



The Lighthouse

October 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

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART

Can you imagine what a Sunday worship service would be like without music? No hymn singing, no choir, no piano or organ? How about Christmas and Easter services with no music??

Music plays such a vital part in helping to tell the message of Jesus. The hymns and choir songs help in telling the message in a way that the spoken word does not. And, we remember the words and tunes forever!

I started going to church as a singer, having been invited by two of my Barbershop Quartet members to sing in the Presbyterian Church choir in Hobart. From there I went on to become their choir director. I changed churches a few times in the ensuing years and finally came to Hammond Methodist --- **because of the music!** Upon visiting one Sunday, I was totally impressed with the choir and decided that this was where I wanted to be. So my wife, Sondra, and I joined the church in 2001. I sang tenor in the choir for 4 years and then became choir director in 2005.



This fall the choir is working on 2 new songs -- "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)" and "Headin' for the Promised Land". Music is such a large part of our worship and through our songs I feel we tell the Bible's story very well!

..... Dick Mackin, Director

The **United Methodist Women** will hold their annual fall **Trash and Treasure Sale** on **Saturday, October 13, 2018, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** They will be accepting donations beginning on Monday, October 8, through Thursday, October 11.



Workers will be there each day from 9:00 to 5:00 and on Wednesday until 9:00 p.m. Please begin collecting items to donate and plan to give time that week to help prepare for the sale. All that you do is greatly appreciated. However, *clothing is not accepted.*

There will be **homemade candy** for sale, so all donations of candy are much appreciated. Think about providing fudge, peanut brittle, caramel corn, bark. Donations of **baked goods** to be sold are welcome as well.

UMW donates all money earned to various local charities, upkeep of the church parlor and the church kitchens, and to national and international missions. Any help you give supports that work. **Fran Miklos** is chairing this project. If you have questions, you may call her at 773-734-2130.

.....Submitted by Sue Yerkes

Children's Ministry

Bible verse for October: "May the Lord bless you and take good care of you." *Numbers 6:24*

Looking for children!

We believe that a strong children's ministry program is important in helping children grow both in their understanding of Biblical principles and closer to Christ. If you know families with children or grandchildren who would benefit from our Children's Ministry programs, please let me know so that we can send them cards inviting them to Sunday School and our children's activities. Thanks!



Cheryle Seljan 219-923-4716 or 219-616-0065

KIDS: SEE PAGE 6 FOR SOME FUNNY RIDDLES!!!



a note from your
lead pastor ...

A prayer for Yom Kippur

To those I may have wronged,
I ask forgiveness.
To those I may have helped,
I wish I had done more.
To those I neglected to help,
I asked for understanding.
To those who helped me,
I thank you with all my Heart

G'mar Hatimah Tovah!

Forgiveness – worship in the month of September has been devoted to forgiveness. Forgiveness, very often, and for many people, is a complicated and difficult mission to accomplish. Lewis B. Smedes, in his book, the *Art of Forgiving*, presents many facets of forgiveness. It is complex! But what a gift for us when we are able to learn and begin to master the “art.”

Yom Kippur—the Day of Atonement—considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith, was celebrated by our Jewish sisters and brothers the evening of September 18 to the evening of the 19. "May you be sealed in the Book of Life" is what the Jewish faithful say to one another on Yom Kippur, a day for fasting and asking for forgiveness.

“Wednesday Reflections”

Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist

How is it going with your spiritual journey with ... forgiving and being forgiven? The scriptures are full of verses on forgiveness – *it is important!* Our Jewish brothers and sisters remind us too, how important forgiveness is. The art of forgiving, the gift of forgiving, is for our very selves. For our self. Forgiving is one of the best gifts we can give ourselves ... and it enables us to love others as Jesus needs us to.

YOU WILL
FIND THAT
IT IS
NECESSARY
TO LET THINGS
GO; SIMPLY
FOR THE REASON
THAT THEY
ARE
HEAVY.

I pray that you will continue working on your ability to offer forgiveness, as well as to receive forgiveness. *It is so very important.* Author Lewis Smedes offers us an excellent resource for each of us to take our next step in our forgiveness journey.

(see next page also)

HOLDING A GRUDGE
DOESN'T MAKE YOU
STRONG; IT MAKES
YOU BITTER.
FORGIVING DOESN'T
MAKE YOU WEAK; IT
SETS YOU FREE.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your concern, thoughts, and prayers as we dealt with and escaped from the ravages of Hurricane Florence. Thankfully all of our family members are safe, and their homes had minimal, if any, damage. Please continue to pray for all those affected. The devastation is overwhelming! We are blessed to be a part of a loving and praying church family. God Bless you!

In gratitude and love,
Mary and Cheryle Seljan

More good stuff from Pastor Mary.....

Everyone has days when we are not feeling our best, or on top of the world! **Fairygodboss** recently published 30 inspirational writings by wise people, past and present. I found them interesting—perhaps you will too! Here are a few of these quotes:

“The best way out is always through.” – Robert Frost

“If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t run then walk, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.” – Helen Keller

“We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot.” – Eleanor Roosevelt

“Courage is like a muscle. We strengthen it by use.” – Ruth Gordon

“If you’re going through hell, keep going.” – Winston Churchill

“Resilience is knowing that you are the only one that has the power and the responsibility to pick yourself up.” – Mary Holloway

“Where there is no struggle, there is no strength.” – Oprah Winfrey

“Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore.” – Andre Gide

“I am the greatest, I said that even before I knew I was.” – Muhammad Ali

“You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have.” – Cayla Mills

“I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day and I believe in miracles.” – Audrey Hepburn

“When someone tells you that you can’t do something, perhaps you should consider that they are only telling you what they can’t do.” – Sheldon Cahoone

“The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.” – Arthur C. Clarke

“Only those who dare to fail greatly, can ever achieve greatly.” – Robert F. Kennedy

Words have power!

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Join me on **Thursday evenings in October**... as we read and discuss the book,  
*Living Faithfully, Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church.*

**We will begin Thursday October 4, @ 7:00 p.m.**

Indicate your interest in this class by writing on your worship attendance card or by emailing the office.

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See you in worship, in the community, or around the church,

.....*pastor Mary*

“To err is human,” he told them. “It takes a government to really louse things up.”

.....California Governor Ronald Reagan, during a radio program.

Disciples' Daily News



Last month, I shared about how mission trips helped me to grow spiritually, but I didn't start out that way. My first step in serving was drying dishes at the Turkey Dinner and helping in little ways like that.

The Bible tells us all acts of service and sharing of gifts and talents are important to complete the whole picture. If you helped with the fundraiser, setting up or donating in anyway, then let me congratulate you! Here's why!

Kenwood School's new playground is almost completed thanks to our prayers and help. It cost over \$60,000. They used our contributions to purchase a Gaga pit, tether ball apparatus, a storage container on wheels with a lock for playground equipment, a variety of balls, jump ropes, sidewalk chalk, paint and brushes to make areas for 4 Square and Hopscotch. It will be a Nationally Recognized playground when completed, which makes them eligible for playground grants! Talk about working with our community and the rewards of service! Awesome!

Last month, Pastor Donna shared that Intentional Faith Development and service is one facet of our spiritual journey. Pastor Mary shared a simple description which I really like because it is simple and I can remember it. "Love – Liberate – Launch".

Here are a few other ways to describe our spiritual growth pathway:

- “Worship with God – Grow with God – Share with Others”,
- “Searching-Exploring – Intentional Growth – Maturing” or,
- “Prevenient Grace - Justifying Grace – Sanctifying Grace.”

Service	Volunteers, interested in helping others		Gives of time, talents and money, tries a service project at church		Uses spiritual gifts as God intends, increases giving to help the ministries of the church
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Where are you on your journey? I would love to listen and help us grow together!
pluthi@peoplepc.com

.....Pauline Luthi

Poverty is the mother of crime... *Marcus Aurelius, 121-180 A.D.*

PINEAPPLE PIECES

Dinosaurs had no coffee.... How did that work out?

100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has a car and only the rich have horses. Oh, how the stables have turned!!



Pastor (noun): A hardcore, devil-stomping, ninja -- empowered by the Holy Spirit.

A line is a dot that went for a walk.

A NOTE FROM THE MISSION TEAM



Hello once again, First Church Family! First, I just want to remind everyone to please pray for those who have been affected by Hurricane Florence. I am certain that there will be opportunities to help those who have been affected by the hurricane.

I also would like to point out that there needs to be some weeding and trimming done around the church grounds. There have been a few people who have done some of the weeding. They are Pauline Luthi, Jimmy Ortiz, Mollie Bodie, and myself. Thanks to these individuals for their work.

Second Mile giving for the month of October will be for the Congregational Care Fund. The funds will go toward supporting those who are in need, those who are part of our church family, mostly; need can be defined by, though not exclusively by, rent, utilities, medication, needs for children, items needed for life...as opposed to wants. The funds will be distributed by our lead pastor, who will, as needed, seek counsel from others.

I believe that it is very important to keep this in mind ---- *in doing mission work the true reward is how we feel on the inside..... how we feel in our heart and our soul.* We are to do mission work to show God how we love Him, and to show and share God's love with others. We are to do mission work for spiritual rewards, not for earthly or material rewards.

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

The **Sizzling** Evocative Tale of The Offering Plate



Once you've put your money into the offering plate and the plate has made it's way to the altar, it is prayed over. An usher takes the plate from the altar to the office where the money (envelopes, checks, cash, change) is placed in a large envelope and secured in a safe. The next day the money is counted by one of 2 two-person teams.

The first step is to remove the offering from the envelope. Next, the loose cash is separated from the loose checks and envelopes. If there are loose checks, the counters prepare envelopes identifying the giver and the amount given. Most of the offering comes in the envelopes that are provided by the church. The envelope has a number that identifies the giver. The envelopes are opened and the cash or checks are removed. The amount in the envelope is compared to the amount that the giver has written on the envelope. That amount is written on the face of the envelope and a dollar sign or check mark is made to indicate the medium of currency. Four groupings are made; 1) loose cash, 2) envelope cash, 3) checks, and 4) envelopes.

The sorting process now changes to a counting process. The loose cash (there generally is not much loose cash) is counted and kept separate from the envelope cash. The envelope cash is counted and then the adding machine is used to run a total of the checks. The tape from the adding machine is placed on top of the pile of checks. We now have three subtotals that must be combined to get a grand total. The final piece in the counting process is to run a tape (adding machine) of all of the envelopes. This total must equal the exact amount of counted envelope cash and totaled checks. If the numbers do not agree, the discrepancy must be resolved.



Now a recording process begins. A form is filled out showing loose cash, envelope cash and checks. There are other categories but we'll ignore those for now. The form goes to the Financial Secretary. Then a bank deposit slip is made out. The deposit slip, cash, and checks are placed into an envelope for deposit at the bank.

The Financial Secretary gets the envelopes so that the giving can be recorded into the data base that we use (It is called Shepherd Staff) and uses the number identifiers to match to the giver. If there is special giving such as Second Mile, Learning League, The Vine, etc., she shows that apart from Current Expense money. Just to reiterate, he/she will have to handle every envelope and may be required to make multiple entries from the same envelope.

Her totals must match the counters' totals and the bank deposit.



Pretty simple huh?

.....Robert Brown

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world” –Anne Frank



Every day we change the world! Sometimes it’s intentional, but mostly it’s without a clue that we have said or done something that has affected—either positively or negatively—the life of another human being. A heavy thought, isn’t it?? Unfortunately, we have come to believe that to improve the world we have to do something BIG and impressive. False! Improving the world begins when we choose to live our lives as “the hands and feet of Jesus Christ” to those we come in contact with on a daily basis. Let me share with you a few of the “improving the world” moments I noticed recently.

I love doing jigsaw puzzles. There are many in our congregation who love this pastime also. Recently I finished a 500-piece puzzle and shared it with a fellow puzzle-lover in our congregation. A few days after I gave them the puzzle, I got a phone call asking me why I put a \$20 bill in the bag with the puzzle. What? I had no idea that money was in the bag! I had simply grabbed a plastic bag from my stash of grocery bags and shoved the box in without a second glance. Strange how God works, isn’t it? First, how that money got in the bag is a mystery to me. Second, this person was honest enough to tell me it was in the bag. And third, even though I tried to say, “Finders keepers,” they would have none of it, and returned the money to me. I have to admit having an extra \$20 improved my world temporarily. However, the real improvement (for me) comes in knowing that the Christian values taught by Jesus Christ—honesty and truthfulness—are alive and well in our world. A BIG “Thank You” to the one who knows who they are!



Another place I see people improving the world, in small but life changing ways, is in church on Sunday morning. Every week I witness acts of kindness (*helping those who may be having a hard time walking or someone who may have dropped something*) and hear loving words of affirmation spoken. (*Unfortunately, on occasion the opposite is true, which does not improve the world one single bit!*) There are also the faithful ladies sitting at the **Script table** providing cards that benefit First Church. Purchases of them help to fund ministries which improve our surrounding community.

A few Sundays ago, the **Emmaus** group was preparing a neighborhood meal under the direction (*and culinary expertise!*) of Char Copeland. Naturally there was work, but there was also sharing and fellowship as everyone pitched in to prepare a nourishing meal for those at the shelter. Each week I see people greeting one another, even those they don’t know yet, with a smile, a handshake, or a hug, which just might make someone’s day, or maybe even their week! As you can see, these acts are nothing **BIG**, but definitely improving the world!

Pastor Donna, October 2018

RIDDLES FOR KIDS

What did the balloon say to the pin? “Hello, Buster!”

What has four legs and one foot? “A bed”

What did the carpet say to the floor? “I’ve got you covered!”

What is the opposite of cock-a-doodle-do? “Cock-a-doodle-don’t.”

Why is a lazy dog like a hill? Because it’s a slow pup (slope up).

Waiter, do you have frog legs? “Certainly, sir.” Then hop into the kitchen and get me a steak!

Waiter, do you serve crabs? “Sit down, sir. We serve anybody.”



2018 October Birthdays



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.

- 10/01 Scarlet Hoffman
- 10/02 Kathleen Stricker
- 10/03 Carol Burton
- 10/03 Mary LeVan
- 10/07 Beth Moll
- 10/08 Donna Beifuss
- 10/08 Jason Hawkins
- 10/10 Analicia Valdez
- 10/11 Beryl Puckering
- 10/12 Lisa Dodd
- 10/12 Barney Stahl
- 10/13 Terry Dodd
- 10/13 Penny Zeiler
- 10/18 Mollie Bodie
- 10/21 Gary Williams
- 10/24 Rita Ashcraft
- 10/24 Dave Watson
- 10/25 Roseann Watson

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

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

Karen Little and Sue Robertson, Editors

Trunk of Treats!

Our Annual Trunk of Treats event is right around the corner! This has been a wonderful ministry for our church as neighborhood families come to our church for trick-or-treating, hot dogs, s'mores, and fellowship. Volunteers are *always* needed and welcome. Contributions of candy and other goodies will gladly be accepted. We welcome all children on

Wednesday, October 31,
from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Our own **Ken Wheeler** is a member of The South Holland Master Chorale. The South Holland Master Chorale will open its 2018–19 season with a variety of American music. The “Americans All” concert will include pieces by American composers Randall Thompson and Robert Shaw, spirituals by Moses Hogan and others, and songs from one of the great epic Hollywood films of the 1950s.

The “Americans All” concert will be presented **Sunday, October 14, at 4:00pm**, at First Reformed Church, 15924 South Park Avenue in South Holland, Illinois. For more information, please see Ken, call 708-210-2913, or e-mail chorale@southholland.org.



Prayer and Scripture Calendar-2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Psalm 124 Fran Carpenter	2 Mark 9:38-50 Castro Family	3 James 5:13-20 M. Chelich Family	4 Numbers 10:18-20 Merle Churchill	5 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Roger Collier	6 Luke 16:19-31 Dave & Char Copeland
7 Psalm 26 Gordon & Joyce Cory	8 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 David Dean	9 Mark 10:2-16 D. Dean Family	10 Job 1:1; 2:1-10 DeBold Family	11 Lamentations 1:1-6 Laura DeMarco	12 Luke 4:18-20 Karen Dodd	13 2 Timothy 1:1-14 M. Dodd Family
14 Psalm 22:1-15 Shirley Farmer	15 Mark 10:17-31 Alice Foley	16 Job 23:1-9, 16-17 Adele Gawryns	17 Hebrews 4:12-16 Jay Gianotti	18 Numbers 10:13-14 Russ Godbout	19 Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Cheri Gozdecki	20 2 Timothy 1:1-14 John Grace
21 Job 38:1-7 (34-41) M. Gutierrez Family	22 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c Don & Joann Harris	23 Hebrews 5:1-10 Janet Harrison	24 Mark 10:35-45 Bette Haskins	25 Acts 2:14-21 J. Hawkins Family	26 Luke 6:37-41 Josie & Marty Hawkins	27 Joel 2:23-32 Melinda Hawkins
28 Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22) Bob Heady Family	29 Hebrews 7:23-28 Dave & Mary Hinshaw	30 Mark 10:46-52 D. Hoffman Family	31 Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Bev Hornak Family			

October 2018						
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28	29	30	31			

November 2018						
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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sep 30 	Oct 1 6:30pm Genesisus Guild Set Removal -8	2 6:30pm Genesisus Guild Set Removal -8 7:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor	3 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Pineapple Heritage (sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	4 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 7:00pm Handbell rehearsal (choir room)	5 Closed except for scheduled events	6 Closed except for scheduled events
7 BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:00am World Communion Sunday 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	8 9:00am Trash & Treasure Setup-UMW 6:30pm G.S. Leaders-4 7:00pm Church Council (1)	9 9:00am Trash & Treasure Setup-UMW 10:00am Five Guys Fundraiser - LL 7:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary)	10 9:00am Trash & Treasure Setup-UMW 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Pineapple Heritage (sanctuary) 6:00pm Emmaus (3) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	11 9:00am Trash & Treasure Setup-UMW 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor 7:00pm Handbell rehearsal (choir room)	12 Closed except for scheduled events 9:00am Trash & Treasure Setup-UMW	13 Closed except for scheduled events 9:00am Trash & Treasure (UMW) (Sale)-8,K
14 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	15 7:00pm Staff Parish-1	16 7:00pm Finance - 1 7:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary)	17 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Pineapple Heritage (sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	18 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Learning League Board Meeting (Library) 7:00pm Handbell rehearsal (choir room)	19 Closed except for scheduled events 8:00am No Learning League 12:00pm EGALS (off-site)	20 Closed except for scheduled events 12:00pm Girl Scouts (youth room) 2:00pm Private Party - 4,5,6,K 2:00pm Private Party - 8,K
21 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	22 8:00am No Learning League 7:00pm Church Council - 1	23 8:00am No Learning League 7:00pm Trustees-4 7:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 7:00pm G.G. Board-1	24 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UMW Board (parlor) 6:00pm Pineapple Heritage (sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	25 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 7:00pm Handbell rehearsal (choir room)	26 Closed except for scheduled events 5:30pm Private Event - 8,K	27 Closed except for scheduled events
28 Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (Choir) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	29	30 7:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary)	31 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 5:00pm Trunk-or-Treats 6:00pm Pineapple Heritage (sanctuary) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	Nov 1	2	3