

# First News

First United Methodist Church

## A Note from Pastor Toni

August, 2020

Volume 20, Issue 8

Dear Friends,

This new school year is about to begin, and this year will be like none other in our history.

Of our 5 grandchildren, one just graduated from high school, having “missed” so many of those senior year markers that we took for granted until recently. Two carloads of us were able to witness his graduation via a jumbotron kind of thing. Their royal blue masks matched their robes in the same way that Plymouth’s graduates sported their matching masks and gowns. Later, his girlfriend’s school was able to host a prom for their students and guests. We’ll have photographs to re-



Our Grandson, Clayton

member the uniqueness of this year.

Our Clayton is 5 and begins kindergarten this Fall, while 10-year-old Olivia will begin 5th grade in a new school in another part of town because her mommy is getting married and they’re moving in September.

She didn’t get to say goodbye to the friends she’s gone to school with since the beginning, and the whole new place with all new people can’t help but be a little intimidating.

The situations of my own grandchildren causes my heart to ache for all children,

*(Continued on page 6)*

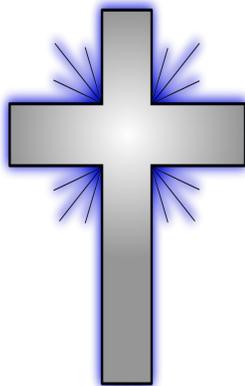
---

Inside this issue:

Church in the Park, August Community Meal, 3rd Grade Bibles	2
Social Concerns News, August Birthdays	3
Outreach News	4-5
August Calendar of Meetings	9
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6

## Worship in the Park, Sunday, August 2, 10:30 am

Meet with us, Sunday, August 2nd, at the Rotary Pavilion in Centennial Park at 10:30 a.m. Bring your own chairs, your mask, and hopefully you won't need your umbrellas. If you're not ready to be around people and won't be attending, that's okay. We will record the service and it will be shared on Facebook after the service. We had



thought we could livestream as we usually do, but we're uncertain of the internet connection available, so we'll forgo that and simply record, rather than just losing the connection at some point. If it's raining, stay home—we will livestream the service as usual. But Pastor Toni is hoping to see some eyes smiling behind masks on Sunday.

---

## August Community Meal



The monthly Community Meal will be held on Wednesday, August 26th from 5-7 pm. The menu will include sloppy joes, veggie mix (cucumber, tomatoes, etc.), chips and brownie.

Community Meal will again be Drive Thru only.

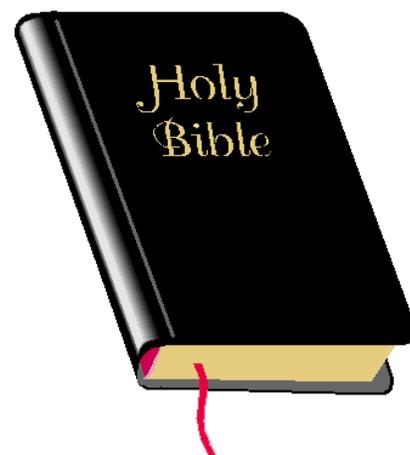
---

## Third Grade Bibles

Do you know a student in our church who will be starting 3rd grade this fall? We would like to give them a Bible. Please contact the church office to make sure your 3rd grader is on our list!

Thanks!

Barbie Pickut, Chair, Youth & Education





How blessed we are to be part of a congregation that shares God's love by giving to those less fortunate! In July, your contributions enabled us to give \$800 to Link to Hope, \$300 to Neighborhood Center, \$300 to Bread of Life, \$100 to our church's community meal, and \$100 to David's Courage, a drug treatment center. That's a lot of caring!



In this time of economic difficulties, we hope you will continue to give, as that is what God asks of us. God bless you!

---

## August Birthdays

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



# HAPPY AUGUST TO THE FUMC FAMILY!!!!

## A word of support and outreach from our district superintendent:

*Praise be to God as we continue to share the love of Jesus Christ to our communities. I can't imagine that one year is over since I became your Conference Superintendent. During these past twelve months, I have learned from you what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and furthermore, what being Church means. Thank you for walking with me and supporting our pastors, district and conference.*

### *A few reminders:*

1. *Don't be too expectant to go back to in-person worship. COVID-19 continues to impact every aspect of our operations. My warning to you all is that the future is not clear on where we will be as relates to in-person worship. For now, I encourage you to look at the current situation as a new way of being church and be adaptable to this reality.*

2. *Don't be oversensitive of when you will get back to church. We know we are the Church and Christ in us continues to shine in and outside the buildings.*

3. *Don't miss the missional opportunity during this period of adaptability. Design strategies that will virtually reach and mature more people for Jesus and be a resource to your communities.*

4. *Don't think that you are only serving those inside the walls of your building. Our pastors are now global pastors more than any time in history. Your online messages and Facebook comments are not for those only considered members of your church, but rather to the whole world watching and following you.*

*Remember, I am here for you and you are there for me.*

*Miss you all!  
Saneta Maiko*

## From Pastor Toni:

“Our reopening team met and made the decision that we will go forward with the tentative plans we had



made to worship together outside at the Rotary Pavilion at Centennial Park on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 a.m. Please bring your own chairs, plan to social distance, and bring your facemask with you just in case. We will not share in the sacrament of Holy Communion, and will plan the various elements of worship following current health and safety guidelines. It will be different, but it will be very good to see one another! We will plan on livestreaming the service for those who are not ready to be out and about.

After that outside service on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, WE WILL RESUME online livestreaming worship only, until at least September 13<sup>th</sup>. The reopening team will meet again the end of August to consider trends and what we feel comfortable doing as we move into the Fall season.”

Bible studies and other groups (10 or fewer participants) that usually meet at the church are welcome to resume in person meetings, in Fellowship Hall, maintaining social distance guidelines and wearing masks. **EVERYONE** who enters

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Happy August continued

(Continued from page 4)

the church must wear a mask. Realizing that most masks we wear are homemade or disposable and not the N95 filtering masks, we realize that doing this is not for our own protection, but for the care of others who are present with you. However, if we all wear masks, we have a better chance of not sharing the virus. If your group—or if you—do not feel comfortable meeting in-person, that is okay. The location of these meetings—whether in person or via Zoom—are completely at your discretion. You know your health and comfort better than anyone else does.

As Pastor Toni reminded us last month, and it bears repeating: “We all truly miss worshipping together face-to-face and the blessings of being together in community; however, in seeking to **do no harm**, we will continue to worship on-line. We will continue to seek to **do good** by remaining in contact with one another, sharing joys and concerns, and lifting up our prayers for one another. We will continue to challenge one another to grow in our faith and discipleship as we **attend to the ordinances of God** as we worship, share the Sacraments, study God’s word, give and serve.”

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

Dominos and Euchre

The Lunch Bunch

First Sunday Brunch

Knit Two, Pray Three (will resume in September)

Blessed Bookies & Bad Girls will continue gathering in August....

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

Many 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 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.

***God bless each step that you take today, whether that road is rough or smooth.***

***And in God’s strength***

***step out in faith,  
step out in love,  
step out in peace,  
and bless this world with God’s presence  
in and through your life.***

Once again, thank you for spreading love, and remember that

God is good....all the time!

Blessings,

**The Outreach and Support Committee**

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

## A Note from Pastor Toni continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

for their parents and their teachers in this Covid-19 year. I know so many families have had to make the difficult decision of choosing between classroom and virtual learning, although some have no real choice because they can't work and oversee their child(ren)'s studies at the same time. Lack of socialization over the past months has created anxiety for some children as they prepare to leave their homes and resume a routine that is far from routine, and teachers are navigating completely uncharted territory. We've identified a number of heroes during Covid, and teachers are most definitely included in that amazing group.

With all this in mind, I've adapted a prayer that comes originally from our United Methodist Book of Worship. May we each be in prayer for our students, parents, teachers, administrators and staff as this new school year begins.

At the beginning of a new school year, O God of wisdom,  
we offer thanks and praise for the gift of new beginnings  
and for the opportunity to learn and to wonder.

We pray for teachers, students, and staff that this year will be rewarding for all.

Strengthen and empower them,  
grant them wisdom and  
bless them with creativity and joy as they  
bless children

with the gift of knowledge.

Be with us as we face the challenge of new tasks, and new ways of doing things, the fear of failure, the expectations of parents, friends, and self.

Be with us as we navigate this time in history,  
that our children will experience joy and blessing in relationships,  
that they may safely and without fear learn lessons that will make them stronger and even more resilient to the changing tides in our

world today.

In our learning and our teaching,  
may we grow in service to others and in love for your world,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Love and blessings,



# I need daily, prayerful fellowship with God if I am to have His thoughts make their home in me. by Dorothy Steinke

I have told the Joy Breaks group and several others that I will be moving to Murray, KY. That will happen Labor Day weekend. I have been a member of this church since November 28, 1982. The church and all the members have been a good home for me. Thanks for all the support and love you have given me. My daughter has promised to bring me back several times a year to visit. Kathy says she will continue to send me the newsletters so I can keep track of all of you. I will continue to pray for Plymouth First.

*Dorothy Steinke*

“Pray in the spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.”

Ephesians 6:18

## **Mission Witness**

While serving with the Churches' Commission for migrants in Europe advocating for adequate migration and asylum policies as well as for minority rights. I saw God's light of hope in European churches. In Belgium, they stood up to fight against violations of the rights of God's creation through declarations on migration policies, and local church members' offered support to the homeless, clear signs of God's light in the Belgian community. My mission service gave me courage to not have fear but to just take my first step and God will accomplish all the rest. Doing justice praises God.

*Jean Pierre Habimana*

Global Mission Fellows International from Rwanda serving in Belgium



To the Members of the First United Methodist Church,

Thank you for all the cards, notes, phone calls and text you have shared with us. We are truly a church family.

The food you provided was so tasty. A special thanks to the Casserole Committee for their efforts.

Thank you to Pastor Toni for the kind visits and the thoughtfulness she shared with our family during this time of loss and grief.

Attending Church was very important to Bill, especially at the First United Methodist Church in Plymouth.

Sincerely,

Lynn Gee

## Sunday Afternoon Music by Dorothy Steinke

My Sunday afternoon entertainment while I fix dinner after church is to listen to some of my CD's. I found one of my old Neal Diamond CD's. As I was listening, he sang one song that I don't remember hearing. It is a secular song but I enjoyed the message.

### Leave a Little Room for God

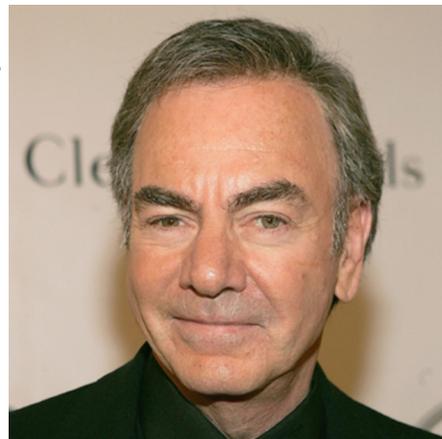
Leave a little room for God  
as you're goin' through the day  
leave a little room for God  
you know He won't get in your way

Save a little place inside  
somewhere you can call your own  
then leave a little room for God  
and you won't ever be alone

Every day is so mysterious  
you wonder how things came to be  
and when you start to get real curious  
well, He's the man you want to see

So leave a little room for God  
just in case you need a friend  
everyone's got rainy days  
it isn't so much if, but when

Life is like a gift we're given  
every single day is new  
we're thankful for the time we're livin'  
but thankful exactly to who



C'mon now, put your money in the bank  
and drive around a big old car  
just leave a little room for God  
or it won't take you very far

Yeah, leave a little room for God  
as your going down the road  
He'll not only point the way  
He's gonna help you with the load

Yeah. leave a little room for God  
and thank your lucky stars above  
that He'll be leaving room for you  
He's always got some room for love  
leave a little room for God, my friend  
and He'll have room for you  
just need to leave a little room for Him too

---

## Streaming Church Services

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/plymouthfumc](http://www.facebook.com/plymouthfumc). The Well is streaming live as well at 5 pm on Sundays:

[www.facebook.com/TheWellPlymouth](http://www.facebook.com/TheWellPlymouth). If Facebook isn't your thing, the ser-



vices are also posted on YouTube. Just search for First United Methodist Church of Plymouth, Indiana. You will find the Children's Message, Sunday service and The Well videos, all on the same "channel".



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR TO SEE IF YOU ARE MEETING and/or VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON.						1
2 10:30 am Church in the Park—Rotary Pavilion	3	4 7 pm Missions	5	6	7	8
9	10 6:30 pm Social Concerns (Zoom)	11 11 am Bad Girls 6:30 pm Worship	12	13	14	15
16	17	18 6 pm Finance	19	20	21	22
23	24 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed	25 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees	26 5-7 Community Meal (Drive thru only)	27	28	29
30	31					

## August Preaching Plan continued

(Continued from page 12)

How might God be working through even the most difficult stories of our lives to bring redemption?

### August 16, 2020

11th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 45:1-15

Title: Redemption

Theme: Joseph finally reveals his identity to his brothers and offers them the opportunity to live under his care and protection. Ultimately—by the grace of God, what they had intended as harm saved the lives of many. How has God's grace worked in your life?

### August 23, 2020

12th Sunday after Pentecost

David Hogsett preaching

(Text, Title, Theme to be determined)

### August 30, 2020

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 3:1-15

Title: Let My People Go!

Theme: Moses listens to God's plan to rescuing the people of Israel, and responds with many questions. Is he a reluctant to follow God's instruction or does he lack confidence to do what he's being called to do? What holds us back? Lack of faith in God or lack of faith in ourselves?

## Online Giving Using Vanco

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

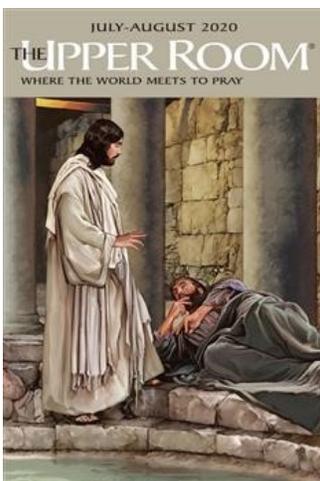
Allow access to location services if you'd like to use the app's "Find Churches Near Me" feature or search for "GivePlus Church". The app is free and you are not charged to make donations.

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!



## THE UPPER ROOM IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Remember that the Upper Room magazine is available in large or small format at the Education Building during office hours. Just ring the bell and Kathy will direct you to this lovely daily devotional.

August 2 at 10:30 a.m.  
First United Methodist Church will:



at the **Rotary Shelter**  
(next to the Shuffle Board Courts)  
**in Centennial Park**

Bring your own chair – and a mask, in case we cannot “social distance”.

If you prefer to stay at home, the service will be recorded and posted on Facebook.

We will not be celebrating communion.

Parking and restrooms available.

In case of inclement weather – we will livestream the service from the Fellowship Hall as is our “current normal”.

---

## First United Methodist Church



400 N. Michigan St.

Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

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

---

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

**We're on the Web:**  
[plymouthfumc.org](http://plymouthfumc.org)

---

## August Preaching Plan

### **August 2, 2020**

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Senior Recognition

Text: Genesis 32:22-31

Title: The Wrestler

Theme: After working for 20 years for his father-in-law Laban, Jacob prepares to return to his home with his family and flocks. He develops a plan to pacify his brother Esau who he wronged and spends the night wrestling with God. How do times of struggle affect our walk with God? How does our relationship with God affect our view of problems in our lives and

world?

### **August 9, 2020**

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Genesis 37:1-4,12-28

Title: A Dreamer's Rude Awakening

Theme: Joseph is his father's favorite and is clueless how his preferred status alienates his brothers. His brothers sell him to traveling merchants and suddenly his world shifts. What might we be failing to see that impacts our relationships with God and one another?

*(Continued on page 9)*

---