



Dear Friends,

In the book, “RealLivePreacher.com,” Gordon Atkinson writes brief essays about his ministry. In one essay he writes about the overwhelming responsibilities of being a pastor. In his mind he is reflecting on all the things he needs to do. He was going to bring that Sunday School book to the person who missed class. And there was that family that was planning to move away, did he ever call them? And the woman whose mother was sick, he intended to send her a note. Is Joan still in the hospital? He meant to go by and visit. Hadn’t he said he was going to set up a lunch visit with Charles sometime this week? The list goes on....

While I can relate to these sentiments, I don’t think they are unique to the ordained ministry. We all face a myriad of responsibilities, expectations, and good intentions. And some things we check off the list and move on. And others are overlooked or forgotten, only to pop up again and again as a remembrance of things waiting to be done.

It can be overwhelming. It can feel frustrating. For everything we accomplish, it seems that there are several things needing to be done. The to-do list seems endless.

I would daresay that even Jesus experienced such feelings. There are times when he seems overwhelmed by the crowds and the expectations. And if he took the time to play or laugh or do something frivolous, I wonder if he felt a twinge of guilt or looked over his shoulder to make sure no one was noticing such frivolity. We are likely to experience such feelings, so I suspect Jesus did as well.

What I do notice in the midst of such high expectations is that Jesus took time to find a quiet place to pray, meditate, relax. This was important. He needed those moments. And we do too. It might be helpful to include on any to-do list a few suggestions like, “Be good to yourself” or “Take a moment to breathe deeply” or “Take a walk around the neighborhood” or any other item that brings you peace. Make a priority of caring for yourself and doing the things that bring energy and vitality to you. That is as important as any other item on your to-do list.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard

Destination Unknown

September 2nd meet me at the church at 4:00 and bring \$20, wear a good pair of walking shoes and your thinking cap! Tonight will be filled with adventure and mystery! Pickup will be at 5:45..... location given when you RSVP.



11:30 am-1:30 pm

Youth Group

Grades 6th and up



Youth group

For grades 6th and up we will have youth group from 11:30 – 1:30. This month our meetings will be on September 8th and 22nd. On September 8th we will kick off our year with the theme “What Would Jesus Do?”. This semester we will be looking closely at some of our favorite stories about Christ and how we are able to model that behavior today. If you are interested in helping us with lunch, please follow the link <https://signup.com/go/USUREQG>.

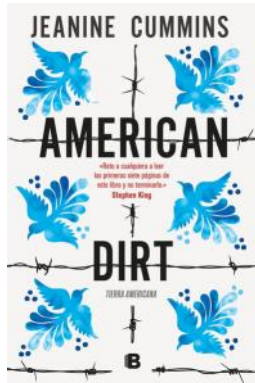


Columbus Indiana Pride Festival

First UMC is pleased to be a participant in the 2024 Pride Festival on September 7th at Mill Race Park. Again this year, our church will have a booth for this event to show our love and support for the LGBTQ community. The event will be held from noon at 5:00 p.m. We always appreciate volunteer support, so if you are able to help during any portion of the event, please contact the church office and let us know what times you prefer.

Mentor Information

Mentoring a confirmand this year? Join us on September 15th following service to get important, need to know information as well as some helpful resources. Meeting will be in the multipurpose room.



Book Club

With immigration being such a hot topic in American politics, the selection for the September book club is very timely. Jeanine Cummins best-selling novel, "American Dirt" tells the story of a mother and son who flee from their home in Mexico to find safety in the United States. Along the way, they encounter others fleeing from something, but uncertain of what they will find waiting for them. Join us in the church library on Sunday September 15th at 6:00 p.m. as we discuss this timely novel.

Brown Bag Luncheon

Wednesday September 18th 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.



Adult Sunday School

Rev. Boles is leading a class on the book of Genesis on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. Jeri Ahlbrand is leading a study entitled, "The Way" written by Adam Hamilton which will meet in Room 116 after worship at 11:00 a.m. We invite you to attend the class that works best for you!



**Join the CARS group for
Groovin' in Greensburg!
September 28th at 10:00 am**

Greensburg! You know it - the place with the courthouse tree. Turns out there are super places to shop and eat there as well. Who knew??

We will carpool from the church to Greensburg for shopping at several of their unique shops. Not too early to start some Christmas shopping! We'll

also have lunch at Carriage On The Square Smokehouse. Look at the pictures on their website - mouthwatering goodies, for sure!

This will be a day of fun and fellowship! If you are interested, please let Sheryl know and indicate if you are willing to drive.



Sheryl Nulph

(812) 372-9061



We want to thank all of those who donated items to the church auction. The proceeds will be used to support the June 2025 mission trip to Guatemala. We received \$2063 from the auction and some additional financial donations for the trip. Thank you for all the donations and bids to make this such a successful event!

Coming Soon – Our New Prayer List!



As United Methodist's we have taken a vow to faithfully participate in the missions and ministries of our church. One of the areas of focus within our vows – is to commit ourselves to the mission and ministry of prayer.

We have been discussing as a staff, and in other small group settings how we can more intentionally pray for one another and the needs of our community, nation, and world. As we spent time in discernment, we took a list at our prayer list – which at the current moment only shares the names of those who need prayer.

As we seek to live more intentionally and expansively into our vow to prayer as a church community, we wanted to begin by revitalizing our prayer list. On **Wednesday September 11th** we will be launching our new weekly prayer list. What will be included in this list?

- Joys and Prayer Concerns submitted via our prayer cards in worship.
- Prayers for the Columbus community, our nation, and world.
- Names of those who are currently or have recently been hospitalized, and those who have recently passed away.

This list will go out weekly on Wednesday at noon via email and on our Facebook page. If you would like to subscribe to receive our prayer list, please call the church office or talk to Pastor Mackenzie directly.

I look forward to how the Holy Spirit will work through us on this new endeavor, as we vow to celebrate with and pray for one another, Columbus, our nation, and our world.

With love,
Pastor Mackenzie



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith minutes

August 12, 2024

The next meeting of United Women in Faith will be Monday, September 9, 2024 in Fellowship Hall. Cathy Custer will be the hostess and Georgianna Waldrop will be assisting. Anne Johnson will be in leading Worship and the Program. The meeting will begin at 6:30 with refreshments.

Sheryl Nulph will be reporting on the cost/creation of Classic Carolina Cavier, a fund-raising activity for the Lucille Raines Residence.

Orders for the 2024 Annual Celebration t-shirts must be made by September 4. Order forms are available by contacting Stephanie Taylor. The cost of each shirt is \$25, with \$5 going directly to the Lucille Raines Residence. Cynthia Stephenson is attending the Celebration and has graciously agreed to pick up the shirts, since they will not be mailed.

Members of the Circle will be providing refreshments for the October 23rd District Charge Conference, which First United Methodist Church is hosting. Sign-up for refreshments will take place at the September meeting.

All women of the church are welcome to attend United Women in Faith meetings. For more information, please contact Stephanie Taylor, Naomi Circle leader.

Kids Night Out
Friday
September 13th 5:30—8:30



Looking for a little time to yourself, or maybe that long overdue date night?!

We are here to help.

\$20 per child with a family cap \$40; includes 3 hours of fun, games, a movie and food.

Currently we are able to host 2 years old up to and 5th grade.

Movie: Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Dinner includes: Spaghetti with meat and no meat sauce options, garlic bread, carrots, and chocolate chip cookies.

Please fill out the following and bring it back by September 4th

Name of child _____ Age _____ Current grade: _____ Male or Female: _____

Name of child _____ Age _____ Current grade: _____ Male or Female: _____

Name of child _____ Age _____ Current grade: _____ Male or Female: _____

Parent/ Guardian's name: _____ Cell number: _____

Parent/ Guardian's name: _____ Cell number: _____

In case of emergency, contact: 1.) _____ phone #: _____

Special concerns (allergies, medications, medical conditions, etc.)

For additional space to list any and all allergies, medications, and medical conditions, please use the back of this form. Thank you.

I, the undersigned parent, guardian, do hereby grant permission for my child/children, named above to be a part of the Parents Night Out that First United Methodist Church of Columbus is hosting on Friday December 8th from 5:30—8:30. In order that my child may receive the proper medical treatment in the event that he/she may sustain injury or illness during PNO, I hereby authorize staff to obtain or provide medical treatment for my child for such injury or illness during the camp, and I hereby hold the event staff, as well as its representatives, harmless in the exercise of this authority.

I further understand that there is always a possibility that my child may sustain physical illness or injury while attending a church function. If this occurs, I hereby authorize the staff representatives to refer my child to a medical treatment center (hospital, etc). I further acknowledge and understand that I will be responsible for any medical bills that may be incurred on behalf of my child/children for physical illness or injury that he/she may sustain during event.

Understanding that there is always a possibility that my child may sustain physical illness or injury. I release First United Methodist Church of Columbus, and its representatives from any claims for personal illness or injury that my child may sustain during the event.

_____ I give permission that pictures of my child can be taken for promotional purposes to be used on church website and on social media – like, but not limited to Facebook.

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____ Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____



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.