

The Caller

First United Methodist Church

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www.comejourneywithus.com

February 2023



District Leadership Event

On Saturday, February 4, we are hosting a district leadership event from 9:00 to noon. Volunteers will be needed to help in several areas. More information is available in the office or at the Welcome Center.

Ash Wednesday services will be held February 22 in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm.

Lenten Lay Breakfast Series

The 47th Annual Lenten Lay Breakfast series will get underway Friday, February 24, 2023, and continue each Friday morning through Good Friday, April 7, 2023. Strom Center will again be the host for the series. Breakfast begins at 6:30 a.m. with the program from 7:15-7:45 a.m. The breakfast series is sponsored by the Warren County Ministerial Association. Listed below is the schedule of breakfasts and the church that will have the program.

February 24	Sugar Tree Grove or Immanuel Baptist
March 3	First United Methodist
March 10	First Lutheran
March 17	Faith Presbyterian
March 24	Fairview Center/Cameron Christian
March 31	Immaculate Conception
April 7	Heritage Bible Church

Memorial Gifts Recognition Sunday

February 5th has been designated as Memorial Gifts Recognition Sunday where we honor loved ones whose memorial monies were used in 2022. Memorials are gifts given to our Church in memory of a deceased individual. These gifts “become the property of this Church with the use of those funds to be determined by the proper representatives of this Church”, (which are the people serving on the Memorial

Committee*). The funds in these Memorial Dedicated Accounts are meant to be utilized to aid our Church's needs. The family may request that their loved one's memorial fund be designated for a specific use or area of our church's work. If there are no specific requests by the family, requests for use of memorial monies for the church must be approved by the Memorial Committee, who does it's best to "consider the area of interest and of Church participation by the individual memorialized by that particular Memorial Fund". Committees within this Church may request Memorial monies for needs and uses within our Church and Church programs.

These are the purchases made in 2022, totaling \$10,568.40, from the following memorial dedicated accounts.

Stained Glass Windows - Marie Borth, Judy Boyer, Ron Brown, Marilyn Bruch, Janice Bullwinkle, Gladys Caldwell, Sam Followwill, Marilyn Johnson, Marilyn Kruse, Shirley Ray, Ilda Snowden, Gloria Walker, and Liz White

Music (piano and organ cleaning & tuning) - John Elliot

Children's Ministries - Catherine Lodwick

*Current members of the Memorial Committee are Anita Anderson, Joy Boostrom, Maxine Cline, Jackie Lemley, Amy Meyers, Mary Jane O'Brian, Lori Oetting, and Laurie Todd.

Jon's Jottings



Jesus Freak!

Are you a "Jesus Freak?" Do you know what the definition of "Jesus Freak" is? Well...if you are like me then you probably remember hearing how that term was used for some who did things like protest the war in Vietnam, President Nixon, wore their hair long, dressed in kinda weird clothing, and didn't have jobs. That last one reflects a bit of what we thought in the small rural town in which I grew up in Indiana. The Etymology of Jesus Freak is: "The phrase originally was applied to those involved in the Jesus movement of the late 1960s and early 1970s, within the context of the freak scene of that era." (<https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Jesus+Freak>).

Next, I went to Wikipedia and here is what it said there, "Jesus freak is a term arising from the late 1960s and early 1970s counterculture and is frequently used as a pejorative for those involved in the Jesus movement. As Tom Wolfe illustrates in The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test, the term "freak" with a preceding qualifier was a strictly

neutral term and described any counterculture member with a specific interest in a given subject; hence "acid freak" and "Jesus freak". The term "freak" was in common-enough currency that Hunter S. Thompson's failed bid for sheriff of Pitkin County, Colorado, was as a member of the "Freak Power" party. However, many later members of the movement, those misunderstanding the countercultural roots, believed the term to be negative, and co-opted and embraced the term, and its usage broadened to describe a Christian subculture throughout the hippie and back-to-the-land movements that focused on universal love and pacifism, and relished the radical nature of Jesus' message. Jesus freaks often carried and distributed copies of the Good News for Modern Man,[1] a 1966 translation of the New Testament written in modern English. In Australia, and other countries, the term "Jesus freak", along with "Bible basher," is still used in a derogatory manner. In Germany, there is a Christian youth culture, also called Jesus Freaks International, that claims to have its roots in the U.S. movement."

Now, obviously like in all things there are good and bad about being a "Jesus Freak." But my point of view is...WE ALL SHOULD BE JESUS FREAKS at least in some ways. I would love to be associated with Jesus in my beliefs, my religious practice, and especially in my lifestyle. Too many times I am afraid that those gazing upon me might define me more as a "Capitalist, an American, or a Consumer." Jesus Freaks are not just those who confine themselves to a specific movement like the "Jesus Movement of the late 60's and early 70's. Rather, being a Jesus Freak to me means you sincerely love Jesus and you intentionally decide to try and live as Jesus taught. The problem is this NOT easy! In fact, simply loving each other as Jesus instructs is often beyond me and that is just the main teaching of Jesus. And if one considers some of the other teachings of Jesus then it gets incredibly counter cultural to be a dedicated follower of Jesus. Consider what his teachings on loving our enemies, being a servant, turning your cheek, and other demanding teachings and one starts to get the idea it's not very easy to be a true Jesus follower...let alone a Jesus Freak.

But the goal of every Christian in my opinion should be to grow closer to Jesus and to being the person Jesus calls and instructs us to be. This should be a life-long journey, one which requires us to keep progressing and horror of horrors...to keep changing! The new movie "Jesus Revolution" has promise that it will show some of the more appealing and wonderful aspects of being a "Jesus Freak." The movie's tag line is, "Open your hearts...there's room for everyone."

So, as we begin our journey through Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday, let's set a goal to at least ask ourselves, "What can I do to grow closer to the person Jesus wants me to be?"

May we all find ways to be, in not Jesus Freaks, then at least to become "Jesus People!" Amen.
Shalom,
Jon

Senior News

You are invited to meet in the chapel at 9:30 on Wednesday mornings for a time of prayer, followed by Bible study at 10:00. During the month of February, we will be studying from the book of Matthew. Bring your Bible and plan to join us for growth and fellowship. All are welcome.

Thanks to Jon who makes a printed copy of the Sunday message available, sermons and the monthly Caller are available to those who request them. If you would like to receive them, or to have communion in your home, please contact me, Joyce Clark 309-299-5682.

If you are a person who finds it beneficial to hear the radio broadcasts of the service, please let the church office or me know.

The Senior Dream Team will be meeting Thursday, February 2 at 4:15 pm in the Chapel.

There are still a number of prayer shawls displayed in the Welcome Center. If you know someone for whom one might be a comfort, please take one. Thanks to those who make them. They are always very appreciated by the recipients.

Healing Touch

Healing touch is non-invasive and effective. It reduces pain and anxiety, relieves stress and depression, provides support during chemotherapy, strengthens the immune system, reduces the effects of trauma and chronic pain and enhances recovery from surgery.

If you would like to schedule a session, you are invited to call Chris Moore at 309-337-4162 or Joyce Clark at 309-299-5682. There is no charge for a session.

Greetings from Grace Place, our youth Sunday School

This month we had two candy bar winners: Landon Andrews and Lexi Andrews....Hope they shared with Libby!!!

We have taken time these past few Sundays to really study in depth the Birth of Jesus and the entire Christmas story. It seems as if we are always practicing for the Christmas program and don't really have the time to search out the meaning of Christmas. We have talked about the importance of the lives of Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John the Baptist. We realized that every time there was a visitation from an angel or a host of angels, the first thing they said was, "Fear not!" Joseph had to make an important decision that could have ended in disaster for Mary...But God! He had it all figured out. He used Caesar and his greed, a census, and even King Herod to work

out the story of our Savior. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, which by the way, have significant meaning about Jesus, the King of Kings!!!! We played the King Herod game, The Jingle Bell Toss, and musical chairs. Now I think we are ready to move ahead and start a new study on the Bible!!!! We have a lot to learn and it is going to be fun learning it! Looking ahead to the Lenten season and Palm Sunday is always exciting for us. We have lots to prepare!!!!

GRACE Place would appreciate Easter Candy donations to help fill Easter eggs.

Blessings from all of us-

Miss Chris and the Grace Place Gang

Souper Bowl of Caring – February 12

Since 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring has been working to transform Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving. Each year, thousands of groups and passionate individuals unite across the country to #TackleHunger in their local communities. Let's tackle hunger together for our local community on Sunday, February 12 by bringing a cash donation to be given to Helping Hands and Jamieson Center food pantries. If you would like to donate through Vanco you can select "other" and put Souper Bowl in description line.

UMC Family Fun Facts: In an ongoing effort for our church family to become more familiar with each other, we will be doing Family Fun Facts on Sundays. Watch the screens each Sunday for a photo of one of our family members and some fun facts about them. We would like everyone to participate! Please email or text a casual photo along with 2 fun facts and how long you have been a part of the family! Send them to Peggy Perrin - psp0529@gmail.com

Sunday Worship Services are available to watch at any time.

If you are not able to attend worship in person on Sunday morning, you may watch the service at any time on our Facebook page or on our website. The service is posted on our website, www.comejourneywithus.com, shortly after the service ends. A printed copy of the sermon is also available on the website.

If you have any questions or comments about the Facebook page or website, please contact Deb Moore at moo@speednet.com or contact the office.

February Birthdays

If you have a birthday in February and you're not listed here, please give the church office a call.

1	Scott Boyer	18	Lucas Clayton
	Lela Clark	20	Pat Bates
	Martin Edwards		Chad Clayton
3	Suzie Geer		Josie Clark
4	Jackie Brentise		Annie Bergren
	Neal Frey		Jayvion Gold
6	Bunky Scott	23	Maxine Cline
	Elene Frey		Mark Richardson
8	Rachel Williams		Maddie Cook
11	Nadege Mouandza	24	Dylan Ankle
	Jayse Willhardt		Lori Ferguson
13	Sherry Sage	26	Lois Kelly
15	Steve Hall	27	Ben Anderson
	Rolland Sollenberger		Trevor Oetting
16	Terry Sage		



Ministry Teams

Directing Pastor - Rev. Jon Sims

Secretary/Financial Secretary - LeAnn Murk

Treasurer - Melinda Todd

Senior Ministries Coordinator - Joyce Clark

Education Director - Chris Moore

Youth Coordinators - Adam & Michelle Carlson

Certified Lay Servant - Anita Anderson

Music Director – Missy Roberts

Organist - Elizabeth Walker

Keyboard - Joy Boostrom

Bell Choir Director - Candy Duncan

Praise Team Director – Sue Ray

Custodian - Doug Ray

First United Methodist Church, Monmouth

February 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Sunday 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. WRAM radio 1330			Every Wednesday 9:30 a.m. Prayer Group 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir	1 No UMW Exec Board meeting	2 4:15 p.m. Dream Team Chapel	3 9:00 - 12:00 District Leadership Event
5 Memorials Recognition 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	6 6:00 p.m. Trustees in the Lounge	7 No Worship Committee meeting	8	9	10	11
12 Souper Bowl Offering 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	13 6:00 p.m. Finance meeting in the Lounge	14 7:00 p.m. Ad Council meeting in the Lounge	15 1:30 p.m. Priscilla Circle Chapel	16 6 p.m. Opening Committee Lounge	17	18
19 1:00-2:45 p.m. Confirmation class Youth Group	20 March Caller info due	21 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service	22	23 6:30 a.m. Lenten Lay Breakfast at Strom Center	24	25
26 No Confirmation Class 10:45 -4:00 p.m. Youth Group to SnowStar	27	28				