



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”

Matthew 5:4

a note from your pastor...

As my family and I have been with you for about 9 months, but since we've been in this qualified state of existence through this pandemic, you haven't been able to see just what a geek I am.



Por ejemplo, before this last week, the last movie I had seen in the theatres was *Avengers: Endgame* – a comic book movie. I took my nephews to see it on opening weekend. Before that, I took my wife and daughter to see *Avengers: Infinity War* – another comic book movie. One of our family's favorite movies is *Thor: Ragnarok* – a comic book movie. I have enlisted my family to dress up in cosplay to win local comic book conventions.

I am a geek, and it's no surprise I would choose this as a metaphor for where I think we are.

Kal-El – or Superman – was sent to earth by his parents to avoid being killed when his planet was destroyed. He was sent to Earth because our atmosphere would mean he would have super strength and our sun had healing qualities for him. Whenever Superman has been severely beaten or defeated in any way, there is usually a scene in the comics and movies where Superman will fly straight up through the clouds in order to get a direct shot at the sun.

I have to tell you that – as we are slowly beginning to get back to some semblance of normal – it has felt like Superman flying up and basking in the sun to be anticipating returning to worship with you, and to begin resuming congregational life to active and safe levels. I don't know about you, but after a year of being isolated from any group larger than a handful of folks, seeing people safely distanced in a sanctuary will have much the same effect on me as the sun does on Superman.

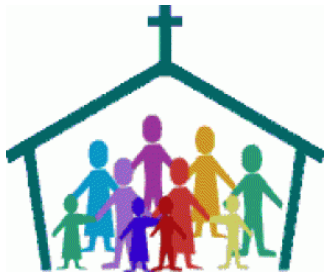
All of that being said, we all must still do our part to maintain public safety measures in order to protect those still vulnerable populations. Even as we anticipate reopening for in-person worship, numbers throughout the country – including and especially Indiana – are spiking outbreaks such that the CDC director was recently brought to tears over how bad a fourth surge could be. Not only that, the longer the disease has to live and spread, the more variants will emerge and threaten many others and maybe even threaten the progress we've made with vaccines.

This is not doom-and-gloom thinking. I am returning to worship with full confidence in our safety measures and confident that we can do it while respecting that a world-wide pandemic is still raging.

So, as we begin to meet in person once again, let me invite you to continue to use cautious optimism. When we do that, we will all be able to fly up through the clouds and bask in...the Son.

Peace,

Pastor Chris



A Note from Church Council...

Christ Is Risen Anew—and So Is Hammond FUMC!

Welcome back, Hammond FUMC! After an unimaginably long year and the sadness of a second pandemic-induced closing just six weeks into fall 2020's limited reopening, our beloved sanctuary opened for in-person worship attended by 102 beaming members and friends at 10 a.m. on a perfectly beautiful Easter Sunday morning. Thank you to each worshipper who helped us plan by registering your attendance in advance and for observing protocols to keep everyone safe during the ongoing pandemic.

The church's successful reopening on April 4 would not have been possible without the time, talent, and prayers of the many faithful disciples who love and serve First Church. Special thanks go to the following persons who went the extra mile for our celebratory Resurrection Sunday reopening:

Pastor: Chris Tiedeman

Liturgist: Joe Ramirez

Children's Message: Emily Tiedeman

Audio/Visual and Online Production: Sarah Ward, Pastor Chris Tiedeman

Greeters: Char Copeland, Shirley Farmer, Irma Mora

Ushers: Bob Brown, Georgia Brown, Jane Harper-Alport, Richard Miller, Dave Moll,
Roseanne Watson, Jim Wind

Outdoor Fellowship:

Cookies: Judy Viehweg, Sonia Vincent, Sarah Ward, Sue Yerkes

Beverages: Pam Longhi, Kathy Smith

Servers: Char Copeland, Irma and Dave Mora

Easter Egg Hunt: Kathy Smith, Sandra Smith, Niki Avina

Administrative Assistant: Brenda Petty

Building Maintenance: Terry Watson, David Mendoza

Board of Trustees chair: Ken Wheeler

The church will continue to be open for corporate and online worship at 10 a.m. on each Sunday going forward. No further advance registration is required, but please check in with a greeter when you arrive. An usher will escort and seat you in the sanctuary as we continue to observe safe distancing.

Beginning April 11, Pastor Chris also will conduct corporate worship in the chapel at 8:30 a.m.

See you *in person* again next Sunday!

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council chair

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





Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team....

Hello First Church family. The financial contributions for *Second Mile Giving* for April will be donated to **Hannah's Hope**. Hannah's Hope is a Northwest Indiana non-profit organization that provides developmental equipment to kids with special needs and connects families by making life and communities more accessible. Hannah's Hope helps all kids with special needs reach their full potential. They serve children with special needs ages birth to 18 living in the Northwest Indiana area (Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties). The address for Hannah's Hope is *P.O. Box 2242, Portage, Indiana 46368*.

For more information about Hannah's Hope, you can go online to www.hannahshope.org. There are always many ways to help. If you are unable to donate you can always pray for everyone involved with Hannah's Hope and pray for the children that they help. You can also spread the word and tell other's about Hannah's hope and what they do. The mission team would also like to thank you for your donations for March's Second Mile Giving, Strong Tower Church.

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



FUMC is Looking for a Backup Audio/Video Tech.....



Looking for an audio/video tech as a backup for Sarah Ward for preparation and presentation of Sunday Zoom and Facebook Services.

Detailed training will be provided

This is not a weekly commitment but a commitment to be available if Sarah is ill or on vacation.

Please contact Brenda at the church office if you are interested.

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



The Path to Obedience



In Gethsemane, the focus is on Jesus' interaction with His Father. On the night before He died, following the last supper with His disciples, Jesus is seen in the garden praying. More specifically, He is pouring out His heart to God. In all of His humanity, Jesus knows what's to come and the human part of Him is struggling. He feels isolated, abandoned, distressed. In the midst of this emotional turmoil, Jesus is no longer able to hear the voice of the Father.

In the text *Embracing the Uncertainty*, Magrey R. deVega shares this story:

A man is talking to the family doctor, "I think my wife's going deaf." "Try to test her hearing and let me know how severe her problem is before you bring her in for treatment," the doctor said. So that evening when his wife was preparing dinner, the man stood 15 feet from her and asked, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response. He moved ten feet behind her and asked again. No response. Then he stood five feet behind her and tried again, but still got no answer. So finally, he stood right behind her, "Honey, what's for dinner?" She turned around. "For the fourth time, I said chicken!"

Talk about a revelation! This illustration is used to suggest that we all experience hearing difficulties at one time or another. It is those challenging moments when we are unable to hear the voice of God, discern His will and fully surrender to His call. More often than not, we assume that God does not hear us because He does not provide the answer we are looking for. "The problem is not whether or not God is speaking to us, but whether we have done enough to listen..." In **Proverbs 2: 1-5** we find these words, "*My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding— indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.*"

Even as He languished in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus remained aware of two things: God's words and God's will. Jesus had a choice; comfort or compliance, self-preservation or self-sacrifice, my will or thy will.

In our most difficult trials, we have a choice. We can choose to follow Christ- to allow Him to lead us through the darkness without fully knowing where the light will take us or venture out on our own. Choosing the path of least resistance does not promise a positive outcome, but scripture promises that if we remain obedient to the end that we will find blessings. **1 Kings 2:3** tells that when we "*Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations... Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go.*"

Truth be told, Jesus will call us out of our comfort zones. But being in tune to that which God calls us to do requires focus and discipline. In scripture the book of **Job 26:14** describes God from this perspective, '*...these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of His power?*'

(Continue to Page 6, The Path to Obedience...)

(continued from Page 5, The Path to Obedience...)

How faint is His whisper, so how intently do we need to listen? The answer to this question is simply. S-O-S- scripture, others and silence.

Scripture- In order to hear God, it is important that we know God. The best way to get to know God is to encounter Him through the scriptures. *Study to show yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.* **2 Timothy 2:15**

Others- Surround yourself with others with whom you can share your faith. *"...where two or more are gathered in my name, there am I with them."* **Matthew 18:20**

Silence- Quiet your heart and mind. *"Be still and know that I am God."* **Psalms 46:10a**

Truly God knows our every thought even before we share the first sentence. He just wants to commune with His children. In the words of **Luke 1: 46b-48**, we receive these words, *"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant."* Consider the lilies of the field. They neither reap nor sow, yet our God cares for them. How much more does He care for us. Obedience merely moves us closer to the King.

~Submitted by Patricia Mosley, Lay Leader

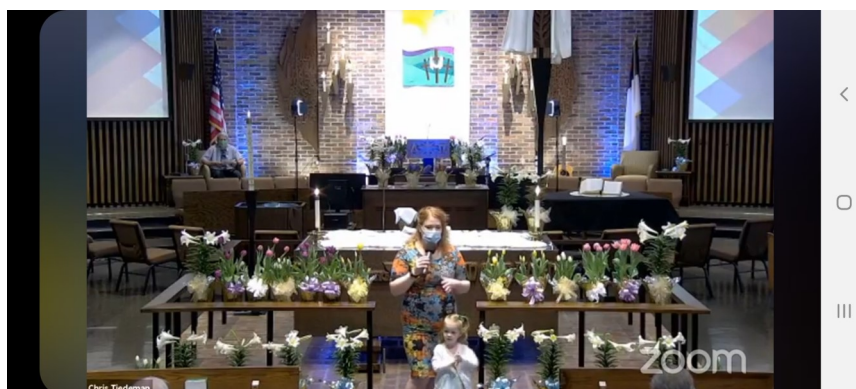
A NOTE FROM YOUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY...



Your Children's Ministry congratulates Miss Emily for a job well done delivering the Children's Message this Easter Sunday. Had Mr. Mike done it he would have done a similar bit about the parable of the mustard seed. Doing these are nowhere as easy to deliver as it may look. With that hard sell in mind.....

Now that we're back live, we'll be **looking for volunteers** to deliver these each week. We think next Sunday, April 11, Mr. Mike will go live up there. Don't Let the Good Life Pass You By and contact Mr. Mike today if you'd like to be on the volunteers list. Mike Kizman on Facebook messenger, mkizman@sbcglobal.net, or text 219-292-3912.

~Submitted by Mike Kizman, Children's Ministry





BLESSING BOX NEWS....

(Shared by Mike Kizman)



Mike

I just found out that your daughter Keelin & another Girl Scout did the blessing box for their Silver Award. Congratulations to them & their parents, it's sure to have been a very proud moment & to you as their leader.

I know it's been up a few years now & the structure has gone through a few upgrade changes but all in all it does the job it was meant to do.

I also noticed since the world has changed during Covid-19 that it's not being stocked as much as it was in the beginning. This could be money is needed for families to make their own ends meet.

So many businesses closing, jobs being cut or lost & more being homeless during such a cold winter I wanted to help. If only I found you sooner to get through the cold times but in life you can't go back you can only move forward.

I've enclosed a check for you to help teach Keelin the importance of stretching money for several months (maybe 7) which will keep the blessing box filled each week through September. It's also important to keep the path clear during winter so people can reach the box without injury. This could take extra work but it's worth knowing you're helping families be safe who some most likely don't have insurance.

All I ask is please post on social media the progress made shopping whenever or how often you go & please take a picture of the blessing box before & after its filled each time you visit to post.

This will make my heart sing with happiness & bring me joy to see what she is doing with what she was given.

I hope you accept this mission with grace & will feel the love you're bringing to others in need for a while longer.

You never know if or when another could be on the way. Please look for the family in Lansing whose daughter is doing the same thing in her neighborhood, everybody seems to know them. There could be some tips given & friendships made.

A gift is special, sometimes a mystery but always a wonder of joy! 3121



HI Kids!

This is your memory verse for **April** !

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted ."

Matthew 5:4

Learning is Fun !

Below and the next page you will find some activity sheets to help you remember this awesome verse!
~ Mr. Mike

Read and Trace the Bible Verse

"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."
Matthew 5:4

"Blessed are those who mourn,
for they shall be comforted."

Matthew 5:4

Jesus Taught the Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12; 10:1-4



SERVING THE COMMUNITY

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE March, 2021

New Clients.....	18
Return Clients.....	306
Total Clients Served.....	324
New Households.....	9
Return Households.....	153
Total Households Served.....	162



Total Pounds Distributed: 7,161



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. Dave Armistead, Ray Liedtke 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 three are providing – not only being open, but also increasing the availability to serve our community.





Scrip Cards

The holidays may be over, but you still may be thinking about gift giving for birthdays and special events.

Start your gift shopping with **SCRIP Cards** for the person who has everything and is hard to shop for. We have plenty of cards and if you don't see one that we have available, we can special order for you.

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!

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

*April Showers bring
May Flowers*

*Wishing you a
Blessed and
Sunshiny Day!*



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.

April Birthdays



2021

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



We want to celebrate your birthday by including you on this list. If your special day is during this month, and your name is not listed *please let us know.*

Please pass along information about others in your household, as well.



Prayer Concerns

Jennie Baeza
 Roger Collier
 Kathy Clarke
 Sandy Kizman
 Jerry Kolanowski
 Nancy Kolanowski
 Helen O'Mara
 Alan Piwowar
 Logan Polich
 Beryl Puckering
 Jane Schauer
 Dean Seehausen
 Amanda Serna
 Henry Showers
 Pat Showers
 Barney Stahl
 John Steele
 Nancy Steele
 Ella Tiedeman
 Sheryl Walters

Our homebound and those living in a residential facility:
 Wayne Barnes, Adele Gawrys,
 Don & Joann Harris, Jim Moery,

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 20.**
 or via email at admin@hammondsumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!

