



The Lighthouse

August 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

We will have a "Back to School Blessing" during worship on August 12th. Bring your backpacks! Refreshments will be provided in the parlor after worship.



To My Church Family:

Thank you for being there for me through a difficult time in my life. Especially for all the calls, cards, gifts, prayers and rides.

Love, Fran Miklos



Deadline For Newsletter Articles



If you are interested in submitting an article for the **September newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to Karen Little or Sue Robertson by **August 20th**. Any articles received **after August 20th** will be held until the **October issue** of the newsletter. Thank for your co-operation!

Karen Little and Sue Robertson, Editors

Why do we close our eyes when we pray, cry, kiss or dream? Because the most beautiful things in life are not seen, but felt by the heart. Unknown

Nothing you have is because of luck or chance. It was all God's grace and favor. Unknown

Storms make trees take deeper roots. Dolly Parton

a note from your lead pastor ...



On Thursday July 19 I was invited to attend a ‘First Ladies Luncheon,’ hosted by First Lady Janet Holcomb, the wife of Governor Eric Holcomb. The purpose of this luncheon was to discuss the health of mothers and babies in the State of Indiana, and the spearheading of faith-based communities working with and in our communities to effect positive change. Last week in our Church Council meeting someone shared how proud they are to live in Indiana – as we have so many things going for us, for which to be proud of – and I agree! However, there are some facts that are not something to be proud of – one of these facts is the infant mortality rate. Looking at statistics of 2016, **Indiana ranks 6th highest of states in the United States with infant mortality**; even more startling is that **East Chicago is the city with the highest infant mortality rate in Indiana while Hammond closely follows at number 3.**

Infant mortality is defined as the death of an infant one year or less in age.

I hope these statistics alarm you. They do me!

Our conversations around tables this Thursday afternoon were many things: informational, inspirational, challenging, enlightening, discerning, and *so very concerned*.

Other statistics:

- Indiana ranks 10th in the nation for mothers who smoke
- Indiana is the 10th most obese state

Babies are dying from these three main causes:

- 50% perinatal risks – preterm, low birth weight, infection, mothers with high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and smoking
- 22% congenital abnormalities
- 14% sudden and unexpected death

Further, one out of every eight infant deaths is due to unsafe sleep practices – this statistic is *completely preventable*.

The goal of our Governor and First Lady: for Indiana to be the best in the Midwest by 2024, with healthy indicators for mothers and children.

We had wonderful and powerful speakers, and each table had a moderator – leaders in their respective fields. They were: Department of Child Services Director Terry Stigdon, MSN, RN; Indiana First Lady Janet Holcomb; State Health Commissioner Kris Box, MD, FACOG; Dr. Tara Benjamin, IU School of Medicine – Tara gave a powerful personal testimony; and FSSA Secretary Jennifer Walthall, MD, MPH. The moderator leading my table was Dr. Nancy Swigonski, Pediatrician.

We recognize some **factors that need to be addressed – to lower infant mortality rates:**

- Poverty
- Nutrition assistance – education, cooking, access to health and affordable food
- Maternal health

We recognize that with healthy moms we have healthy babies;
with healthy moms we have healthy families and communities.

Faith-based communities (a church, like us!) can effect positive, transformational change in innovative ways. More and more, I realize that in order to effect positive change we must be in relationship with one another – we who serve, and those whom we serve -- *and this takes time and intention.*

“Cultural humility” is the awareness that as we need each other, each of us is willing to embrace the humility to ask, “How can I help you? How can I better understand you?” – to truly meet another’s needs.

Interestingly, one of the four priority justice issues that the United Methodist Women (nationally) have named for the 2016-2020 quadrennium includes *maternal and child health*. Hammond First has a committed and focused UMW unit.

I am praying about all of this. **Who would like to join me for a “think tank,” on how Hammond First can be a part of effecting positive change in Hammond regarding maternal and infant health?** Call me, email me, or text me.



A Glimpse at Finance



Since last fall we have been restructuring **Hammond First's financial management** to achieve greater accuracy and transparency, so that with greater clarity we will be able to plan the ministries that support our mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. *One part* of our finances is the income that we receive to pay our bills; we may call this the *general operating fund*. Income in this general operating fund is all the donations that come into the church through tithes and offerings – which most often is presented during worship, or may come into the church via electronic deposit or in the U.S. mail. Additionally, there are other donations for specific in-house ministries, such as the Learning League and The Vine. Furthermore, donations may be given in the form of memorial gifts in tribute to members of our church family. (The Memorial Committee oversees these memorial funds, and they have their own policies and procedures.) Hammond First also has a separately incorporated Foundation – the purpose of a Foundation is to perpetually finance designated entities within the church.

The “*payment of our bills*” includes, in general: salaries, utilities, supplies, maintenance and the support of our ministries.

As part of our financial structure there are also “*pass-through*” monies – these are funds given for ministries outside our operating budget – these funds “pass through” on their way to their designated places, i.e. UMCOR, the Veterans’ Home, etc. First Church is very faithful to missional support.

A glimpse at our restructuring work:

- We are recording our expenditures with greater detail – so that we may build a budget for 2019 that captures our full needs. Our plan is that the 2019 budget will reflect and support the ministries and activities in the church.
- The Foundation Board has a full membership for 2018, and the Board has been meeting regularly.
- First Church Foundation bylaws and articles of incorporation are being reviewed and updated, and where needed, amendments are proposed. The Foundation has been guided in this process by Manet Shettle, president of the Indiana United Methodist Foundation.
- Responsibilities of the Finance Committee members (laity and staff) have been redistributed to enhance our inherent checks and balances, and to more evenly distribute work load.
- The Memorial Committee has newly approved policies and procedures.

Why do all this work? When we have a more complete picture of our finances, we will be able to, with greater accuracy, plan for our future. While Finance is busy at work with much of this process, Finance will need the input, help and support of church leadership and the whole congregation. *It will take all of us.*

I am hopeful that this provides a snapshot of the work we are undertaking. And it is a snapshot – we are also looking at our software – does it fit our needs, what do we need to know about it that we don’t know yet, what do we need to change.

Our Finance Team works hard and the members of this team are invested in their work. At the helm is Bob Brown, Finance Chair. Members of the Finance Committee are gifted and faithful. We have skillful and precise people who count donated monies. Those who oversee personal giving and the distribution of monies have great integrity. It takes many to make it all work – and we are working hard to make it work even better – so that we may, with transparency and accuracy, financially support the ministries of the church to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, now and into the future!

In this month of August, I pray that you are still enjoying summer! Prayers for everyone who is “returning to school.” See you in worship, around the church and out and about.

—pastor Mary





Disciples' Daily News

Called to Serve

Serving has had a great impact on my own spiritual development. I have learned many lessons and grown spiritually from others as much, if not more, than I have helped others.

My first mission trip I dug up bulbs in the yard for the grandmother instead of working in the house with the rest of the team. I was jealous because I thought their job was more important than mine, only to be thanked profusely by the grandmother in every holiday card -- telling me how much those bulbs meant to her! Very humbling.

In Haiti, I witnessed people who only had two outfits to their name; one for Sunday and one for work during the week. Yet they radiated their love and gratitude to God every Sunday with so much enthusiasm and joy in the Lord. They loved being able to worship! They radiated their joy for the Lord so much more than I have ever witnessed here, where we have a life of abundance compared to them. Sunday has always been my favorite day of the week, but after that, I wanted to radiate my joy in the Lord, too, through my smiles and worship!

When I help serve the Neighborhood meal, it has been a true experience "Seeing All the People" as I develop relationships with some of the people at the mission.

We are called to serve! I hope and pray that you have enjoyed serving, and grown spiritually, too!

.....Pauline Luthi, Lay Leader



A WORD FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Hello again, First Church family! Second Mile Giving for the month of August is Catherine McAuley Clinic. This is a volunteer-based medical clinic for uninsured citizens of the Northwest Indiana area. Their mission is to provide medical and referral services at a nominal cost to the medically underserved. This clinic is a response to God's call to minister to the sick and neglected. The money collected from our Second Mile Giving will financially help to do just that.

How amazing is that, First Church Family? I myself think that is pretty amazing! The people of **Catherine McAuley Clinic** answered God's call to minister to the sick and neglected. They are doing what Jesus did. I am sure, as we all know, there are many times in the Bible that Jesus healed the sick. This was one of the many ways that Jesus ministered to people.

DID YOU KNOW.... that we have a Mission Corner? It is located across from the office, in the narthex. (Narthex = hallway outside the parlor, that leads to the sanctuary.) There are many items that we collect in the Mission Corner. Stop by and see if you have something to donate to one of our missions.

Look for more information about the Mission Corner in the coming months.

One of your co-chairs of the Mission team,

Richard Miller

Bishop's Call to Conversation and Prayer -- A Way Forward

Bishop Trimble Will Lead Conversation in Valparaiso on the United Methodist Church and Human Sexuality Issue

Plan to join Bishop Julius Trimble and United Methodists from across the North District on August 5, when our bishop will lead an important conversation in Valparaiso on the topic of human sexuality, the United Methodist Church, and the significant vote United Methodists delegates from around the world will take in 2019 at a **Special Session of the UMC General Conference**.

The "Bishop's Call to Conversation and Prayer—A Way Forward" will begin at 2:00 p.m. CDT on Sunday, August 5, at Valparaiso First UMC, 103 Franklin St., Valparaiso, and is open to laity and clergy. As Pastor Mary has explained, delegates to the 2016 General Conference were unable to reach consensus on whether the UMC Discipline's current statement about human sexuality should be changed. As a compromise, the body agreed for the Council on Bishops to appoint a special commission to research and address the issue and make a proposal. The 32-member Commission on a Way Forward, composed of UMC clergy and laity from around the world, was asked to develop ways for resolving differences over how to be in ministry with LGBTQ people.

After meeting for over 18 months, the Commission submitted its report, proposing three possible plans. In May, the Council of Bishops voted by an overwhelming majority to share the work done by the Commission on the three plans and to recommend the One Church Plan. The One Church Plan, which Bishop Trimble has endorsed and will speak about, will be placed before the **2019 General Conference** for legislative action. The Council of Bishops also will provide the delegates with supplemental materials that include a historical narrative with disciplinary implications related to the Connectional Conference Plan and the Traditionalist Plan.

The sole purpose of the **Special Session in St. Louis, February 23–26, 2019**, is for delegates to receive and act on the report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. By vote of the 2017 Indiana Annual Conference, those voting from Indiana at the 2019 General Conference will be the same delegation that represented the Indiana Conference at the 2016 General Conference.

We encourage everyone in the congregation to be in prayer about this important subject and join those heading to Valpo on August 5 to meet and learn from Bishop Trimble and be a part of the conversation with our UMC sisters and brothers from across the Connection. If you would like more information or to carpool with FUMC members, contact Jane Harper-Alport, immediate past district lay leader (219-718-8328), or Pauline Luthi, FUMC lay leader (219-689-6505). For a wealth of information about the work and report of the Commission on a Way Forward, go to <http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward-news-and-updates>.

Jane Harper-Alport,
Immediate Past District Lay Leader



**FIRST CHOIR REHEARSAL OF THE 2018/2019 SEASON IS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, AT 7:00 PM.**



We will welcome Dick and Sondra Mackin's return from their Wisconsin retreat very soon! They report excellent weather way up north and have enjoyed their summer.

Dick has plans already in place for most of the upcoming season! Soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections have plenty of room for newcomers. Come join the ranks. We have enough robes too! Experienced singers of harmony are certainly appreciated, but for inexperienced singers, our choir director is a patient, diligent teacher. We work hard, but have fun too, including an occasional cookie fest, generously provided by Sonia Vincent.

We are blessed to have the Mackins in our church family. Come and share in the joy of singing praises to the Lord!

August Birthdays 2018

8/03 Merle Churchill
8/05 Aaron Kozlowski
8/06 Jamie Brown
8/06 Joe Mejia
8/06 Gwen Sonner
8/07 Shirley Farmer
8/07 Bonnie Watson
8/10 Jacob Tapper
8/14 Ray Anderson
8/14 Jan Pazdur
8/17 Dick Mackin
8/17 Tiffany Shelton
8/22 Karen Little
8/27 John Wilson
8/30 Kevin Shelton, Jr.



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





PINEAPPLE PIECES



Even the people who betray you are part of the plan.....Jesus couldn't get to the cross without Judas. unknown

The closest I get to a spa day, is when the steam from the dishwasher smacks me in the face.

Never seem wiser, nor more learned, than the people you are with. Wear your learning like your watch, in a private pocket; do not pull it out and strike it merely to show you have one. - Philip Dormer Stanhope

If you see someone buying candy, popcorn and soda at the movies, they are a drug dealer. There is no other explanation for that type of income.unknown

If you board the wrong train, it is no use running along the corridor in the other direction.

.....Dietrich Bonhoeffer

I tried that Japanese decluttering trend where you hold each thing you own, and throw it out if it doesn't give you joy. So far, I've thrown out all the vegetables and the electric bill.


.....unknown

There are thoughts which are prayers. There are moments when, whatever the posture of the body, the soul is on its knees. Victor Hugo

When your "mom voice" is so loud that even your neighbors brush their teeth and get dressed.....unknown



Prayer and Scripture Calendar 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Psalm 51:1-12	6 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	7 Ephesians 4:1-16	8 John 6:24-35	9 Luke 12:32-40	10 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	11 Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
John Schu	D. Seehausen Family	Cheryle Seljan	Mary Seljan	R. Serna Family	K. Shelton Family	Henry & Pat Showers
12 Ephesians 4:25-5:2	13 Psalm 130	14 John 6:35, 41-51	15 2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	16 Hebrews 11:29-12:2	17 Luke 12:49-56	18 Isaiah 5:1-7
Kathy Smith	R. Smith Family	Gwen Sonner	Barney & Pam Stahl	Kathleen Stricker	D. Tapper Family	N. Tompulis Family
19 Psalm 111	20 John 6:51-58	21 Ephesians 5:15-20	22 I Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	23 Luke 13:10-17	24 Hebrews 12:18-29	25 Jeremiah 1:4-10
A. Valdez Family	M. van Wijk Family	Jerry Vestal Family	Judy Viehweg	Ken & Sonia Vincent	Janet Voorheis	Lois Wade
26 Psalm 84	27 Ephesians 6:10-20	28 I Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11) 22-30, 41-43	29 John 6:56-69	30 Luke 14:1, 7-14	31 Jeremiah 2:4-13	
Carrie Ward	Pete & Lora Ward	Sarah Ward	Chandra Ware	Dave & Bonnie Watson	Terry & Roseanna Watson	

Program Calendar

Aug 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
			9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 6pm - Emmaus-Parlor 7pm - Leadership Study-1	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled	Closed except for scheduled 1pm - Private Party-8,k
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary 2pm - Bishop Trimble's "Call to	6:30pm - G.S. Leaders-(4,5,6)	7pm - Adam's Rib-Parlor	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League 6pm - Emmaus-Parlor 6pm - Pineapple Deliverance-S	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League 6pm - La Leche-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled	Closed except for scheduled
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary	3pm - Learning League	3pm - Learning League	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League 6pm - Emmaus-Parlor 6pm - Pineapple Deliverance-S 7pm - Leadership Study-1	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled 12:30pm - EGALS @ off-site 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Staff-Parish-1	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Finance-1	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 12pm - UMW Board @ parlor 3pm - Learning League 6pm - Emmaus-Parlor 6pm - Pineapple Deliverance-S	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
Neighborhood Meal Prep-K 8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Church Council-1	3pm - Learning League 7pm - G.G. Board-Parlor 7pm - Trustees-4	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League 6pm - Emmaus-Parlor	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled 3pm - Learning League	

Program Calendar

Sep 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
					Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9am - Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary	3pm - Learning League	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Adam's Rib-Parlor	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled	Closed except for scheduled
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9am - Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary	3pm - Learning League 6:30pm - G.S. Leaders-4	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Overeaters Anonymous-1	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League 6pm - La Leche-Parlor	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled	Closed except for scheduled 4pm - Book Club-parlor
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9am - Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary 12pm - Missions-A	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Staff-Parish-1	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Overeaters Anonymous-1	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 3pm - Learning League	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled 12:30pm - EGALS @ off-site 3pm - Learning League 8pm - GG Performance-8	Closed except for scheduled 8pm - GG Performance-8
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Neighborhood Meal Prep-K 8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9am - Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary 3pm - GG Performance-8	3pm - Learning League 7pm - Church Council-1	3pm - Learning League 7pm - G.G. Board-1 7pm - Overeaters Anonymous-1 7pm - Trustees-4	9am - Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am - Quilters @ 4,5,6 10:30am - Bible Study-1 12pm - UMW Board @ parlor 3pm - Learning League 6pm - Kid's Club	1pm - AA (women)-1 1:30pm - Knit/Crochet-Parlor 3pm - Learning League	Closed except for scheduled events Closed except for scheduled 3pm - Learning League 8pm - GG Performance-8	Closed except for scheduled 8pm - GG Performance-8
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
8:30am - Worship-Chapel 9am - Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am - Bible Study-various 10:30am - Worship-Sanctuary 3pm - GG Performance-8						