

# First News

June 2021

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## A Note From Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

With the coming of June, we enter the season of Summer. At least in my thinking.

This is the time for graduations and celebrations. This is the time for planting flowers and enjoying the blooms of perennials that have laid quietly in wait for warm weather and refreshing rain. This is the time for windows open, hats on and sunscreen applied. This is time for vacation!

Scott and I are taking some time away this summer, but I'm not sure we're ready to travel. I've seen photos of warm places where palm trees grow and have been thinking about ocean sounds and fresh sea food.

Our oldest wants me to go hiking with him out west and it's a temptation. There are lots of options, but I won't be surprised if the final decision in-

volves back-porch sitting, a few good books and a couple of day trips. But who knows?

Self-care is what's important. For all of us. It's not so much about planning an annual getaway, a road trip to some great destination or whatever kind of adventure you might be dreaming about:

self-care involves setting aside a regular time to breathe in God's beauty, to allow our hearts and minds to rest or ponder "other things" than the work, challenges, budget, and whatever else is always calling for your attention. It's giving ourselves a break so we can be revived and refreshed.

Hildegard of Bingen reminded her sisters in the monastery that *veriditas* or "greening" is essential for healthy life in God. She told them that they needed to rest beside flowing waters to

*(Continued on page 2)*



A Note From Pastor Toni *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

refresh their roots. That made sense in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and it continues to make sense today! We need steady renewal and nurture to continue to be fruitful on God's behalf in whatever work we're doing.

I've learned from Kathy Smitha that whenever my computer begins acting up I need to shut it down, wait a few minutes and turn it back on again. It always works! I have a feeling that the same kind of process works for me, too. When I start "acting up" it's time to shut down. Some rest beside flowing waters to refresh my roots sounds like a pretty good option before returning to whatever it is that needs to be done.

I hope you'll consider the same thing for yourself. The world can live without us for awhile so that we can restore and refresh. Taking time for self-care allows the space needed to listen for God's word. It allows the space needed to allow the hard drive to rest, and for the synapses to fire more productively. (I

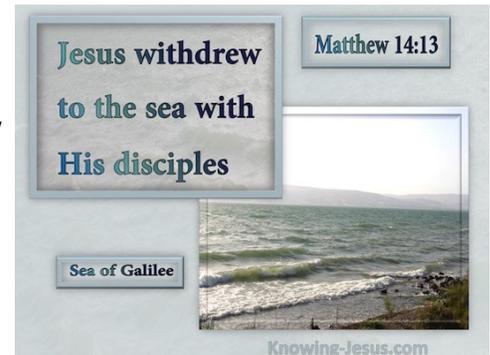
have no idea if that's physiologically correct, but I haven't shut down for awhile, so that's all I've got right now.) I do know that in Matthew 14:13 we're told that Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. And that wasn't an unusual thing for him to do. If Jesus knew he needed to regularly take breaks, it makes sense to follow his example in this matter, in the same way we try to follow in all the other ways he's taught us.

So...enjoy your summer. Take some breaks. Breathe. Come to worship. (A couple of you come back for the first time each week! It's so good to see you again!). Celebrate the good. Pray through the struggles. Spend time in Christian fellowship. Bless one another.

Through it all, may your spirit be refreshed.

Love and Peace,

*Toni*



## Sanctuary Update

*submitted by Melissa Christiansen*

The Attorney Advisor on our team of professionals assisting us with the sanctuary issue contacted us to let us know some "very positive news" as he described it. The attorney for our insurance company has contacted our attorney saying they would like to enter into pre-litigation mediation. Our attorney is in favor of this and the attorneys will get together and discuss. It's not formal mediation because we are not in litigation. The Attorney Advisor feels this development is an acknowledgement

from our insurance company that there is strong evidence to support our position, but much remains to be seen. We don't know how soon this will be taking place and there is still a ways to go, but it is a step in the right direction for our situation and our team continues to work very diligently on our behalf.

Updates will be provided as the situation progresses and as always, prayers are greatly appreciated!



Volunteer(s) needed to run the soundboard for Sunday Services.  
Please contact Ralph Booker or Tom Boys for more details.

## June Birthdays

June 3	Maxine Lawson	June 16	Phyllis Westfall
June 4	Chris Cochern	June 17	Ben Clough
June 5	Lynette Espich		Lynn Hartman
	Emma Jackson	June 20	Trista Mitchell
June 7	Ryon Macey		Sharen Robinson
June 8	Ed Pullen	June 21	Norma Booker
June 9	Larry Pinkerton		Barb Dreibelbis
June 11	Alberta Millikan	June 22	Bill Binkley
June 12	Sharon Westfall		Zoe Daren
June 14	Debbie Dunning	June 24	Jon VanVactor
June 15	Art Jacobs Sr.	June 28	Ken Robinson
	Hugh Smith		



## MISSION MINDED

Thanks to everyone who supported our fish fundraiser!

*Each month we are highlighting a different organization that our church supports through offerings.*

**Operation Classroom** is another organization that we support through the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. (Giving Code OC5.) Because of your offerings we are able to donate \$250 annually.

**Operation Classroom** was started in 1987 by Indiana United Methodists to partner with the United Methodist Church in Liberia and Sierra Leone with the mission of: 1. Upgrading UMC secondary education in Liberia and Sierra Leone; 2. Being an avenue of renewal for the United Methodist Church; 3. Providing hands-on mission experiences for United Methodists.

**“Education:** It’s not enough to just provide an education. The RIGHT education is what’s important. Education that has the potential to “shift paradigms” in ways that may not be culturally normative, but ARE culturally appropriate. Education empowers the youth of Liberia and Sierra Leone to think differently and changes the course of their future.

**The Poverty Puzzle:** We’ve learned you can’t solve the issues of poverty by simply “providing.” The key to ending poverty is equipping young men and women with an education that helps them see themselves differently, and equips them with the tools and perspective they need to provide for themselves, their families, and provide leadership in their communities.

**Community:** There are many things to be admired in rural African communities: Interdependence, cooperative experience, care for family and neighbor. Finding ways to deal with the issues of poverty WITHOUT losing the good things of that community are essential to the mission of Operation Classroom, and to the purpose behind the development of the African Enterprise Academy program.”

### WORK TRIP TO MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER:

The last week of May we had a work team at the Distribution Center, including Carol Beiter, and Bill & Donna Hemmig; joined by Sharon Westfall and her sister, Debbie Bell. They took with them a couple sewing machines which the Center refurbishes and donates to women who need a way to support their families. They also took baby sweaters (made by Jeanne Middleton and Pam Michel), and children’s pajama sets (made by Carol Beiter and friends). If you like to sew, knit, or crochet – talk to Pam or Carol about getting the necessary patterns for these or other items the Center needs.

Next month’s newsletter will have a report from the work team about the work they did while at the center.

*Pictured are just some of the items the team took with them.*



When we spend time with God in the morning, we will enjoy His love all day long *submitted by Dorothy Steinke*

*Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days. Psalm 90:14*

*He went into the hills to pray. Mark 6:46*

Jesus spent time praying to His Father.

**Mission Witness**

Through the kinship experienced with my Deaconess/ Missioner community, I get a glimpse into the Kin-dom of God. Within the order, all people are of sacred worth. We are diverse in thoughts, ages, geographic locations, race, ethnicities, family structures, theological understandings, sexualities, gender expressions, abilities and more! Together, we form a covenant to live as people who stand on the side of love, justice and service.,

*Megan Hale*

Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, United Methodist Women National Office, New York, New York

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Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray;

This is my heart-cry, day unto day.

I long to know Thy will and thy way;

teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray.

Power in prayer, Lord, power in prayer!

here mid earth's sin and sorrow and care,

Men lost and dying, souls in despair,

O give me power, power in prayer!

My weakened will, Lord, Thou canst renew;

My sinful nature thou canst subdue

Fill me just now with power anew,

Power to pray and power to do!

Living in thee, Lord, and thou in me,

constant abiding, this is my plea;

grant me Thy power, boundless and free,

Power with men and power with Thee.

*Rev. Albert Simpson Reitz*



“Teach me to pray, Lord, teach me to pray. This is my heart-cry, day unto day....”



## Preaching Plan for June

### June 6

*2nd Sunday after Pentecost*

Communion

Text: Mark 3:20-35

#### **Title: Family Ties**

Theme: It had to be hard for the family of Jesus to understand what he was doing when he left home to begin ministry. This text gives evidence to their concern for him. When Jesus responds, he widens the definition of family in a way that perhaps alarms his “blood” family while connecting others who before may have been doing life on their own.

### June 13

*3rd Sunday after Pentecost*

Text: Mark 4:26-34

#### **Title: Seeds and the Kingdom of God**

Theme: Jesus tells two parables, describing what the kingdom of God is like. We’re reminded that even though we may not understand how seeds grow, still we plant, and they grow. Even the smallest of seeds can produce the greatest of harvests. What might Jesus be wanting to teach us?

### June 20

*4th Sunday after Pentecost*

Text: Mark 4:35-41

#### **Title: Storms**

Theme: A storm turns a peaceful sail to the other side of the Lake into a time of crisis for the disciples who are convinced they’re going to die. They awaken Jesus and he calms the gale-force winds and waves. How do we respond to chaotic times? What do the actions of Jesus teach us in how to respond when challenges arise?

### June 27

*5th Sunday after Pentecost*

Rev. Mike Dixon preaching

Text: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15

#### **Title: Formula for a Truly Rich Life**

Theme: It's not easy to live by God's value system in a society that values image and appearance and status symbols. It should work the other way. It should get easier to give as our wealth increases, but it does not. There is something about money that hardens us. As attractive and wonderful as money is, that is its nature.

## Gratitude

“Thank you does not seem sufficient to express the gratitude that John and I want to share with our FUMC family. The prayers, cards, notes, visits, and support have overwhelmed us. Indeed, I have a very small heart (although now completely repaired) but it does contain a huge amount of thanks for the blessing of our church family.”

Susan and John Wautelet



“Piglet noticed that although he had a very small heart, he could hold a rather large amount of gratitude.”

A.A. Milne



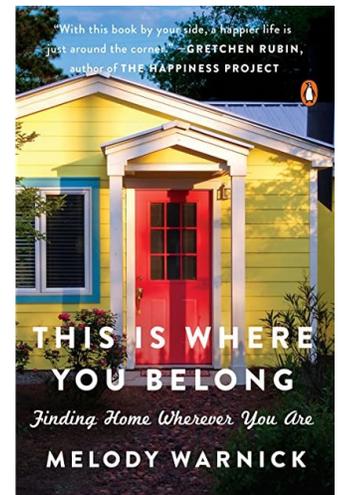
## United Methodist Men

*submitted by Dave Hogsett*

The United Methodist Men will be meeting June 12, at 8:00 A.M. very likely at the United Church Of Christ. The meeting will be in their fellowship hall. Cindy Clough from the Plymouth Public Library will be talking about the library's "One Book, One City" program. This year the focus is Melody Warnick's [This Is Where You Belong](#). Cindy will be sharing about all the exciting events that will be taking place in cooperation with other groups and organizations in the com-

munity during the month of June. Come and learn how you can increase your attachment to the Plymouth community and get some hints how to make visitors feel a part of First United Methodist.

All the men of the church are invited to attend. In addition the men of the UCC church have been invited. If you have a question or want more information, contact Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or [davidh15503@embarqmail](mailto:davidh15503@embarqmail).



## Community Meal News

*submitted by Ruth VanVactor*

The community meal committee has once again started to provide meals. As you may know, the last time we actually served a meal was in February, 2020. We then closed for two months due to the pandemic. We began in May 2020 providing meals as carry out until October, 2020 and closed for the winter months. March of this year we started again providing carry out only meals. Having closed for the winter



months, we were unsure what to expect of people returning. We have been pleasantly surprised! In March, we had 56 meals carried out, in April (during the pouring rain) we

had 80 meals carried out and in May there were 64 meals carried out. Our goal is to return to actually serving the meals in Fellowship Hall to be able to greet each other and fellowship; until that time, we will continue to provide meals via carry out. We want to thank everyone for supporting this outreach program and encourage you to spread the word. Everyone is welcome to come for a meal! The next meal will be

June 30. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Betty Kay Eley, Diane Laudeman, Becky Liechty, Barb Miller or Ruth VanVactor.

## Still Going Steady at 70 *Writer & Photographer: Robin Myers*

A 70th wedding anniversary is rare and precious just like Ed and June Pullen.



June Tellkamp met Ed Pullen at Purdue University in Indiana in 1947, he proposed August 1949 and they were married on June 9th, 1951, in Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin. Just a short 70 years later they are still behaving like teenagers

who are still “going steady” in high school.

Less than .1% of married couples make it to their 70th wedding anniversary but June and Ed were destined to be a part of the few to make it. When asked their advice to young couples who are getting married, they said, “Effort has to be 100% on both sides, never go to bed angry, and respect each other’s right to be stupid”. Yes, you read that right. These two have a sense of humor about each other and the world.

“We don’t do a lot together, but we have our own hobbies” Ed told me. You’d be wrong if you thought these two folks, now in their early nineties would be relaxing in their retirement. They are both artistic types. June relishes in her stained-glass window creations and stays healthy playing pickleball. Ed creates stunning wood pieces including raw edged tables. In 2010 he took over the floundering “Heartland Artist Gallery” and turned it into a prosperous and wonderful asset in Plymouth, Indiana.

Ed exclaimed that “The most monumental thing that happened to me was when I met a girl named June Tellkamp who became my

wife, a life-long companion, and my best friend”. June acts like a giddy schoolgirl every time he gazes into her eyes. These two have a soul-to-soul way of communicating their love and respect for each other. It’s effortless, profound, and something we should all strive for 70 plus years after meeting our life partner.

Ed and June feel that living on the lake in Marshall County is, “...an ideal place to live out our retirement. This is life in the slow lane. We have room for our hobbies, wonderful neighbors and a good church. We have a beautiful lake to watch year-round as the seasons change it.”

They are the second generation to live in the same home on a Marshall County lake. Ed and June rejoice in all the love bestowed on them from their 5 grown children and oodles of grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The love and devotion they show to each other, their family, community and their faith inspires all who know them to aim for a life as lovely and full as they have created together.

Typical wedding vows include: “...to have and to hold from this day forward, for better– for worse, for richer – for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part, and thereto pledge thee my faith.” Ed and June have lived these words from their wedding day and though it all, to day number 25,550, (70 years).

Here’s wishing you continued love and happiness all the days to come. Happy 70th wedding anniversary lovebirds!



## Outreach Committee News

*submitted by Susan Wautelet*

Indeed, May was a month filled with heat waves, frost advisories, and general unpredictability. Here's hoping June will provide summer-like temperatures, blooming flowers, and rain/shine as needed...the beauty of God's universe is evident! As more and more of our church family are vaccinated, it is tempting to relax the policies that are in place to protect our family, as well as others in the community. Therefore, this committee wants to remind everyone that the **MASK MANDATE IS STILL IN PLACE FOR ALL FUMC GATHERINGS**. If you are meeting in the church building, please plan to wear a mask, social distance, and adopt recommended CDC practices!

The Outreach Committee is pleased to report that the following groups are meeting, complying with the above guidelines.

**Blessed Bookies** will continue to gather on the 4th Monday at 5:30 PM. in Fellowship Hall

- ◇ June 28, 2021: "Gray Mountain" (John Grisham)
- ◇ July 26, 2021: "Dutch House" (Ann Patchett)
- ◇ August 23, 2021: "In an Instant" (Suzanne Redfearn)

**Bad Girls** will now be meeting **ON-LY** on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Beginning in March "flunking saint-

hood" by Jana Riess has been the focus of this group's discussion. This book describes "A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor." However, it is never too late to join this diverse, interesting, and occasionally humorous study!

If you are interested in participating in either or all of these discussions, please contact Kathy at the office, or [swautelet@aol.com](mailto:swautelet@aol.com) for more information.

**The Lunch Bunch** gathers the 3rd Friday of the month. We meet in the church parking lot at 11:30, but reservations should be made with Carol Beiter. Please contact Carol if you are interested in attending.

([beiter800@gmail.com](mailto:beiter800@gmail.com))

- ◆ June 18: Boat House in Warsaw
- ◆ July 16: Dutchmaid in Rentown (depending on availability)
- ◆ August 20: Crazy Eggs in Warsaw

As we welcome June, our return to in person worship, our gathering for spiritual study, and the blooming of springtime flowers and grass and trees, let us reflect on the glory of God as described in the following prayer:

### **A Prayer to Nature from Thea**

*God, I thank you for the healing rain*

*(Continued on page 11)*



**HAPPY JUNE  
FROM THE  
OUTREACH  
COMMITTEE**

Outreach Committee News *continued*

*(Continued from page 10)*

*that washes the curving hills bright green. Thank you for the beams of sunlight that fall softly on a child's face. Thank you for butterflies and flowers, birds and fish, stars and trees, all of the beautiful things you created for us. I pray that all of your children see and wonder at these things and that the joy of these follows them though their lives now and forever. Amen*

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Julie, Cindy, Kay, Ralph, our trio of singers and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings these past months. Our online presence continues to grow, so we are reaching many who would be unable or unwilling to attend

in person service. We are reminded that the technology that we used to complain about now enables us to maintain contact with those we hold dear. However, that being said, it is wonderful to meet face to face without the benefit of technology! We are so blessed to have the UCC welcome us into their sanctuary.

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

God is good....all the time!

### **The Outreach and Support Committee**

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

### **Scrip is Available Again!**

During the shut down, Scrip has not been sold regularly. Beginning June 6 it is available for purchase in the hallway after the 11:15 service. You may also call or text Deb Jung at 574-286-4613. Let Deb

know what you would like and she will arrange a time to meet and get it to you.

Also please remember to activate your Kroger Plus card and present it when you shop. FUMC benefits from your use!

*“Spring being a tough act to follow...God created June.”*

*Al Bernstein*

*See Deb Jung (or one of her helpers) to purchase Scrip after the 11:15 service on Sundays.*

Youth and Education News *submitted by Barbie Pickut*

Did you know? Indiana UMC camps are happening this summer, and our church will help cover the cost for campers from our church. You can learn about available camps at <https://impact2818.org>.

Why Impact 2818 Camps & Retreats? Because of the partnership between faith communities and our camping ministry, children, youth, and adults will be transformed in Christ; local churches throughout Indiana will be renewed and invigorated. Contact the church office to find out how to get a camp scholarship.

Information about a summer Bible reading program (with prizes) will be coming to our kids' mailboxes soon! Any families with kids who have not been receiving children's bulletins by mail, please contact the church office to make sure we have your correct address.

We are working on updating our list of kids' grade levels-- watch for information about how to make sure we have included everyone correctly.

We will be celebrating the accomplishments of graduates from our church. If you know a graduate we should recognize, please contact the church office to make sure we have everyone on our list.

On June 27, we will be offering fun outdoor activities for kids at Centennial Park from 12:30 to 2:30. Come to enjoy a sack lunch, craft, games, and an ice cream treat with friends. Parents are welcome to stay or to drop off / pick up. Please contact the church office by Friday June 25 to confirm how many people will be coming for lunch and if you have any food allergies. It will be great to get together in person--we hope you can come!

Impact 2818—Indiana Camp and Retreat Centers



“Did you know? Indiana UMC camps are happening this summer, and our church will help cover the cost for campers from our church.”



Social Concerns *submitted by Mary Kaufman*

John 13:35 says *"By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another."* That love we show is not only to our family, friends and church members, but those in our "neighborhood" whose lives aren't as easy as ours, who don't have the basic needs that we take for granted..

In April, we received \$471.91. We gave these contributions in May to agencies

who serve the needy: Link to Hope \$200, our church's Community Dinner \$100, Neighborhood Center \$100, Bread of Life Food Pantry \$100, David's Courage \$100, Ancilla Sisters Food Project \$100.

We greatly appreciate your continued support of agencies in our community who help those in need. It's how we show we are Christians as that's what God expects of us!



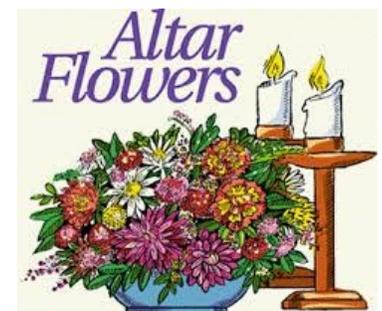
Liturgists for June

|       | 6           | 13           | 20               | 27              |
|-------|-------------|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 8:30  | Dick Tobias | Cathy Clough | Susie Kreighbaum | Mike Dixon      |
| 11:15 | Jim Causey  | Jim Causey   | Donna Hemmig     | Ruth Van Vector |



Altar Flowers

You have the opportunity to donate altar flowers for worship services in honor or memory of someone special in your life. You may take the flowers home after the 11:15 am service on Sunday. Please call the office to sign up. Cost is \$20.



Join us on Facebook Sundays  
for live streamed service.

L o v e   G o d   ~   L o v e   O t h e r s   ~   S e r v e   O t h e r s

First United Methodist Church



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