



Dear Friend,

I went for a walk in Kilkenny, Ireland one evening. Our hotel was a 20 minute walk from the city center. I ascended some stairs to see the St. Canice's Cathedral and Tower which date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. I peered through the gates and made a mental note to return the next morning when they were open.

I returned to the streets, with no particular direction in mind. I found a lot of cute shops, a couple more churches and then the Kilkenny Castle. The city felt quite safe, even in the darkness, so I had no hesitancy walking on a whim down a narrow street or alley to see what treasures might be hiding there. After meandering for nearly two hours, I decided it was best to return to the hotel. But without a map I was not sure which way to go.

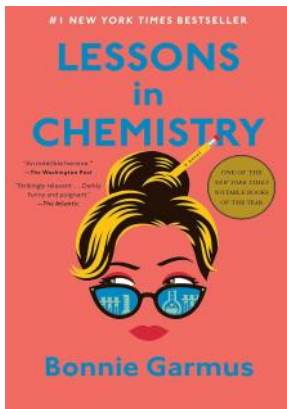
I decided to look for the St. Canice's Cathedral and Tower. Lit up on a hill, if I could find either of them, I could find my way back to the hotel. With perhaps a bit of luck or good memory, I walked through the streets and eventually saw the tower and was able to find my way back.

The rest of the walk I thought about that idea. Take me to the church and I can find my way home. Church can be a home, an anchor, a safe place. First UMC has been that kind of place for many people, not just those who are here on a Sunday morning or for weekday events.

In this past year, there have been several funerals for people who once lived in Columbus and worshipped at First UMC. They find it meaningful to return to the sanctuary, filled with the memories of love and acceptance and peace. There are some who have come to First UMC for the first time because circumstances in their lives left them feeling disoriented or lost. Here they have found a safe place to gather their thoughts and discern how to move forward in life's uncertainties. There have been some who have made their way to First UMC electronically, watching worship services online. What they have told me is that they experience this church as a holy place where they can experience the presence of God. Take me to the church and I can find my way home.

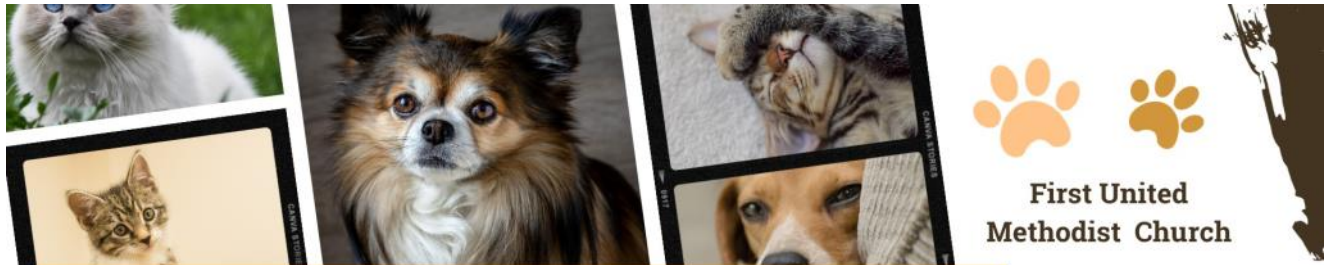
As we enter the stewardship season, I am grateful for the presence and witness of the church. And by that I don't just mean the physical structure of the building, but the witness of the people who offer a glimpse of God's kingdom of love and forgiveness and hope in a troubled world. With God's help, we are a beacon of hope to the world.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),  
Howard



### October Book Club

Listed as one of the “New York Times” notable books of the year, the book club selection for October is “Lessons in Chemistry” by Bonnie Garmus. At times poignant and piercing, at times humorous, this novel explores the life and obstacles faced by a female scientist in a male dominated field. A copy of the book is available in the church library or can be purchased at a discounted price at Viewpoint Books. **The discussion will be held in the church library on Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** All are welcome to attend!



*Blessing of the Animals*  
**Saturday, October 7, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**  
**FUMC Greenspace (9th & Lafayette)**  
Bring your furry, feathered, or four-legged friend to receive a blessing from Rev. Howard Boles.



Our pets are important parts of our families. They are a source of love and comfort to our lives. On **Saturday, October 7**, First UMC will be offering a Blessing of the Animals in the green space north of the church. You can bring your beloved pet to receive a blessing. Activities begin at 10:00 a.m. Be sure to share this with your friends and neighbors.



### Our Church Family

The church mourns the loss of JoAnn Baker and Lloyd Douglas.



### Charge Conference

United Methodist Churches meet annually for a conference to formalize important decisions of the church. This is led by our Conference Superintendent, In Suk Peebles. **Our Conference will be held at Asbury UMC on Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.** Along with the business portion, it is also a time of worship and inspiration as we gather with other United Methodist Churches throughout the area.

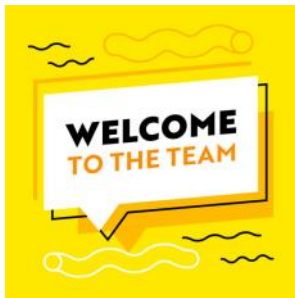
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### Adult Sunday School

Did you know that Rev. Boles is leading an adult Sunday School class in the Multi-Purpose Room every Sunday morning? The class explores difficult Bible stories to understand some puzzling readings. Each class is a stand-alone, so if you can't make it every Sunday, that is no problem. The class begins at **9:00 a.m. each Sunday.**

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### Administrative Assistant

We are pleased to welcome Vivien Teo as our new Administrative Assistant. Vivien will be at the front desk on weekdays and the friendly voice you hear on the phone when you call the church. If you are coming by the church on a weekday, stop by and offer a friendly welcome to her.

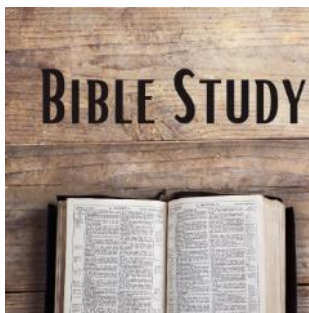
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### New Member Class

Are you interested in becoming a member of First UMC? We would like to invite you to attend the next new member orientation on **Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>** after worship. We will meet in the Blue Room (we'll help you find that!) and share some of the exciting ministries and activities going on at First UMC. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Rev. Boles at [hboles@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:hboles@fumccolumbus.org).

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### Weekday Bible Study

Rev. Boles will lead a **6-week Bible study Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. beginning on October 10<sup>th</sup>**. The text for our study is Josh Scott's book, "Bible Stories for Grown-ups." This study focusses on several familiar Bible stories, Noah and the flood, Jonah and the whale and Zaccheus. All are invited to join in this discussion as we engage these biblical stories together. We will meet in the Blue Room.



### Youth Group

Youth group will only meet once this month, **October 22 from 5-7pm**. We hope you enjoy fall break with your kids.

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**October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

We are hosting Trunk or Treat for our preschool families, church families, and the community! Join us at First United Methodist Church on 8<sup>th</sup> street for food, fun, bounce houses, balloon animals and much more! This is a free event for all and only asking for a love donation for food. You can plan to come just to have fun OR you can contact Shana Dublan ([sdublan@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:sdublan@fumccolumbus.org)) to sign up to host and decorate your car trunk. You will need to provide your decorations and candy to pass out. We will also hold a contest for the best decorated trunk!

You could also volunteer to help with the day of set up and clean up or help serve food or help with candied apples! We could also just use a few extra hands for activities.

Not able to help that night but still want to support? We are asking for candy donations to help supplement those who have trunks and for a little extra at the information table we will have. You can drop off donations on Sunday mornings in the narthex, or at the church office throughout the week.



### Let's Go Bowling!

Join us at Columbus Bowling Center on **October 15<sup>th</sup>** from **1:00—3:00 p.m.**! Fifth grade and up can come without a parent. If you have younger children they can come too, but a parent will need to chaperone them. It is only \$10 per bowler for 2 hours and shoe rental. We will also have some lunch while we have some fun! Please make sure to send Shana an email ([sdublan@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:sdublan@fumccolumbus.org)) so she can reserve the right number of lanes.

## Fridays@First Presents



### Tamara and Arkady Orlovsky Piano & Cello Duo

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**October 20, 2023  
7:00 p.m.**

**Admission is free;  
donations encouraged**



Join us on **Friday, October 20 at 7:00 p.m.** for a free concert featuring Tamara and Arkady Orlovsky on piano and cello. This talented duo will play pieces including: Chopin's "Largo" from Cello Sonata, Ravel's "Alborada del gracioso" from "Mirrors" for piano, Tchaikovsky's "The Seasons": "January", "March", "June", "November" for piano, and Efrem Zimbalist Concert Phantasy on Rimsky-Korsakow's "Le Coq d'or" for cello and piano.



United  
Women  
in Faith

**Naomi Circle Minutes  
September 11, 2023**

**Members Present:** Jeri Ahlbrand, Susan Gobert, Lora Ayers, Stephanie Taylor, Anne Johnson, Cathy Custer, Susan French, Sue Romine, Jane Lyle, Reba Kimmel, Connie Wilson, Donna Crim, Mary Lu Fouts, Nancy Riley, Joyce Willis, Kari Kerns, Georgianna Waldrop

- Hostesses Susan Gobert and Jeri Ahlbrand served treats.
- Jeri opened the meeting with the poem “The Hand of God is Everywhere”
- Minutes of August meeting were approved.
- Treasurer reported about \$945 has been turned in for pledge. Six members have not pledged yet.
- Cheer Fund reported \$310.75 balance with \$47 collected last month, \$20 paid for proxy parent, which leaves \$337.75
- Jeri explained that when your pledge covers all areas of giving you become an All-Star member and receive a pin. She wanted to give two of her pins to Susan Gobert and Cathy Custer for cleaning out the supply closet.

**New Business**

- Lucille Raines celebration will be from 1-4pm on Sept. 24 at St Luke’s in Indy.
- Silent Retreat October 20-22 in Evansville. Cost is \$180.
- The annual celebration will be October 6-7 at the Community of Hope in Muncie. Cost is \$15. The district leaders will make baskets to be auctioned for Lucille Raines support.
- Prayer Calendar: 1 Kings 1:1-30 and Acts 6:8-15. Mission focus was for a staff member who is pursuing a degree in Ghana. Birthdays were for a staff member and a retired missionary.
- Worship was given by Susan Gobert. She shared ideas from articles from the Upper Room, Guidepost and Current magazine. One article was about a tour guide’s experience in NYC. Another was about 2 people who survived the explosion on 9/11. Tragedy strikes without reason, rely on your faith in God’s presence.
- Connie’s program was in two parts. She asked the members to share where they were on 9/11. The second part was about laughter and how it can make you healthier and happier. The book, *Laughter Yoga*, shows ways it can affect your life.
- Jeri closed with the poem, “Rainbows of Hope.”
- **The next meeting is October 9. Sue Romine and Jane Lyle are hostesses. Worship is by Lora Ayers and program is Mary Lu Fouts.**

Georgianna Waldrop , Secretary

# 33rd Annual

## *Cookie Walk*

**Saturday, November 18**  
**9:00 a.m.-noon**



Save the date!

The United Methodist Women's 33rd Annual Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, November 18, 2023, from 9:00 a.m.—noon. The **next meeting for the planning team will be Thursday, October 12 at 11 a.m. in the Conference Room** at church. If you are interested in learning how to help, please come and join us! For more information, please contact Sue Romine, Cookie Walk Chair.

We also need your help baking cookies. If you are able/willing to help, fill out the form below and return it to the church office (can be placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, or brought to the office). Or you can call the church at 812-372-2851 to give your donation.

NAME	PHONE NUMBER	NUMBER OF COOKIES	TYPE OF COOKIES



## 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, 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  
Vivien Teo at [vteo@fumccolumbus.org](mailto:vteo@fumccolumbus.org) by the  
20th of each month.