*

*We thank you for watching over us and providing for our needs. You can do all things so please help us to realize that it is always in your time and not ours.*

*Amen*

Go Now in Peace,

*Judy Commers*

