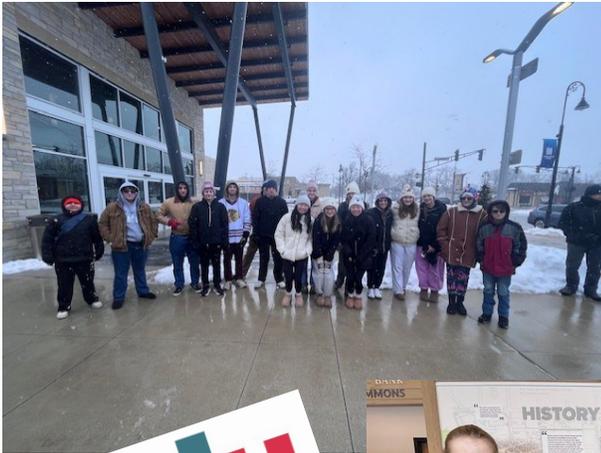




FIRST NEWS

First United
Methodist
Church
March 2025

Our youth joined Plymouth Church of the Brethren for ice skating and pizza last month. (This ministry outing was sponsored by ASK) There was even a figure skating team from Detroit doing a performance and offering short lessons. It was the first time skating for the kids from our church, and they had fun and worked up an appetite for pizza afterward.



YOUTH
GROUP
NEWS



The Kids' Sunday School class is making plarn (plastic yarn) that can be made into sleeping mats for unhoused people. We would accept donations of plastic grocery bags--it takes 500-700 bags to make a mat, so this is going to be a long term project. Here is a link to an article if you'd like to learn more. <https://lthc.net/ever-wonder-plarn/#:~:text=PLastic%20+%20yARN%2C%20plarn%2C%20is,worldwide%20but%20new%20to%20LTHC.>



Greetings Friends,

Someone came into the office the other day and reminded me that it has almost been a year since we returned to our Sanctuary. What a celebration that was after so many years of setbacks, obstacles and delays! While I was only here for a portion of that time, I am grateful for your determination, faithfulness and loyalty – and I got to be with you for the most exciting part – crossing the threshold into new possibilities and ministries as we personally found comfort in coming home. One of my favorite parts of the entire journey was planning for the Open House. I enjoyed watching representatives from every committee and ministry work together to prepare the grand celebration. There was energy and excitement, and this genuineness filled our meetings and fueled our work (and there was a lot of work).



As I write this note to you today, we are in the midst of winter, which is generally perceived as a cold, dark time since the weather is annoying and there is less sunlight to enjoy. Although I'm pretty sure that last winter was very similar to this one, I don't really remember it because I was so focused on the final details of opening the sanctuary and Easter, which, at this time last year, was right around the corner. This year Easter falls on April 20 and that means it arrives in the fullness of Spring, allowing us to experience new life all around us – brightness, warmth, birds singing, butterflies migrating, flowers budding, and so much more. There's excitement in the air when nature awakens from its slumber, offering us a sense of renewal and transformation.

I think that's what Lent should be about as we prepare for Easter. We can look inward, as Ash Wednesday encourages us to do, but we should also look outward to see the places where God wants us to be active in bringing hope and excitement to the world. No matter what is happening your personal life, or in this chaotic world that we live in, take some time this Lent to find ways to partner with God in the good that God is doing in the world. None of us are perfect, but when we work together with the perfect love that Christ made possible for us, we can transform the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Lauren



Know that already, God is offering us freedom from the bonds of perfectionism, inviting us to break the yoke of what "should be" so that we might discover what "might be" when we honor the small steps that are actually possible, in this moment, for this one day.

Note of Appreciation

Thank you for all the "get well" cards, the visits, the cookies, the phone calls, the notes, and prayers. I am blessed with a WONDERFUL Church Family!

Sincerely,

Tyana Lee



Youth
Events

YOUTH IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

March 9 - Bible Sunday

May 18 - Senior Recognition Sunday

June 22 - All Church Picnic

September 1 - Blueberry Stomp, volunteers needed

Ways you can
SERVE

Volunteers are needed in the nursery! Please contact Pastor Lauren if you are interested.

We are also in need of ushers. Contact Pam Michel or sign up on the sheet located at the Welcome Center.



EASTER
Flowers

We will be ordering Easter Flowers again this year to be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Please continue to watch the bulletin and April Newsletter for more information on how to order.



COMMUNITY MEAL

The community meal in March is the 26th, that is 6 days after Spring!! I hope it will feel like Spring. As of this writing, we are not sure if we will be back in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall or having carry out from the church building. Please watch for updates and look for the directional signs on that day. The menu is Pulled Pork, Fruit Cup, Chips and Dessert. See you on March 26 from 5:00-6:30 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST MEN



The United Methodist Men will be meeting Saturday, March 8, at 8:00 A.M. for breakfast. Chastity Keller, the Executive Director of CASA of Marshall County, Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children, will have the program. Mike Woolfington will be in charge of the breakfast. The meeting will be in the lower level of the Sanctuary building. You can sign-up by contacting Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6926 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.

For the April meeting Allen Shockney will be reflecting on the 50 (actually 51) year history of the Blueberry Stomp. Anthony Witt will be sharing about plans for the current stomp. Mike Woolfington will be sharing his involvement for the Blueberry Festival.

Mike Woolfington is looking for persons to help with his SAWS program. They build ramps for those in need. Contact Mike if you are interested.

Plymouth First, Hamlet, Plymouth Trinity, Tyner
United Methodist Churches
Invite You

*Ash Wednesday
Service*

Create in Me A Clean Heart

March 5, 2025 7:00 PM

**First United Methodist of Plymouth
400 N Michigan Street Plymouth
Indiana 46563**

Report on Kitchen Remodeling

Clay's Flooring & Interiors, Inc. from Rochester has been doing an excellent job. If the project continues to stay on schedule, we should be able to use the brand new kitchen by the First of April! We'll need VOLUNTEERS in the latter part of March to do a thorough cleaning of the Fellowship Hall and to fill the cupboards in the kitchen with the items that were removed in December. We don't have any dates yet, but please WATCH FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS if you can help.

Painting has been completed, the cabinets have been set, the countertops have been placed and the cove base (vinyl baseboards) is being installed today.

MARCH SCHEDULE:

Week of March 3 – 8:

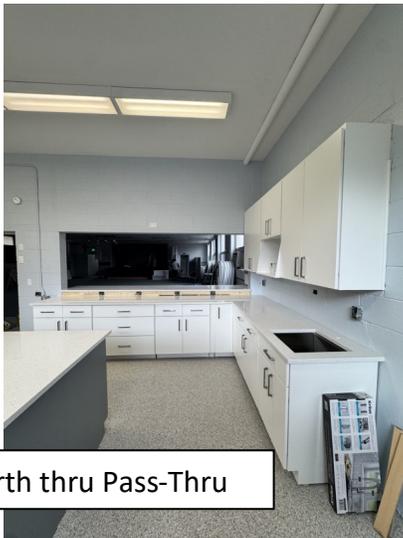
Cabinets above the ranges installed; Backsplash Templating; Ductwork for the exhaust fans

Week of March 10 – 14:

Completion of Plumbing and Electric; Appliances; Installation of Backsplash

Week of March 17- 22:

March 17 Installation of Fire Suppression System



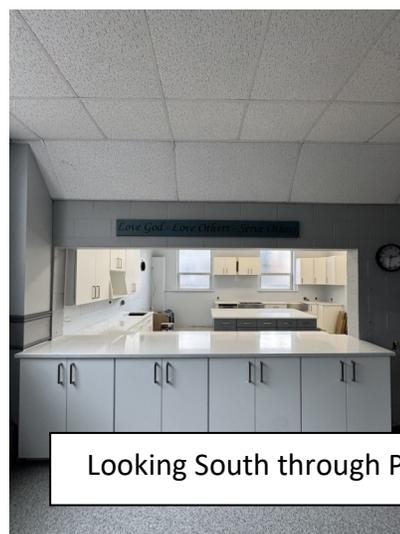
Looking North thru Pass-Thru



South Wall



Center Island facing East



Looking South through Pass-Thru

HAPPY MARCH FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

SMALL GROUPS:

Bad Girls will be ending up the study of Jesus' ministry with a new book to be read this spring. This group of Girls meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month 11:00, followed by lunch out!!

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 March 21 the Bunch will dine at Ho Ping restaurant in South Bend. In April the women will gather at the La Paz Diner. For more information and to RSVP contact Carol Beiter.

Blessed Bookies gather on the 4th Monday of the month at 5:30 in the Education Building. On March 24, the Bookies will review "Count the Ways" by Joyce Maynard. In April the discussion will cover "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See.

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, but check the website for any cancellations. Plan to eat breakfast around 8:30 and be back for worship at 9:30!!!!

COOKIE SUNDAY IS UP AND RUNNING!!

COOKIE BAKERS ARE NEEDED FOR 2025
Sign up in the Narthex of the sanctuary!!!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!! The Marshall County Orchestra will present a chamber music program on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at 7:00. This event will be a free will offering with the donations going to the United Sound program at PHS which offers special needs students an opportunity to participate. What a wonderful opportunity to enjoy our sanctuary and the musical talents in our community.



Musicians of the

**Marshall County Church Orchestra
& Company**

Present a Concert at

Plymouth First United Methodist Church

400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

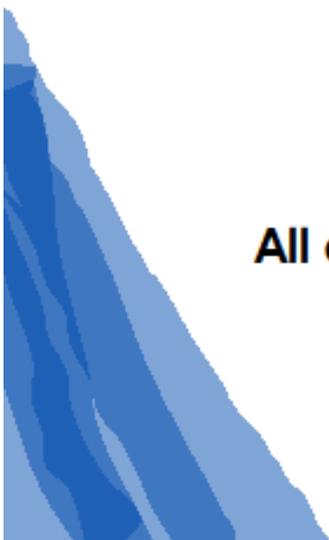


Saturday, March 29, 7:00 PM

Free Admission

Free will donations are welcome

**All donations will go to the PHS chapter
of United Sound**





The Outreach & Worship Committees

invite you to...

EASTER MORNING BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2025

8:30 am

in the Fellowship Hall

Please come and celebrate with us on Easter Morning!

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST & BEVERAGES PROVIDED

Sign ups for fruit and protein will be available in April

Questions? Contact Susan Wautelet, Pam Michel or Church Office.

Pastor Lauren has some noteworthy ideas for FUMC participation in the Fresh Expressions worship and spirituality programs.....Stay tuned for further details on upcoming events and how you can participate in this meaningful worship and outreach.

The Outreach and Support Committee continues its mission to nurture the FUMC family while seeking community involvement in our church.

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.

Missions

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITES



Future dates scheduled
to volunteer at

Cultivate Food Rescue:

Monday, March 10; Monday, April 21; and Monday, May 12

We need some extra volunteers for March 10th as Missions Members will be serving dinner at Dustin's Place!



February – We had 3 new volunteers! Will you be the next?

We took paper towels that you donated.

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.



Dustin's Place – Serving Dinner on Monday, March 10

Members of Missions Commission will be serving dinner to the participants at *Dustin's Place* (Grief Support).

Midwest Mission May 4 - 9

You can join in the fun! If you are interested in going or would like to know more, please see Carol Beiter. There are jobs for all skill levels. Even sitting and counting to 5!



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Lucky four leaf clovers, leprechauns, and shamrocks. We enjoy thoughts of good luck and we feel pretty lucky. But many of our Plymouth neighbors don't have the best of luck. Many don't earn enough money to have the warm, cozy homes we enjoy. They don't make enough to be able to feed their families. We, with our good fortune, have the opportunity to help our neighbors have a better life by giving to the Social Concerns Committee which in turn helps others have better "luck".

Last month, with your contributions, we gave to these agencies:

- Link to Hope \$500 assistance fund (rent and utilities), director's salary \$100
- Neighborhood Center Food Pantry \$100
- Bread of Life Food Pantry \$200
- Poor Handmaids' Food Project (makes 1,400 lunches a month for hotel residents) \$100
- St. Thomas Non-Food Pantry (paper products, cleaning/hygiene products) \$200
- David's Courage (drug rehab.) \$100

That totals \$1,300 that is given to agencies who help those in need right here in Plymouth. That's what God asks us to do. Thanks for your generosity! God bless you!

BLONDENA V. KAISER

MEMORIAL

February 23, 2025

Today we are proud to present the 35th Annual Blondena Kaiser Award. After his wife's death in 1986, Mr. B. D. Kaiser established a trust fund, to honor her memory and to fund this award that is presented annually on the Sunday closest to her birthday.

The recipient chosen for this award must be a woman with high moral standards who has a strong love for children and a background of caring for fellow citizens and her church. She will receive an honor certificate, the altar flowers, and a monetary award based on the interest from this memorial fund.



This year's honoree embodies the definition of "Servanthood". She works diligently and humbly for the benefit of others, setting an example for all of us. It is apparent that her Christian values have carried over into her daily life through her dedication to her family, to her church, and to her community. Her faith in God and belief in prayer have carried her through even the most difficult of circumstances.

This woman of faith gives unconditional love not only to people she knows, but she continually demonstrates her faith to those she does not know. She reaches out to those less fortunate and has always had a quiet influence on others. Living out the words of Jesus - from Matthew 25, verse 40 - "Truly, I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Through her service, membership, and faithful attendance at First United Methodist, she puts her faith into action. This special lady is a willing volunteer, always ready to help wherever needed. She has taken communion to shut-ins. She and her family provide homemade goodies for our Community Meals, Bake Sales, Funeral Meals, Cookie Sunday, and carry-in meals. She participates and attends whenever she can. For many years she hosted a Bible Study in her home, and continues to attend on-line via "Zoom".

She has taught Sunday School for many years; helped organize Vacation Bible Schools, youth Christmas programs, and Easter Egg Hunts; taught the children at "The Well" and Children's Church; and has worked in the nursery. She is aspiring to teach servanthood to the youth that she leads by involving them in serving around the church, such as baking cookies for Cookie Sunday, painting the "Welcome" sign currently in the Narthex, taking down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary and in their classroom, and encouraging them to serve in other ways.

This lady has served as Chairman of Youth and Education for many years, with only a small group of volunteers to assist her with planning and implementing the many activities of the children and youth in our church.

Our recipient grew up in Sulphur Springs, Ohio as the oldest of 5 sisters! She was shaped by the years she attended the Evangelical Pietist Church as well as the example of faith and service modeled by her family. She attended Colonel Crawford High School and graduated as her class valedictorian. Continuing her education, she graduated from Taylor University, majoring in Social Work. During her college years, she met the love of her life at Taylor and they married after graduating college.

They moved to Plymouth in 2007 and joined our church family. Her husband had accepted a position at First United Methodist Church as our Associate Pastor. A few years later they joyfully welcomed their beautiful daughter!

She has worked at Logan Community Resources for many years, which serves adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities including autism services, residential services, day programs, and employment services. Her current role description is Director of Service Navigation, which helps place clients in fulfilling roles that suit their abilities, but she does so much more than that! She fills in whenever there is a need and often takes on the role of problem solver! So you see - she is not just a servant at our church, but also at her work!

By now you probably know who our special lady is. She serves with faith, grace, and humility no matter what life throws at her. She always has a positive attitude and is a willing servant to Our Lord and to others. We are so grateful that she has chosen to serve at our church.

“Children may forget what we say - but -
they’ll never forget how we make them feel” -
And they’ll never forget **Barbie Pickut!**

Past Recipients

1991 - Helen Crocker	2009 - Deb Jung
1992 - Lillian Kenney	2010 - Jean Schricker
1993 - Betty Stewart	2011 - Sharon Anderson (Westfall)
1994 - Mildred Fetherolf	2012 - Diane Laudeman
1995 - Donna Lamb	2013 - Marilyn Rans
1996 - Patricia Bates	2014 - Sue Stinson
1997 - Dorothy Huff	2015 - Carol Beiter
1998 - Joanne Boys	2016 - Becky Rettig
1999 - Irene Butler	2017 - Irma Slack
2000 - Debbie Dunning	2018 - Diane Hogsett
2001 - Jeanne Middleton	2019 – Lynn Gee
2002 – Pamela Michel	2020 – Sharon Balka
2003 – Karen Carmen	2022 - Susan Wautelet
2004 - Marjorie Houghton	2022 - Jane Woolfington
2005 - Sandy Thoden	2023 – Beth Pinkerton
2006 - Betty Lou Laramore	2024 – Betty Kay Eley
2007 - Bonnie Yeazel	
2008 - Velma Butler	

Mother's Club

All Ladies are welcome to join us at Mother's Club. We currently have several members who attend church elsewhere, but enjoy getting together with other Christian Women. We normally meet on the third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Upcoming Plans:

Thursday, March 20 at 6:30:

We will be filling Easter Goodie Bags to be given out to children at the 3/26 **Community Meal**. We are planning to fill 50 to 60 bags.

The youth are invited to join us. We will meet on the second floor of the Education Building. Refreshments will be served.

If you would like to contribute, bring items to include in the bags. Items already pledged: Goodie Bags; Easter Coloring Books; 4 pack of Crayons; Bracelets; Bunny Necklaces; Plastic Toys, and Bubbles. The Youth and Education Commission will be furnishing some things for the bags as well.



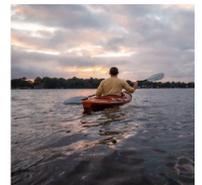
Packing Goodie Bags in 2023

*If you would like to know more about Mother's Club,
ask one of these ladies to include you on our private Facebook Page:
Pam Michel, Robin Cupka, Karen Capper, or Sharen Robinson*

Grace College is pleased to announce the inaugural [Winona Christian Writers Conference](#), July 17-19, 2025, on Grace campus in Winona Lake, IN. This three-day creative writing conference for adults features four workshop tracks (Creative Nonfiction, Fiction, Poetry, and Writing for Young Readers) led by award-winning authors such as Gary Schmidt and George David Clark. The \$350 registration fee also includes a keynote banquet with Christian scholar [Jessica Hooten Wilson](#), 1-on-1 manuscript consultations, craft talks, cultural activities, meals, and more. Adults of all walks of life and all levels of writing experience are welcome. Email wccw@grace.edu (or contact Lauren Rich, richlg@grace.edu) for more information.



**WINONA
CHRISTIAN
WRITERS
CONFERENCE**



Tell your story. Hone your craft. Find your audience.

Join us for a three-day creative writing conference **July 17-19** at **Grace College** in beautiful Winona Lake, Indiana
\$350 registration

Choose one of four workshop tracks (fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction/memoir, writing for young readers). Registration incl. manuscript consultation, keynote by Jessica Hooten Wilson, most meals, and other activities.



**GRACE
COLLEGE**

wccw@grace.edu
Insta @wccwconference

Better Way Youth Trip
When: Saturday, July 12th to Thursday, July 17th
Where: Washington DC.
Cost: \$300

All or part of this fee can be covered by Youth Funds if requested.

Please contact Pastor Lauren for information

Registration Deadline 5/19/25

The Better Way youth trip is open to current 8th through 12th grade youth and is a multicultural immersion experience sponsored by the North District of the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church.

What will we be doing (subject to change):

- Interactive seminar at the UMC Board of Church and Society on Capitol Hill (Mon-Tues) around the topic of “Gun violence-what can we do?” through the lens of our UMC Social Principles/Theology.
- Worship, group building and debriefing will happen at Friends Place and UMC related Wesley Seminary in the Georgetown area of DC
- Tour the Shanksville, PA Flight 93 Memorial on the way to Washington DC

Wednesday tour of the major sites in Washington DC

Transportation is being provided by Cardinal Bus

Adult chaperones are vetted and trained by the North District

Co-directors: Rev. Brittney Stephan (brittney.stephan@inumc.org) and Rev. Dr. Kent A. Lundy (kentalundy@hotmail.com) Contact either of us with questions.

“All Together” High School Camp
June 29 – July 4, 2025

Camp Scholarships are available. Contact Pastor Lauren for more information.

Info: Rev. Dr. Marti & Kent Lundy (our District Superintendent and her husband) will co-direct a week of Senior High camp at Epworth Forest from June 29th – July 4th, 2025.

For more information go to:

<https://www.inumc.org/2024/07/31/all-together-senior-high-camp/>

If you have middle school aged youth and want to send them to church camp, Pastor Kayla Grehl from Trinity UMC is directing the week of June 15-20 at Camp Adventure. There are many dates available for Elementary aged children at both Camp Lakewood and Pine Creek. Find out more information at:

<https://impact2818.org>





Grieving a loss?

Find hope and healing after
the death of a loved one.

Join us at

Grief  Share[®]

Weekly grief support group

When: Mondays 1:00 - 3:00 pm
Feb. 24 - May 19, 2025

Where: LifePlex Pearl Room
2855 Miller Dr.
Plymouth, IN 46563

Contact: Becky Liechty
brianbecky.liechty@gmail.com
574-952-5117

Register: griefshare.org/findagroup



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 Joan Troup	13 Sue Kay	14	15 Norma Young
16 Joyce Gibbons Amanda Witt	17	18 Shelley Heiden Darlene Snyder	19 Marc Laudeman Dorothy Stein- ke	20	21	22 Jane Woolfington Nick Pinkerton
23 Deb Jung	24 Don Dick	25	26 Barry Capper Steve Jung	27	28	29
30	31					

MARCH WORSHIP SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

	03/02	03/09	03/16	03/23	03/30
LITURGIST	Judy Stump	Laura Blackford	Brent Kaufman	Robin Cupka	Laura Darda
USHERS	Pam Michel & Norma Booker	Pam Michel, Jane & Mike Woolfington	Pam Michel & Linda Hagan	Pam Michel	Pam Michel
NURSERY	Carol Beiter	Mary Kaufman	Jane Woolfington	Laura Blackford	TBD

MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Transfiguration Sunday	3 1:00 W.O.W.	4 10:00 am-12:00 pm Knit 2, Pray 3 10:00 am Worship Commission 6:00 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Missions Commission	5 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	6 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	7	8 8:00 am Men's Breakfast
9 1st Sunday in Lent Daylight Saving Time Begins 	10 6-8 pm Cultivate 6:30 pm Social Concerns Committee Mission's Serving Dinner at Dustin's Place	11 11:00 am Bad Girls Bible Study	12 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	13 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	14	15
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 8:30 am Knights of Columbus Breakfast 2:00 pm Worship at Pilgrim Manor	17 6:00 pm Outreach Committee with Youth and Ed	18	19 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	20 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Mother's Club	21 11:30 Lunch Bunch dining at Ho Ping in South Bend.	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent	24 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies 6:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	25 6:30 pm Church Council	26 5-6:30 pm Community Meal 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Practice	27 6:00 am Early Birds (ZOOM) 12:00 pm Joy Breaks 12:30 pm Women's Bible Study	28	29 7:00 pm Marshall County Church Orchestra & Company Concert
30 4th Sunday in Lent UMCOR Sunday Cookie Sunday	31					