

March 2018

First United Methodist Church

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FIRST NEWS



A Note from Pastor Toni

Friends,

Members of our community are making their way through what the water has left behind. In homes and businesses, there is sifting and sorting, deliberating, setting aside and tossing things that were precious, and things that cause one to wonder, *"why did I even have this?"*

It's hard work physically, and it's hard work emotionally.

In the midst of these challenges, I've seen beauty and blessing. People gathering to fill sandbags, to offer a helping hand, to move furniture and belongings, to bring a meal, to offer a shower or a place to stay. Cards and notes of encouragement, prayers—all of these are reminders that we're not alone when we enter those Dark Wood moments of our lives.

Maybe it's not water damage you're dealing with, but you're sorting through other things in your heart and mind and that has been hard work, too. Assumptions you took for granted, a relationship you held dear, a practiced way of living that has changed...sometimes no one else is aware that you're going through these Dark Wood kind of moments, and sometimes they don't know what to say, so they end up saying nothing.

But in these moments, too, may you know that you're not alone. God is with you and walks alongside you. The Dark Wood is not your permanent dwelling place, but you will come again into a place where you can see more clearly, where the path is easier to negotiate, where sunlight shines down and warms your face. Have hope. Be strong.

The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock (Matthew 7:25).

Phillips Brooks wrote this and it seems especially pertinent today:

Do not pray for easy lives; pray to be stronger...
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers;
pray for powers equal to your tasks.
Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle,
but you yourself shall be a miracle.
Every day you shall wonder at yourself,
at the richness of life which has come to you
by the grace of God.

Join us these Sunday mornings during Lent as we continue our series on Gifts of the Dark Wood: Seven Blessings for Soulful Skeptics (and Other Wanderers) [based on the book by Eric Elnes]. God is with us, and God continues to bring blessings, even in the midst of troubling days.

Peace and Blessing,

Toni

Worship Services in March

March 4

3rd Sunday of Lent

Holy Communion

Text: Job 37:1-5

Title/Theme: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Being Thunderstruck

March 11

4th Sunday of Lent

Text: Psalm 42; 1 Samuel 3

Title/Theme: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Getting Lost

March 18

5th Sunday of Lent

Text: Luke 4:1-13

Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Temptation

March 25

6th Sunday of Lent

Palm Sunday

Text: Luke 19:29-42a

Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Misfits

March 29

Maundy Thursday service will be in our sanctuary at 7 p.m.

Holy Communion

Reader's Theater

Title: Gifts of the Dark Wood: The Gift of Disappearing

March 30

A Good Friday service of Tenebrae led by the Marshall County Ministerial Association and hosted at **Trinity United Methodist Church** will be at 7 p.m.





HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY – March 25

Morning Worship with Palms

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School @ 9:15 for all ages

Evening Worship – “The Well” – at 5:00 p.m.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

MAUNDY THURSDAY – March 29

7:00 p.m. Worship Service

In the Sanctuary

GOOD FRIDAY – March 30

7:00 p.m. Community Worship Service

at Trinity United Methodist Church



EASTER SUNDAY – April 1

Morning Worship

8:00 and 10:30 a.m.

Breakfast in the Fellowship Hall

9:00-10:00 a.m. Baked Goods and Fruit

++ The Well will not meet. ++

I'm trying to be a little more pro-active with my planning of what is going to happen at The Well. I thought if I could keep ahead just a little bit and tell you about what is coming up; you might consider attending!



We just finished our Series on SERVANTHOOD. It was interesting and I believe we all learned a lot. And it gave us much to ponder (I love that word) as we go about our daily routine.

In March we have some interesting events coming up. On March 4 we will have a message titled "What Jesus Sees In You" and I'll be sharing from the scripture verse Mark 3:18. It is also Communion Sunday and Reverend Rose Woodke will be serving Communion at the end of our service.

On March 11th we invite everyone to an old fashioned Singspiration!!! Remember the good old days when you took the hymnal and shouted out a page number and the pianist played that song while the congregation sang? It was so much fun!!! Come on the 11th prepared to shout out a number and have a great time as Well member Sheila Beers plays for us.

March 18th is still TBA (to be announced)...I don't have the final plans on that evening yet. If things go well we could have a visit from the Praise Puppets and/or a Carry-In Meal! Watch for those details in our church bulletin!

Join us on March 25th for a very special evening as we enjoy a guest speaker from Child Evangelism Fellowship. Crystal King will be with us and she will explain the mission of CEF and the important role it plays in a child's life. I can testify first hand as I attended Good News Clubs in my neighborhood as a child and learned so many great Bible truths through this outreach.

As always we are looking for friends to share special talents at The Well. Not just music!!!! We enjoy all sorts of talents such as: poetry, instrumental and vocal music, skits, baking goodies, dance, a book review, or maybe you have an idea of sharing a talent I haven't even thought about. If you would like to share please call me at 574-952-3661 and let's get you on the schedule!!

And I will end by asking for your prayers for The Well. We continue to have a steady attendance of between 15-25. But we would like to reach more. Pray for us to continue to invite our unchurched family and friends to The Well where they can have a positive, relaxed experience with friendly and caring Christians.

Thank you one and all! I hope to meet you at The Well!

Cindy Flagg

Sunday at 5:00 P.M.



submitted by Dorothy Steinke

Although we cannot anticipate the trials of life, we can pray to our father who fully understands what we face.

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people - for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior.

1 Timothy 2: 1-3 [NIV]

I am beginning to see signs of spring - While taking my walk last week I heard a lot of chattering. The trees were filled with birds. I assumed they were beginning their migration north. I told them they were a bit too early- it was about 20 degrees that morning. I don't know how long their migration takes; I have seen robins early in March. We had our first spring storm with some wind damage just 3 blocks from me. There are twists of metal up in the trees - it looked like it had been sculpted there.

I enjoyed watching the Olympics - watched as much as I could. I kept thinking the athletes - all from different countries - some whose governments are at odds with each other - can compete in a friendly manner; cheering each other on and helping each other. Why can't the whole world work that way. The scripture above tells us to pray for those in charge so that we may live peacefully. We may not agree with those in charge but we can pray that they will be led to make the right decisions. This is my prayer - that we all start working together to make this world a better place for all.

Put the guns away and start respecting each other.

I will not be back in Plymouth until April 9th. Happy Easter!

He did not have a house where He could go when it was night - when other men went down small streets where children watched with eager eyes, each one assured of shelter in the town, The Christ sought refuge anywhere at all: a house, an inn, the roadside, or a stall! He borrowed the boat in which He rode that day, He talked to throngs along the Eastern lake; it was a rented room to which He called the chosen twelve the night He bade them break the loaf with Him, and He rode, unafraid, another's colt in that triumph-parade. A man from Arimathea had a tomb where Christ was placed when nails had done their deed. Not ever in the crowded days He knew, did He have coins to satisfy a need. They should not matter, these small things I crave. Make me forget them, Father, and be brave!

The transient, by Helen Welshimer

A.S.K. NEWS (*Adams Street Kids Youth Group*)

March meetings are at First United Methodist Church

Jr. High (5th-8th) 4:30 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Sr. High (9th-12th) 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Youth News

JUNIOR CHURCH is looking for helpers to share Jesus' love with his children. All materials provided and coincide with our study of "The Story". Contact Barbie Pickut at 574-870-4981 or call the church office if you would like to serve.

Please pray for God to match people with these openings and be open to what He might ask you to do.



Up and Coming: Youth Sunday!

March 18, 2018

Let us know what your child would like to help lead.

Call Corryne Wick (630-730-5655) or Barbie Pickut for more information.

BOY SCOUT MEAL



Sunday, March 11th

- Baked Chicken
- Broccoli & Rice
- Salad
- Biscuit
- Dessert



Enjoy a great meal ◊ Fellowship ◊ Support our Scouts

United Way of Marshall County Plymouth, IN

February 24 at 12:14pm



FLOOD RESPONSE UPDATE:

Marshall County is coming TOGETHER to recover from the historic flood. It is amazing!! Families and businesses want to know how they can help. Thank you!!

Please remember --

CASH DONATIONS ARE BEST in time of disaster. Cash allows disaster response specialists, nonprofit organizations and responding communities to purchase needed supplies immediately, where needed most.

REMEMBER: 100% of your donations will stay in Marshall County. 100% of your donations will go towards 2018 flood relief. 100% of your donations will help families in OUR community recover from the flood!!

Check/cash/credit card contributions may be made by contacting the United Way of Marshall County office at 574-936-3366 with checks payable to:

UWMC/2018 Flood Response
PO Box 716
2701 N Michigan St,
Plymouth, IN 46563

Checks may also be dropped off at the Flood Incident Command Center at 121 West Garro Street, Plymouth, as of Monday, Feb 26 at 8 AM EST.

Donations may also be made online at www.marshallcountyuw.org.

***We do NOT need clothes or food donations at this time.

Once we do, you will be the first to know!!

Stay tuned for more updates.



Come, join us March 28 for our Community Meal. We gather in Fellowship Hall between 5:00-7:00 pm for good food and welcoming fellowship. We average serving about 55 people per month, all ages!! It is great to see everyone enjoying each other's company. We have a special treat for our March meal, we will have live piano music. Clara Wooley will be playing at various times during the evening - what a great treat!! We'll look forward to seeing you March 28!

If you have any questions or wish to volunteer, please contact Betty Kay Eley, Becky Liechty, Delbert or Marilyn Rans or Ruth VanVector.



LOOKING AHEAD TO SPRING.....



Plans are being made to offer a FUMC directory in cooperation with LifeTouch Church Directories. More details will follow, but we hope to have the directory and photographs available for Mother's and Father's Day!!



Thanks to everyone who supported the Annual Sweetheart Dinner.

We raised approximately \$500 each for Social Concerns and Missions Commissions.

Worship Participants for March

	MARCH 4	MARCH 11	MARCH 18	MARCH 25
8:00 Liturgists	Susan Wautelet	Cathy Clough	Tim Hardy	Jim Easterday
10:30 Liturgists	Ralph Booker	Ralph Booker	Karen Capper	Karen Capper
Greeters	David & Diane Hogsett	Barry & Karen Capper	Joyce Gibbons	Barb Dreibelbis
Ushers	Woody Schinbeckler, Bert Rans, Robin Cupka, Quentin Cupka	Woody Schinbeckler, Bert Rans, Robin Cupka, Quentin Cupka	Woody Schinbeckler, Bert Rans, Robin Cupka, Quentin Cupka	Woody Schinbeckler, Bert Rans, Robin Cupka, Quentin Cupka
Sound System (10:30)	Tom Pedavoli	James Faulstich	Ralph Booker	Robin Cupka
Older Nursery	Judy Goebel	Kelsey Heisler	Deb Jung	Sarah Smith
Acolytes	Emma Konefsky	David Cochern	Emma Konefsky	David Cochern

EASTER BREAKFAST

Join us for fruit, baked goods, and cheese between morning services on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Watch for sign-up sheets to volunteer to bring a cheese tray or fruit. Volunteers are also needed for clean-up.

Sponsored by Outreach and Worship Commissions



March Birthdays

1 James Schoonover	14 Darian Stevens	22 Nick Pinkerton
3 Paul Konefsky	15 Norma Young	Jane Woolfington
4 Logan Binkley	16 Joyce Gibbons	23 Bill Gee
5 Mitch Rose	Claire Rimmer	Tabatha Goebel
Amanda Stump	17 Jo Burden	Debbie Jung
Emma Trappe	Andrew Faulstich	24 Don Dick
6 Melissa Pedavoli	Mike Mercer	25 Bob Libby
7 Amy Thorpe	18 Shelley Heiden	Jeremy Stachulak
8 Kenrick Mills	Darlene Snyder	26 Barry Capper
Ellen Smith	19 Angela Hissong	Stephen Jung
10 Jerry Kralovansky	Lisa Jacobs	27 James Keister
Ronald Stachulak	Marc Laudeman	28 Amy Eads
12 Joan Troup	Dorothy Steinke	Mandy Metsker
13 Mike Hayden	20 Richard Button	29 Amanda Reames
Sue Kay Smith	Jacob Faulstich	Betty Rimel
	Shawna Stough	30 Connor Ingle
	21 Linda Keister	31 Caitlin Jung
	Danielle Kiefer	
	John L. Mills	



OUR STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Toni Carmer

Director of Children & Youth Ministries: Corryne Wick

Organist: Kay Finlay **Pianist/Choir Director:** Tom Boys **Handbell Director:** Marsha Wilson

A.S.K. Director: Aaron Woodcox **Child Care Provider:** Magdalena Tochimani

Maintenance/Custodial: Jeff Mills **Office Administrator:** Jan Hardy

Worship Services

SUNDAYS

8:00 AM Worship Service

9:15 A.M. Sunday School
Classes for everyone

10:30 AM Worship Service

5:00 P.M. The Well

Phone: 574-936-2943

Email: office@plymouthfirstumc.org

Website: plymouthfumc.org

Facebook: facebook.com/plymouthfumc



Social Concerns

The Social Concerns Committee has decided that in order to more effectively work with the needy, we will be supporting Link to Hope, (formerly Care and Share), The Marshall County Neighborhood Center, and Heminger House. This is due to the fact that Grace and Peace Alliance, a group of churches serving the needy, is currently inactive. Mary Kaufman will be volunteering at the Neighborhood Center to assist the needy and to find out first-hand what items we need to donate. Sherry Schinbeckler volunteers for Link to Hope, helping to screen clients who may need rental or utility assistance or have other monetary needs. All monetary donations may now be given to Social Concerns; however, you may specify that you want to support one of the funds, i.e. Link to Hope, Marshall County Neighborhood Center or Heminger House by writing that group on the memo line of your check. Items donated, i.e. laundry detergent, food, will be given to the Neighborhood Center.

For the month of March, these donations are needed for the Neighborhood Center: starter meals (like Hamburger Helper), canned fruits, laundry detergent, jelly, and spring and fall jackets. These donations may be placed in the grocery cart labeled Neighborhood Center in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you for your continuing generous support to those in need.

W.O.W.

Women Of Worth

Monday, March 5, at 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

- The WOW ladies will meet in the Fellowship Hall.
- Program: Donna Sikorski

Join us for as we learn more about Dementia, share devotions, refreshments, and fellowship. See you Then!!

Mother's Club

Monday, March 12, at 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Susie from CreateYourCanvas will be instructing us in a small pallet painting. The cost is \$23. Anyone who would like to paint is welcome to join us. Reservations are due by Sunday March 4 to Pam Michel – 936-8221 or michelfarms@centurylink.net

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall (so we have more room) at 6:30 for our meeting and painting will start at 7:00.

You may personalize your sign any way you want. You will "stain" the background a color of your choice. Paint on 1 to 3 flowers, add words, and possibly an embellishment (such as a butterfly). When the painting is done, you will attach a pint jar to the front. The finishing touch is silk flowers.

Get your reservation in right away!



MISSION MINDED

WORK TRIP TO MIDWEST MISSION DISTRIBUTION CENTER

It was a week without sunshine outside, but inside the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois, laughter and lighthearted conversation abounded as our team worked on projects that will bring relief and hope to many in the U.S. and around the world. We worked alongside others from many churches who had also come to be the helping hands of Jesus. Our small group of Jane Woolfington, Carol Beiter, and Bill and Donna Hemmig (Steve Westfall got sick on Sunday evening, so he and Sharon were unable to make the trip) assembled 970 kits, including layette kits, personal dignity kits, and flood buckets. Bill also worked on constructing school desks and cutting pieces to make more desks, and he helped paint a donated semi trailer that the Center will use for storage. We were privileged to be present to pray for a shipment going out from the Center on its way to Haiti, a shipment of over 17,000 pounds of supplies that included hospital linens, bicycles, sewing machines, wheel chairs, birthing kits and much, much more. Working at MMDC engages us in a stream of servanthood, connecting donors to receivers, being the hands of the living Christ. The next trip will be the second week of May in 2019. Mark your calendar now so you too can be a part of this ministry!





SMALL GROUPS ARE THRIVING !!

Lunch Bunch: The third Friday of the month: RSVP Carol Beiter or Betty Kay Eley

HERE ARE THE RESTAURANT CHOICES FOR THE COMING FEW MONTHS:

MARCH 16: DICKIE'S AT SWAN LAKE

JULY 20: RISE AND SHINE

APRIL 20: CRAZY EGGS

AUGUST 17: EVERGREEN (Rochester)

MAY 18: JERRETTY'S

SEPTEMBER 21: LAKE HOUSE (Culver)

JUNE 15: HIGHLANDER GRILL



GAME DAY! Dominos and Euchre will be featured on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 2-4:00 PM. Contact Dean Luther for further details at 540-2196.

Christian Craftin' Mamas continue to meet and explore the world of creativity. Contact Michelle Faulstich 941-2737 for further details.

Blessed Bookies: The 4TH Mondays of the month at Miller's Assisted Living at 5:30 PM. On Monday, March 26 we will be discussing "The Book of Bright Ideas" by Sandra Kring. Bring a sandwich and join us for a lively conversation!

"Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible" is underway, but there is always room for More! We read and learn from Liz Curtis Higgs' about some of the lesser known women who don't qualify for the Good Girls Bible study! Join us on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 11:00 am.



Do any of these small groups sound interesting?

It is never too late to connect with each other....

Please contact Susan Wautelet at 936-2747 or swautelet@aol.com

BLONDENA V. KAISER MEMORIAL

February 25, 2018

Today we are proud to present the 28th Annual Blondena Kaiser Award. Mr. B.D. Kaiser established a trust fund after his wife's death in 1986, 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 of 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 the memorial fund.

This year's recipient grew up in a small town in the south where her parents instilled in her the importance of being active in their family's Methodist Church and living out what she was taught in Sunday school. While pursuing her career in education at a Methodist College, she became interested in and was involved with Civil Rights issues. In the pursuit of justice and equality, she invited college students from a black college nearby to visit their college library, which got her thrown off campus by her college president! This was unheard of back in the day, but because of her compassion and desire for justice she was privileged to meet Martin Luther King at one of their campus meetings!

While attending Southern Methodist University for her Masters in Religious Education, she met her husband and they were married one (1) year later. While her husband was finishing his degree, she taught elementary education at a Catholic school and then a public school. In 1968, they moved back to Indiana and their 3 children were born over the next 6 years.

After her family relocated to Indiana, they moved at least seven (7) times, due to her husband's employment. While raising children, she got her Indiana Teaching license, substitute taught in schools, ran a preschool at the Walkerton UMC, was involved in her children's sports activities, enjoyed 4-H with her children, was involved with many women's groups, and was active playing dart ball! During this time, her caring, loving, and nurturing nature influenced those with whom she came in contact.

In 1986, our recipient and her husband took in a teenage boy from a dysfunctional family and he lived with them for about 5 months. This experience made her realize they were making a difference and led to fostering 3 additional sons.

Today's honoree has treated children, teens and adults in such caring, loving, and nurturing ways, they have contacted her years later to say thank you for the difference she made in their lives. She continues to share her love with our congregation and throughout our community, serving both individuals and groups.

Our recipient began working for the Welfare Department and then SAFY (Safe Alternatives for Family and Youth). While working for SAFY – in several different counties - she obtained her Masters of Social Work. With her experience and her desire to help children, she went to work for Brighter Tomorrows in Plymouth which is a counseling agency primarily serving families with children. Her primary concern was to continue helping children through therapy, and she felt called to continue with her work even after her husband retired. She still serves as a consultant for "Crisis Care", and is on call for emergency and traumatic situations for anyone in need.

Currently she is active in WOW and Sunday School Class, teaches Junior Church, volunteers with Bible School, serves on the Casserole and Funeral Meal Committees, attends Joy Breaks, attends many Workshops, is involved in 5 book clubs, and loves to travel. In the past, she was involved in several United Methodist Women's groups.

She is very interested in missions and currently serves on the Missions Commission. She has participated in mission trips to Henderson Settlement and the Gulf Area after Hurricane Katrina. Most recently she had the "trip of a lifetime" traveling to Guatemala with 5 of her granddaughters. All this, and she still finds the time to spend with her husband, their 3 sons, and 15 grandchildren!

She serves as a shining example for the rest of us, and lives out her faith as well as our church's mission statement: LOVE GOD, LOVE OTHERS, SERVE OTHERS.

We are proud to present the 28th Annual Blondena Kaiser Award to

Diane Hogsett!

PAST RECIPIENTS

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

Ladies – Mark your calendars!

ANNUAL LADIES LUNCHEON

“Derby Day”

Sunday, April 29

Following the second service,
in the Fellowship Hall.



Sponsored by Mother’s Club.

Meal provided by Mother’s Club and W.O.W.

Start decorating your hat now! The bigger the better!

