



The Lighthouse

August 2020

“When I am afraid I put my trust in you.”

Psalms 56:3

a note from your pastor...



It's been mid-March since most of us have been in any type of gathering of folks – let alone any gathering in a church. I am sure the challenges are stark – loneliness, job security, etc. – but I want to encourage you by saying this is the safest thing the church can be doing for itself. During the time organizations and businesses have been re-opening, one of the places having the hardest time not spiking an outbreak are churches. So, rather than being a supposed capitulation to fear, the church steering clear of in-person worship is a courageous and loving act we are committing for ourselves and our community. It's an act I commend you for.

And, at some point, we are going to be back in church. And when we are, we are going to have to come to terms with how much about that experience is going to have changed/will be changing.

First, Sunday morning will look different. When we return to in-person (tentatively set for September 13th), we will be requiring masks (in line with new public health guidelines), practicing social distancing, and not engaging in congregational singing – among other things. It will feel weird. Not everyone will be able to be there. Of course, the experience will likely change over time, but things will have changed.

Second, we will be less than a year away from the rescheduled 2020 General Conference. If you are unfamiliar with the situation, the United Methodist Church has a huge business meeting every four years. This meeting sets budgets, legislates issues of church doctrine, and is a gathering of people from around the world. This particular meeting will decide the future of the UMC and whether it will be one or many churches afterwards. You might not have known any of this. You may have known and forgotten in the fog of COVID-19. Either way, that will also be a thing that changes/will change.

Finally, the entire concept of how we do church is changing/going to change. It was in process before, but it was accelerated with the virus. Church rolls have suffered for decades, programs have declined, and budgets have taken a beating, as well. That's forgetting the fact that EVERY church has been gifted an online campus of their church that now needs tending. Most churches will need a plan to help in the immediate term, but ALL churches will need a plan for how they will continue on as communities of faith. First UMC of Hammond is no exception. You've heard for years that this was the case, but now is the time when you'll see those changes.

I'm excited. We have an opportunity to be pioneers of a new era in the life of the historic Christian faith. It will not be easy. Parts will even be incredibly hard. However, if we remember the reason we are doing it all in the first place – the gospel of Jesus Christ – we'll always be headed where we need to go.

Peace,

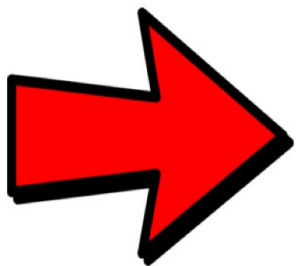
Pastor Chris
(574) 242-9959
Chris.tiedeman@inumc.org

worship with us **ONLINE**



*contact church
office for
call-in options

Facebook Live



[https://zoom.us/j/
6108754191](https://zoom.us/j/6108754191)

Sundays @ 10am



Initial Plans Underway for Limited Reopening in September

Thank you to everyone who has submitted the Safe Sheltering Survey you were sent (via email or snail mail) in May. A subteam from the Church Council is now working with Pastor Chris on plans for a limited reopening of the church for corporate worship in the church sanctuary beginning *September 13*. Detailed information and protocols that everyone attending worship will be required to follow (including masks and strict social distancing) will be mailed to all members in August.

The mailing will include a required reservation form for those interested in attending in-person worship on *September 13* (a maximum of 25 persons, for at least the first month). Upon the church's receipt of each signed form, reservations will be honored on a first-come, first served basis. Because the number of Covid-19 cases continues to rise in Lake County, we are especially mindful and committed to taking every precaution possible during the pandemic to keep all members of our faith community as safe and healthy as possible.

Please watch your mailbox and check email regularly for upcoming information about the church's reopening.

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council Chair
and North District Lay Leader



Our newsletter may look a bit different here and there, while we are all living with Covid-19 and its effects.

Have questions?, please ask.

We will always do our best to serve one another.



Help “Stuff the Bus” to Support Local Schools

As a community mission project for the 2020 Annual Conference session, the Indiana Conference Board of Laity planned a project called “Stuff the Bus.” A school bus parked on the Indiana Wesleyan University campus in Marion, Indiana—where clergy and laity planned to convene in June for the Annual Conference session—would be literally “stuffed” with donated school supplies for the students and teachers at Marion CommUNITY Schools. This school district, like some others in our state, has many students from financially challenged families who have difficulty obtaining needed school supplies. However, as we all know, Covid-19 intervened. The large in-person gathering at Indiana Wesleyan was transformed: now only a small conclave of Conference leaders will be at IWU on August 15, and the Annual Conference session will be live streamed from there to as many as 90 percent of Annual Conference voting members, who will participate remotely and vote online from their homes.

This change of plans for Indiana Wesleyan meant that the Board of Laity had to move to a “Plan B” for the Stuff the Bus project. To avoid physically handling school supplies for the project, the Conference instead is accepting **online donations** that will be distributed to the schools to purchase the needed supplies. The donation period kicked off on July 28 and **will be open until August 22**.

Although support for Marion CommUNITY Schools was the original recipient because of the proximity of that district’s schools to IWU, the Board of Laity recognizes that student needs for school supplies exist statewide. Accordingly, 30 percent of donations for Stuff the Bus will go to Marion CommUNITY Schools, with the remaining 70 percent divided equally among the 10 districts of the Indiana Conference. The District Operations Team of each district will determine which school or schools in their district will receive a donation to purchase school supplies.

Please support Indiana’s school children by making a donation online at <https://www.inumc.org/uncategorized/help-stuff-the-bus-to-support-local-schools/>. Click on the red “Give Now!” button following the article, which will take you to a donation page powered by SecureGive. There you can select “Click to Donate” and make your donation for Stuff the Bus. Thank you!

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport
Church Council Chair and North District Lay Leader
Based on information from Robert Muhlbaier, Associate Director
of Leadership Development for the Indiana United Methodist
Conference



Living a Normal Life.....

The **Power for Living Sunday School Class** is currently studying the book **Everybody is Normal Until You Get to Know Them** by author John Ortberg. In the article, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a brief summary from the first chapter:



When shopping in certain stores there is inevitably a section that catches the eye; the section of reduced prices. It is not unusual to come across a tag that reads *"as is."* This is a way of saying "damaged goods" or "slightly irregular." This is the department where you can depend upon something to go wrong: a flaw, a stain, a zipper that doesn't zip, a button that doesn't butt. This is the department of misfits and ill-formed: no returns, no refunds, no exchanges. You have been sufficiently warned.

Now let's consider the human element. It may be someone you hold very close, someone dear to you. That person is "slightly irregular," "flawed," not at all form fitting." If you are looking for perfection, you have wandered into the wrong department.

All we want to do is find someone (like ourselves) *normal*. In fact, we would be crazy to not want one of those.

We have just walked into an area that does not exist. We all want a normal Uncle Ed or Grandma Sue. A mother thinks to herself, "If only my child could be normal for once." It's kind of like going fishing in the Sahara. But — the greatest mark of maturity is to surrender to the notion that there is no normal.

The most difficult part of this reality is accepting that we are indeed a part of the *"as is"* department. It's a lot like the *"totally normal woman who stalks her ex-boyfriend."* So, what does this actually look like. And if the excessive stalking of an ex-love interest is not normal, but in fact totally normal, how do we define weird?

God knows that we are not normal. Scripture states *"We all, like sheep, have gone astray..."* **Isaiah 53:6** and *"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..."* **Romans 3:23.**

Have you ever noticed how many messed up families there are in the Bible?

- Cain becomes jealous of his brother, Abel, and kills him.
- Abraham plays favorites with his sons, Jacob and Esau.
- David seduces Bathsheba and later has her husband killed on the battlefield.
- Joseph's brothers plot to kill him and end up selling him into slavery.
- And the list continues...

(Continue on Page 6)

(Continued from Page 5, Living a Normal Life....)

We are talking about people who have their own category in the DSM-V. So why do we find these people in the Bible? The most important reason — we are all weird. Weird yet worthy.

How do we live in a normal community with dysfunctional, “as is” people? The answer to this question brings us back to **Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Everyone of us travels with our own baggage. This baggage could hold a multitude of surprises: selfishness, envy, jealousy, rejection, abuse, neglect... Our personalities are shaped by the sum total of our experiences and some of these experiences may leave deep, festering wounds.

As Christians, we are not normal people waiting to be of service to an “*abnormal*” world. We all come to the table “as is.” To achieve community, God’s desire for us is not simply congregant to congregant. It is for all relationships: with our spouses, children, co-workers, everybody. Christ’s challenge to us is to create little islands of love, grace and forgiveness for those of us who come to Him “as is.”

*(The **Power for Living Class** meets via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Please feel free to join us.)*

~Submitted by Pat Mosley, Lay Leader



A Note from Knit and Crochet...

The Knitting and Crochet group has had to suspend meeting during the quarantine period. However, as soon as we are given the go-ahead and the church opens, we will be back in the parlor each Thursday from 1PM to 3PM! Everyone is welcome. You do not have to be a member of First Church to join us. So bring a friend, relative, neighbor, or someone walking down the street.

And remember you do not have to be an expert knitter or crocheter; we are there to help you to improve your skills or even learn a new one.

Any questions just give Sonia Vincent a call.
708.946.6489

~Submitted by Sonia Vincent





Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team.....

Hello, First Church Family. **Haven House** will be the Second Mile Giving for the month of August. Haven House Inc., founded in 1983, is a 24-hour emergency shelter for domestic violence victims and their dependents. It is located in Hammond, Indiana and provides services to Hammond, East Chicago, Whiting, Munster, Griffith, and Highland. We also collect items for Haven House and have a bin in the mission corner. There is a list of items that Haven House would like us to donate. Please only donate the items on the list. You can financially support Haven House this month, donate items any time and put them in the bin, and/or pray for the volunteers and victims at Haven House. This is a significant ministry for too many people in need. Thank you for supporting Haven House of Hammond, Indiana!

List of requested and needed items for Haven House

Baby wipes	New socks – adult & children
Bathroom cleaning supplies	New toys
Bleach	Notebooks
Conditioner	Paper towels
Deodorant	Toilet paper
Diapers -All 3-6	Toothbrushes (new)
Female hygiene products	Toothpaste
Folders	Walmart gift cards for medicine & shoes
Kitchen towels	Wash clothes (new)
Lotion	Women's undergarments (new)
New socks – adult & children	

Please let us also continue to pray for those effected by the Coronavirus. Let us also pray for the United Methodist congregations, churches, and pastors who have reopened their churches and for those who are still preparing to reopen their church. The Mission Team would also like to thank *everyone* who contributed to the Saint Margret Franciscan Hammond, Health Mission by either your generous financial donations or handwritten Thank You cards. We could not have done this without your amazing support. Thank you to Roseanne Watson and Dave Armistead for their hard work and dedication in keeping the food pantry open. The mission team would also like to thank Mr. Mike for replacing the blessing box.

~Submitted by Richard Miller, one of the co-chairs for the Mission team





Hospital Mission Update

It is with great joy to report that we have EXCEEDED the amount to purchase gift cards for ALL of Saint Margaret Franciscan Hammond Health Staff! Our current total is \$6,210. The Missions committee is currently voting on a proposal to apply overage of \$1,210 to create additional gifts for Munster Med Inn, assisted living facility, whose staff has also been serving in the front lines during the course of this Pandemic. Should this be the decision, my friend Sasha, a teacher at Hess Elementary, has volunteered to generate a small social media campaign to enlist help from the community outside of our church to help with the last \$290 or so that would be needed.

We have all cards we need for St. Margaret's, and have enlisted additional efforts of the Winding Rainbows Girl Scout troupe for the last 40 or so needed for Munster Med Inn. Thank you so much, again to all that have donated, and have written thank you notes in so many cards! I am working to order the assortment of gift cards through the *Script Card Program* with Roseanne Watson. I will likely need some help stuffing envelopes, recounting and even presenting the cards. I will keep you updated on the plan as soon as possible.

May we pray for these workers to have hope, to be safe, and for their families' safety. May their gifts and talents go specifically noticed and rewarded, and ultimately may local Covid-19 rates decline. May we all continue to know God's faithfulness and appreciation in and through our individual and collective efforts!

Looking forward to seeing you virtually and some, in person, in the near future! Until then, God's Peace be with you!

~Submitted by Katy Province-Garza, (Missions Co-Chair #2)



Couldn't have
done it
without you





Thank you First Church Family...



The All Church Neighborhood Meal was Sunday July, 26. COVID-19 restrictions do not allow us to serve the meal, so the food and supplies were dropped off in front of the building. The menu included pizza from State Line Pizza, fruit, drinks, cookies or candy. No doubt it was enjoyed! A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to the meal.

~Submitted by
Pam Longhi, Kathy Smith



HONORING AND CELEBRATING PASTOR DAVID SCHRADER

***Congratulations !!
Pastor Schrader***

**FUMC Hammond
Pastor from
Years :1998-2002**



"I know
what I am
planning for
you." says
the Lord.
"I have
plans to give
you hope and a
good future."

JEREMIAH 29:11



*Together Let's
Honor and Celebrate
the Ministry and Retirement of*
PASTOR DAVID SCHRADER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23, 2020
OPEN HOUSE 2-5 EDT

MEMORIES & PROGRAM 3:30

3012 S. TWYCKENHAM DR. SOUTH BEND, IN 46614
574.288.4789

The Blessing Box is a blessing to so many....

Hello First Methodist Friends,

I am Sandy Kizman, mom of Mike Kizman. First, I would like to “thank you” for allowing Girl Scout Troop 100063 Cadets to earn their *Silver Award* by letting them put up the *Blessing Box* they made on your property. That is awesome!

Next, I have been putting items in it, since it was put up. I would like you to know how important the *Blessing Box* is to the community. A couple of times I ran into people that were using it. The first lady I saw was so grateful, and did not know what she would do without this and she told me her story. She quit a good job to take care of her ailing parents. When they passed, her sister and her husband moved in, she moved into the basement. Now her sister said she had to move out. She did not know where she was going to go. She was crying the whole time. I hugged her and prayed with her. Her name is Josephine. I, you are so inclined; we all know prayer is powerful.

I saw another man at the same time. He was so grateful and said, “I don’t know if you realize what a blessing this really is to so many.” Josephine with all her concerns made sure he got what he needed.

A few weeks later, someone pulled up and checked to see what was in the Blessing Box and it was pretty bare. I called to him when he started to leave. I had food. He was so thankful and said it was for his nieces and he was trying to help them.

I just wanted to let you know how important the Blessing Box is to our community and a blessing to so many.

God bless you all,

Sandy Kizman

Are you interested in donating items for our Blessing Box?

Items needed include: *non-perishable food items, diapers, hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products.*

Items may be placed inside the *Blessing Box* located at First United Methodist Church
6635 Hohman Avenue



Thank you for being a blessing!

Hello to all!

I have had some requests for the SCRIP PROGRAM to start again. To remind everyone, gift cards are sold at their face value. They are ordered at a discounted price of 2% to 10%.

The proceeds benefit the church current expense fund. I usually try to have a minimum total order of \$800.00.

If you are interested, please call me or text me your order at 1-773-852-5306 . I will be happy to answer any question possible. Thank you for your interest.

~Roseanne Watson



Used Ink Cartridges...



Do you have used ink cartridges?
If so, First United Methodist Church of Hammond is still collecting them for Staples Rewards.

Used ink cartridges may be dropped off inside the East door on the bench during office hours.



~Brenda Petty, Administrative Assistant

Bottle Caps for Kids...

Anyone know of any - one collecting for school, church, etc.,

Please contact Brenda, in the church office
(219) 932-5915
Ext. 222

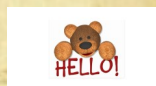


Dear Church Family ,

I am doing okay still on quarantine.
I think of my church family often and watch each Sunday.

God's Blessings to all,

Love,
Fran Carpenter



First United Methodist Church of Hammond is always interested in hearing and keeping in touch with you.

Please contact the church office at (219) 932-5915, ext. 222 or
via email admin@hammondfumc.org
to update your contact information.

Finance News.....



From First Church's Finance Committee, this is the sixth time this year 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*,
* Due to COVID-19, March, April, May, June and July Finance Committee meetings were not held.
- Comments which, hopefully, you will find informative if not useful, and
- Contact information should you have any questions or comments.

Financial data as of June 30, 2020:

	<u>June</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
• Current Expense (CE) Giving	\$11,031.00	\$106,724.00
• Expenditures	<u>\$16,836.00</u>	<u>\$125,035.00</u>
Giving Surplus or (Shortfall)	(\$5,805.00)	(\$18,311.00)

Comments:

- Each year, an audit of the Church's books for the previous year (2019 in this case) is performed. This audit is normally performed in early spring – aiming to complete it by mid-May. (Results of the audit are subsequently submitted to the District and Conference.) The audit for 2019 has not yet been performed due primarily to COVID-19, however, a plan to complete it by the end of August will be formulated next week. To limit exposure, fewer members of the Finance Committee will participate this year.
- June was not a good giving month which is not unusual for the early summer months of “normal” years. The year-to-date (YTD) gap between CE giving and spending has increased to \$18,311 (see above) from a gap of \$12,506 last month. For 2020 YTD, actual giving is \$2,924 above the giving estimate and actual expenditures are \$28,196 below the spending estimate. These are two favorable trends which we hope continue for the balance of the year!
- In spite of the continuing challenges this year due to COVID-19, church giving has been good so far this year. Your continuing faithfulness and generosity are most definitely appreciated!

Contact Information for Questions or Comments:

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



Giving Electronically

Some of you have asked how can I donate online to the church. You have two options for using Tithe.ly. The first option—download the app on your Apple or Android phone. You can easily set up reoccurring payments or a one-time payment using the app and select First United Methodist Church. The second option—go to our website (www.hammondfumc.org) and click on Donate and complete the form.

With either option - you can select to give your tithe to your offering, the second-mile giving, or memorials (it will default to Offering).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Ward at smw1213@gmail.com or 630-624-1318. Please note that Sarah is working Monday—Friday and may be delayed getting back to you. Sending a text message is sometimes the best way to get a hold of her.

~Submitted by Sarah Ward

Support FUMC Using TITHE.LY



Download "TITHE.LY" from Apple App store.



Download "TITHE.LY" from Google Play store.



Go to www.hammondfumc.org



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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

New Clients.....	29
Return Clients.....	364
Total Clients Served.....	393
New Households.....	15
Return Households.....	181
Total Households Served.....	196



Total Pounds Distributed: 8,480



Supporting the Food Pantry...

Many of you have asked, how can I support the Food Pantry? During this acute time in our pandemic, and while the building is *closed*, the best way to support the Food Pantry is to give financially. Supporting the Food Pantry financially may be completed the same ways we give our tithes and offerings to the church.

All financial offerings may be accepted through the U.S. Mail, using Tithe.ly (see Sarah Ward's article), or simply dropping it in our outside mailbox.

Any amount helps and is greatly appreciated.

Our Food Pantry has increased our standard hours during this Pandemic – adding Thursday each week, to the regular hours Monday through Wednesday. Jimmy Ortiz, Dave Armistead, and Roseanne Watson are staffing the Food Pantry each day, and have streamlined the routine, thereby reducing the incidence of infection.

Hammond First can be proud of the service these two are providing – not only being open, but also increasing the availability to serve our community.





HI KIDS! See if you can memorize
this Bible verse for the month of August!

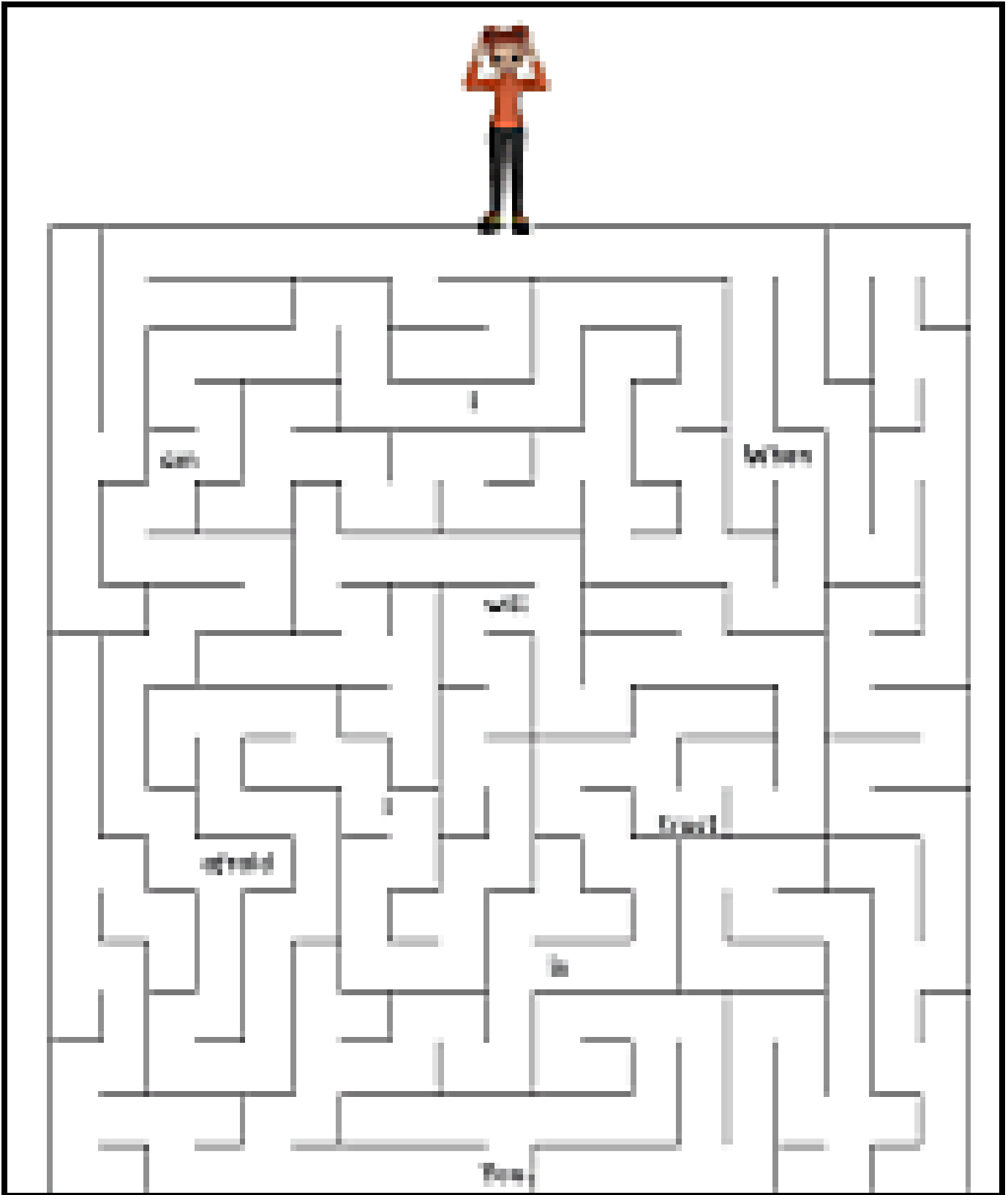
“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

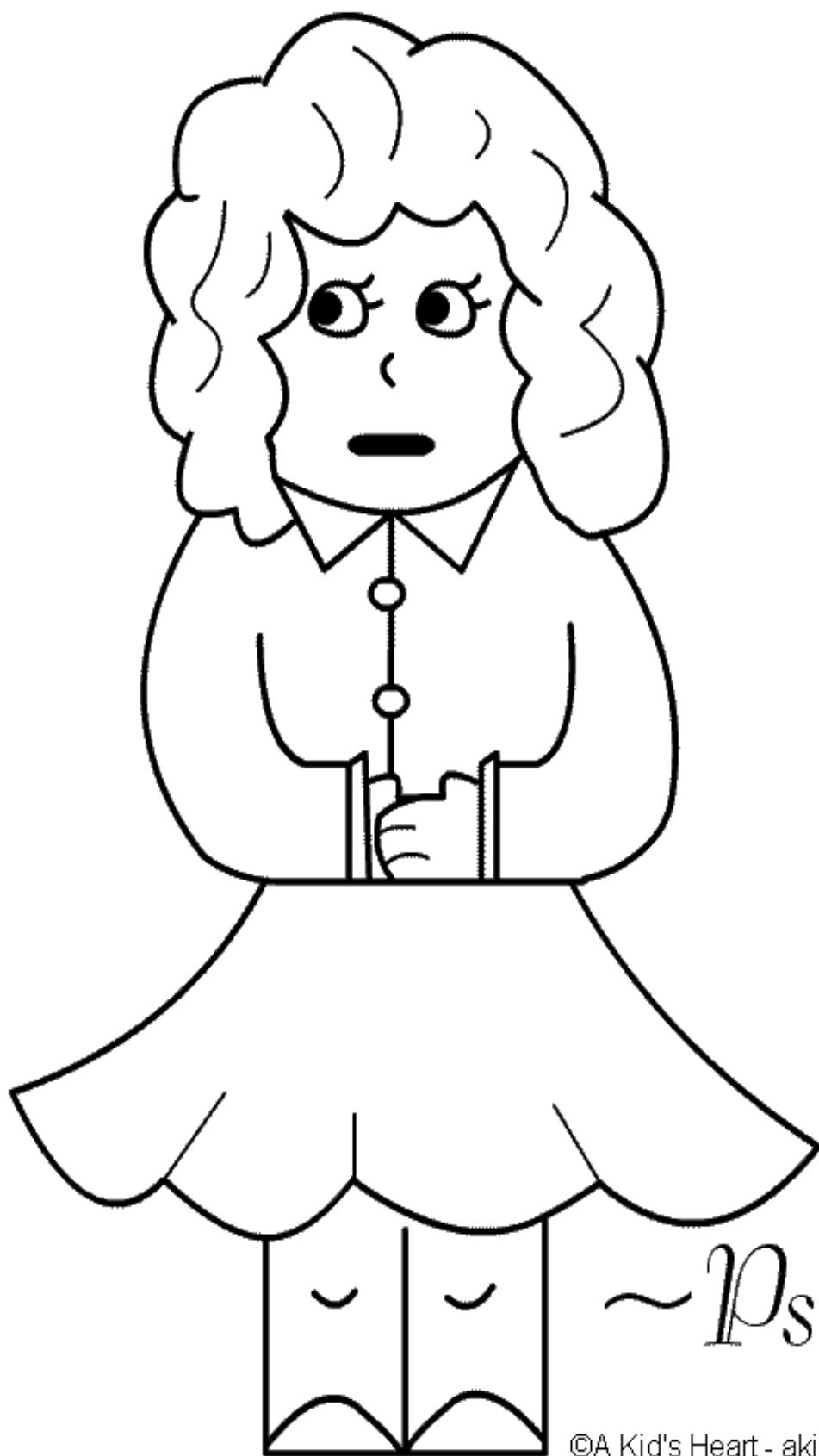
Psalm 56:3

HI Kids! Below and the next couple of pages you will find some activity
sheets to help you remember this awesome verse! ~ Mr. Mike



(Continued from Page 14 from Mr. Mike.....)





*When
I am
afraid,
I will
trust in
You.*

~Psalm 56:3



Birthdays

2020

8/03 Merle Churchill
8/03 Aaron Kozlowski
8/06 Jamie Brown
8/06 Joe Mejia
8/06 Gwen Sonner
8/07 Shirley Farmer
8/07 Bonnie Watson
8/08 Riversong Tiedeman
8/10 Jacob Tapper
8/14 Ray Anderson
8/14 Jan Pazdur
8/17 Dick Mackin
8/17 Tiffany Shelton
8/22 Karen Little
8/27 John Wilson
8/30 Kevin Shelton Jr.

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
Sandy Kizman
Jerry Kolanowski
Cameron Little
Bernie Newell
Alan Piwowar
Logan Polich
Jane Schauer
Dean Seehausen
Amanda Serna
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 **September newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **August 20th** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!

