

# First United Methodist Church

## First News

October 2020

Volume 20, Issue 10

### A Note from Pastor Toni

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Dear Friends,

Technology isn't my “thing” and I'm not very good at it.

I can connect the music on my phone to my wireless ear buds and listen to it as I work outside until the battery runs out, which always happens before I run out of weeds to pull.

But I can't always connect those same ear buds to my laptop so I can listen to a Zoom meeting without taking the chance of bothering anyone else.

I'm grateful for all the ways I've been able to connect through Zoom. This week I had a required pastor's meeting with our superintendent. Today I'm in the midst of the 3 day fall retreat as a Residence in Ministry (RIM) facilitator that I usually attend in Indianapolis. I also have a 2 day continuing education event I signed up for

that's happening at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. I won't be able to “attend” much of it because it overlaps with my RIM retreat, but I have access to the recorded sessions for a full year. I thought that was a great deal for \$49 since I don't

have to travel, pay for lodging or anything else. Plus, I am receiving some free books (e-books!) and other resources (also virtual) that made the deal even sweeter.

Thankfully, that's way more than what usually happens via Zoom each week. The Joy Breaks prayer time is one of groups I participate in as often as possible, and some weeks, that's all the zooming I have to do.

Except for worship. As you know, we livestream worship on Facebook and record it for

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## HAPPY OCTOBER TO THE FUMC FAMILY

In spite of our fervent desire for life to return to “normal”,

many of the small group gatherings cannot comply with safe protocol as mandated by the UMC guidelines, CDC recommendations, and county restrictions.

Therefore, the following gatherings are still “on vacation” and future plans will be determined as the year progresses:

**Dominos and Euchre**

**The Lunch Bunch**

**First Sunday Brunch**

Blessed Bookies & Bad Girls will continue gathering as follows:....

- Masks are required, physical distancing a must, and these **discussions will take place in Fellowship Hall.**

**Bad Girls of the Bible:**

**Tuesday, October 13 at 11:00 AM**

**Tuesday, October 27 at 11:00 AM**

**Blessed Bookies: Monday, October 26 at 5:30 PM. “The Giver of Stars” will be discussed.**

**Knit 2, Pray 3 will meet on Tuesday, October 6 at 10 AM.**

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Cindy, Brian, Kay, Ralph, Katie, Donna and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings. It is my understanding that our Face Book page has over 200 visitors, so we are reaching many of those who are new to our family. We are reminded that the technology that we used to complain about now enables us to maintain contact with those we hold dear.

**The Outreach and Support Committee**

*“Masks are required, physical distancing a must, and discussions will take place in Fellowship Hall.”*



## WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT & SUPPORT TO OUR FUMC FAMILY

*The following passage comes via the Shepherd of the Hills UMC in Sun City, Arizona....Linda White is a member of that church, and Pastor Deborah sends her blessings to our family.*

*How about following the example of the beautiful sunflowers i.e. "Supporting and empowering each other". Nature has so much to teach us. Daffodils behave in a similar way.*

*"Sunflowers turn according to the position of the sun. In other words, they "chase the light." You might already know this, but there is another fact that you probably do not know!*

*Spread goodness...it will come back to you...*

*Who can you be a sunflower to this month?*

*Have you ever wondered what happens on cloudy and rainy days when the sun is completely covered by clouds? Perhaps you think the sunflower withers or turns its head toward the ground. Is this what crossed your mind?*



*Blessings, Linda White"*

Once again, thank you for spreading love, and remember that **God is good....all the time!**

God bless you all,

**The Outreach and Support Committee**

*Well, that is incorrect. This is what happens! They turn towards each other to share their energy. Nature's perfection is amazing. Now let us apply this reflection to our lives. Many people may become low-spirited, and the most vulnerable ones, sometimes, become depressed.*

Susan Wautelet, Chairman and the following members:

Carol Beiter, Barb Binkley, Norma Booker, Betty Kay Eley, Cindy Flagg, Ed Kelso, Bert Rans, Irma Slack, Sarah Smith, Dorothy Steinke, Genie Tobias, Beth Pinkerton, and Anthony Witt

### Youth & Ed Pool Party for Kids and Teens

We have exciting news for kids and teens in our church! We are planning a pool party at LifePlex on October 25, 2:00-4:00 pm. Swimming is one thing we CAN do right now because the chlorine in the water kills the germs. You'll have a chance to see your friends from church, play in the



water, and learn something more about God. We'll share more details soon about what door to go through and what we have planned. Please call the church office to let us know you plan to come. We will be so excited to see you!

Youth & Education Committee

## A Note from Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

YouTube. As an administrator for our Facebook website, I see the number of people who watch our services. Because Facebook crashed this past Sunday, I have numbers spread out on 3 different posts for September 20, so I'm not sure how to accurately count for this week, but on August 23 we had 190 viewers, on August 30 we had 291, on September 6 we had 208, and on September 13th we had 309. Our children's messages have averaged around 100 views, with 122 one week when Cindy did it, and 344 the week that Abi and Barbie Pickut did it on their front porch! (Sounds like they should do those more often!!). The Well has had an average of 52 people each week.

I don't know how to count the number of YouTube viewers each week, so I didn't add those into the numbers, but all-in-all, we're reaching more people in worship online than we've reached in person, except for on Easter and Christmas.

It's not my favorite way of worshipping by any means, and I know it's not yours. I'm not as comfortable preaching to an I-phone as I am to a room full of people. I feel a little sorry for those who help with worship these days, because it's easier to preach/talk to real live human beings than it is to a camera/phone lens, but I do appreciate their willingness to be present, to help by adding their voices to the music and responses, and their talents to the recording and sound and those other things that you can't see, but help to make the experience

better. Like you, I long to come together face-to-face, but I know it will be different when it does happen from what we're accustomed to doing. We'll be wearing masks and socially distancing. We won't be able to sing like we have in the past. No choir. No hand-shaking or hugs. We'll need to exit in a way that we don't pass by one another closely, and we won't be heading off to Sunday School or Symphony.

It'll be different.

I don't know when we'll be able to worship together face-to-face next, but we are continuing to keep Wesley's rule of "Do no harm" at the forefront of our thinking. At the RIM retreat I heard that a surge of COVID is expected in November and December and that many of the churches now open will be compelled to close again, but of course, I have no idea. None of us knows. We just do our best to be faithful. To share the message of Christ in the best way we can. To do mission and ministry together. To share Christ's love with our broken world.

We're continuing to learn new lessons. We don't know if last Sunday's "crash" was Facebook's problem or ours. We now have a "booster" that might be helpful for those who have had issues with "in and out" internet reception. Through a Lilly Endowment Center for Congregations Grant we were able to purchase a new computer and other sound equipment that has been helpful. We're learning. We're reminded that it's often during difficult and challenging times when we

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Social Concerns Clothesline Project

Like many other things during 2020, our Christmas Clothesline Project will look a little different, yet it is important to continue to help our youth. Because we can't meet in person for church, we will not have the paper dolls representing each of the children that you choose. Instead, we are asking that you make monetary donations and our committee will buy the gifts. Each child will receive a red Plymouth hooded sweatshirt and a package of socks. The shirts will be purchased from YSC (formerly Yorder's), thereby supporting a local business. Children 2 years old and younger will be given a sleeper.



We will purchase gifts for 10 children from 6 schools, 60 children, 120 gifts total. The knitters of our church will also be making hats for each of them. Although this isn't the way we would like to do this project, we ask that you support this project generously as it is still important that we remember these chil-

dren.

Please make your check out to **First United Methodist Church with Clothesline Project** on the memo line.

Our neighbors continue to need your help in other ways during this difficult time.

They need help through the food pantries and with rent and utilities. Please continue to give generously so that we can support the agencies that assist so many people less fortunate than us. These agencies are Link to Hope, Neighborhood Center, Bread of Life and David's Courage. Please

send your check to the church office made out to **First United Methodist Church with Social Concerns** on the memo line.

Thank you so much for remembering those who are in need. That's what God has asked us to do.

## A Note from Pastor Toni concluded

*(Continued from page 4)*

learn our most important lessons.

I think of Paul's words in 1 Cor. 9:22b-23: I have become all things to all people, so I could save some by all possible means. All the things I do are for the sake of the gospel, so I can be a partner with it.

One of those "possible means" in this day seems to be the use of technology. So I'm

doing my best to learn.

It may be out of our comfort zone but we're stretching beyond ourselves to learn and do what we need to, to reach people for Christ. Let us continue to move forward, adapting, learning, giving, serving and worshipping in Jesus' name.

In Christ,

## Missions “Hacienda Day”, November 10th

The Missions Commission is hosting a “**Hacienda Day**” on **November 10**. As in pre-Covid days, all purchases of dine-in and carry-out food and beverages, as well as the purchase of gift cards will count toward the day’s total, of which we will receive 20%. All you need to do is present the special token when you pay, either the paper one or a digital one on your phone or other device. The paper tokens will be available at the church office or on the small table near the elevator inside the south entrance.



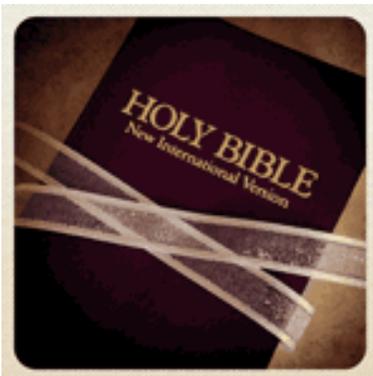
book with the token that can be saved and used when you make your purchase at Hacienda on November 10. You can purchase gift cards directly from Hacienda on that day, or if you prefer to order cards in advance, please let Kathy in the church office know how many you want and in what amount, and turn in a check

for the total amount made out to **Plymouth First UMC**. Please put “**Hacienda Day**” in the memo line.

These orders will need to be placed in the church office no later than **October 26**. Thank you for supporting your Missions Commission in helping our various work teams to be the helping hands and heart of Christ.

Later in October and early November, an email reminder for “Hacienda Day” will be sent out with a copy of the token. There will also be a post on Face-

## Third Grade Bibles



If you know of a third grader we don't miss anyone. connected with the church, please share his or her name with the church office. We are making our list for our tradition to give Bibles to children at this age, and we want to make sure

Thank you,  
Barbie Pickut  
Chair, Youth and Education Committee

# October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR OR GROUP LEADER TO SEE IF YOU ARE MEETING VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON AT THE FELLOWSHIP HALL					
4 World Communion Sunday	5	6 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	7	8	9	10 Annual Conference One Day Session
11	12 <b>Columbus Day</b> 6:30 pm Social Concerns 	13 11 am Bad Girls Bible Study 6:30 pm Worship	14 6:30 pm Conversation on Racism (Fellowship Hall)	15	16	17
18	19 6 pm Outreach	20 6 pm Finance	21	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday	26 5:30 Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Education	27 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees	28 5-7 pm Community Meal 	29	30	31 <b>Halloween</b> 

First United Methodist Church



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Love God ~ Love Others ~  
Serve Others

## Mission Minded

Thanks to everyone who supported our Walleye Fish Sandwich and Fries fundraiser on September 19. We sold out at 240 sandwiches!



Thanks for your support!

### HENDERSON SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP:



We have a few volunteers signed up for our annual work trip to Henderson Settlement, and have room for more workers.

The group will be leaving on Sunday, October 25 and returning on Friday, October 30. We will stay in the mission dormitory. Our meals will be in the cafeteria. We will most likely be siding a trailer, home, or addition. All sorts of skills can be put to use during the week. Other volunteer opportuni-

ties are available if your talents lay in other directions.

Our church, through Missions Commission, pays \$1500 for supplies and ½ of each participants' expenses. That money comes from fundraisers, donations made directly to Missions Commission, from our basket offerings on the third Sunday of each month. Each participant is expected to pay the remaining ½ of their room, board, and travel expenses.

Now's the time to get signed up or find out more. Please contact Mike Woolfington or Carol Beiter.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Tuesday, November 10 - Hacienda Day:** The entire day, we will get a portion of the proceeds for Carry-out, Eat-in, or Gift Cards. (Gift Cards make great Christmas gifts / stocking stuffers!)

*(See article on page 6)*

## October Birthdays

10/2 Susan Kreighbaum  
 10/4 Tom Buchanan  
 10/5 Abi Pickut  
 10/8 Katie Spencer  
     Melanie Pedavoli  
 10/10 Ron Downey  
 10/13 Kathy Mills  
 10/14 Mary Kaufman  
 10/15 Tom Pedavoli  
     Phyllis Schoonover  
 10/16 Claudia Button  
     Terri Weldy



10/17 Barbara Miller  
     Shirley Morrow  
 10/19 Barbara Binkley  
 10/22 Becky Liechty  
     Janet Macey  
 10/23 Brittany Pedavoli  
 10/25 Mary Jane Manuwal  
     Woody Schinbeckler  
     10/26 Kim Butler  
 10/29 Susan Wautelet  
 10/20 Allen Shockney

## October Preaching Plan continued

(Continued from page 10)

You'll be able to tune into the service via Facebook as you do each week. Those of us who usually work in front of or behind the lens of the camera will "join" you in worshipping from the comfort of our homes on this morning!

### October 18, 2020

20th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 33: 12-23

Title: I Know You by Name

Theme: Moses asks God to give him a partner to lead the people, and God assures Moses that God will be that partner, going with him and helping him. "You have my special approval and I know you by name." God then gives instructions of how Moses can see



God's glory. What difference does it make when God knows us by name? Does that knowledge enable us to see and experience God's glory?

### October 25, 2020

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Title: The Next Chapter

Theme: In this last installment of our Old Testament readings (for now!) we read how God presents the promised land to Moses. The mantle is passed on to Joshua who leads the people forward. Sometimes our job is to pave the way for the next chapter though we aren't able to enter that new place ourselves. How can we be sure to leave a legacy of promise and hope?

Remember Pastor Toni's September Challenge to read a book or other resource on racism and join in conversation in October? You're invited to do that on Wednesday, October 14 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

## Last Community Meal of 2020—October 28

The Community Meal on October 28<sup>th</sup>, from 5—7 pm will again be served as carry out only. The menu includes chili with crackers, applesauce, chips and pumpkin bars. After this date, meals will be discontinued until after the first of the

year. At this time, the committee is unable to sanitize properly or maintain social distancing by serving meals in Fellowship Hall. Doing carry out meals in the winter doesn't seem practical.



First United Methodist  
Church



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*Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others*

## **Preaching Plan for October**

***October 4, 2020***

**World Communion Sunday**

18th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20

Title: Thunder and Lightning and the Word of God

Theme: Do we think of behavioral boundaries as limits to our freedom or as a means of living freely and fully within the context of an intentional and caring community? Being in relationship and living with others means we respect and care for one another. This gives glory to God whose commands we follow.

***October 11, 2020***

19th Sunday after Pentecost

In recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month, Bishop Trimble, the Extended Cabinet and the Board of Laity are providing a service of worship to give pastors and worship leaders the opportunity to take a bit of a breather—and the opportunity to worship with our families.

Bishop Trimble will be preaching. Music has been graciously donated by Battle Ground UMC and Brady Lane Church musicians. The focus is on encouragement.

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