



The Lighthouse

May 2018

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

News From The Pews

As I sat in church on Sunday, I thought about our beautiful sanctuary. There are words on the communion table and words on either side of the choir loft. But I had no idea what they said. So I found out.

The altar/communion table reads:

Front: "And this bread which came down from heaven..."

East side: "Praise the name of the Lord..."

Back: "He who has ears, let him listen..."

West side: "Let my prayer be set before thee..."

Behind the choir loft:

Left side: "The pillar of fire by night, lighted for them, the way which they should go..."

Right side: "I am the light of the world. He who follows me will walk not in darkness, but have the light of life..."



Every day that I learn something new is a good day!

..... *Judy Williams*

We Love Flowers!



If you are interested in providing altar flowers for Sunday worship, the sign up sheet is located in the church office. The price for two arrangements each week is \$37.00. Following 10:30 worship, you may take the flowers home or gift them to a special someone! We ask that the vases be returned to the church. We respectfully request that the flower arrangements be paid for prior to the date you have requested, in the same month.

Pastor Mary

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the June newsletter, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to Karen Little or Sue Robertson by May 20th. Any articles received after May 20th will be held until the July issue of the newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation!

Karen Little and Sue Robertson, Editors

a note from your lead pastor ...



Since the last edition of our newsletter, we have celebrated Easter! *Christ is risen, Christ is risen, indeed!* A big thank you to everyone who contributed to both of our Easter services, each service was distinct and special. Splendid Easter flowers, varied and exceptional music, Easter splendor, and both of your pastors donning God goggles for Children's Time! Easter morning is always a relief for me ... after the ups and downs of Holy Week. It is the nature of Holy Week, my emotions and my very self walks with Christ. I am never certain when my low point during Holy Week will come; this year it was during the day of Maundy Thursday. Therefore, ever more important for me to be in prayer and worship during Holy Week. Again, thank you to all who took part in Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship.

Monday following Easter I was honored to be invited to be part of a presentation panel titled, "**Rebel Moms,**" (not the original title!) at Calumet College St. Joseph. Five of us were invited to share in ways we stand against the status quo to bring about positive transformation in our communities. I shared that panel presentation with exceptional company!

The week following Easter I had the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to take part in the **A.C.T. to End Racism Rally**, on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. My son, Michael (14 years old), and I traveled for the day with members of the Indiana United Methodist Extended Cabinet. This Rally was organized by the National Council of Churches. A.C.T. = Awaken, Confront, Transform.

AWAKEN TO ACKNOWLEDGE. CONFESS TO CONFRONT. TELL THE TRUTH TO TRANSFORM. We stood (and sometimes sat on the ground) on the National Mall and listened to incredible and inspirational messages and music. We heard messages from: REV. JULIAN DESHAZIER Senior Pastor, University Church of Chicago, REV. JIM WALLIS President and Founder, Sojourners, REV. DR. JENNIFER HARVEY Author, Dear White Christians: For Those Still Longing for Racial Reconciliation, DR. FREDERICK D. HAYNES, III Senior Pastor Friendship West Baptist Church (Dallas, TX), RT. REV. VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE Presiding Prelate, Tenth Episcopal District African Methodist Episcopal Church, DANNY GLOVER Actor, film director, and political activist, ... and more. The musical artists included Y'ANNA CRAWLEY Urban Contemporary Gospel Artist and Musician, YOLANDA ADAMS Gospel Singer, Record Producer and Actress, and others. It was a very emotional day.

I have often asked myself, what would I have done in the 60's during the Civil Rights movement, when Martin Luther King, Jr. led us into a different world, a world with a needed new type of justice? I can say today, that I would have joined those marches, the Civil Rights movement, and not from the sidelines. *I ask myself today, "Where is God calling me to A.C.T., where is God asking me, expecting me – counting on me, to be a "Rebel Mom?" To be a Rebel Pastor? Here is part of my response to God ... "You (God) have called me to this place, at this time, to serve as Lead Pastor of Hammond First UMC; this Body of Christ is situated in a location at this time in history to serve in a unique way. You (God) have assembled us, with individual and collective gifts, graces, and experiences to accomplish something transforming. Continue to show us the way, your way." Are you able to feel this, ... too? God is stirring something inside of me, and providing experiences so that we may bring transformation in the world, to make a difference.*

As I shared in worship April 22, a funny thing happened on the way to the pulpit, the week of April 15 to the 22nd, after having centered on the scripture, Acts 4:11 *This Jesus is the stone you builders rejected; he has become the cornerstone!* As I leaned into the work of sermon preparation, I was flooded with cornerstone images, facts, realities. I realized late Saturday evening and early Sunday morning it was not to be a message ... it had transformed into a sermon series. Stay tuned as we hear more about: *Christ being our foundation, our cornerstone, within these contexts:* (1) The United Methodist Church – we celebrated 50 years April 23, 2018 – with the union of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church (EUB) (2) Hammond First UMC Foundation (3) The Church Universal (4) Our *personal* relationships with Jesus. In worship on the 22nd we learned about the actual cornerstones of Hammond First UMC. We have three – dated 1906, 1954, 1966. Have you taken the opportunity to find them, look at them? *Gosh, we have a very rich history!*

~ ~ see you in worship and around the building,

Pastor Mary

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Youth Sunday School class is continuing an in-depth study of the Book of Revelations. Classes start at 9:15 a.m. and end no later than 10:15 a.m. We meet in the Youth Suite, and all are welcome!



Dave Dean

Food Pantry Tours



If you are interested in learning more about our food pantry, The Vine, and taking a short tour, this will be happening on **Sunday, May 6**. We will have one tour after the early worship service, and one after the 10:30 worship service. **Dave Armistead** will be on hand to lead these tours. Please meet Dave inside the East door, near Room 1.

Be someone's SUNSHINE when their skies are gray.

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"



You probably recognize this as a traditional hymn first published in 1923. It is also a fitting description for First Church choir director, Dick Mackin, and his lovely wife, Sondra. These are people whose middle names could be "singing"! They travel to Hammond twice weekly to rehearse, and then present, inspiring anthems to our congregation. They both have the special gifts of teaching with patience and kindness. As the choir season closes until fall, this is a **big thank you** from the choir members and all congregants: *".....strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!"*

Karen Little

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Pentecost is May 20! Please wear red and white, and we will have a birthday party to celebrate!



We have three new church members, who joined our church in March. They are **Mollie Bodie, Bobby Jones and Alan Piwowar**. Please be sure to welcome them, if you haven't already done so!

Please keep the **Beifuss** and **Kruse** families in your prayers, on the deaths of **Jim Beifuss** and **John Kruse**.

Births:

Jonah Riley Hawkins, born April 6, to Jason and Angela Hawkins.

Ava Ruby Pearl Debold, born in January to Allison Debold.



"No one ever became poor by giving."

Anne Frank



INSTITUTE FOR
CREATION
RESEARCH PRESENTS

MADE IN HIS IMAGE

CREATION CONFERENCE

- DATE** Saturday, May 5, 2018
9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- LOCATION** Christian Fellowship Church, 605 165th Street, Hammond, IN. 46324
- SPEAKERS** Dr. Randy Guliuzza
Dr. Jerry Bergman
- COST** \$10.00/person, \$20/family
Lunch included
Register online at: www.cfc-church.net
- AGES** 4 to adult. Childcare will be provided for children < 4.
Alpha Omega Institute will be providing creation programming for children 4-12.
www.discovercreation.org
- TOPICS**
- 5 Minutes With A Darwinist
 - Made In His Image: Examining the Complexities of the Human Body
 - Evolution: The First Link is Missing
 - Continuous Environmental Tracking
 - Human and Chimp Genetics Compared



COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Saturday, June 2, 2018

(rain date Sunday, June 3)

Woodmar United Methodist Church

7230 Northcote Ave

Hammond, IN

To reserve your space call-

219-765-4535 or 219-844-3030

All Church Rummage Sale - May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

It is now time to prepare for the 2018 All Church Rummage Sale!! Please consider donating furniture, bedding, shoes, purses, books, holiday and household items. We ask that you do not donate items such as televisions, computers, printers and clothing. Donations may be brought to room 9 beginning April 30th. The last day to donate is Thursday, May 10th.

There will also be a bake sale as part of the rummage sale. Please consider baking and/or working at the bake sale on Saturday. If you are donating baked goods, you may bring them at any time on Friday, or before 9:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Your help is needed and appreciated during the week prior to the sale and on the day of the sale. There are many tasks that need to be done from unwrapping donations to cleaning, sorting and placing them on tables.

Donations of plastic bags, paper grocery bags, and newspaper are appreciated. Proceeds from the rummage sale will go to the general fund of the church, mission projects, youth ministry, and Learning League.

Please pray that this sale strengthens our outreach to the community, and provides a means by which we may continue to fund the ministry programs of our church. **Contact Cheryle Seljan at 923-4716 or 616-0065** if you have questions.

Volunteers are encouraged and welcomed! Work anytime from Tuesday to Friday, May 7 to May 11, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., as well as the day of the sale.



One Small Change

Someone asked me what FCJ was. FCJ stands for Fruitful Congregation Journey. It is a process outlined by the Conference to help us achieve our mission. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. But I ask myself, "How do I do that?" I started to think about how my life as a Christian has changed and why and how? I remembered one small change I made which turned out to be a giant blessing from the mouth of babes. Yep, one small, second grade boy changed my life!

In 1994 my new job was to go to the elementary schools and help the teachers use technology. My first demonstration lesson was at a new school and I was scared to death. Of course, I prayed before I went as I really lacked self confidence in my self-taught abilities. After the lesson, I had no idea how it had been received as the teacher was busy and not able to provide any instant feedback. As I was leaving the classroom, a little boy was standing in the doorway. I asked him how he liked the lesson. He said, "Thank you, Jesus!"

Thinking that was pretty brave for a public-school student to say, I shared that with the staff when I got back to the office. Since I thought this was so cute, I shared it with others. Then I noticed the strangest things happening in my life. When my ride wanted to pull out in traffic to make a left-hand turn, there was no traffic. The next day it was bitter cold and we got a parking place right next to the building. Other people noticed and wanted me to ride with them. Now I'm wondering if this is coincidence that all these tiny blessings are happening or a God thing. So, I started saying Thank you, Jesus, for the good things which happened even if it was just a green light. The more I said it; the more I seemed to be blessed or was I just now more aware of these blessings that were all around? I got so excited that I started sharing with others who experienced the same phenomenon!



Now I challenge you to make "ONE SMALL CHANGE"! I say Thank you, Jesus, but you may want to create your own 'attitude of gratitude' phrase when you are blessed. Yes, please try it and see if you experience more blessings than usual!

God bless you!

Pauline Luthi

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

UNITY

EPHESIANS 4:3
MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP THE UNITY
OF THE SPIRIT THROUGH THE BOND OF PEACE.

MAY 3, 2018

#PRAY4UNITY
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Dynasty Banquet Hall
4125 Calumet Avenue, Hammond, IN

Pastors Mary and Donna will be presenting at this event. Tickets are available for anyone interested. Please see our pastors.

**HOME
OF THE
FREE
BECAUSE
OF THE
BRAVE**

REMEMBER OUR VETERANS

May, 2018

Since our November and December opportunity to provide needs to our Indiana Veteran's Home, several others have come forward with more for our Veteran's Home. I am currently accepting, collecting and delivering these items. I travel down that way about every six weeks or so and can thus take down what we're giving. In fact I have at this point 4 boxes of gifts and materials. So if you would like to donate feel free to call or write to me to collect those items. I now work also with our veteran's shelters in Gary and Crown Point and can deliver goods as they become available and needs are expressed.

Our heartfelt thank you to those who have given and who continue to care for the veterans both here and there.

..... Dave Hinshaw



Josiah Allen Hoffman 5/1

Mario Bravo 5/2

Grace Adkinson 5/5

Bev Hornak 5/5

Irma Mora 5/8

Jim Wind 5/8

Russ Godbout 5/9

Judy Viehweg 5/10

Hiedi Wicklund 5/11

Karyn Metzger 5/16

Katie Kosarko 5/19

DJ Williams Jr. 5/19

Noah Hernandez 5/20

Josie Hawkins 5/28

Charlotte Wysocki 5/29

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.

Give Using TITHE.LY

You can make your church
tithe using TITHE.LY.

Download the APP on your
smart phone or donate
directly at tithe.ly/give.



See Sarah Ward
for more information.

Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous.

... Albert Einstein

United Methodist Women



All women of the church are invited to become members of the United Methodist Women who shall be a community of women whose **PURPOSE** is to know GOD and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

We raise money and promote fellowship through the Spring Salad luncheon, the Women and Men's booklets, the bazaar, trash and treasure, and pledges and gifts from our church women.

This money is used to support many different local, state, national, and worldwide groups with emphasis on helping women and children.

Georgia Brown

Prayer and Scripture Calendar– 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 1 John 4:7-21</p> <p>Keenan & Jamie Brown</p>	<p>2 Acts 8:26-40</p> <p>Carolyn Bryan</p>	<p>3 Thessalonians 1:3-5</p> <p>Nancy & Mary S Bucki</p>	<p>4 Hebrews 6:1-6</p> <p>Esther Burger</p>	<p>5 Philippians 4:5-9</p> <p>Rex & Carol Burton</p>
<p>6 Psalm 98</p> <p>S. Camacho Family</p>	<p>7 1 John 5:1-6</p> <p>Lois Carlberg</p>	<p>8 Acts 10:44-48</p> <p>Fran Carpenter</p>	<p>9 John 15:9-17</p> <p>Castro Family</p>	<p>10 Ephesians 1:15-23</p> <p>M. Chelich Family</p>	<p>11 Lutke 24:44-53</p> <p>Merle Churchill</p>	<p>12 Acts 1:1-11</p> <p>Roger Collier</p>
<p>13 1 John 5:9-13</p> <p>Dave & Char Copeland</p>	<p>14 Psalm 1</p> <p>Gordon & Joyce Cory</p>	<p>15 John 17:6-19</p> <p>David Dean</p>	<p>16 Acts 1:15-17, 21-26</p> <p>D. Dean Family</p>	<p>17 Thessalonians 1:7-9</p> <p>DeBold Family</p>	<p>18 Romans 2:1-11</p> <p>Laura DeMarco</p>	<p>19 Philippians 4:21-22</p> <p>Karen Dodd</p>
<p>20 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b</p> <p>M. Dodd Family</p>	<p>21 John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</p> <p>Shirley Farmer</p>	<p>22 Acts 2:1-21</p> <p>Alice Foley</p>	<p>23 Romans 8:22-27</p> <p>Adele Gawryys</p>	<p>24 Philippians 1:1-11</p> <p>Jay Gianotti</p>	<p>25 Hebrews 3:12-15</p> <p>Russ Godbout</p>	<p>26 Romans 5:1-5</p> <p>John Grace</p>
<p>27 Psalm 29</p> <p>M Gutierrez Family</p>	<p>28 Romans 8:12-17</p> <p>Don & Joann Harris</p>	<p>29 John 3:1-17</p> <p>Janet Harrison</p>	<p>30 Isaiah 6:1-8</p> <p>Bette Haskins</p>	<p>31 Thessalonians 4:13-14</p> <p>J. Hawkins Family</p>		

A Word From Finance.....

First Quarter financial reports show that we have a strong Current Expense balance of \$31,308. This is the money we have on hand to pay our bills. Our average monthly expenses are about \$22,000. They are higher in summer and winter and lower in spring and fall. Collective individual giving was weak but we had income from other sources. We collected \$56,000 and had expenses of \$71,000. We expect to have a strong Current Expense balance for the first half of the year, but the second half will be a serious challenge.

Several of our members have begun giving directly from their IRAs. This can have a significant tax advantage for the giver. If you are interested in finding out more about this option, ask Bob Brown or better yet speak to your financial advisor.

Electronic giving is available for anyone who wants to choose this means of giving. There is a minor cost associated with it, but having this means of giving is a plus for First Church. We do receive revenue that we otherwise would not receive.

Bob Brown, Finance Committee Chair

Kids' Club Update

Kids Club had an exciting March and April. The children of our church and their families came together for an Easter Egg Hunt on a warm March evening. They also enjoyed dinner, crafts, and coloring Easter eggs together! Thank you to all of the volunteers who assisted in making this a fun evening for our children. They enjoyed it so much! In April, children gathered to "Grow in God's love" and planted some seeds to remind them of God's love all spring and summer long. Again, none of these wonderful activities would be possible without the help of our volunteers. Please consider joining us on the **last Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:30 pm** to help set-up, clean up, or work with children on their projects.

Vacation Bible School is coming soon! VBS is back again for another amazing week of sharing God's love with the children of our church and community. Many hands are needed to make this event a success. **VBS will take place June 11-15 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.** How will you get involved? Helpers are needed to decorate, shop, prepare craft kits, work with children and so much more! Contact Niki Avina to let her know how you'd like to be involved.

Nursery Volunteers Needed!

We no longer have paid staff monitoring the nursery each Sunday. Please consider volunteering for one Sunday in the nursery using the sign up sheet located on the nursery door.

Niki Avina, Children's Ministry



PINEAPPLE PIECES

FAITH is like WiFi. It's invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.

**Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places
and talents in unexpected people.**

Don't trust what you see, even salt looks like sugar.

I got you. Like I always do..... God

If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got.

Albert Einstein

Wash your hands and say your prayers. God and germs are everywhere.