



February, 2018

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

6635 HOHMAN AVENUE, HAMMOND, IN 46324-1023

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WWW.HAMMONDFUMC.ORG

Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



A note from Pastor Mary

Lent is the six-week period leading up to Easter – it is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14 (this year Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day!) and ends on Holy Saturday, March 31. We skip Sundays when we count the forty days, because Sundays commemorate the Resurrection. Lent comes from the word *lenten*, which means “spring.” Purple is the most traditional color throughout Lent; though, on Ash Wednesday, gray, with its suggestion of ashes, is appropriate.

Lent may be a season of soul-searching and repentance; it is a season for reflection. Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as preparation for Easter, when the faithful rededicated themselves and when converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, we have the opportunity to imitate Jesus’ withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a day of celebration before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival Carnival, which is Latin for farewell to meat.

As a congregation we will begin Lent with worship on Ash Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. This service will also include an ‘Imposition of Ashes.’ Ash Wednesday emphasizes a dual encounter. The form and content of the services focus on the dual themes of sin and death encounter. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship, and the Imposition of Ashes can be a powerful sign and experiential way of participating in our call to repentance and reconciliation. It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service and burn them ahead of time to produce ashes for this service. In addition, Holy Communion is often celebrated within the Ash Wednesday service. For our Ash Wednesday service, we will celebrate both the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Additionally: this year there will be an opportunity to receive “drive through” ashes ... for those traveling north and south on Hohman Avenue or for some of our neighbors. Keep an eye out for additional information!

I look forward to worshipping with you Ash Wednesday ... and all the Sundays in Lent. This is an opportunity for specific soul-searching, spiritual growth, repentance, reflection ... we all have busy and full lives which sometimes become “messy,” as this is the nature of life itself. Lent is a time when we can be intentional about clearing new space in our hearts ... to receive the loving grace of God.

Pastor Donna and I have chosen a study to follow during Lent – *Walking the Journey of Lent*; this will be used as our theme for Sunday worship in Lent, as well as an opportunity to study during the week.

Lent may also be a time of preparation for baptism ... if you are seeking to become baptized. Are you interested in becoming baptized? Do you have questions about baptism, what it means, and what it might mean for you? Give me a call or “pull on my sleeve” ... I will be happy to meet with you and talk - actually it would be an honor.

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter, which begins Holy Week – there will be a variety of opportunities to worship Holy Week also. Easter, April 1, is the holiest of holy days, and the hinge point of our faith, our belief, our Christianity. Easter is the most glorious of worship days.

I so look forward to growing spiritually and “making space with you” during Lent.



We expect to have an **annual all church rummage sale** again this year. **There will be a planning meeting on February 4th**, in room 1 after the 10:30 worship service for persons interested in serving on a leadership team for the all church rummage sale. It takes many hands to make the rummage sale successful. Please contact **Cheryle Seljan** if you have any questions.

History & Legacy

1869: 8 women

Today: 800,000 members



In 1869, Mrs. William Butler and Mrs. Edwin Parker, wives of missionaries to India, were home on furlough. They spoke to a group of eight women in Boston. Mrs. Butler told about the desperate spiritual and physical needs of women in India. A male doctor could not treat women. Schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Single, trained and dedicated women were needed for medical and educational work.

The women who were present called another meeting of women, wrote a constitution, and organized the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society (WFMS). By November 1869, the newly formed organization raised funds and sent Isabella Thoburn, an educator, and Dr. Clara Swain, a doctor, to India.

Ms. Thoburn began a school with six young girls in Lucknow. This school expanded to include Isabella Thoburn College, the first women's college in Asia. Dr. Swain began her medical work, resulting in the establishment of the first women's hospital in Asia. Both of these institutions are still serving the people of India.

~ Georgia Brown ~

*Don't say God has been silent, when
your Bible has been closed.*

January 25, 2018

Dear First Church Members,

This is to thank you, on behalf of the residents of the Indiana Veterans' Home, for the electric razors for both male and female residents and other items.

Please be advised that your generosity is profoundly appreciated by our veteran residents, their families, and the staff of the Veterans' Home. Your donation will make it possible for our veterans to have a higher quality of life than they would have without such important donations.

If you have further questions, or desire to learn more about other needs and opportunities to further enhance the quality of life of our veteran residents, please call me at 765-463-1502.

Again, thank you very much for your caring contribution.

Sincerely,
Linda Sharp, R.N.
Superintendent
Indiana Veterans' Home
3851 N. River Road
West Lafayette, IN 47905



Giving thanks

Thank you to all who purchased caramels sold by **EGALS**, the (Employed Gals Group)!

Funds raised will be used in our missions throughout the year.

Carolyn Bryan

**A committee is a cul-de-sac down
which ideas are lured and quietly
strangled.**

A Perspective from Your Lay Leader - 'All Church Study'

It seems like nearly everyone is reading and/or in a class studying the book, **"Ten Prescriptions for a Healthy Church"** by Bob Farr and Kay Kotan. The adult Sunday school classes and four weekday groups are studying this book, about 40% of the church. *I am very excited about this book, which will help our church to thrive, and not just survive! With so many people involved, we will be able to more effectively develop true disciples with greater abilities to spread the joy and love of Christ into the community.*

Chapter 1 is about Mission and Vision. The mission of the United Methodist Church is to *make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* A vision is often revealed to the pastor, and affirmed by the congregation. Discerning our vision takes time...stay tuned!

Chapter 2 is about Hospitality. We have learned about Radical Hospitality in the book, **"Five Practices of a Fruitful Congregation"** by Robert Schnase. We have a good foundation in being warm and receptive on Sunday mornings. Visitors' first impression is from the building, greeters, and ushers. However, at other times, ALL of us need to introduce ourselves, get their names, and develop relationships. How can we more effectively follow up? What about second time visitors and what do we do to keep them coming back? We are a warm, welcoming and hospitable church, *but we still have improvements to make in this area, and this takes intention.*

Chapter 3 is about The Worship Experience. We have learned in our reading that music plays a very important role in the worship experience; our music is very good, both live and via video. We need more people to support the various pieces of worship. Worship is the most important thing that we do!

Chapter 4 is Community Connection. Our church continually strives to reach out to the community. For instance, we have bridge events like Trunk or Treats, Learning League, the Vine, Vacation Bible School, and Kids' Club. We are planning to do interviews of local officials in order to *work with* the community instead of just giving donations to organizations. We are excited about some of the conversations that we have had in our small groups!

Chapter 5 is Intentional Faith Development. To become better disciples, we can do the following things: attend worship consistently, be a follower of Christ, use our gifts for service in the church and outside of the church, work toward tithing, and commit to spiritual retreats (Walk to Emmaus, Great Banquet), daily devotions, going to Lay Ministry classes, attend a Bible Study, Explore The Church and Confirmation class.

Chapter 6 is about the Connection Process. We need to add "connectors" whose task is to meet the visitors and return visitors and find their needs and interests so we can incorporate them into the life of our church. Visitors are guests whom God has sent to us. We want them to become a part of this Body of Christ!

Chapter 7 is about the importance of Leadership Development and the need for training and mentoring new leaders. Development can occur in many ways. *Leadership development is also our own seasoned leaders intentionally mentoring younger generations and working with one another.*

Chapter 8 is Strategic Ministry Planning which consists of aligning all activities and jobs with our mission, vision, core values, goals and strategies. Job descriptions should be current to maintain accountability. Policies of all ministries need to be brought in line with the current Book of Discipline, and much of this work has been done or is being done. As well, long term planning will need to be completed.

Chapter 9 is Simplified, Accountable Structure, which means organizing the groups and committees into a simplified structure with accountable leadership. The mission, vision and core values should be printed on each agenda. The FCJ coach will provide assistance and guidance.

Chapter 10 is Staff Evaluation and Alignment, which involves all paid and unpaid staff. Evaluations are designed to help improve performance and to provide positive support. Everyone needs positive encouragement and support.

Communication and commitment are very important for our church to THRIVE like God wants!

Thank you, Jesus!

Pauline Luthi



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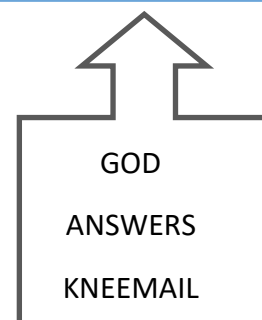
Pineapple Pieces

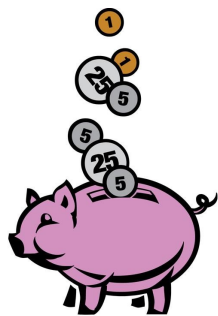
"The best vitamin for a Christian is B1."

"Prevent truth decay. Brush up on your Bible."

"Don't give up. Moses was a basket case."

"Tithe if you love Jesus. Anyone can honk."





Budget Update

My favorite “Stewardship” verse in the Bible is one that most often is associated with salvation through grace. “...I stand at the door and knock. If any man hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sup with him and he with me.” Very subtly Jesus is inviting us to serve Him and to share our goods with him. He will come in and allow us to serve Him and share our food with Him. His offer is in the present tense. It is not just one and done. He pursues us over time and place. He doesn’t give up on us and that is because we are His desire. He not only knocks - He calls to us in His own voice. So its like KNOCK, KNOCK, KNOCK, “this is Jesus. Is anyone home?” He wants to relate to us in a most fundamental and personal way –

in this case sharing food. And then there is the bedrock issue of “free will”. It is our choice to answer or ignore the knock and call. We are invited – not compelled to respond. If I receive Him, I serve Him. If I serve Him, I share what I have with Him.

There is no “mysterious source” of funds for the church. We operate on what is given by the congregation. We require about \$260,000 a year to pay our expenses. The most given by any one family is about \$12,000. Normal “per family” giving is much less than that. We have about 120 families that attend. The simple math is that each family would have to give about \$2,200 per year for the church to meet its expenses. Some give much more, some give much less.

There is a First United Methodist Church of Hammond Indiana Foundation. The sole purpose of the Foundation is to support the church. The Foundation has about \$660,000 in assets and it uses the interest gained off of these assets to provide Financial Support. Recently the interest has been about \$15,000 to \$20,000 per year. The Foundation is governed in accordance with By-Laws and those state that 75% of the money must go toward upkeep of the building. We are grateful to those serving on Foundation for their good work.

Beyond normal giving and Foundation we do get some funds from other sources;

Scrip	\$2,000
Second Mile Giving	\$2,000
The Turkey Dinner	\$1,500
Other	\$2,000

So we receive about \$7,500 from these sources.

Bob Brown, Finance Chairperson

Opportunities to Celebrate

Sunday **February 11** we will celebrate Scout Sunday, during 10:30 worship. We will have Girl Scouts serving as ushers, greeters, acolytes, scripture readers and bringing special music to us. It will be a wonderful day to be in worship as we celebrate Scouting Sunday.

Sunday **February 18** – following 10:30 worship we will have an all church pot-luck and celebrate the ministries of *Terry Fisher & Grace* and *John Adkinson*. Terry and her family have moved out of our area – and she resigned her position as Director of the Food Pantry in January. After much thought and planning Grace and John will be relocating to Zionsville, Indiana, May 1, 2018. --- Pastor Mary

Prayer and Scripture Calendar 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
4 Psalm 147:1-11	5 Isaiah 40:21-31	6 1 Corinthians 9:16-23	7 Mark 1:29-39	8 Matthew 13:14-15	9 Acts 10:34-43	10 1 John 4:18-21
Pauline Luthi	Norm MacKay	Dick & Sondra Mackin	Sue Mayberry	Bill & Pat McCoy	J. Mejia Family	C. Merrick Family
11 2 Kings 2:1-12	12 Psalm 50:1-6	13 Mark 9:2-9	14 2 Corinthians 4:3-6	15 Malachi 2:1-9	16 Luke 17:5-10	17 1 John 5:13-15
Dave Metzger Family	Fran Miklos	Richard Miller	Jim & Vivian Moery	Dave & Beth Moll	David & Irma Mora	L Mosley Family
18 Psalm 25:1-10	19 Mark 1:9-15	20 Genesis 9:8-17	21 1 Peter 3:18-22	22 Hebrews 6:4-12	23 Matthew 6:1-4	24 Acts 10:44-48
Pat Mosley	Dick Nelson	Don Nelson Jr	Bernie Newell	Helen O'Mara	Carol Odom	James Ortiz
25 Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	26 Psalm 22:23-31	27 Mark 8:31-38	28 Romans 4:13-25			
Jan Pazdur	Mary Jo Peters	Tim & Brenda Petty	S Preda Family			

31	28	25	22	19	16	13	10	7	4	1	3			
Sa	Fr	Th	We	Tu	Mo	Su	Sa	Fr	Th	We	Tu	Mo	Su	Sa
3	2	1	31	28	25	22	19	16	13	10	7	4	1	3
10	7	4	1	31	28	25	22	19	16	13	10	7	4	1
17	14	11	8	5	2	31	28	25	22	19	16	13	10	7
24	21	18	15	12	9	6	3	31	28	25	22	19	16	13
31	28	25	22	19	16	13	10	7	4	1	3	31	28	25

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2	3
	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1 6:00pm Emmaus-3 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8	10:30am 10 Prescriptions-1 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Parents who have lost a child to	Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K	Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm Williams Birthday Party
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
BROWN BAG SUNDAY 12:00am Rummage Sale Meeting-1 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1 6:00pm Emmaus-3 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8	10:30am 10 Prescriptions-1 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Parents who have lost a child to	Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K	Closed except for scheduled events 10:00am Foundation Meeting-1 11:00am Girl Scout Event
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Girl Scout Sunday 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm G.S. Leaders-4 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1 6:00pm Emmaus-3 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8	10:30am 10 Prescriptions-1 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Parents who have lost a child to	Closed except for scheduled events 12:00pm EGALS (off-site) 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K	Closed except for scheduled events
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30am Lent 1 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm All Church Potluck	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm SPRC-1	3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Finance-A 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm 10 Prescriptions-1 6:00pm Emmaus-3 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8	12:00am Five Guys Fundraiser-All Day 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:30pm Godspell rehearsals-8 7:00pm Parents who have lost a child to	Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K	Closed except for scheduled events
25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3
Neighborhood Meal Prep-K 8:30am Lent 2 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 3:00pm Godspell Performance-8,K,1,4,6	GG Tech Week 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 7:00pm Church Council-1	GG Tech Week 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 7:00pm G.G. Board-Parlor 7:00pm Overeaters Anonymous-1 7:00pm Trustees-4	GG Tech Week 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UNIV Board (parlor) 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K 6:00pm Emmaus-3	7:00pm Bell Practice-choir room	Closed except for scheduled events 3:00pm TLL-3,4,5,6,7,K	Closed except for scheduled events

SAVE THE DATE! Laity Leadership Training

Mark your calendars for a Laity Leadership Training Event sponsored by the North District. Saturday, March 10, at 9:00 a.m. CT at LaPorte First UMC, three training workshops will be held for Staff Parish Relations Committee, Lay Leaders, and Finance leadership. Workshops will be led by Conference Superintendent Larry Whitehead, North District Co-Lay Leaders Jane Harper-Alport and Jim Pinkerton, and Indiana UMC Associate Director of Financial Services Heidi Harding. Watch for more information in bulletins and emails about registration; see Jane with questions. Pastors are also encouraged to attend!

Jane Harper-Alport


THE JOURNAL

For years I've kept what many would call a journal. I'm not sure that has always been my intent, exactly. However, the many books sitting silently on the shelves of my bookcase are a reminder that each one is filled with precious thoughts, hopes, dreams, "Ah-ha" moments, everyday happenings, and spiritual insights. Most of my journals are not fancy or expensive, although I have a few of those. The majority are simple three-ring composition notebooks. As one is filled, another is begun, a seemingly endless line of paper soldiers marching through the years of my life, telling my story. A story only I and God know, which is why I have told my family that when I die they must burn the journals without reading them! (If you've ever kept a journal, you understand why.) And yet, I can also see that as my family reads of my struggles to know God, to follow the Spirit, and to be more Christ-like in my dealings with my fellow human beings, they would have an opportunity to gain understanding, learn lessons, and discover valuable spiritual insights. This can only happen IF they read them, that is! And, of course, they will read them because they knew and loved the author.

Saying this makes me think...isn't the Bible a journal of sorts? Not one written by God's own hand, of course, but one written directly from the heart of God telling God's story of love and redemption; sharing God's precious thoughts, God's hopes and dreams for His people, God's stories of men and women who struggled to know and follow the One True God, and God's offerings of untold spiritual insights and "Ah-ha" moments waiting to be discovered by God's beloved children.

I know for many, the Bible can be an intimidating book. It is long, often confusing, difficult to understand, and can be tedious reading. Even saying all that, once you know and love the Author, you will find yourself *wanting* to read his Word. Not because you have to or because someone expects you to, but because your love for the Author will compel you. You will also want to read it so you can get to know Him better, and to discover the Author's will (plot) for your life. As for me, the more I love and know the Author, the more I *want* to read His Word. How about YOU?

Blessings, Pastor Donna



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER -- Friday, March 2, 2018

The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women that began in the U.S. and Canada in the 19th century, and became worldwide in 1927. Each year on this day, Christians of many cultures, traditions and races, in over 170 countries, unite to pray about family violence, child abuse, human trafficking, and other forms of injustice. Their continuing motto for this very special day is "Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action." This year the theme is "All God's Creation is Very Good" and the prayer support will focus on the 540,000 inhabitants of the Republic of Suriname, on the northeastern coast of South America. You are encouraged to pray wherever you are on Friday, March 2, for these prayer requests, and for any other issues the Spirit may bring to mind. For more information you can check online for World Day of Prayer. <https://worlddayofprayer.net/>

Pastor Donna

2/28	Adele Gawrys
2/27	Roger Collier
2/26	Sue Robertson
2/25	Alice Foley
2/24	Mary Ann Carter
2/23	Kristine Heady
2/19	Charlene Copeland
2/18	Susan Camacho
2/14	Aubrey Chelich
2/10	Bradley Kowalczyk
2/9	Terry Watson
2/7	Kecia Bell
2/5	David Copeland
2/5	Maya Strong
2/3	Xavier Valdez

We want to celebrate your birthday by including you on this list. If your special day is during this month, and your name is not listed, please let us know. Please pass along information about others in your household, as well.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ADDRESEE