



FIRST NEWS

First United
Methodist
Church
June 2026



Congratulations to Emma Konefsky and Jonah Rich! Both graduated from Plymouth High School and are pursuing further education.



from the
PASTOR 

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you. I write with a heart full of gratitude for the many ways you have shown your faithfulness to our church over the years. Again and again, you have demonstrated love for Jesus in the ways you show up for our community in times of need and in your commitment to this congregation through your generosity, service, prayers, and steady presence among us.

Thank you for your years of giving, your volunteer service, your prayer support, and your faithful attendance. I am especially grateful for your patience and steadfastness as we navigated the disruptions resulting from the pandemic and our dome repair. Through every challenge, you have continued to support the ministry of this church with perseverance and hope, and your faithfulness has been a blessing to our whole church family.

As we give thanks for God's provision in the past, we also look to the needs before us in the present. Two important needs now stand before us: the installation of an elevator and the upgrades and replacements of the air conditioning system in our fellowship hall. These improvements would help us better welcome and serve all who come through our doors, especially those who face mobility challenges, and would make our worship and fellowship spaces more comfortable for everyone.

With that in mind, I ask you to be in prayer about our upcoming capital campaign. This is not simply about improving a building; it is about strengthening our ability to care for our community and our congregation now and in the years to come. Your support will help us move forward in faith, just as this church family has done so many times before.

Thank you again for your faithfulness, your love for this congregation, and your continued prayers. May the Lord bless you for all you have done and continue to do in His service.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Lauren



HAPPY JUNE FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE



SMALL GROUPS:

Bad Girls This group of Girls meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 am, followed by lunch out. Beginning in June we will be studying "Lies Women Believe" by Nancy Demoss Wolgemuth. Sound interesting? All are welcome! Please join, 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, June 19 the Bunch will eat at Rip's in Plymouth. Meet at the restaurant at 11:30 and RSVP to Carol Beiter. **Note new location!**

Blessed Bookies gather on the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 pm in the Education Building. On June 22 we will discuss *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi. Come join us!

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!



JUNE 28 FOLLOWING CHURCH

Let's celebrate America's birthday with a good old fashioned church picnic. The Worship and Outreach Committees invite you to join the festivities: Bring your favorite summer picnic food (dessert and chicken will be provided). There will be a program honoring America's birth.

Let's Celebrate America's 250th Birthday!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC



Sunday, June 28

*Following Worship
11:00 ish*



In the Fellowship Hall

Carry-In: Bring your favorite Summer Picnic Food

Birthday Cake will be provided!

Also, lemonade and table service.

**Wear your
Red, White,
and Blue!**

**Patriotic Songs
Puppet Show
Readings
Trivia Contest**

Invite a friend!



JULY 12 AT 4:00 in the sanctuary

Cindy Boehner and Kelly Filson will delight us with a concert to celebrate summer and the sounds of the season! Refreshments will be served so be sure and plan to attend and bring musically inclined friends and relatives.



LIVING THE CHOCOLATE LIFE

Coming this Fall"A Bible study for women; savoring God and sweet grace." Karen Capper and Marilyn Rans will lead women of faith on this beckoning journey. Who can resist deepening their faith, exploring God's word, and tasting a bit of chocolate? Stay tuned for more information.

SOUTH BEND SYMPHONY

We are planning to present another magnificent Symphony performance, and are working out the details.

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

Youth and Education Committee: Barbie Pickut, Laura Blackford



We will work with each other, we will work side by side

We will work with each other, we will work side by side

And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love.

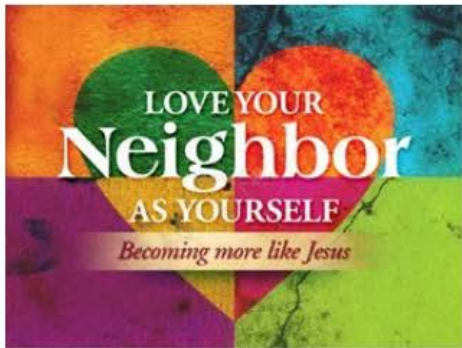
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

~2nd verse of *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*, Peter Scholtes

Through the generosity of this congregation, the Social Concerns committee is able to show the love of Christ to our community. This past month, we received \$398 in donations, but were still able to give the following amounts: \$500 to Link to Hope, \$100 Link to Hope Administrative Salary, \$200 to Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, and \$100 to each Bread of Life, David's Courage, Neighborhood Center, Community Meal, and St. Thomas non-food Pantry

Additionally, on June 8, we will again be accepting donations of cleaning supplies, paper products, hygiene products, and non-perishable food in our annual Help Thy Neighbor event. Please see the poster for more information.

“HELP THY NEIGHBOR”



DRIVE THRU DONATION EVENT

JUNE 8 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.



Community Meal

How can it be June already? But here we are. The June community meal will be Wednesday, June 24 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. The menu for the evening is Sloppy Joe Sandwich, Green Beans, Potato Chips, Fruit, Brownies. We encourage you to come join us and visit with those guests who are dining in. And bring a friend. See you Wednesday, June 24 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

The Community Outreach Meal Committee



MEN'S BREAKFAST

UNITED METHODIST MEN

The United Methodist Men will be meeting Saturday, June 13, at 8:00 A.M. Paul Hernandez will be the speaker. He is co-founder of "One More Citizen", a non-profit organization in South Bend. For seven years he has been leading citizenship classes for those who are interested in becoming U.S. citizens. Presently, he is leading a class at Plymouth High School. Six members of the church are currently volunteering with the clas-

ses at PHS.

Mike Woolfington is preparing the breakfast. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center on May 31 and June 9. You can also sign-up by contacting Dave Hogsett at either davidh15503@embarqmail.com or 574-936-6927.

Troy Spencer will have the program in July. He will be talking about his first trip to Uganda. Troy spent his first week touring agriculture programs, visiting FAIO UN headquarters, and learning about Ugandan culture. The next two weeks he spent teaching agriculture and starting a school pig farm at Lira Secondary School, located in Lira City. Troy spent his final week between seeing Ugandan wildlife at Muchison Falls National Park and touring Iowa State University's Ugandan campus. The Missions Committee will prepare the breakfast.

Tentatively, the theme of the August meeting will be about what happens to our digital legacy when we die.

Mike Woolfington continues to look for persons to help with his SAWS ramp building program. Contact Mike if you are interested.



ARE YOU SPRING CLEANING? If you have any of the following, here are some destinations...



BIBLES – Midwest Mission is collecting gently-used Bibles to send to Jamaica. Please bring them to the Narthex, or to the church office. Our reps going to Annual Conference in June will take them.

EGG CARTONS – Bread of Life needs egg cartons. Bring them to the Narthex or put them in the box in the entryway of the Education Building.

MISCELLANEOUS – *Relay for Life Marshall County* is having their Annual Sale in the Park on June 6. If you have items to donate, see Betty Kay. (No clothes.)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES



Cultivate: Monday, July 6 and Tuesday, August 4: 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.*

FUNDRAISING

Saturday, June 13 – Bake Sale at the Farmers Market

Come to the Market and purchase something delicious, or help by providing baked goods.



DONATIONS

At Annual Conference there will be 2 special offerings: 1) For the Cabinet Emergency Fund, and 2) For UMCOR to assist immigrant families. Missions Commission voted to give \$250 towards each of these offerings. The funds will come from Basket Offerings, Direct Donations, and Fundraisers.

PAST EVENTS

Thanks to everyone who supported our Tenderloin Fundraiser. We will have another one in September.

In May, 7 people went to Cultivate and packed breakfasts. Dick Tobias, Laura Blackford, Barbie and Abi Pickut, Diane Hogsett, Pam Michel, and Toni Colangelo helped package 1180 meals.





Saturday,

June 13

at the

Farmer's Market

7:30 – 11:30 a.m.

River Park Square

Proceeds to benefit

Mission Trips

Plymouth First United

Methodist Church



Mother's Club

All Ladies are invited to join us!



Thursday, June 18 will be the Murder Mystery, "**The Rhyme Crime**" at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Characters include Jack and Jill, Bo Beep, Red Riding Hood, Wolf, Cinderella, Jack Horner, Miss Muffet, and Spider. We still have 2 open parts if any other ladies would like to join us!



Thursday, July 16 Mother's Club will meet at Culver's in Plymouth at 6:30 for fellowship and food.

Thursday, August 20 Mother's Club will be at the LaPaz Diner in LaPaz at 6:30.

MIDWEST MISSION TRIP 2026

Five members of First UMC (Carol Beiter, Bill & Donna Hemmig, Ken & Sharen Robinson) were privileged to serve on your behalf at Midwest Mission in Chatham, Illinois the first week of May. The warehouse shelves were incredibly well-stocked (see pic at right), just waiting for a call from any area in need of disaster response kits, medical supplies, firefighter gear, school desks, personal dignity kits, bikes, sewing machines, etc. These items might end up around the corner, such as the 50 refurbished bikes we helped load one day for children in Springfield, Illinois.



Or the firefighter gear could end up in places around the world to help communities that have been fighting wildfires in their regular clothes. **The purpose of Midwest Mission is to bring the hearts and hands of God's people together to transform resources into humanitarian relief.** Work at Midwest Mission is accomplished with caring hearts and is surrounded with prayer. We are encouraged to pray for the recipients of the aid as we work, when a skid of completed kits is filled (see pic at right), or when a shipment of items leaves the warehouse. God is definitely at work through the volunteers who go to Midwest Mission! Won't you join us for our next trip May 2-7, 2027?





2026 Work Team – Ken, Sharen, Carol, Donna, and Bill



Ken and Bill assembling a school desk.



Ken and Sharen preparing a fund-raising mailing.



Carol sorting notions and fabric donated by Jeanne Middleton.



Sharen inspecting school bags to make sure all items have been included.



Sign we saw every day as we left the work space.



You're invited to a Life Line Screening event!

Where: Plymouth Church of the Brethren
When: June 11, 2026



Life Line Screening is the nation's leader in **Stroke and Cardiovascular Disease Risk** Screenings.

Trusted by over 11 million customers.

Screenings are simple and painless. Get peace of mind or early detection.

Who should attend:

Anyone **age of 40+**

Special Pricing for \$129

- ♥ Carotid Artery Disease Screening
- ♥ Atrial Fibrillation Screening
- ♥ Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening
- ♥ Peripheral Artery Disease Screening

4 ways to book your appointment...

Call 800-324-9458 and use promo code HABC001

Visit  [LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC](https://llsa.social/habc)



Text the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

These tests cannot detect all risk factors for all conditions, such as and including the presence of coronary artery disease. Those with abnormal results should discuss possible next steps with their family healthcare provider and ensure they understand the risk and benefits of any additional testing or procedures.

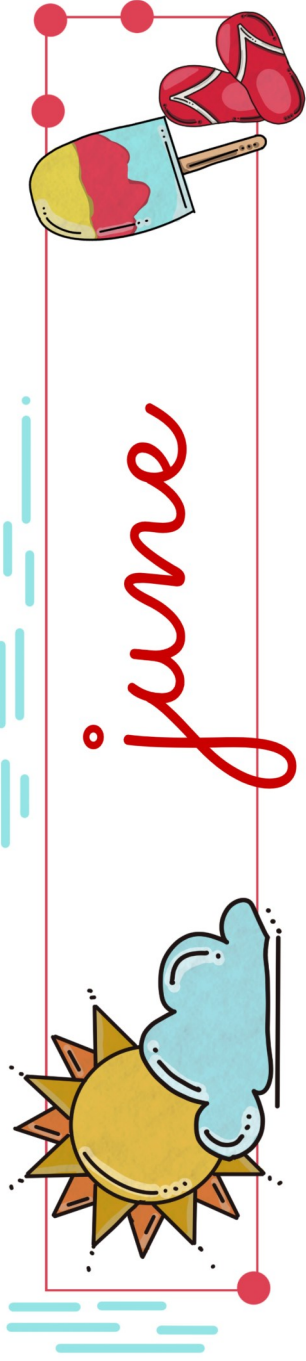


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 Chris Cochern Brandon & Lauren Rich (A)	5 Lynette Espich Emma Jackson Steve & Sha- ron Westfall	6 Dick & Sue Stinson (A)
7 Ryon Macey Don & Sharon Balka (A)	8	9	10 Mike & Jane Woolfington (A)	11 Alberta Millikan Dan Darda Jon & Ruth VanVactor (A)	12 Sharon Westfall	13
14 Debbie Dunning	15	16	17 Lynn Hartman John & Susie Krieghbaum (A)	18	19	20 Sharen Robinson
21 Norma Booker Barb Dreibelbis Margot Rich	22 Bill Binkley	23	24 Jon VanVactor	25 Jonah Rich	26 Marc & Diane Laudeman (A)	27
28 Ken Robinson	29	30				

JUNE SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
LITURGISTS	Judy Stump	Sam Goebel	Susan Wauetelet	Laura Blackford
NURSERY	Angela Binkley	Laura Darda	Ashley Corwin	Carol Beiter
USHERS	Pam Michel, Bill & Logan Binkley	Pam Michel	Pam Michel, Linda Hagan	Pam Michel
LIFT ATTENDANT	Mike Woolfington	Mike Woolfington	Bill Binkley	Bill Binkley





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 6:00 pm Trustees Meeting 6:00 pm P.E.O.	2 10:00 am-12:00 pm Knit 2, Pray 3	3 6:00 pm Missions Commission Meeting ANNUAL CONFERENCE	4 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study ANNUAL CONFERENCE	5 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	6 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
7 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	8 4-6:00 PM Help Thy Neighbor food drive 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	9 11:00 am Bad Girls Bible Study	10 5:30 pm Sanctuary reserved	11 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	12 ANNUAL CONFERENCE	13 7:30-11:30 am Missions Bake Sale at Farmer's Market 8:00 am Men's Break-fast
14 9:30 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	15	16	17	18 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Mother's Club	19 11:30 am Lunch Bunch meeting at Rip's	20
21 FATHER'S DAY 8:30 am Columbus Club Breakfast 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 2:00 pm Worship at Pilgrim Manor	22 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies	23	24 5-6:30 pm Community Meal	25 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27
28 9:30 am Worship 10:45 am Sunday School 11:00 America's 250th Carry-in	29	30				