

First News

Volume 20, Issue 9

September, 2020

First United Methodist Church

A Note from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

My younger niece gave her sister and her about-to-be husband matching t-shirts at their rehearsal dinner that she had made for them. On the front they said, “Just Married” with “(finally)” written right below. On the back side of the t-shirts were 3 dates: all three had been dates when the wedding had been scheduled, but the first two were crossed out, leaving the remaining “August 22, 2020.”

It made us all laugh, although she and so many others who have had to reschedule, re-configure or cancel important celebrations this year can't help but feel a twinge of sadness as well. We're all eager to move on to a better time.

Still, it's September! Summer is officially over; school has started and

Fall schedules are rolling out.

Though we've experienced the heat and humidity and other signs of summer, it feels like everything else since February: we ought to have a do-over!! Lacking that possibility, I figure, let's make the most of every moment we have, every opportunity to learn and grow and to be who God calls us to be.

Sometime mid-June, I received a note sent to the churches of our District giving us the assignment of putting together a Dismantling Racism Plan by August 1st. I don't remember reading it, and the deadline of August 1st probably seemed a lifetime away, so I completely forgot about it until receiving another note from the District on August 1st, telling me that since so many of us hadn't submitted our plan, the deadline was being extended to August 15th.

The “Plan” was/is to include 2 goals for each the pastor and the congregation. I decided that the goals I have set for myself are reasonable goals to challenge you to, as well. I'm hoping

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you'll accept what I'm calling the September Challenge.

The September Challenge involves

Each of us taking an inventory on our personal biases. There are 2 inventories that have been recommended to me. The first is free and is called The Implicit Bias Test. It takes 5 minutes to complete. It is based on "Project Implicit" by Harvard University, and is designed to reveal the Implicit Bias hard-wired into us by our conditioning. Recreated here by MTV, the test is no less accurate and always eye-opening. It can be found at: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/takeatestv3.html>

I have taken this quick inventory and will take a second one that has a cost, as a part of the Residence in Ministry (RIM) group I mentor. All of us in RIM are taking this inventory and it will be a part of a broader conversation mid-September. I'll share more about that one when I've completed it.

The intention is that this will be a personal learning experience, and not one whose results you are expected to share with others unless you want to.

Read 1-2 resources to learn more about racism, racial justice and anti-racism. I have already completed the book *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo. It was one of several I am interested in reading and it happened to be available on Libby, which is a free app that you can download and read books (again, for free!) using your library card.

I am looking forward to reading several others that I have obtained, and I will include a resource list of possibilities in this newsletter that you might find helpful for choosing. You can also access our UMC General Commission on Religion and Race website that offers articles and other resources. I am looking at taking a course called "You Are Here: First Steps for White Christians." Again, this course is available online and is "at your own pace." There is a charge for the course.

These 2 goals can be accomplished on your own and may be helpful for you in many ways. But, as so many of us have discovered, learning and awareness is enhanced in community with others. I would like to extend my September Challenge into an October Challenge: to meet together face to face and

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A Note From Pastor Toni *continued*

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talk about what we've learned, what growth areas we've discovered, what doesn't feel comfortable, and whatever else has been triggered as a result of our reading and study and reflection. We can meet once and decide if we'd like to meet again. The date of that gathering will be determined later.

I want to continue learning and growing and stretching throughout my life. Some learnings come more easily

than others, some come at my own initiative, while at other times I realize—because of what's happening in the world around me—that there's so much of which I am unaware. So, I need to open my heart to seeing and learning.

I hope you'll join me on this journey, as God continues offering us opportunities to grow.

In Christ,

Toni

Resources on Racism

(These are offered from our Conference Superintendent, Saneta Maiko)

- 1) Ibram X. Kendi's, "How To Be An Antiracist" (2019)
- 2) Robin DiAngelo's "White Fragility: Why It is So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism" (2018). Take 20 minutes and watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dwlx3KQer54>.
- 3) Mona Hanna-Attisha's "What the Eyes Don't See" (2019)
- 4) Jonathan M. Metzler's "Dying of Whiteness: How the Politics of Racial Resentment is Killing America's Heartland" (2019)
- 5) Will Willimon's "Who Lynched Willie Earle: Preaching to Confront Racism" (2017) and "Fear of the Other: No Fear in Love" (2016).
- 6) Nikole Hannah-Jones, The 1619 Project, (2019) <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/12/20/magazine/1619-intro.html>
- 7) Jim Wallis' "America's Original Sin" (2016)
- 8) Richard Rothstein, The Color of Law (2017), See video at <https://youtu.be/r9UqnQC7jY4>

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Community Meal — 9/30/2020

The September Community Meal will be on Wednesday, September 20th from 5-7 pm. Meals will be available for pick up only. The menu includes chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, corn and cookies.



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!



Resources on Racism continued

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9) United Methodist General Commission on Religion and Race, “You are here: First Steps for White Christians on Race and Racism”, “GCORR - First Steps for White Christians”.

These are additional resources that I look forward to reading that have been recommended to me from a friend who leads another conference’s multi-cultural ministry:

“Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race” (Irving, Debby)

“Why are all the Black Students sitting together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race” (Tatum, Beverly Daniels)

“The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism” (Tisby, Jemar)

“How to be an Antiracist” (Ibram X. Kendi)

“We Can’t Talk About That at Work!” (Mary-Frances Winters)



September Preaching Plan continued

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September 20, 2020

16th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Acts 11:25-26

Title: Am I a Real Christian?

Theme: Do you consider yourself a Christian? The term “Christian” is used more today than any other term to describe a believer, a follower of Jesus Christ. People talk about the Christian church and the Christian faith.

There is a debate always raging as to whether or not we are a Christian Nation. I believe the average person on the street has no real clue what a real Christian really is. Many who profess to be Christians really are not Chris-

tians at all and many who use the term don’t even really understand what they mean by it. The word “Christian” is used only 3 times in the Bible. Yet, I believe these three occurrences are crucial because they tell us what a real Christian is.

September 27, 2020

17th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 17:1-7

Title: What Limits to Faith?

Theme: The people trust God, they’re certain God is with Moses—until they’re thirsty. “Did you bring us out of Egypt to let us die of thirst?” Do we have limits to our faith?

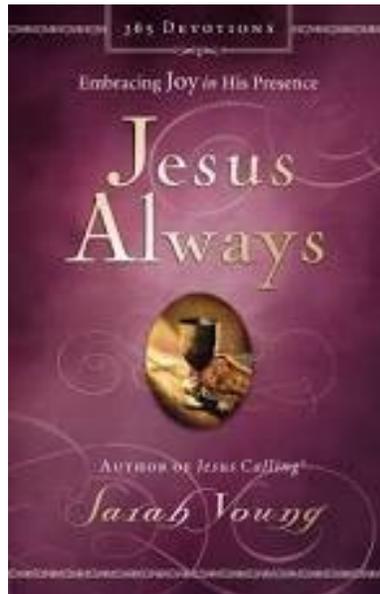
I need to spend time with God even when I don't know what to pray. by Dorothy Steinke

Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. *Psalm 61:1-2*

Devotion from "Jesus Always" by Sarah Young

I will bless My people with peace. This Biblical promise is for everyone who trusts Me as Savior. So when you're feeling anxious, try praying; "Jesus bless me with your peace." This short, simple prayer connects you with Me and opens you up to My help.

Peace and trust in Me are richly intertwined in My kingdom. The more you lean on Me in confident dependence, the less fearful you will be. If your heart is steadfastly trusting in Me, you need not be afraid of bad news, because I am both sovereign and good. You can be confident that this world isn't spinning out of control. There is plenty of bad news in the world, but I'm not wringing My hands impotently. I am con-



tinually at work - even in the most devastating situations - bringing good out of evil. My kingdom is about transformation, and I invite you to join Me in this endeavor. Live

as a child of the Light.

Together we will draw others out of darkness into the Light of My transforming Presence.

Mission Statement

Light, the opposite of darkness, is generally taken as the agency that makes us see, The Bible, however, describes light as a symbol of the presence and righteousness

of God to express the truth, the goodness and redemptive work of God. The New Testament describes Christ as the Light of the World. Jesus himself claimed to be the Light of the World. In Liberia, we continue to bring light to women and children by sharing God's love and giving hope to the hopeless. The women are empowered by basic skills training.

Nancy Carew

Global Missionary from Sierra Leone serving in Liberia

“How to Cook with a Crockpot” Project

The Community Meal committee is partnering with The Neighborhood Center in offering a hands on session in learning how to cook with a crockpot. The Purdue Extension office will teach a limited number of clients of The Neighborhood Center the techniques of using a crockpot to create family meals. The Community Meal committee will offer a new crock pot to each attendee so they can put to use everything they learn. If you would like to donate a crock pot for this project, we are looking for a 6 qt. slow cooker with non-digital settings of "Keep Warm", "Low" and "High." (Example is the Hamilton Beach 6 qt slow cooker sold at Kohl's;

SKU 89558726, Model No. 33167. Current retail price is \$24.99, but think 30% off coupon and Kohl's cash!!) Any crock pot similar to this will be great! **The crock pot may be left at the church prior to Oct.1.** We are also collecting simple crock pot recipes to offer attendees. If you have a recipe you would like to provide you may email that to **Ruth VanVactor (revanvactor1971@gmail.com)** or leave it at the church office. If you have any questions, please contact **Ruth (574-952-8257)** or **Betty Kay Eley (574-780-6452)**. Thanks for your generous support of this project!



“The Community Meal committee is partnering with The Neighborhood Center in offering a hands on session in learning how to cook with a crockpot.”

Dorothy Steinke is Moving to Kentucky!

Please join us in wishing Dorothy Steinke safe travels and peace and joy in her “new” home in Kentucky. Dorothy will be leaving us in early September. Thanks so much for all you have done for and shared with the FUMC family, Dorothy!



Social Concerns by Mary Kaufman



Thank you for continuing to remember the needy of our community. Last month's giving was down, \$508, but by using money from foundation funds, we were able to give to these agencies/ groups:

Link to Hope	\$400
Neighborhood Center	200
Bread of Life	200
Community Meal	100
David's Courage	<u>100</u>
Total	\$1,000

Many are using food banks and Link to Hope for the first time because of COVID-19 and its economic impact. Please give generously as the number of people needing help in Plymouth continues to grow. We are doing God's work by helping those less fortunate than we are. Thank you from the Social Concerns Committee. God bless you!

Sanitizing the Building



Jeff Mills, demonstrating the sanitizing sprayer.

These photos show Jeff Mills, our custodian, geared up to sanitize the building. As you can see, he wears protective equipment, including face mask, face shield, gloves and a poncho to keep the spray off his body. After services or meetings, he sprays a disinfecting, sanitizing spray with his backpack sprayer to provide a safe environment for us all.



A.S.K. News

August 23, 2020

Good Sunday Evening,
Well we just finished up with our A.S.K. Zoom meeting and I just want you to know it has been a pleasure and the highlight of my week to see everyone signing on. Starting in September, we are going back to in person A.S.K. meetings. We will be meeting at the Plymouth Church of the Brethren with Social Distancing in place. We have talked about this for a few times now in the zoom meetings and the youth members want to get back to in person meetings. Our meetings will start at 6:00 pm and run to 7:00 pm. Requirements for the

meetings:

Masks will be required. (When the weather permits, we will be outside in the courtyard.)

We will be spreading out and only family groups will be sitting together. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. I am so excited to see everyone in person. I have truly missed this since March when we suspended the in-person meetings.

In Christ,

Aaron Woodcox

Director of A.S.K. Student Ministries
(574) 780-6049

United in Marriage

Thomas Boys and Julie Scott would like to announce to their church family they have been united in marriage! This holy ceremony took place on August 25, 2020, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Please join in celebrating their union with your prayers for continued blessings as they begin their new life living as one, in Christ.

A small reception with family and a few close friends has been planned by the couple.



If you would like to express your joy by offering your well-wishes or sending a card to Mr. & Mrs. Boys, their home address is 1515 Kenwood Ave. Plymouth, IN 46563.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September Birthdays



Joanne Boys	9/1	Brenda Pedavoli	9/18
Jan Heeren	9/2	Dave Goebel	9/20
Grace Blanding	9/3	Carol Beiter	9/21
Dick Stinson	9/3	Emily Cochern	9/24
Chelsea Corwin	9/8	Sharon Balka	9/25
Mike Stump	9/8	Donna Hemmig	9/26
Anthony Witt	9/12	James Easterday	9/29
Lynn Gee	9/15	Betty Cleeter	9/30

Today is in God's Hands and So Are You

“The hands that hold you will never let you down.”

His hands are strong and will uphold you;

His hands are masterful and will conform you;

His hands are great and will enfold you;

His hands are compassionate and will care for you;

His hands are gentle and will embrace you;



His hands are healing and will renew you;

His hands are protective and will cover you;

His hands are calming and will comfort you;

His hands are reassuring and will quiet you;

His hands are giving and will bless you;

His hands are powerful and will defend you;

The hands that hold you will never let you down.

His hands are parental and will train you;

Roy Lessen

Submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Mission Fundraiser

**Walleye Fish Sandwich
with Fries - \$10.00**

(Cooked by Ralph Smith)



Saturday, 9/19
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drive Thru Service

Sandwich also sold separately

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

Proceeds to benefit Mission Trips

And people should eat and drink and
enjoy the fruits of their labor, for
these are gifts from God.

Ecclesiastes 3:13

Happy Labor Day!

MISSION MINDED

Upcoming Fundraiser!
Walleye Fish Sandwiches and Fries



Saturday, September 19, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

See the separate flier.

**We are not pre-selling tickets this time,
 but hope that everyone will come out and support us.**

Several of our planned fundraisers have been canceled in the last five months so we are behind in our fundraising and 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!**

HENDERSON SETTLEMENT WORK TRIP:

We are still planning on a group of volunteers taking the annual trip to Henderson Settlement the **last week of October**. If you would like more information or to sign up, contact Mike Woolfington or Carol Beiter.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tuesday, November 10 – Hacienda Day:
 We will get a portion of the proceeds for Carry-out, Eat-in, or Gift Cards. (Gift Cards make great Christmas gifts / stocking stuffers!)





 September

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Missions	2	3	4	5
6	7 OFFICE CLOSED  LABOR DAY	8 11:00 am Bad Girls	9	10	11	12
13	14 6:30 pm Social Concerns	15 6:00 pm Finance	16	17	18	19 10-2 Missions Fish Sandwich Fund-raiser 
20	21	22 11:00 am Bad Girls 5:30 pm Trustees	23	24	25	26
27	28 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7 pm Youth & Ed	29 6:00 pm Church Council	30 5-7 pm Community Meal	PLEASE CHECK WITH YOUR COMMITTEE CHAIR TO SEE IF YOU ARE MEETING and/or VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON.		

First United Methodist Church

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Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

First United Methodist Church



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Services on the web:

[https://
www.facebook.com/
plymouthfumc](https://www.facebook.com/plymouthfumc)

September Preaching Plan

September 6, 2020

Labor Day

Communion

14th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 12:1-14

Title: Passover Plan

Theme: God offers instructions for the people through Moses and Aaron, with a plan to save and redeem God's people from bondage in Egypt.

September 13, 2020

15th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 14:19-31

Title: Rescued

Theme: With a pillar of cloud by day and light at night, separating the Israelites and the Egyptians, God's people escape on dry ground while all of Egypt's cavalry and chariots are covered by water. The people are amazed by God's power and believe in God and his servant Moses.

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