



Dear Friends,

When we were in Boulder, Colorado recently, we met a longtime friend who is the pastor at First UMC there in Boulder. We arrived early so we had a great time wondering through the downtown area, stopping in shops, and enjoying the beautiful scenery.

Diane had read about something unique regarding the church, so we also took a walk around the building to find this special highlight. Etched into the side of what used to be the main entrance is a face sculpted into the wall. The face is young and innocent looking. If you didn't know the story, one might presume that this image is that of an angel. And perhaps it is in one way. But it is also much more.

In 1891, when the church was being built, one of the stonemason's young daughters became very ill. She died before the completion of the church. So, to honor her memory, the mason carved an image of his daughter into the stonework of the church. Though the carving has eroded with time, it is still possible to see this tribute preserved in the church.

I suspect most people walk by, unaware of this angelic presence in their midst. But for those who know where to look she is there to provide a kind welcome, and a reminder of a love lost much too soon.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no such tributes at First UMC Columbus. But as I walk around the building, I am often reminded of those who have left their mark upon this church and this community. Their memory fills me with love and appreciation. I could begin to name them, but I wouldn't know where to stop. They are many. And I am grateful for them.

It isn't just churches. All around us are reminders of those we have loved. These are pleasant reminders of the lives they lived and the impact they made upon us all. May those angels smile upon us all and fill our hearts with good memories.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard



### Hot meals volunteer opportunity

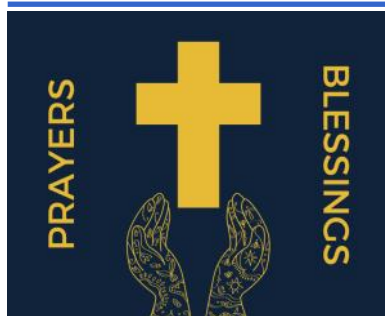
All youth 6th grade and up are invited to volunteer for hot meals on June 3. If you have a younger child that would like to help, they can with a chaperone. Email Shana @ [sdublan@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:sdublan@fumccolumbus.org) to let her know if you plan to attend.

### General Conference

The General Conference, the international governing body of the United Methodist Church, met in Charlotte, NC from April 23-May 3. This gathering resulted in some very significant changes for our denomination. If you would like to learn more about the decisions that were made and any impacts upon the local church, please join us in the Fellowship Hall after church on June 9th. Rev. Boles will provide some information and offer time for questions.

### Mission Guatemala

We have scheduled a mission trip to Guatemala for June 7-14, 2025. This is an incredible opportunity to serve and we want to invite you to consider joining. To learn more about this trip and to hear from those who have gone previously, we want to invite you to a meeting on Sunday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the church. If you have any questions or would like further information before the meeting, please contact Rev. Boles at [hboles@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:hboles@fumccolumbus.org).



### Bless the youth

The youth will be on mission from June 15th to June 22nd. Plan on attending service on June 9th for a Blessing for their trip or make sure you lift up prayers that week for a safe and enriching time.

### Mountain Mission Truck

The Mountain Mission will be stopping at First UMC on Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup> to pick up donations. If you have gently used clothing, furniture or household items, you can bring them to the church during business hours. We will hold these items until the truck arrives. Some of their most needed items at this time include sheets, comforters, blankets, pillows, towels, crafting supplies and pots and pans.



### Looking for Volunteers

Christian Education is looking for volunteers for the fall. We are looking for a Sunday school teacher that can volunteer on a rotation as well as a Youth Group second adult. If you are interested in helping out please email Shana @ [sdublan@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:sdublan@fumccolumbus.org)



### Farewell Reception

Rev. Wilkin's last Sunday with us will be June 16<sup>th</sup>. The Staff-Parish committee will host a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the service. We want to invite you to come and offer your support and blessings as Harriet prepares for her move to New York.

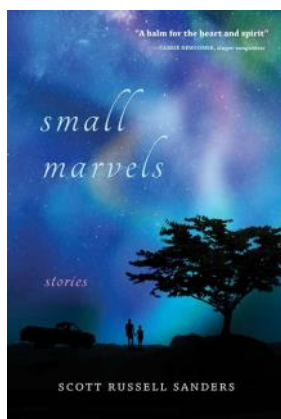
### Destination unknown!

Does your 6th grader and up like adventure? Plan on bringing \$20 on June 30th from 2-4. Email Shana @ [sdublan@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:sdublan@fumccolumbus.org) to let her know you are planning to attend and get the directions for our meet up!



### Volunteers needed!

Love Chapel will be hosting a food tent at the Bartholomew County Fair. They have asked local churches to sign up to cover a meal. First UMC has chosen breakfast on Friday June 28<sup>th</sup>, which will run from 6:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. that day. We need a minimum of eight volunteers for that shift. If you can help with this, please call the church office. You can also volunteer for other shifts, breakfast, lunch or dinner for any of the dates the fair is open. To do so, you can email [volrecruiter@columbuslovechapel.com](mailto:volrecruiter@columbuslovechapel.com) or call 812-372-9421.



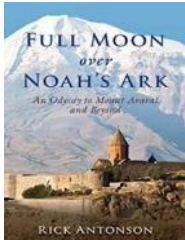
### Book Club

Hoosier author, Scott Russell Sanders has written a wonderful collection of short stories that will be the focus of our June Book Club. The book is entitled, "Small Marvels." There is a copy in the church library or you can purchase a copy at Viewpoint Bookstore (tell them it's for the church book club and receive a 20% discount.) We will meet in the church library on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.



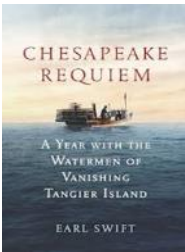
## New in the Church Library

Last month a couple of new fiction books were featured in the Spire. This month is a change of pace with a couple interesting non-fiction books. You can search the library catalog at <https://www.fumccolumbus.org/library> For more information about the library or any book(s) contact Bill Poor.



### **Full Moon over Noah's Ark** by Rick Antonson

A fascinating travelogue of the Middle East, focusing on the author's trek to the summit of Mount Ararat and his enlightening history of Noah's Ark. However, the journey doesn't end there. The author befriends folk along the way, resulting in side trips to Iraq, Iran and Armenia.



### **Chesapeake Requiem** by Earl Swift

The subtitle of this book—*A Year with the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island*—sets the scene for this thoughtful reality of our modern world. Due to climate change Tangier Island in the Chesapeake is disappearing. Or, so some think. Others see a more philosophical and theological scenario that it is in God's hands. Thus the sub-story of a split in the Methodist Church on Tangier Island.



## *In the Garden A Beautiful Spring*

The growing season has begun and we hope you have had the opportunity to see the beautiful memorial gardens at the church. The clematis, iris, and peonies are in full bloom. The Church Garden Crew is at work tending the plants around the Church property. We hope you enjoy God's gift of flowers to all of us.

### **Save the Date!**

The church picnic will be held on Sunday August 4<sup>th</sup> at Donner Park. We are planning to have an auction to raise funds for the 2025 mission trip to Guatemala, so if you have items you would like to donate, please contact the church office!



Greetings Everyone,

It is hard to believe that June is already here. This time last year I was in transition with moving here to Columbus and looking forward to getting to know all of you. Thank you for your hospitality throughout this year.

Thank you for your words of encouragement and support since it was announced that I am moving to the New York area and that I will be closer to family and friends.

Our journeys do begin with small steps at first. We rely on those around us for love and support as we begin life and start making decisions as to which way we are going to go. We have to decide which direction we are going to go in and listen carefully where God is calling us. The arrows seem to pop up when we least expect them to at times. We might think that the current path we are on is the one we are supposed to be on for years at a time, but that is not always the case. Twists and turns do happen along the journey that can take us on some interesting adventures. Along our journey we have opportunities to enjoy beautiful scenery and landscapes. We might plant roots for awhile in one location. We will meet new people and build relationships. Then at times along the journey the Holy Spirit asks us to take time to reflect and just be present in the moment. We are to take time to reflect and listen to when it is time to move on to the next place that God has for us.

At other times we are on top of the mountain being able to look around and use the gifts and talents that we have in order to help others who are walking their own journey. We are to send down the lifelines. We are to be there to listen. We are there to support. We are there to lend a helping hand. When we are on the mountain, we have the opportunity to look around and see what is missing, who is missing. We have the opportunity to take note of our own journey and to listen to where the Holy Spirit is calling us next along our personal journey.

I have had time to reflect over the last year and half, close to two years since Jim, my late husband passed away, to sit at the top of the mountain and reflect. I am grateful for the opportunities that God has given me to be here in Columbus, IN to give support and care to the widows and widowers, was able to reestablish the Care ministry, do visitations, be present with people who are grieving, and to be a part of the Columbus 1<sup>st</sup> UMC community. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you.

My next steps on my journey include continuing my studies in learning differences, neurodiversity, Post Traumatic Stress, and Spiritual care. I will continue to support and advocate for 1st Responders, Veterans, and their families and for people with disabilities. I will begin my appointment to two churches in New York, Grahamsville UMC and Sundown UMC on July 1, 2024.

Thank you again for all your support and love during my time here at Columbus 1st UMC. I will continue to hold everyone in my thoughts and prayers.

Blessings,

Pastor Harriet





## First United Methodist Church

618 Eighth Street,  
Columbus, IN 47201  
Phone: 812.372.2851

# The Spire

## Church Staff

Pastor, Howard E. Boles  
Associate Pastor, Harriet Wilkin  
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, Jacob Perry

*Do we have your email address?*

*If not, please send to [fumc@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:fumc@fumccolumbus.org).*

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

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

[https://www.youtube.com/@FUMC\\_Columbus](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](mailto:vteo@fumccolumbus.org) by the  
20th of each month.