

# First News

Volume 20,  
Issue 11

November 2020

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## A Note From Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

On Sunday mornings, we've been reading through stories in the first 5 books of the Old Testament, and have been reminded of the foundations of our faith from the time of creation to the death of Moses, that we talked about this past Sunday morning. Knowing our roots, hearing the stories of struggle, survival and triumph lived out by our mothers and fathers in the faith inspires us and helps us to look toward the future with confidence of God's presence and power in our lives, as well.

Robert Wuthnow talks about how we communicate our faith and ideals to future generations by telling stories. "Stories do more than keep memories alive," Wuthnow says. "Sometimes these stories become so implanted in our minds

that they act back upon us, directly and powerfully."

Wuthnow tells the story of Jack Casey, a volunteer fireman and ambulance attendant who, as a child, had to have some teeth extracted under general anesthesia. Jack was terrified, but a nurse standing nearby said to him, "Don't worry, I'll be here right beside you no matter what happens." When he woke up from the surgery, she had kept her word and was still standing beside him.

This experience of being cared for by the nurse stayed with him, and nearly 20 years later his ambulance crew was called to the scene of an accident. The driver was pinned upside down in his pickup truck, and Jack crawled inside to try to get him out of the wreckage. Gasoline



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## A Note From Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

was dripping onto both Jack and the driver, and there was a serious danger of fire because power tools were being used to free the driver. The whole time, the driver was crying out about how scared of dying he was, and Jack kept saying to him, recalling what the nurse had said so many years before, "Look, don't worry, I'm right here with you, I'm not going anywhere." Later, after the truck driver had been safely rescued, he was incredulous. "You were an idiot," he said to Jack. "You know that the thing could have exploded and we'd have both been burned up!" In reply, Jack simply said he felt he couldn't leave him. (Thomas G. Long, Dancing the Decalogue, Christian Century, 3/7/07).



When we hear the stories of our faith, they become a part of who we are. They shape us and settle into our DNA. They impact our attitudes, our responses, and our perspectives of the world.

So, keep reading the stories so you know them. Tell the stories to your children and your grandchildren, at every opportunity (everybody loves hearing a good story!). And tell your own stories, as well, about how God has worked in your life. About how God has shaped you. Because stories are important.

"I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love."

Love and grace,

*Toni*



### ATTENTION KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS:



LADIES: We will be needing knitted or crocheted hats for children. If you want to contribute in this way to the Clothesline project, please start clicking those needles! Colors you choose will be fine. If you have something appropriate for either boys or girls, that will be even better. Child sizes will be best as there may not be much need for bigger hats. All your efforts will be greatly appreciated by the knitting group, Knit 2, Pray 3 and Social Concerns. Thank you!!!!

## GREETINGS FROM THE OUTREACH & SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Support and outreach seem like insurmountable goals as we head into the Fall months. Although we are not able to participate in many of our small group gatherings, the FUMC family is encouraged to support the various projects that are taking place. The modified clothesline mission is moving forward and will succeed with financial assistance from the congregation. In addition, the Hacienda fund raiser will contribute to the missions of our church.



- Tuesday, November 24 at 11:00

### **Blessed Bookies:**

- Monday, November 23 at 5:30 “The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek” will be discussed

So, although Cookie Sunday, First Sunday Brunch, The Lunch Bunch, Game Day and other small groups are “on hiatus”, our church family still requires your love, support, and outreach. 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.

**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, November 10 at 11:00

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Cindy, Brian, Kay, Ralph, Katy, 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 400 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.

As a part of the Outreach & Support Committee, the Community Meal committee has furnished its final dinner for 2020. It served 113 meals in September, but feels the need to stop further dinners, due to impending cold weather, the Covid restrictions regarding food service, and the difficult task of preparing in the kitchen and distributing from the side door. However, the Neighborhood Center is requesting that the community either adopt a family or contribute food only gift cards. Please contact Betty Kay Eley at [bkbheley@yahoo.com](mailto:bkbheley@yahoo.com) for further information.

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT & SUPPORT  
TO OUR FUMC FAMILY FROM CHURCH OF THE GOOD  
SHEPHERD UMC IN SUN CITY, ARIZONA

**‘Just for Love’**

I was mindlessly reading some papers and notes, trying to clear my desk, when one in particular caught my eye. It was a story on the back of a Guideposts Care Card, and it got me thinking.

It was a story about a little boy that brought home from nursery school a turkey made from colored construction paper. It was described as lopsided and such that ‘no respectable turkey mama would have even acknowledged that it was a turkey.’ But he gave it to his mother stating that "I made it for you, for nothing except that I love you."

His mother was delighted, not because it was such a great picture, but because his reason for doing it was 'just for love!' It made her realize she had missed the opportunity to send a note or call a friend who was seriously ill and had just died. She wanted to write the ‘perfect letter,’ or say the ‘right things,’ when what her friend really needed was contact made ‘just for love.’

Is there someone, an acquaintance, a friend or a relative that you know who might be having a difficult time with life right now? Or someone who needs or would appreciate hearing from you – just for love? God did not make the world perfect and He does not expect us to be perfect, but He does ask us to love one another.

The Coronavirus has put us into a challenging time, having to deal with all the changes in our lifestyle. We cannot do a lot of things that consumed our time and energy before the virus.

So how are you using the extra time you have by being at home? Have you considered using that time to catch up on some notes or cards you have been intending to do, or make a phone call or two that you just haven’t gotten around to?

How pleased God would be if that time were seen as an opportunity to reach out, sharing His perfect love. After all, isn’t Christ always with us and caring for us ‘just for love’?

Submitted by Willi Wheeler

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

God bless you all,

The Outreach and Support Committee

Susan Wautelet, Chairman and the following members:

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

**Deadline for donations to the “Very Different Christmas Clothesline Project” is November 20th.**



**Social Concerns**

The Social Concerns Committee appreciates your response so far to our “Very Different Christmas Clothesline Project.” As you recall, we are asking for monetary donations and the committee will do the shopping for 60 kids who will each receive a Plymouth red sweatshirt and a package of socks. If they are 2 or under, they will receive a sleeper and socks.

Our deadline for donations is **November 20** in order that we may order the shirts from YSC, formerly Yoder’s. We are all disappointed that we won’t have a joy of shopping for items for our kids, but this is a very strange year! At least the kids will have something under the tree to unwrap.

We are also thankful for your generosity in giving toward the various agencies we support to help the needy here in Plym-

outh. Thanks to your funds, we were able to give the following donations in October:

Neighborhood Center (which has a food and clothing pantry as well as help with utilities) \$300, Link to Hope (which helps with rent and utilities), Bread of Life food pantry \$300, David’s Courage (addiction recovery and support) \$200, our church’s Community Meal \$100.

These next few months will be even more difficult than past winters due to unemployment because of the COVID-19 and no more stimulus checks from the government. This is when we really need to step up our help to these agencies who deal with those most in need. This is our mission, to help others and here’s our opportunity to do just that. That’s what God asks us to do.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                        |                       |                           |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 11/4 Cathy Clough      | 11/23 Jim Causey      | 11/30 Sherry Schinbeckler |
| 11/6 Daren Morgan      | 11/25 Daniel Cochern  |                           |
| 11/7 Loren Rensberger  | 11/25 Karen Emerick   |                           |
| 11/14 Jan Shockney     | 11/27 Diane Laudeman  |                           |
| 11/22 Dick Millikan    | 11/27 Troy Spencer    |                           |
| 11/22 Mike Woolfington | 11/28 Gracie Ganshorn |                           |



## November Preaching Plan continued

*(Continued from page 12)*

patient and responsible stewards as they wait. How do we live as responsible stewards of the faith in this day, as we prepare for Christ's coming?

**November 15, 2020**

### ***24th Sunday after Pentecost***

Text: Matthew 25:14-30

Title: The Talent Show

Theme: Again, as Jesus tells this story, he's speaking of end times. A man is leaving on a long trip, but before he goes, he hands over his possessions to 3 servants, in differing amounts, according to their abilities, expecting them to invest well what he's given. Upon his return, two have doubled his investment, while one simply buried what he was given in the ground, meaning he gave back exactly what he'd been given. How willing are we to invest the talents/the blessings/the gifts God has given us? How will we respond upon Christ's return when he asks—how'd you do while I was gone?

**November 22, 2020**

### ***Christ the King Sunday***

### ***Thanksgiving Sunday***

Text: Matthew 25:31-46

Title: And You Gave Me

Theme: Have you bumped into Jesus when you've been out and about in the world? Did you recognize Him? What did He see you doing? Did you see the needy? Did you respond? How?

**November 29, 2020**

### ***First Sunday of Advent***

Series: I Believe Even When

Text: Mark 1:1-15; Isaiah 40:1-11

Title: I Believe in the Sun: Hope for Tomorrow

Theme: This Advent, we are looking to hear some comfort, some challenge and some good news. The prophet Isaiah and the four Gospel authors were writing in a time when people needed desperately to hear all these things as well. This first week, Isaiah and the writer of Mark reassure the people that good news is beginning. Both say, "make yourself ready!" Raise your voices, change your hearts, get ready to be transformed, because now is the time. Have hope that we can do what needs to be done to bring more light into the world.

## YOU ARE INVITED!

Three of us spent time together in conversation about our readings and experiences related to the September Challenge of learning about racism and antiracism. We will meet together again on Wednesday,



day, November 18th at 6:30 p.m. at the church. Diane Hogsett will share her experiences as a part of the Civil Rights movement. Please come join us for this informal discussion.

## I Can Enter into God's Presence Any Time of Day by Dorothy Steinke

*The Lord says, "before they call I will Answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Psalms 139 1-10*

An Autumn Blessing for your family!

Life, like nature, unfolds in seasons. Spring-time mirrors childhood, full of new beginnings, and fresh hope, a time of innocence and discovery. Summer, like our teen years, simmers with white-hot passion and the illusion of invincibility. Autumn speaks of maturity with its rich kaleidoscope of brilliant colors and settled calm. Finally, winter sneaks up and covers the ground with white just as age brings a covering of settled rest and quiet contemplation.

We lift our families up to our Heavenly Father who loves us all and is the author of our peace.

Dear Father, in your beautiful book of Psalms, chapter 103:17, you give us this wonderful promise, "from everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children." What better promise could we receive from you than to see our children and chil-



dren's children blessed with Your love and righteousness? We ask for your hand of blessing on us as well. Bless us with strength to be there for those we love, and wisdom to know what to say to bring comfort, encouragement, and sometimes difficult truth. We will need your patience as we wait for Your perfect will and way in each of our lives. We are so grateful, Lord God. Amen An article from [Dayspring](#)

### Mission Witness

I work with children who have immigrated and German children as well. I am so delighted to see these children put the conflict that is going on in their various countries of origin behind them. Their ef-

forts to adapt to the new environment and the challenges it presents are commendable. Their courage and hope for the future continue to inspire me every day.

*Mamei Somba Lansana,*

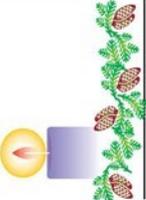
Global Mission Fellows International from Sierra Leone serving in Germany

## Advent begins –

November 29 is  
the first Sunday of Advent.  
Please tune in at 10:30 a.m. as we  
celebrate the new season!



# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1  ALL SAINTS DAY	2 6 pm SPRC 6:30 pm Social Concerns	3  7 pm Missions	4 BUDGETS DUE 6 pm "Moving Forward" Mtg.	5	6	7
8	9 6 pm SPRC 6:30 pm Social Concerns	10 11 am BadGirls 	11 	12	13	14
15	16	17 6 pm Finance	18 6:30 pm Anti-Racism Mtg.  GOALS DUE	19	20	21
22 CHRIST THE KING	23 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed	24 11 am BadGirls 5:30 pm Trustees	25	26 	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29  FIRST SUNDAY OF Advent	30 6 pm Church Council					



**First United Methodist Church**

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

400 N. Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN

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



Missions Commission  
Fundraiser  
for Mission Trips

**November 10, 2020**

**Plymouth Hacienda**

Eat at Plymouth Hacienda anytime on

**Tuesday, November 10**

To support **ALL OUR MISSION WORK TEAMS.**

Just bring your special token

and our group gets **20% of all sales.**

Carry-out, eat in, or purchase gift cards—

**It all counts!**

You can pick up “tokens”  
at the church, print the  
one here, or present an  
electronic version on  
your phone or pad.



**Crop Walk Report**

by Carol Beiter

Our church participated in the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, September 27th. We are happy to report the goal for Marshall County was to raise \$5,100.00. The goal was exceeded! Thanks to all who donated to this worthy project....Ending Hunger One Step At A Time!!!

## Trusting God with tomorrow as we grow into a new season

Philippians 4:6-7 provides the scriptural foundation for our Fall Stewardship campaign. Paul’s word to the people of Philippi reads “Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.”

Though we don’t know exactly what is ahead, we do know that the Church is

Christ’s Body, that we are alive and well, and we continue to have work to do in our community and world. God is in charge, and because of this, our future is assured.

Please pray about how you will give to Christ’s ministry through First United Methodist Church, and return your completed Estimate of Giving to the church (in person inside the Adam’s Street door during office hours or through the mail) by November 13th.

# Mission Trip to Henderson Settlement



Mike Woolfington, Carol Beiter, Brent & Mary Kaufman, and Ralph Booker met up with Steve and Sharon Westfall the last week of October.

Here are pictures from their first 2 days of work. It looks like they are making good progress!



If only the rain will hold off a few more days!



**Set your clocks back!**  
**Sunday, November 1st!**  
**Daylight Savings Time ends!**



### Crockpot Project Report by Ruth Van Vactor

Thank you to all who donated crockpots for the Neighborhood Center. They were SO appreciative. They shared a story with us; a couple came in the day before to apply for assistance, they had never had to do that before. They asked if there was any way they could get a crockpot to fix meals for their family! Normally, the Neighborhood Center would not necessarily have any crockpots, however, thanks to First United Methodist Church, they knew they could help this family. God is good . . . all the time; All the time . . . God is good. Thank you!

## E-Giving with Vanco

Download the free app from either the App Store or Google Play.

Allow access to location services if you'd like to use the app's "Find Churches Near Me" feature or search for "GivePlus Church". The app is free and you are not charged to make donations.

After you select our church, it automatically becomes your "home" or "default" church. The next time you open the app, the church you last selected will already be displayed.

GivePlus Church donations can be made with all major debit/credit cards. Use your phone's camera to quickly scan your card

information or enter it manually. You can also give or pay using your checking or savings account. If you like, you may add to your donation to the church to help offset fees. If you set up an account and are logged in, you will receive a receipt via email, and you will also be able to view transactions in your giving history. You may set up recurring giving if you like. If you are giving to multiple funds, you can even set up different frequencies of recurring donations for each fund to which you are donating.



Scan this QR code to go to Vanco E-Giving!

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



400 N. Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

Email: [office@plymouthfirstumc.org](mailto:office@plymouthfirstumc.org)

*Watch services on  
Facebook!*

*Sundays at 10:30 am*

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

## November Preaching Plan

**November 1, 2020**

***All Saints Day***

***Communion Sunday***

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Title: Trusting Tomorrow: Giving Thanks for the Past The Family Album

Theme: We've been studying the Old Testament for some weeks now, and it's been good to remember how our ancestors in the faith learned and grew as they faced various challenges. So, too, are we called to carry on, to learn and grow, as we encounter unexpected times and challenges.

Blessed are God's people who remain faith-

ful and committed to living into God's future.

**November 8, 2020**

***23rd Sunday after Pentecost***

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

Title: Remember to Take the Oil!

Theme: As Jesus tells this story about the 5 wise bridesmaids and the 5 foolish ones, he's speaking to a community who is beginning to see that the end times will not be coming as quickly as they had expected, so it's important that the faith community be

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