



The Lighthouse

July 2019

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,
today, and forever.”
Hebrews 13:8

a note from your pastor...



It has really become summer, I think. This week the weather has turned the corner from cool spring temperatures to hot and muggy summer weather. *I am grateful to have you, summer!*

Though the farmers in the Midwest are struggling with their crops going in the ground and coming up, gardens around us are taking off, preparing to bear vegetables, and blooming colorful flowers. Here at the church the gardens on the east side continue to become more and more beautiful and welcoming. *Additionally*, under the tutelage of Trustees and Peggy Zeiler, others are getting “into the act.” Joining our regular cast of gardeners, (Terry Watson, Fran Miklos, Judy Williams, Lora Ward) many others have adopted the numerous gardens around the building. Share your stories of gardening transformation with me, with us! Mike Kizman and a cadre of scouts have adopted the large garden to the north, as we enter the east door. This Saturday, June 29, the Scouts plan on planting flowers in this transformed garden. As Mike has shared,

“It is 50x more work that I thought it would be, but other leaders and scouts from three other troops are working together to make it all happen.”

The work in the gardens reminds me of our personal spiritual journeys. *What is the shape of our spiritual gardens?* Do we take the time to carefully weed and trim, caring for perennial plants and placing seasonal flowers, vegetables or herbs in our foundation? Amidst the beautiful green, do we insert contrasts of color and texture? Where might we have become overgrown with weeds, and our spirit gotten choked up or choked out? It takes a lot to tend our earthly and our spiritual gardens. As for me, each of you doing work to transform and keep the gardens of the church are inspiring the gardener in me, *as well as my spirit*, and bringing me great joy!

Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

We are in *summertime* ... this Sunday, June 30, we begin our summer series ... the worship themes ‘under construction’ include:

*The Value of a Quarter; The ABC's of Life, The Lipstick Light,
Let's Reclaim Our Red Shoes, The Paths Which Beckon Us ... and more*

Please see the articles inside on Annual Conference by Pauline Luthi and Spiritual Gifts by Jane Harper-Alport.

Looking forward to seeing you around the church and in worship!

pastor Mary



A Letter From Our New Conference Superintendent, North District



Dear colleagues in ministry,

I write this letter with joy, excitement, conviction and hope that God has called me to this new role at such a time as this. Why would God convict the bishop and cabinet to appoint me to the North District at a time when changes are taking place within our denomination?

I am the middle child of a family of nine adult children (4 sisters and 4 brothers). My parents, Zablon and Britha have shaped who I am, my perception of life and most importantly my passion to care, lead, and serve God. My wife of 18 years, Beatrice and I are blessed with four children. Beatrice is a microbiologist by profession (currently LPN stay home mom). She strongly supports my calling and is an excellent pastor in our home.

I accepted Christ as Lord and Savior in 1991, and I am passionate about my call to ministry since 1993. I have been involved in different areas of ministry and I learned what God can bring to the table through such a diverse experience. I have culturally and linguistically diverse rural, urban, small, and large churches. In our Indiana Conference, I have served 6 churches and served on the Board of Ordained Ministry. I have founded and led a diverse nonprofit organization, worked as a university professor, a hospital and police chaplain, and a clinical researcher. God continues to prepare me for His work. I am ready to work with you in making disciples of Jesus Christ in our district as we bring transformation to our communities.

My education has been at St. Paul's University, Christian and Concordia Theological Seminaries, Purdue University, and Indiana University. Most recently, I have worked as a clinical researcher with Indiana University Simon Cancer Center. This has taught me a lot about the significant role spirituality plays in advanced cancer and end of life coping and decision-making.

I desire to be involved with our pastors and leaders, engaging in the spiritual and emotional wellbeing of our church members and communities. Conditions in which people live (social determinates of health are great opportunities for disciple making and world transformation. Public health, population health and neighborhoods should and must create opportunities for Fresh Expressions of our ministry.

John Wesley's theology has shaped how I think and act. Grace has played a significant role in how I see myself in relations to others and I embrace our four sources of theology – scripture, tradition, reason and experience.

My promise for North District comes in the form of “the best ministry designed for our community”. Best for me is evidence-based ministry, a ministry that assesses the condition in which our brothers and sisters in churches and neighborhoods live and then designs programs/ministries to address those conditions. This is only possible through prayers, research, expert opinions and knowing what the preferences and/or needs of our targeted populations are. Significant measurable missional areas that may be dear to me include retention, membership, service, engagement, finances and diversity.

(Continue on Page 3)



Three questions for you:

- 1.) *What future do we want for our family, our church, and our community?*
- 2.) *What legacy do we want to leave for our family, our church, our community and yourself?*
- 3.) *What should you do to influence others to commit to faith in making disciples that make disciples and continue to make disciples for the transformation of the world?*

As a conference superintendent (district missional strategist), I would like to pick from where Rev. Larry Whitehead has left. I invite your so many years of ministry and cultural experience. We are in this together. I will pray for you, as I hope you will pray for me, as we collaborate in making disciples and multiplying our congregations for the transformation of the world.

Additionally, I plan to spend my first year learning about the district, getting to know pastors and leaders of our district ministries, churches and building trust and relationships. These are necessary for making good appointments. I will do my best to be very present and visible. The better you know me the more vulnerable I become as an example. I will expect the same from you.

Promoting clergy effectiveness and accountability, and congregation plants with new worship sites are included in my plans for our district. I pray you all join me in focusing on our conference/district goals with smart objectives and possibly trackable benchmarks starting July 2020.

At the end of my first year, I welcome feedback on my leadership role as a conference superintendent. I am here for you and your churches as we advance God's kingdom through Bishop Trimble's and cabinet's strategy in our North District.

Stay blessed and stay tuned!

Rev. Dr. Saneta Maiko, PhD
Conference Superintendent, North District
Indiana Conference. The United Methodist Church

Adopt a Garden

Adopt a Garden and help to keep our Church a welcoming place. You, your family, a committee, or organization can choose a garden to keep weeded and tidy throughout the Summer months. If you so choose you may add flowers or plants to brighten your adopted garden. All help is excepted, so if you don't adopt a garden you can help someone who has...

Let's grab a friend and get weeding!!!!!!

Sign up board will be in the Narthex of the Church. *Slots still available*

Thank you

~ Penny Zeiler





Indiana Annual Conference June 2019 Indianapolis Convention Center

It is an awesome experience to sing, worship and pray with hundreds of other followers of Christ! We prayed some powerful prayers! If God answers all of them, we're going to be mighty busy and will need ALL of us to use our gifts and talents to do His will.

The **theme of Annual Conference 2019** was
“*From Water to Witness*” – from our baptism to living our love and service, Ephesians 4:5.

The keynote speaker on Wednesday, June 12th was Rudy Rasmus who says we have been lying about love. We need to allow people to be themselves and love them without expecting them to be and do what we want. God made each of us unique and loves us. We need to **love all people** not just the ones who meet our criteria of acceptance. We especially need to meet and love people **outside** of our church so they witness what God has done for us. Why is it so easy to not love all? We the church aren't truly loving at all costs. Babies love all. Acceptance begins with ourselves.

Bishop Trimble also gave an inspirational message and asked us to be bold about putting our loving service of the Lord after our baptism into positive actions. Don't let disruption, deception or digitalization divert your actions. Pray for guidance, stay strong in your beliefs and put down the cell phone and be there for people.

We had worship services for **retirees**, including *Donna Beifuss*, **ordination of clergy** -- new, deacons and elders, and a **service of remembrance** for clergy and spouses who had passed this year, including Jim Beifuss.

Then we had a few business reports, but it took a lot of time to vote for eight clergy, eight laity and alternates to the General Conference in 2020 and the Jurisdictional Conference. I think most of the clergy elected were centrist and progressive, but only one fourth of the laity were centrist or progressive. What does this mean? I'm not sure, but definitely a more progressive representation than last time.

Saturday morning prayer breakfast consisted of brief talks by emerging leaders and Bishop Michael Coyner. Bishop Mike's theme was Prayer. He retired when he was told he had cancer and then a serious heart condition. As our former bishop, he spent a lot of time in prayer, but after retirement he needed prayer and prayed for himself. He said he learned three things. He asked God, “Why me?” when the health problems arose. He came to realize he had good health all his life and now the question became, “Why not me, God!” The second thing he learned was that you can FEEL it when people pray for you!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Finally, he learned to be more open and accepting of God's will for his life. His talk was a very moving and humbling experience for me.

Thank you to all who donated lap blankets for the residents of Briana's Hope. There was a special collection for Briana's Hope and the Lucille Raines Residence, too.

I am so glad I was able to attend the Annual Conference and represent all of you! Thank you! For more information, feel free to ask Fran Carpenter, Jane Harper-Alport and Pastor Mary.

Your co-lay leader: Pauline Luthi





Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team

Hello once again, Hammond First Church family! This July, the fight against Human Trafficking will be our “Second Mile Giving” project. I believe this will be the fourth year we have collected for this cause. It is also one of the many projects of the United Methodist Women. Human Trafficking is something in which children are taken advantage of and are exploited for sex. Many people are not aware of this. Think about this -- it’s horrible! Here are two organizations the UMW supports that are raising awareness of Human Trafficking. They are called, “Reclaim 13” and “S.O.A.P” – *“Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution.”* “Reclaim 13” was created to be sure vulnerable children know that they are not alone. This organization does its best to make sure children know that they deserve to feel safe and loved, and that people do care. “S.O.A.P.” is an organization that uses bars of soap which volunteers label. The labeled soap is put mainly in hotels and motels. The labels show the national human trafficking hotline number for a person to call for help if they are being trafficked. The money we raise will be used to help these two organizations. Now let me share with you a few statistics about Human Trafficking.

Human trafficking is the second leading crime in the world.

- An estimated 1.3 million people go missing in the U.S. every year and 33,000 remain missing at any given time.
- If a missing or homeless child is not recovered within the first 48 hours, there is a 1 in 3 chance they will be trafficked or solicited for sex.
- 12 to 14 years of age is the average age of entry into child “prostitution” in the U.S. - 77% of all child trafficking victims will go on to participate in adult prostitution.
- With the money that S.O.A.P. has collected they have been able to distribute nearly 1 million labelled bars of soap nationwide.
- S.O.A.P. is a simple, effective, hands-on-way to mobilize volunteers who want to make a difference by fighting human trafficking in the U.S.

Please do not forget about our Mission corner across from the church office. We collect items for many different non profit organizations and causes. We collect items for Haven house, Strong Tower church, the Veterans Home in Lafayette, Indiana, our Food Pantry, and our Blessing Box, just to name a few. We also collect pop can tabs, plastic bottle caps for kids, box tops for kids, and ink cartridges and batteries, which we recycle.

Thanks be to God, thank you Jesus, and thank you all for everything you do! We do a lot of mission work in our church and collect for many different causes. Woo hoo and thank you Jesus!!

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



Spiritual Gifts Survey Is Coming!



Discover Your Spiritual Gifts

The Bible assures us that each of us has been blessed by God with gifts and graces that make us uniquely *us*. And among all our gifts from God, Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 12 that we, as part of the body of Christ, each have different kinds of *specific* gifts—*spiritual gifts*—that are bestowed on us by the Holy Spirit. As we discern and live out God’s purpose for our lives, it is up to us to discover our spiritual gifts and be intentional about matching them to ministry service for God’s church and within the mission field where we are planted.

One of the Wishes and Dreams of our church leadership is that *everyone* who is a part of the body of Christ at First Church will take part this summer in a Spiritual Gifts survey to discover our individual gifts—and then learn how those gifts can be matched to First Church ministries. This is one powerful way we can become truly aligned as that part of Christ’s body called First United Methodist Church of Hammond, more fully living our mission to make disciples of Jesus for the transformation of the world.

Our entire congregation will be asked to participate in the Spiritual Gifts survey, whether you’ve taken the survey sometime in the past or will be learning about your spiritual gifts for the first time. Watch for more information in the coming weeks. Throughout the month of August, members of the Spiritual Gifts team will be visiting many groups in the church to administer the survey. Persons not in attendance at a group meeting will be contacted individually. By September, each person surveyed will have an opportunity to meet with a team member to learn the results of your individual survey and to begin exploring how your gifts match with ministries at First Church and in our mission field. These may be ministries in which you are already engaged—or you may be called to try something new. We are each called—be in prayer about how God is calling *you!*

This is an exciting time for an exciting project to meet a WIG (Wildly Important Goal!) for First Church. Are you interested in being a part of the Spiritual Gifts project team? We welcome you!

Please contact Pauline Luthi or Jane Harper-Alport for more information.

Jane Harper-Alport
Church Council Chair





HI KIDS! See if you can memorize this Bible verse!
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."
Hebrews 13:8

Children's Ministry



Acolyte Training... not just for kids anymore!

We are looking for children - 4th grade and older, youth and adults who would like to participate in acolyte training, and serve as an acolyte.

Date: Sunday, August 4th after 10:30 worship service.

A light lunch will be provided with acolyte training immediately following.

Please contact Cheryle Seljan or Pastor Mary if you have questions.

August 11th is Children and Youth Day!

The 10:30 worship service is going to be a special day for children and youth in the church. New Bibles will be given to students going to the next level. Students should bring their book bags for a special blessing on their book bags. Kid friendly refreshments will be provided after worship. Spread the word and bring a friend!

Please call Cheryle Seljan or Niki Avina if you have questions.



RIDDLE FOR THE DAY

Riddle: What has hands but doesn't clap?

(Answer is on Page 10)



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A WORD OF THANKS AND GRATEFUL HEARTS



Thank you from Heidi, Peter, Brittany and Lauren for all the prayers for Lauren Wicklund.

Special Thank you for Pastor Mary for being with the family during the surgery and recovery.

Thanks,

Heidi Wicklund

Dear Congregation,

We would like to thank you for your generous donation.

It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Love, Inc
Jean Scheeringa
Administrative Assistant



Bottle Caps

Anyone know of a group looking for plastic bottle caps?

Contact Terry Watson
We have lots to donate

Thank you.



Thank you for your donation.
It is greatly appreciated.

Ministerio Torre Fuerte
Pastor Suri Becerra

Fact: Cat angles sometimes do not have wings, some times they have whiskers



Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for speaking in our STEM Night.

Girl Scout Troop
15400

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE May, 2019



| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| New Clients..... | 14 |
| Return Clients..... | 425 |
| Total Clients Served..... | 439 |
| | |
| New Households..... | 10 |
| Return Households..... | 129 |
| Total Households Served..... | 139 |

Total Pounds Distributed: 9,422

Thank you for your support, donations and prayers!

Sue Robertson, Co-Director



First United Methodist Church of Hammond

OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

Thursday, July 4th

In observance of Independence Day.

We will resume back to normal business hours on
Monday, July 8th at 8:00 a.m.

Have a Safe and Happy Forth of July!!





July Birthdays

2019

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Malane Young | 7/04 |
| Dave Metzger | 7/05 |
| James Ortiz | 7/07 |
| James Tapper | 7/07 |
| Marty Hawkins | 7/10 |
| Charlotte Moore | 7/11 |
| Pat Showers | 7/13 |
| Pam Stahl | 7/15 |
| Anna Barnes | 7/16 |
| Johan van Wijk | 7/21 |
| Mary Hinshaw | 7/22 |
| Anthony Bell, Sr. | 7/24 |
| Brittany Wicklund | 7/24 |
| Martha Jones | 7/25 |
| Sandy Koester | 7/25 |
| Ralph Schauer | 7/26 |
| Fran Miklos | 7/27 |
| L.E. Mosley | 7/30 |



Answers to Riddle

1.) A Clock

(ha...ha..)



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 **August newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **July 20th** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org. Thank for your cooperation!

Prayer and Scripture Calendar 2019

Sun

Mon

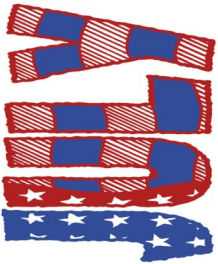

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|----------------|
|  | <i>1</i> 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Mollie Bodie | <i>2</i> Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Mario & Susan Bravo | <i>3</i> Luke 9:51-62 Bob & Georgia Brown | <i>4</i> Genesis 22:1-14 Carolyn Bryan | <i>5</i> Romans 6:12-23 Nancy & Mary Bucki | <i>6</i> Matthew 10:40-42 Esther Bunger | |
| <i>7</i> Psalm 30 | <i>8</i> Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 Susan Camacho Family | <i>9</i> Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Fran Carpenter | <i>10</i> 2 Kings 5:1-14 C. Castro Family | <i>11</i> Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 Michael Chelich Family | <i>12</i> Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Merle Churchill | <i>13</i> Romans 7:15-25a Roger Collier | |
| <i>14</i> Psalm 82 | <i>15</i> Colossians 1:1-14 David Dean | <i>16</i> Amos 7:7-17 Alice Foley | <i>17</i> Luke 10:25-37 Adele Gawryns | <i>18</i> Romans 8:1-11 Jay Gianotti | <i>19</i> 2 Samuel 7:1-14a Russ Godbout | <i>20</i> Ephesians 2:11-22 Cheri Gozdecki | |
| <i>21</i> Dave & Char Copeland Luke 10:38-42 | <i>22</i> Psalm 52 Shirley Farmer | <i>23</i> Colossians 1:15-28 Don & Joann Harris | <i>24</i> Amos 8:1-12 Janet Harrison | <i>25</i> 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 A. DeBold Family | <i>26</i> Ephesians 1:3-14 Laura DeMarco | <i>27</i> Psalm 89:20-37 Karen Dodd | |
| <i>28</i> Psalm 85 John Grace | <i>29</i> Luke 11:1-13 M. Gutierrez Family | <i>30</i> Hosea 1:2-10 Maureen Dodd Family | <i>31</i> Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Russ Godbout |  | | | Cheri Gozdecki |
| | | | | | | | |

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

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| Jun 30 | Jul 1 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 2 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm Adam's Rib-Parlor | 3 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 4 4TH OF JULY HOLIDAY (BUILDING CLOSED) | 5 Closed except for scheduled events | 6 Closed except for scheduled events |
| 7 BROWN BAG SUNDAY 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary | 8 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 9 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 10 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 11 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 6:00pm La Leche-Parlor | 12 Closed except for scheduled events | 13 Closed except for scheduled events |
| 14 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary | 15 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 1:00pm Trustees (4) 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm Staff Parish-1 | 16 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm Finance (A) | 17 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 18 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 19 Closed except for scheduled events 12:00pm EGALS (off-site) | 20 Closed except for scheduled events |
| 21 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Missions-A | 22 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm Church Council - 1 | 23 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) 7:00pm G.G. Board-1 | 24 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 12:00pm UMW Board (parlor) 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 25 1:00pm AA (women)-1 1:00pm Knit/Crochet-Parlor 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 26 Closed except for scheduled events | 27 Closed except for scheduled events |
| 28 Neighborhood Meal Prep-K (All) 8:30am Worship-Chapel 9:00am Breakfast-Kitchen 9:15am Bible Study-various 10:30am Worship-Sanctuary 12:00pm Private Event (8, Kitchen) | 29 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 30 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | 31 9:30am Quilters (4,5,6) 10:00am The Vine Food Pantry 10:30am Bible Study-1 6:00pm Genesisus Guild Rehearsal (8,9) | Aug 1 | 2 | 3 |