

First News

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A Note From Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

Every Sunday, a new person or two will come back to worship who hadn't returned yet. They are people who have been a part of the life of our church since before

my time, and they're returning, in my mind, because they're feeling comfortable being out and about again, around people, sharing space and breathing air that is most likely Covid-free. That's been my thinking, at least.

Instead, they say, "I heard we were singing again."

In my mind, we've been singing. Even when you were worshipping from home and a few of us were

being welcomed into your home each week via the internet, where the words were provided on the screen and in worship folders posted on Facebook, I had the idea that you were singing to

your hearts delight at home, where no one cared how loud or off-keyed you might

be. And I know that some, even when we're all together, keep their lips firmly clenched, enjoying the sounds of others, but not choosing to join along. Maybe at home those folks are only singing in their heads, too, or, feel free to belt it out knowing one can do what they want in the privacy of



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A Note From Pastor Toni *continued*

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one's own home.

There's an article in this week's Christian Century where the author talks about how she misses church coffee. She writes about how negative she felt about coffee time in her early years of ministry, feeling like people's purpose for coming to church was more about coffee than about coming to listen for the Word of God. But now, having spent her second Easter broadcasting on the "Best Day of the Year When We Ought to Be Able to Be in Church" she longs for church coffee.

Well, actually, she longs to spend some fellowship time with Paula and Helen and

Ted and Stephen and Joan and Allyson and Ricky and Phyllis and all those other people she hasn't seen for, like—forever.

I get it.

Last night two members of one of our ministry teams were huddled around the Keurig machine in the workroom brewing cups of coffee to go with the cookies they were about to share. That group is



known to have treats at their meetings. They not only plan what they're going to do in the life of the church but they share this sacrament of fellowship that becomes even sweeter with this lovingly offered treat. The sacrament was offered to me, but I needed to get home. But I miss the fellowship, too.

I look forward to the time when we're all back together again. I love singing, too.

And cookie fellowship. I love hearing other voices join in praying the Lord's Prayer. I love what we create as God's people when we come together for worship.

There are advantages, I know, to staying home on Sunday mornings, settled in

on your couch in your jammie pants and singing or not singing without anyone noticing. At least that's what I've been told. But let me tell you, it's even better when we're together.

Come join us when you're ready. You're missed.

Love and Blessings,

Toni

Thank you!

Thank you so much for all the prayers and good wishes for Steve's surgery. He is home and doing well; healing and looking forward to being able to walk again without pain. We truly appreciate all of you! *Kathy Smitha*

Committed to Christ

We will begin a new preaching series on Sunday mornings entitled “Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life” beginning September 12, with an introduction to the series on August 29. In this series we’ll be considering 6 spiritual practices that enrich our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Three Sundays in August you will be given a “Commitment Card” to respond to regarding your relationship with Jesus Christ. Those who aren’t attending in person will be asked to respond to an email with the same questions. **PLEASE ONLY COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE ONE TIME.**

Though you’re asked to include your name on the commitment card, what you write will be kept confidential. Each week of the series you’ll receive a new commitment card with a new spiritual practice to respond to and the overall responses will be shared with the congregation each week. Six months later, each of your Commitment Cards will be returned to you, and you can see what progress you’ve made.

I look forward to journeying with you as we explore “Committed to Christ.”

committed to
CHRIST

New Preaching series entitled “Committed to Christ: Six Steps to a Generous Life” will begin on September 12th.

Trustees Update

Our team of professionals continue to do their part to provide information for the mediation process. The retired insurance adjuster has completed and submitted his report to the attorneys. The insurance company’s adjuster plans to meet with ours soon and we await the next steps.



As always, if you have need for use of our fellowship hall or other equipment, please submit a request through Kathy Smitha and she will see that it gets to us for consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa Christiansen, Trustees’ Chair

Community Meal *submitted by Ruth VanVactor*



August 25 from 5:00-7:00 pm, the community meal will have carry out only meals. The menu is Italian beef sandwiches, chips, veggie mix and watermelon. Everyone is welcome so help share the word about the meal. There are index sized cards available with all the information. It's a great way to just hand a card to someone when you're sharing about this ministry. Please let someone from the committee know if you need cards. The committee is Betty Kay Eley, Diane Laude- man, Becky Liechty, Barb Miller and Ruth VanVactor.



...you continue to demonstrate our church's purpose by showing God's love and caring to those in need in Plymouth.

Hallelujah! God bless you!



Social Concerns Report *submitted by Mary Kaufman*

Our "Help Thy Neighbor" food drive was a great suc- cess! Six large grocery carts of food and hygiene items were donated and \$1,145 in cash was given! We have such a caring and generous congregation! These dona- tions were given to the Neigh- borhood Center and Bread of Life food pantries. So many people in need will benefit from your gifts!

In our regular donations to Social Concerns in June, we received \$830. Our contribu- tions for July were Link to Hope \$500, Neighborhood Center \$170 + funds received from Help Thy Neighbor pro- ject, FUMC Community Meal \$200, David's Courage \$200,

FUMC Boy Scout Troop \$100, Blessings in a Back- pack \$100 (This program sends non-perishable food home with needy children on Fridays during the school year.)

In the midst of COVID con- cerns and having to worship in another church building, you continue to demon- strate our church's purpose by showing God's love and caring to those in need in Plymouth. Hallelujah! God bless you!



Small Prayers Can Create Strong Connections to God

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places to pray. Luke 5:16

August is usually a hot, dry month but with our weather changes it is hard to predict what the weather will be like. My mother never let us go swimming in August; but if we had a gentle warm rain we could put on our bathing suits and play in the rain. The weather patterns have also changed around the world causing many disasters along with the continued Covid problem. Knowing what is happening gets overwhelming. I am a fixer but I cannot fix all the world's issues but I **can** pray for those affected by these disasters.

Mission Witness

Rockford children needed love and care in the midst of chaos and distress. Our team of volunteer ministers shows love to our neighbors, members or nonmembers. JAM [Jesus and me] is a place where we extend the love and grace of Jesus Christ, teaching prayer, the Bible, and how to shine like Jesus within their families and the community. As participants learn how to love their neighbors and act like Jesus,

we will be there to support and be a witness to these children and to their families.

Joy Hayag

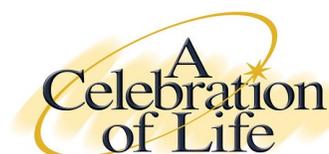
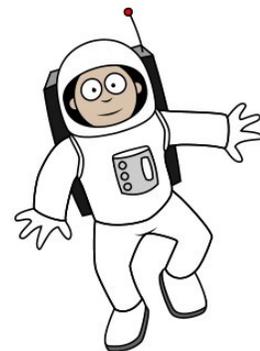
Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner,
Christ United Methodist Church
Rockford, Illinois

From the heavens to Earth

American Prayers by James P. Moore Jr.

Give us, O God, the vision which can see Thy love in the world in spite of human failure. Give us the faith, the trust, the goodness in spite of all our ignorance and weakness. Give us the knowledge that we may continue to pray with understanding hearts, and show us what each of us can do to set forth the day of universal peace.

This prayer was sent from the International Space Station by astronaut Frank Borman, December 24, 1968



A Celebration of Life Service for Nancy Middleton Reed will be held on Saturday, August 28 in the Fellowship Hall. Visitation with the family will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a service to follow at 11:00.

MISSION MINDED

Each month we are highlighting a different organization that our church supports through offerings.

Thanks to your offerings, our missionary support goes towards the salary of the director of the Henderson Settlement (Kentucky), through the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. The annual amount we give is \$2500, given in equal monthly installments.

According to the **Henderson Settlement** website: "Our mission, as part of the body of Christ, is to lift up Jesus Christ by providing basic needs in Appalachia through God's love. There are four basic areas ...

WORK CAMP/ VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION: Work Camp serves two purposes at Henderson Settlement. First, and primarily, it serves as an opportunity to educate persons in mission and the needs that exist among the less fortunate in our society. Secondly, work camp often serves as the bridge between dreams and reality for families of the Laurel Fork Valley of southeastern Kentucky and northern Tennessee, while giving groups the opportunity to witness for Christ through home repair.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH including:

Food Pantry, Senior Center, Library, New Mother Assistance / MIHOW, Women's Group, and Youth Ministries

AGRICULTURE: The Settlement has been raising beef cattle for several years. Some of the calves and cattle are sold in order to help support the ministries of the Farm. There are four large GREENHOUSES, a high tunnel, and a germination room/office. During the winter months, the greenhouses hold the starts of vegetable and bedding flowers, which are sold to the community in the spring. The greenhouses offer a reasonable and inexpensive way for people to grow gardens or have beautiful flower beds. The greenhouses market mums, that are sold locally, as well as to Churches and schools for fundraisers. One of the greenhouses and the High Tunnel are being used for food production; Supplying the HS Kitchen and others with fresh tomatoes, cucumbers, green peppers, leaf lettuce, and kale.

CRAFTS AND THRIFT STORE including:

The Craft Store sells local crafts and logo items such as T-shirts, caps, etc. and the Thrift Store carries Household Supplies, Small Appliances, Knick Knacks, Used Clothing, and Used Furniture."

Upcoming Fundraising Events:



AUGUST 6: We're sponsoring the Kona Ice Truck at the Mayor's Month of Music at River Park Square. Stop by and have a shaved ice! (We get a share of the profits.)

SEPTEMBER 11: FISH FRY FUNDRAISER, 11:00 – 2:00

Drive-Thru Service in the Parking Lot
Ralph Smith Cooking

OCTOBER: Work Trip to Henderson Settlement

It's not too early to think about joining the team!
Check out their website for even more information.



HAPPY AUGUST FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time." —John Lubbock



contact Kathy at the office, or swautelet@aol.com for more information.

The **Lunch Bunch** gathers the 3rd Friday of the month. We meet in the church parking lot at 11:30, but reservations should be made with

Carol Beiter. Please contact Carol if you are interested in attending. (beiter800@gmail.com)

August 20: Crazy Eggs in Warsaw

September 17: Log House in Argos

October 15: Jarrey's in Rochester

As the lazy, hazy days of summer float by, our small groups are continuing to gather and provide comfort, support, and outreach among its participants. Whether you like to read, eat, knit or just commune, there is the perfect group for you!!

Blessed Bookies will continue to gather on the 4th Monday at 5:30 PM. in the Education Building

August 23: In an Instant (Suzanne Redfearn)

Bad Girls will now be meeting ON-LY on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM. Beginning in March "flunking sainthood" by Jana Riess has been the focus of this group's discussion. This book describes "A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor." However, it is never too late to join this diverse, interesting, and occasionally humorous study!

If you are interested in participating in either or all of these discussions, please

KNIT TWO, PRAY THREE

This group of talented knitters gathers on the first Tuesday of the month in the Education building. Grab your needles and join them!!

UPDATE FOR THE SUNDAY BREAKFAST GATHERING.....

Knights of Columbus Breakfast on the 3rd Sunday of the month! All interested can gather at 9:30 AM which allows ample time to eat between our two services.... Come one, come all and let's join in fellowship on Sunday mornings.

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August Preaching Plan

August 1

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Text: *John 15:1-17*

Title: Returning Home

Theme: As we bring our series on travel to a close, we consider what it means to return home. After stretching our spirits and our love to include more of the glorious creation and its people, we return to a home that will never be the same to us. We have returned with “guests”—memories of new friends and new perspectives. Perhaps we also return with new convictions to be more active and loving citizens of humanity right where we reside. Jesus says “abide in me” and follows that up with the commandment to love one another. The beauty of travel as a spiritual act is that our best souvenirs are found in the way we’re able to incorporate what we’ve seen and learned into who and what we are

August 8

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: *Genesis 1:1*

Title: Creativity: God’s Beloved Masterpiece

Theme: We read at the very beginning of our scripture how God created the heavens and the earth, and God has been creating ever since. All we need to do is open our eyes to see this ever-changing creation. God is the source of all creativity, the source of our creativity. God created us and we are co-creators with God. We co-create

our lives, one day at a time in words, music, children, food, relationships, photographs, paintings, gardens and dreams. How has God gifted you with creativity? Let’s explore and give thanks for how God is working through you.

August 15

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: *Acts 1:1-11*

Title: The Main Business of the Church

Theme: It is said that humanity has an insatiable hunger for God. This is part of the greatness of man, we are told. “As the deer pants for streams of water,” wrote the Psalmist, “so my soul pants for you, my God” (Psalm 42:1). Humanity hungers for God. But the supreme mark of our greatness is undoubtedly God’s search for humanity.

August 22

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: *Hebrews 11:1-13*

Title: Following the Footsteps of the Faithful

Theme: With the scientific mind-set we say, “Show me and I will believe it.” With a spiritual mind-set God says, “Believe in me and I will show you.” If you can believe it, God can do it. While some see things as they are and ask why, the faithful dream of things that never were and ask why not? That is the story of the faithful. Faith is the ability to

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United Methodist Men *submitted by David Hogsett*

The United Methodist Men will be gathering Saturday afternoon, August 14, at 4:00 P.M. at the ROTARY pavilion in Centennial Park for an outing. Mike Woolfington will be in charge of the meat and Bill Hemming will offer a devotional.



All men of the church are invited to attend, bring a spouse or a friend and a dish to be shared. The drinks, table wear, and meat will be provided.

For questions contact Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.

W.O.W. Luncheon *submitted by Donna Hemmig*

A lunch gathering is being planned to discuss "Re-Starting W.O.W." In case you may have forgotten, W.O.W. stands for Women of Worth...it really has been a long time since we last met! Carol Beiter and Donna Hemmig will soon begin call-

ing each member of W.O.W. to share details of the August

luncheon. Please check your calendar and be ready for our call. We look forward to speaking with each of you!



August Preaching Plan *continued*

(Continued from page 8)

see. It is a set of eyes through which we see the world, but faith is also something more. Faith is the courage to act on what we see.

August 29

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Series: Committed to Christ (Introduction)

Text: *Ephesians 6:10-20*

Title: Committed to Christ

Theme: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? What practices help strengthen our faith? What does it mean to put on the "whole armor of God?" Beginning September 12, we will be engaging in an important journey—not for the purpose of learning "how to do" the six spiritual practices we'll be talking about, but to consider how taking a next step might enrich our lives and our relationship with Christ.

Happy August from Outreach

continued

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RUMOR HAS IT.....SHHHHHH!

The Plymouth FUMC will be represented in the Blueberry Parade on Monday, September 6!!! Want to know more details? Want to march along the parade route? Contact Susan Wautelet for more details!!

(swautelet@aol.com or 936-2747) Marchers are needed to publicize our church family to the community! Come join the fun!



As we welcome August, our return to in person worship, our gathering for spiritual study, and the blooming of summer flowers and grass and trees, let us reflect on the glory of God as described in the following hymn:

*All things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful:
You, Lord God, made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
You made their glowing colors,
You made their tiny wings.*

The purple headed mountains,

*The river running by,
The sunset and the morning
That brightens up the sky.*

*The changing of the seasons,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden,*

*You made them every
one.*

*The tall trees in the
greenwood,
The meadows where we
play,
The rushes by the water,
To gather every day.*

*You gave us eyes to see
them,
And lips that we might
tell*

*How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.*

(A hymn by Cecil F. Alexander, slightly revised. Public domain.)

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Julie, Cindy, Kay, Sarah, Ralph, our choir, and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings.... thank you for spreading love and remember....

God is good...all the time!

The Outreach and Support Committee



First United Methodist Church
Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

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

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10th Sunday after Pentecost 2 pm Butlers' Memorial service @ JohnsonDanielson	2	3 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 6 pm Worship 7 pm Missions	4	5 ☘ ☺	6 7 pm Missions "Kona Ice" Fundraiser at Mayor's Month of Music @ RPS	7
8 11th Sunday after Pentecost	9 6:30 pm Social Concerns	10 11 am Bad Girls	11	12 ☘ ☺	13	14 4:00 pm UMM picnic in Centennial Park Rotary Pavilion
15 12th Sunday after Pentecost	16 6 pm Outreach	17 6 pm Finance	18	19 ☘ ☺	20 Noon Lunch Bunch at "Crazy Eggs" in Warsaw	21
22 13th Sunday after Pentecost	23 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth/Ed	24 6:30 pm Trustees	25 5-7 pm Community Meal	26 ☘ ☺	27	28 ♦ 10:30 am Nancy Middleton Reed Memorial Service in FH
29 14th Sunday after Pentecost	30	31	☘ 6 am Early Birds at Pickut's ☺ noon Joy Breaks ✚ 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	♦ 4pm Good Samaritan Sunday School Class picnic @ FH RPS = River Park Square FH = Fellowship Hall		

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**Join us Sunday mornings at
11:15 on Facebook for live
streaming worship service!**

August Birthdays

8/1 Bert Rans	8/20 Robin Cupka
8/3 Melissa Christiansen	8/20 Diane Hogsett
8/5 Lucas Goebel	8/22 Patty Kyser
8/11 Debbie Hesler	8/25 Eva Macey
8/14 Don Balka	8/26 John Kreighbaum
8/16 Scott Heeren	

