



The Spire August 2024 First United Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

Amid the heat of summer, it feels odd to talk about the cold days of winter. But they will come. And with that will come the expectation that the church is warm and toasty when folks enter. Last spring, we encountered an unexpected problem. The boiler went out. It was the week before Easter, one of the highest attendance seasons. Imagine arriving on Easter morning to a chilly church!

Thankfully, our Maintenance Man, Steve Heyerdahl, and the Trustees were able to find some solutions to provide enough heat to make the church comfortable. That bought some time to figure out what to do long-term.

For many churches, the loss of the boiler is huge source of concern. Because it is such an expensive repair or replacement, this loss may force a church to close their doors.

After close analysis, it was determined that we were going to have to replace the boiler. We received bids for different options. The total cost was going to be around \$100,000. Where would we find the money for this new system?

That is where another committee comes in. In 1991, the church established a Foundation to solicit and receive lifetime gifts and bequests to support the long-term ministries of the church. The Foundation has been managing these resources and providing support for many important projects throughout the years. The Trustees requested funding from the Foundation, and it was approved to cover the total cost of replacement. The new boiler will be installed well before the temperatures turn cold.

This process could have been tragic for some churches, but I am grateful that it was only a minor inconvenience for First UMC. We have been blessed by those who donated through the years to the Church Foundation and by the Foundation itself for the wise stewardship of these gifts.

It seems odd that during the heat of the summer we are preparing for the winter chill that is sure to come. Thanks to all the good work, we will be prepared. Isn't that what stewardship is all about?

Taking care of the present needs but looking ahead to the needs that are sure to come. If you haven't included the church in your estate planning, I hope you will consider doing so. Such gifts not only sustain the current ministries, they insure that we will continue that work into the future. Some folks donate to the Foundation while others choose to designate for a particular purpose (music, gardening group, missions, etc.) All of these donations are deeply appreciated.

Thank you to the Trustees, the Church Foundation, and all those who have shared and continue to share their gifts for the ongoing ministries of First UMC.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard

Come Join Us
SUMMER PICNIC
4th August 2024



Church Picnic, August 4th!

It is time for the annual picnic! The morning begins with a casual worship service at the church at 10:00 a.m. led by a Jazz trio. Following the service we invite you to the shelter at Donner Park for a time of food and fellowship. The HOPE Committee will provide the meat and drinks and utensils you will need. We ask you to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Along with the picnic, we will have an auction of items to raise funds for the 2025 mission trip to Guatemala. We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth Mission

August 5th is the next 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.



Adult Sunday School

The adult Sunday School class will resume on August 11th in the Multi-Purpose room at 9:00 a.m. Our study is an eleven-week Disciple Bible Study looking at the stories from Genesis. Each week will have short readings for each day, followed by discussion of the readings during the class. Books will be distributed at the first class.



Youth Sunday School

Sunday school starts back up on August 11th @ 9am. Be sure to find your child's classroom on the first day.

- Ages 3 to 3rd grade are in room 314 for the Good Shepherd story.
- Grades 4th – 6th are in room 312. We will start off our class with an 8 week lesson on how to use our bibles. Once that class is completed we will host a special bible presentation in service. We will then move into a Lectionary based classroom lesson style.
- Grades 7th and up will begin a year of confirmation classes located in room 316.

Blessing of the Teachers

On August 11th we will be celebrating our teachers for the beginning of another school year! Whether you are a Sunday school teacher, a preschool teacher, or have just started back officially for the school year, all teachers are invited to join us in service for a back to school blessing as well as cake in Fellowship hall following service.

Blessing of the Backpacks

On August 11th have your child bring their backpack to service for the Family Ministry Moment. It is important to celebrate these life moments together and what better way than to have a blessing for the new school year. Plan on staying after the service for cake in Fellowship Hall.



Book Club

The selection for the August book club begins with an unusual proposition. Every person in the world receives a box with a piece of string that indicates how long you will live. Do you want to know? If so, how does the knowledge impact how you live? It is an intriguing question from Nikki Erlick's new book, "The Measure." Come and join us on Sunday August 16th as we discuss this book and the questions it raises. We will meet in the church library at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

Second Quarter 2024 FUMC Financial Update

As we wrap up our second quarter, we continue to be blessed at FUMC to have the resources to operate thanks to your financial support! Here's a mid-year update on where we are on our budget, expenses and income.

As we shared before, we have budgeted our 2024 expenses at \$732,000 against a projected income of \$585,000 resulting in a "faith gap" of \$147,000.

We currently have received ~\$398,000 in income this year, and our expenses to date total ~\$391,000. Due to a general trend in income coming in more at the beginning and end of the year, we are just now beginning to have expenses beyond our monthly income, and we expect to need to tap into our checking account savings shortly. There are also some other additional unplanned upcoming expenses ahead of us, so if you would like to help prevent us from cutting into our savings, please consider an additional contribution to the church.

Per the article by Howard earlier in this newsletter, we are very blessed to have the Foundation resources to step up and address urgent church needs such as the boiler and other needs this year. Many significant requirements to maintain our building and facilities are covered by this invaluable resource, and therefore they do not appear as a part of the financial summary I'm sharing with you.

We will continue to monitor our income and spending per the plan and keep you informed on our status against our "faith gap". Thank you for your continued generosity and support of FUMC. We ask you to prayerfully continue to support our church's financial needs, and please do let us know if you have any questions.

Rob Heathcote
FUMC Finance Committee Chair

Acolyte Signup!

We are currently scheduling Acolytes for the next few months. If your child is interested, please contact Sdublan@fumccolumbus.org



Volunteers needed!

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with a Sunday school rotation. If you are interested in making a difference in this way, please contact Shana.

Destination Unknown

For youth grade 6th and up plan on meeting at the church at 1:00 pm on August 18th. Bring \$10, a hat and sunglasses. Pick up is at 4:00pm. Let Shana know if your youth is interested in going. This is an outing, and we are looking for drivers for this event.



Join us for
LUNCH

8:21 | 12:00 pm

Brown Bag Luncheon

Wednesday August 21st will be the next Brown Bag Luncheon. This is an informal gathering to share lunch and meet new people. Bring a lunch and join us at noon for this fun gathering.

Church District Picnic

The United Methodist Churches of our district will have a picnic at Camp Moneto (551 Camp Moneto Road, Nashville) on Friday August 23rd from 5:30-8:00 p.m. The theme is "Joy in the Wilderness." Food and activities will be provided. Come and share in the fun and fellowship with other United Methodists at this beautiful campsite!

Brunch

Griswold Home Care & My Mobility present:
Aging in Place

Join us for brunch and a discussion on services and resources aimed to foster independence and age within the setting of your choice. This event is free to attend and open to the public. Brunch will be provided.

Thursday, August 22nd

10 am—12 pm

618 8th St. Columbus, IN 47201

For questions, contact Griswold Home Care at (812) 552-4792





United
Women
in Faith

Naomi Circle Minutes

April 10, 2024

Members present- Jeri Ahlbrand, Joyce Willis, Sue Romine, Stephanie Taylor, Lora Ayres. Kari Kerns, Connie Wilson, Nancy Riley, Mary Lu Fouts, Reba Kimmel, Donna Crim, Jennie Lutes, Jane Lyle, and Georgianna Waldrop

Jeri opened the meeting with the poem "In the Garden of Gethsemane "

The December minutes were approved.

The Treasurer reported \$175 had been collected for pledges this year.

Mission U will be in June. Sign up forms will be coming later.

Cheer Fund current balance is about \$42.00.

New Business

On May 6 FUMC will be a satellite host for the conference. UMW has been asked to supply treats for those who attend the session. Donations of drinks and snacks are needed. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Workers will be needed 8:30-12:30.

Next Naomi meeting is on Monday, May 8 at 6:30. We will have a pitch-in of salads and desserts. The sign-up sheet was passed around.

The prayer focus was for the Redbird Mission in Beverly, KY

The Bible verses were from Daniel 2:24-49 and John 12:44-50

Worship- Mary Lu read an essay written by her son, who was inspired by a dandelion on his way to work.

Jeri shared her slides of her trip to the Holy Lands for the program.

The meeting was closed with the poem "Peace" by Helen Steiner Rice.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgianna Waldrop, Secretary



United
Women
in Faith

UWF

The next United Women of Faith meeting will be Monday, August 12, 2024, beginning at 6:30 p.m., in the north part of Fellowship Hall.

Lora Ayers will be the hostess, with Cathy Custer as her assistant. Jeri Ahlbrand has graciously agreed to be in charge of Worship. Our Program will be planning for 2025. We will be asking ladies to sign up to serve as hostesses, assistant hostesses, worship leaders, and program presenters/organizers. Sign-up sheets for Cookie Walk donations will also be available.

Jeri was able to schedule a luncheon and tour of the Lucille Raines' Home on Tuesday, August 20. The plan is to leave the church parking lot at 9:30 a.m. The cost will be around \$10, not including gas money. We will need to get our reservations in to Jeri by August 12 (our next meeting date). Please let Jeri know if you are interested AND if you are available to drive.

The Committee has been meeting and finalizing plans for our 34th annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 23, from 9 a.m. to noon. We will begin taking pre-orders and having sign-ups for baking cookies/fudges/candies on Sunday, October 27. We will continue on November 10 and 17. We will be asking for volunteers to help with the set-up on Friday, November 22, besides asking for help during the sale on Saturday. For more information, please contact Sue Romine, Cookie Walk Chair.

All women of the church are invited to attend our meetings. For more information, please contact Stephanie Taylor, UWF Leader.

Hello, Columbus First Family!



Hello, Columbus First Family! I am so excited to begin our journey together. I have highly anticipated our time together since receiving my appointment in mid-January. In this article I wanted to share a little about myself with all of you.

I grew up in Fort Wayne, IN, where my family still resides. I am a dog mom to a yellow lab named Tessie. Hopefully you'll get to meet her sometime. I became an aunt in May of last year.

I am what they call a cradle Methodist and attended Saint Joseph United Methodist Church. During my teenage years, I received my call to pastoral ministry. I am thankful for my home church, which nurtured me and allowed me the space to explore my call during my high school and college years.

I graduated from Hope College in Holland, MI, in 2020 with a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Sociology. In May, I graduated with a Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. I am currently beginning the Ordination process in the United Methodist Church.

Some of my special interests include - reading, coffee, Harry Potter, folklore, home renovation/design, television and movies, anything period piece related (ex: Pride and Prejudice), and anything pop culture.

In my free time, I love reading, baking, hanging out with friends and family, shopping, watching TV and movies, and spending time in nature.

I would love the opportunity to get to know each of you. So please feel free to contact me via email or phone if you are interested in getting coffee, having a meal, going on a walk, etc. That information is available in the church office.

I cannot wait to see how the Lord will work in and through us in this first year together. Blessings to you!

- Mackenzie Phillips



First United Methodist Church

618 Eighth Street,
Columbus, IN 47201
Phone: 812.372.2851

The Spire

Church Staff

Pastor, Howard E. Boles
Associate Pastor, Mackenzie Phillips
Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Shana Dublan
Music Director, Caio Lopes
Organist, Destin Wernicke
Handbell Choir Director, Joyce Crowder
Co-Director of Learning Tree Preschool, Gayle Kelley
Co-Director of Learning Tree Preschool, Teresa Nickerson
Business Administrator, Daron Thayer
Administrative Assistant, Vivien Teo
Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Heyerdahl
Custodian, Damaris Muñiz

Do we have your email address?

If not, please send to fumc@fumccolumbus.org.

The Spire is a monthly publication of
First United Methodist Church.

www.fumccolumbus.org

Worship Services:

Sunday Mornings

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for kids up to 8th
grade (multiple classrooms; **won't meet during
Summer Break**)

10:00 a.m. In the Sanctuary

Will also be livestreamed via our Facebook or
YouTube pages:

www.facebook.com/columbusfumc

https://www.youtube.com/@FUMC_Columbus

Church Office hours:

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Articles for *The Spire* should be submitted to
Vivien Teo at vteo@fumccolumbus.org by the
20th of each month.