



The Lighthouse

January 2022

First United Methodist Church of Hammond
6635 Hohman Avenue
Hammond, IN 46324
Phone: (219) 932-5915
www.hammondfumc.org
Pastor: Chris Tiedeman

“And he was transfigured before them,
and his face shone like the sun, and his
clothes became white as light.”

Matthew 17:2



United Methodist Churches
of Indiana

A Message from Bishop Trimble...

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.” -1 Corinthians 12:12-14 (NRSV)

United Methodists are all over the world, and many of us call Indiana our home. We are “Living as those who are sent to share the life-changing love of Jesus Christ in our mission field.” We are liturgical, contemporary, charismatic, traditional. We are urban, rural, suburban, young, and old. We care deeply for the lost, the least, the lonely, the hungry, and the hurting.

We are a holy communion of different races, ethnicities, cultures, and perspectives united by the Holy Spirit, called and driven by the mission of Christ, bearing the good news of an unmerited grace that changes lives and transforms communities.

These are the words of John Wesley from the Character of a Methodist. “A Methodist is one who loves the Lord with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their mind, and with all their strength. God is the joy of the Methodist heart and the desire of his or her soul, which is continually crying, whom have I in heaven but you? You are the strength of my heart...and my portion forever.” The heart of United Methodism is love of God and neighbor.

Our mission is the main thing: **To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.**

Christ’s prayer in John 17:11 for our unity is an invitation for us to be one in mission and ministry and share love for one another. “We need not all think alike to love alike.” (John Wesley)

(continue to page 2, A Message from Bishop Trimble...)

(continued from Page 2, A Message from Bishop Trimble...)

Rooted in scripture, centered in Christ, The United Methodist Church while united in essentials is not fearful of change nor the ministry of reconciliation or the challenge to adapt to a new season. COVID-19 has taught us that a pandemic cannot stop the mission, and we celebrate reaching people who previously had not come to our church buildings.

All of our members, clergy, and local churches will continue to have a home in the future United Methodist Church, whether they consider themselves centrist, liberal, evangelical, progressive, conservative, or just plain old people-loving, Bible-loving Christians. Some of us are relatively new to the Church, and some of us are life-long United Methodists too busy singing “Lord I want to be a Christian in my heart” to sign up for a promised “Global Methodist Church” or another newly-organized church where human sexuality and local church independence is no longer a matter of disagreement.

At some point in the future, local churches will decide their desired allegiance. I pray all will be led by prayer and honest discernment, not charts and narratives about a new church that grants more independence and less con-
nectional mission.

In this protracted season of uncertainty, I am not uncertain as to how we should treat one another. We treat one another with dignity and respect as reflected in our Christian Guidelines #10 “Allow the fruit of the Spirit to permeate our way of interacting with others: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.”

Yes, we are clear about the main thing, and our vision is not clouded. We want to support and grow fruitful leaders, vibrant congregations, faithful disciples of Jesus, who are transforming the world. The United Methodist Church in Indiana will continue to be part of the UMC movement that is a Church confident in what God has done in Christ Jesus for all humankind and committed to personal and social salvation/transformation.

As we pay attention to our mission as the “main thing,” we realize it gives direction to other missional commitments:

- Helping persons grow in their Christian discipleship as we mature and multiply disciples
- Investing in Children Matter Most
- Dismantling the powers of fear, racism, and scarcity
- Living with Holy Spirit power as missional, accountable, called, baptized community connected in shared mission and ministry

May we be ever mindful that the Church exists for others. In our state of Indiana, nearly 4 million have no church home. Let us live out our mission by making disciples for Jesus Christ. The harvest is plentiful, friends. *“God put everything under Christ’s feet and made him head of everything in the church, which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.” -Ephesians 1:22-23 (CEB)*

Be encouraged,
Bishop Julius C. Trimble
Resident Bishop
Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church



Disciples' Daily News

A Note from the Mission Team....



Happy 2022! Hoping this update finds you having experienced a joyful and safe holiday!

Our first meeting of the Missions Committee will be held from 12:15 to 1:15 after church service on *Sunday, January 16th* to discuss service opportunities as well as the schedule of second Mile Givings for the year of 2022.

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....



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

Have a great January and may you see Jesus in one another!

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



Looking for Worship Leaders.....

Are you interested in being a Worship Leader? It is an opportunity to bring you closer to the worship service and the responsibility is simple. Be There 15 minutes early. Pastor Chris will give you the prayers and readings for that day.

If you would like to take part please send your e-mail & or phone # to Susan Bravo bravostory@yahoo.com .

North District Leadership Training Seminars



Are you currently serving the church in a leadership role? Desire to learn more about church and ministry leadership? All church leaders should plan to attend one of two identical, Saturday morning, free leadership training events offered in the North District this winter. Select the seminar that best matches your current responsibility or the area in which you may feel God is calling you to explore and/or serve:

- What is my role on the Staff-Parish Relations Team?
- Managing Church Finances
- Increasing Impact for Laity
- Children's Ministry Training
- Youth Ministry Training
- Increasing Trust in Leadership

Neither childcare nor refreshments will be provided at these seminars. Covid-19 safety protocols, as determined near the seminar date, will be emailed to registrants during the week prior to the event. To register, follow the link below the seminar of your choice, or go to <https://www.inumc.org/districts/north-district-lp/north-district-leadership-training-events/>:

January 22, 2022

9:00 am – Noon (CT)

Valparaiso UMC

103 Franklin Street, Valparaiso, IN

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/ndlt01222022>

February 12, 2022

9:00 am – Noon (ET)

Elkhart Faith UMC

22045 County Rd. 18, Goshen, IN

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/ndlt21222>

If you have questions, please contact Pat Mosley, lay leader; Jane Harper-Alport, past North District lay leader; or Pastor Chris. If you would like to carpool to the January 22 seminar, call Jane at 219/718-8328; she will be glad to have you accompany her.

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council chair



Apply to Serve as Equalization Member for Annual Conference

Lay members in addition to local church lay leaders and lay representatives to Annual Conference are needed to achieve a balance between clergy and laity at each year's Annual Conference Session (as required by the UMC Book of Discipline). These additional voting members to Annual Conference are called Equalization Members. This year's Indiana Annual Conference Session will be held June 9-11, 2022 (location to be determined). The theme will be Love God, Love Neighbor (Matthew 22:36-40).

Each layperson who is interested in participating as a voting Equalization Member for the Indiana United Methodist Annual Conference Session is required to complete a Willingness to Serve form. Forms for the 2022 Annual Conference Session are now open for completion and submission online. To learn about the Willingness to Serve process and to access the application form, go to <https://www.inumc.org/annual-conference/equalization-members-willingness-to-serve/>. Forms must be submitted online no later than February 2 at 11:59pm ET/10:59pm CT.

Laypersons elected to serve as Equalization Members will be notified by email and will need to register to attend the 2022 Annual Conference Session.

If you have questions or would like more information about Annual Conference, please contact Lay Leader Pat Mosley, Jane Harper-Alport (past North District lay leader), or Pastor Chris.

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council chair



Covid-19 Safety Protocols Update



The omicron variant is surging in our region, and the virus now has affected many families in our congregation, prompting some reminders and changes to the church's Covid-19 safety protocols:

- **Masks** are required in the building at all times for **everyone age 2 and above**. If you do not arrive with a mask, one will be provided. Wearing a mask provides a layer of protection for others as well as for yourself. This is especially important when you are around individuals who are unvaccinated, especially children under age 5 who are not yet eligible for the vaccine.
- If you have **cold or flu-like symptoms**, please stay home to avoid spreading your germs to others. Do not settle for a self-diagnosis; assume you may be infected with Covid until an antigen or PCR test proves otherwise.
- If you or someone in your family **tests positive for Covid**, notify the church office so we can perform as much contact tracing as possible to protect others.
- **Fellowship and refreshments in the parlor** following the 10:30 worship service has been **temporarily suspended**, at least through the end of January. This decision will be revisited when the positivity rate in our area begins to decline.
- **Many committees** and groups that resumed in-person meetings in 2021 may be temporarily **shifting to Zoom or cancelling meetings**. Check the Sunday bulletin and contact your group's leadership or the church office if you have questions.

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council chair



2022 Offering Envelopes: Do You Have Your Box?

Offering envelopes for 2022 are available in the narthex immediately outside the south door to the sanctuary, sorted in alphabetical order. Do you have yours? Picking up your box will save a trip for members of the Finance Committee, who soon will be making home deliveries of offering envelopes to members whose boxes remain at the church.

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Finance Committee chair (interim)

Hope is the Thing with Feathers



Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul,
And sings the tune without the words,
And never stops at all...

Emily Dickinson

“Hope is the little bird inside us that refuses to be silenced... It is what sustains us. It’s the thing that won’t give up...” (A. Kava) Hope is listening to that small, still voice that whispers in your ear saying to you that no matter what life brings your way *“I will be with you.”*

The scripture shows that young David heard that small, still voice. When he faced Goliath, he had no concern for his opponent's enormous size and brute strength. Goliath's armor alone weighed 5000 shekels which in today's terms would be equivalent to about 125 pounds. Maybe others could be intimidated, but no, not him. He only knew that this man mocked the Israelites and sought to defy the armies of God. David wasn't having it. His response to Saul was, *“Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.”* **1 Samuel 17:32b** While tending his sheep whether confronted by lions or bears, the Lord protected David from danger. He was equally certain that the Lord would be with him on this day. David endeavored to claim victory not for himself, but for his people and his God.

Just like David, we cannot allow the bird' within to be silenced. In 2021, we've added words to our vocabulary like covid, omicron, and long-hauler. We've had professional athletes who lived in a “bubble” which can best be defined as an area within which sports teams stayed isolated from the public during the playing season to prevent exposure to covid. Or perhaps the term “doomscribler” which refers to a person who has become obsessed with following bad news. All are terms rooted in some type of negative reference.

So, where does this all leave us?

It leaves us on a path of hope. Jesus spoke these words, “I am with you always, even unto the end of the world...” **Matthew 28: 20b** While **Psalms 73: 23-26** reminds us that *“(you, oh Lord) hold me by my right hand. You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will take me into glory. Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”*

Hope places grace, mercy, and forgiveness within reach of each one of us. God knows our struggles including those that occurred long ago. His desire is to make us whole. That is precisely what He does. God is just a whisper away. All we need to do is open our hearts to Him. God is the cool breeze that blows on a hot summer day. He is the fire that warms the soul when the snow falls fast and deep. He is the light that divides the dark corners of the heart when despair seeks a place to abide. So, where do we find an answer? The answer is in the soft whisper of a dove, in the flutter of his wings, perched in the soul, singing a tune without words.

Dare to pray a simple prayer:

“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not your holy spirit from me.” Amen

~Submitted by *Patricia Mosley, Lay Leader*

HI Kids!



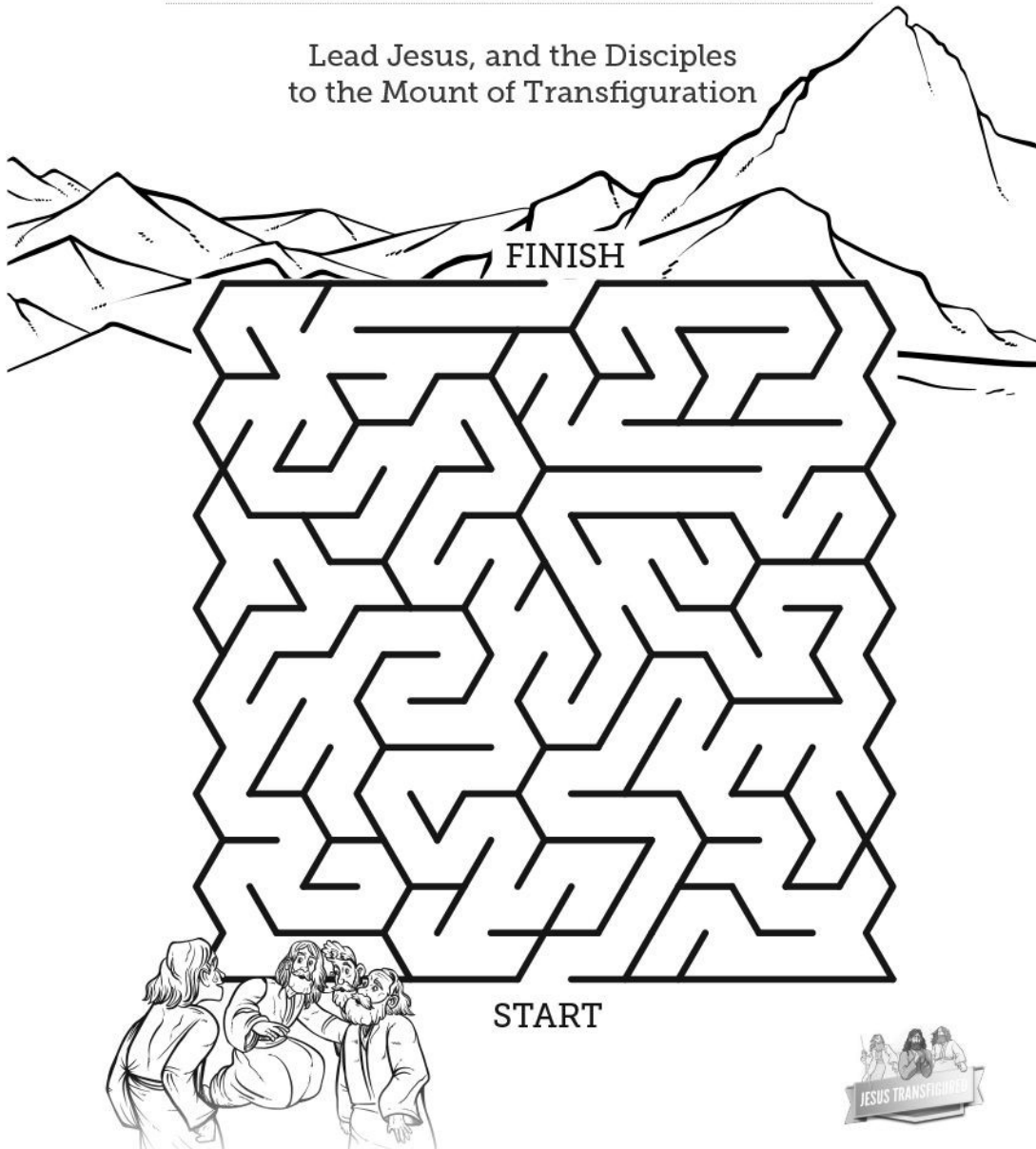
This is your memory verse for **January**

"And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light."

Matthew 17:2

JESUS TRANSFIGURED

Lead Jesus, and the Disciples
to the Mount of Transfiguration



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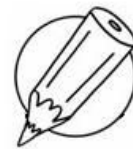
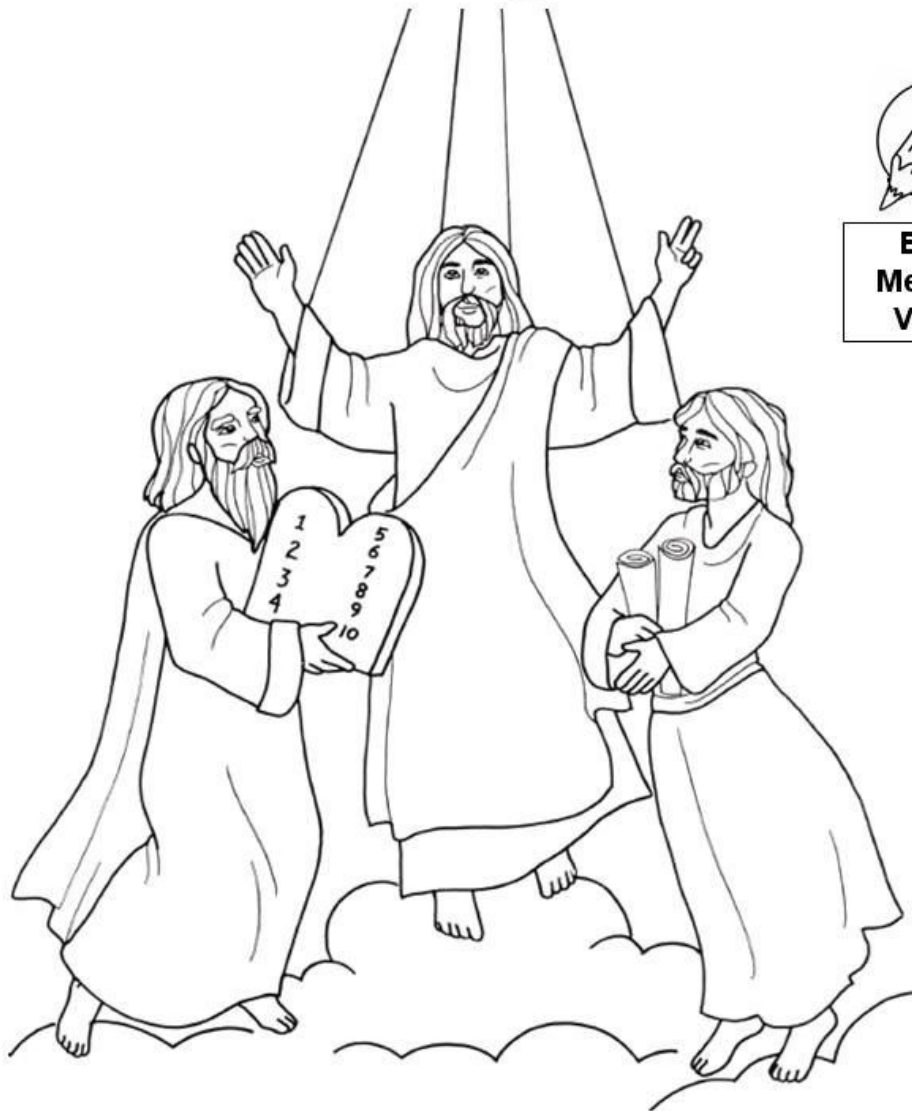


The Transfiguration of Jesus



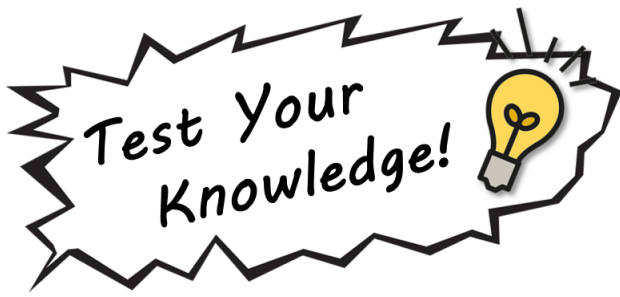
While he was praying his face
changed in appearance
and his clothing became
dazzling white

Luke 9:29



**Bible
Memory
Verse**

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Review Questions

Matthew 17: 1-7, Mark 9: 2-8
and Luke 9: 28-36



1. Who went up on the mountain with Jesus?
2. What happened to Jesus while he was praying?
3. Who did Jesus talk to on the mountain?
4. Who's voice came out of the cloud?
5. We need to listen to _____. We can hear Him through the _____.

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

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

New Clients.....	44
Return Clients.....	330
Total Clients Served.....	374
New Households.....	18
Return Households.....	165
Total Households Served.....	183



Total Pounds Distributed: 8,978



Supporting the Food Pantry...

The *Vine Food Pantry* is always in need of food donations, *listed below* is their wish list:

- Soups - 15oz
- Pancake mix – 32 oz. or less
- Pancake syrup – 24 oz. or less
- Peanut butter – 16 oz.
- Jelly 20 oz. or smaller
- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna Helper
- Tuna
- Manwich
- Macaroni & cheese boxed
- Chili 15oz
- Canned baked beans 28 oz. or smaller
- Chef Boyardee canned products

Clean Plastic and Paper Bags with Handles

**Donations can be dropped off at the Mission Corner
across from the Office**



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





Knitting and Crochet Group ...

The Knitting and Crochet group meet in the parlor each Thursday from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us whether you are an expert or a beginner. Anyone who wants to learn to knit or crochet should give Sonia a call to find out what you need to bring. Everyone else bring what you are working on or what you need help with. There is always lots of fellowship happening in addition to needles flying.

MASKS ARE MANDATORY. We need to keep everyone healthy.

Call Sonia for additional information 708/946-6489 home - cell 708/224-6744

Wednesday Morning Bible Study ...

As a Reminder Wednesday Morning Bible Study is in Room 1 on **Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

**(NO Classes from January 5-12
Will resume January 19)**

If you have any questions about the class,
you may contact Donna Beifuss

All Are Welcome!!!



Quilters...

The Quilters *meet*
on Wednesday Mornings at
10:00 a.m. in Rooms 4,5,6

**(No Classes January 5-12
Will resume on January 19)**

If you or someone you know is
interested in Quilting, contact Lora Ward
for more detail.



Womens Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) meet on

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., in Room 1.

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change...



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, you may visit the **SCRIP table** after 10:30 service or you may text **Kathy Smith** at **1-708-935-9807**. Kathy will be happy to answer any question possible. Thank you for your interest.

~Kathy Smith



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



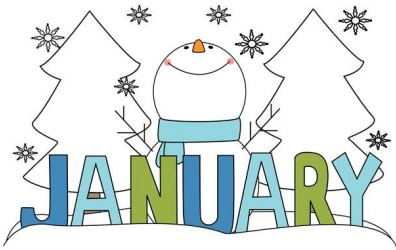
"God bless this new year in which love overcomes. He is always with us and unfolds great possibilities all the best for the coming year."

*"Happy New Year
From the Staff at FUMC"*



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.



Birthdays 2022

- 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 Armando Castro
- 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



Prayer Concerns

- Mary Hinshaw
- Sherry Jivelekas
- Kristen Kruse
- Pat McCoy
- Helen O'Mara
- Logan Polich
- Jane Schauer
- Amanda Serna
- Henry Showers
- Pat Showers
- John Steele
- Nancy Steele
- Ella Tiedeman
- Emily Tiedeman
- Jerry Vestal
- Jack Yerkes
- Sheryl Walters

Our homebound and those living in a residential facility:
Wayne Barnes, Liz Berg, Adele Gawrys,
Don & Joann Harris, Martha Jones,
Fran Miklos

For the Merrick family on the loss of their loved one, Champ Merrick.



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.

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!

