

FIRST NEWS

First United
Methodist
Church
July 2025



CHURCH picnic





Dear First Church Family,

During worship a few weeks ago, our youth talked about a project they have been working on in which they are crocheting waterproof sleeping mats using plastic grocery bags. This project was inspired by Abi Pickut, who discovered the idea when reading an article about an organization that provides resources for people without homes.

One of the things I have noticed as our youth began crocheting these mats is the enthusiasm they have for this project. Not only can they see the outcome of their work, but they also enjoy creating something that benefits others. But what is even more exciting is that they want to share their joy with more people. They want to teach the adults in our congregation how to do this for a couple of reasons. First making these mats is time consuming, and they want to be more productive. Second, they are eager to be involved in a ministry project that includes the entire congregation.

I'm excited about this initiative because it is an opportunity for us to participate in a *multigenerational ministry*, which refers to the practice of including and engaging individuals from various age groups within a church setting. This approach is rooted in biblical principles, as seen in passages like Deuteronomy 4:9, which encourages teaching and sharing faith across generations. The goal is to create a community where different age groups can learn from one another, share experiences, and grow together in faith. Teaching and learning in this way used to happen naturally, especially in agricultural communities where multiple generations of families lived and worked together and took care of each other. In modern society, we live apart from one another – kids do kids' things, adults work away from the home, and older adults are often separated from their immediate family. Faith isn't shared as effortlessly as it used to be, and we are losing traditions and values as a result.

That being said, we are going to offer a workshop during the first week of August to learn how to make plarn sleeping mats, which will be donated to an organization that will distribute them to those who need them. The exact details are still being worked out, but it *will be led by the youth*, and there will be food.

I encourage you to participate even if you can only be there for part of the time (remember all the things we did as kids that were supported by the surrounding adult community – lemonade stands, wildflower sales, talent shows, trick-or-treat for UNICEF – this support helped to shape our creativity and our concern for others).

Making plastic mats alone won't solve homelessness, but it may be the start of an important conversation.

Peace,
Pastor Lauren

Annual Conference

In early June, Sarah Smith and I (Pastor Lauren) attended Annual Conference and represented Plymouth FUMC. This year the experience was a little different, because we were led by our new bishop – Bishop Tracy Malone, but overall, it was a typical Annual Conference, communicating policies, budgets and reports from many of the councils and committees that provide ministries that would not be possible without the resources provided by the connection of our churches across the state. As usual, my favorite part of the Conference is the worship – there is a lot of it and the combined talents from across the state result in very meaningful services.

If you would like to know more about the business of the Conference, please use the links below:

Annual Conference Summary

<https://www.inumc.org/2025/06/07/2025-annual-conference-summary/>

Reports

<https://www.inumc.org/annual-conference/reports/>



Top picture: Lynn Gee presenting Sarah Smith with an afghan square for the conference quilt.

Bottom picture: Squares from individual churches throughout the conference that will be connected together to make a quilt. This quilt will travel with Bishop Malone to the district rallies in the fall.

Christmas in July


• PLYMOUTH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH •



Beautiful keepsakes featuring our historic stained glass windows and dome.

- 3.5" full-color plexiglass with ribbon hanger
- Celebrate over 100 years of sanctuary beauty
- Great gifts for family, friends—or yourself!
- Fundraiser supporting church upkeep and future care



 400 North Michigan Street
Plymouth 574-936-2943
plymouthfumc.org

YOUTH NEWS



Congratulations to Emma Jackson (3rd from the left)! She was part of the Plymouth High School girls tennis team that was honored recently as an Academic All-State team by the IHSTeCA. She also earned Indiana Coaches of Girls Sports Association Academic All-State Honors and Academic All-State from the IHSTeCA.



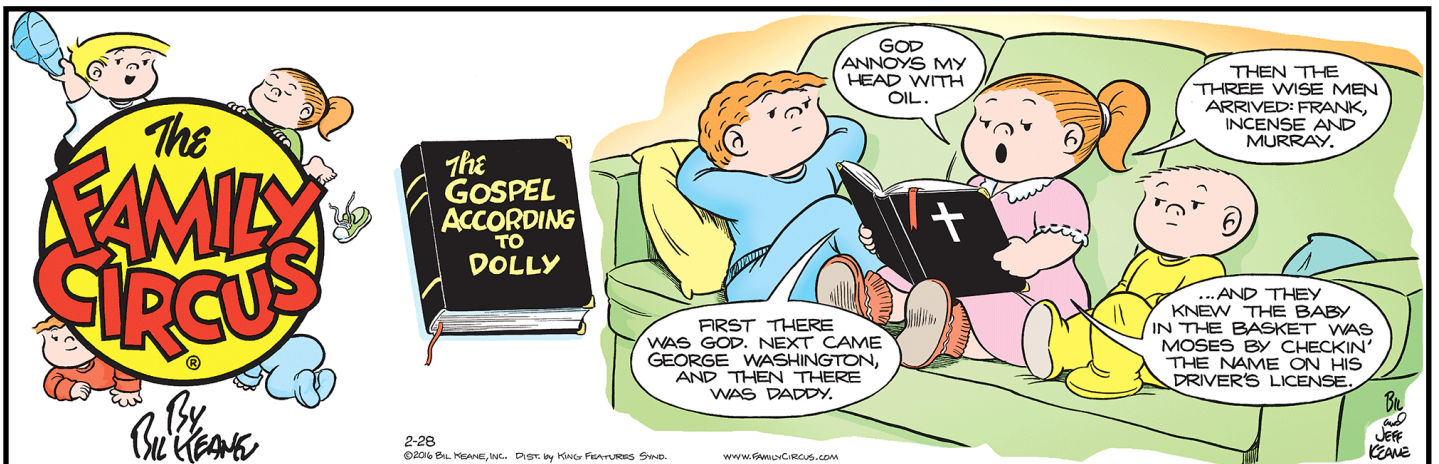
Thank you everyone for the gifts and graduation cards.
- David Cochern

YOUTH IMPORTANT DATE TO REMEMBER

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.





June was a great month of sharing and generosity for our church. The 5th annual Help Thy Neighbor Drive-Through Donation Event was a success with non-perishable food given to both Neighborhood Center and Bread of Life. A pick-up bed full of hygiene items, detergent and paper products were given to St. Thomas Non-Food pantry. In addition, you gave \$845, which will be divided between these three agencies. It's so wonderful to be a part of a congregation that cares about those outside our church who are in need. That's what God asks us to do, and you have answered the call.



LOVE
YOUR neighbor
AS **YOURSELF.**
Mark 12:31



In June, we gave the following amounts from your giving to Social Concerns: Link to Hope Assistance for rent and utilities \$500, Director's Salary \$100; Neighborhood Center Food Pantry \$250; Bread of Life Food Pantry \$250; Poor Handmaids' Food Project at the hotels \$200; our church's Community Meal \$200; St. Thomas Non-Food Pantry \$200; David's Courage Drug Rehabilitation \$200. **That totals \$1.900!** Praise God!

Thank you so much for your continuing support for others who are not as fortunate as we are and are our neighbors. God Bless you.





COMMUNITY MEAL

The July community outreach meal is July 30 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. Come join us for Pulled Pork, Fresh veggies, Baked beans and Fruit. Our numbers have been holding steady at about 230 meals per month; however, with the summer months, we will most likely see an increase. We encourage you to come and bring a friend. See you July 30.

The community outreach committee

UNITED METHODIST MEN'S BREAKFAST

The United Methodist Men will be meeting on July 12 at 8:00 A.M. Joe Collins, the Program Director of Dementia Services of Northern Indiana will be the speaker. Joe covers 11 counties for the ALZNI group.

For the August breakfast Curt and Debbie Palmer will be sharing their adventure in and around Cordoba, Antequera and Malaga Spain, as well as quick trip to visit Sophie, their former exchange student in Vienna, Austria. The Good Samaritan Sunday School class will be providing the breakfast.

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.



Mother's Club

July – We will meet at Culver's in Plymouth at 6:30 on the 3rd or 4th Thursday of the month. Stay tuned for a definite date! Save the Culver's coupons from the back of your Martin's receipts!



In June we met at The Yellow River Tap & Eatery to fellowship and check out this new business. The food was delicious!

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.

Missions

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES



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

Wednesday, July 30; 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., carpool to South Bend where we work from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., returning to the church parking lot about 8:45. Lauren Rich and Diane Hogsett are our coordinators. Sign-up sheets will be at the Welcome Center.

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

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Bake Sale on June 21.

Whether you baked, purchased, spread the word, or donated cash –

THANK YOU!!

Dean Byers was one of our early customers!



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS:

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

The featured band will be “Mr. Funnyman”, the ultimate variety band in Northwest Indiana and Chicagoland performing a wide range of different cover music. With a full horn section, male and female vocalists, drums, bass, guitar, and two keyboardists, no detail is missed when it comes to recreating the perfect sound.

Saturday, August 16 - Bake Sale at the Farmer’s Market

Saturday, September 20 – Tenderloin Sale at Centier Bank



Well done to Nancy Felde! She planted and maintains the beautiful petunias near the South entrance of the church? If you haven’t seen them yet, take a look on Sunday!

“Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.”

Luke 12:27



HAPPY JULY FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE!



Small Groups:

Bad Girls is beginning a study of “Good Enough” this month. This group of Girls meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch out!! On July 8 the study will begin, but bad girls are welcome any time!

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 July 18 we will dine at Salvatori’s in Warsaw. Plan to gather at 11:00 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. on the 2nd floor of the Education Building. On July 28 the readers will discuss “Until Our Time Comes.”

Knit Two Pray Three: This group of talented knitters gathers on the first Tuesday of the month on the 2nd floor of 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 Columbus Club (formerly the Knights of Columbus), but check their website for any cancellations. Plan to eat breakfast around 8:30 a.m. and be back for worship at 9:30!!!!

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

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!

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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. If you can help, even just for one occasion, please contact someone on this committee....you won't regret it!!

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

Parting Words: Love One Another
John 13:34-35

What does it look like to love God and to follow Jesus? Hundreds of voices around us shout very different answers to such questions. *Believe this! Do that! Follow me!* It can be confusing, even frightening, to a genuine seeker longing to know God.

But in today's passage, we learn how Jesus wants believers to act on their faith—during His last dinner with the disciples, He simply encouraged them to “love one another.” This, Jesus says, is how the world will know we are His followers (John 13:34-35). Love will be the fruit, the sign, the proof.

What does this love look like? That's a **fair** question, and Jesus has that covered, too: “*Just as I have loved you, you should love each other*” (John 13:34 NLT). Turning with compassion to the **hungry**, sick, fearful, and vulnerable, Jesus spent His life putting aside status in order to serve. He confronted the greedy and those using God's name to amass power for themselves. In a startling act of humble service, He got down on the floor to wash the feet of His followers. And soon after, He went to the cross in the most stunning display of love in history.

Our marching orders, then, are to love in the ways Jesus loved. This is how the world will know we are His. This is how the world will know *Him*.

Taken from <https://www.intouch.org/read/daily-devotions/parting-words-love-one-another>



JULY WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS



	07/06	07/13	07/20	07/27
ANNOUNCEMENTS	Laura Blackford	Jim Causey	Ruth VanVactor	Susie Kreighbaum
LITURGISTS	Laura Blackford	Jim Causey	Jonah Rich	Susie Kreighbaum
NURSERY	Jane Woolfington	Mary Kaufman	Laura Blackford	Laura Darda
USHERS	Pam Michel , Norma Booker, Donna Hemmig	Pam Michel, Linda Hagan	Pam Michel, Mike & Jane Woolfington	Pam Michel



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Luke & Nancy Felde (A)	2 Ed & Angie Kelso (A)	3 Beth Pinkerton	4	5
6	7	8 Sawyer Miller	9	10	11 Ed Kelso	12
13	14	15 Judy Goebel	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Jordan Rans	23 Lori Mills	24	25 Don & Elaine Dick (A) John & Kay Finlay (A)	26 Quentin Cupka
27	28	29	30 Bob Wise	31 Sam Goebel		

YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Month of June

Income: \$22,365.95
 Expenses: \$30,430.04
 Difference: \$(8,064.09)

Year to date

Income: \$152,656.63
 Expenses: \$173,237.31
 Difference: \$(20,580.68)

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

Thank you for your generosity!



JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 am-12:00 pm Knit 2, Pray 3	2 6:00 pm Mission Com- mission Meeting	3 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	4 Office Closed 10:00 worship at Mil- ler's Assisted Living	5
6 4th Sunday after Pentecost	7	8 11:00 am Bad Girls Bible Study 6:00 pm Finance Com- mittee Meeting	9	10 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	11 10:00 Worship at Miller's Merry Manor	12 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
13 5th Sunday after Pente- cost	14 6:00 pm P.E.O.	15	16	17 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	18 11:00 am meet in the church parking lot. Lunch Bunch dining at Salvatori's in Warsaw.	19
20 6th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am Breakfast at Knights of Columbus 2:00 Worship Service at Pilgrim Manor	21	22	23	24 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	25 Missions Commission selling concessions at Mayor's Summer of Music Concert	26
27 7th Sunday after Pentecost	28 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies	29	30 5-6:30 pm Free Com- munity Outreach Meal 6-8:00 pm Team to Cultivate Food Rescue	31	