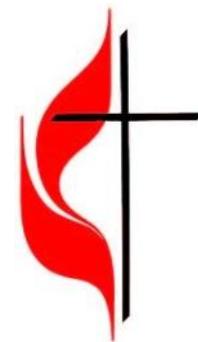


# First News



Volume 19, Issue 9    September 2019

First United Methodist Church

## Inside this issue:

Community Meal, A.S.K. information	2
UMM, Mothers'	3
Mission Tenderloin Fry Fund-raiser	4
Prayer Time by	5
September Calendar	7
Mission Minded	9
Outreach News	10
Birthday Calendar, Social Concerns, September Worship Participants	11

## A Note From Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

Each August I look forward to attending the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) to listen to leaders in the church and from a variety of businesses and organizations around the world, as they share stories of leadership, community and transformation. For 2 days, I joined with more than 400,000 people in 135+ countries and I came away inspired: some of the lessons I learned are lessons I learned long ago and have left forgotten in some ecclesiastical closet. Some of the lessons I learned were new insights. Through it all, I was reminded how important leadership is (*"when the leader gets better, everyone in the organization benefits!"*), and that **all** of us are leaders—all of us are people who have influence.

Since we are all leaders and you -like me- may need inspiring, here are a few statements I heard that I thought may be helpful as we lead and serve together:



**Craig Groeschel**  
Co-Founder & Senior Pastor,  
Life.Church

**\*GETMO - Good Enough to Move On.** Craig Groeschel warned us that perfectionism can get in the way of the mission of the church, the performance of our team at

work, or the effectiveness of our teaching in the classroom. When working on a project or ministry, invest enough time and energy to be Good Enough to Move On (GETMO). *"Perfection is the enemy of progress,"* he said. *"The pursuit of perfection will limit you."*



### **\*Changing an Unhealthy Culture.**

How do we change a congregational, office, or family culture that is toxic? Bozoma Saint

John, a chief marketing officer, said, *"Changing culture is a group effort."* It cannot be done alone by a principal, pastor, or CEO but the movement towards health is a group effort. As a leader and team member, we can turn to others and ask them, *"What can we do to make your experience here better?"*

### **\*Being an Open and Inclusive Community.**

Our nation seems to be coming apart, with one group *in* and other groups *on the outside*. Many congregations struggle because different age groups, mission teams, and Sunday school classes limit themselves to their own group (s). Saint John, who is African-American, talked about becoming a genuinely open and diverse community or organization. She said

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Community Meal Wednesday, September 25 5-7 pm

Menu:

Sloppy Joes on Buns

Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Chips

Brownies

Please come and welcome the community diners! Many thanks to this committee and its helpers. In July, over 95 people were served. We are truly making a difference in Plymouth!



### ASK September News by Aaron Woodcox

Starting September 8th, ASK's meeting structure will be changing. We will meet for one combined gathering from 6-7:30 pm. Jr. High and High School will meet together. The 2 reasons for this are to allow students who are in sports to be able to attend more regularly and to allow other students who are part of other churches to attend more frequently. The schedule of how meetings will run are as follows:

6:00 Praise and Worship Songs, Announcements

6:30 Jr. High and High School will separate for 30 minutes for their lessons

7:00 Groups will rejoin for a game and prayer time

Planned weekly snacks will be eliminated. Your student is welcome to bring snacks for the entire group if you like. The focus will be more on spiritual

food and friendship this upcoming year.

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to Becki Martinez or myself.

In Christ,

*Aaron Woodcox*

*Director of Student Ministries*

*Becki Martinez*

*Asst. Director of Student Ministries*

#### **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:**

8/25 4:30 pm BB Stomp Packing Party for the Race at St. Thomas

9/1 Labor Day NO regular ASK meeting

9/2 Blueberry Stomp Race

9/14 Bonfire party with the Walnut Church of the Brethren Youth Group @ Pastor Aaron's house

**ASK WILL MEET AT ST. THOMAS DURING SEPTEMBER.**



The Blueberry Stomp is the biggest ASK fundraiser. We need your help: **Packing party at St. Thomas on August 25th at 4:30 pm.** Pizza and drinks will be provided.

## United Methodist Men Info by David Hogsett

The United Methodist Men will be meeting on Saturday, September 21, at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast.

Chris Garner, the Director of the Marshall County Neighborhood Center, will be the speaker. The Neighborhood Center is one of the projects the church supports. Her husband Kurt is one of the persons that the church consulted about the problems with the dome. Mike Dixon, a retired UMC minister who attends our church along with his wife, will be giving the devotional.

Every Wednesday at 6:45 A.M.

a group of men meet at Christ's for Bible Study. They are working their way through the Bible.

There will be a planning meeting for the United Methodist Men on Monday September 16th at 8:00 P.M. Come and bring your ideas about possibilities for the men.

All the men are invited to join the United Methodist Men for their programs. We had a good turn-out for the trip to the South Bend Cubs. The men from Trinity United Methodist have indicated an interest in working with our men's group.



**September  
UMM  
breakfast:  
9/21 at 8 am in  
the  
Fellowship  
Hall**

**Blueberry  
Sunday - 9/1**  
One service only  
**10:00 a.m.**

## September Mothers' Club

We will meet at the Education Building at 7 pm on Monday, September 9th. We will walk over the Woman's Care Center to pray over the rooms and then return to the Education Building to fulfill our yearly child protection policy obligations. Please bring a recipe that you think might be a good freezer meal for a future Meals for Methodists. Hope to see you there!



## *Mission Fundraiser*

# **Tenderloin Sandwich with Fries - \$10.00**

(Cooked by Ralph Smith)

**Saturday, 9/21  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



**Drive Thru Service**

Sandwich also sold separately

Baked Goods - Donation

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
400 North Michigan Street, Plymouth  
West Parking Lot (by Red-D-Mart)**

*Advance tickets are available at the church office,  
936-2943, from a mission trip participant,  
or a member of Missions Commission.*

***Proceeds to benefit Mission Trips***

## Prayer Time By Dorothy Steinke

Through prayer I can have the Father's presence every moment of the day for my happiness and strength.

**Everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, provided it is received with thanksgiving.** 1 Timothy 4:4

One of my daily devotions several weeks ago dealt with giving thanks before meals. Do we just say a quick prayer [bless this food to the nourishment of my body]?

Do we remember those that planted and tended it? All it took to get it to the market. and those who prepared the meal? I know my son-in-law always remembers the women who cooked the meal. I know hunters that thank the animal that just gave its life so that they could enjoy a meal. I admit I am remiss in thanking all those who in some way helped put my meal on the table.



### Mission statement

I was named Sunday school teacher and honored with a very large responsibility to teach children ages 4-10 about the love and sacrifice of our God. I feel very happy to plant a seed of hope in their hearts, teach them through songs and games

about the life of Jesus. I love to watch their faces when I tell them that Jesus loves them so much that he gave his life for each one of them - their faces light up! I will always be very grateful to United Methodist Women for having awarded me the scholarship and thus I was able to complete my studies. You will always be in my heart and my prayer is that God continues to bless your work.

*Liga Raquel Ixa Chicaíza*

United Methodist Women indigenous scholarship recipient from Ecuador

### An Indian prayer

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset. Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice. Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people. Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock. I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy - myself. Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

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## A note from the Office by Kathy Smitha, Office Administrator

Hello all!

I've been told some people are having problems receiving emails from the office. I am currently using MailChimp to send out to groups. This causes some email programs to send my emails to your spam (junk mail) folder. Please check there and mark the email "not spam" (or "not

junk"). This should put it back into your inbox and solve the problem.



I'd also like to remind all groups who use the building to shut off lights, air conditioners and be sure doors are locked when you leave.

Thanks so much for your help and cooperation!

## A Note From Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 1)

something like, *"Inclusion is inviting others who aren't like you to the party, but real diversity is asking them to dance."* It's not enough to walk by one another at school, in the factory, or in the church, but we need to invite those we don't know and those different than us into our lives!

**\*Leaders are Always Learning.** Liz Bohannon, co-founder and CEO of Sseko Designs, started an African company (flip-flops that don't flop) that empowers women around the world. Leaders are always learning, she pointed out. We gain competence and then we discover it is time to begin another learning curve. *"Great leaders not only celebrate completion of a learning cycle, but they celebrate finding themselves back at incompetence, starting to learn new lessons."* We are always beginners and we are never finished growing!

*"Each of us is terribly broken and beautifully bright,"* Liz told us.

*"Dream small and start there,"*

Liz said as she remembered starting with an idea for a flip-flop that wouldn't flop.

**\*Stop Waiting.** Ben Sherwood, a former top executive at ABC News and Disney, reminded us that some of us are always waiting to start pursuing a dream. *"What are you waiting for?"* he asked us. *"Quit talking and waiting, and start doing!"*

**\*The Importance of Connecting with People.** *"Only connect,"* Ben said. Connect with your team members, connect with the people in your school or congregation. You can't lead people without taking the time to connect with them.

**\*Every Generation Can Lead.** An expert on the different values and work habits of different generations, Jason Dorsey told us that every generation brings something important to the world, and every generation (Baby Boomers, Millennials, and Generation Z) can lead. More mature leaders need to provide younger workers/employees/team members with specific examples of what is expected, and offer quick feedback.

**\*Disruption as an Invitation.** Danielle Strickland helped us see that times of change can be unsettling, but *"Disruption is not a threat but an invitation to growth and something new."* We live in a world of change (in the church, schools, community, and world) and it can feel like we're trying to sit/stand on a wobbly chair. But during times of change and uncertainty, we need to help steady one another and see the disruption as an opportunity to grow and move towards something that is both different and better.

**\*The Art of Negotiation.** Former veteran of the FBI's hostage negotiation team, Chris Voss shared the importance of hearing one another and collaboration (*"let's solve this together"*) when we deal with conflict and difference of opinion. *"Hear the other side out,"* he told us. *"Turn the negotiation into a collaboration."*

**\*Don't be a Super-Hero.** Todd Henry helps companies and organizations establish practices that lead to *"everyday brilliance."* As he talked to tens of thousands of leaders, Todd said:

*"You must earn the right to be followed every single day."*

*"Trust is the currency of creative teams. When you break trust*

(Continued on page 8)



**Danielle Strickland**  
Pastor; Author;  
Justice Advocate

*"Disruption is not a threat but an invitation to growth and something new."*



# September 2019

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



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ONLY ONE SERVICE — 10 AM	2  <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	3 ◆ 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	4 ■ 4	5 ⌘ ☺ ⚡	6	7
8 9:30 am Sunday School each week	9 6 pm SPRC 7 pm Mothers' Club	10 ◆ 11 am Bad Girls 7 pm Social Concerns	11 ■ 11	12 ⌘ ☺ ⚡ American Legion Traveling Viet Nam Wall	13	14
15 9:30 am Sunday School each week	16 6 pm Outreach 8 pm UMM Planning Mtg.	17 ◆ 6 pm Finance	18 ■ 18	19 ⌘ ☺ ⚡ 2-4 pm Game Day	20 Lunch Bunch @ Marilyn's Amish Kitchen Bremen	21 8 am UMM Breakfast 10-2 Missions Tenderloin Fry
22 <b>Cookie Sunday</b> 9:30 am Sunday School each week <b>CROP WALK</b>	23 5:30 pm Blessed Books 7 pm Youth & Education	24 ◆ 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees	25 ■ 25 5-7 Community Meal	26 ⌘ ☺ ⚡	27	28
29 5 pm Sharon Tarwater concert @ The Well	30	<b>KEY:</b> ◆ Boy Scouts: Tuesdays @ 7 pm ■ Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays @ 6:45 @ Christos ● Choir: Wednesdays @ 7 pm ⌘ (7:15 last Wed of the month) days @ 12:30 ⌘ Early Birds: Thursdays @ 6 am @ Pickup's ☺ Joy Breaks: Thursdays @ noon ⚡ Women's Bible Study: Thurs-				

**SUNDAY SERVICES:**  
8:30 & 10:30 AM WORSHIP  
5 PM THE WELL

## A Note From Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 6)



**Jo Saxton**  
 Author; Leadership Coach;  
 Entrepreneur

*as a leader, it is like popping a water balloon. You break it and lose it all."*

*"Leaders must have the courage to declare the undeclarables," referring to what isn't right and needs to be addressed.*

*"Being a superhero and trying to look always strong, having all the answers, and doing it all, just pushes people away."*

*"Take care of you," he reminded the leaders. Take time to center, be renewed, and chase inspiration.*

**\*Three Questions for Leaders.** Jo Saxton, who works with congregations and women leaders around the world, gave us three questions:

*"Who were you before anyone told you who you were supposed to be?"*

*"If your body could talk to you, what would it say?" (Jo then told us about the physical, emotional and spiritual exhaustion that nearly derailed her in midlife.)*

*"Who are your people?" she challenged us. 44% of employees feel burned out all or part of the time, and 50% of CEO's in a 2010 survey said they feel lonely. We were designed for community and connection. Chronic loneliness is dangerous.*

**\*Reward-centered Leadership and Servant Leadership.** Organization consultant, Patrick Lencioni, said, *"Fewer people should be leaders."* He then explained that some people lead because of what they can get out of it, and others lead because of how they can serve others. *"Be aware of your motive,"* he challenged all leaders. *"If*

*your 'why' is wrong, all the 'how to' advice on leadership won't matter."*

If leaders are leading because they want to be liked, or because they just want power or money, they won't risk doing the hard but necessary things like having difficult conversations, managing their direct reports, running meetings with effectiveness, building the team, and over-communicating the core principles/mission of the church, team, or business.

++++

All of us have influence.

Many of us have the capacity to lead in one way or another. What are you doing to keep your faith connection with God strong? What are you doing to be clear about your life mission and the mission/purpose of your church, your ministry group, or your business?

Powerful, effective, world-changing leadership ultimately comes down to serving. Jesus said he didn't come to be served but to serve. Businesses, cities, nations, schools, and churches will thrive when their leaders focus on getting better and always leading as a servant. Great leaders see leadership as a servant role, and they focus on helping others get better.

I'm thankful to be serving and growing alongside you!

In Christ,

*Toni*

“Powerful, effective, world-changing leadership ultimately comes down to serving.”



**Patrick Lencioni**  
 Best-Selling Author;  
 Founder, The Table Group

## MISSION MINDED

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***Thanks to everyone who has supported our bake sales this summer!***

***Upcoming Fundraiser!  
Tenderloin Sandwiches and Fries***

***Saturday, September 21, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.***

***See the separate flier.***



Mission trips are not supported by the church budget. Money for any of the trips comes from fundraisers, donations given specifically for use by the Missions Commission or put in the baskets on the third Sunday of the month. Thanks for your support!

### **UPCOMING WORK TRIP:**

**OCTOBER 20 - 25, 2019 HENDERSON SETTLEMENT**

A group of volunteers will be traveling to Frakes, Kentucky for the week of October 20, returning on October 25. 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 opportunities are available if your talents lay in other directions.

- ***Now's the time to get signed up or find out more.*** Contact persons are Mike Woolfington and Carol Beiter.



### **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.

### **KIDS HOPE**

Do you have an hour to give once a week? Mentors are needed to be a special friend and provide consistency for at-risk elementary students at Webster Elementary. Volunteers will be matched with a student and then trained. Each volunteer will join their student once a week during the student's lunch time. You are to be the child's friend; you are not expected to tutor or counsel the child. This is a commitment for the entire school year, but if you need to occasionally miss a week, you may simply inform the teacher. This program will start in September. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Beth Pinkerton.



### **SHOPPING CART FOR NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER:**

The Shopping Cart has made the move with us to the Fellowship Hall! Items placed in the shopping cart are taken to the Neighborhood Center on a regular basis. Suggested items include non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, and cash.

## The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in the Events Below...



Small groups and concerts provide opportunities for entertainment, worship, and fellowship!

Share the family of FUMC with friends & neighbors!

Small groups and concerts provide opportunities for entertainment, worship, and fellowship!

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

**September 20:** Marilyn's Amish Kitchen (Bremen)

**October 18:** Dam Landing (Rochester)

**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.

**Blessed Bookies:** The 4th Mondays of the month at Miller's As-

sisted Living at 5:30 PM. September will feature "The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper." Please join us as we examine this popular book. Even if you have never come, please join us for a stimulating discussion!

**Bad Girls:** This gathering of women meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 11:00 in the Education Building (main floor). In June we started studying another of Liz Curtis Higgs' book: "It's Good to be Queen." It's not too late to be part of this group! We always go to lunch afterwards!!

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

### MUSICAL CONCERTS IN OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

These concerts are held at 5:00 at the Well. Please plan to come & bring music loving friends!

Sharon Tarwater will perform Tennessee tunes

Sunday, NOVEMBER 10, 2019  
5:00 at the Well



Steve Douglas & 48th Guitar!

Re-scheduled for October 27, 2019

Steve brings California music to Plymouth Indiana!!!

# September Birthdays

First United Methodist Church



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

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Joanne Boys	2 Jan Heeren	3 Dick Stinson	4	5	6 William Smith	7
8 Chelse Corwin	9 Michael Stump	10	11	12	13	14
15 Lynn Gee	16	17 Crystal Pier	18 Brenda Pedavoli	19	20 Johrdon Boys Dave Goebel	21 Carol Beiter Toni Carmer
22	23	24 Emily Cochern	25 Sharon Balka	26 Donna Hemmig	27	28
29 Jim Easterday	30 Betty Cleeter					



### Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman

Our neighbors who are less fortunate are so grateful to you for your generous giving to Social Concerns. You help support Heminger House, Link to Hope, Neighborhood Center, and Bread of Life Food Pantry. We are doing as God asks by serving those in need right here in Plymouth. Thank you!

September Worship Participants					
	8:30 Liturgist	10:30 Liturgist	Greeters	10:30 Sound System	Ushers
1	ONE SERVICE 10 AM Susan Wautelet		David & Diane Hogsett	(10 am) Mike Woolfington	Woody Schinbeckler, Ed Kelso, Robin Cupka, Dan Bates
8	Cathy Clough	Carol Beiter	Bob & Carol Beiter	Volunteer	
15	Pam Michel	Carol Beiter	Barb Friesner	Ralph Booker	
22	Susan Wautelet	Ruth Van Vactor	Dean & Judie Luther	Robin Cupka	
29	Deb Wise	Ruth Van Vactor	Robin Cupka	Scott Carmer	

# First United Methodist Church



400 N. Michigan St.  
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943  
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## September Preaching Plan

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### September 1

12th Sunday after Pentecost

#### **Communion**

Text: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Title: Humble Pie

Theme: Jesus truthfully notes the inequities that exist in our ways of distributing the goods of the world. He not only notes these inequities, he commands us to respond to them by modeling behavior that is different from the ways of the world.

### September 8

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Luke 14: 25-33

Title: Calculated Risk

Theme: To join Jesus is to engage in some serious assessments, counting the costs of following him and of

what we will have to leave behind to do so.

### September 15

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Luke 15:1-10

Title: Lost

Theme: God didn't wait for us to come to our senses and come to God; God came to us, sought us out, searched for us, and saved us. When Jesus was criticized for partying with sinners, he responded with stories of people who searched for and found the lost. Jesus Christ is the one who seeks and saves sinners, inviting them to celebrate the inclusive, embracing love of God.

### September 22

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Luke 16:1-13

Title: Shrewd

Theme: The good news of Jesus Christ is good news for sinners: our status with God is not dependent on who we are or what we have done but is solely a matter of who God is and what God has done. In Jesus Christ, what God has done is to welcome and receive sinners.

### September 29

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Luke 16:19-31

Title: Listen!

Theme: In a shocking turn, Jesus offers us a parable about us—one that offers a clear warning to those who think that God's kingdom has nothing to say about our wealth and our ways with money here and now. Here he offers a hard and harsh truth: are we able to listen?

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