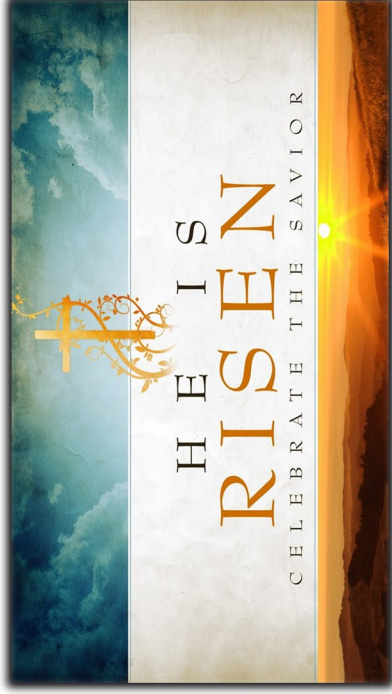


If you are hospitalized, and would like Pastor Nancy to know about what is going on, please call the office (219-872-7200), Pastor Nancy directly on her cell phone (812-584-2418),

<http://mcindianaumc.org/>, Find us on Facebook &

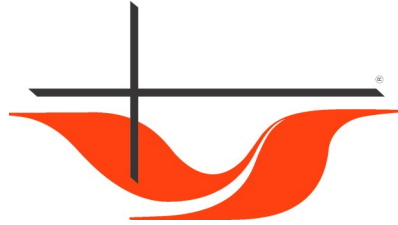
You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg4PALP2q6U>



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

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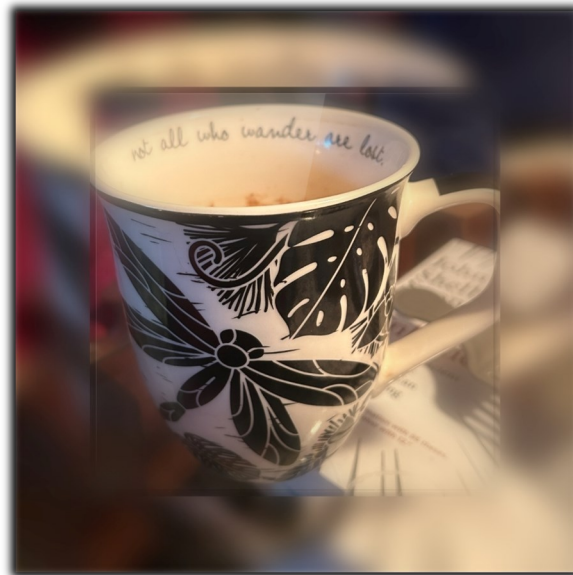
April 2023
Crossbeams
First United Methodist Church
Crossbeam Publication

🎵 Nancy's Notes 🎵

Several years ago, Bev Griffith gave me a coffee mug for my birthday that is decorated with dragonflies and says, along the inside border, 'not all who wander are lost.' It is by far my favorite mug. Not only do I love the shape of it, but I love the sentiment, for in my mind it describes a life of faith perfectly. There are times when we know exactly where we are, where we are going, and where God is calling us to be. And then there are those other times...

...times when our faith is stretched beyond belief, and we must depend on others to walk with us when we can't see our path clearly.

...times when we are called to move beyond our comfort zone and stretch into new places.



...times when we question God and cry out WHY?

...times when we are so energized and excited by our journey that we just can't stand it.

...times when we sit in quiet wonder and wait to see where we see God in our world.

...times when all we can do is weep and other times when all we can do is laugh.

I know that this has been a wandering season for many of us individually, and I know it is a wandering season for our denomination and our church. We are being stretched and prepared to move into new spaces as we seek to follow God more closely.

As we wander, may this text from Deuteronomy 2:7 bring us comfort, hope, and challenge:

God, your God, has blessed you in everything you have done. He has guarded you in your travels through this immense wilderness. For forty years now, God, your God, has been right here with you. You haven't lacked one thing.

*Shalom,
Pastor Nancy*

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday Worship 9:30am	3	4 Book Study 7:30pm	5 Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	6 Maundy Thurs- day Service 7pm	7 Office Closed Good Friday Cantata Ser- vice 7pm AA 7pm	8
9 Easter Sunday Worship 9:30am	10 Office Closed Ad Council 7:30pm on Zoom	11 Girl Scout s 5:30pm Book Study 7:30pm	12 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	13 PEO 6pm	14 AA 7pm	15
16 Sunday Worship 9:30am Monday Musi- cale 1pm	17 Girl Scout Leader Meet- ing 6:30pm	18 Trustee Meet- ing 6pm Book Study 7:30pm	19 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	20 UWF Board Meeting 10am	21 Girl Scout Dance 6pm AA 7pm	22 Shirley Kelly Memorial 12pm
23 Sunday Worship 9:30am	24	25 Girl Scout s 5:30pm	26 Try It 4:30pm Bells 5:45pm Choir 6:30pm AA 7pm	27 PEO 6pm	28 Youth Group 6pm AA 7pm	29
30 Sunday Worship 9:30am Monday Musi- cale Awards 2						



GREEN TEAM NEWS

I could hardly wait to say this, since it felt like it would never get here . . . Happy Spring, Everyone!

April is the month where everything goes green - and on the 22nd we get to celebrate not only Earth Day, but Green Team's Amelia Kathrine Black's birthday too - join us in wishing her the best year yet.

Thrine (yep, that's Amelia!) hopes to be here as often as her job allows, and those days will be serving as our barista making coffee for us after Sunday worship. Yay - glad you're back!

As we continue spring cleaning, remember that your castoffs may still have some good use in them. Bring your potential treasures to church and we'll make sure they get to SCARCE (scarce.org) - they were happy to have our remaining boxes of music not taken by area music teachers.

Just a few reminders:

If you donate amber medicine bottles, please note that they must first be run through the dishwasher, have labels and all of the glue removed, and have their caps on.

No batteries, please. (Kabelin's Hardware takes them)

Anything that plugs in can go to electronics recycling here in MC.

The Green Team invites any and all of you who care about going green to join us. For info, contact me at beverlyegriffith@gmail.com. Thanks for helping to make a difference in our little corner and for our planet!

Bev, Thrine, Kathy, Deb and Felicia :)



Keeping A Holy Lent as we look at the weavings of our lives.



Worship Notes 2023

We start the month of April in the depths of Lent as we move into Holy Week. It is a somber time in the life of the church and in the planning of worship. But then, as the sun sets on April 8th and we move into the morning dawn, we greet the Risen Lord on Easter morning. Here are the worship plans for April.

Holy Week – April 2 – April 8

April 2 ***Palm/Passion Sunday***
Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places:
Look for the Unexpected
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Matthew 21:1-11
Theme: The disciples must have been excited and terrified all at once.
The entrance into Jerusalem for Passover week had turned into a big deal.

April 6 ***Holy Thursday (Maundy) 7pm***
Looking for Love in All the Wrong Places: Love Looks for Us
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
John 13: 1-17, 31b-35
Theme: This will be a service of Communion and Hand/Foot washing.

April 7 ***Good Friday***
All Day: Outside Prayer Stations

12:00-3:00pm: Ecumenical Good Friday Tre Ore service at
St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pastor Nancy speaking at 2:35

7pm Cantata
*Journey Into Risk: A Good Friday Cantata
based on the writings of Amy-Jill Levine*
Theme: Through music, scripture, and meditation
we enter into the last week of Jesus' life as
he takes risks that lead to the cross.



You Are Invited...

Monday Musicale will host a Scholarship and Awards Concert at First United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 30, starting at 2 p.m. Winners of the club's annual Student Awards Competition for grades 4 - 12 will perform. The free event takes place in the sanctuary and is open to the public.

Mark your calendar. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear some of LaPorte County's best and brightest young musicians!!

*Submitted by Sue Cassler,
Publicity Chairman for Monday Musicale*



Worship Notes 2023 cont.

2023 SCHOLARSHIPS

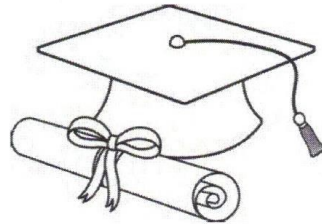
The Higher Education Committee is now accepting applications for scholarships to be presented on May 21, 2023. Ten scholarships, with amounts ranging from \$200 to \$800, are offered to 1st UMC members entering or returning to an accredited college or trade school, regardless of age. Six of the awards are also open to community members.

All scholarships are listed on a single application form. Please note the eligibility requirements and apply for only those awards for which you qualify. Applications are due on or before Thursday, May 4th.

Application forms may be found on the Welcome Center at church, by visiting the church website, mcindianaumc.org, or by contacting Sue Cassler at susan.cassler@comcast.net.

--*The Higher Education Committee:*

Sue Cassler, Chair
Judy Commers
Dottie Evett
Melissa Morse
Linda Peo



CALLING ALL GRADUATES

On Scholarship Sunday, 1st U.M.C. wishes to honor congregation members who are graduating from high school or college this year. If you are a 2023 graduate, or know of one, please notify the church office. Thanks!

The Celebration of the Resurrection Easter Sunday

April 9

Looking for Love IN the Right Place: Love Wins

A new series, **A Living Hope**, launches on April 16th as we bask in the glow of the resurrection. We are Easter people. All of our worship is Resurrection worship. We continue to proclaim that Christ is Risen as we gather for worship during this season. Well, yes, we can proclaim that all year long because every Sunday is Easter Sunday

April 16

Second Sunday of Easter: Fullness of Joy
Psalm 16, I Peter 1:3-9

April 23

The Third Sunday of Easter: Loosening the Bonds
Psalm 116, I Peter 1:17-23

April 30

Third Sunday of Easter: Guardian of the Soul
Psalm 23, 1 Peter: 2:19-25



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/UCloFHsIGJJH17_YTCcprXHw

Facebook Live at 9:30am

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

Our Worship Services are at 9:30am every Sunday. In person & online

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

Sponsoring The Crossbeams



sponsor

If you would like to sponsor the Crossbeams in honor or memory of someone or something, please let Cindy know. Cindy will discuss with you what you would like in it. The cost is \$150. There is a signup sheet on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Room.

JOURNEY INTO RISK

A GOOD FRIDAY CANTATA
BASED ON THE WRITINGS OF AMY-JILL LEVINE

You are invited to join us
For a special evening of music and reflection

Friday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

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

Musicians and Friends of the Music Department of First UMC
Present a collection of anthems and readings

A Free Will Offering will be received

Easter Plants

(return form with money by Wednesday April 5th at noon)

This year on Easter, as we did at Christmas, instead of having many individual plants, we are purchasing 2 large blooming plants for the sanctuary and will supplement with cut flowers 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)** designated to be used as needed.

Name _____ \$ _____

In Honor/ In Memory (circle one)

As we continue to change the way we do flowers it will help in many ways. Those who are allergic to spring flowers will breathe more easily, members of the choir who are sensitive to spring pollen will not lose their voices, the plants 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 give to those who need financial and spiritual support, through denominational resources.



Mark your Calendars!



First Fridays from 6:00- 7:30 PM

Friday, May 5

Friday, June 2

Friday, July 7

The Ad Council February 2023 cont.

Soup Kitchen News

The Downtown Soup Kitchen at First United Methodist Church has been awarded grant monies from LaPorte Healthcare Foundation, The Unity Foundation, and Duneland Health Council. Totaling 29,428.57, these grants will help First UMC face the challenge of serving meals 5 days a week! Thank You!



Dishin in the Kitchen

Here are the statistics we have for February:

Meals were served 20 days



2587 meals
624 volunteer hours
1,940 lbs. of food as meals
1450 lbs. of additional food to guests

Kathy made a motion that we have a sunrise service and this was seconded by Karen. Many ad council members were concerned about the impact this would have on attendance at our regular 9:30 service and creating a very long day for the people making this all happen. This motion was not successful.

Joe volunteered to help Pastor Nancy set up the Stations of the Cross.

Soup Kitchen: Amy Petri's suggestions that we make the soup kitchen its own entity is to enhance their efforts to secure grant money. Grant givers and corporate donors shy away from giving to religious affiliated groups. After much weighing of pros and cons, we felt like we needed more information.

Deb made a motion that we not vote on making the soup kitchen its own entity until our March 13th meeting and it was seconded by Kathy. This motion was successful.

Chris made a secondary motion that we have a written pathway available to explain the process for separating the church and the soup kitchen. It was seconded by Deb. This motion was successful.

Judy will contact Amy Petri for this information.

Church Directory: During the month of March, our youth group will take pictures of members and attendees for inclusion in this directory. These pictures along with your contact information will be taken both before and after each service.

Quarterly Giving Statements: A motion was made by Karen and seconded by Joyce that givers receive quarterly statements. The vote was favorable. It is hoped that this will increase congregational giving.

Next Charge Conference is October 7, 2023.

Volunteers: Communion stewards, greeters, office volunteers, liturgical arts committee members and security for gathering room are needed.

Deb closed our meeting at 8:55 with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Dottie Evett

The Ad Council February 2023

Minutes of the Administrative Council Meeting
First United Methodist Church Michigan City, IN
Monday, February 13, 2023 7:30 via Zoom

Members Present: Chairperson Judy Commers, Joyce Dalton, Karen Durnell, Dottie Evett, Kathy Granzow, Trish and Chris Johnsen, Deb Reason, Joe Stewart, and Annie Trout

Members Absent: Pastor Nancy Nichols and Yvonne Bancroft

Judy convened the meeting at 7:30. The first order of business was to vote to approve Dottie Evett as Secretary. Vote was favorable.

Introductions: Judy introduced our new church business manager, Amy Petri of Petri Financials. Amy provided an on screen statement for the month of January and spoke about needing to clarify titles of expenditures and search for grant money received and its use. She also recommended we consider making the soup kitchen its own entity.

Minutes of the January 9th meeting were approved as corrected.

Leading our Church: Judy and Chris reported on a Zoom leadership training entitled A Simplified Leadership Model. This is a plan to restructure administrative council meetings so they are more productive in conducting the church's business. Transparency with the congregation is a key component so meeting minutes will be published in the Crossbeams after being approved by the administrative council.

Children/Youth Ministry, Messy Church: Trish submitted a report with highlights of the children/ youth events. Members of the youth group will be taking pictures for our new church directory. They are also hoping to prepare a meal for our soup kitchen clients.

Trustees: This committee has meet twice since our January 9th meeting with 8/9 members attending each time. Chris spoke about a city water issue that affected our church. A boil water statement was issued. He checked and bled our water lines plus provided the soup kitchen staff with information on how to mitigate this issue.

United Women in Faith: It was reported that our Valentine's Tea was a success. February 21st will be our Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner.

Worship: Two items were discussed and after much discussion two motions were put forth.

Joyce made a motion that we do not have a meal after Maundy Thursday services. Karen seconded the motion. The vote was favorable.

April Homebound Ministry 2023

When I started writing this article, I thought my jewelry box of rings had been stolen from my home. In my box was a ring of my mother's, a ring I received when I was 20 years old from my grandmother's diamonds, and some of my own rings. All the rings held memories of when I received them or purchased them. Instead of thinking of the rings, the following Bible verse kept coming to my mind.

Matthew 6:19-21 TLV

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in or steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

I want to thank the Holy Spirit or God who brought those verses to my mind. Aren't we fortunate that we can look at life in the way God wants us to. Material things do not matter.

In visiting people who have moved out of their homes, they are surrounded by pictures of family, Bibles, and some beautiful useful antiques. My definition of useful antiques are dressers, chairs, tables that might be old; they are not for display but are used. The old saying "they don't make furniture like they used to" still has meaning. The treasures are not in things but in memories.

This past month our church has been taking pictures of our members in order to make our own church directory. I know we will be excited when it is completed so we have correct addresses, emails and pictures of our members. Our last directory was done in 2014. Thanks to those members who are helping to make this directory a reality.

If you are not able to attend church and would like to have your picture in the directory please send in a picture and/or call me at 219-363-0103 or email me at: judycommers@gmail.com and we can get a picture taken of you for the directory. If you email the picture, please use jpeg form.

Our members are our valued treasures, and our directory will display our treasures.

Philippians 4:19

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

In God's Love,

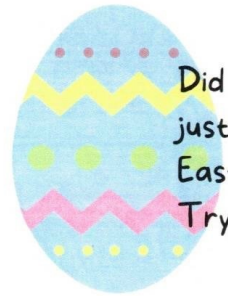
Judy Commers

The Tuesday Evening Study Group

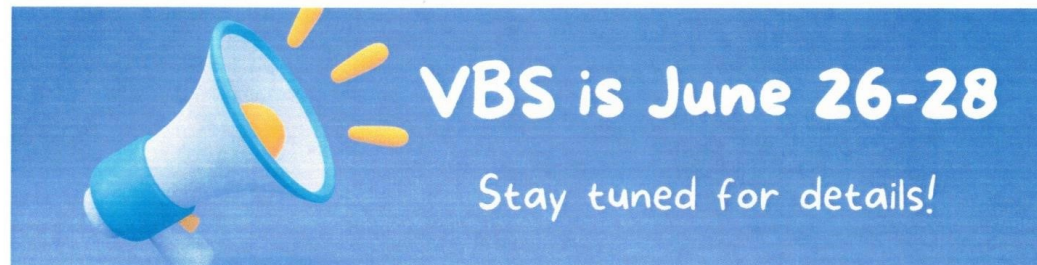


Try-It Kids! There will be no Try-It on Wednesday, April 5 due to Spring Break. However, watch the mail for a special Holy Week packet of activities.

Sunday, April 9 is Easter Sunday! We hope to see you at worship with your families! Look for special activities to take to your seat with you.



Did you know that Easter is actually 50 Days long? It isn't just one Sunday! Easter Sunday is only the beginning of the Easter Season. Invite your friends to join us for a special Try-It Easter Egg hunt on Wednesday, April 12 at 4:30!



YOUTH
group

Friday, April 28 6:00- 7:30
pizza, crazy bread, and crazy fun

The Tuesday Evening Study group is inviting anyone who wishes to join us to a Lenten Study using the book *Is It Time: Helping Laity and Clergy Discuss Homosexuality One Question at a Time*. Written by the Rev. Dr. Adolf Hansen, a member of the Indiana Conference of the UMC, this book is dedicated to the laity and clergy of The United Methodist Church at every point on the theological spectrum, that they may listen to each other, learn from each other, and follow the leading of the Holy spirit on matters pertaining to homosexuality. Divided into 3 parts and 12 questions, this study will take us beyond Lent into the Easter Season. This study is held Tuesday evenings at 7:30 via zoom. Here is the link:

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

Meeting ID: 811 6094 4526



Because this is such a controversial subject, we are asking that everyone who attends please read the materials. You may purchase the book at either Amazon (print or kindle) or Cokesbury.com. The ISBN # is 13:978-1-5018-5973-1.