



Dear Friends,

I was thinking recently about a quote from A. A. Milne's book, "The house at Pooh Corner." The quote is a conversation between the characters Piglet and Winnie the Pooh.

Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. "Pooh," he whispered.

"Yes, Piglet?"

"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw. "I just wanted to be sure of you."

What a beautiful exchange. And how full of meaning! Sometimes we just need the assurance that a loved one is nearby. Just knowing that they are there can be a great comfort in difficult times.

It reminds me of the promise that Jesus made to the disciples in his final appearance to them. He promised that he would be with them, even to the end of the age (Mt. 28:16). What comfort that must have been to the disciples, particularly in their times of uncertainty, to know that Jesus was there with them.

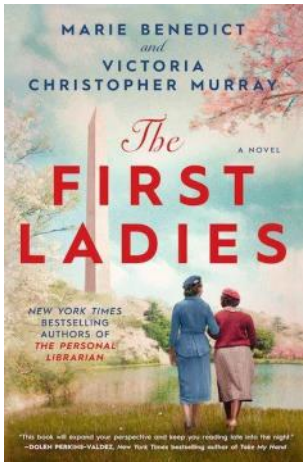
Or I also think of Psalm 139, which I often read to folks in the hospital. To summarize the opening verses, the psalmist asks where one can go to flee from the presence of God. If one were to ascend to the highest place or go to the depths of the earth, if one could take wing and fly to the farthest ends of the earth, even there, God is present. I find this a great comfort to think that there is nowhere we go where God is not already present. Sometimes I may feel uncertain or wonder where God is. In such times, this reading is a great assurance.

In faith, we live with the promise that God is always with us. We carry the promise that Jesus made to his disciples that he is always near. And we trust that the Holy Spirit is always present, guiding, leading, encouraging and sustaining us. These are all great gifts of faith.

But I return to the inspiring quote by A. A. Milne and find a message for the modern church. Piglet was feeling apprehensive and needed the reassurance that he was not alone. Sometimes that is true for us as well. In difficult times, we call out to hear a comforting voice. We reach out for a familiar touch. We search around for the face of a friend. And in those moments a calmness comes over us. What a gift that we can be together with and for one another, to be a source of God's comfort and a sign of God's presence.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard



Book Club

Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray have collaborated on a book about the friendship between Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt. Their novel, "The First Ladies" is the selection for the March book club. We will meet in the church library on Sunday March 17th at 6:00 pm to discuss this work which focuses on the work of these two important women. All are welcome to attend.

DANCE & DONATE

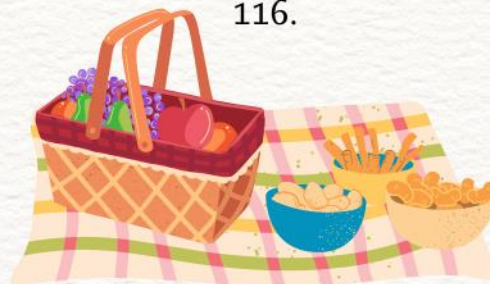
Beginner Line Dance Instruction
Fellowship Hall (MPR is backup location)
Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm
Cost: \$3 (all money will go to FUMC's Children's Programs)

No experience necessary. Call Jane Lyle for more information 812-764-2114



Lunch & Conversation

The Brown Bag Luncheons continue on Wednesday, March 20th at noon. This is an informal time to share lunch and meet new people. Along with enjoyable fellowship there will be a time for conversation together. No advance sign up needed. Just bring a lunch for yourself and meet us in room 116.



New Member Meeting

Are you interested in becoming a member of First UMC? Would you like to know more about the ministries of our church? Come and join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, March 24th after worship. For those interested, we will receive new members on Easter morning, March 31st. For more information, please contact Rev. Boles at hboles@fumccolumbus.org.





One of many things to be proud about our denomination is the quick response to any natural disaster or emergency. Whenever a need arises, the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is on the ground providing whatever relief services are needed.

They have a reputation for being among the first to arrive and the last to depart. This emergency response is possible through the financial support of congregations like ours around the world. On Sunday March 17th, we will take a special offering for UMCOR. But even as we do this, know that if there is an emergency that touches your heart, you can donate at any time and designate where you want that gift to go. You don't have to wait for an appeal. You can donate any time with the assurance that 100% of your gift will go to that particular need.



United
Women
in Faith

All women of the church are invited to join United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women).

Our first meeting of 2024 will be Monday, March 11, in the small room just off of Fellowship Hall. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will end by 8 p.m.

The theme for this coming year is "Food, Faith, and Fellowship."

Our purpose is to know God...to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission.

Membership is open to any woman with a desire to belong to and participate in the global mission of the church.

For more information, please feel free to contact Stephanie Taylor, the 2024 leader, at stephanietay@sbcglobal.net.

Grief Support Group

Pastor Harriet is offering a Grief Support Group at Columbus First UMC during the weeks of Lent. Mondays March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25, 2024, at 1pm in the church library. This is not counseling. This is a support group to share stories and to encourage one another. These are stand-alone sessions. You are welcome to come to all or as you can. If you are unable to attend in person, contact Pastor Harriet to set up a time to chat. No books are required for this support group. Handouts will be provided as needed.





Lenten Bible Study

Pastor Harriet's Lenten Bible Study meets on Tuesdays at 11:00am in the Church Multi-purpose room until March 26th.



Care Ministry

The Care Ministry meeting will be on Monday, March 11th at 11am in the church library. Future dates for meetings are:

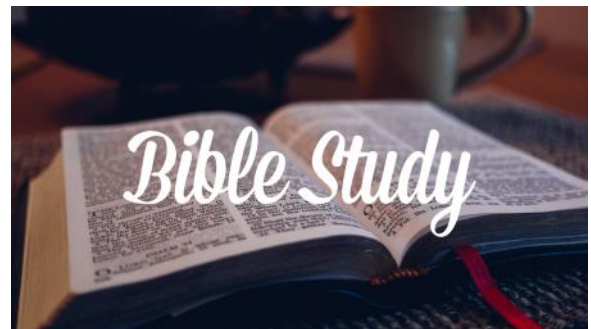
Monday, April 8th

Monday, May, 13th

Monday, June 10th

We will be using the Bible Study—**Creating Sacred Space**, written by Pastor Harriet Wilkin in our monthly meetings.

If you would like a copy of the Bible Study, please contact Pastor Harriet for a copy.



Crafting Extravaganza

Thursday, March 28, 2024 -- Fellowship Hall @ 10 am.

The craft theme is Easter/Spring. We will be making small banners and other cute Spring craft items.

Please sign up in advance to ensure Pastor Harriet has plenty of supplies. Walk-ins are always welcome and please feel free to invite a friend to join you!



Daylight Savings

Don't forget to turn your clocks forward on Sunday, March 10th! We lose an hour that morning and you don't want to miss church!

Lets prepare for Palm Sunday

This year we will be inviting all family members to participate in the Palm procession! We will process into the sanctuary in a grand manner! Waving flags and palms :) We are going to encourage the children and youth to wear colorful robes, provided by us, and lay them on the offering table.



We are also looking for older children and youth to be readers in the service. We have short scripture readings and prayers, as well as parts for younger children too.

We will be practicing our parts on March 10th @ 9:00 am during Sunday school as well as on March 17th following service in the Sanctuary. All are welcome to find a place they can serve. For info on how your child or youth can help please contact sdublan@fummcolumbus.org

Holy Week

Holy week at First UMC begins with Palm Sunday and the celebration as Jesus enters Jerusalem. Come and join in the waving of palms as the youth lead us in this service of worship. On Thursday March 28th is our Maundy Thursday service which commemorates the gift of holy communion. This service will be at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.



On Friday March 29th we welcome you for a Good Friday service in the chapel at 7:00 p.m. This moving service focuses on the events leading up to the death on the cross. Sunday March 31st is our Easter celebration. We begin with a sunrise service in the green space north of the church (weather permitting) at 7:00 a.m. This will be followed with a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 8:00 a.m., Sunday School at 9:00 a.m. and the Easter celebration in the sanctuary at 10:00 a.m.



YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group will be on March 3rd and March 24th from 5:00 - 7:00.



Easter Morning

On Easter you will have two opportunities to worship with us, either at the 7:00am sunrise service or the 10am service. If you are attending the sunrise service and would like to bring a dish to share, we will have a small connection breakfast before Sunday School at 9:00am.

If you are planning to attend the 10am service and have children, join us in an Easter Egg hunt around the church. Make sure to grab your special Easter bag that will include extra worship activities. We will not have Kids connect to give families the opportunity to worship together. Directly following service, met us out by Jesus to join in on the egg hunt!



Happy Easter





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.

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.