

First News

Volume 21, Issue 5

May 2021

First United Methodist Church

A Note From Pastor Toni

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Dear Friends,

Last summer, Scott and I took advantage of low interest rates and purchased a home in Fort Wayne where we'll one day settle in near two of our children's families. It's less than a block away from the home we built in 2009 and sold in 2017. We hadn't planned to buy another home at the time, and we certainly hadn't planned on purchasing a place in that same neighborhood, but it was like the stars all aligned and it happened.

Our neighbors watch over the place in our absence, which include ducks and geese. They've been in warmer places for the winter but have returned in full force.

A couple of weeks ago I noticed a goose sitting at the edge of

our property near the pond. She was there all day and was still there the next morning. I thought maybe she was nesting



but when I googled how that all worked, I didn't see another goose watching over her. She was just sitting all day and apparently all night, all by herself.

I started worrying about her; I don't know much about geese. I was afraid she was sick, and there we were watching her, not doing anything. I'd feel awful if we later found her laying there dead—to learn that she had been suffering and we hadn't done anything about it.

Scott said not to worry, she's fine. Human neighbors said the same thing, though they also noted they never had a goose nest on their property before.

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A Note From Pastor Toni *continued*

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A week later she was still there, but this time, another handsome goose was swimming nearby. Before long, she waddled to the water and they both took a swim across the pond. I decided to venture toward the place where she was laying while she had her back turned and quietly made my way in that direction. I wasn't fast enough and was about 12 feet away when she noticed and began flying back across the pond, honking loud and flapping with all her strength, while her companion swam behind as her backup.

In those few seconds at that distance, I didn't see any eggs, but there was a lot of fuzz. I decided she's fine, she's just sitting on a nest. I understand that that's where she'll be for about 28 days, with short breaks to spread her wings and stretch her legs. I don't think she left her eggs at all during that cold snap: she was doing a good job of protecting her future brood while I was trying to figure out what she was doing.

In the Psalms there are a number of references to finding refuge in the shadow of God's wings. "In the shadow of your wings I will take refuge till the storms of destruction pass by" (57:1). "He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge" (91:4). "In the

shadow of your wings I will sing for joy" (63:7).

As I was watching my steadfast mother goose, I kept thinking of Jesus as he lamented over Jerusalem, "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37 and Luke 13:34).

I read these texts and it seems that we recognize and give thanks for the refuge we find in Christ and yet we do that in our own way and in our own time!

And so today, I want to express thanks. I am grateful for this season of our life together as a community of faith. It has been a time of learning, of stretching and growing. I'm thankful for the refuge we've been given at the UCC to worship together face-to-face. And I'm thankful for all who have offered care and friendship to others, tucking them under your wings during this pandemic. There have been encouragers: note-writers, phone-callers, and delivery-makers. The time will come when we can once again sing (out loud!) for joy! But until then, let's remain diligent and faithful as we await the new life that is to come.

Love in Christ,

Toni

Moving Forward Committee Report *submitted by Brent Kaufman*

The Moving Forward Committee met on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 to review the Report on Probable Cost Projections of Plymouth First United Methodist Church. The information was the result of several months of meeting and working with S and B Construction Company (located in Indianapolis) and with input from Keller Engineering. The committee developed five options of the original twelve to have S and B evaluate and develop probable costs. After reviewing the information and considering the cost of the various options, the committee is preparing a report to the Church Council. That report is expected to be in the hands of Church Council in the next few weeks.

Once the report is presented to the Council, the Moving Forward Committee will have completed its task vision/goal: Adhering to the Mission and Vision of First United Methodist Church, the team will review the facility as it currently exists and seek various options to consider in Rebuilding First Church. The team will examine facility needs for future church programming; seek preliminary cost estimates on various construction options; and present its findings to the Church Council for their consideration.

Many thanks to the Moving Forward Committee in its desire to move forward with the rebuilding of our church facilities.

Liturgists for May



	2	9	16	23	30
	Jim	Susan	Elaine	Pam	Dick
8:30 am	Easterday	Wautelet	Dick	Michel	Tobias
	Brent	Mary	Beth	Beth	Robin
11:15 am	Kaufman	Kaufman	Pinkerton	Pinkerton	Cupka

HAPPY MAY FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

"When April steps aside for May, like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten; fresh violets open every day; to some new bird each hour we listen." —Lucy Larcom



Indeed, May is opening with rain drops, violets, and birds...the beauty of God's universe is evident! As more and more of our church family are vaccinated, it is tempting to relax the policies that are in place to protect our family, as well as others in the community. Therefore, this committee wants to remind everyone that the **MASK MANDATE IS STILL IN PLACE FOR ALL FUMC GATHERINGS**. If you are meeting in our building, please plan to wear a mask, social distance, and adopt recommended CDC practices!

The Outreach Committee is pleased to report that the following groups are meeting, complying with the above guidelines:

Blessed Bookies is canceled for the month of May.

June 28, 2021: "Gray Mountain"
(John Grisham)

July 26, 2021: "Dutch House"
(Ann Patchett)

August 23, 2021: "In an Instant"
(Suzanne Redfearn)

Bad Girls will now be meeting **ONLY** on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 11:00 AM.

Beginning in March "flunking sainthood" by Jana Riess has been the focus of this group's discussion. This book describes "A Year of Breaking the Sabbath, Forgetting to Pray, and Still Loving My Neighbor." However, it is never too late to join this diverse, interesting, and occasionally humorous study!

If you are interested in participating in either or all of these discussions, please contact Kathy at the office, or swautelet@aol.com for more information.

The Lunch Bunch gathers the 3rd Friday of the month. We meet in the church parking lot at 11:30, but reservations should be made to Carol Beiter. Please contact Carol if you are interested in attending.
(beiter800@gmail.com)

May 21: Hunter's Hideaway in Napanee

June 18: Boat House in Warsaw

July 16: Dutchmaid in Rentown
(depending on availability)

August 20: Crazy Eggs in Warsaw

As we welcome May, our return to in person worship, our gathering for spiritual study, and the blooming of spring time flowers and grass and trees, let us reflect on the glory of God as described in the following prayer:

**Lord God, Holy Spirit, Giver of All Light,
Bless and Keep All Those of This World.
Grant Us Your Peace, Your Light, Your
Love.**

**Grant Us Complete Renewal of Body, Mind
and Spirit -**

**Continual Rebirth in Newness of Life.
Let Your Light Shine Upon Us and Be Gracious to Us.**

**Grant to Each and Every One of Us:
Health, Comfort, Joy, Peace Within Our-
selves,**

Peace Within Our Families, Peace Within

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Social Concerns

submitted by Mary Kaufman

God bless you for your continued support of our church's fund to help the needy of our community. For April, we gave these amounts to local agencies which serve the poor:

Link to Hope	Rent & Utilities Assistance	\$300
Bread of Life	Food Pantry	\$200
MC Neighborhood Center	Food & Clothing Pantries, Rent & Utili-	\$200
David's Courage	Addiction Recovery	\$100
FUMC Community Meal		\$100
Poor Handmaids of Jesus	Delivers food Tuesdays & Thursdays	\$100
Christ Food Program	to trailer parks north of Plymouth	

That's \$1,000 which is being channeled to those who need it most right here in Plymouth. Even though warmer weather, which helps to lower utility bills, is here, hunger and poverty don't lessen; the need is still great. Please continue to give to Social Concerns. God loves a cheerful giver, and it's what God expects of us. Thank you.

“Happy May” Outreach Committee News *continued*

(Continued from page 4)

***Our Communities,
and Peace among All those in This World.
Grant That I May Be an Instrument of Thy
Peace.***

***Grant That I May Radiate Thy Peace, Thy
Light, Thy Love,
Thy Healing, Thy Comfort, Thy Joy,
to All Those Around Me and All Those in My
Thoughts This Day and Ever More. AMEN.***

- Jonathan Lockwood Huie

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Julie, Cindy, Kay, Sarah, Ralph, Katie, Donna, our trio of singers and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings these past months. Our online presence continues to grow,

so we are reaching many who would be unable or unwilling to attend in person service. We are reminded that the technology that we used to complain about now enables us to maintain contact with those we hold dear. However, that being said, it is wonderful to meet face to face without the benefit of technology! We are so blessed to have the UCC welcome us into their sanctuary.

Once again, thank you for spreading love, and remember....

God is good....all the time!

The Outreach and Support Committee

Susan Wautelet, Carol Beiter, Norma Booker, Betty Kay Eley, Cindy Flagg, Ed Kelso, Bert Rans, Irma Slack, Sarah Smith, Genie Tobias, Beth Pinkerton, and Anthony Witt

MISSION MINDED

Each month we are highlighting a different organization that our church supports through offerings.



Broadway Christian Parish is another organization that we support through the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. (Giving Code C44.) Because of your offerings we are able to donate \$300 annually.

Broadway Christian Parish is a United Methodist Church with a strong outreach program in their south side neighborhood of South Bend. Following are some of the highlights of their work in addition to worship and Bible Study.

The Broadway Hospitality Room is open Monday thru Thursday 8:30-11 a.m. Folks can come by to eat breakfast, take showers, do small loads of laundry, get help with basic clothing needs, find assistance in obtaining birth certificates and other identification, and even pick up mail by using Broadway's address if they are homeless. This provides a great time for people to connect with others and with Broadway staff and volunteers and find support for individual challenges they may be facing. St. Mary's student nurses help out with health issues. Sunday dinner is served every Sunday following worship since 1982, with the help of other churches and faith service groups. "This has become a unique place of sharing as congregational members mingle with homeless people and others from various walks of life in what we see as our vision of the "heavenly banquet" that Christ calls us to. The average weekly participation in the meal has grown to more than 100."

They run a Food Pantry, a Christmas Jubilee allows parents to select gifts for their children, and Holiday food baskets are provided.

Upcoming Mission Events:

MAY 16 - 22, 2021: WORK TRIP TO MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

At Midwest we prepare "kits" that are then ready to be shipped when disasters occur or requests are made. Some of what is prepared include cleaning buckets (passed out after natural disasters), school bags with school supplies, personal dignity kits, and new baby kits. If you can count to 5 – you have the skills that are needed! The director at Midwest will have a plan and be ready to assign us jobs depending on what they need done the most. Sometimes there are additional jobs requiring sewing and carpentry skills for people adept in those areas. The group will leave Plymouth on Sunday afternoon, 5/16, and return on Friday, 5/22.

- There is still room for more participants. Contact Carol with questions or to get signed up to join the group.

MAY 8, 2021: FISH FRY FUNDRAISER (See separate flier)

Drive-thru Service in the Parking Lot from 11:00 to 2:00

Walleye Fish Sandwich and Fries for \$10 (Ralph Smith cooking)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2021: FISH FRY FUNDRAISER

Drive-thru Service in the Parking Lot (Ralph Smith cooking)



OCTOBER, 2021 HENDERSON SETTLEMENT

Our annual work trip to Kentucky will take place in late October. It's not too early to think about joining our crew. Mike Woolfington is the contact person for this trip.

Additional fundraisers may be scheduled depending on community restrictions.

Mission Fundraiser

**Walleye Fish Sandwich
with Fries - \$10.00**

(Cooked by Ralph Smith)



Saturday, 5/8
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Drive Thru Service

Sandwich also sold separately

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
400 North Michigan Street, Plymouth

West Parking Lot (by Red-D-Mart)

Proceeds to benefit Mission Trips

I Need to Spend Time with God Even When I Don't Know What to Pray

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

My voice You will hear in the morning, O Lord

Psalm 5:3

Memorial Day - a day to remember those who have served in the military. I remember two cousins [brothers Jim and Bob], both fighter pilots during the 2nd World War. They were in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. Bob was shot down. His plane nor body were never found; his brother said he probably was shot down over the ocean so he is one of those missing in action that never was found. A friend and I took a trip to what was called the heart of Europe. We stayed at a hotel in Belgium and took day trips from there every day. One day we visited the site of the Battle of the Bulge and the museum there. We also visited two cemeteries dedicated to American soldiers. The local people were still thanking us for our help during the war. Those cemeteries were lovingly cared for and just beautiful, peaceful places to visit.

A Prayer for the Armed Forces

Lord God of Hosts, whose power is from everlasting to everlasting, and whose name is above every name in heaven and earth; keep, we pray Thee, under thy protecting care the Armed Forces of our country and all who serve therein. Defend them amid violence on land or sea or in the heavens, and grant that

they may be a sure defense and a safeguard for the people of the United States and a security for such as come and go in peaceful and lawful pursuit. In time of peace keep them from evil, and in the day of conflict suffer not their courage to fail; that they may guard the American heritage against those who would destroy or straiten the liberties of government by the people, and to the end that the blessings of religion and law may be preserved to posterity. Amen

From a Book of Prayers "Beside Still Waters"

Mission Witness

"The 2019 gathering of young people from fifteen countries in the Africa Central Conference [ACC] of the United Methodist Church clearly defined oneness in our churches and the strength in being together as God's children, despite our differences and issues; and they promised to stay together, no matter what!"

Finda Quiwa

United Methodist Women Regional Missionary serving in youth leadership development, education and training in sub Saharan Africa

First United Methodist Church

May 2021

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 Plymouth, IN 46563 Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>KEY: Joy Breaks noon Thursdays Fellowship Hall Women's Bible Study 12:30 Thursdays FH</p>			<p>COMMUNITY MEAL IS CARRY OUT ONLY</p>	<p>Saturday, May 8th UMM Breakfast at 8 am at UCC. Contact Dave Hogsett: 574-936-6927</p>		
2 5th Sunday of Easter	3	4 10:00 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7:00 pm Missions	5	6 	7	8 11 am — 2 pm MISSIONS FISH FUNDRAISER
9 6th Sunday of Easter 	10 6:00 pm SPRC 6:30 pm Social Concerns	11 11 am Bad Girls	12	13 	14	15
16 7th Sunday of Easter Ascension Sunday	17 6 pm Outreach	18 6:00 pm Finance Zoom Meeting	19	20 	21 Noon Lunch Bunch at Hunter's Hideaway Nappanee	22
23 Pentecost	24 6:30 pm Youth & Education	25 5:30 pm Trustees	26 5-7 pm carry out Community Meal	27 	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday Peace with Justice Sunday	31 OFFICE CLOSED 	MIDWEST MISSION TRIP				

May Preaching Plan

May 2

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Communion

Text: Acts 8:26-40; John 15:1-8

Title: From You Comes My Praise:
Guide My Steps

Theme: The Ethiopian says, "How can I understand, unless someone guides me?" So Philip begins to proclaim the good news of Jesus and the eunuch commands his chariot to stop so that he can go down to the water and be baptized. How has the testimony of the people in our lives and through the generations guided our steps into dances of praise at the good news that we are loved and blessed? What transformation is possible as we abide with God, the vine from which we find our sustenance?



us. We can't help but break forth in praise. This joy is available to all, realizes the community in the Acts scripture. The Holy Spirit finds its way even and especially in what feels like unlikely people and places. Where do we see the Spirit at work? And who can withhold the living water and our living praise? No one!

May 16

Ascension Sunday

Text: Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53

Title: Gone Up with a Shout:
Clap Your Hands

Theme: As Jesus prepares to leave the disciples, he opens their minds and

blesses them. The result after he ascends is their return to Jerusalem with great joy and a desire for "continually" worshiping and blessing God in the temple. What happens when the "eyes of our hearts are enlightened?" We know the hope to which we have been called. As we wait for the Spirit with hope, we celebrate with abandon because we have no other ruler than the One who reigns with love and justice.

May 9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Text: Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48

Title: Who Can Withhold? Break Forth!

Theme: The Psalm for this Sunday describes everything in creation offering joyful noises to God. Our joy is complete because the joy of Christ resides within

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May Preaching Plan *continued*

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May 23

Pentecost

Text: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21

Title: Spirit Poured Out: Dare to Dance Again

Theme: Ezekiel has a vision of a valley full of bones receiving life, breath, sinew and flesh after encountering the word of God. When they arise, they receive Spirit and they dance! As Easter people, we celebrate the Spirit that continues to give life and breath to our dry bones. We dare to dance in the face of fear, in the face of cynicism, in the face of despair. We dare to dance "as long as we live"

for we, like the early Christians, are the recipients of the Spirit of God which intercedes even when we think we can't make it to the dance floor. In hope we are saved!

May 30

Trinity Sunday

Text: Isaiah 6:1-8

Title: Awed and Sent

Theme: Isaiah's experience invites us to be awestruck by the majestic presence of the Holy God, to take stock of our own lives, to be transformed by God's purifying touch and to act in response to overhearing the Divine.

United Methodist Men *submitted by David Hogsett*

The United Methodist Men will be meeting May 8th, at 8:00 A.M. at the **United Church Of Christ**. The meeting will be in their fellowship hall. Dr. Anthony Witt will be talking about the pandemic and the Rev. Mike Dixon will have a devotional. All the men of the church are invited to attend. In addition, the men of the UCC church have been invit-

ed. John Wautelet will be in charge of breakfast.

If you have a question or want more information, contact Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or davidh15503@embarqmail.com.

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PLYMOUTHFUMC](https://www.facebook.com/PLYMOUTHFUMC)

Community Meal, May 26, 2021



The Community Meal will be on May 26th from 5-7 pm. This meal will again be carry out only. The menu includes hot dogs, buns and condiments, applesauce, chips, and cookies.