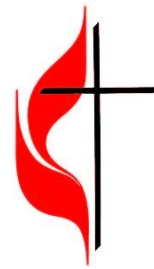


July 2021

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First News



A Note from Pastor Toni

Dear Friends,

Our family is preparing for the birth of a new baby. Henry Andrew Hyndman is expected to be born on Monday, June 28. None of Scott's and my three children were born “as scheduled” but the doctors want to be “in charge” of Henry's birth so our daughter Dominique is being induced on Monday. Unless of course, he decides it's time to enter the world earlier.



It has always seemed to me that babies set their own schedules.

The birth of this 8th grandchild of ours (our first grandchild was stillborn, which contributes to the doctor's plans for Henry), is an amazing gift. This birth, not-quite-post-Covid won't allow us to be in the hospital or to visit so easily. I'll be the only “approved” visitor beyond Henry's daddy

during their hospitalization, and I can only be there when daddy isn't. Realizing I'm of secondary importance is okay. I want to do whatever I can do to be helpful.

But I am looking forward to being an active part of Henry's life, as are the other members of our family, even if we can't all be there at the very beginning.

In our church family, over this past month we have celebrated the high school graduations of two of our young adults, Emma Cook and Keely Miller. Another pastor was here when they became a part of this congregation: they were baptized by someone else, over the years they listened to other pastor's sermons, and their Christian education has been shaped—in addition to their families—by members of this

(Continued on page 2)



Adams Street Kids



A Note from Pastor Toni *continued*

(Continued from page 1)

congregation who have welcomed, modeled, led and taught by their words and actions.

There are children and youth who are a part of our congregation—some who attended regularly pre-Covid and aren't yet back, and others who are currently participating in worship regularly. I look forward to being able to provide Christian education opportunities for all our children this Fall, that we can continue to be a positive influence in their lives as they learn and grow in the faith.

One of our ongoing ministries for older elementary age through high school has been ASK—Adams Street Kids. Though ASK has taken a regularly planned June break, activities will resume after the July 4th weekend, beginning July 11th. Aaron Woodcox, who is also the pastor of the Argos Church of the Brethren, leads about 14 youth at ASK on a regular basis, studying scripture, and talking about our Christian faith. Children begin-

ning grades 5 through 12 are invited to participate. Please call the church office if you have questions.

It is an honor and a privilege to be able to be a part of a child's life. Their curiosity, innocence, trust, generosity, love and grace have blessed me and encouraged me in my own life's journey. Knowing I can't always be present, and that there are others who can be present in ways I cannot—I am thankful to share the task of raising our children in the faith with others who also love Jesus, love these children and want the best for them.

I'd like to invite you to pray for all of our children at First United Methodist Church, that we—together with their families—will provide the love and care and training they need to grow as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

Love in Christ,

Toni

Midwest Mission Distribution Center Report

submitted by Donna Hemmig

During the week of May 23, five mission volunteers from Plymouth First traveled to Midwest Mission Distribution Center near Springfield, Illinois: Carol Beiter, Bill and Donna Hemmig, Sharon Westfall (who now lives in Kentucky), and Sharon's sister Debbie Bell. Sharing the comfortable, air-conditioned dormitory building on Midwest's campus with a great group of folks from Iowa, the time together provided the opportunity to get to know people from other parts of the Midwest and to be inspired by their life stories. During the week, the group did the usual projects such as working on school desks and assembling personal dignity kits, school kits, and flood/cleaning buckets. At the beginning of the week, there were absolutely no cleaning buckets on the storage racks. These are usually filled to the ceiling in the warehouse.

The reason the shelves were empty on Monday was because during the week prior to our arrival MMDC had shipped out a full semi-truck load of buckets (over 2000) to Louisiana to help prepare for the upcoming hurricane season. However, the very next

day they received a phone call from northeast Washington state asking for cleaning buckets to prepare for the wildfire season. They never like to say 'no' at MMDC; but the staff member who took the call was afraid they could not respond to this need since they only had 144 buckets remaining after the shipment. When he asked (anyway) how many buckets they needed, they said they needed 144 buckets! This is just one example of the small miracles that happen at Midwest Mission Distribution Center as God helps them respond to the needs of people in our country and around the world. At any rate, by the time we left, nearly 800 filled buckets sat on the shelves, ready to be shipped out for the next call for help!

Midwest partners with UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for aid shipments in the US, and with an organization called Food for the Poor for international aid shipments. The US Mili-



“As faithful stewards of the gifts and financial assistance they receive, in 2020 they reported that for every \$1 they received in donations, they were able to ship out over \$9 worth of goods. That is faithful stewardship!”



(Continued on page 9)

MISSION MINDED

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

Thanks to your offerings, we are able to give \$500 annually to the **Marshall County Neighborhood Center**.

“We have the power to impact the future of our community, and we’re doing it day-by-day. Our mission is to provide basic needs services to low-income households, while encouraging their steps toward self-sufficiency. Through the different programs we offer Marshall County families, we’re able to help them make real progress toward their goals.

Community Food Pantry - Any Marshall County resident can access the Community Food Pantry once a month and on an emergency basis. Clients can expect to receive supplemental food support (based on household size), which usually provides enough meals for a 7-day period. Food inventories are gathered in many fashions. Individual and church group donations are often dropped-off throughout the day.

Project Hand Up - Project Hand Up is a one-to-one short-term mentorship program to help people rise up out of circumstances they aren’t happy with. We offer help identifying needs, setting goals, and guidance in how to meet those goals.

Community Clothing Pantry - Households can access the clothing pantry (including household items) twice a month and on an emergency basis. We are the lead service provider to households that have experienced catastrophic loss of property (usually by house fire) and we suspend all limitations for families facing this extreme need. We receive all of our goods through community donations, and volunteers work to sort and stock the clothing pantry.

Holiday Assistance Programs - For Thanksgiving, monetary gifts and food donations begin in early November and peak the week before Thanksgiving. Our Community Christmas Coalition provides families with food, toys, clothing, and even cash to go towards buying presents for children.”

Upcoming Fundraising Events:

AUGUST 6: We’re sponsoring the **Kona Ice Truck** at the Mayor’s Month of Music at River Park Square. Stop by and have a shaved ice!



SEPTEMBER 11: FISH FRY FUNDRAISER
Drive-Thru Service in the Parking Lot



400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
Phone: 574-936-2943
Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

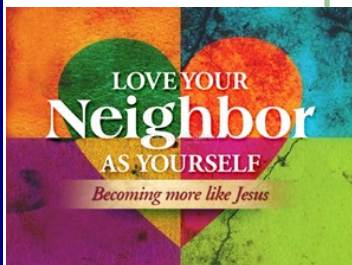


First United Methodist Church

Love God ~ Love Others ~ Serve Others

July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
☿ 6 am Early Birds ☺ noon Joy Breaks	☺ 12:30 Women's Bible Study	1 ☿ ☺ ☺	2	3		
4 6th Sunday after Pentecost 	5 Office Closed	6 10 am Knit 2, Pray 3 7 pm Missions	7	8 ☿ ☺ ☺	9	10 8 am UMM Breakfast at FUMC Fellowship Hall
11 7th Sunday after Pentecost	12 4:30-6:30 pm "Help Thy Neighbor" Drive Thru 6 pm SPRC	13 11 am Bad Girls	14	15 ☿ ☺ ☺	16 Noon Lunch Bunch at Dutch- maid in Rentown	17
18 8th Sunday after Pentecost	19 6 pm Outreach	20 6 pm Finance	21	22 ☿ ☺ ☺	23	24
25 9th Sunday after Pentecost	26 5:30 pm Blessed Bookies	27 6:30 pm Trustees	28 5-7 pm Community Meal	29 ☿ ☺ ☺	30	31



"Help Thy Neighbor" drive - through donation event on Monday, July 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the north parking lot of the First United Methodist Church.

Social Concerns News

submitted by Mary Kaufman

The Social Concerns Committee will have a "Help Thy Neighbor" drive -through donation event on Monday, July 12, from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the north parking lot of the First United Methodist Church. You may enter the alley from Jefferson and drop off non-perishable food and hygiene items. Cash/check donations are also accepted. If donating by check, make it out to FUMC and put "Love Thy Neighbor" in the memo line. All donated items and cash will be divided between the Marshall County Neighborhood Center and the Bread of Life Food Pantry. If you are not able to bring items on that date and would like to have a member of the committee pick up your donations at your home, please call Mary Kaufman, 935-3024.

giene items needed are shampoo and conditioner, men's and women's deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes (adult and children's) diapers, toilet paper, bar soap, razors, shaving cream and hairbrushes.

Let's show our neighbors in Plymouth God's love by showing our generosity at this donation drive!

In June, our congregation gave very generously enabling us to make these donations to local agencies who serve the needy of our community: Link to Hope \$ 300, our church's community meal \$100, Neighborhood Center \$200, Bread of Life Food Pantry \$200, David's Courage (drug rehabilitation center) \$100, Poor Handmaids (Ancilla) Food Project \$100, Boy Scout Troup of FUMC \$100. Your giving has made it possible to help so many people! God blesses us as we give! Thank you!



Items needed are Hamburger Helper, jelly, canned chicken or tuna, peanut butter, soup, pancake mix, and any canned food item. Hy-

Happy July from the Outreach Committee

submitted by Susan Wautelet

July is hot afternoons and sultry nights and mornings when it's joy just to be alive. July is a picnic and a red canoe and a sun-burned neck and a softball game and ice tinkling in a tall glass. July is a blind date with summer.

With the lifting of the mask mandate for our FUMC worship and gatherings, it is timely that we are able to be together during this summer month. July is a time of rest and relaxation, iced tea, outdoor festivities, and celebration of the nature that God has so bountifully provided.

Our small groups are continuing to meet during the summer, and we look forward to welcoming those who would like to join these groups...

Blessed Bookies will continue to gather on the 4th Monday at 5:30 PM. in Fellowship Hall

- July 26: Dutch House (Anne Patchett)
- August 23: 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

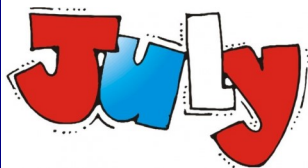
- ◆ July 16: Dutchmaid in Rentown
- ◆ August 20: Crazy Eggs in Warsaw



"July is hot afternoons and sultry nights and mornings when it's joy just to be alive."



(Continued on page 8)



“...Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation...”



Happy July from the Outreach Committee *continued*

(Continued from page 7)

- ◆ September 27: Log House in Argos

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

God, Creator of all times and places, we thank you for the gift of summertime, the days of light, warmth and leisure.

Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look: the multi-colored flowers, the deep blue of the sky, the tranquil surface of lakes, the laughter of children at play, people strolling in parks, families gathered around picnic tables and the more time to spend with family and friends.

As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of na-

ture and people, open our hearts to receive all as gift. Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist. Help us to realize and appreciate that you are laboring to keep all in existence. Warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer deepen our awareness of your love so that we may share this with others and enjoy a summertime of re-creation. AMEN

Again, we want to extend heartfelt thanks to Pastor Toni, Kathy, Jeff, Tom, Julie, Cindy, Kay, Sarah, Ralph, our impromptu choir, and all those who make it possible for us to worship on Sunday mornings. Once again, thank you for spreading love, and remember....

God is good....all the time!

The Outreach and Support Committee

July Birthdays

7/3	Beth Pinkerton	7/20	Mike Kyser
7/4	Virginia Benefiel	7/22	Jordan Rans
7/5	Tom Boys	7/26	Quentin Cupka
7/7	Ken Daren Jr.	7/27	Jala Mitchell
7/8	Tim Hardy	7/30	Bob Wise
7/10	Irma Slack	7/31	Johnston Boys
7/11	Ed Kelso	7/31	Sam Goebel
7/15	Judy Goebel		



Midwest Mission Distribution Center Report *continued*

(Continued from page 3)

tary also assists with transporting overseas shipments. The staff at Midwest are constantly working to improve their methods to be ready to answer the call for help and to provide precisely what is needed, whether it is around the corner or around the world. As faithful stewards of the gifts and financial assistance they receive, in 2020 they reported that for every \$1 they received in donations, they were able to ship out over \$9 worth of goods. That is faithful stewardship!

On behalf of the Missions Commission, we thank you for supporting the fundraising projects that make it possible to send vol-

unteers on mission work trips each year. Those who go on these trips go in the knowledge that they represent Plymouth First United Methodist Church, backed with your financial support and with your prayers. Thank you. If you have questions or would like to know more about Midwest Mission Distribution Center, you can talk with Carol or Bill or Donna anytime. We would love to have YOU join us next May when we return! When you give to Midwest, know that you will be helping care for God's children in need and planting seeds of hope. When you go to Midwest on a work trip, you will be helping to show God's love and planting seeds of hope, but you will also be inspired!





“Through my work, I am constantly reminded that I am a servant. I may help set the table, but I am not the host. Neither do I have authority to decide who is invited to the table. My job is to serve.”



Prayer Connects Us Together in the Bonds of Love

submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16 [NIV]

The 4th of July we celebrate our Declaration of Independence from England. We started a new nation that has continued to grow. We have become a diverse nation [a melting pot of the world]. We were all immigrants from other countries at some point.

In Appreciation of Immigrants

Written by Walter Rauschenbusch, a Baptist clergyman in the early twentieth century.

O thou great Champion of the outcast and the weak, we remember before thee the people of other nations who are coming to our land, seeking bread, a home and a future. May we look with Thy compassion upon those who have been drained and stunted by the poverty and oppression of centuries, and whose minds have been warped by super-

stition or seared by the dumb agony of revolt. We bless thee for all that America has meant to the alien folk that have crossed the sea in the past, and for all the patient strength and God fearing courage with which they have enriched our nation. We rejoice in the millions whose life has expanded in the wealth and liberty of our country, and whose children have grown to fairer stature and larger thoughts; for we too, are the children of immigrants, who came with anxious hearts and halting feet on the westward path of hope.

Mission Witness

Through my work, I am constantly reminded that I am a servant. I may help set the table, but I am not the host. Neither do I have authority to decide who is invited to the table. My job is to serve.

Denise Walling

Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Ellis Medicine and Shenedehowa/ Jonesville United Methodist

Preaching Plan for July

July 4

6th Sunday after Pentecost

Communion

Independence Day Weekend. Come a few minutes early on Sunday and join in a patriotic sing-along!

Text: Mark 6:1-13

Title: The Sacrament of Failure

Theme: Though Jesus has healed many people, had raised Jairus' daughter from the dead and cast out demons, he was treated with skepticism and could not do any miracles in his hometown of Nazareth. He and the disciples left and continued onto other places, giving instructions to his disciples that would strengthen them and sustain their ministry even when they encountered resistance and cynicism.

July 11

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Exodus 13:17-21

Title: Leaving Home

Theme: Leaving Egypt was not a pleasure excursion for the Hebrew people. But the story of

their pilgrimage in the desert in the Book of Exodus reminds us that traveling, moving, leaving home, is part of our Judeo-Christian tradition. Each of us finds ourselves sometime in life needing to leave the familiar in order to grow and to thrive. Beginning a journey involves leaving "home"—whether that is a physical place in order to explore another part of the world, or changing a mindset that keeps us from expanding our spiritual capacity. What must we do to embark into the unknown?

July 18

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: John 4: 7-40

Title: The Encounter

Theme: Jesus often crossed paths with others not from his "tribe." He did not shy away. Actually, he most often sought out these opportunities. He met people in their daily lives and locales, such as the Samaritan woman at the well and her community, and engaged with them at the point of their deepest yearning. When we seek out

(Continued on page 13)





Trustees Update

submitted by Melissa Christiansen

The Trustees continue to work very diligently in maintaining all of our buildings and the Parsonage. The situation with the Sanctuary roof continues to progress. The retired insurance adjuster for our team is finishing his detailed analysis of the true cost of the damage to our roof and should have it completed by July 4th. His report will be provided to the attorneys for both sides

and the insurance company will have the opportunity to send their adjuster to prepare their own report. After this process has taken place, the attorneys will get together and decide the next steps for mediation. We appreciate your continued prayers as we continue to move through this process.

“Saturday, July 9
at 8 am, the
UMM will have
their regular
breakfast
meeting in
FUMC’s
Fellowship Hall”

United Methodist Men

submitted by David Hogsett

The United Methodist Men will have their regular monthly meeting on July 10 at 8:00 A.M. at the fellowship hall of the church. Following breakfast the men will tour the sanctuary to see what has been done and what needs to be done. Then Brent Kaufmann will share the report he gave to church council about fu-

ture planning and goals.

All the men of the church are invited to attend. In addition the men of the UCC church have been invited. If you have a question or want more information, contact Dave Hogsett at either 574-936-6927 or

davidh15503@embarqmail.

Patriotic Sing Along on Sunday July 4th

Come a few minutes early before worship on Independence Day and join in singing a few of the great hymns of our nation!



Quest: Travel as a Spiritual Act

We've been hearing that many of us will be traveling this summer, to reconnect with the people and places we couldn't visit because of Covid. Whether you're traveling some distance or perhaps exploring local surroundings as if for the first time, pilgrimage has long been a spiritual practice, and "journey" a metaphor for our spiritual lives. "Quest" comes from the Latin root meaning "ask, seek." Beginning July 11, we will begin a 4 week worship series that will encourage us to open ourselves more fully to the curiosity and wonder, reflection and transformation that travelers—not merely tourists—experience when they choose to immerse themselves in soul-widening adventures.

Preaching Plan for July *continued*

(Continued from page 11)

and open to new encounters, new people, new relationships, we allow ourselves a spiritual rendezvous with humanity. And in this act, we discover more spiritual depth within us than we previously imagined. How can we shift our perception, redefining "strangers" as "friends we have not yet met?"

July 25

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Text: Revelation 21:22-26

Title: The Reflection

Theme: When we begin to broaden our experience of lands and peoples in our travel, or in

our own towns and cities, we may move through a personal crisis if the plurality of religious thought and practice has not come into close view in our lives before. And yet, if we continue to reflect and open, what feels so different may not be as far from us as we first imagined. The light we seek and life-sustaining river that runs through the "Kin-dom" of God is full of common themes across religions: peaceful coexistence, food and shelter, love and compassion for those suffering and oppressed. How can deeper reflection about our own hesitation to connect to the wider human family free us to explore more possibilities for a better world?



"Quest" comes from the Latin root meaning "ask, seek".

Beginning July 11, we will begin a 4 week worship series that will encourage us to open ourselves...



First United
Methodist
Church

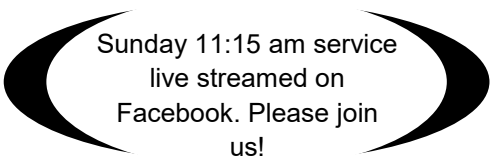


400 N. Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563

Phone: 574 936-2943

Email:

office@plymouthfirstumc.org



Community Meal Wednesday, July 28th

Come join us on Wednesday, July 28th for sloppy joe on a bun, coleslaw, potato chips and mixed fruity with fresh blueberries. Drive through service from 5-7 pm (or until food is gone).

JULY LITURGISTS		
	8:30 Liturgists	11:15 Liturgists
7/4/2021	Jim Easterday	Ruth Van Vactor
7/11/2021	Susan Wautelet	Melissa Christiansen
7/18/2021	Elaine Dick	Melissa Christiansen
7/25/2021	Pam Michel	Donna Hemmig