



The Lighthouse

April 2020

“The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.”

Psalm 145:9

a note from your pastor...

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you – always!



What a time we are living in and through. I hope that you have been receiving daily emails and/or fb messages, or have had contact with someone from the church. Our lives have changed ... classrooms have converted to e-learning, many of us are working from home or under different circumstances. Some of us have lost employment during this time. We are asked to be safe in our homes, to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, which causes Covid-19. All this means we have lost the ability to live our 'normal' lives. We cannot, yet, gather in the church building. However, since WE are the church ... we are gathering and serving, and loving in 'new' ways. Perhaps in 'old' ways. Henri Nouwen wrote about this, years ago:

While it remains true that we will never know what community is if we never come together in one place, community does not necessarily mean being physically together. We can well live in community while being physically alone. In such a situation, we can act freely, speak honestly, and suffer patiently, because of the intimate bond of love that unites us with others even when time and space separate us from them.

~Henri Nouwen, in *Making All Things New*

This Lent has been different than any Lent most of us have 'Lented.' This Lent is a completely new experience for me; one I will carry the rest of my life.

Soon we will be in **Holy Week. This Sunday we will worship Palm Sunday, virtually.** Hammond First UMC worship will continue to be on our Facebook page – *one does not need to be 'on Facebook' to view our message.*

Directions: access the church's webpage through your web browser

www.hammondfumc.org

One you have the Web Page open, scroll down and click on the



And this will take you directly to the church's Facebook page. Voila! Check it out!
Accessible through a smart phone, too!

Good Friday, the churches of Hammond Hyde Park, Hammond Woodmar, Hammond First (us!), Munster Ridge, Whiting, Griffith and our ACS Paul Arnold had planned to hold a community service, and we were hosting in our sanctuary. This service will come to you via Facebook and YouTube – it will be different than we planned. It will be worship, it is collaborative, and it shall be very good. I hope that you will check it out. You will find it on our Facebook page ... and more directions next week as it is all finalized.

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(continued from page 1, a note from your pastor....)

Easter Morning, I will bring worship to you into your homes, *via Facebook* again. It will not be the same as being in our sanctuary – but we will be together, as Henri Nouwen has invited us to realize. It will be different, but it will still be a special Easter! *Additionally* – we will celebrate Holy Communion as a part of this worship. *I had been envisioning this possibility!* Bishop Trimble has granted his Indiana clergy the permission to hold and lead a Service of Holy Communion on-line. He invited us to be certain our services are well planned and intentional.

I am printing a portion of Bishop Trimble's email:

Bishop's Guidance on Holy Communion during COVID-19

March 25, 2020

Dear Indiana United Methodists,

We are walking by faith and praying through this current crisis that has impacted our normal rhythm of worship and life. We have all been asked to do our part in curbing the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). During this pandemic, the Church is still needed, though in-person worship has been suspended until further notice.

Unusual circumstances require us to adapt so that the Church can continue to be an instrument of God's grace. A number of pastors have raised concerns about the sharing of the Sacrament of Holy Communion. This communication is to provide helpful guidelines.

Holy Communion

Because of the limitations the pandemic is imposing, pastors have asked for permission to allow people to participate in Communion from home as you lead online worship. Pastors are now allowed to provide online Communion service as a way of extending sacrament as a means of grace. You are not required to, and some pastors have chosen to postpone Communion until gathered worship is allowed. Within our Wesleyan heritage, we must remember the place of Elders, Deacons, and Local Pastors licensed for sacramental ministry. It is the position of Bishop Trimble that this privilege is for a season, and there will be a return to traditional practices in accordance with our liturgy as soon as possible.

On Easter, we will worship live, the first time I preach on Easter morning it will *be live* – the last two Sundays I have recorded and uploaded. In real time, we will all have the opportunity to have Communion together. If this 'real time' does not work for you, access the Facebook service when it does work for you. Additionally, if you do not want to participate in Communion online, it is okay; as always, Communion is an invitation, albeit a holy invitation.

Here are some simple instructions:

1. Gather in your home, with the people who have been your immediate community during this time of physical distancing.
2. As you prepare to watch and listen to Easter worship on our Facebook page – light a candle, have your Bible open to follow along when the scripture is read, prepare yourself to worship.
3. Assemble, ahead of time, juice and bread – we use Welsh Grape Juice, 100% juice, in worship. Red wine is also permitted. For bread, gather a favorite bread, or perhaps bake a loaf for this Easter morning worship.
4. Consider 'setting the table.' Place your bread on a plate, your juice or wine in one large cup or individual cups for each person present. Cover the bread, juice, and cups with white napkins – we

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keep the bread and juice covered, out of respect for our Lord, except when we are consecrating or serving the elements. You may also include a cross or other Easter symbols.

5. Then, follow along when I lead us in worship. I believe it can be and *will be* very special. I look forward to worshipping *together*.
6. If you are living alone, is their one or two other persons you are *comfortable* inviting to join you?
7. Consider having music – recorded music, or perhaps some of your family plays an instrument and sings?

Lent, Holy Week and Easter are a time of great intention. Holy Week is the most holy week of the Christian calendar. Pastors around the world are working under very different circumstances to be intentional and holy, to serve our flocks.

If you have any questions, contact me! Contact the office! Contact Pauline Luthi or Pat Mosley – our contact information is below:

Pastor Mary	mary.vanwijk@inumc.org	219-741-9117
Office	admin@hammondfumc.org	219-932-5915
Pauline Luthi, Lay Leader	pluthi@peoplepc.com	219-689-6505
Pat Mosley, Lay Leader	pecmosley@aol.com	219-218-3791

Please note, we all have 'not to gather' orders *through the month of April*. We will do our best to keep in touch – please let us know how you are and how we may assist you.

I see many acts of grace and goodwill in our community and the world. Amidst this pandemic trauma, I pray that you do too. I pray that you are a recipient of grace and goodwill, and that you may be the same for others.

We will be all right, we are changed and different, *but we will be all right*. We will be okay, for who we are, yes – but more so, because of who God is.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

I am, only because of Christ.

Your pastor, *Mary*



Hospital Visits

As a reminder, if you or one of your family members is hospitalized and wish to be prayed for and to receive visitation, please notify the church office (219-932-5915) Pastor Mary (219-741-9117), and/or instruct the hospital specifically to call the church office. Otherwise—we do not know that you are in the hospital! Being hospitalized can be a challenging time.

During this time, visits will be by phone or other social media.

If you wish your hospitalization to be known only by Pastor Mary, your confidentiality



Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team

Hello First Church family, the mission team would like to thank everyone who donated to Strong Tower Church in April. The Mission Team would also like to report that the Indiana Veteran's Home in West Lafayette, Indiana sent a thank you note thanking First United Methodist Church of Hammond for our donation. *Thank you* for your generous giving.

Second Mile Giving for the month of April is Catherine McAuley Clinic. This is a volunteer-based medical clinic for uninsured citizens of the Northwest Indiana area. Their mission is to provide medical and referral services at a nominal cost to the medically underserved. This clinic is a response to God's call to minister to the sick. The money collected from our Second Mile Giving will financially help to do just that. The mission team also hopes that the Second Mile Giving donation will help Catherine McAuley Clinic deal with any financial burden due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

First Church Family let also continue to in prayer for the world and our country, our states, our counties, our cities, and our neighborhoods while we are dealing with this pandemic of the Coronavirus. Prayer is one of the most powerful things that we can do. I also believe that it is in our best interests to follow the guidelines that our leaders have advised us to do.



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



What is happening???

As the community changed across the years, members sold their homes and moved away. Yet they continued to drive back each week to enjoy the web of relationships that was their church, their dearest friends. They continued to worship but lost touch with the community around them. Increasingly, church became isolated from the world rather than engaged with the world.

Where can we find help?

*At our district conferences, the superintendent has been pointing to the book, *Shaped by God's Heart*. I really like the book because it clearly guides me in my search for answers.*

I know some of you have this book and I hope that all of you will read it. I am glad to buy you a copy if you reply!

*God bless,
Pauline*

~Submitted by Pauline Luthi, Lay Leader



Steps for Drawing Closer to Christ

1. Take to heart Jesus' commandment to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." The second is this: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **Mark 12:30-31** What does love your neighbor as yourself look like? Jesus tells the parable of the good Samaritan. A man is traveling to Jerusalem and during the course of his travels, he is robbed and beaten. The injured man is encountered by three people; a priest, a Levite and a Samaritan. Upon seeing the wounded man, the first two pass by on the other side of the road. The third Man, the Samaritan, stops to offer assistance. After treating and bandaging his wounds, the Samaritan takes the injured man to an inn where he continues to care for him. The following day, the Samaritan man departs from the inn, but not before leaving money with the innkeeper for the injured man's continued care and promising to pay any additional expense when he returns.

2. Have a heart for others. One word- **agape**; agape is defined as wide open, especially with awe and wonder. Jesus calls us to set aside our love for self and to respond to others for the greater good. **1 Corinthians 13: 4-7** states that "Love (Charity) is patient, (charity) is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (Charity) does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres."

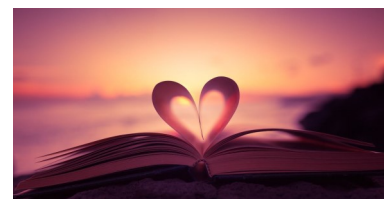
3. Look for the joy in your life. The transformation of turning water into wine was Jesus' first documented miracle. He and His disciples were invited to a wedding in Cana. Imagine Jesus and His friends are invited to a party, a celebration of sorts, a wedding, a day of joy and bliss. In addition, can you envision the joy Jesus felt as He welcomed the children of Israel who were brought to Him to be blessed? Suffer the little children to come unto me. With joy, Jesus welcomes the children, adding that they are indeed examples of the kingdom of heaven. **Psalms 100: 1- 2a** encourages us to "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs."

4. Relinquish social biases. *Paralambano* means to welcome into one's fellowship and heart. This word implies the warmth and kindness of genuine love. In **Luke 6:32** it states, "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them." Jesus chose to interact with the Samaritan woman knowing that it was socially unacceptable. Yet Jesus recognized an opportunity to offer eternal life to a soul that was dying. Jesus said to the woman, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." **John 4: 10** The Samaritan woman, who was essentially a social outcast among her own people, ran to bring others to experience this gift. Exclaiming, "Come, see a man..." **John 4: 29a**

5. Accept God's grace and forgiveness. Take the time to look up to Calvary. What do you see? It wasn't long ago that His arrival was celebrated. Now things have taken a dark turn. What has this man done? Heal the sick, raise the dead, bring new life to the sinner. What is His crime? Think about the depth of His love for you. He has taken your sins all the way to the cross. Savagely beaten and scourged, mocked, nailed to a cross and pierced in the side. Scripture says that "Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost. Now when the centurion saw what was done, he glorified God, saying, "Surely this was the son of God." **Luke 23: 46- 47**

Being sequestered is truly a challenge, but this time could prove to be an awesome opportunity- an opportunity to grow closer to God. You are encouraged to take this time to draw closer to Christ and to put into action the example He provided for us.

~Submitted by Patricia Mosley, Co-lay Leader



A Note from Your Finance Committee Chair

By David Moll



This is a crazy (and scary) time right now. It seems like with each passing day, via television news, the internet, or from your family and friends, we are given more and more information on how to protect ourselves, members of our family, and other loved ones. It gives us pause to realize that humanity was so ill-prepared to handle the coronavirus outbreak. Worldwide, healthcare professionals are working round-the-clock to find a cure and a vaccine, but thus far without a major breakthrough. This is truly a situation where all we are certain of is that we need to trust in God, and pray that he keeps us, our family, friends and neighbors safe.

Late this past Monday, March 16, we received a recommendation from Bishop Julius Trimble that all churches suspend their regular worship services for at least the next four weeks. Soon, you will receive other correspondence on what First Church will do to communicate Sunday sermons and to keep in touch with you in other ways until this pandemic lifts and we can begin to return to our normal lives including regular worship at First Church. Until this time occurs, I humbly request that you continue to financially support First Church during this period while the building is closed. First Church's expenses (e.g., NIPSCO, building insurance, wages and salaries, maintenance, etc.) do not come to halt when building use ceases or is greatly reduced. (FYI, as a needed service The Vine continues to operate, with a simplified procedure, Monday thru Wednesday, manned by two persons.)

Thank you to those among us who have brought their offering to the church or who have mailed offerings via the U.S.P.S.

Therefore, until we are able to return to worship in our beautiful chapel or sanctuary, please continue to support your church by mailing your donation/giving envelope on a regular basis or continuing with electronic giving. Mail delivery is checked daily. Either way, you will be helping First Church to be ready to warmly receive you at the time when this "coronavirus cloud" lifts and our lives begin to return to normal.

Bless you and thank you in advance for your support,

~Submitted on behalf of David Moll, Finance Chair

(See Page 7 for FUMC financial data)

News from Your Finance Chair.....

From First Church's Finance Committee, this is the second time that financial data is included in the monthly newsletter. For this and future newsletters, the aim is to provide you with:

Some of the same financial data reviewed and discussed by the Finance Committee at its regular monthly meeting,

Comments which, hopefully, you will find informative if not useful, and

Contact information should you have any questions or comments.

Financial data as of Feb. 29, 2020:

	<u>February</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
Current Expense (CE) Giving	\$26,191.00	\$45,538.00
Expenditures	<u>\$24,812.00</u>	<u>\$45,751.00</u>
Giving Surplus or (Shortfall)	\$ 1,379.00	(\$213.00)

Comments:

- First Church's Finance Committee is comprised of 12 members, including Lay Leaders and the chairs of the Church Council and several Administrative Committees. It oversees all aspects of the church finances, and typically meets 10 times per year. It also includes an Audit Sub-Committee which conducts internal audits on a regular basis.
- January was not one of our better giving months, however, February was a good giving month closing the YTD gap between giving and spending to a very small amount as shown above.
- After the request in March's newsletter, several of you turned in 2020 pledge cards. Thank you!!

Contact Information for Questions or Comments:

David Moll, Finance Committee Chair, at bdmoll@att.net, or cell 219-801-4111



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE March, 2020

New Clients.....78
Return Clients.....415
Total Clients Served.....493

New Households.....39
Return Households.....232
Total Households Served.....271

Total Pounds Distributed: 10,737



Thank you for your support, donations and prayers!



Thank you from The UMW....

Thank you to all the Volunteers and those who attended the UMW Baked Potato Luncheon on March 8.

~ Georgia Brown, UMW



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

"The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. "

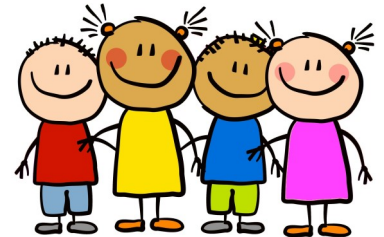
Psalm 145:9

News from Staff Parish.....

FUMC church council has approved the appointment of Mike Kizman to Chair of Children's Ministries for 2020. Mike has been a Girl Scout leader for many years and is active in children's activities at Hammond First. A committee of seven volunteers will support him in planning and implementation of children's programs.

If you are willing to be a part of the children's ministries and have not volunteered, please let Mike know. We are grateful to Mike for his willingness to lead this program.

Please join me in welcoming Mike Kizman to this new position!



~Kathy Smith, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) Chair

Riddle



Q: I fall, but I don't get hurt. I pour, but I'm not a jug.
I help plants grow, but I'm not the sun.

What am I?

A: Rain.

April Birthdays



2020

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



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.



Prayer Concerns

Jennie Baeza
Liz Berg
Roger Collier
Kathy Clarke
Maggie Foster Lerner
Jim Kizman
Sandy Kizman
Athene Knapik
Jerry Kolanowski
Cameron Little
Bernie Newell
Alan Piwowar
Logan Polich
Jane Schauer
Ralph Schauer
Dean Seehausen
Henry Showers
Pat Showers
Robert Speck
Pam Stahl
John Steele
Nancy Steele
Cheryl Walker
Sheryl Walters

Our homebound and those living in a residential facility:

Adele Gawrys, Don & Joann Harris
Jim Moery, and Beryl Puckering


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@hammondsumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!



Prayer and Scripture Calendar 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Genesis 1:1-2:4a	2 Romans 6:3-11	3 Ezekiel 36:24-28	4 Isaiah 12:2-6
5 Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29	6 Hebrews 9:11-15	7 Isaiah 49:1-7	8 John 13:21-32	9 Exodus 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	10 Isaiah 52:13-53:12	11 Job 14:1-14
Dave & Char	Gordon & Joyce	David Dean	A Debold Family	Laura DeMarco	Karen Dodd	Maureen Dodd Family
12 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	13 Acts 30:34-43	14 Matthew 28:1-10	15 Colossians 3:1-4	16 Zephaniah 3:14-20	17 Genesis 6:5-22	18 Deuteronomy 31:1-13
Shirley Farmer	Alice Foley	Adele Gawrys	Russ Godbout	Cheri Gozdecki	John Grace	M. Gutierrez Family
19 Psalm 16	20 1 Peter 1:3-9	21 John 20:19-31	22 Acts 2:14a, 22-32	23 John 20:1-18	24 Ephesians 2:1-17	25 2 Kings 2:13-15
Don & Joann Harris	Janet Harrison	Bette Haskins	Jason Hawkins Family	Josie Hawkins Family	Melinda Hawkins	Bob Heady Family
26 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	27 Acts 2:14a, 36-41	28 1 Peter 1:17-23	29 Luke 24:13-35	30 Solomon 2:8-15		
Dave & Mary Hin-	D. Hoffman Family	Bev Hornak Family	Dave Horn	Bobby Jones		