



The Lighthouse

April 2019

"The Lord watches over all those
who love Him."

Psalm 145:20 6:5

a note from your lead pastor...

We are in the midst of Lent ... it has been challenging for me to once again read, *not a fan. becoming a completely committed follower of Jesus*, by Kyle Idleman. Challenging as I read and apply the concepts to my life, prepare the sermons, and be involved with the Book Study Conversation Wednesday evenings of Lent. Lent should be challenging. It is designed to be challenging. *I am becoming more of a completely committed follower of Jesus.* And you?



Palm Sunday is April 14, the Sunday before Easter. Palm Sunday begins Holy Week – there will be a variety of opportunities to worship Holy Week. **Maundy Thursday** evening we worship at 7:00 p.m., the theme for this evening's worship is 'service.' **Good Friday** is a somber and reflective worship, we begin at 7:00 p.m., and will conclude in near darkness and quiet. **Easter** then, April 21, *is the holiest of holy days*, is the hinge point of our faith, our belief, of Christianity. Easter is the most glorious of worship days! The chapel and the sanctuary will be gloriously alive, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection! I look forward to it!

April will be a season of renewal and transition. Our Pastor Donna 'retires' at the end of this month. We will celebrate in worship Sunday April 28, and afterwards, with a reception. As Pastor Donna Beifuss transitions into a new phase in her life, we transition with her and congratulate her on so many rich facets of her service at First Church, and continuing life and service here. *Thank you, Donna.*

Following Easter, **the Judicial Council** of The United Methodist Church will rule on the portions of the Traditional Plan and amendments that are in question for their constitutionality. The Traditional Plan was voted in by a small majority at the Special Called General Conference in February. *Stay tuned!*

Hammond First **was a host site for Lay Academy**, four Sundays in March -- there were six different classes held – it has been exciting! Kathy Smith, Pam Longhi and Pauline Luthi have provided radical hospitality to our guests and students. I led Beginning Preaching – with a total capacity of 8 students. Four students in Beginning Preaching are from Hammond First – you will be hearing more from them! There have been a total of 7 students from First Church in Lay Academy classes. Lay Academy is a wonderful opportunity for laity to learn more about the church and to become involved in a different way.

A Coming Attraction! ... the birth of two visitation ministries, here at Hammond First. *One ministry* equips members for regular visitation of our folks. *A second visitation ministry* equips members for hospital visitation, in place of your pastor. Training for both of these ministries will be this spring.

And lastly, ... **Sunday April 7**, following 10:30 worship, **an ETC class**. ETC stands for "Explore the Church," and is an opportunity to learn more about the Church and this church – whether you have just begun attending worship or have been churched your whole life. This class does meet the requirements to become a member of the church – *though this is not its sole design or purpose.*

The main focus is to learn and grow as people who desire
to know and serve Jesus Christ.

And as we learn and grow *we also have fun together!* This class is hosted by Pastor Mary – we will spend a few hours together learning about the church. A light lunch will be provided for us. *All* questions are encouraged. As well, this is an opportunity to ask your pastors any questions. Everyone is invited – please indicate your interest in attending ETC by notifying the office.

I look forward to seeing you around the church, and in worship.

Shalom, *pastor Mary*

Retirement of Pastor Donna Beifuss

With grateful hearts and loving wishes we will honor Donna Beifuss on **Sunday April 28** as she retires from the position of Associate Pastor at FUMC. Please join us after the 10:30 service for cake and fellowship as we express our gratitude for her loving service and welcome Donna into a new role in our congregation.

A basket for love offerings will be provided; please see Pam Longhi or Kathy Smith for suggestions.



Best Wishes Pastor Donna!

As you go into this next phase of your life,
may you enjoy the very best that life has to offer.



Saturday, April 6, 2019 | 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Chicago Marriott Oak Brook, 1401 West 22nd St., Oak Brook,
IL 60523**



Action Speaks Louder

Join us for the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Annual Meeting and Adult Recognition event where we celebrate the actions of our council and volunteers to help build girls of courage, confidence and character.

Hear our CEO's "State of the Council" address, celebrate our 30 Service Units receiving the President's Award, and cheer for the extraordinary action of our volunteer honorees.

The Annual Meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and the Adult Recognition ceremony will immediately follow. Continental breakfast will be served.

Extra! Extra! Extra! *Our Mike Kizman will be receiving a very special award*, which he was nominated for, by other Girl Scout leaders. Pastor Mary will be attending this annual meeting and adult recognition.

You are welcome to go with her ... let her know!





Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission team

Hello First Church Family. The **Second Mile Giving** for the month of April will be the **Learning League**. The Learning League is our after school program that is a wonderful ministry of our church. Volunteers and staff of the Learning League pick up children from Kenwood Elementary School and transport these children to our church. The children are at our church from 3pm to 6pm Monday to Friday during the school year when school is in session. The Learning League provides a safe place for children to be and where they can have help with their homework, get something to eat, and have fun; but most importantly of all, they feel loved and nurtured by the volunteers and staff. April's Second Mile Giving will help fund this wonderful ministry.

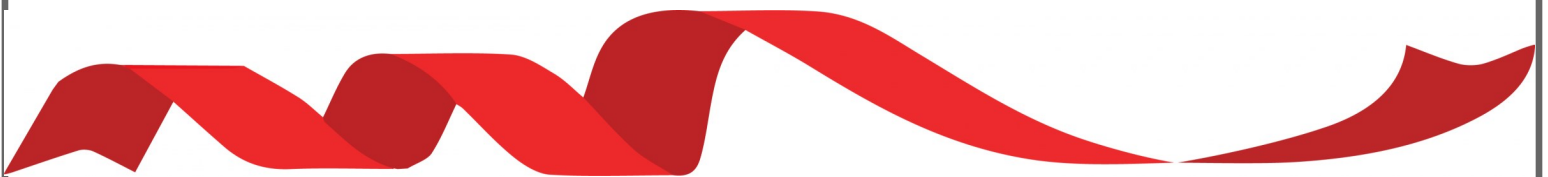


Kenwood School would like to have a laminating machine; Pauline Luthi has notified me that they have been having fundraising events to raise money for a laminating machine. They will be having another fundraising event in the near future. Please stay tuned for the date of the fundraising event and for more details. Pauline Luthi has also notified me that she would like the mission team to help with publicizing the fundraising events. I myself strongly encourage any of us from FUMC Hammond to go to these events to support Kenwood school. From what I understand they have had huge budget cuts. Let us go out and support Kenwood school anyway we can. We feel it is very important for us at FUMC Hammond to reach out and help the community of Hammond and share the love of Jesus Christ and one way we can do that is to help our local schools.

UMCOR Sunday will be March 31. This will be a one-day opportunity to give to the United Methodist Committee on Relief; this special offering goes toward defraying *administrative costs*. When we give specifically for disastrous events – 100% of those monies go towards that disaster response. Please consider giving specially for UMCOR Sunday – envelopes will be in the bulletins.

We will be having the spring rummage on Saturday, May 11 this year from 9am to 1pm. We hope to start collecting items on Sunday, April 21st. We will begin setup on Monday, May 6th. *Items that we are not collecting are televisions, vcr players, computers, printers, scanners, and fax machines, or any big electronic items.* We also do not collect children's clothes or adult clothes. Items that we are collecting and selling are kitchenware, dishes, bed linens, jewelry, tools, toys, books, purses, shoes, home décor, technology items such as home phones, collectibles, baby clothes and more. The Learning League will also be having a bake sale this year and will be selling many delicious baked goods and desserts. Well as many of you can see the mission team is always busy and there is always plenty of mission work to do.

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



A Blessing Box

Richard Miller and Pastor Mary

A Blessing Box! Thanks to the Girl Scout Cadettes, *Shayla Deering and Keelin Kizman*, we will have a Blessing Box installed on our property **Sunday March 31**. Shayla and Keelin have had the vision for this Blessing Box – which they first saw at a church in Griffith. This completed project will also earn these two Cadettes their Silver Scouting Award. *Keelin and Shayla are the first Hammond Cadettes in over 15 years to earn a Silver Award.* This is a distinctive honor, that has taken a lot of hard work. Of course they have had great assistance and support – *but the project is theirs.* This vision will become reality on Sunday March 31 when the box is installed and blessed, following 10:30 a.m. worship. (Sunday March 31 is also Girl Scout Sunday.) A prayer box will also accompany this Blessing Box.

The Blessing Box concept originated in Oklahoma. In doing some research I (Richard) found out that it is a ministry based on the scripture Acts 20:35 – “In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we should help others and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” Richard has also found out that the Blessing Box as had great success. A sign on the Blessing Box will say:

Take what you need
Bring what you can
Above all, be blessed

Anyone in the community of Hammond will have access to the Blessing Box, 24 hours a day 7 days a week, and the mission team will be responsible for checking it daily. We may be part of this blessing too, by contributing needed items – there will be a collection box in the mission corner for this purpose.

Needed items: nonperishable food items, diapers, hats, scarves, women’s personal hygiene items, books, needs.

This project proposal has been presented to Trustees, SPRC and the Chair of Church Council – all of whom gave their enthusiastic support. Mike Kizman is the troop leader for Keelin and Shayla. **What a blessing!**



Never Underestimate!



Love is a powerful force. Never underestimate simple acts of love. My first mission trip was to a home flooded by the Mississippi River. My task was to dig up grandma's flower bulbs. Didn't seem like a very important job to me. However, I found out it meant the world to her and more than her flood damaged house. Every holiday for many years, she would send me a card thanking me profusely for saving her "flowers" and how much that meant to her!

When I was in college, there was a young female who was always helping people, never expecting anything in return, and available to help anyone. I asked her to what church she belonged. She said Methodist! I had been attending a church that had a lot of strict rules and regulations which was a safe and loving place for me on Sunday during my youth, but didn't fit me as an adult. Her acts of love changed my life, but she never knew the awesome effect she had on me.

Then when I moved to Hammond, I rented an apartment across the alley from our church. Do you think God was telling me something? LOL Yep, one of my apartment mates was a Methodist, too! All because of the simple acts of these people and God's leading, I became a Methodist!

I pray that we will all continue to be a kind, loving, hospitable church to one another and all who worship with us. But even more, I hope we will be loving, smiling and caring no matter where we are, so that people will ask us why we are so happy? And why we are so caring and thoughtful? All this, so we can share the love and joy of Jesus Christ with all whom we meet! We never know whom we may influence and cause to want to come to our church for our Lenten Study on Wednesday at 6:00 pm, Holy Week services, our Easter service on April 21, Bible study, Learning League or Food Pantry to get to know the "followers of Jesus"! I look forward to worshipping with you during our Lenten services, based on our study, "not a fan"!

Hey, be sure and share your joy with a friend so they will want to see why you are "so happy and full of joy"!

And may we not underestimate the power of even the smallest act of love!

Pauline Luthi – Co – Lay Leader



FLOWER ORDERS.....

Envelopes for ordering flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter worship are available in your bulletin and in the Narthex. These can be purchased in memory or in honor of your loved ones.

The Deadline to order flowers is April 7th. Cost is \$10.00 per plant.





Church Council 2019—Leading FUMC from the Heart



The Spirit is alive and moving at First Church, greatly evident in each of the servant leaders who have said “Yes” to coordinating program and administrative ministries for our church.

The Council meets monthly at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Monday (with a few exceptions, announced in advance). Although only elected Council members have a vote on official matters concerning the governance of the church, meetings are open. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn about the church’s ministries, administration, visioning, upcoming activities and events, opportunities to serve, and to offer input.

Please contact any Church Council member with your questions and ideas and to express your interest in an area you’d like to explore where God may be calling you to say “Yes!”

The next Council meeting will be at **7:00 p.m. on Monday, April 29** (the fifth Monday of the month, to avoid a meeting on Easter Monday J). Join us!

Chairperson	Jane Harper-Alport
Co-Lay Leaders	Pauline Luthi Pat Mosley
Staff-Parish Relations Committee Chair	Kathy Smith
Finance Committee Chair	David Moll
Board of Trustees Chair	Ken Wheeler
Treasurer	Larry Alport
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Pauline Luthi
United Methodist Women President	Georgia Brown
Children’s Ministry Chair	Cheryle Seljan
Youth Ministry Chair	David Dean
Missions Team Co-Chairs	Richard Miller Katy Province-Garza
The Learning League Chair	Pauline Luthi
First United Methodist Church Foundation	Henry Showers, Chair Bob Brown, Treasurer
Memorial Committee Co-Chairs	Jenna Province Sue Yerkes
Recording Secretary	Sue Robertson
Pastors	Rev. Mary van Wijk Pastor Donna Beifuss

- Chair of Church Council, Jane Harper-Alport



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE

February, 2019

New Clients.....49
Return Clients.....238
Total Served.....287

New Households..... 31
Return Households.....131
Total Households served.....162

Brown Bag Sunday, March 3 collected 230 pounds

Pounds Distributed.....5,740



A WORD OF THANKS



Thank you to everyone who
have been donating Box-Top Labels
for

Kenwood Elementary School



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

"The Lord watches over all those who love Him."
Psalm 145:20 6:5



Children's Ministry

Cheryle Seljan

I recently saw an activity using 1 Corinthians 13:4-5. We did this activity in Sunday School. Perhaps you would like to do it also. Read the scripture verses:

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

⁴ Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. ⁵ It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Now insert your name in the blanks in the scripture verses below. Reflect on it and pray about it. Do the verses describe you?

⁴ _____ is patient, _____ is kind. _____ does not envy, _____ does not boast, _____ is not proud. ⁵ _____ does not dishonor others, _____ is not self-seeking, _____ is not easily angered, _____ keeps no record of wrongs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

For Sunday School class

Kindergarten through 5th grade

The curriculum and any supplies needed will be provided.

We need one to two people from 9:15 a.m.—

10:15 a.m.

Please Contact
Cheryle Seljan or Pastor Mary
If you are interested





Rummage Sale

Spring has sprung, which means it is time to prepare for the annual all church rummage sale on **May 11 from 9:00 am to 1pm.**

Items that we are not collecting are televisions, vcr players, computers, printers, scanners, and fax machines, or any big electronic items.



If you have any questions, please contact Richard Miller.

Upcoming Class

Coming ... **Sunday April 7**, following 10:30 worship, **an ETC class.** ETC stands for "Explore the Church," and is an opportunity to learn more about the Church and this church – whether you have just begun attending worship or have been churched your whole life. This class does meet the requirements to become a member of the church – *though this is not its sole design or purpose.*

The main focus is to learn and grow as people who desire to know and serve Jesus Christ.

And as we learn and grow we also have fun together! This class is hosted by Pastor Mary – we will spend a few hours together learning about the church. A light lunch will be provided for us. *All* questions are encouraged. As well, this is an opportunity to ask your pastors any questions. Everyone is invited – please indicate your interest in attending ETC by notifying the office.



CLEAN-UP

Spring has finally sprung and it's time for our annual Spring clean-up of the church grounds. On **Sunday April 14th** after the 10:30 service, we will gather, with our rakes and gloves to remove all the debris winter has left behind. Mark your calendars and join us for a fun afternoon of preparing our yards for Easter.

Watch for Adopt a Garden!!!!





North District
2019
Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 27th
Registration 8:30 AM (central) 9:30 (Eastern)
Rolling Prairie UMC
3444 U.S. Hwy 20 ~ Rolling Prairie, IN 46371



Come listen to **Shannon Priddy, National UMW President** speak on 150 Years of Social Justice for the Next 150 Years. Registration begins at 8:30 AM followed by learning, worship, celebration, and lunch (with birthday cake)

Mission Today units, Reading Program participants, Star Women and Star Units will be honored.

**For reservation, please send name and money to Connie Dungy,
711 S. Greenlawn Ave, South Bend, IN 46615 by APRIL 20, 2019**

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

NAME: _____

Cost is \$7.00 a person. Please make check payable to North District UMC

Child care will be available. Please also register them. (Bring their lunch)

Child(ren) Names _____

Age(s) _____

April Birthdays



2019

4/01 Brianna Kalk
4/01 Kaylee Kalk
4/02 Pat Mosley
4/02 Peter Wicklund
4/03 Susan Bravo
4/06 Jackson Dean
4/07 June Jordan-Hall
4/08 Payton Kalk
4/08 Janice Wilson
4/13 Don Harris
4/15 Dorothy Kornafel
4/15 Betty Merrick
4/17 Wayne Barnes
4/20 John Schu
4/26 Kobe Shelton
4/28 Sondra Mackin



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.



Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the **May newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **April 20th** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org. Thank for your cooperation!

Prayer and Scripture Calendar 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>	2 <i>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	3 <i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	4 <i>Psalms 116:1-4, 12-19</i>	5 <i>Isaiah 52:13-53:12</i>	6 <i>1 Peter 4:1-8</i>
7 <i>Psalms 126</i>	8 <i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i> <i>Mary LeVan</i>	9 <i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i> <i>Rocelia Lewis Family</i>	10 <i>John 12:1-8</i> <i>Peggy Link</i>	11 <i>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</i>	12 <i>Hebrews 12:1-13</i>	13 <i>Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10)</i> 14 <i>11-</i>
14 <i>Luke 19:28-40</i>	15 <i>Isaiah 42:1-9</i>	16 <i>John 12:20-36</i>	17 <i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	18 <i>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</i>	19 <i>Hebrews 10:16-25</i>	20 <i>Ezekiel 36:24-48</i>
<i>Norman MacKay</i>	<i>Dick & Sondra</i>	<i>Sue Mayberry</i>	<i>Bill & Pat McCoy</i>	<i>J. Mejia Family</i>	<i>Champ & Betty Mer-</i>	<i>Fran Miklos</i>
21 <i>Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24</i>	22 <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	23 <i>1 Corinthians 15:19-26</i>	24 <i>John 20:1-18</i>	25 <i>Roman 6:3-11</i>	26 <i>John 18:1-19:42</i>	27 <i>Matthew 27:57-66</i>
28 <i>Acts 5:27-32</i>	29 <i>Revelations 1:4-8</i>	30 <i>Psalms 150</i>	<i>David & Irma Mora</i>	<i>L. Mosley family</i>	<i>Pat Mosley</i>	<i>Dick Nelson</i>
<i>Dick Nelson Jr</i>	<i>Bernie Newell</i>	<i>Helen O'Mara</i>				

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31 	Apr 1 	2 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor	3 Lenten Study-6:00 p.m. ("Not a Fan by Kyle Idleman) 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	4 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor	5 Closed except for scheduled events 7:00pm Spiritual Growth Retreat (Fort Wayne,IN)	6 Closed except for scheduled events 12:00am Spiritual Growth Retreat (Fort Wayne,IN)
7 BROWN BAG SUNDAY/ETC 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Explore the Church (A,1,	8 6:30pm G.S. Leaders-4	9 	10 Lenten Study-6:00 p.m. ("Not a Fan 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Emmaus (3) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	11 LL-Five Guys Fundraiser 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor	12 Closed except for scheduled events	13 Closed except for scheduled events
14 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	15 7:00pm Staff Parish-1	16 	17 9:00am Staff Meeting, 3 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:30am Bible Study-1 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	18 Holy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm LL Board Meeting (Library)	19 Closed except for scheduled events Good Friday -7:00 p.m. (Sanctuary) 8:00am No Learning League 12:00pm EGALS (off-site) 7:00pm Finance Meeting ((A))	20 Closed except for scheduled events
21 EASTER 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Missions-A	22 7:00pm Church Council - 1	23 7:00pm Finance (A) 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) 7:00pm Chancel Choir - CR	25 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor	26 Closed except for scheduled events	27 Closed except for scheduled events North Spring Meeting-UMW (Speaker Shannon Priddy)
28 Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (Trendsetters & Power of Living) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary	29 	30 	May 1 	2 	3 	4