



Dear Friend,

The gathering of United Methodists from throughout the state of Indiana was held on the campus of Ball State University in early June. Pastors and delegates from every United Methodist Church were present. While it is a business gathering, to set goals, approve budgets and attend to other administrative details, it is also a time of worship. We began with worship and we ended with worship. There was a moving service to honor the retiring clergy. There was worship to remember clergy and spouses who had died. The youth delegation led a solemn remembrance around gun violence and a call to end further violence.

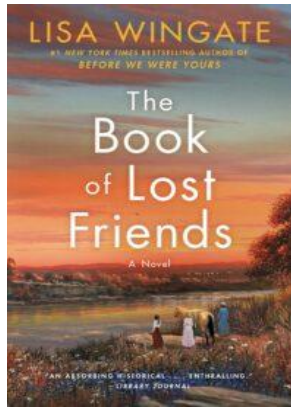
There were also times of meaningful fellowship. Following one worship service, there was an ice cream social where I was able to chat with several friends, including our former associate Chris Lantz. There were many other times when I encountered someone I hadn't seen in a while and had the pleasure of renewing our friendship. This is one of the quiet joys of Annual Conference.

But, yes, there was business conducted as well. Sadly, 173 churches were approved for disaffiliation. They had voted prior to conference to depart the United Methodist Church and with much sadness, their decisions were approved. No further disaffiliations are expected to be approved this year.

There were moments of celebration as we heard from groups like the United Methodist Children's Home and Africa University sharing their successes in serving locally and around the globe. There were videos celebrating the ministry of churches throughout the state. It was a chance to listen and learn and be encouraged for our shared ministry as United Methodists.

While much of the focus of Annual Conference, here and in other states, will be upon the sadness of churches choosing to disaffiliate, there is much, much more. Inspiring worship, strong connections, faithful service and strong ministry continue to guide our work together. And that same Spirit is guiding our local church as well.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),  
Howard



### July Book Club

For the July Book Club selection we will be reading Lisa Wingate's historical fiction novel, "The Book of Lost Friends." Following the Civil War, it was common for people who had lost touch with family or friends to place an ad in newspapers to try to find those lost connections. In addressing this phenomenon, the author addresses the larger issues of reconnecting and re-uniting on many different levels. Join us for the discussion on **Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the church library.**

The list of book club selections for the rest of 2023 is complete. Copies of these books will be in the church library or can be purchased at Viewpoint Books. If you purchase locally, tell them it is for a book club and you will receive a discount on the price.

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| July 23      | "The Book of Lost Friends" by Lisa Wingate              |
| August 20    | "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (Chaps. 1-35)  |
| September 17 | "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver (Chaps. 36-64) |
| October 15   | "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus                 |
| November 19  | "The Sun Does Shine" by Anthony Ray Hinton              |
| December 17  | "The Christmas Cantata" by Mark Schweizer               |

## American Red Cross Blood Drive



**July 28, 2023**  
Held at FUMC Columbus  
Fellowship Hall  
**12PM - 5PM**



**FIRST**  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

**Go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to register to donate**

The next Blood Drive at First UMC will be held on **Friday, July 28<sup>th</sup> from noon to 5:00 p.m.** You can set up an appointment by visiting the website for the American Red Cross. Donations will be received in Fellowship Hall.



We enjoyed an excellent performance of "Narnia" by the students from Peachtree Christian Church on June 9<sup>th</sup>! Special thanks to Randy and Cindy Witwer, the Wessel family, and Margaret Powers for housing students, to Steve Hood for making a special run to the Indianapolis Airport Friday night, and to our fantastic tech team for going above and beyond to make all the AV work with their crew!



The First Annual Interfaith Peace Camp was full of fun and learning opportunities for our students aged 5-12. Thank you for your support in sending our students and Jen to work with kids from different congregations and faith backgrounds. Thanks to Lynne and Dan Fleming for offering music for the kids on several days of camp!



One of our teens, Zander Roggow, is offering to do odd jobs for folks throughout Columbus. He is looking to supplement his income for summer and fall activities, so reach out to him if you need assistance! His number is: 812-581-6394.



### Donate and Dance

The beginners line dance instruction continues in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays at 11:30. All are welcome to participate; no experience is required. Cost is \$3 which goes to the FUMC Children's programming. For more information, contact Jane Lyle at 812-764-2114.



I want to say thanks for the wonderful way in which the celebration of my retirement was done. Once again, a great group of people went above and beyond to make me feel proud and appreciated for all that I have done in the last 29 years. Thanks to those who prepared and served the food, brought gifts and cards, or just came and gave hugs and spoke kind words. You have been my coworkers and friends as we have worked together for the benefit of FUMC.

My memories have been filed away but will be forever cherished. It will be a difficult moment when I hand over my keys and walk away toward the new chapters of life with Bob and our family. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the fun, laughs, food, and most of all the friendships. Now, I'm off to sew more quilts, spend much more time with family, and go on many more travels.

With much love and unending thanks to all,  
Tammy Fields



Thank you, thank you, thank you! The room where we store items for the Mountain Mission was quite full when they came to pick up items. Their next return will be November 21<sup>st</sup>. We also had a very successful day of service, First Cares, on June 11<sup>th</sup>. We made blankets for foster children, delivered cookies to shut-ins, made cards to share with our shut-ins and worked at a local pollinator park. Thanks to all who helped make this such a great day of service!



## Our Church Family

The church mourns the loss of Mary Jeanne Wolf.

# SAVE THE DATE! CHURCH PICNIC SUNDAY, JULY 30



Mark your calendars for the **annual picnic on Sunday, July 30<sup>th</sup>**. The morning begins with worship led by a Jazz trio at 10:00 a.m. Following that, we invite you to come to Donner Park for a time of food, fun, and fellowship. The meat and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish or dessert to share.



## First United Methodist Church

618 Eighth Street,  
Columbus, IN 47201  
Phone: 812.372.2851

# The Spire

## Church Staff

Pastor, Howard E. Boles

Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Jen Riddle  
Music Director, Caio Lopes  
Organist, Laura Bottei  
Handbell Choir Director, Joyce Crowder  
Co-Director of Learning Tree Preschool, Gayle Kelley  
Co-Director of Learning Tree Preschool, Teresa Nickerson  
Administrative Assistant, Daron Thayer  
Maintenance Supervisor, Steve Heyerdahl  
Custodian, Lucy Hiatt

*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  
Daron Thayer at [dthayer@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:dthayer@fumccolumbus.org)  
by the 20th of each month.