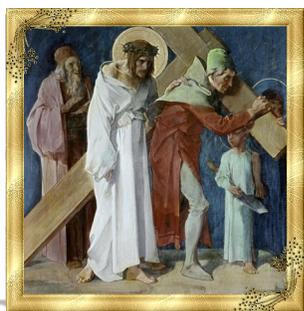


First News



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A Note From Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

It's easy enough to do. As we carry cell phones around with us everywhere we go, we're also carrying around a camera, with the possibility of taking a photograph at a moment's notice. I've learned to photograph everything from funny moments with grandchildren to landscapes, to names of books and grocery needs to help me remember what I want to purchase the next time I go to the store. It's all very convenient.

I've noticed when I look at a photograph, whether someone else took it long ago, or I've snapped it recently, that the image reminds me of the event. I "remember" things from my childhood because I've looked at photographs documenting that story over the years. The picture triggers a memory that I think I might have otherwise forgotten. For that reason, I put

together a scrapbook of photographs for our granddaughter Olivia of the adventures we had in Europe the summer she was 5. I want her to remember the places we visited and the fun we had, so put together lots of photos to trigger her memories.

We often move too quickly from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday with little time to take in the dramatic story of that last week. Using the book Entering the Passion of Jesus by Amy-Jill Levine as a resource, we'll be going through Holy Week slowly, looking at the stories and considering various paintings that illustrate those moments in the last week of Jesus' life. We will "freeze frame" a participant in each of the stories and consider how we might put ourselves in the picture, thereby "Entering the Passion of Jesus." What new meaning might we

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When We Pray Together, We're Working Together

Jesus told His disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **Luke 18:1**

Are you in tune? I have had some hearing changes - I think I am singing in tune but am not always hearing clearly when some speakers speak in the lower tones. Have you ever wondered how God makes sense out of all noise coming from the earth? It must sound like the tower of Babel but He hears all of us clearly.

I have the daily devotional "Springs in the Valley." One of the devotionals was about a young girl preparing for her piano recital when one of her keys went out of tune. Her father called a piano tuner. It took him all day to re-tune that one note and he finally was successful.

Good tuner, why this slow ruthless examination?

Why, on that one poor note, expend such careful concentration?

Just pass it by. How I will let my soul respond to thee! and see

But, no! Again, and yet again with skilled determination, rang out meaningless reiteration.

While ever and anon, through the dim aisle's space Echoed the reverent chord; the loud harmonious phrase, Till day began to wane. and still more patiently, the tuner wrought with that one faulty note, until, with zest,

All sweet and true, it answered like the rest.

Then, as the haloed glories of the sunset flamed and gleamed,

Swift through the storied windows long shafts of crimson streamed:

And we poor whispering wayfarers heard, round about and o'er us,

The throbbing, thundering

triumphs of the Hallelujah Chorus.

by Fay Inchfawn

Mission Witness

God gave me an opportunity to serve food for caravan migrants at the Benito Juarez Sports Complex in Tijuana, Mexico. As Christians, we would usually consider feeding the homeless to be an expression of the Gospel, treating others as we would want to be treated, as if they were Christ himself. The Gospel we share is one of love, but if that love has no practical application for those who need it most, it is pointless. God showed me a way of embodying the Gospel in my new community and equipped me for this task.

Yabes Manokaran

Global Mission Fellows International from India serving in Mexico

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman

Through your generous gifts, we continue to support Link to Hope, Neighborhood Center, Bread of Life, and David's Courage. Beginning in March, we will alternate each month giving our food donations to Neighborhood Center and Bread of Life Food Pantries. Please continue to place your donations in the



grocery cart at the back of our sanctuary. Suggested food items you may give are cold cereal, soup, meal starters (e.g. Hamburger Helper), and spaghetti and sauce. Thank you for helping those who are in need--

God's children just like us.

Boy Scout Troop 251 News

Troop 251 recently held a weekend retreat at the church cottage of Trinity United Methodist Church (Huntington, IN) which is located in North Webster adjacent to Epworth Forest. The retreat involved required youth leadership training which was presented by the troop adult leaders. All 13 scouts and 5 adult leaders attended the weekend. This is the second time the troop has rented their facility. The troop alternates years between the training retreat and attending Climb Time Indy (overnight climbing walls) due to the expense. The training weekend experience is so well received that the scouts beg to schedule it.

Troop 251 spent Feb 9th, Scout Sunday, with Pack 222, which is chartered by Bourbon First United Methodist Church. The pack needs funds to operate so we organized a meal after their church service to help raise funds for their program as well as teach them how to organize and do scout meals. 77% of current Troop 251 scouts originated from Triton Pack 222 so it is important to maintain a relationship with them and ensure their program is healthy and growing. Another scout meal is being planned for them in the coming months.

Michael Stephan

Scout Master, Troop 251 of Marshall Co.

United Methodist Men by David Hogsett

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Saturday, March 21, at 8:00 a.m. The theme for the program will be Lent. Retired Pastor Mike Dixon will be in charge. Here is a look at future programs for the men.

- ◆ April: Brian Liechty will be sharing where we are with the sanctuary. There will be an opportunity to tour the facility.
- ◆ May: Kay from Elite Travel
- ◆ June: open
- ◆ July: cook-out with spouses
- ◆ August: Program about Henderson Settlement.

Every Wednesday at 6:45 a.m. there is a

men's Bible study at Christo's. Contact Brent Kaufman if you are interested in attending. They are working their way through the Bible.

There will be a planning meeting on March 12 at 8:00 A.M. at Symphony Family Restaurant. All men of the church are invited to attend.

Other activities of the United Methodist Men are SAW's, Brush of Kindness, attending a South Bend Cub's game, and supporting the Boy Scouts. The men are planning on having a tenderloin fund raiser in April to help support our Boy Scout troop.



Women Of Worth by Donna Hemmig

Marianne Peters will present the program for WOW on March 2 at 1:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. She will share information with us about Marshall County Recycle Depot and how we can all be



better stewards of our environment by making choices about what we use and how we dispose of our trash. Join us for this informative program and enjoy the fellowship of Women of Worth!



SUNDAY MARCH 1 WE WILL BE GATHERING AT SYMPHONY AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE. PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE BACK OF FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE!!

March Worship Participants

	8:30 Liturgists	10:30 Liturgists	Greeters	Sound System	Older Nursery	Ushers
1	Mike Dixon	Robin Cupka	Bill & Barb Binkley	Tom Pedavoli	Judy Goebel	Woody Schinbeckler, Jon Van Vactor, Robin Cupka, Quentin Cupka, Bert Rans
8	Susan Wautelet	Robin Cupka	Joyce Gibbons	Hugh Smith	Kelsey Heisler	
15	Jim Easterday	Judy Stump	Barb Friesner	Ralph Booker	Judy Goebel	
22	Cathy Clough	Barbie Pickut	Barry & Karen Capper	Robin Cupka	Sarah Smith	
29	Pam Michel	TBA	Barb Dreibelbis	Lynette Espich	Stacey Jackson	

March 2020

First United Methodist Church

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 1st Sunday of Lent 1st Sunday Brunch	2 1 pm WOW 6 pm SPRC 6 pm Marshall/Starke	3 10am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	4 ☐ ●	5 ⌘ ☺ ✚	6 ✚	7
8 2nd Sunday of Lent	9 6:30 pm Social Concerns 6:30 pm Mothers' Club @ Spa	10 11 am Bad Girls 6:30 pm Worship	11 ☐ ●	12 ⌘ ☺ ✚	13 ✚	14
15 3rd Sunday of Lent	16	17 6 pm Finance	18 ☐ ●	19 ⌘ ☺ ✚	20 Noon Lunch Bunch @ Sun Rise	21 8 am UMM Breakfast
22 4th Sunday of Lent	23 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed	24 5:30 pm Trustees	25 ☐ 5-7 pm Community Meal 7:15 pm Choir	26 ⌘ ☺ ✚	27	28
29 5th Sunday of Lent	30	31 6 pm Church Council	Sunday Services: 8:30 am, 10:30 am and 5:00 pm The Well Tues: ✦ 7 pm Boy Scouts Wed: ☐ 6:45 am Men's Bible Study ● 7 pm Choir Thurs: ⌘ 6 am Early Birds ☺ noon Joy Breaks ✚ 12:30 Women's Bible Study			

A Note From Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 1)

find for our lives today by framing these moments and discovering our own place in this Passion drama?

The following poem by Marcia McFee ponders this question:

“Framing”

I sit in a room among the greats:

*Rodin
Monet
Renoir
Seurat*

*each in their own way trying to grasp
and
capture a moment
the beauty of life
the sweetness and color
the movement and stillness
the delicate nature of existence*

*and in their attempts we see creation
and humanity
in stark relief
in yearning
in ecstasy*

*but only impressions
and interpretations*

*that is what we do as we enter the story
of Jesus’ passion
we come to it with our own eyes, our
own humanity, our own experience
that gets all wrapped up in our interpretation
and yet isn’t that how faith works?*

*isn’t that how meaning is made?
for in the end objectivity is elusive
and all we can know is what we see,
how we see it*

*but it is in the looking that we know
we come
to greater awareness
understanding
insight
and ultimately compassion
for other’s place in the story and our own*

*so let us enter the passion of Jesus
let us spend some time
let us freeze frame a moment
so we might dwell...
become not just story tellers but story
dwellers
look deeply and long
take our time
a week becomes a season
a week becomes a lifetime
a week becomes two millennia
A week becomes eternity*

*we’ll put a frame around it
we’ll section off a scene
we’ll look long into a face
to see what we can see
to know what we can know
to touch our own hearts
as is the hope of every artist
for those of us who gaze*

*the Divine Artist offers us such poignant
beauty
each day
in our own stories
in the stories around us*

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A Note From Pastor Toni continued

(Continued from page 6)

*in the heartbreak and pain and joy and
awe
of a simple moment turned significant*

*that's what happens when we put a frame
around it
we zoom in
for an existential close-up
and search for clues
for living this life with more
attention
intention*

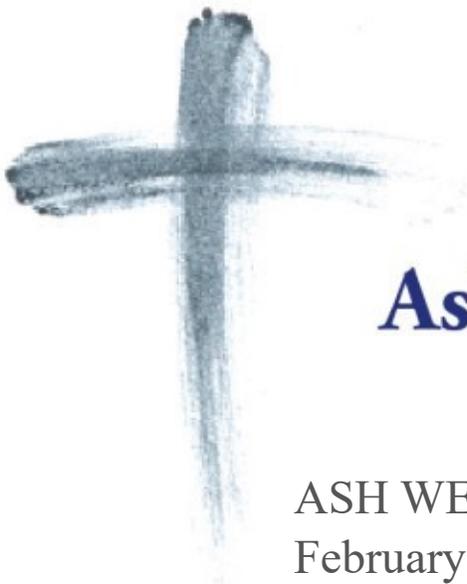
*I pray for the frames
to surround the moments of my life
that I dare not miss
— Marcia McFee*

Sometimes it can help us to step a bit out of the ordinary and routine and usual way of do-

ing things in order to experience a meaning or perspective we hadn't considered before. My prayer is that in this season of Lent we can find new meaning in the familiar story that will open us to a deeper conviction of our role in its ongoing message.

In Christ's Love,

Toni



Ash Wednesday — Lent Begins

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE: Wednesday,
February 26th at 6:30 pm



New Member Class Dates

New Member classes are scheduled for Wednesday, April 15th, 22th, and 29th at 6:30 pm. See Pastor Toni or contact the church office to sign up.

March 25th Community Meal from 5-7 pm

Menu:

Chicken & Noodles

Mashed Potatoes

Corn

Mixed Fruit

Dessert

Please come and welcome the community din-

ers! Many thanks to this committee and its helpers. Sign up sheets are available in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to provide food or help serve. We have been serving 75-80 people. We are truly making a difference in Plymouth.



March 2020

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 James Schoonover	2	3	4 Logan Binkley	5	6 Melissa Pedavoli	7
8 Ellen Smith	9	10	11	12	13 Sue Kay Smith	14
15	16 Joyce Gibbons	17 Mike Mercer	18 Shelley Heiden	19 Marc Laudeman Dorothy Steinke	20	21
22 Nick Pinkerton Jane Woolfington	23 Bill Gee Debbie Jung	24 Don Dick	25	26 Barry Capper Steve Jung	27	28
29 Betty Rimel	30	31				

Mothers' Club by Robin Cupka



Monday, March 9th at 6:30 pm, Mothers' Club will meet at the "Salt" room at the new Essence Spa (the old Ace Fitness building: 1101 E Jefferson St). Cost is \$5 per person. Please join us for this fun new experience!

The Outreach Committee Invites You to Participate in the Events Below:

Share the family of FUMC with friends & neighbors

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

March 20, Sun Rise (Plymouth)

April 17, Mean Bean (Bremen)

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 gathering will be March 23 as we discuss "The Secret Keeper. Please join us as we examine this entertaining tale. 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)



It's not too late to be part of this group! We always go to lunch afterwards!! Contact Susan Wautelet for further information.

We are currently studying "Fierce... Women of the Bible" by Alice Connor ... but it is never too late to join in. 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.

March Preaching Plan

March 1

First Sunday in Lent

Communion Sunday

Text: Matthew 21:7-9

Title: **The Parade: Risking Reputation**



Theme: Jesus' ride into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week was full of risk. Rather than a nice impromptu celebration, it can be seen for the carefully planned and significantly symbolic event that would rub those in power the wrong way. In a moment already filled with tension, this "victory parade" had many implications, and as we know, many consequences. We will stop the action just at the beginning of the parade to take stock of all the players, including the role the city itself plays full of pilgrims for the Passover.

March 8

Second Sunday in Lent

Text: Mark 11:15-17

Title: **The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger**

Theme: Jesus' response to a visit to the Temple in the midst of this busy, noisy, Passover "tourist season" is utter frustration turned to anger. With so much at stake, "business-as-usual" seems obscene. This can be true for us today. The banality of our everyday lives sometimes seems ludicrous in the face of such suffering around the world. But taking a moment inside the scene where Jesus is overturning tables in this "house of prayer for all nations" can offer us a way to see what we actually might do to reassess our own actions and make our own corner of the world (our "temples") a more welcoming place for all people.

March 15

Third Sunday in Lent

Text: Matthew 22:18-21

Title: **The Teaching: Risking Challenge**

Theme: That last week, Jesus doesn't "lay low." He puts himself out there, susceptible to those who want to trap him, twist his words, get him to say something damning. He cannot turn from his vocation—he is not only a master teacher, but prophet and voice of the Divine. It is his ability to draw the people to his teachings that pose a threat, a challenge, to the authorities. We place ourselves in the crowd this week, to be moved and motivated by Jesus for our lives—to get

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March Preaching Plan continued

(Continued from page 10)

a faithful perspective. What would we have seen, heard and felt? What do we do now?

March 22

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Text: Mark 14:3-7

Title: **The First Dinner: Risking Rejection**

Theme: Besides the Last Supper, Holy Week contains another important story that happens at dinner. Earlier in the week, Jesus and his followers gather for a meal, and a woman shows up unexpectedly to anoint Jesus in an extravagant show of devotion. To say she caused quite a “stir” might be understating it a bit. We imagine ourselves in the room and we see the looks of judgment and even outrage on the faces around us. Are we ourselves moved by her generosity and outpouring of emotion? Or are we uncomfortable as Jesus refers to his own death? Does our complaining or anger really serve to hide our own fear? Jesus invites us to tell this story “in remembrance of her.” What uncomfortable stories are we called to tell in our time?



March 29

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Text: John 13:12-16



Title: **The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends**

Theme: Jesus' words at the Last Supper were shocking to those in attendance. His words can seem familiar, even comforting to us because we hear these words every time we have communion. But at the moment of their utterance, they were anything but “usual.” This week, we enter the scene of that last supper long enough to get a grasp of the shock that would have rippled through Jesus' friends. Partaking of body and blood? Not kosher! A “Lord” washing feet like a servant? Unbelievable! Breaking bread with the enemy? What?! But Jesus knew his time was up. And it was time for the disciples to get the message, even if it came in a shocking way: love one another as I have loved you—by serving, forgiving, freeing, communing—becoming one with—God.



First United Methodist Church

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Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Potted Easter Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils or Hyacinths

Cost **\$13.00** Each

Deadline to Order: **Sunday, March 15th**

How to order:

Complete the order form below and turn it in with your offering or drop it off at the church office. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 936-2943 or email office@plymouthfirstumc.org.

Easter Lilies

Tulips

Daffodils

Hyacinths

Please indicate how many and which flower by placing your choice in the boxes above.

I wish to order _____ Flowers at \$13.00 each = \$ _____
(Total Amount Due)

In Honor of: _____

Or

In Memory of: _____

Given By: _____