



FIRST NEWS

First United
Methodist
Church
June 2025

2025 Trip to Midwest Mission Distribution Center



Pictured above: Bill and Donna Hemmig, Kennedy and Sharen Robinson, Carol Beiter, Karen and Barry Capper.





Dear First UMC,

Next week (June 4-7) our Lay Representative to Annual Conference, Sarah Smith, and I will attend the Indiana Annual Conference as representatives of FUMC. Historically this would be the time for me to receive news about my appointment, and while the Bishop and the Cabinet still take the time during the conference to affirm our appointments, these have already been determined for the upcoming year, and I already know that I have been appointed to First for this next year. I am happy to share this news as I feel very fortunate to be able to serve this congregation.

What we do at Annual Conference is come together over multiple days for worship and to collaborate on the business of the Church. Each year, we honor retirees, remember the lives and ministries of those who have joined the Church Triumphant, and celebrate those who have answered God's call to serve the Church as licensed, commissioned, and ordained clergy persons. We also vote to ratify any amendments to the Discipline following General Conference, pass the budget, discuss changes to our pension and medical benefits (this seems to be an annual thing lately), and receive reports from the various boards and committees. We receive instruction regarding the vision, goals and strategic focuses for the churches in Indiana, and we have an opportunity to think beyond what we are accomplishing in our local church.

This is our collective opportunity to tell the story of the Connection, the Conference, and most importantly the local church. Annual Conference offers us the ability to celebrate good work in ministry, as well as launch vision for who we aspire to be in our witness, as United Methodists, to the world. Ministries are invited to offer reports in a narrative style that showcase how we are making disciples at the local church level and transforming the world throughout the Connection. It's always inspiring to learn about the ministries that are happening beyond our local church.

Annual Conference is a busy week. I look forward to sharing my experiences with you when I return. See you in worship!

Blessings,

Pastor Lauren

P.S. Lately I have received an increased number of SPAM calls. As a result, I have had to put my phone on "Do not disturb" at various times throughout the day so that I can get work done without being interrupted all the time. If you are trying to reach me and I do not answer, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



[Pictured here back row: Peter O'Daniel, Mark Honer, Tiffany Atkins, Duane Dollarhite; front row: Olivia Wandland, Serenity Cowger, Chelse Corwin, Oreanna Atkins, Lydia Thada, Becky Thada]

Troop #3257, a girls' troop of Scouting America (formerly the Boy Scouts of America) had a Court of Honor ceremony on Tuesday, April 8 at the American Legion Post 27 in Plymouth.

Several girls completed the requirements for the fingerprinting merit badge and received them at this spring's Court of Honor. There are 139 different merit badges, including hiking, first aid, art, cooking, and many more. Chelse Corwin, Olivia Wandland, Oreanna Atkins, and Lydia Thada all earned their fingerprinting badge. Both Atkins and Thada also received their Tenderfoot rank, the second rank on the way to Eagle. The next ranks are Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, and finally Eagle.

YOUTH IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

June 29 - All Church Picnic

September 1 - Blueberry Stomp, volunteers needed (see below)



Blueberry Stomp 5K & 15K and 1-Mile Fun Run directors Amanda and Anthony Witt are looking for course volunteers to help point participants in the right direction on Monday, September 1. If interested, please contact them at 269-325-6164. or blueberrystomp@gmail.com. A sign-up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary as well.

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Emma Cook (granddaughter of Dick and Genie Tobias) graduated from the University of Georgia as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army.



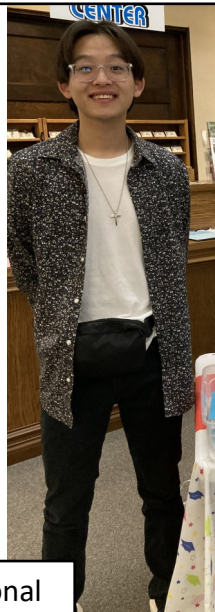
Emma Jackson will be attending the University of Alabama as a Chemistry major on a pre-med track. Future plans are to attend medical school.



David Cochern will be attending Purdue University and is enrolled in the School of Business.



Cameron Kaufman has registered with Vocational Rehabilitation Services and will receive training and job placement through them.



Rowynn Hall-Davis will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington to pursue a degree in Exercise Science.



"Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity."

1 Timothy 4:12

Missions

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES



Future dates scheduled to volunteer at **Cultivate Food Rescue**:

Monday, June 23; Wednesday, July 23; Monday, Aug. 18; Wednesday, Sept 24. In the summer, more volunteers are needed as they have less Notre Dame students helping out.

We leave from the church parking lot at 5:15 p.m. and carpool to South Bend where we work from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. We return to the church parking lot about 8:45 p.m. Lauren Rich and Diane Hogsett are our coordinators. Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center.

This is a fun, easy way to serve others! No experience or skill is necessary; sit-down jobs are available.



Midwest Mission May 4 - 9

Our seven volunteers were busy at Midwest Mission in May. Karen and Carol sewed items at home and donated them. They packed rice meals and cleaning kits, worked in the sewing room, and made school desks. They also participated in a "Blessing Ceremony" for a shipment ready to load.



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:

Thank you to everyone who supported our ten-dollar fundraiser in May!

Saturday, June 21 – Bake Sale at the Farmers Market 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

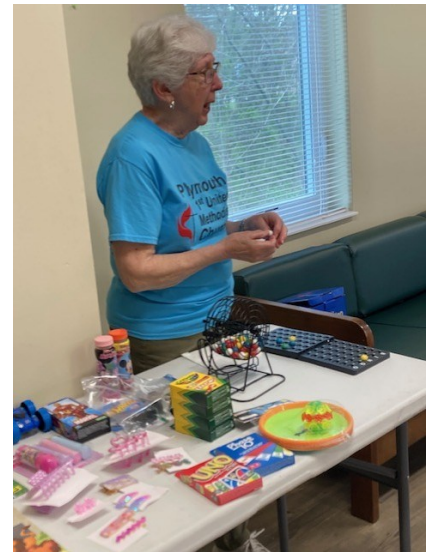
Friday, July 25 – Concession Stand at Music in the Park





In May, the Social Concerns Committee had our 3rd annual carry-in dinner at Serenity Place on West

Jefferson Street. We served dinner and then played bingo with the residents of the permanent supportive housing apartments. It was fun to visit with people whom we met in previous years. Everyone had a good time, especially the kids!



On Monday, June 9, from 4 to 6 pm, we will be having our 5th annual “Help Thy Neighbor” drive-through donation event at our church. A complete list of the items needed for the food pantries and non-food items is in the newsletter. Monetary donations are accepted as well. Please make your check out to FUMC with Help Thy Neighbor on the memo line.

Our May donations to agencies who serve the needy are as follows: Link to Hope Assistance \$400, Director’s Salary \$100; Neighborhood Center \$100; Bread of Life \$100; Poor Handmaids’ Food Project for hotels \$100; St. Thomas Non-Food Project \$100; David’s Courage Drug Rehab. \$100; Our church’s Community Meal \$100. **This totals \$1,100.**

Here is your chance to help our neighbors in need right here in Plymouth through your support of the food drive and to Social Concerns. God bless you as you give generously!

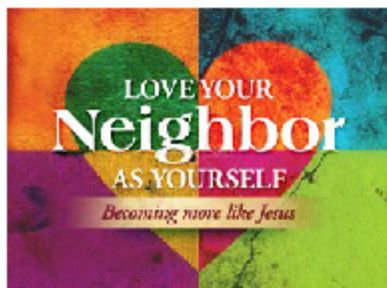


STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee encourages, monitors, and supports the pastor and staff and their families as well as the needs of the congregation. Committee members must be a member of the church. Current members are Lynn Gee, Linda Hagan,

Brent Kaufman, Allen Shockney, Robin Cupka, Genie Tobias, John Wautelet - lay leader, and Sarah Smith - chairman. They serve three year terms. If you have any questions, feel free to contact a committee member. While they must respect the confidential nature of some of the committee business, they can relay any questions or input you may have.

“HELP THY NEIGHBOR”



DRIVE THRU DONATION EVENT

JUNE 9 FROM 4:00–6:00 PM

**ENTER ALLEY FROM JEFFERSON STREET (NEXT TO RED D
MART) TO THE PARKING LOT EAST OF THE EDUCATION
BUILDING OF THE**



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Food items needed include: peanut butter, jelly, boxed mashed potatoes, noodle sides, hamburger helper, boxed pasta, canned spaghetti with sauce meals.

Hygiene items needed are diapers, laundry detergent, dish soap, paper towels, toilet paper, bleach.



*Hosted by FUMC Social Concerns Committee
to benefit those less fortunate in our community.*

*Donated items will go to Bread of Life Food Pantry, MC Neighborhood Center,
and St. Thomas Non-Food Pantry.*

*Monetary donations welcome!
Please make checks payable to FUMC with “Help Thy Neighbor” in the memo line.*

Mother's Club

UPCOMING PLANS: Thursday, June 19 at 6:30 we will meet at The Yellow River Tap & Eatery to fellowship and check out this new business.

MAY MYSTERY: As Secret Agents, we traveled all over the world to track down the thieves who stole the Hope Diamond from the Smithsonian Museum. We sampled food from around the world. The mystery included lots of geography, history, and the lore surrounding the Hope Diamond.



All Ladies are welcome to join us at Mother's Club. If you would like to know more, ask one of these ladies to include you on our private Facebook Page: Robin Cupka, Karen Capper, Pam Michel, or Sharen Robinson.

CASSEROLE MINISTRY



First Church has a casserole committee of over 18 members who are ready to deliver a family meal to your home whether recovering from an injury, illness or surgery, or celebrating a baby's birth, or for whatever need is experienced. Please contact the office or Sarah Smith (sguildsmith@gmail.com or 574-276-7932) if you would appreciate some yummy morsels - or if you would like to join the crew.



COMMUNITY MEAL

June 28, 2017, was the first community outreach meal. We served 80 people. We were really excited that we started out serving that many. We were the host church for Vacation Bible School and had invited all the families whose children had attended Bible School.

The next month, we served 25. We were disappointed but our enthusiasm was not dampened. And here we are, eight years later still serving our community and averaging approximately 250 meals per month. We've come a long way!

It is with your continued support and encouragement that we are able to carry on this ministry in serving God's people. They, and we, are grateful.

Plan to join us Wednesday, June 25 from 5:00-6:30 for Sloppy joes, Chips, Corn, Fruit and Cookies.

Community Outreach Committee

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will meet on June 14 at 8:00 A.M. Georgiana Morar will share about growing up in Romania and becoming a U.S. citizen. She came to this country in 2020. Her husband is also Romanian. Georgie will also be preparing the breakfast. It will include tea that is usually served at breakfast. Georgie has been named to Conexuus Indiana's Rising Class of 2025. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall in the lower level of the Education Building. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center on June 1st and 8th. You can sign-up by contacting Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.

Joe Collins, the Program Director for Alzheimers & Dementia Services of Northern Indiana will be talking about the work of his organization in July.

For the August meeting Curt and Debbie Palmer will be sharing their adventure in and around Cordoba, Antequera and Malaga Spain, as well as a quick trip to visit Sophie, their former exchange student in Vienna, Austria.

The two Sundays prior to each breakfast there is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. You can also sign-up by contacting Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.

In other news: Mike Woolfington is looking for persons to help with his SAWS (Servants at Work) program. Servants at Work builds freedom and independence through accessibility ramps. Contact Mike if you are interested.

FREE NOTE CARDS



We have beautiful, high-quality note cards available at the Welcome Center.

There are 6 designs showing areas around the church plus our "Open Hearts" theme.

Cards are blank on the inside and suitable for a wide variety of messages including Thank You, Sympathy, Thinking of You, and general correspondence. They are bundled with 6 cards, one of each design, and envelopes.

PLEASE HELP YOURSELF!

HAPPY JUNE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE!



SMALL GROUPS:

Bad Girls: will be beginning a study of “Good Enough” this month. This group of Girls meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00, followed by lunch out!! We will begin the study on Tuesday, June 10.

The Lunch Bunch: gathers on the 3rd Friday of the month. Plan to join this thriving group as we dine in restaurants in and around Plymouth. On June 20 we will dine at Jarretty’s in Rochester. Plan to gather at 11:00 a.m. at the church to carpool. RSVP to Carol Beiter if you plan to attend.

Blessed Bookies: gather on the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Education Building. On June 23 the readers will discuss “The Miniaturist”.

Knit Two, Pray Three: This group of talented knitters gathers on the first Tuesday of the month in the Education Building. These knitters are part of the Shawl Ministry designed to support our church and community family. See Carol Beiter or Lynn Gee for further details.

Knights of Columbus Breakfast: This breakfast usually occurs on the third Sunday of the month at the Plymouth Columbus Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus) but check the K of C website for any cancellations. Plan to eat breakfast around 8:30 and be back for worship at 9:30!



The SOUTH BEND SYMPHONY QUINTET WILL BE PERFORMING ONCE AGAIN IN OUR SANCTURARY on Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30 pm ! What a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to show off our sanctuary!

Plans for the future:

The Outreach and Support Committee welcomes the participation and joint cooperation with the Youth and Education Committee. There are plans for the future to attract families and children in the community. Stay tuned for more information.

- Latino Fest participation, Saturday, September 13 - volunteers are needed to man the games offered to the kids attending the Festival!!
- Mayors Music Night children activity
- Workshop to construct plastic mats for homeless/emergencies
- Family picnic behind Boys & Girls Club
- Thanksgiving cookie decorating activity

Continued on page 11

Dinner Discussions will begin Sunday, September 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Pastor Lauren will lead the discussion regarding scripture and current events and anything else that pops up! Sign up will be required but a light dinner will be provided.

Thank you to all those cookie bakers who continue to make the 4th Sunday of the month a special event! We are blessed to have such talented cooks!

The Outreach and Support Committee continues its mission to nurture the FUMC family while seeking community involvement within our church family. We seek to enlarge our mission by assisting the Youth and Education Committee as they reach out, support, and educate.

Outreach and Support Committee: Susan Wautelet, Carol Beiter, Grace Blanding, Mary Ecker, Betty Kay Eley, Lynn Gee, Sarah Smith, Mary Stewart, Genie Tobias, and Pastor Lauren Hall.

Youth and Education Committee: Barbie Pickut, Laura Blackford,



	06/01	06/08	06/15	06/22	06/29
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Carol Beiter	Dick Tobias	Mary Kaufman	Susan Wautelet	Ruth VanVactor
LITURGISTS	Carol Beiter	David Cochern	Mary Kaufman	Susan Wautelet	Mike Woolfington
NURSERY	Laura Darda	Laura Blackford	Carol Beiter	Melissa Christiansen	Mary Kaufman
USHERS	Pam Michel	Pam Michel & Linda Hagan	Pam Michel & Cathy Clough	Pam Michel	Pam Michel

Picnic Sunday

June 29, 2025



11:15 a.m.

Picnic in the Park

Centennial Park
Hoosier Old Wheels Shelter
FUMC & Trinity UMC

WHERE: The Hoosier Old Wheels Shelter is on Randolph Street across from the high school baseball diamond. The facility includes restrooms. There is a playground adjacent for those young at heart.

BRING: Food to share and table service.
Lemonade and water will be furnished.

PARKING: Parking is at a premium.
Please be considerate and leave the closest parking spots for those that need them most!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Chris Cochern Brandon & Lauren Rich (A)	5 Lynette Espich Emma Jackson Steve & Sharon Westfall (A)	6 Dick & Sue Stinson (A)	7 Ryon Macey Don & Sharon Balka (A)
8 Ed Pullen	9 Ed & June Pullen (A)	10 Mike & Jane Woolfington (A)	11 Alberta Millikan Jon & Ruth VanVactor (A)	12 Sarah Miller Sharon Westfall	13	14 Debbie Dunning
15	16	17 Lynn Hartman John & Susie Kreighbaum (A)	18	19	20 Sharen Robinson Jim & Cris Causey (A)	21 Barbara Dreibelbis Norma Booker Margot Rich
22 Bill Binkley	23	24 Jon Van-Vactor	25 Jonah Rich	26 Marc & Diane Laudeman (A)	27 Brent & Mary Kaufman (A)	28 Kennedy Robinson
29	30					

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month of May

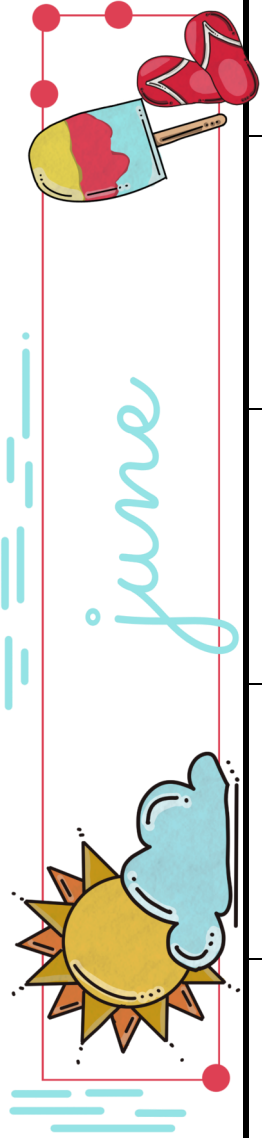
Income: \$25,742.35
 Expenses: \$23,698.14
 Difference: \$2,044.21

Year to date

Income: \$128,575.54
 Expenses: \$137,424.24
 Difference: (\$8,848.70)

To meet our Annual Budget of **\$349,783.44** we need to average **\$29,148.62** per month.

Thank you for your generosity!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7th Sunday of Easter	2 6:00 pm Trustees 6:00 pm P.E.O.	3 10:00 am-12:00 pm Knit 2, Pray 3 7:00 pm Missions Com- mission 5-7:00 pm Sanctuary Reserved	4 6:30 pm South Bend Symphony Woodwind Quintet	5 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	6 13 Worship at Miller's Merry Manor	7 14 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
8 Pentecost Sunday Music Sunday	9 4-6:00 pm "Help Thy Neighbor" Drive Thru donation drive	10 11:00 am Bad Girls Bible Study	11	12 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	13 20 11:30 am Lunch Bunch dining at Jarretty's in Rochester. Meet at the church at 11:00 am if you want to car- pool.	21 7-11:30 am Mission's Bake Sale at the Farmer's Market
15 Trinity Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday 8:30 am Breakfast at Knights of Columbus 2:00 Worship Service at Pilgrim Manor	16	17	18	19 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27 28
22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost	23 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies	24 6:00 pm Finance Com- mittee Meeting	25	26	27	28
29 3rd Sunday after Pen- tecost 11:15 am Church Picnic	30 6:30 Church Council					