



The Spire

First United Methodist Church

August 2025

I went to visit one of our members at a rehab facility. Her room was empty. I walked to the nurses desk to ask if she might be doing physical therapy. No one was at the desk. It was around lunch time so I considered the possibility that the person I was looking for might be eating. And there she was.

I always feel bad about interrupting someone's meal. Eating well is an important part of the healing process. But I walked over and said, "Hello" and pulled up a chair. We chatted briefly and caught up on how she was doing. After a few moments I asked if she would like to pray. She said yes, but so did the woman sitting beside her at the table. So I prayed for the woman I knew well and for the stranger seated alongside her. They both thanked me for praying with them.

It is a gift to pray for one another. We often think of prayer as that communication that draws us closer to God. It does that, but it also strengthens the connections with those closest to us. That is why prayer has such an important place in our worship. It conveys both sides of those relationships, reminding us of our connection with God, but also strengthening the community relationships around us. We pray for those who are sick or hospitalized, for those who are recuperating, for weary caregivers, for those who are grieving, for those facing uncertainties. We pray for people we know by name and for people we will likely never meet. Prayer invites us to look around the world and to see the needs of those in distant places.

In the pews, we have prayer cards that people can fill out. I was touched the Sunday one of our youth filled it out saying to "pray for his mom who was sick." And there are the sometimes playful prayer requests, one member naming several family members needing prayer and ending by saying, "and for 3 assorted other ne'er-do-wells." Ne'er-do-wells need our prayers as well.

I recall that a few years ago I asked for your prayers on a Sunday morning for a grandson who was born prematurely. People still ask how George is doing and continue to pray for him. I appreciate that.

It is a great gift of the church to be able to pray for one another.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),
Howard

Upcoming Events & Announcements

CHURCH PICNIC

AUGUST 3RD

AFTER THE SERVICE @ DONNER PARK

PLEASE BRING A DESSERT OR SIDE DISH



Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday School class will resume on August 10th at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will begin with a short term Bible study for the month of August and then in September begin a study entitled, "Struggle, Perseverance, Hope." All are welcome to attend!

Book Club

The selection for the August book club is Lisa Wingate's novel, "The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store." We will meet to discuss this novel on Sunday, August 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the church library.

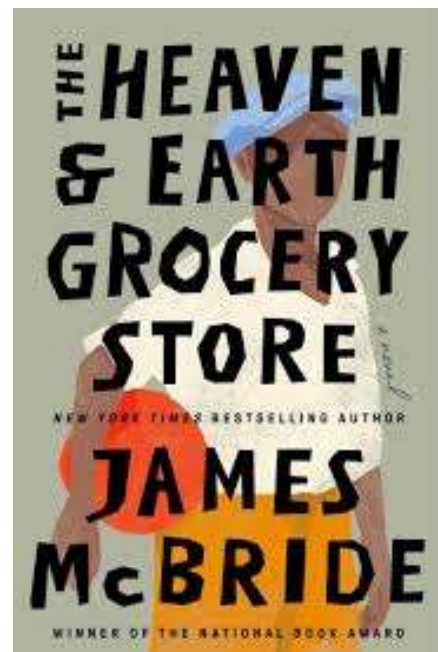
Other upcoming selections include:

September 21 "What Are You going Through" by Sigrid Nunez

October 19 "North Woods" by Daniel Mason

November 16 "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon

December 21 "Christmas in Harmony" by Philip Gulley



BROWN BAG LUNCH

August 20th, 2025

12pm

Room 116

The Brown Bag Luncheon is an informal gathering of folks who share lunch and conversation together. There is no particular agenda, just a chance to enjoy one another's company. Bring a lunch and we'll take care of the rest.



Church Garden Table

**Sundays through
August 31st**

**ALL DONATIONS GO TOWARD
MISSIONS**



**HAVE EXTRA'S FROM
YOUR GARDEN TO
SHARE?**



In the Garden . . .

During this warm, often dry season, a garden requires routine tending, including watering, feeding, weeding, and dead heading (cutting back spent blooms).

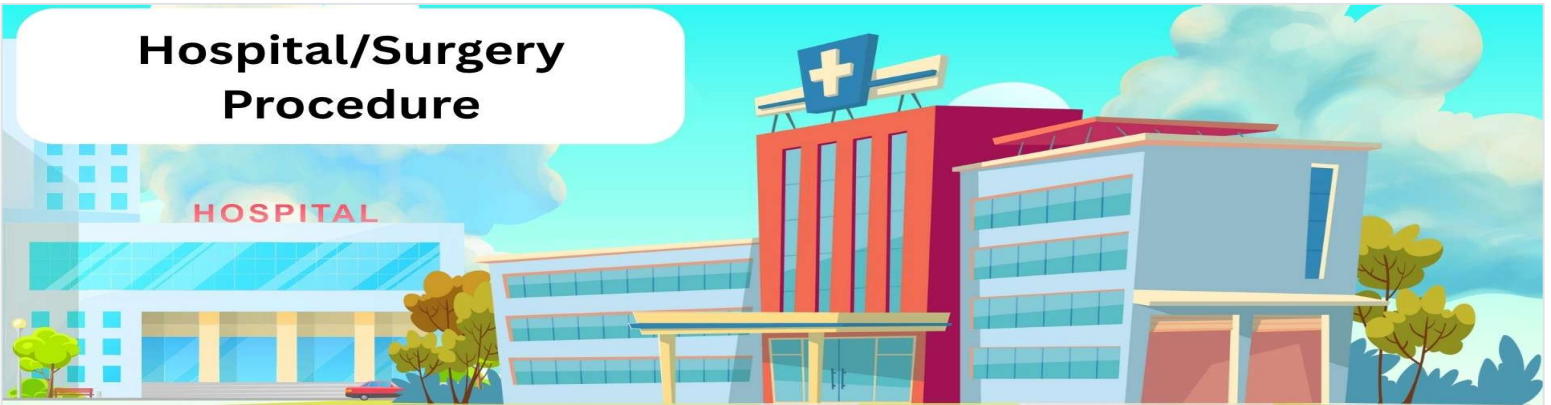
The Church Garden Group meets most Thursday mornings (about 9:00 am) to tend the Church gardens. We enjoy the great outdoors with a little work... and a lot of fellowship! You are invited to join us. You do not need to be a master gardener or even have a green thumb!

We hope you enjoy the beauty of the church grounds!

"When the world wearies and society fails to satisfy, there is always the garden,"

Minnie Aumonier, English artist and writer

Hospital/Surgery Procedure



Due to changes in hospital policies, hospitals no longer contact churches when members are hospitalized. If you or someone you know is hospitalized please contact the church office at 812.372.2851 or the pastors directly. Thank you!



PRIDE FESTIVAL

The annual Pride Festival exists to unite our community in a celebration of diversity and inclusion. Once again this year, First UMC is proud to be a participant. The festival will be held at Mill Race Park on Saturday September 6th from noon to 6 p.m. If you would like to volunteer at the church booth, please contact the church office.





Children, Youth & Family News

Welcome Back Families!

We hope summer has been exciting and filled with memories. We will be starting Sunday school back up on August 10th at 9 am on the third-floor education wing.

Acolytes

Acolytes will be starting back up as well. If your child is interested in leading in service this way, please reach out to Shana for more information and scheduling.

Blessings of Backpacks and Teachers

Can you believe school is right around the corner! Please join us on August 3rd for a special back-to-school blessing. Teachers, aids, administration, custodians, anyone who is returning for the school year is invited.

If you have a child getting ready to start back up, have them bring their backpacks up for the Family Ministry Moment for a special prayer.

Get Ready to Volunteer!

The first Monday of the month the youth are invited to help with Hot Meals. 6th grade and up are invited to come to the church at 3:30 the first Monday of the month. Younger children can attend with a chaperone. Pick up is 5:45.



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.youtube.com/@FUMC_Columbus

Articles for The Spire should be submitted to
Rachel Eddins at
[reddins@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:redskins@fumccolumbus.org)
by the **15th of the month.**