

First News

A Message from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

Our church is in the midst of conversation, both locally and beyond. They are important conversations about our life together, both now and in the future.

The first conversation is here at home, and it's about dealing with the maintenance needs of our church building. Upon the approval of Church Council and with the work of our Trustees, we have identified a list of needs. Not everything listed must be done right now; several issues will become evident in the next few years but aren't urgent now. Our hope is to deal with immediate needs and create a fund that will be available for use as the other needs arise, so we can focus on ministry rather than the physical needs of our buildings. This will help us remain focused on our mission of making disciples.

There are opportunities to learn more about how we hope to deal with these things. A capital team and a coach have been identified and we are in the midst of dis-

cerning support. We won't proceed without strong support from the members of our congregation.

A second conversation has been happening for many years and will be brought to decision this coming week. The special called session of our church's General Conference is happening in Saint Louis, MO from February 23-26. The sole purpose of this conference is to receive and act upon a report from the Commission on a Way Forward, based upon the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. This conversation is meant to help us find a way forward through our deep disagreements about same-sex marriage and the ordination of LGBTQ clergy in the United Methodist Church.



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First United
Methodist
Church

Volume 19, Issue 3
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We are in the best place we can be when we go to God in prayer.

I will go before thee and unwind the snarls.

Isaiah 50:2

I come from a long line of crafters. Grandmothers on both sides, my mother and her father. I can't remember not knowing how to knit, crochet or embroider. When I was seven, I kept asking my mother to teach me how to sew. I was sewing doll clothes by hand and wanted to use the machine. She told me I was too young. While she was downstairs washing, she heard the machine running and decided she had better teach me how to do it right. My great grandmother lived with us - she tatted - as I watched her, I asked her to teach me. She used a tating shuttle. I could not catch on to using the shuttle without making knots. You cannot unravel tating knots. I was probably under 10 and I never did master that tating shuttle. Years later, as an adult, my sister and I took a class on needle tating. The outcome is the same as with the shuttle, but I learned that without a problem. We make many knots in life due to decisions we make or just life happening. Some can be unraveled others we learn to live with.

*A little child at mother's knee
plies woolen strands and needles bright.
small eager hands strive earnestly
to fasten every stitch aright.
But soon perplexing knots appear
which vex and hinder progress flow;*



*impatient fingers pull and tear,
while ever worse the tangles grow.*

*How surely then in wiser hands
the roughest places are made plain!*

*how easy now the task's demands
how wonderful the lesson's gain!*

*Thus. God, we bring our snarls to
Thee;*

*Though human sense and stubborn will
oft clamor loud for mastery,*

we hear alone Thy "peace, be still."

Edith Shaw Brown from [Springs in the Valley](#)

Mission Statement

Two hundred years ago, God inspired formation of the first missionary society in the United Methodist lineage. Today, the Missio Dei [God's mission] makes possible "mission from everywhere to everywhere." My wife, Barbara, and I, who are Germans, are thankful for our missionary calling. We served in Brazil where two of our three children were born. In Sao Paulo I had the privilege to prepare and eat soup with the street people, joining in where God was already in mission.

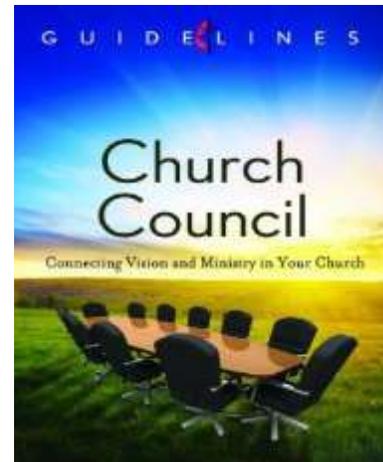
Thomas Kemper, General Secretary, General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church

Submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Church Council

If you are a member of Church Council, please mark your calendar for the following dates. Each meeting is at 6:00 pm. (Dates will be adjusted if necessary, but this is our best plan for now!)

March 26	“Looking Back”
June 25	“Looking Around”
October 8	“Looking Forward”
November 26	Goals in, approval of 2020 budget



Informational Meeting: Rebuilding First Church

Sunday, March 10, 11:50 am in the Sanctuary

Everyone is invited to join in a meeting after worship to discuss our possible building campaign, “Rebuilding First Church.” We’ll have the opportunity to hear where we are, what we’ve learned and how we might respond. What are our concerns, and what recommendations are offered? Please come and join in the conversation!



March Community Meal Wednesday, March 27

The menu for the Community Meal is as follows:

Beef Stew

Dinner Rolls

Mixed Fruit

Cake



Please sign up to donate and/or help and come enjoy a warm, filling meal!

A Message from Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 1)

I will not be attending the conference but will check in along the way to observe through live-streaming. If you are interested in watching, you will find that link on the umc.org website under Watch GC2019 Live. In addition to this live feed, there are articles on the umc.org website that you will find helpful.

At the 2015 session of our Indiana Annual Conference, members approved **Christian Conferencing Guidelines** to help guide discernment as we elected persons to represent us at the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. As I read these today, I believe they can help us in any conversation in which we participate. They include:

RESPECT others as Jesus would have done when he was here on earth.

PRAY for others as well as yourself, especially those with whom you disagree.

LISTEN to others before thinking about what you want to say in response.

UNDERSTAND what others are saying so clearly that you could accurately state their view.



SHARE your own point of view with grace and humility as well as honesty and candor.

FOCUS your commitments on issues being discussed not on persons expressing them.

COMMIT yourself to the unity of the Spirit seeking consensus whenever possible.

GIVE the time needed to work through the process in which you are engaged.

ACKNOWLEDGE that you may be wrong even when you think you are right.

Allow the **Fruit of the Spirit** to permeate your way of interacting with others: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-control.

Whatever the decision of any of our conversations, it is important for us to keep in mind these three things: First, tomorrow, the sun will still rise. Second, we'll still need to have our sins forgiven, and third, the world still needs the witness of the church.

May our witness evidence love and grace.

Toni

Mother's Club

Mother's Club will be meeting on Monday, March 11th at 7:00 pm in the Memorial Room. Jamie Michel will be speaking about the foster care program and what it entails to become a foster parent. Please join us!



Preaching Plan for March

March 3

Transfiguration Sunday

Communion

Text: Luke 9:28-36

Title: Holy Moments

Theme: When the disciples saw Jesus transfigured before them, they were overcome with awe. Do we allow ourselves to be awed?

March 6

Ash Wednesday

Texts: Psalm 51, Psalm 56:8

Title: Broken Vessels: Shattered

Theme: Even as we offer our broken, imperfect lives to God, we affirm our trust in God's promises.

March 10

First Sunday of Lent

Text: Psalm 139:13

Title: Broken Vessels: Treasure

Theme: The brokenness we experience is not the conclusion of our story. There is healing in the One who gathers us together.

March 17

Second Sunday of Lent

Text: Psalm 86:7

Title: Broken Vessels: Safe-Keeping

Theme: We act and pray that the church is the true body of Christ, a place of "safe-keeping"; a safe place for all.



March 24

Third Sunday of Lent

Text: John 4:10

Title: Holy Vessels: Stories

Theme: As we hear the story of the Samaritan woman, we also claim our own stories. What happens when our brokenness meets Living Water?

March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

(Spring Break begins)

Text: Exodus 15:26b

Title: Holy Vessels: Different Pictures

Theme: The pictures we see of ourselves and others can sometimes seem stained and rumped. What new pictures can be created in the gifts of the Christ Community?

MISSION MINDED

THANK YOU:

Thanks to everyone who supported our annual Sweetheart Dinner in February. The proceeds will be used by the Missions and Social Concerns Commissions.

We would also like to thank Micro Farms LLC for donating the locally-grown fresh greens for the salads.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

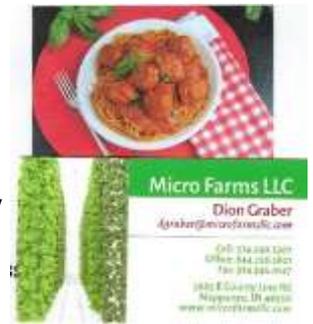


1st ANNUAL SOUP COOK-OFF AND BAKE SALE

Sunday, March 3 in the Fellowship Hall

Following the 10:30 Service

To benefit the work team to Mission Guatemala



ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST at KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -

Sunday, March 17 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Adults \$5.00; Age 10 and under \$2.00

Blueberry or regular pancakes, sausage, eggs, French toast, and beverages.

*Proceeds from their monthly pancake breakfast will go to
benefit our Missions trips.*



UPCOMING WORK TRIPS:

MAY 12 - 17, 2019 MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

At Chatham, Illinois we prepare "kits" that are then available when disasters occur or requests are made. There may be sewing or carpentry jobs for person skilled in these areas.

- Carol Beiter is the contact person for this trip.

JULY 6 - 14, 2019 MISSION GUATEMALA

If you are interested in going or have questions, Pastor Toni and Troy Spencer are the contacts for this trip.

OCTOBER, 2019 HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

Our annual work trip to Kentucky will take place in the fall. It's not too early to think about joining our crew. Steve Westfall is the contact person for this trip.

DO YOU HAVE A PROJECT?:

Do you know of a project that needs our help? If you know of something locally that needs done, either for a church member, friend, or neighbor in need, please contact Mike Woolfington.

Chili and Soup Cook Off! by Katie Spencer



Join us Sunday March 3rd after the 10:30 service for a Soup Cook Off! You can sign up to bring a crockpot of your favorite soup to share or join in tasting each soup and help vote for your favorite. A special prize will be awarded to the person with the most votes for their soup. For dessert, there will be a bake sale with lots of delicious treats available for a donation. We will be taking a free will donation at the door, with all funds going to support our work team going to Mission Guatemala in July.

Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman

The Socials Concerns Committee greatly appreciates your generous support of agencies in our community to help those in need: Link to Hope, Heminger House, Neighborhood Center, and our church's community meal. You may write a check to FUMC with Social Concerns or any of these organizations in the memo line, and/or make a donation in the basket on the first Sunday of each month. The Neighborhood Center needs cold cereal, canned fruit, pasta and pasta sauce; you may place these in the grocery cart at the back of the sanctuary. We are doing God's work by helping those less fortunate than us right here in Plymouth. Thank you!

Irish Theme for WOW by Donna Hemmig

With St. Patrick's Day later in the month, the March meeting of WOW will be an opportunity to hear about the Hogsetts' 2018 trip to Ireland. Come join us on Monday, March 4 at 1 pm in Fellowship Hall.



THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE EVENTS.....

Lunch Bunch: The third Friday of the month: RSVP Carol Beiter

March 15: La D'zert at 11:30

HERE ARE THE RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS:

APRIL 19: RENTOWN

MAY 17: EVERGREEN

JUNE 21: HUNTERS HIDEAWAY



the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. On March 25 the discussion will concentrate on "Brown Girl Brownstones". Please come join this group as we explore diverse books.

Bad Girls: On March 12 and 26 this lively group will discuss "The Unveiling of Mary Magdalene." This gathering of women meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11:00 in the Memorial Room.

Dominos and Euchre will be featured on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2-4:00 PM. Contact Dean Luther for further details at 540-2196.

First Sunday Brunch: *The breakfast at Symphony is cancelled this month as we will be enjoying the Soup Cook Off in Fellowship Hall after the second service.*

Christian Craftin' Mamas continue to meet and explore the world of creativity. Contact Michelle Faulstich 941-2737 for further details.

Knit Two...Pray Three: Will be meeting the first Tuesday of every month from 10:00 to noon in the Memorial Room.

Blessed Bookies: The 4th Mondays of

LENT BEGINS: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6



Please join us for the **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** on March 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Family Lenten devotionals are available in the Narthex. There are separate items for the children. Lenten devotionals are provided by the Worship Commission.

Outreach & Support Committee Thanks You!



Many thanks to all of the church family members who have participated in the small groups offered at FUMC. These gatherings are a wonderful way to support, encourage, worship, and share joys and concerns with each other.

The Outreach and Support Committee is eager to include new activities, groups, studies, etc. as a means of fulfilling our mission. If you have any ideas, concerns

or suggestions, please contact any of the members of the 2019 Outreach & Support Committee.

Chairman: Susan Wautelet

Members: Carol Beiter, Norma Booker, Betty Kay Eley, Cindy Flagg, Ed Kelso, Beth Pinkerton, Bert Rans, Irma Slack, Sarah Smith, Dorothy Steinke, Genie Tobias

Troup 251 News by Michael Stephan, Scout Master



March 10th Scout Sunday: A Scout is reverent. He is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion. During the second service, some of the scouts will be recognized for earning the God And Life Religious Emblem Award.

March 10th Scout Meal: Come support our Troop. Menu: Parmesan Crusted Chicken, Peas & Carrots, Homemade Mac-n-Cheese, Dessert

United Methodist Men by David Hogsett

BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men will be meeting on Saturday, March 16, for breakfast at 8:00 A.M.. Tom Pedavoli will be talking about the Boy Scout troop that meets at the church. Tom is

the church's Institutional Representative to the troop. He will be sharing what is going on with the troop and will talk about their history with the church.

Come and bring a friend with



you. Learn about the United Men's connection with "Cayat."



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.



**Knights of Columbus
Council #1975
All You Can Eat
Pancake Breakfast!!**

3rd Sunday of Every Month!

Carry-out Available!

March 17, 2019



**8-11 a.m.
Adults \$5
Age 10 and Under \$2**

**Knights of Columbus Hall
901 E. Jefferson St.
Plymouth, IN 46563**

**Each Month's Net Proceeds Go
To a Different Cause
This month's goes to:**

**1st United Methodist Church
Mission Trips**

Breakfast Includes:
**Pancakes (Regular)
Blueberry Pancakes
Sausage
Eggs
French Toast
Coffee, OJ
Milk, Soda**

**For More Information Call:
(574) 952-0307**

March 2019

First United
Methodist Church
400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943
Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
***Regular Sunday Schedule: Worship at 8:30 am and 10:30 am Sunday School (all ages) 9:15 am The Well 5:00 pm						
3 *** Noon: 1st Annual Soup Cook Off and Bake Sale	4 1 pm WOW	5 10 am Knit 3, Pray 3 7pm Missions	6 *** 6:30 pm ASH WEDNESDAY Ser- vice	7 ***	8 8	9 9
10 *** Scouting Sunday 11:50 am Info Mtg "Rebuilding 1stChurch" Scout Meal	11 6:30 pm So- cial Concerns 7:00 pm Mother's Club	12 11 am Bad Girls 6:30 pm Worship	13 *** 5:30 pm "The Way Forward" Conference Recom- mendations	14 *** 14 ***	15 11:30 am Lunch Bunch @ La D'Zert	16 8:00 am UMM Breakfast
17 St. Patrick's Day *** 8-11 Knights of Colum- bus Breakfast to benefit Missions	18 6:00 pm Outreach	19 6:00 pm Finance	20 ***	21 *** 10am- 5pm American Cancer Society "Daffodil Days" 2-4 Game Day	22	23
24 ***	25 5:30 Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed	26 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Church Council	27 *** 5-7 pm Community Meal	28 ***	29	30
31 ***	Boy Scouts meet each Tuesday at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall.					
*** Regular Thursday Schedule: 6:00 am Early Birds @ Pickut's Noon Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Bible Study						



March Birthdays

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Phone: 574 936-2943
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office@plymouthfirstumc.org



Love God - Love Others - Serve Others

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 James Schoonover	2
3 Paul Konefsky	4 Logan Binkley	5	6	7	8	9
10 Jerry Kralovansky	11	12	13 Sue Kay Smith	14	15 Norma Young	16 Joyce Gibbons
17 Andrew Faulstich Mike Mercer	18 Shelley Heiden	19 Marc Laudeman Dorothy Steinke	20 Richard Button Jacob Faulstich	21 Linda Keister John Mills	22 Nick Pinkerton Jane Woolfington	23 Bill Gee Tabatha Goebel Debbie Jung
24 Don Dick	25	26 Barry Capper Steve Jung	27 James Keister	28	29 Betty Rimel	30
31	Happy Birthday, one and all!					

Sunday Worship Participants for March

MARCH	8:30	10:30	USHERS	GREETERS	SOUND	OLDER	ACOLYTES
	LITURGIST	LITURGIST			SYSTEM	NURSERY	
					10:30		
3	Don Wilson	Diane Hogsett	Woody Schinbeckler	Dave & Diane	Tom Pedavoli	Judy Goebel	Emma Konefsky
10	Susie Kreighbaum	Robin Cupka	Robin & Quentin Cupka	Joyce Gibbons	James Faulstich	Kelsey Heisler	Logan Binkley
17	Jim Easterday	Diane Hogsett		Barry & Karen	Ralph Booker	TBA	Emma Jackson
24	David Smith	Carol Beiter	Jon Van Vactor	Barb Dreibelbis	Robin Cupka	Sarah Smith	Logan Binkley
31	Susan Wautelet	Carol Beiter	Bert Rans	Jim & Cris Causey	Scott Carmer	Stacey Jackson	Jenny Cerrato

March 3 —Important Invitation, Larry Whitehead continued

(Continued from page 14)

district for pastors and laity to gather together for a “viewing party,” of sorts. These will be hosted at:

- Crown Point UMC at 4:30 CENTRAL Time (moderated by ADS Paul Arnold, 352 S. Main Street)

- Mishawaka Coalbush UMC at 5:30 EASTERN Time (moderated by CS Larry Whitehead, 15977 Jackson Road)

Additionally, it is my understanding that links will be provided for individual viewing through the Conference website and on Facebook Live for those who are unable to connect with us at the viewing sites. Those links will be provided next week as they are made available.

In the meantime, I encourage you to make plans to lead your congregation to join us at one of the sites as we prepare to be ready to take on the opportunities ahead in connecting lives to Jesus Christ in the next chapter ahead for the United Methodist Church. And of course, remain in prayer for the work of the Holy Spirit in the discernment of the General Conference in the coming days.

Grace and peace,

Larry

**Larry K. Whitehead,
Conference Superintendent, North District
Indiana Conference, United Methodist Church**



First United Methodist



400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943
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*Visit us on the web:
www.plymouthfumc.org*

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve
Others

March 3 — Important Invitation, Larry Whitehead

Pastors and leaders in the North District –

I am pleased to share with you that Bishop Trimble will be addressing the Indiana Conference through a statewide live telecast on Sunday, March 3rd. The nature of our Bishop's address is to inform us about any outcomes of the General Conference (Feb. 23-27) and to share a word of initial thought on what those outcomes will mean for us going forward as the church of Jesus Christ in our mission fields in Indiana. We have no way to know or predict today what the work of the General Conference will yield, but I

want to assure you that we are preparing even now to connect with you in the days ahead in ways that I hope will be helpful and as timely as possible. This telecast will be just one of those ways.

Further, the live telecast will be made available to you in several different ways. Because I believe that it could be important and helpful to share as a connection of United Methodists that day, and I have heard from some pastors that they would like to connect with others around that live event, I have arranged for 2 locations in our

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