



The Lighthouse

February 2021

“And he (Jesus) opened his mouth, and taught them, saying:”

Matthew 5:2



a note from your pastor...

Lent This month we begin the season of Lent – a time of preparation, penitence, and reflection leading toward the events of Holy Week. On *February 17th*, we will be observing Ash Wednesday with a “Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday” experience during the day, and hosting a virtual Ash Wednesday service that evening.

The “Drive-Thru Ash Wednesday” experience will take place at the church from 4pm to 6pm. Entering from Vine and exiting to Locust, you’ll tune your car radios to 91.5 FM, pull under the canopy at the east entrance, and be greeted by me. I’ll give a brief explanation of how things will go, come out to the car to administer the ashes and give you the communion elements, come back in to administer the elements, and send you on your way.

Once we’re done there, you’ll head back home and tune in at 7pm for our virtual Ash Wednesday service – available on Facebook, Zoom, and via telephone.

At that point, we’ll begin a Lenten season unlike anything any of us have *ever* experienced. But just like our forebears who hid and worshipped to protect themselves from persecution, we will worship at a distance to protect our communities and ourselves. However, this does not mean that we get to take the season off from our responsibilities as the body of Christ to prepare ourselves anew for a faithfully lived life. We soldier on as the body of Christ – in whatever form we are currently able – further preparing ourselves for the moment we can all be together again.

And that time is coming.

I get my second does of the COVID vaccine on the 15th. While I am not a medical professional or an octogenarian, I was fortunate to be considered a first responder by the state of Indiana, which allowed me to get my first dose. They are continually opening the vaccine up to more and more groups. Supplies of the vaccine remain in the air, but multiple companies are developing multiple vaccines that will begin to multiply the number of people begin vaccinated. It will still be some time, but it will not be forever.

This Lenten season, you get to prepare not just for Lent, but for a new time on the other side of this pandemic. There will still be untold sorrow brought on by this virus, but we are beginning to see glimmers of hope. Let that hope carry you through this and ever day...until we meet again.

Peace,

Pastor Chris



Disciples' Daily News



A Note from the Mission Team....

Hello First Church Family. The financial contributions for *Second Mile Giving* for February will go towards **The Learning League**. The Learning League is an after-school program at the church that provides a safe place for children to come to after school to have help with their homework and also have a nutritious snack. Needed supplies also include:

- Lysol wipes/sprays
- Children's masks
- Children's vinyl gloves (variety of sizes K-5th)
- Adult vinyl gloves (2 boxes) (one size for adults)

If you donate supplies, there is a bin for The Learning League in the mission corner near the church office. Gift cards for food and perishables are always appreciated.

The Mission team would also like to thank everyone who donated to the Second Mile Giving in November and December last year and for January this year. Second Mile Giving for November was \$1,920.00 and for December \$672.00.

The mission team would also like to update you on the special COVID hospital mission project from last year. Please see the notes, as enclosed, which we have received. It is awesome when we can do something to make a difference in someone's life and show our appreciation.

In closing, I would like to say that if in addition to financial support, our prayers are so vital. We can pray for the children, the workers and volunteers, the parents, the teachers, and the school system. Prayer is a very powerful thing. There is always something that we can do. Thanks be to God and thank you Jesus!!

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

(Continue on Page 3, Thank you Notes)



Thank you First Church Family...



A Note of Thanks.....



Hi! I am a pharmacist at Franciscan Health Hospital in Hammond.
I received one of your Panera gifts cards ! Thank you so much!
It's nice to be thought of!

God Bless you and stay safe!

~Sue Olson
Pharmacist

Brothers & Sisters,

Praise the Lord!

Thank you for Blessing us at St. Margaret's.

Unexpected & right on time. Thank you for taking care of us and being givers.

God will always send his helpers (Angels) to those in need.

Keep us in Prayer always

Hammond First United Methodist Church

God Bless you All!

Melanie S.
Medical Staff Services



Dear Food Pantry Staff,

A very blessed and bountiful New Year to you and your loved ones.

We are very grateful for your generosity in helping our local families meet their food needs.

Thank you, again!

God Bless!

John, Marge, and Michael





Transition vs Transformation

When my daughter graduated college with her undergraduate degree, I decided to surprise her by making t-shirts for the family. So it was time to get the old creative juices flowing. Before the cricut became popular, you could go to the craft stores and purchase a type of printer paper to create iron-on transfers. The plan was that half way through the ceremony, we would change from our regular attire into a homemade t-shirt with a message that celebrated her special day. This was a day of transition. The day in which she would step into a new world of possibilities that would define her future.

To make a transition suggests that there has been a change of place or position. We have progressed from one phase of life into another. Some examples of what it means to transition are a toddler who has finally mastered the art of walking or taking the next strategic move in a game of chess. Or better still, for the blossoming teen getting your driver's license. Transitions allow us to move from here to there. Transitions allow us to move through stages of development. Transitions modulate the musical notes of sound and the rhythmic ups and downs in our lives.

But Christ does not desire for us to simply move through the various stages of our lives. Christ desires transformation. When we enter a state of transformation, we embark upon a process that alters us for more effective utilization in God's plan for our lives. Thus the relationship we have built leads to a change or renewal from a life that no longer conforms to the ways of the world. Transformation leads us into a life that pleases God. The Bible in the book of **Romans 12:2** it states " *And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].*"

To achieve this level of relationship with our Lord and Savior is to be truly transformed in Christ. We are no longer slaves to this world, but forever a servant for the glory of God. **2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

When we go through transformation, we are no longer the caterpillar. We are butterflies. We are not the house on the hill. We are the castle in the sky. We are not pigeons. We are eagles and we soar.

Take this time to ask God to allow you to soar.

- Trust God to do what you are unable to do
- Look to the Lord for guidance
- And says, yes, to the sacred adventure that comes from a life with Christ..

In the powerful words from Thomas Merton, "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire."

~Submitted by Patricia Mosley, Lay Leader

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



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)



All Church Neighborhood Meal on February 28

Led by Kathy Smith and Pam Longhi

The meal will be ordered and delivered, but not served.
We are pricing meatloaf dinners.

If you would like to contribute to the meal,
please send your
donations to the church office
by February 21st.

(If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Smith
or Pam Longhi)

Your participation is much appreciated!!

~Submitted by Kathy Smith, SPRC

RETIREMENT CELBRATION

*For Pastor David Schrader
(former FUMC pastor
1998-2002)*

When: February 7, 2021

Time: 2:00 p.m.

[FACBOOK.COM/SBCGRACEUMC](https://www.facebook.com/SBCGRACEUMC)

or

[YOUTUBE.COM/USER/SBCGRACE
UMC/FEATURED](https://www.youtube.com/user/SBCGRACEUMC/featured)

For details or questions, please
contact **Holly Easterbrook**
at (574) 292-2526.

Congratulations!



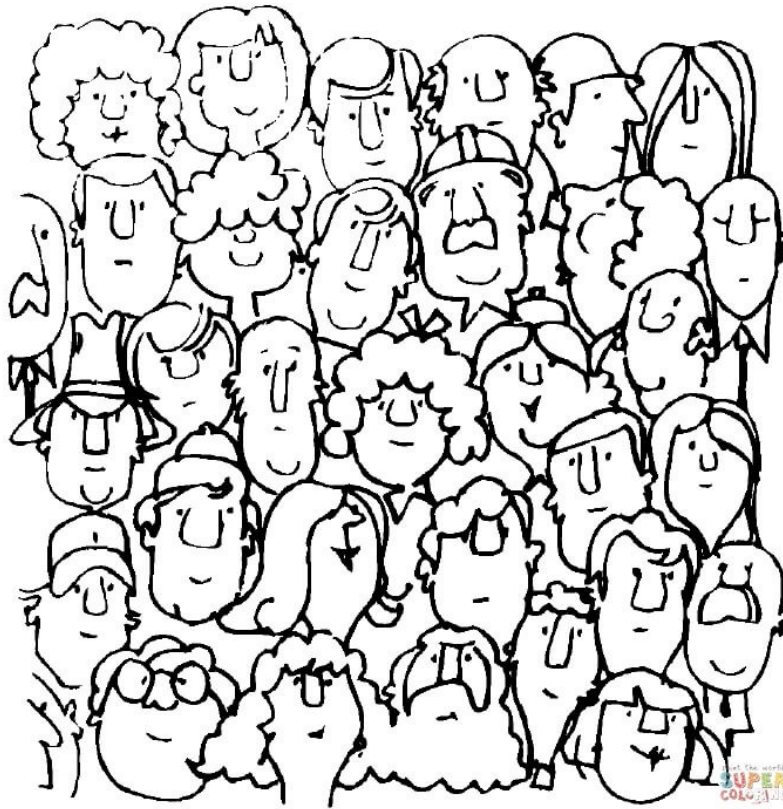
HI KIDS! This is your memory verse for
February!

Let's see if you can remember it throughout the year!

~Mr. Mike

"And he (Jesus) opened his mouth, and taught them, saying:"

Matthew 5:2



As we're waiting to hear the words spoken from the mount, take this lesson from another Disciple of Jesus Christ.

Remember when you go into the world to
keep your eyes and ears wide open.
And be kind.
Love one another.
Take care of each other.
Tell the truth.
Always do your best.
Listen to the big people and the little people.
Explore new paths and have fun.
Know that you are loved like crazy.
Give thanks for all your blessings.
Above all else,
Love and you will do
wonderful things in this world.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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

New Clients.....	12
Return Clients.....	191
Total Clients Served.....	203
New Households.....	6
Return Households.....	95
Total Households Served.....	101



Total Pounds Distributed: 4,609



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, 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.





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

*Happy
Valentine's Day !*



*From
First Church Staff*



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



Birthdays 2021



2/3 Xavier Valdez
 2/5 David Copeland
 2/5 Maya Strong
 2/6 Kris Olson
 2/7 Kecia Bell
 2/9 Terry Watson
 2/10 Bradley Kowalczyk
 2/11 Pastor Mary van Wijk
 2/14 Aubrey Chelich
 2/18 Susan Camacho
 2/19 Charlene Copeland
 2/23 Kristine Heady
 2/25 Alice Foley
 2/26 Sue Robertson
 2/27 Roger Collier
 2/27 Brenda Petty
 2/28 Adele Gawrys

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
 Bernie Newell
 Helen O'Mara
 Alan Piwowar
 Logan Polich
 Jane Schauer
 Dean Seehausen
 Amanda Serna
 Henry Showers
 Pat Showers
 Robert Speck
 Pam 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, and Beryl Puckering

Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the **March newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **February 20.**
 or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!

