



# The Spire

First United Methodist Church

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Beginning on Sunday September 14th, we will be offering a new worship opportunity at First UMC. The service will be an evening Vespers service in the Chapel at 6:00 p.m.

For those who may not be familiar with a vespers service, the word vespers comes from the Latin word meaning evening and is associated with another Latin term meaning “lamp-lighting time.” Traditionally, Vespers services have been simple worship services that include the familiar elements of scripture and prayer and quiet reflection. The services are designed to be enlightening (pardon the pun) and offer insight for our daily lives.

While emphasizing the meditation quality associated with a Vespers service, each weekly service will be based upon the theme of a social issue facing our society. The service will not be political in nature, but they will focus on current events prominent in the daily news and what the Bible says about these issues facing our world.

For instance, the first service will be designed around the theme of immigration and what the Bible says about the treatment of immigrants. We will share scriptures related to the care of immigrants along with current examples of that kindness in action. There will be time to reflect, time to pray, time to ask how God is inviting you to care for the immigrants among us.

Other Sunday topics will include: what the Bible says about caring for Creation, our role in caring for the physical health of those around us, what the biblical emphasis upon the widow, poor and orphans (the vulnerable) means for us today.

The services will be designed as worship experiences and held in the Chapel every other Sunday, beginning on September 14 and 28. I hope this will be a meaningful and inspiring service that will provide some help and hope as we navigate a faithful response to the events of our day.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard

# Upcoming Events & Announcements

## Columbus Pride Volunteer Sign-ups

**September 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 12pm-6pm**

Sign up to help at our booth in the church office or narthex!



## September CARS Event

CHURCH ICE CREAM SOCIAL & GRANDPARENTS DAY  
CELEBRATION!



Join us after worship on **Sunday September 7th** for a church ice cream social and grandparents' day celebration. Kovener's Korner Ice Cream will be bringing their ice cream truck to the church parking lot. Come enjoy a free sweet treat on us!



## Sunday Night Small Group

I hope everyone has enjoyed these last days of summer! Our Sunday Night small group reconvenes on **Sunday September 7th** following our summer break.

We meet in the Blue Room each Sunday evening at 6:00pm. We strive to conclude our session around 7:30 or so. We always invite anyone who is interested in attending a small group to check us out!

We will begin our session with the DVD study "Servant or Sucker" which offers wise and compassionate Christ-centered ways to help those in need. Realities of poverty such as relationships, time, money and values are very much a presence in our world today.

Please join us for a lively discussion, fellowship, prayer and of course, snacks! We would love to see you there!!

Contact Marsha Sons for more information. / 812-350-1277 / [sonsjm@yahoo.com](mailto:sonsjm@yahoo.com)



## UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

### MEETING: SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30PM

### (FELLOWSHIP HALL)

GEORGIANNA WALDROP AND SHERYL NULPH WILL SERVE AS CO-HOSTESSES.  
CONNIE WILSON WILL LEAD THE GROUP IN WORSHIP,  
JERI AHLBRAND WILL PRESENT THE MONTHLY PROGRAM.

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

## Adult Sunday School

Every Sunday at 9am  
Multi- Purpose Room

The study for the fall focuses on three themes: struggle, perseverance and hope. The first class will be held on Sunday September 7th.





# Cookie Walk

## Planning Meeting

Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025

11am

Conference Room

If you cannot attend but are interested in helping,  
please contact Julie Pemberton or Stephanie Taylor,  
committee co-chairs.



September 13<sup>th</sup>  
10am

## DICTRICT RALLY AT FUMC

First UMC is honored to host a gathering of the East Central Heights District on Saturday September 13th at 10:00 a.m. The guest speaker will be Bishop Tracy Malone. This service will be a time to celebrate our mission and vision, connect with other members of our district and share a message of hope and encouragement. Join us in the sanctuary Saturday morning and stay for a time of refreshments and fellowship afterward.

### Love Chapel Update from the Missions Committee

Most everyone at FUMC is somewhat familiar with Love Chapel. We want to take a few moments to provide a bit more background and what's upcoming in September and October. FUMC has a long and supportive history with Love Chapel, which is officially The Ecumenical Assembly of Bartholomew County Churches. Love Chapel is a Christian based non-profit organization that provides access to food, shelter and financial assistance to residents of Bartholomew County. It's comprised of 24 area member churches and an additional 35 churches who provide support for the Love Chapel mission. FUMC was one of the 8 founding member churches in 1968 and has been a voting member of the board of directors since. We encourage you to take a few moments and become more familiar with this organization that plays such an important role in providing Christ's LOVE in our community.

#### Leanna Crawford Christian Concert:

Sunday, September 14, 2025 / 7 - 10PM / Columbus East High School Auditorium / Admission \$35 VIP \$45

#### Taste of Columbus 2025: (Yes, this is back!)

Thursday, October 02, 2025 / 5 - 8PM (21+ Only) / The Commons, Downtown Columbus / Admission: \$35 in advance  
\$40 at the door

You can purchase tickets and find more information about Love Chapel on their website at [www.columbuslovechapel.com](http://www.columbuslovechapel.com). Look for tickets under the Events tab.



# Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday, September 17th

12pm

Room 116

The Brown Bag Lunches are an informal time for people to gather at the church for conversation and fellowship. There is no particular agenda, just a chance to meet new people. No advance registration needed, just bring a lunch and join in the conversation!

## Book Club

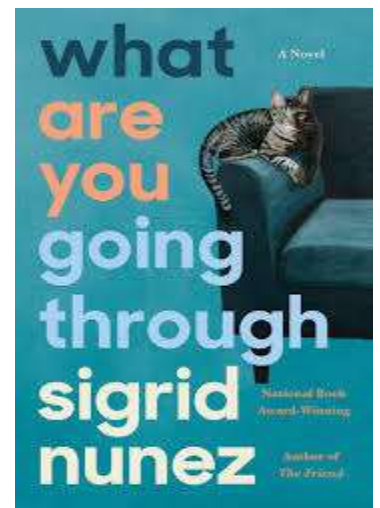
The selection for the September book club is Lisa Wingate's novel, "What Are You Going Through" by Sigrid Nunez. Written from the perspective of a woman's everyday encounters with the people around her, the book explores common themes of human emotions, longings and hopes. We will meet to discuss this novel on **Sunday, September 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the church library.**

Upcoming selections include:

October 19 "North Woods" by Daniel Mason

November 16 "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon

December 21 "Christmas in Harmony" by Philip Gulley



## September Mission Emphasis

DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WE WILL BE COLLECTING ITEMS FOR THE INDIANA UNITED METHODIST CHILDREN'S HOME IN LEBANON, INDIANA. THEY ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF AN ADDITION TO THEIR CAMPUS THAT WILL HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL AGED CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMPLETED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND ARE PREPARING FOR TRANSITIONING BACK INTO EVERYDAY LIFE. AMONG THE ITEMS NEEDED ARE: TOWELS, WASH CLOTHS, BEDSPREADS AND SHEETS (TWIN SIZED), PILLOWS AND PILLOW CASES, AND TOILETRIES (DEODORANT, SHAMPOO, FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS, LIQUID BATH SOAP, TOOTHBRUSHES AND TOOTHPASTE). COLLECTION BINS WILL BE AT THE CHURCH ENTRANCES FOR DONATIONS.



**A Message to the Congregation of the  
First United Methodist Church from the Board of Trustees**

In our previous note, for the start of our Quarterly communications to the congregation in the Spire, we introduced ourselves and gave you links to the context of our work under The Book of Discipline that constitutes the law and doctrine of the United Methodist Church.

We write now, with more context and an invitation.

“I have given ability to all the skilled workers to make everything I have commanded.”

Exodus 31:6

We are truly blessed with the current members of the Board of Trustees given the member's personal interests and skills, their professional backgrounds, education and experience. Trustee Greg Woodworth, a retired engineer, has guided us through our recent building mechanical systems general repairs and to keep us warm in the cold, and cool in the heat. Approach any board member and ask how they bring their skills to service to our mission.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.” 1 Peter 4:10

We have openings for at least two more members on the board of Trustees, and there is enough work to do to keep us all busy. Your gifts may be just what this committee needs. Ask any Board member about specific work and projects. In addition to finding out about how we are maintaining and improving our place of worship and fellowship you may make a connection and find a way to serve. We are happy to work in service to you all and our community, as the Lord intended.

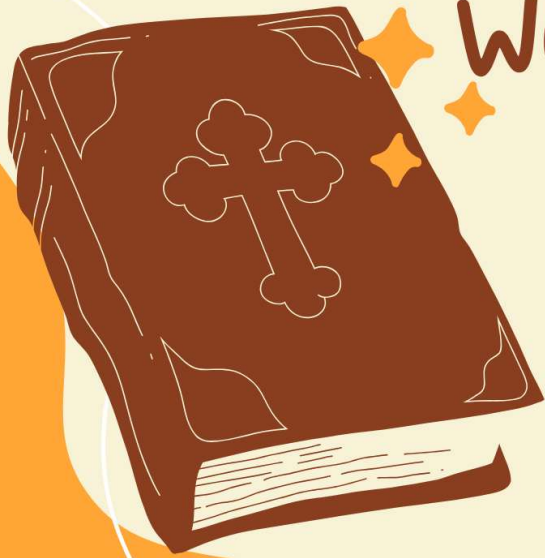


*In the Garden...*

The flowers in bloom in various colors, sizes, and shapes around the Church gardens not only look nice but serve a purpose, too. The plant beds near our Labyrinth contain *Allium*, *Autumn Sedum*, *Bee Balm*, *Blazing Star*, *Coreopsis*, *Phlox*, and *Royal Catchfly*. In addition, plants around the grounds such as *Catmint* and *Coneflower*, to name a few, all help to feed the birds, butterflies, and bees.

Playing in the dirt is just a fun means of the Church Garden Group to benefit our neighborhood and the environment, too. During the season, the Garden Group meets most Thursday mornings (about 9:00am).





# WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Monday morning Women's Bible study is starting a new study based on life lessons by using the Andy Griffith Show from the 1960s. We will be watching the different episodes and then discussing them. We meet on Monday morning from 10:00 until 11:00 in room 116 by the coke machine. Come join us and enjoy watching a classic TV show and talk about the lessons learned.

## Children, Youth & Family News

Youth Group fun event on September 14th at 11:30 at Columbus Bowling Center. Please bring \$20 and socks for 2 hours of fun and food! Please email Shana to let her know you are planning to be there.



**First United Methodist Church**  
**618 Eighth Street**  
**Columbus, IN 47201**

### **Church Staff**

Pastor, Howard Boles  
Associate Pastor, Mackenzie Phillips  
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Shana Dublan  
Business Administrator, Lora Miller  
Administrative Assistant, Rachel Eddins  
Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Heyerdahl  
Music Director, Caio Lopes  
Organist, Laura Bottei  
Handbell Choir Director, Joyce Crowder  
Co-Directors of Learning Tree Preschool-  
Gayle Kelley & Teresa Nickerson  
Custodian, Damaris Muniz

### **Worship Services**

**Sunday Morning:**

Sunday School- 9am

Worship- 10am

Live Stream via:

[www.facebook.com/columbusfumc](http://www.facebook.com/columbusfumc)

[http://www.youtube.com/@FUMC\\_Columbus](http://www.youtube.com/@FUMC_Columbus)

Articles for The Spire should be submitted to  
Rachel Eddins at  
[reddains@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:redains@fumccolumbus.org)  
by the **15<sup>th</sup> of the month.**