



FIRST NEWS

**First United
Methodist
Church
March 2026**

Dear Rev. Hall,

Because of your generosity, 2025 was a year filled with hope and grace for those most in need. Through your gifts, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ were able to continue walking in the footsteps of our foundress, Saint Katharina Kasper—serving the poor, the homeless, and the vulnerable worldwide with humility and love.

Your support helped sustain ministries that address local and global need for safe housing, healthcare and education, nourishment for the body and spirit, and also helped us continue the day-to-day operations of the U.S. Province enabling the work of Saint Katharina to continue. These acts of service reflect Saint Katharina’s vision of responding to the needs of the time with trust and love.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bell, PHJC

Sister Shirley Bell, PHJC
Provincial



Thank you for loving your neighbors well!



Plymouth First United Methodist Church,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR BEING PART OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD! WE REALLY APPRECIATE ALL THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN US! WITHOUT HELP FROM NEIGHBORS LIKE YOU, WE WOULD NOT BE HERE. SO, FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS, THANK YOU !!!!!

We are so thankful for your recent Clothing Drive you held and for all the warm & other clothing you provided for our clients! Carol, Rachel & I

from the PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

As we step into the season of spring, I find myself reflecting on the quiet miracles happening all around us. Before a single tree buds or a blade of grass turns green, something begins to stir beneath the surface. The soil softens. Light stretches a little longer each evening. What looks barren is already humming with life.

Spring is God's gentle reminder that renewal often begins where we cannot see it. Roots wake long before blossoms appear. Growth starts underground—slow, steady, faithful. And then, almost suddenly, new life breaks through.

In many ways, this reflects the season our church is entering. Last fall, we took part in a feasibility study to determine if we were prepared for a Capital Campaign. In the process of completing the goals from our previous campaign, new needs arose: installing an elevator, making restrooms accessible, updating air conditioning, and resurfacing the parking lot. At first glance, a capital campaign might seem like it's just about numbers, plans, and logistics. Yet, at its core, it is profoundly spiritual – a community deciding to plant seeds for a future that we may not entirely see. It represents faith, hope, and love for those generations who will follow us.

Spring teaches us truths that speak directly into this moment:

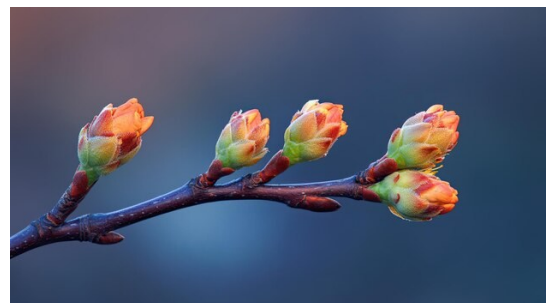
- New life requires trust. Seeds are planted long before they sprout. The commitments we make now are expressions of trust that God will bring growth in ways we cannot yet imagine.
- New life requires participation. A garden flourishes when many hands tend it. Our church flourishes when many hearts join in generosity, prayer, and shared vision.
- New life requires hope. Spring is God's annual sermon that hope is never wasted. Even after the hardest winters, resurrection remains God's specialty.

As we move forward in this season – both the season of spring and the season of our campaign – I believe God is already at work beneath the surface. The Spirit is preparing new possibilities, new ministries, and new ways for our church to bless our community.

As our team prepares the next steps for this campaign, let's pray for guidance, generosity, and a renewed sense of purpose as we look forward to what God has in store.

With gratitude,

Pastor Lauren





Community
Meal

Another month means another community meal. Please join us Wednesday, March 25 from 5:00-6:30 p.m. The menu will be Ham and Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Fruit and Cookies. See you there!

The community outreach meal committee



Children & Youth
News

We have several opportunities to continue being good neighbors to the Boys and Girls Club. Our next chance to lead some fun activities there will be Monday, March 23 in the afternoon, approximately 1:00-2:30. We will need about 9-10 people to help. We also need about 60 flexible plastic lids, at least 3-4 inches in diameter like the ones from cottage cheese or large yogurt containers. Watch for a sign-up sheet and collection container for lids.

We also received the letter below from an administrator at the Club. It's great to see that they appreciate what we are doing and have additional opportunities to share. March 5 will be here very soon, so if you can help as he requests below on that date, please let the church office know so we can pass the information on to the Club.

My name is Matt Fischer, and I work now with Boys & Girls Clubs of Marshall County. Andrew, our CEO, along with Courtney and Joanna, Operation Team Members, shared your contact information with me and shared about your past support of the Club, THANK YOU.

I wanted to introduce myself and say thank you. I would love to build a strong relationship and continue finding meaningful ways to partner together in support of our kids.

We are also beginning a new campaign inviting community members to sign up for monthly recurring giving as a simple, ongoing way to support our mission. If appropriate, we would be grateful for the opportunity to share that with your congregation as well.

In addition, we have two immediate needs where your help would mean a great deal:

1. Help spread the word about a job opening.

We are hiring a bus driver to transport Club members. The position pays \$50 per day, requires less than two hours, and takes place in the afternoons only. If you would be willing to include this in your bulletin or make an announcement, we would sincerely appreciate it. There will be summer opportunities as well that are optional. Anyone can reach out to me through email, call the Club or apply on Indeed. <https://www.indeed.com/viewjob?>

Volunteers needed for event setup.

We are looking for a few volunteers on Thursday, March 5 at 5:00 PM to help set up carpet, tables, chairs, and assist with light cleaning. It should take about one hour.

Thank you again for your heart for our community's young people. I would welcome the chance to connect and learn more about how we can work together.

Gratefully,
Matt Fischer

HAPPY MARCH FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE



SMALL GROUPS

Bad Girls is studying "Good Enough" as suggested by Pastor Lauren. This group of Girls meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am in the 2nd floor conference room of the Education Building, followed by lunch out. All are welcome! Please join us...we really aren't all bad!!

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 northern Indiana. On Friday, March 20 we will eat at the Brass Rail. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 and RSVP to Carol Beiter.

Blessed Bookies gather on the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 pm in the Education Building. On March 23 the Bookies will discuss "The Last Rose of Shanghai".

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. In the narthex are beautiful prayer shawls for those requiring TLC or just a beautiful wrap. Thanks to Lynn and the knitters!

Columbus Building Breakfast: This breakfast usually occurs on the third Sunday of the month, but check the Columbus Club website for any cancellations. Plan to eat breakfast around 8:30 and be back for worship at 9:30!!!!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!! HELP IS NEEDED!

MONDAY, MARCH 23

1:00-2:30 pm

This committee is partnering with the Youth and Education Committee to offer activities at the Boys and Girls Club. We are planning to participate on Monday, March 23 to lead the kids through three activities: an art project, games, and, of course, a snack. Those who helped on President's Day thoroughly enjoyed themselves, so our hope is that others will reach out to the families/kids in our community. Contact Barbie Pickut or Susan Wautelet or Chris Rust to sign up NOW!!!!





O Jesus, who alone might make a rich feast for many from the meager offerings of the few, now receive these our insufficient gifts: our imperfect talents, our limited resources, our half-realized intentions, our impaired efforts, and consecrate them for your good purposes that they might in your hands become something more than mere proofs of our own inadequacy.

“A Liturgy entreating the Lord to Bless These, Our Small Offerings”
~Douglas McKelvey, printed in *Every Moment Holy*, vol III

In this world, to look on the many needs of those who surround us—in this community, in this country, and in the world—can be overwhelming. There are so many areas of need, so many causes to support, that it is hard to know where to begin. Fortunately, thanks to dedicated giving of this congregation, that task is made easier. In January, Social Concerns received more financial support than previously, allowing the generosity to increase: \$600 to Link to Hope Assistance, \$100 to Link to Hope Administration Salary, \$125 to the Poor Hand Maids of Jesus Christ hotel ministry, \$125 to David’s Courage, \$100 to the Neighborhood Center, \$100 to the Community Meal, and \$125 to the St. Thomas nonfood pantry. Funds were also given to the Boy Scouts and to the “U Matter 2” organization in Marshall County, for their “Chicks for Vet’s” program.

As with the story of the loaves and the fishes, small amounts that do not seem much individually become a feast when gathered together, and there is more than enough to go around.

Thank you for giving to Social Concerns so that we might, in turn, give to others.



Remember to “spring forward” 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 7. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 8.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Saturday, March 14, at 8:00 A.M. Ken Briggs will be talking about the Amish. He will be sharing from the perspective of have been the religious editor for the New York Times for 18 years. Mike Woolfington will have the breakfast. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting and bring a friend. There will be a sign up sheet at the welcome center on March 1 and March 8. You can also sign-up by contacting Dave Hogsett at either davidh15503@embarqmail.com or 574-936-6927.



April Troy Spencer will be talking about his two trips to Africa. The Missions Committee will be in charge of the breakfast. Katelyn McGrift from First Source bank will talking about fraud and scams for the May meeting. This summer there will be a road trip to the P.J. Gilsinger & Company Museum in Winamac, Indiana. This very likely will be on a Sunday afternoon.



The Outreach & Worship Committees invite you to...

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 2026

8:30 am (before church)

In the Fellowship Hall

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & BEVERAGES PROVIDED

FRUIT/CHEESE/MEAT SIGN UP IN NARTHEX

Questions? Contact Susan Wautelet, Pam Michel or office.

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 and Laura Blackford



SAVE THE DATE FOR BETTER WAY!

All youth finishing 8th-12th grade in 2026 are invited to the Better Way Trip 2026 to Alabama. We will travel by bus to Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham from **July 11-17**, to learn, reflect, and experience together the continuing fight for equality and justice. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your understanding of past and current lived experiences. Registration, cost, and details to come; mark your calendar now.



Karen Swallow Prior
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

JULY 16-18, 2026

WCWC

WINONA CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE

Drawn together by our unique perspective as believers, WCWC focuses on excellence, beauty, and craft.

Held on Grace College campus beside picturesque and historic Winona Lake, Indiana, our conference welcomes emerging writers of all walks: from college students and graduate students to teachers and other adults seeking to improve and publish their writing.

We offer a world-class conference experience in a resort location at an affordable price. Enjoy readings, lectures, cultural events, a banquet, and keynote speaker Karen Swallow Prior.

REGISTRATION: \$425 (includes most meals)

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GRACE.EDU/ABOUT/THE-WINONA-CHRISTIAN-WRITERS-CONFERENCE/



SCHOOL OF
Arts & Humanities



Missions



Monday, March 9 – Members of Missions Commission will be serving Dinner at **Dustin's Place** in their new home at LifePlex. Dustin's Place provides grief support for children and families.

Menu will be Pasta Casserole; Oranges, Apples, and Carrots; and Cookies.

Plymouth Youth Fellowship: BELONG will be providing the cookies!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES

Cultivate: Future dates scheduled to volunteer -

- Monday, April 20



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.

Midwest Mission:

May 3 – 8, 2026 You can join in the fun - Just ask Carol B! Jobs are assigned based on abilities and skills. Sit-down jobs are available.



2025 – Bill and Ken building school desks from reclaimed bleacher wood.

Mother's Club

UPCOMING EVENTS:

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 at 2:00 pm – In conjunction with The Outreach and Support Committee and other volunteers, we will be leading a craft at Miller's Senior Living. We will assist the residents as they each create their own unique Bunny picture that can be hung on their apartments doors.

If you would like to assist, see Pam Michel or Susan Wautelet.





Invite your relatives, friends, and neighbors to join us for our services during Holy Week!

PALM SUNDAY – Sunday, March 29

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship with Palms
10:45 Sunday School, classes for all ages

MAUNDY THURSDAY – Thursday, April 2

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

GOOD FRIDAY – Friday, April 3

7:00 p.m. Combined Worship Service at **Trinity United Methodist**
Combined Choir will sing

EASTER SUNDAY – Sunday, April 5

8:30 a.m. Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall (Baked Goods & Fruit)
9:30 a.m. Morning Worship

*All Services at First United Methodist Church, 400 North Michigan Street, unless otherwise noted. Trinity United Methodist Church is located at 425 South Michigan Street.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Dick & Alberta Millikan (A)	3 Jay & Connie Kendall (A)	4 Logan Binkley	5	6 Lauren Rich	7 Dan & Laura Darda (A)
8	9 Chris Rust	10	11	12	13 Sue Kay Smith	14
15 Norma Young	16 Joyce Gibbons Amanda Witt	17	18 Darlene Snyder Shelley Heiden	19 Marc Laudeman Dorothy Steinke	20	21
22 Jane Woolfington Nick Pinkerton	23 Debbie Jung	24 Don Dick	25	26 Barry Capper Steve Jung	27	28

MARCH SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

	03/01	03/08	03/15	03/22	03/29
LITURGISTS	Cathy Clough	Barbie Pickut	Melissa Christiansen	Ruth VanVactor	Karen Capper
NURSERY	Laura Blackford	Angela Binkley	Laura Darda	Carol Beiter	Jane Woolfington
USHERS	Pam Michel, Norma Booker	Pam Michel	Pam Michel	Pam Michel, Linda Hagan	Pam Michel



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	2 12:00 pm W.O.W. lunch at Mimis Cafe 6:00 pm Trustees Committee Meeting 6:00 pm P.E.O.	3 10:00 am-12:00 pm Knit 2, Pray 3	4 6:00 pm Mission Commission Meeting	5 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	6 2:00 pm Craft at Miller's Senior Living	7
8 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 4:30-6:30 pm Plymouth Youth Fellowship at Trinity UMC	9 6:00 pm Finance Com- mittee Meeting 6:30 pm Social Concerns Committee Meeting Missions Dinner at Dustin's Place	10 10:00 am Worship Commission Meeting 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	14 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am-4:00 pm Fellowship Hall Reserved
15 8:30 am Breakfast at the Columbus Club 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Worship at Pilgrim Manor	16 4:30 pm Social Concerns dinner at Serenity Place	17	18	19 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study Daffodil Days	20 11:00 am Lunch Bunch meet in the North Parking lot. 1st day of Spring	21
22 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School	23 1-2:30 pm Boys & Girls Club Event 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 7:00 pm Youth and Ed Committee	24	25 5-6:30 pm Community Meal	26 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 4:30-6:30 pm Plym- outh Youth Fellow- ship at Trinity UMC	30 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	31				