



# *The Lighthouse*

## *September 2020*

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength”

Philippians 4:13

a note from your pastor...



When I went before my first district committee on ministry – where everyone who wants to explore ministry as a vocation begins their journey...in the UMC, at least – I was asked to write a report comparing myself with a biblical character. I chose Jonah.

As you likely know, Jonah was called by God to be a messenger to Nineveh. Jonah attempted to run away from God on a boat, ultimately ended up in the belly of a whale-y big fish, and spat on a beach in order to do the thing God asked him to do in the first place.

For my part, I was told by my wife and her father that they KNEW I was being called into ministry. Well, I was young and that sounded boring as a thing to do for a job. I worked at a hotel. I went to school for hotel/restaurant management. I left that noise for RadioShack (showed a good sense of planning), which led me to management there, which led to our moving to West Virginia, which led me to management at Best Buy, which led me to quit Best Buy, which led us to move back to Indiana, which spiraled down toward my working as a telemarketer (sorry), which ultimately led us here.

So, yes, I am calling West Virginia the big fish that spat me back out until I was ready to follow God’s lead.

Have you ever found yourself swallowed up in a fish, caught trying to evade God’s edicts?

What was it?

Did you ever do it?

Were you sorry you did?

Jonah’s story is about becoming uncomfortable in order to be faithful. I once heard a C.S. preach about a person telling God they don’t know if they’d be willing to die for God, and God turned around and said, “Well, would you be willing to be uncomfortable for me?”

The future for the faithful is not one that resembles the peaceful, beatific life once believed to be the only desire a Christian should have, but more resembles the early church. Not so much with the overt persecution from the state, but from the world looking at the church’s stewardship of culture and society over the last few centuries and believing they have failed. Sometimes, it’s hard to argue with them.

As if we aren’t already experiencing it, the church will have to face a time of forcing ourselves to be uncomfortable for God.

We can do it. It will be worth it. It will change our lives.

Are you in?

Peace,

Pastor Chris

(574) 242-9959

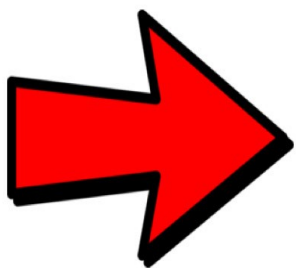
# worship with us **ONLINE**

---



\*contact church  
office for  
call-in options

Facebook Live



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

---

## Sundays @ 10am



## Limited In-Person Worship Begins September 13

With prayer and anticipation, plans are proceeding for a limited reopening of the church for corporate worship in the church sanctuary beginning at *10:00 am on September 13*. If you have not received a letter and reservation form regarding the church's reopening, please contact the church office. The mailing includes detailed information about the protocols that everyone attending worship will be required to follow (including masks and strict social distancing).

Pastor Chris has determined that for at least the first month, for the safety of the congregation during a time when the positivity rate of Covid-19 cases in Lake County is still high, worship attendance will be limited to 25 persons. This number includes the pastor and support personnel (greeter, usher, etc.). Reservations are being honored on a first-come, first served basis. Persons whose reservation form arrives after the cut-off for September 13 will be at the top of the list for in-person worship on September 20.

Holy Communion will be celebrated during each worship service (which also will be live streamed online). Pastor Chris will provide instructions to worshippers for "bring your own" Communion elements.

At all times when arriving at the church during the pandemic, be sure to wear a *face mask* and maintain a distance of at least six feet from persons who are not members of your household, whether you are meeting inside or outside the building. While worshippers will not be able to visit inside the building at this time, there will be plenty of time for fellowship in the parking lot following the service.

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



### A Note from SPRC...

SPRC had a delightful meeting with social distancing and masks in the backyard of the parsonage this month. Business covered included district report deadlines, the parsonage walk through inspection report and staff recognition ideas.

~Submitted by Kathy Smith, Staff Parish Committee Chair (SPRC)

## The Lord is My Salvation

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Sanhedrin. He had seen the miracles that Jesus had performed and had heard him teach. He believed that Jesus was truly a teacher sent from God. He longed to go and talk to him, but to avoid the scrutiny of his colleagues, he waited until it was nighttime to make his visit. Nicodemus acknowledges that he is convinced that Jesus is of God because as he states no man could do the type of miracles he had witnessed unless it was ordained by God. This paves the way for Jesus to start a conversation about what it is to be born again. For Nicodemus, God is illuminated when Jesus shares with him a lesson about what he must do to be saved. Jesus answered, *“..truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit...”* **John 3: 5-6**

So what does this conversation reveal about living a life in relationship? Jesus provides the answer to the answer to this question. The key is to be born of water and spirit. To be born of water and spirit is to allow God to permeate every aspect of our lives. Conceptualize God as water and wind. The weather man puts forth a horrific forecast and it takes us by storm. Literally, six inches of rain in two hours, the electricity goes out and there are downed branches everywhere. The water has inched its way into the basement and outside debris is as far as the eye can see.

So what am I saying? God takes us by storm. He gets into everything and it would take (may I say) an act of God to get Him out. Scripture tells us in **Romans 12: 1** *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”* The Lord in turn follows with a promise, **Psalms 27:5**: *“in the day of trouble he will keep (us) safe in his dwelling; he will hide (us) in the shelter of his sacred tent and set (us) high upon a rock.”*

God so loved the world that He gave us Jesus, the one who washes away the sins of the world. He allows us to bathe in the waters of salvation and enter God’s presence renewed. Unlike Nicodemus, we can go to God at any time. His arms are open wide, ready to accept us into His presence saying, *“Let (you) therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that (you) may obtain mercy and find grace...”* **Hebrews 4:16**

~Submitted by Pat Mosley, Lay Leader





## **Equip 2020: Be Missional on September 19, Even at a Distance**

The apostle Paul taught faith communities that it is when we partner together that our gifts bear the most fruit (Ephesians 4:11-16). With this image of the body of Christ working together, the Conference Board of Laity and the Emerging Leaders team partnered to develop Equip 2020, a statewide day of missional service, planned and led by laity leadership and emerging leaders, that would be a model for United Methodists across Indiana.

Originally planned to take place in-person in three different locations, Equip 2020 now will be a day that is a hybrid of local community service and sharing online. During the morning of September 19, participants from across the state are encouraged to be involved in mission/missional projects in their local communities. Many suggested options for missional service are offered on the Conference website under Ministries--Leadership Development—Lay Leadership Development—Equip 2020. Scroll down and click on Service Connections and Ideas for a listing of many vibrant missional opportunities and the organizations supporting them (including some that do not require you to leave your home) and the organizations supporting them): <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PkhfbXYPAjGKEm76emcIPZcd9qzMoJIo/edit>.

We are all invited to serve locally during the morning of September 19, whether as an individual, family, small group, or youth group. There will be a morning kick-off online at 8 am CT/9 am ET for early risers. That afternoon, participants are encouraged to gather again online to share about the morning of service and learn about new partnerships and opportunities.

Following Equip 2020, we'll find a time for those participating from Hammond FUMC to tell their stories and brainstorm about our church's missional future. I hope you will join us!

Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport  
Church Council chair  
North District Lay Leader





## Participate in an Intentional Discipleship Workshop Online

Join clergy, staff, and laypersons across our Indiana Conference for an Intentional Discipleship Workshop over **three Zoom sessions of two hours each on September 8, 15, and 22** from 5:00 to 7:00 pm Central time. Tools and strategies will be offered by facilitator Rev. Seth Neckers for creating an intentional discipleship pathway for the local church. Cost for the workshop is \$10.00 per person.

**Register by September 2** at: <https://inumc.swoogo.com/idwsept>.

The Intentional Discipleship Workshop draws from Dr. Phil Maynard's book *Shift 2.0: Helping Congregations Back into the Game of Effective Ministry*. The workshop, developed by Dr. Maynard and based on his years of research and experience in ministry, provides information, training, and discussion to help church leaders—laity and clergy—create intentional pathways for their congregations to make discipleship the heart of their faith community. The creation of discipleship pathways by all Indiana UMC churches is a major Conference initiative for 2020-2021.

An overview of the Intentional Discipleship Workshop is available at <https://emc3coaching.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/EMC3-New-Flyer-Final-No-Question.pdf>. If you are not able to participate in September, **additional workshops will be offered each month through year's end**. For the dates of upcoming workshops, go to <https://www.inumc.org/ministries/leadership-development/discipleship-ministries/> and scroll down to Discipleship Workshop Schedule.

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



## Trustees Update...

The preparatory work for the water problem in the foundation at the parsonage has been completed. The actual "fixing" of the problem will begin on September 4.

The new roof at the parsonage (house) and garage along with chimney repair will begin in early October.

A new eco-friendly mower has also been purchased.

An electrician has been obtained to do updates in the church building. More on that in the next newsletter.

~Submitted by Ken Wheeler, Chair of Trustees.





# Disciples' Daily News

## A Note from the Mission Team

Hello, First Church Family. The financial donations for Second Mile Giving for September will be used to help support the fight against *human trafficking*. Human trafficking is a terrible problem globally, but it is worse in the United States. According to the International Labor Organization, there are 40.3 million human trafficking victims globally; 25% of the victims are children, 75% of the victims are female, and 81% of the victims are trapped in some form of forced labor. In the United States 96% of victims are female and 50% are children. There are organizations such as SOAP to help in the fight against human trafficking. This organization uses bars of soap labeled with a number for the victims to call so they can get help.

Second mile giving may be sent in via checks to the church, please mark second mile giving; we may also give financially through Tithely. Another form of support is prayer – let us pray for victims of human trafficking to receive the help they need – discovery/liberation, safety and healing.

The mission team also thanks you for the \$600 in donations; will go directly towards the August second mile giving, Haven House .

Thank you, too, for the donations of for the Blessing Box, during this pandemic time. Let us also continue to pray for our church and all who are involved as we prepare to reopen this month.

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



## **A Missions Side Note...**

When the school year began two and a half weeks ago, we had collected enough money for what we had been told was the entire staff of St. Margaret Franciscan Hammond Health, with 1,200 extra. We voted as the missions team to use the overage to do a similar mission for Munster Med Inn. We have since found that the amount of staff St. Margaret Franciscan Hammond Health is actually much larger than we were first told. It has been suggested that we cover all of the personal care staff first and then raffle off additional gifts that we might have to the rest of the staff. At this point, we are going to follow through with this as our plan, as well as to launch a small social media campaign to try to cover any additional staff at St. Margaret's. I am hoping to draw this endeavor to a close by the end of September. Thank you again for he's still very successful support to our front-line workers. Indeed, God is good all the time! God's peace be with you,

~ Submitted by Katy Province-Garza



## Finance News.....



From First Church's Finance Committee, this is the 7th 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 through August 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 July 31, 2020:

	<u>July</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
• Current Expense (CE) Giving	\$29,702.00	\$136,426.00
• Expenditures	<u>\$19,133.00</u>	<u>\$143,377.00</u>
Giving Surplus or (Shortfall)	\$10,569.00	(\$6,951.00)

### Comments:

- Internal Audit – Update: As mentioned last month, to limit exposure fewer members of the Finance Committee will participate this year. In fact, Jan Yehnert and David Moll will conduct the audit in late September/early October timeframe.
- In spite of the fact that above it shows \$29,702 for July CE giving, July was not a particularly good giving month. Why? Included in the \$29,702 amount is \$19,104 for our PPP loan which was recognized as income this month. (PPP loan funds were initially set up in a special account so that we could track them accurately as they are utilized.) Once we deduct the \$19,104 PPP loan amount from total July giving of \$29,702, it leaves \$10,598 for “regular” July giving.
- Your Finance Committee is hopeful that a side-benefit of our return to in-person worship starting Sept. 13 in our beautiful sanctuary will be to provide a bit of a “jump-start” to weekly giving.

### Contact Information for Questions or Comments:

David Moll, Finance Committee Chair, at [bdmoll@att.net](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.hammondfumc.org)



## Reserve for In-Person Worship!



If you are interested in worshipping with us for the 10:00 am Sunday service in the church sanctuary beginning this month, please make sure to mail in or drop off the reservation form you received in late August, so that we can add you to the list. As this newsletter is completed, there are still openings for September 20—and for each Sunday following. Reservations will be honored on a first-come, first served basis. For the first month of our limited reopening, Pastor Chris has set a limit of 25 per Sunday. Everyone who wants to worship in person will have an opportunity to attend before we circle back and begin accepting reservations for a second and third time, etc.

~Brenda Petty, Administrative Assistant



## Indiana United Methodist Women

Our fall meeting this year will be on zoom. Prayers, singing, remembering our sisters who have passed, giving awards and business.

### September 19 at 9 A.M. (Central Standard Time)

Zoom limits our numbers to 100 for a free meeting. If you want to be included send a request to [RugeBernard@yahoo.com](mailto:RugeBernard@yahoo.com) or text to 219-743-2136.

Also on **September 27 at 1P.M. (Central Standard Time)** for a UMW Faith Talks zoom podcast on voting in this 100 year anniversary of women's voting. If interested, send an email to Georgia Brown, [rwgab@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwgab@sbcglobal.net) and I will send you the registration Information

~Submitted by Georgia Brown, UMW



## A Note from Knit and Crochet...

Looks as though you will all have to continue your projects on your own at home. As much as it would be nice to be able to meet in the parlor on Thursday Afternoons, we will have to be strong and stay away until January when hopefully the world and Hammond First will be able to get back to doing what it wants to do.

I do miss our weekly fellowship and I think about you all often. Please call me if you need any "virtual" help at 708.946.6489

~Submitted by Sonia Vincent





## RETIREMENT PARTY FOR PASTOR DAVID SCHRADER

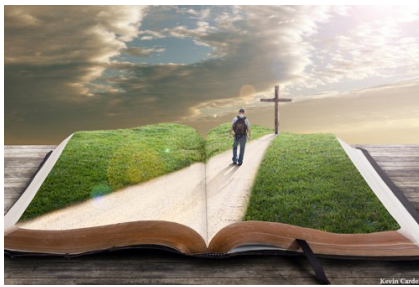
Has been *postponed* from August 23rd to December 13, 2020

Open house: 2:00 — 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)

Memories and programs 3:30 p.m.

Please call the church (574-288-4789)  
the week before to confirm

Email: [communications@gracemethodist.org](mailto:communications@gracemethodist.org)



### Read the Word...then LIVE the Word

We can read the scripture, highlight favorite passages, and make notes in the margins of our Bible.

We can attend Bible classes, hear sermons regularly, and discuss what we've read.

But actually doing something with God's word is the real work, the evidence that we have read and studied the scripture.

We determine to take God's instructions into our minds and hearts — and then to clothe ourselves in what we've learned. Only then does the word of God become embodied in us and make a difference in our lives and in the lives of those we encounter.

~Submitted by Joe Ramirez

# SERVING THE COMMUNITY

## THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE August, 2020

New Clients.....	60
Return Clients.....	366
Total Clients Served.....	426
New Households.....	182
Return Households.....	27
Total Households Served.....	209



**Total Pounds Distributed: 9,088**



### 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 September!

“I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13

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





I CAN DO ALL THINGS

through  
Christ

WHO STRENGTHENS ME.

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

*HouseMixblog.com*



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

### 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!

### 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

### 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



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](mailto:admin@hammondfumc.org)  
to update your contact information.



## Birthdays 2020

9/2	David Moll
9/2	Chandra Ware
9/4	Bob Heady
9/4	Pastor Chris
9/6	Brian Goodrich
9/6	Berto Valdez IV
9/10	Larry Alport
9/10	Georgia Heady
9/10	Jane Schauer
9/10	Janet Voorheis
9/11	Kurt Kosarko
9/13	Henry Showers
9/13	Carrie Ward
9/16	Ellena Maini
9/17	Angela Hawkins
9/17	David Tapper
9/20	Star Vestal
9/21	Mary Seljan
9/22	Jane Harper-Alport
9/22	Ken Vincent
9/23	David Dean
9/25	Richard Miller
9/26	Don Nelson, Jr.
9/30	Luis Del Rio



**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 **October newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **September 20th** or via email at [admin@hammondfumc.org](mailto:admin@hammondfumc.org).

Thank for your cooperation!

