

First News

January, 2020

First United Methodist Church

Volume 20, Issue 1

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A Note from Pastor Toni

Friends,



A new year, a fresh start, the opportunity to begin anew.

It seems to me that flipping the calendar over to a new year just a week after Christmas is perfect timing. As I finished the January preaching plan a little while ago, I wrote this related to the January 5th message theme: *“God is invisible, distant and incomprehensible—until the coming of Jesus in the flesh.”* But now, because of Christmas, we can see God, we can relate to God, we can understand God’s love and God’s message because of Jesus: because of what he taught and how he lived...and ultimately how and why he died.

We read throughout the Old Testament how God spoke through prophets, how God led, directed and equipped the people of Israel—and how often they lost track, how they didn’t listen, and so often headed their own direction and way. (We would never do that!) But with

the coming of Jesus, we were given flesh and blood evidence of God’s presence, and we can now better understand, live and follow God’s will and way.

The really good news is that we can let go of the past and embrace a new future. Where we’ve sinned, we can ask for forgiveness and move on. We can flip the calendar over, and know that the past is past, and commit to living a better way.

So far, I don’t have any big deal New Year resolutions. (I’m writing this pre-Christmas, so maybe something specific will come on the 31st). Okay, there are those I make every year and kind of keep: things like eating healthy (more veggies, less pop), exercising and that sort of thing. But ultimately, what I really want to do is to live joyfully, purposefully, and aligned to God’s claim on my life. I want to “see all the people” and not only those who look like me and live like I do. I want to notice the beauty around me that I too often take for granted. I want to enjoy my family and friends and to make good use of the time I’ve been given by cherishing them and letting them know how important they are to me. I want to invest in the future of my own family,

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A Note from Pastor Toni continued

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“I don’t know what’s ahead, but I do know who is in charge—of my future—and our future together.”

Pastor Toni

and of my church by mentoring, coaching and offering grace.

The knowledge of God’s grace has been so important to me and I want to be generous in offering it to others.

I know I say this often, but it’s important: I don’t know what’s ahead, but I do know who is in charge—of my future—and our future together. I’d like to wave a magic wand and have our sanctuary building “fixed,” to have all our questions answered, and to move forward confidently into a known destination. But I guess we’re already doing that. Christ is with us and is empowering us to be our best selves

even during these times when things are not what we might hope they’d be. I love the way we’re adapting, the way we’re figuring things out together, the way we’re worshipping and serving together. God is teaching us, God is gifting us in ways that we aren’t yet able to know or understand.

I pray New Year blessings upon you and yours and upon all of us. It *IS* a new year. We have been and continue to be blessed. God truly is good, all the time.

I love sharing this life together.

In Christ,

Toni



Sunday Brunch

**SUNDAY JANUARY 5,
2020 WE WILL BE GATH-
ERING**

**AT SYMPHONY AFTER
THE SECOND SERVICE
PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE
BACK OF FELLOWSHIP
HALL!!**

2020 Vision Gathering

You are invited!!

When: **Saturday, January 11**
 Time: **8 a.m. breakfast** (freshly made by our own Mike Woolfington)

9 a.m. The conversation begins...

We'll look at ministry goals, we'll see how the work we do fits together to fulfill our mission. We'll talk about our vision: "Love God, Love Others, Serve Others," and decide if this statement is complete, current and reflective of who we are and who we're seeking to be right now. We'll talk about ministry—how we can remain energized, vital and visible so that our community knows we're still here and still serving.

These are all important conversations and we want everyone who would like to join in to be present.

Please note that this gathering is not expected to include new information or particular conversation devoted to the specifics of what's happening in our sanctuary building. At this time we remain in conversation with our insurance company, determining the extent of their responsibility for payment of repairs. When we have information we will share it with you. Thank you for your patience and your continued commitment to ministry as we wait.



You are invited!

Saturday,

January 11th!

8 am Breakfast

9 am The conversation

begins...



COMMUNITY MEAL

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29, 2020

5:00 to 7:00 PM

Please come and welcome the community diners! Many thanks to this committee and its helpers.

Sign up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to provide food or help serve. In September, over 95 people were

served. We are truly making a difference in Plymouth.

Menu for January:

Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad and brownies

Menu for February:

Sloppy joes, baked beans, potato chips, coleslaw & cookies

The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in the Following Events...



**“Share the
family of
FUMC with
friends and
neighbors!”**

**Share the family of FUMC
with friends & neighbors!**

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

January 17, 2020....Opie's in
Plymouth

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 Assisted Living at
5:30 PM. The next gather-
ing will be January 27 as
we discuss "The D-Day
Girls". Please join us as we
examine this historical and
informative book. Even if

you have never come,
please join us for a stimu-
lating discussion!

Bad Girls: This gathering
of women meets the 2nd
and 4th Tuesdays at 11:00
in the Education Building
(main floor).

It's not too late to be part of
this group! We always go
to lunch afterwards!! Con-
tact Susan Wautelet for fur-
ther information.

We will begin studying
"Fierce...Women of the Bi-
ble" by Alice Connor on
January 14...Bad girl or
good girl? Come and find
out!!

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

The Outreach and Support Committee Needs Your Help



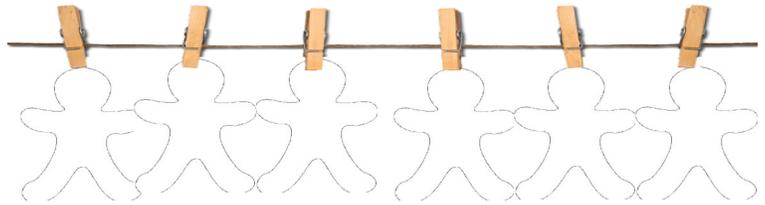
We are planning to gather
church members who would
be interested to visit our shut
in FUMC members no longer
able to attend church. If you
feel called to perform this lov-

ing and blessed outreach and
support to our members,
please contact Susan
Wautelet or anyone on the
Outreach/Support Committee.

*“This is my commandment. That you love one
another as I have loved you.” John 15:12*

Social Concerns Committee's Clothesline Project Report

by Mary Kaufman



The Social Concerns Committee's Clothesline project was a great success due to your generosity in shopping and donating funds so that 77 children in need each received 3 items of clothing. Christmas will be much brighter for these kids, thanks to you.

The Neighborhood Center is in need of canned

fruit and vegetables, cold cereal, canned soup and hamburger helper type meal starters.

Thanks so much for being such a caring church! We are truly doing God's work in helping others at Christmas and all through the year.

Youth & Education News by Barbie Pickut

Thank you to everyone who participated in **Bringing in Christmas in 2019!** Special thanks to Deb Jung and Allie Schell for planning and carrying out the quilt project, Kathy Mills for leading music during SS, Leanne Senter for choreographing and teaching 2 songs, Diane Laudeman for costume expertise, Sarah Smith for leading carol singing, Jeff Mills, Diane Hogsett, and Pam Michel for retrieving costumes, and all the SS teachers and parents who helped kids practice. There are so many times in the Bible where God told His people to celebrate holidays so they would remember what He had done for them. Yearly traditions like Bringing in Christmas are

one way we can do this for all ages.

If you would like to help nurture faith in our kids in 2020, here are some ways you can get involved:

- Teach or help with Junior Church
- Help in the nursery
- Let us know what skills you would like to share for special projects
- Pray for our kids and those who work with them

Contact the church office to share how you can help.

Christmas Decorations

Thank you! - To everyone who helped and put away the Christmas decorations.

We had a great group of workers who volunteered.

We will need help to take them down - **Wednesday, January 8 at 9:00 a.m.** - Volunteers are needed to take down

We will start on the Second Floor of the Christian Education Building. We will be taking down and putting away decorations and trees from all three floors. Thanks for helping!



Whatever You Ask For in Prayer, Believe. *Mark 11:24*

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which He has called you. *Ephesians 1:18*

Imagine my surprise when I opened my e-mail this morning to a note from Toni about our new vision for 2020. I was intending that subject for my article. I can't believe that is 2020 already. I can remember when we turned over into the new century. We were all afraid that the computers would not turn over to 2000. We were prepared at the hospital with old paper charts just in case—but everything went well—all that fuss for nothing. I could not envision the year 2020 at that point but here we are at the year 2020. Is our vision clouded or are we seeing clearly? God wants us to see through an unobstructed view. Each morning during my prayer time, I ask God to open my eyes so that I can see all that He has prepared for me today.

“I don't make New Year's resolutions because I know I won't keep them.”

Dorothy Steinke

Mission Witness

At the start of a new year, most of us would like to see the whole journey that lies ahead, and yet God oftentimes lights only enough of the way for us to see the next step. We can move into the darkness trusting that God will continue to light the way and feeling God's presence beside us as we walk in faith.

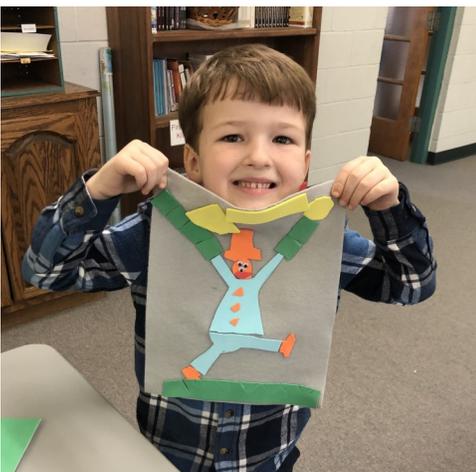
Emily Everett.

Global Missionary from Huston serving in Brazil.

I don't make New Year's resolutions because I know I won't keep them. If I did they would probably sound like this:

These are the gifts I ask of thee,
spirit serene:
strength for the daily task,
courage to face the road,
Good cheer to help me bear the
load,
and for the hours of rest that
come between,
an inward joy of all things heard
and seen.

Henry Van Dyke



“Bringing In Christmas” and “The Twelve Days of Christmas” Quilt



January WOW Meeting by Donna Hemmig

“We welcome all women of our church family to join us at our meetings...first Monday of the month”

The Women of Worth will gather in Fellowship Hall on January 6 at 1:00 pm. Kelsey Guadarrama, the Extension Educator for Marshall County 4-H, will tell us about the many programs available for our youth through 4-H. We welcome all women of our church family to join us at our meetings on the first Monday of the month.

January Worship Participants

	8:30	10:30	Greeters	Ushers	Nursery	Sound System
5	Liturgist Jim Easterday	Liturgist Debbie Dunning	Ralph & Norma Booker	Woody Schinbeckler,	Kelsey Heisler	Tom Pedavoli
12	Susan Wautelet	Debbie Dunning	Bob & Carol Beiter	Carol Beiter,	Sarah Smith	Hugh Smith
19	Cathy Clough	Beth Pinkerton	Robin Cupka	Jim Causey,	Stacey Jackson	Ralph Booker
26	Pam Michel	Beth Pinkerton	Dean & Judie Luther	Barry Capper	Amanda Dreibelbis	Robin Cupka

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will be meeting on **Saturday, January 18, at 8:00 A.M.** Dr. Anthony Witt will be the speaker. Between the completion of his residency and his starting in practice here in Plymouth, Anthony did a road trip down Route #66. He will be sharing his adventure on the 18th. The breakfast is open to all men in the community. If you know of someone who might be interested in Route #66, invite them to come. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of fellowship hall starting on January 5.

Every Wednesday there is a Men’s Bible Study at Christo’s at 6:45 A.M. They are working their way through the Bible.



“The Twelve Days of Christmas” Quilt continued



January Preaching Plan (continued from back page)

(Continued from page 12)

January 26

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Text: Matthew 4:12-23

Title: **A Very Big Fish Story**

Theme: Jesus sends all of us into the world as evangelists, as bearers of the Good News that

Jesus Christ is Lord. It is an amazing thing to think that God entrusts us with the responsibility of sharing this most important task, and yet it is not we—on our own—who do this. Our efforts are blessed by He who sends us out.



Thank You Note from DeVon & Herta Thomas



Dear Mothers' Club,

We would like to express our sincere "Thanks" for the frozen food. All so good and handy! Thanks to all of you who put in so much time in preparing it.

So nice to think of us,

God's Blessings,

DeVon and Herta Thomas



**Praise Puppets
at the Well**



First United Methodist

January 2020 Birthdays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday! <i>One and All!</i>			1 Amanda Dreibelbis	2	3 Angela Ganshorn Leanne Senter	4
5 Michele Faulstich Scott Michel	6	7	8 Lucas Corwin	9 Lyam Ganshorn	10 Quintella Chaney	11 Elaine Dick
12 Dan Bates	13 Ryan Kaufman	14	15 Lily Macey	16 Bill Hemmig	17 Ashley Gray Brent Kaufman Keegan Miller	18 Jay Kendall Ed Langfeldt Mary Yates
19	20	21	22 Ralph Booker Jeanne Middleton	23	24 Ashley Corwin	25
26 Joe Morris	27 Libby Daren	28	29	30	31	

First United Methodist Church

400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574 936-2943
Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org



January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Key:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Boy Scouts 7 pm ● Choir 7 pm □ Men's Bible Study 6:45 am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ Early Birds 6 am ☺ Joy Breaks noon ✝ Women's Bible Study 12:30 pm 	<p>1</p> <p></p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ 7 pm Choir Rehearsal (note date change) 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 after 2nd service Sunday Brunch @ Symphony</p>
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 1 pm WOW ◆ 6 pm SPRC 	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 10-noon Knit 2, Pray 3 	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 9:00 am Take down Christmas decorations 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p></p> <p>8a Breakfast 9a Discussions All are welcome!</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 6 pm Mothers' Club
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 MLK Day OFFICE CLOSED 6 pm Outreach 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Finance 6:30 Worship 	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 6:30 pm ASK Board meeting 	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ 2-4 pm Game Day 	<p>17</p> <p>Noon Lunch Bunch @ Opie's</p>	<p>18</p> <p>8 am UMM Breakfast</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ 11 am Bad Girls 5:30pm Trustees 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ 5-7 pm Community Meal 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⌘ 	<p>31</p>	<p>Sunday Worship 8:30 and 10:30 am</p> <p>Sunday School (All Ages) 9:30 am</p> <p>The Well 5:00 pm</p>	

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January Preaching Plan

January 5

2nd Sunday after Christmas, Epiphany Sunday

Communion Sunday

Text: John 1:(1-9), 10-18

Title: **Light Shines in the Darkness**

Theme: God is invisible, distant, and incomprehensible—until the coming of Jesus in the flesh. Jesus Christ is the full, complete revelation of who God really is, which brings encouragement in our celebration of the nativity and in our lives today.

January 12

Baptism of the Lord

Remembering our baptisms

Text: Matthew 3:13-17

Title: **Remember Your Baptism**

Theme: Baptism is a sign, among other things, that our relationship to God is totally dependent upon God. God is the actor, we are passive recipients of God's love and grace. For we who seek to

achieve in so many different ways in this life, our baptisms are a life-long reminder that our status with God is not what we do or produce or achieve, but what God does for us in Christ.

January 19

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Human Relations Day (special offering)

Text: John 1:29-42

Title: **What Are You Looking For?**

Theme: We each have our own reasons for coming to Christ. Christ has a way of receiving our reasons and rearranging them into better reasons. Sometimes we come to Christ seeking something for ourselves, only to have Christ use us to seek something for God. While we are looking for God, we must remember that God is looking for us.

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