



The Lighthouse

February 2019

*“A friend loves at all times.”
Proverbs 17:17*

A Special God Incidence in the Food Pantry

During Advent on Wednesday December 19, a client came into The Vine with his wife and daughter. While he was waiting for his order to be filled, he received a phone call.

He looked concerned, then he was filled with such joy!

The call informed him that he was to receive the kidney that he was waiting for! He was so happy! He said, “I got this call now because I came here today!”

Blessing come to us in so many ways; the staff at The Vine this day were blessed by this man’s presence, his phone call, and his immense gratitude.

May we be filled with such joy, too!



*A very big thank you to Karen Little and Sue Robertson
for co-editing our First Church newsletter this past year.
We appreciate your great organization and for re-starting a
newsletter for First Church, The Lighthouse*

THANK YOU FROM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HAMMOND

*For sharing your time, your food, your hearts and your hands with our St. Joe Guests during the Christmas Holiday
May God Continue to Bless your Ministry,*

Your Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Hammond

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the **March newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **February 20th** or via email at



a note from your lead pastor ...



January is ending and we are headed into February! January has met us with cold and snow. Unprecedented cold and snow squall after snow squall. For a week or so our primary goals were to keep warm, fed, keep water running and to be safe. I am grateful and appreciative for all who must be out in this weather – especially when it is for our safety and benefit. Thank you all first responders and those who have worked to clear roads, for us and for our community. *Thank you to the several folks who regularly check on other church family members – phoning with a caring and friendly voice, ensuring that others are safe, warm, have their needs met, and work to meet these needs.* You are the hands and feet of Christ!

I have to admit while my favorite season may be summer, I am also a winter girl. I do like the snow. It is beautiful and magical. God’s beautiful blanket which softens our world. (I have worked many years having to overcome weather obstacles to get to work, grateful that while I still need to be out in the weather, I am no longer pressed to get to an ICU shift on time. I pray for those who do, however.)

Burkina Faso ~ When it comes to traveling to Africa – nothing is ever 100% certain that the trip will happen until one lands on Africa soil, and you are really there! Our flights were scheduled and paid for in December; once flights are booked it is nearly a sure thing that the mission trip is a go. *This was not to be though.* After 18 months of planning, I received updated security/safety reports a month prior to our scheduled trip. They were urgent enough that I had to cancel this mission trip. What a disappointment! But it was a wise decision, so from this viewpoint, it was a ‘simple decision.’ *At the writing of this article, I have been asked to lead a trip in 2020.* I am in continued prayer about all of this.

One of my watchwords for 2019 is “swerve.” Michelle Obama uses “swerve” in her book, *Becoming*. My definition of Michelle’s swerve: *recognizing the new, the next – flow for me and running with it.* So, I am listening very carefully for my ‘next,’ *so that I may run with it.* Clearly, Burkina Faso this February is not part of my ‘next.’

Thank you First Church for your support in so many ways – encouragement, interest, financial giving to Clean Water. You are wonderful! I am confident that if this trip is to be, it will happen. The primary reason for returning to Burkina Faso would be to introduce others to this ministry which serves desperate human beings, and to see how the Hand of God stretches between the African continent to North America. God works in incredible ways and I have been blessed to be a part of God’s work. Please join me in prayer for the Burkinabe’ people – who live with so little and for those who are so committed to their country, who work tirelessly for improvement.

February 23 -26: Special Called General Conference, in St. Louis Missouri. Included in the body of this newsletter is a four-page article which a colleague of mine shared with me – I have edited it a bit; *it is full of information.* This special called general conference will affect all of us, though we do not yet know how! I believe some things will change – and I believe some things will not – Kenwood staff and students will continue to need our support, those who come to our Food Pantry (record breaking in January) will continue to need us, people will need to hear about Christ, and to experience Christ’s love through us. Our neighborhood around us will continue to need us, and we will continue to need our community.

Thursday February 7, 6:30 p.m., I will hold a meeting in our parlor – to present information and to take questions and have conversation together, about A Way Forward. Please consider attending!

And regarding A Way Forward, I am available to meet with anyone individually, if you wish.

May the peace of Christ be with you and yours, pastor Mary



February Newsletter Article about *The Way Forward*

Suggested ARTICLE ONE- *5 Things You Should Know about the Way Forward* (printed with permission from **A UMC.org Feature by Joe Iovino**)

As a United Methodist, you may have heard about some of the things happening in our church today around the issues of human sexuality. There will be a [Special Session of General Conference](#) in February 2019, to receive and act upon a report by a group called the Commission on a Way Forward. This important work will help shape the future of The United Methodist Church.

These five things offer an overview of the Commission on a Way Forward, and what will be discussed and decided at the [2019 General Conference Special Session](#). Many links are included that take you to pages where you can learn much more.

1. Beginnings

At [General Conference 2016](#) in Portland, there were an overwhelming number of proposals dealing with issues surrounding same-sex marriage, the ordination of LGBTQ clergy, and related topics. During a discussion about how to proceed, a clergy delegate addressed the bishops, “We are asking for your leadership.” Another added, “We are in a stuck place... I’m pleading with you. Please help us.”

The bishops returned later in the [General Conference](#) with a plan. They would create a group to research and advise them of ways to help us get unstuck, to move us forward. The group they later brought together is the Commission on a Way Forward. *More about the formation of the commission go to the website.*

2. Task

The bishops carefully formed the Commission on a Way Forward, inviting 32 people who identified on all sides of the issues to be part of this special group. Eight bishops, 13 other clergy members, and 11 lay members constitute the commission.

The work of the Commission on a Way Forward is “to inform deliberation across the whole church and to help the [Council of Bishops](#) in their service to the next General Conference in finding a way forward.” ***More on their “About Us” page.***

The commission regularly reported to the bishops during their work (see timeline to the right). Their [final report](#) will be presented to a [special session of General Conference](#), February 23-26, 2019, in St. Louis, Missouri.

3. Issues

As the Commission on a Way Forward was beginning their work, the [United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry](#) (GBHEM) invited scholars to a gathering called “Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness.” Twenty-eight academics from three countries gathered for three days in March 2017, at Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Georgia, to present papers and discuss the issues. Eight members of the Commission on a Way Forward attended the event.

Following the gathering, GBHEM produced ***Unity of the Church and Human Sexuality***, a study guide based on the scholars’ conversation. The study guide is available [free online here](#). Bound copies can be [purchased at Cokesbury.com](#). The papers presented by the academics are also available for [purchase at Cokesbury.com](#).



4. Recommendations

On July 31, 2018, the [final report of the Commission on a Way Forward](#) was released in the four official languages of The United Methodist Church. The report may be downloaded in [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), [Swahili](#) and [Spanish](#).

5. Who decides?

The report of the Commission on a Way Forward will be received and acted upon by a [special session of General Conference](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, February 23-26, 2019. This worldwide gathering of United Methodists will only act on items around our deep divide over homosexuality.

Originally, the Commission on a Way Forward understood their role as advisory to the Council of Bishops, who would then report to the special General Conference session. A [ruling of the Judicial Council](#) on May 25, 2018, clarified that the Commission on a Way Forward is to report directly to the General Conference.

At the request of the Council of Bishops, the Judicial Council [reviewed proposed legislation](#) for the [One Church, Connectional Conference, and Traditional plans](#) to determine their constitutionality. Oral hearings were held during their gathering in Zurich, Switzerland, October 23-26, 2018. [Their decision](#) was released on October 26.

Most of the delegates for the 2019 General Conference will be those who attended the 2016 General Conference, though [The Book of Discipline](#) allows annual conferences to elect new delegates if they so choose. As with every General Conference the number of clergy and lay (non-clergy) delegates will be equal. Bishops preside, but do not vote. [More about General Conferences here.](#)

Our next regular General Conference will be held May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

To keep up with the latest news, be sure to visit umc.org/wayforward.



[Suggested ARTICLE TWO-](#) “*What is Our Denomination’s Stance on Homosexuality?*” (From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church* — 2016. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House. Used by permission.)

Only the General Conference speaks for The United Methodist Church. When the lay and clergy delegates to General Conference approve a statement, it is published in the *Book of Discipline* and/or the *Book of Resolutions*. These words come from the people of The United Methodist Church.

2016 Book of Discipline Statements

Regarding church membership

¶ 4. **Article IV. Inclusiveness of the Church:** The United Methodist Church acknowledges that all persons are of sacred worth. All persons without regard to race, color, national origin, status, or economic condition, shall be eligible to attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments, upon baptism be admitted as baptized members, and upon taking vows declaring the Christian faith, become professing members in any local church in the connection.

¶ 214. **Eligibility:** All people may attend its worship services, participate in its programs, receive the sacraments and become members in any local church in the connection (¶ 4).

Regarding the ministry of the ordained

¶ 304.3: The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching. Therefore self-avowed practicing homosexuals are not to be certified as candidates, ordained as ministers, or appointed to serve in The United Methodist Church.

¶ 341.6: Ceremonies that celebrate homosexual unions shall not be conducted by our ministers and shall not be conducted in our churches.

¶ 2702: [Chargeable Offenses](#)

Regarding United Methodist funds

¶ 613: The [conference council on finance and administration] shall have authority and responsibility to ensure that no annual conference board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The UMC "not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends" (¶ 161F).

¶ 806.9: [The General Council on Finance and Administration] shall be responsible for ensuring that no board, agency, committee, commission, or council shall give United Methodist funds to any gay caucus or group, or otherwise use such funds to promote the acceptance of homosexuality or violate the expressed commitment of The United Methodist Church 'not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends' (¶ 161F).

Suggested ARTICLE THREE- “*What Can the People of Hammond First Do Now?*”

The following are suggestions of how you can be an active part of this unusual season in our denominational life together.

1) Pray

There is a UMC prayer movement praying as a response to the Council of Bishops initiative called Praying Our Way Forward. We invite all—across the denomination—to pray for God’s guidance as we approach the special-called session of General Conference to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis. Here’s how:

- Join UMCPrays.org.
- Pause and Pray four minutes from 2:23 through 2:26 AM or PM.
- Participate in a weekly Wesleyan fast from Thursday after dinner through Friday afternoon.
- Use the prayer calendar to pray for delegates and bishops by name.

2) Learn

Here are just a few more articles and ways to follow the conversation.
Here is our denominational page on the Commission on the Way Forward-
<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

UM News article that talks about the upcoming schedule of the process as well as how some annual conferences are preparing-
<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/hitting-the-road-for-way-forward>

Our Hoosier UM website with other information-
<https://www.inumc.org/blog/updates-and-resources-on-a-way-forward/>

A comprehensive video presentation by USA pastoral leader on the various leanings within our denomination-
<http://revtomberlin.com/talking-about-lgbtq-inclusion-in-the-umc/#sthash.AAX8K14l.dpbs>

3) Express

Our Hoosier delegation of lay and clergy from Indiana are meeting regularly to pray, prepare, read, and process all of the information so that they can best represent Hoosier United Methodists in February.
If you would like to email the entire delegation to share... 1) your prayers; 2) encouragement; and/or 3) your thoughts on the decisions before us as a denomination you are welcome to do so. The entire delegation receives emails at
2019gcdelegation@inumc.org



Suggested ARTICLE FOUR: “What are the plans to be considered at GC2019?” Reprinted with permission from *The Commission on a Way Forward report: What you should know* by Joe Lovino a UMC.org feature

Understanding what United Methodists will consider at the [Special Session of General Conference, February 23-26, 2019](#) in St. Louis, Missouri, can be confusing. Because the work is “limited to receiving and acting upon a report from the [Commission on a Way Forward](#) based upon the recommendations of the Council of Bishops,” that report is a great place to start.

The report of the Commission on a Way Forward (COWF) is available free online in each of the official languages of the General Conference ([English](#) | [French](#) | [Portuguese](#) | [Swahili](#)) and [Spanish](#), making it readily available to all United Methodists.

When opening the report, it is tempting to skip ahead to the proposed plans and legislation. But taking the time to read the context, history and background information the Commission provides, leads to a better understanding of the recommendations.

After explaining how COWF functioned, the report turns to “A Conversation within the Commission on a Way Forward,” which contains the proposed plans.

The One Church Plan, [endorsed by the Council of Bishops](#), would allow but not require United Methodist clergy to perform same-gender weddings where legal, and allow but not require annual conferences to ordain LGBTQ pastors. “The One Church Plan is built on the belief that it is possible to live with more space while we focus on our common mission,” the report states.

The Connectional Conference Plan would create “three values-based connectional conferences” in the U.S., and provide for central conferences to align with one of those connectional conferences or become one of their own. According to the report, the “Connectional Conference Plan addresses the reality of the UMC as it is now.”

The Traditionalist Plan is mentioned in the report, but details written by “a few members of the Council of Bishops” appear in appendix 3. “The Traditional Model maintains our global United Methodist teaching on human sexuality,” the plan states.

COWF considered a traditionalist plan but discontinued work on it because it received “modest support” from both COWF and Council of Bishops. When the bishops later asked COWF to include a Traditionalist Plan, “the time available did not allow for the full conciliar process utilized for the other two plans.”

Other plans that are not part of the COWF report have been submitted by others for consideration by the Special Session of General Conference.





A Note from the Mission team

Hello First Church Family. In January, the Mission Team was busy preparing and serving the **neighborhood meal**. As usual, it was an amazing and wonderful blessing! *Woo Hoo!* Thank You Jesus! Many of us know what the neighborhood meal is. For those who do not I will explain a little bit about it. The neighborhood meal is prepared and served by a different group in or associated with our church on the fourth Sunday of every month. The **neighborhood meal** is served at the Hammond City Rescue Mission Shelter on State Street. This is something that we can do to serve God and serve and help people that is right in our own back yard. It maybe something so small to us, but it may make a make difference in the lives to those that we are serving.

During the month of February, there will be a planning meeting for the **spring rummage sale** that will be in May the Saturday before Mother's Day. Please talk see Cheryle Seljan, Katy Province, or myself for more details. There will also be a reminder listed in the bulletin. Anyone who is interested in helping with the rummage sale or is interested in knowing more about it is welcome to attend the meeting.

The Second Mile Giving for February will be LOVE INC. Also known as LOVE In The Name Of Christ. LOVE INC. is a non-profit organization that helps churches help people. It is also a furniture ministry. They are located at 1400 North Broad Street, Griffith, Indiana 46319. They collect new or gently used furniture. They give the furniture to a family in need. The family uses the furniture until they can get back on there feet and can be able to afford to buy their own furniture.

There will a **Mission and Justice Summit on Saturday, March 9, 2019 in Franklin, Indiana at Grace United Methodist Church** from 8:30 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Eastern time. There will be 8 different workshops. Katy Province and myself went last year and it was amazing and awesome!! Please see both of us if you are interested in going or have any questions about this event.

Pastor Mary and the Mission Team would also like to say a *great big thank you* to everyone who donated to the Second Mile Advent Giving for Burkina Faso for the wells and also for the Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children.

Unfortunately, due to safety issues Pastor Mary's mission trip to **Burkina Faso** *has been canceled* for February 2019. Let us keep everyone in Burkina Faso in our prayers.

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

Do I? Do You? Do We?

The Methodist Church has the motto of Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors. Do I really believe in this and apply it to my life? Do you? Does our church practice this? Am I really open to anyone and willing to welcome and accept anyone who comes to worship? Am I willing to accept and respect them if they are different from me? What if they like organ music and I don't? Am I going to complain and cause problems or am I willing to offer constructive criticism and be part of the solution?

Of course, we are all different and prefer different music, forms of communion, sermon lengths and sermon topics. Do I? Do you? Do we have a positive attitude and want to build up our church and welcome the people in our community? Since we are starting a new year, maybe I, you, we need to do some soul searching and be accountable so that our words and actions will be filled with the unconditional love Jesus has shown us.

Let us look for the positives in our church and have an attitude of gratitude for the many blessings God has bestowed on our church. May the Lord help us to use them to build up our church family so that we can make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! Will you help me? I will help you!

Thank you, Pauline Luthi Co-Lay Leader





But "Why?"

We have an emergency situation here. There is a young man who needs to be moved into protective custody immediately. Apparent, this guy named Caesar is looking for him. Says he's broken some law, But I tell you, everyone knows he is an innocent man.

Hey- he's over here in a place called Gethsemane. Oh my goodness. He's just there--- there in plain sight, praying.

"Young man, sorry to disturb you, but we are here to ensure your safety. We have been told that a person by the name of Caesar is sending men to get you. Our task is to move to a place where you will be out of harm's way."

With conviction, the young man speaks softly, "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is (the) reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets ..." (*Matthew 4: 11-12*) " You have heard that it was said, (an) 'Eye for (an) eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." (*Matthew 5: 38-41*)

"Young man, I truly respect your position, but it is important for you to understand that the people who are looking for you plan to kill you. We must move quickly to ensure that they are not able to carry out this unforgivable and unjust act."

With eyes gently lifted toward the sky, he smiles and begins to speak, " When (they) have lifted up the Son of Man, then (they) will know that I am he and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him." (*John 8: 28-29*) "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom (they) claim as (their) God, is the one who glorifies me." (*John 8: 54*)

"But son- why?"

The young man responds, "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." (*John 3: 16-17*)

"But son- why?"

Turning to look his rescuer in the eye, the young man responds, "Love."

Monthly challenge: Keep a "love" calendar. Go out of your way each day to commit an act of love for someone; i.e. hold the door for a stranger, let someone cut over in traffic, buy a pair of gloves and give them to someone on the street. Let them know that God is working through you. "*Therefore, let us love one another as Christ has loved us.*"

P. Mosley, Co-lay Leader January 3, 2019



David Long – A “Shining Star” for the Genesis Guild – Outstanding Achievement Award

This last fall David Long received a NIETF award -- the *Outstanding Achievement Award*; awarded annually, this is an honor voted on by peers. Our Genesis Guild, a ministry of Hammond First, is one of 21 community theaters that make up Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre Foundation, or NIETF. This award for one of our own is an outstanding achievement, and we are proud of David.

David was introduced to the Guild in 1987 when he met Janie Wilson and Larry and Sondra Hinken (founding members of the Guild) and was asked to join the cast of *The King and I*. The director was Genesis Guild Founder Rev. Jim Evans.

“One of the things I liked right away about the Genesis Guild was the ‘homey’ quality of the group,” David said. “The ‘central group’ socialized often together...and they served homemade treats as a kindness for their audiences at intermissions!”

David’s talent, kindness and willingness were key factors in why he was asked to become a board member. Previously, all members had belonged to First United Methodist Church; Ken Mertens and David were the first two non-church members to be voted in as members (around 1990).

“Ken and I have known David for 30 years,” Cathy Mertens (wife of Ken and past board member) said. “We have had a great friendship...working on shows and serving on the board.”

David moved to Chicago in 1996, making trips to the Guild more difficult. However, as a Special Education teacher at the nearby ECHO School in South Holland (roughly 10 miles from Hammond), he was able to continue to stay on the board and assist in many shows over the years.

Some of David’s most memorable productions include:

As an actor: Barnaby Tucker, *Hello, Dolly!*, 1992. “I got a lot of laughs, I liked my co-stars, and I loved the vintage suit Charlotte Moore found and tailored to me!”

As a choreographer: *Anything Goes*, 1998. “I co-choreographed with Cathy Mertens, and we worked on those many major dances (including a major tap dance number with a corps of 16 tap dancers) together, eventually winning a NIETF (Northwest Indiana Excellence in Theatre) award for it.”

As a director: *The Secret Garden*, 1996. “I’d have to say [it was] the one in which all the elements ‘came together’ the most...the show was nominated for 10 NIETF awards (winning 3, including Best Musical).”

In October, David won the “Outstanding Achievement Award” at the 26th annual NIETF awards banquet. Over 40 of his fellow thespians nominated him, by far the most nominations for a single person in this category. Fittingly, Ken and Cathy Mertens presented the award to him.

David can always find the good in everyone and everything. Rarely (if ever) has he uttered a negative word. It’s what made David Long one of Genesis Guild’s most beloved members. Regardless if he was on or offstage, he was a delight to work with, for his personality, patience, passion and talent.

In 2018, David retired from teaching in South Holland. As a result, as of this 2018-2019 season, he is no longer on the board.

“I feel like I’ve brought a certain level of theatrical knowledge and experience,” David said. “My hope for the Genesis Guild is that it will continue as a positive outlet for theatre lovers in the Calumet Region...and continues to serve the church.”

Charlotte Moore, one of the founding members of the Genesis Guild along with her late husband Roger T. Moore, recalls meeting David in the 1980’s. “It is rare that a very special, uniquely talented individual crosses your path in life,” she said, adding that over 30 years have passed and David was there, performing, directing, encouraging others and shedding tears when dear Guild friends passed away (including her husband Roger, Larry and Sondra Hinken and Ed Griffith) to “the greatest stage in heaven.”

“Yes David, we thank you for all these years of service,” Charlotte said, ending by calling herself David’s ‘friend forever.’”

“Few are still around today to remember the strong bond we all had in the early years of the Genesis Guild, but David has been there all along,” Cathy said. “He has always been there to support and encourage. His love of theatre always shines through! He is truly a shining star for the Genesis Guild!”



Your United Methodist Women are in Mission:

Hammond First United Methodist Women Gifts for 2018:

District Pledge which is used for Women and Children's Missions Divided by State, National, and International	\$2,000 pledge
Donation to First Church to offset expenses:	\$200
McCauley Clinic	\$200
St. Joseph Kitchen	\$300
Strong Tower Church	\$100
Clean Water – Wells – Burkina Faso	\$500
Lucille Raines: Residence half way house.	\$200
Learning League (will purchase Food)	\$100
Congregational Care	\$200

GIFTS **\$ 3,800**

**District: \$13 per member: Money goes to
Lucille Raines Residence , Mission University, and Camping**

Other Money given during the year

July 2018 St. Joseph Meal at Presbyterian Church (approx.)	\$150
September 23, 2018 Neighborhood (State Street) Meal	\$176
December 27, 2018 St. Joseph Meal at Presbyterian Church	\$138
Money toward Pasta dinner for Kenwood	\$100
Cecilia Van Wijk presented a program: RESULTS – Gift	\$ 50
Purchased new lamp shades for parlor lamps	\$186



**HI KIDS! See if you can memorize
this Bible verse!**

**"A friend loves at all times."
- Proverb 17:17**

February Birthdays

2019

- 2/3 Xavier Valdez
- 2/5 David Copeland
- 2/5 Maya Strong
- 2/7 Kecia Bell
- 2/9 Terry Watson
- 2/10 Bradley Kowalczyk
- 2/11 Pastor Mary
- 2/14 Aubrey Chelich
- 2/18 Susan Camacho
- 2/19 Charlene Copeland
- 2/23 Kristine Heady
- 2/25 Alice Foley
- 2/26 Sue Robertson
- 2/27 Roger Collier
- 2/27 Brenda Petty
- 2/28 Adele Gawrys



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



A WORD OF THANKS

Thank you Note from June Jordan-Hall

Thank you Pastor Mary, Pastor Donna, Pastor Joe for your thoughts and prayers for my recovery.

Please share with my First Church family my deep gratitude for the many beautiful cards, and words of inspiration.

My progress from surgery is slow. I am in my 2nd week of 6-week patient therapy, and have a long way to go, but pain level is low except when in therapy.

May God continue to bless you all and I hope to see you sometime in February.

Shalom & love,
June Jordan-Hall

Lay Academy


We, Hammond First, will be hosting Lay Academy classes during Lent, on Sunday afternoons – beginning March 10, for four consecutive Sundays. March 10, 17, 24 and 31. Stay tuned for more information! I am thrilled to be asked to host – and will make additional information available as soon as we have it! Pastor Mary



All Church Potluck

Mark your calendar! After 10:30 worship Sunday February 10 – an all church pot-luck. Church staff will be “our hosts.” After our weeks of wintry weather, it will be good to gather around tables, share food, have fellowship, laugh, be entertained! Bring one or two ample dishes to share, and it will be grand! (If you come to church on the 10th and forgot – stay anyway, we usually have enough food to go around!)

Prayer and Scripture Calendar -2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Jeremiah 1:4-10 Ray Anderson	4 Psalm 71:1-6 Rita Ashcraft Family	5 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 B. Avina Family	6 Mark 1:29-39 Claude Baker	7 Psalm 112:1-10 Wayne & Anna Barnes	8 Isaiah 58:1-9a Donna Beifuss	9 Matthew 5:13-20 Tony Bell Family
10 Psalm 138 Liz Berg	11 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Betty Boyer	12 Luke 5:1-11 Mario & Susan Bravo	13 Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) Bob & Georgia Brown	14 Deuteronomy 30: 15-20 Carolyn Bryan	15 Matthew 5:21-37 Nancy & Mary Bucki	16 Corinthians 3:1-9 Esther Bunger
17 Psalm 1 Rex & Carol Burton	18 Jeremiah 17:5-10 S. Camacho Family	19 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20 Lois Carlberg	20 Luke 6:17-26 Fran Carpenter	21 Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 C. Castro Family	22 Psalm 119:33-40 M. Chelich Family	23 Matthew 5:38-48 Merle Churchill
24 Luke 6:27-38 Roger Collier	25 Genesis 45:3-11, 15 Dave & Char Copeland-	26 Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40 Gordon & Joyce Cory	27 1 Corinthians 15: 35-48, 42-50 David Dean	28 Psalm 41 D. Dean Jr Family		

February 2019							March 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
					Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled events
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Genesisius Guild Rehearsal	6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	1:00pm Memorial Committee Meeting (A) 6:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled events 10:00am Private Event (room 8, Kitchen)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pot Luck-Volunteer Appreciation (8,Kitchen) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 6:30pm G.S. Leaders-4	6:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Emmaus (3) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	LL-Five Guys Fundraiser 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	Closed except for scheduled events No Learning League 12:00pm EGALS (off-site)	Closed except for scheduled events
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Missions-A	No Learning League 1:00pm Trustees (4) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	6:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 7:00pm Finance Meeting ((A))	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm LL Board Meeting (Library) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)	Closed except for scheduled events	Closed except for scheduled events
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (EGALS) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 7:00pm Church Council - 1	6:00pm Pineapple Deliverance (sanctuary) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8) 7:00pm G.G. Board-1	9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UMW Board (parlor) 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:30pm Genesisius Guild-Rehearsal (8)		