



The Lighthouse

June, 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

MY CHURCH

Before I was born MY CHURCH gave my parents ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

In helpless infancy MY CHURCH joined my parents in consecrating me to Christ and in baptizing me in His name.

MY CHURCH enriched my childhood with Romance and Religion and lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths MY CHURCH taught become radiant, insistent, and inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence MY CHURCH heard the surge of my soul and She guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars.

When first my heart knew the strange awakenings of Love MY CHURCH taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections; She sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, MY CHURCH drew me to the Friend of all the Weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, MY CHURCH has believed in me and woefully She has called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself and MY CHURCH is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living.

MY CHURCH calls me to Her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it. I will help Her do for others what She has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help Her keep aflame and aloft the torch of a living faith.

Wm. Henry Boddy

(Lois Wade found this article in an old First Church bulletin)

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

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

Karen Little and Sue Robertson, Editors

a note from your lead pastor ...



In April, we had a very exciting event – in addition to *Easter*, that is! This exciting event was our **Pasta Dinner**, for and with, **Kenwood Elementary School**. I was there when this idea first was birthed ... in a *Ten Prescriptions Class*, on a Monday evening. We were talking about ‘bridge events’ with and for our community. Seemingly *out of the blue*, a Pasta Dinner came up in conversation to raise money for a new playground for Kenwood School. We knew that they needed and wanted a new playground. The conversation continued and more plans took place. The idea was to have an event, in partnership with Kenwood PTA. Many steps took place, all the doors opened, the date was chosen, people were very generous, it was organized, it was a huge success! A success in many ways – the food was delicious and we had lots of workers, many from Kenwood PTA. I invite you to read the thank you which we received from Angie Christenson ... and the article written by the Pasta Dinner Committee (aka Roseanne and Terry Watson, Pam and Barney Stahl, Kathy Smith). The Pasta Dinner proceeds + 2nd Mile Giving raised over \$4000.00 (**WOW!**) Despite this huge success, the cost for a new playground is about 10x this amount. Angie Christenson shared with us that Kenwood *is receiving their new playground* – and she attributes this to our intention, our prayers and our efforts. I think that is a big win for God and for the children in our community. Well done, First Church!



On the weekend of May 18-19, the event “Helium Hope” took place – Helium Hope was a vision by Pastor G. Thomas of Gary Christ UMC. It was an ecumenical north Indiana event featuring the keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Ron Archer. Additionally, there were musical and rap artists, and other speakers who presented their messages. Ron Archer was p.o.w.e.r.f.u.l! His story and his ability to share his story is life-changing. I am planning on projecting one of his video messages in worship and preaching from it. I believe seeds were planted by this event, and I look forward to watching them sprout and grow. *Thank you First Church for supporting this event.*



A Way Forward – In February 23-26, 2019, a special General Conference of the United Methodist Church will take place in St. Louis, Missouri, to look at how our denomination will look at LGBTQ inclusion. The Commission on a Way Forward (a 32-member Commission, appointed by the Council of Bishops in 2016) has sent their proposal to the Council of Bishops – who met May 2018, in Chicago. There are three model options that this Commission wrote:

The three options, in no particular order, are:

- Affirm the current Book of Discipline language and place a high value on accountability. The church policy book says the practice of homosexuality “is incompatible with Christian teaching” and lists officiating at a same-gender union or being a “self-avowed practicing” gay clergy member, as chargeable offenses under church law.
- Remove the Book of Discipline's restrictive language and place a high value on contextualization. This sketch also specifically protects the rights of those whose conscience will not allow them to perform same-gender weddings or ordain LGBTQ people.
- Create multiple branches that have clearly defined values such as accountability, contextualization and justice. This model would maintain shared doctrine and services and one Council of Bishops. *There will be additional opportunities to learn more*; I will be leading a four-week small group study, titled, “Living Faithfully, Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church.” Additionally, everyone is invited by Bishop Trimble to attend “Bishop’s Call to Conversation – A Way Forward,” at the Valparaiso UMC Sunday August 5, 2:00 p.m. As your pastor, I want to do my best to be certain we at Hammond First UMC are informed on this very important historical decision.

I look forward seeing you in worship and around the church!

pastor Mary

FROM PASTA TO PLAYGROUND!

How exciting is our congregation's Fruitful Journey as we observe and reach out to our community's and God's children.

The recent **Pasta Dinner/Fundraiser for Kenwood School PTA** was a rewarding and successful event! Our thanks and praise goes out to everyone that participated or donated in any way. We served over 160 adults and 30 children at the dinner. All the food was served with very little left over.

Every expense was covered by many generous donations. First Church will be able to give one hundred percent (100%) of \$3,000.00 in receipts to Kenwood School PTA. Additionally, your Second Mile Giving for April, designated for Kenwood, totaled another \$1,300.00!

FUMC Hammond plans to arrange a formal presentation in the very near future.

Thanks again, and all God's Blessings,

The Pasta Dinner Committee



E-mail received May 14, 2018

To our Neighbors at First United Methodist Church,

I would like to say "thank you" on behalf of **Kenwood Elementary**. We appreciate everything you do for us.

We thank all of you for your prayers, donations and the fundraiser dinner!

As PTA president of Kenwood, it gives me great pleasure to share with you that we are receiving a **NEW PLAYGROUND!!** In my heart I know this could not have happened without your prayers and the publicity and fundraiser dinner.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you. Kenwood Elementary School thanks you!!!

Sincerely,

Angie Christensen, Kenwood PTA President



Birthdays 2018

Lois Carlberg	6/3
Selena Camacho	6/8
Joann Harris	6/9
Dave Horn	6/9
Phyllis Preda	6/12
Nick Tompulis	6/13
Joshua Tapper	6/15
Pauline Luthi	6/18
Lora Ward	6/18
Heather Mejia	6/20
Lois Seehausen	6/20
Jenna Province	6/21
Dick Nelson	6/24
Laila Mosley	6/26
Robin Kosarko	6/27
Jacob Kosarko	6/30

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.



The **Rummage Sale** was a huge success, thanks to the many who volunteered, baked, donated, purchased, and prayed. We feel that this is a wonderful outreach to the community as well as an opportunity for our church to use the proceeds for ministry. Be on the lookout in the next few months to learn how the proceeds are being used. In case you find things around the house that you forgot to donate, please save them for the UMW sale in the fall.

Thank You

..... Cheryle Seljan



Will you be one of the thousands of Americans joining together to recognize National Gun Violence Awareness Day this June? Orange has long been the color of gun violence prevention and on June 2nd, residents, survivors, business owners, students, elected leaders, teachers, community leaders, parents and kids in Northwest Indiana will join together to #WearOrange. We will show indisputably that there is a movement of Americans committed to stop gun violence.

WHEN

June 2, 2018
10:00 AM

WHERE

Harrison Park
5721 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

There will be treats and drinks, and we'll hear from local voices and gun violence survivors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

RSVP wearorange.org
TEXT ORANGE to 644-33
EMAIL sbuckmoms@gmail.com

WWW.WEARORANGE.ORG

“You are never too old to set another goal or dream a new dream.” -C.S. Lewis

I don't know about you, but God often speaks to me in a variety of ways. It can be through people, books, nature, and sometimes even everyday objects, like this past Christmas, when I gave a friend a small glass ball with sand and seashells inside. It is similar to the one I have had in my bathroom for years. It has always intrigued me. I love shaking it occasionally, just to see how the contents are rearranged.



My friend loved it! In part, her thank you note read, “Thank you for the shells in the sand ball. I find it interesting how we get covered up, and yet with a few shakes, we can see God/His Son again.” I have pondered her words quite often. And even though I am still not sure what God's message for me is yet, I have gleaned a few insights.

- 1) Our lives are a lot like that little sand ball - one shake and everything changes.
- 2) No matter how beautiful, or ugly, life might be at the moment, nothing stays the same forever.
- 3) As beautiful as the old arrangement is, the new one can be even more beautiful.
- 4) God is the Master Shaker in our lives as individuals, and as the Church.

Our congregation has been in existence for over **100** years. A lot has happened in those years. We have experienced many shakes. There have been many coverings and uncoverings. Looking back, we can see that with every shake the changes and challenges have brought with them opportunities for spiritual growth and new ministries. Sometimes we discovered the beauty, sometimes not. Hopefully the one thing we *have* is that God can be trusted when His shakes rearrange things.

For almost two years now, our attempts to explore new pathways to discipleship through the Fruitful Congregation Journey (FCJ) materials, and the 10 Prescriptions for a Healthy Church book study have been shakes that are ripe with the possibility of new life within our congregation and the community we serve. Can we see, and live into, those possibilities? Yes we can! We have a wonderful church filled with amazing people who work well with one another [i.e. the Pasta Dinner and Rummage Sale.] As we continue to move in the direction God is leading us, may we boldly make the changes God is calling us to make. Only then will we thrive as a congregation who lives into our Mission Statement to “Make disciples for Jesus Christ.” It is my prayer that we will be open to the beautiful future God has planned for us. However, get ready to be shaken!

Blessings,
Pastor Donna



**UMW Annual Spring
Luncheon
June 6, 2018,
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall, room 8.**

The price is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children through age 12. Tickets will be available at the door. Plan to join us and enjoy a lunch of many delicious homemade salads and the much anticipated accompanying meatballs. If you have questions, please see or call Helen O'Mara, Athene Knapik or Sue Yerkes.

.....*Sue Yerkes*

I Want What She's Got

I don't know why, but every time I read our mission statement, "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world," I wonder, how do I make a disciple? So, I started to think about my life and what influenced me.

One of my first impressions was when I was six years old. Granted, I had gone to Sunday School every Sunday for as long as I could remember, but one Sunday was very different. It was special in a most unusual way. A missionary spoke to our class. I don't remember a word she said. *LOL*. She was very plain looking and I don't remember her smiling or laughing or being animated in any way. But her eyes! Her eyes were like a pool of love. She looked so peaceful and contented. She seemed to have an inner joy that was indescribable!

Yes, I'll never forget how she looked. I remember thinking, "Some day I want what she's got." To this day, this is the goal of my spiritual life. I hope and pray that someday, someone will look at me and say, "I want what she's got," and be influenced to become a disciple of Jesus Christ!

Please share with me what influenced *you* to become a disciple of Jesus Christ!
pluthi@peoplepc.com

Thank you,

Pauline Luthi



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.

It promises to be a new and wonderful experience for children. Many hands are needed to make this event a success. **VBS will take place June 11-15 from 5:30 to 8:00 pm.** 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.

Cheryle Seljan and Niki Avina, Children's Ministry

If you can't get people to listen any other way, tell them it's confidential.

Children's Ministry

We are blessed to have a wonderful group of children attending church each Sunday. There is an excellent curriculum for both Sunday School and Junior Church. Jason Hawkins has done an outstanding job teaching in junior church throughout the school year. As he takes a well-deserved Summer break, we have opportunities for volunteers to get involved. Junior Church lasts approximately 25 minutes. If you feel called to teach one or more Sundays during the summer, please contact Pastor Mary, Cheryle, or Niki. It is a wonderful way to get to know our children. You will be blessed!

Each month the children learn a different Scripture verse. The verse for June is, "You are the children that God dearly loves. So follow His example." Ephesians 5:1 It is a wonderful message for all of us to memorize and reflect upon.

Cheryle Seljan and Niki Avina, Children's Ministry



A note from the Mission Team

Hello First Church Family! On Saturday, April 28, Katy Province and I went to a Mission and Justice Summit in Franklin, Indiana, at Grace United Methodist Church. 175 people attended this summit. We were both very impressed. We gained so much knowledge, and are more on fire in serving the Lord and helping people than we were before.

We each attended 4 workshops. We both ended up attending the disability awareness workshop. Since each picked our workshops without telling the other which we chose, perhaps by both choosing the disability awareness workshop, God was trying to tell us something!

We gained knowledge that we believe will help our church have a stronger relationship with Kenwood School. We also learned things that may help us better serve the people that come to our food pantry.

It was such a wonderful blessing to serve at the fundraiser for Kenwood School, and at the Rummage Sale.



Second Mile Giving for the month of June will be Youth Ministries, which includes the Camping Ministry, field trips, etc. Our goal is to provide a camping experience for every youth (and child) who is interested. This summer, we have 5 youth interested and *going to camp!* It is important for the youth to go to church camp because it helps them grow in their relationship with God, builds a solid foundation, and provides opportunities to make new friends.

One of your co-chairs of the Mission Committee,
Richard Miller

WE LOVE OUR BABY GRAND!!

Here's a bit of history about our beautiful baby grand piano that you see in our sanctuary every Sunday...



Our piano was purchased with donations from our congregation. We had a special consecration at worship on August 13, 2006. Because it was such a special event, we invited former member, Margaret Nichols, sister-in-law of Marion Wheeler, and aunt of Ken Wheeler, to perform a solo for us that day. Following is an article published since her recent death at 100 years of age.

Margaret E. Nichols, a longtime Oak Park resident, died peacefully at age 100 on April 16, 2018. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from DePauw University and her Master of Music degree in piano performance from the American Conservatory of Music. She taught for 70 years in the greater Chicago area, maintaining private studios in Oak Park and Crown Point, Indiana, and serving on the piano faculty of the Park Forest Conservatory of Music, VanderCook College of Music, Sherwood Conservatory of Music, and The Academy of Movement and Music in Oak Park.

She was an active soloist and accompanist and also performed as a piano duo with Josette Behrend. She was an adjudicator, clinician and certified member of local, state and national associations of music teachers (MTNA).

Margaret Nichols is survived by her children and their families. Her life was celebrated in private family gatherings.

(For your information, memorial donations can be made to MOMENTA, 605 Lake St., Oak Park 60302)



PINEAPPLE PIECES

The first five days after the weekend are the hardest.

Do the right thing. It will gratify some people and astonish the rest.

.....Mark Twain

I don't suffer from insanity but enjoy every minute of it!

.....Edgar Allan Poe

The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion.

.....Paulo Coelho

Do more things that make you forget to check your phone.

If you ask enough people, you'll usually find someone who advises you to do exactly what you planned to do in the first place.

Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself.

Prayer and Scripture Calendar- 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
3 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	4 1 Samuel 3:1-20	5 2 Corinthians 4:5-12	6 Mark 2:23-3:6	7 1 John 2:1-5	8 Galatians 6:1-10	9 Luke 5:1-11
Bob Heady Family	Dave & Mary Hinshaw	D. Hoffman Family	Bev Hornak Family	Dave Horn	Doris Johnson	Bobby Jones
10 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	11 Mark 3:20-35	12 Psalm 138	13 1 Samuel 8:4-20 (11:14-15)	14 Luke 10:25-37	15 Matthew 6:7-14	16 Romans 4:13-15
Cindy Jones	Martha Jones	June Jordan-Hall	Phil & Judy Keckich	Athene Knapik	Sandy & Jim Koester	Dorothy Kornafel
17 Psalm 20	18 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17	19 Mark 4:26-34	20 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13	21 Proverbs 4:10-18	22 Psalm 100	23 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
Kurt Kosarko	Jacob Kosarko	Robin & Katite Kosarko	Bradley Kowalezyk	John Kozlowski	M. Kruse Family	Joe LaBresh
24 1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23) 32-49	25 Psalm 9:9-20	26 Mark 4:35-41	27 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	28 Luke 5:27-32	29 Romans 15:1-6	30 Acts 3:1-10
Maggie Lerner	Mary LeVan	Rocelia Lewis Family	Peggy Link	Karen Little	Pam Longhi	Pauline Luthi