



While reading a book of early Indiana history, I came upon the story of Amory Kinney. Kinney (1793-1859) was the son of a Congregational minister and became an attorney. He began his career in Vincennes before moving to Terre Haute. He served three terms in the Indiana House of Representatives and is credited with helping to codify the laws for free public education in our state.

Along with this work, Kinney was a staunch abolitionist. He argued several cases that led to the emancipation of enslaved people in Indiana. In one case tried in Vincennes, Kinney represented Polly Strong, an enslaved woman. Kinney argued that she should be freed because she was born after the Northwest Ordinance which prohibited slavery and because the Indiana Constitution prohibited slavery. In the initial case, the court ruled in favor of the slaveholder. Polly Strong was forced to remain a slave.

Kinney and his colleagues appealed the case to the Indiana Supreme Court where, on July 22, 1820, they were victorious. Polly was free. Not everyone was overjoyed. After the verdict, Kinney was attacked by a pro-slavery mob where he suffered serious injuries.

Sometime thereafter, Kinney was in Vincennes on a Sunday morning. He entered the stately Presbyterian Church to worship. Once he sat in a pew, several of those seated nearby got up and sat somewhere else.

I don't know if the pastor had prepared a specific message that morning, but if he did, the message was discarded after witnessing these events. The pastor responded with a sermon supporting Kinney's work and filled with references to the respectful treatment of all God's children.

A couple of takeaways from this historical account. First, it can be lonely to do the right thing. With the advantage of 200 years, we can look at this story and find support for Kinney and his important work. But at the time, it was sometimes met with disdain and even outright opposition. Doing the right thing can be lonely, but it is the right thing to do.

Secondly, I find it meaningful that the pastor stood with Kinney, unpopular though it was with the congregation. The book didn't say what happened after that sermon. I wonder whether his tenure there wasn't cut short soon thereafter. But he chose to speak up for justice. He let Kinney know that he was not alone and that not only encouraged the young attorney, but I would like to believe it empowered others to do the same.

I hope that story will provide a bit of inspiration to each of us, wherever God is calling us to action. As the prophet Micah put it, "What does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God."

Pace bene (peace and all good things),
Howard

FOUNDATION UPDATE

The First United Methodist Church Columbus Indiana Foundation, Inc. was established in 1991 by combining four legacy donations and continues to grow through individual and estate donations. This provides a permanent source of financial support for the ongoing ministries of the church.

The funds are for ministries NOT funded in the annual operating budget.

The Foundation consists of 5 funds:

- Endowment Fund (\$1,193,835) – is the protected principle that is not used. 90% of earnings are available annually for transfer to Property and Service to Others Funds at the discretion of the Board. For 2024, \$32,731 was transferred to the Property Fund.
- Property Fund (\$121,164) – used for capital improvement and major/infrequent repairs.
- Service to Others Fund (\$50,330)– used to support programs addressing growth, outreach, and missions over and above the regular obligations of the church.
- Mary G. McCullough Trust (\$721,765) – annual earnings are forwarded to the church as a perpetual offering for the support of the general ministry. For 2024, \$24,609 was transferred to the church.
- Lloyd & Susan Douglas Fund (\$192,371) – newly received funding with the annual earnings being used where needed.

Projects recently funded by the Foundation:

- Sidewalk Repairs (\$11,071)
- Boiler Replacement (\$98,011)
- Pew Cushion Replacement (\$40,000)

Church members and committees are encouraged to request a grant for any type of property or service project. Request for Funds forms are available in the church office.

Steve Bricker /FUMC Foundation

Annual Conference Delegates

First UMC needs two delegates to represent our church at the upcoming Annual Conference in Indianapolis. This gathering of United Methodists throughout the state will be held June 4-7. Along with conducting the business of the denomination (setting the budget, approving committee work) the Annual Conference is a great way to learn more about the work of the United Methodist Church in Indiana and beyond. If you would be interested in being a delegate, please contact the church office.

Contact Information:

Please notify the office, if you have any changes to your contact information or if you would like to be added to the:

- weekly prayer list
- monthly newsletter
- Monday devotional.



Upcoming Events



UWf

United Women in Faith Meeting

Monday, May 12 | Fellowship Hall

All women of the church are invited to attend.

6:00 p.m. – Salad & Dessert Pitch-In

Meeting to follow

Hostesses: MaryLu Fouts & Nancy Riley

Worship Leader: Jane Lyle

Program: Sue Romine

Please bring a recipe from your mother to share.

The group will select a fundraiser for the Lucille Raines Residence.

This will be the final meeting until August.

For more information, contact President Stephanie Taylor.



Boogie on Down (Up) to Bargersville!

May 17th, 2025

MISS *Mrs*
HOME & GARDEN

Join us for an afternoon of visiting the
Spring Open House and lunch in a 50's diner!

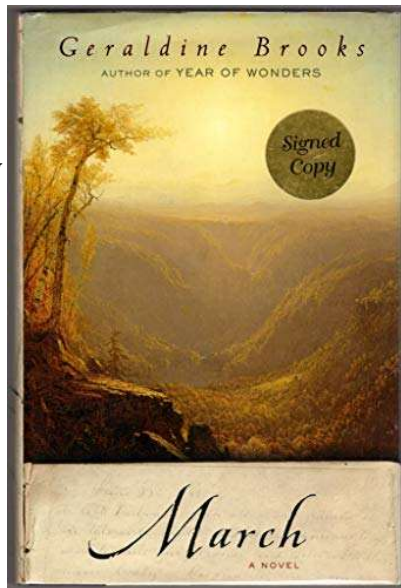
Meet at the church at 9:45am to join the
carpool!

Sign up in the Narthex



Book Club

On May 18th, the FUMC Book Club will meet in the church library to discuss the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "March" by Geraldine Brooks. Set during the Civil War, this work of historical fiction, "March" tells the story of a chaplain serving in the Union army who must come to grips with his own capacity for evil and an understanding of who he is and what he truly believes. The discussion begins at 6:00 p.m. on May 18th.



Mother's Day Hat Day

To add to the festivities of Mother's Day, May 11, we encourage you to wear your favorite hat (or fascinator or other decorative head covering.) Men and women alike are invited to participate! L deep in your closet, pull out that lovely hat and join us for worship on May 11.

BROWN BAG LUNCH

May 21st, 2025

12pm

Room 116

**Pack your own lunch and join us for
a time of fellowship!**

The Brown Bag Luncheons are informal gatherings with people who bring their lunch and enjoy the company and fellowship of others. Along with a time for food and fellowship, Rev. Boles will share some of the details of his trip to Peru. All are welcome to attend.



**American
Red Cross**

**Wednesday, May 30th, 2025
12pm-5pm**



Register to donate @ redcrossblood.org



Children. youth & Family News

Youth Volunteer Opportunities

-Monday, May 5th is the next Youth volunteering for Hot Meals opportunity. 6th graders and up are invited to be dropped off from 3:45 – 6:15 to help prepare and serve meals. Younger children can volunteer as well with a chaperone.



Graduation Celebration information

Are you or someone you know graduating from High school, College or trade school? We would love to celebrate them on May 18th! Please send in a picture, a short bio, address and what their plans are to sdublan@fumccolumbus.org by May 9th to celebrate with them. Following service, we are encouraging those graduating, who will be in town to have a display table following service in fellowship hall, showcasing any awards, trophies, special interests or hobbies. Let us know if you would like a table when you send in the information.



Youth Summer Mission Trip

This is our last call for your youth to sign up for the mission trip in July. For more information, please contact Shana.



Youth Group

Youth Group

6th graders and up are invited to join us from 11:30 – 1:30 on May 4th for youth group. This is a time when the youth can come together and enjoy fellowship, fun and YUP Food!



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

Music Director, Caio Lopes

Organist, Matthew Williamson

Handbell Choir Director, Joyce Crowder

Business Administrator, Lora Miller

Administrative Assistant, Rachel Eddins

Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Heyerdahl

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.**