



“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him”

Matthew 5:1

A Note from the Council of Bishops.....

December 15, 2020

Dear Fellow United Methodists:

It is the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and longing. We bask in the hope that something new is coming and in the promise that we can face the future unafraid. As people of faith, we stand in the confidence that God, who began a good thing in us, will see it to fruition.

As United Methodists we, along with siblings across faith communions, acknowledge that 2020 has been a time of trial for not only our churches but the world as we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been few instances in our lifetime when the whole world has faced a crisis at the same time. COVID-19 has stretched our health systems, our economies and even our faith. For those of us in the United States, we have also witnessed a season of discontent as the call for racial justice and an end to racism has resounded loud and clear.

Most of our local churches have been on the front lines and at the center of this liminal time. As we yearn to come together to praise God, to hear the Word, to pray, to mourn, and to bear witness to God's promises together in our own buildings, we have come to learn that we can approach the throne of grace anywhere we are. Indeed, the church is not a building.

We recognize that uncertainty will accompany us into 2021. As the Council of Bishops, we must remain on our knees in prayer, asking God to open our minds, thoughts, and hearts to discern what God would want us to do and who God would want us to be as we lead this global denomination.

So, let us look to God who began a good thing in us and let us continue to be people of love, joy, hope and peace.

Come, thou long expected Jesus Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us, Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cynthia Fierro Harvey'.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
President
Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church





Thank you First Church Family...



Dear FUMC of Hammond Family,

In just a handful of months, you have not only welcomed me graciously into your faith community, but you made me feel at home in your church family. I say with joy and happiness that I am proud that each of you are part of my personal community of faith and you will all continue to remain in my thoughts and prayers. You have humbled me with your love, care, guidance, admiration, and support to the extent that I will be forever grateful and appreciative. Although it is sad that our time together was cut short, the opportunities you gave me to fall-down, get back-up, and learn will be carried with me wherever I go including into my appointment at Clay City FUMC and Bowling Green UMC. I pray that you, along with Pastor Chris and Emily, Ella, Riversong, and Arlo, will continue to be on fire for the Lord and will follow the lead of Christ Jesus and "Go and do likewise".

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brad Hindsley

GOODBYES
ARE NOT FOREVER.
GOODBYES
ARE NOT THE END.
THEY SIMPLY MEAN
I'LL MISS YOU,
UNTIL WE
MEET AGAIN!

SCRIP CARDS



I would like to give a big **THANK YOU** to all. The MISSION TEAM for thinking of SCRIP for their donation project. I'm sure all enjoyed the gifts of thoughtfulness and caring. To the many people who contacted me through out the year for Gas, Grocery and other cards. The many who made their Christmas gifts part of Scrip. You all kept the project going and its much appreciated. For the year we will be able to donate to the Church General Fund \$2200.00.

We will continue to place orders every other week in groups of \$700.00 or more. If you are interested, please call me or text me your order at 1-773-852-5306. I will be able to answer any question possible. Thank you for your interest.

May we all stay safe and healthy and be together again soon. Till then keep your hearts open.

~Submitted by Roseanne Watson



Disciples' Daily News



A Note from the Mission Team....

On behalf of the Missions committee, I hope you had a joyful holiday season and were able to have safe connections with loved ones, and truly felt the presence of Christ working among and through us towards a day when we can all safely gather. As we get deeper into winter and anticipate some higher Covid positivity rates in our area, we would like to update you on the St. Margaret's Franciscan Hammond Health Hospital Mission. During the months of July and August, we dedicated *Second Mile Givings* to give \$10 restaurant gift cards for all staff there, including housekeeping, dietary, etc., all who are front-line workers.

We collected \$5,000 in donations for second mile giving from June and July 2020 and purchased 400 gift cards for Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Panera, Chipotle, Subway, and Burger King. An additional \$1,000 was given in a Grub Hub card to provide additional meals for the staff on sight, in an effort to support local restaurants. They were presented to Jo Ann Ortiz, Director of Patient Care Services at Hammond Franciscan Health in Hammond on Saturday, November 21st, who was grateful and excited to get them out to the staff. One local business she had in mind was, "Stella Vie's Cafe," a black and woman owned restaurant which resides across Hohman avenue in the Federal Building Cafeteria, that had already donated meals at the onset of the Covid outbreak (FYI, can be ordered *via Grubhub and Uber Eats.*) I checked in with Jo Ann in mid-December and she said that their beds continue to be full and that they are still very busy there. A great big Thank you and virtual hugs to all who provided financing, prayers and hand written cards for this ministry. I was told there would be some pictures coming our way to commemorate this mission, but of course, they've got their hands kind of full right now.

January's Second Mile Giving is Love INC, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to, "help churches help people with material, emotional, or relational poverty in their local communities to transform lives In the Name of Christ." The local branch is headquartered in Griffith and serves Griffith, Highland, Hammond and Munster. They are most well known in this area for their furniture ministry to funnel donations and purchases of refrigerators, couches, to the homes of families who need them. They also partner with various local churches to house GAP Ministries (ministries that fulfill specific voids identified within the community) such as "Cradle'N'All," and "Scrub-a-Dove." They have volunteer opportunities available, and at the time of writing this, I am seeking to do a Church Family Mission outing in January with them, however they are closed currently for the Holiday season.

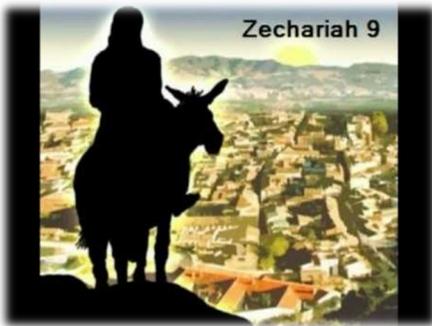
Finally, The Missions Committee is providing the neighborhood meal at the end of the month.... And that's all folks! God's peace, I proudly say, to my siblings of FUMC!

P.S. The address of Love INC

Love INC of Greater Hammond
P.O. Box 557
Griffith, IN 46319



~Submitted by Katy Province-Garza ,
One of your co-chairs of the Mission Team



Jesus, Our King of Kings

God created man to hold up the foundation of His Earthly kingdom, commissioning him to care for the animals of the fields, the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky. There were few rules put in place, but when Adam and Eve violated God's authority by inviting the serpent into their mist, it was then that chaos, disorder, and corruption entered into the peaceful domain that had so graciously been provided. Where Adam failed, God chose to usher in a new era. In this new era, God is made flesh and is sent to Earth to dwell among mankind.

The Old Testament is dedicated to the anticipation of this new era; the era of a heavenly king. A King who holds the power of both the heavens and Earth. He would come through Jewish lineage, sit on the throne of David, and oversee and rule over the world from Israel. Scripture tells us to "*Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*"

Zechariah 9:9

Even the magi who came to worship Him as a baby acknowledged Him as the King of the Jews. Later, John would preach asking people to repent while proclaiming that the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Indeed, the king had come; in the form of a baby who would grow up knowing hunger, thirst, and physical and emotional pain- all the things that a physical body would experience. Jesus the man. Jesus the savior, the lamb of God, Prince of Peace. Jesus the King.

Scripture tells us that "*Christ will rule them with an iron scepter.*" *He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.*" **Revelation 19: 15b- 16** Jesus is the all powerful, authoritative, all knowing, omniscient God; ruler over heaven and Earth, King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

So how do we experience the full benefit of Christ as King?

- Acknowledge Him as Lord and Savior.
- Study His word and pray.
- Obey His commands to love God and to love others.

~Submitted by Patricia Mosley, Lay Leader



Finance News.....



From First Church's Finance Committee, this article is part of our ongoing effort to provide you with financial data 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 which was last held on November 30.
- Comments which, hopefully, you will find informative if not useful, and
- Contact information should you have any questions or comments.

Financial data as of November 30, 2020:

	<u>November</u>	<u>2020 YTD</u>
• Current Expense (CE) Giving:	\$21,322	\$202,137
• CE Expenditures	<u>\$17,810</u>	<u>\$211,788</u>
Giving Surplus or (Shortfall)	<u>\$3,512</u>	<u>(\$9,651)</u>

News and Comments:

- Using Zoom, the Finance Committee met on Nov. 30, resuming its regular monthly meetings. 7 of its 12 members were in attendance.
- \$21,322 November CE giving, and \$202,137 year-to-date (YTD) CE giving, both include a \$5,130 reimbursement from the Conference for previous overcharges for First Church's share of healthcare expenses. For 2020 YTD, our CE giving shortfall is $\$202,137 - \$211,788 = (\$9,651)$.
- The week of Dec. 14, First Church received a reimbursement of \$22,150 from the Foundation for 2020 work for parsonage restoration work prior to Pastor Chris's arrival, and for December roofing repairs at the church building. Thank you, Foundation! Hopefully, a second reimbursement for the remainder of 2020 work of approx. \$31,850 will be received by year's end.
- First Church's annual financial audit (for fiscal year 2019) was conducted by Jan Yehnert and David Moll on December 17.
- Based on our understanding of who wanted them, 2021 giving envelope boxes were picked-up or hand delivered in December. If you did not receive a box but now you wish to receive one, please contact Larry Alport at the church office phone number or email (funchammond-finan@sbcglobal.net), or David Moll (see contact information below).
- Please be advised that 2020 giving statements will be hand delivered to your mailbox or mailed in late January or early February. (If you would prefer to pick-up your statement, please contact Larry Alport or David Moll to make arrangements in advance of stopping at the church.)

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





Blessings

2020 has brought many blessings to my mother and me.

Below are just a few:

- Bible study under the canopy brought fresh air, fellowship, shared prayers, and spiritual growth.
- When my mom was no longer able to attend Bible study, a dear friend brought lunch after Bible study was over, for us to enjoy on the patio.
- A visit to the Tiedeman family brought Arlo into the arms of my mom. He didn't notice her mask, but gazed at her and later fell asleep as she cuddled him. Our hearts melted.
- Halloween brought a socially distant visit from the Avina and Smith families. They came bearing gifts and treats. It was totally delightful seeing them in their costumes and catching the kisses that Emory blew to us.
- The choir and Pastor Chris caroled in cold weather and drizzling rain. Mom was bundled up, enjoying every moment, and sometimes singing along.
- A very special church friend brings joy and laughter to my mom every time she calls her. Those very frequent calls mean so much to both of us.
- Attending the outdoor concert at church was outstanding. It was my mom's first outing in over three months.
- Safe sheltering is wise and necessary for my 93-year-old mother, especially as the virus continues to rise. Yet, joy comes in many ways. We are truly blessed.

Thank you Jesus!

~Cheryle Seljan



Trustees December Report....

As of the last week of December 2020, the trustees want to thank everyone who has helped get many projects done at the parsonage and church facilities. Volunteers and many vendors have spent countless hours at the parsonage inside and out with painting, landscaping, mold and water work, roofing work, and grass cutting.

At the church in December, two roofing areas at the sound end have been shingled. At the north end in the main office areas, LED lighting has been finished.

Thanks again for your help.

~Submitted by Ken Wheeler, Trustee Chairperson



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)



Your United Methodist Women are in Mission:

United Methodist Women

2020 Mission Giving

\$1,000 to fulfill our pledge to missions. This money is distributed by the UMW of Indiana to missions supporting women and children in Indiana, U.S.A., and worldwide *

\$140.00 to Lucille Raines halfway home for women in Indianapolis **

\$28.00 to help underwrite School of Missions **

\$14.00 Toward youth and camping ministries **

\$75.00 To Lucille Raines residents for Christmas gifts ***

* Joined with gifts from all other units

** Joined with all Indiana units

*** Joined with North District units

\$100.00 Congregational Care

\$143.00 cost of State Street Shelter meal

2020 Total: \$1500.00



HI KIDS! This is your memory verse for **January!**



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

~Mr. Mike

"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a
Mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him"

Matthew 5:1



Children's
Ministry

"Drive By"

on December
12th was a hit
with the kids

"Thank you"
Mr. Mike
and all those
who helped.

On December 12, 2020, your Children's Ministry held a gift giving drive-thru event. The east parking lot entrance was decorated, music was playing, and Delilah the Pomeranian was also there. 21 gift boxes were put together, and 16 were given away during the event, and 3 more the following day at the wassail music event. The boxes contained a craft for the kids to do and a scarf handmade by Mr. Mike, among other items.

It was a fun time for all who participated, and we got to remind all of our children friends to *"Don't Let the Good Life Pass You By."*

Hope you enjoy your gifts!

~ Mr. Mike

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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

New Clients.....	34
Return Clients.....	340
Total Clients Served.....	374
New Households.....	17
Return Households.....	170
Total Households Served.....	187



Total Pounds Distributed: 9, 279



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 NEW YEAR



**FROM THE
STAFF
OF
FUMC of Hammond**

*Wishing you all of God's Blessings
Today and Everyday*



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

- 1/1 Lorraine Renfroe
- 1/2 Jerry Vestal
- 1/5 Judy Williams
- 1/7 Karen Dodd
- 1/7 Kathy Smith
- 1/10 John Hawkins
- 1/11 Bill McCoy
- 1/11 Armando Serna
- 1/13 James Koester
- 1/13 Mark Kruse
- 1/13 Asher Lewis
- 1/14 Cecilia van Wijk
- 1/14 Lauren Wicklund
- 1/16 Maggie Gutierrez
- 1/17 Jacob Hornak
- 1/17 Sonia Vincent
- 1/19 Tony Hawkins
- 1/20 Jennifer Garza
- 1/20 James Rummel
- 1/22 Maureen Dodd
- 1/26 Claude Baker
- 1/26 Barb Tompulis
- 1/28 Sarah Ashcraft
- 1/29 Katy Province-Garza



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
- 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
- Ella Tiedeman
- Sheryl Walters

South Holland Fire Department
& Family of Dylan Cunningham

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 **February newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office by **January 20.** or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org.

Thank for your cooperation!

