

Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

Getting Restarted

Planning Beyond Construction

I was wrong last month – more times than I would like to admit – but the one that concerns you is my statement about the construction coming to a close in September. That didn't happen. We're behind schedule. So we are still restringing our instrument and not quite ready to play the song.

But I have started picking out the songs I want to sing. Have you? Have you started thinking about what the ministry of our church will look like when we are ready? I'd love to hear your thoughts. E-mail them to me, share them in meetings, write them on scraps of paper and slip them under my office door.

Bible Studies

Even though construction is not done, the first thing that will get going again is our Bible studies, beginning on Wednesday, October 10. I will be leading studies at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm (the studies will be the same – these are just two different time options).

We will begin with studying the Psalms. Throughout my life I have found the Psalms to

be the more real and heartfelt expressions of the human soul to our God. They are praise-filled, mournful, angry, confused, and praise-filled again. There is power in realizing that people throughout history have had some of the same thoughts and emotions in their lives of faith, and that God is big enough to listen no matter our state of mind.

We will be using a study guide for some of the work – but I will be adding to it with things I have learned over the years and some experiential exercises. I hope that you will consider joining me for these times.

Temporarily, we will meet in my office (or at the back of the sanctuary, depending on group size). Whichever way, we will get started. We may not meet every week at first, I am still trying to catch up with everything that is going on!

Hope to see you there, and don't forget to tell me the hopes and dreams you have for our church ministries.

Pastor Rob



Finding Time for Prayer

Have you ever been stuck in a line or waiting somewhere for your name/number to be called? You know what I mean — your number is 67 and you notice they are now only serving number 25, and so you take a seat and wait. Or you're on the highway just a minute from your destination but because of road construction, you now have a 20 minute delay, and so you wait. Or possibly you've stood in a long line at the grocery store, or waited in a doctor's office, or been put on hold for a customer service call. So how do you use that time? Do you get frustrated, annoyed, text friends, check email, make a call to someone, or listen to music? Yes, clearly I am a multi-tasker, always thinking of how else to use that time. Lately it seems that I've become a magnet for these types of situations, but I'm actually glad for that because of what I've learned from the 'waiting'.

Most recently I pulled into a drive thru to grab some lunch, expecting it to only take a few minutes. I quickly realized this wasn't going to be your average drive thru wait. I saw some other drivers who were already pulling out of line behind me, but in a split second I made the decision to commit to the wait and see it through. Understand that 15 minutes had already passed. It wasn't about the food at that point, but rather the story that I was now becoming a part of. I was flipping through radio stations wondering about the cause of the delay, when I realized that what really mattered was what I should be doing with this time.

Looking at the long line of cars in front of me and behind me, suddenly I thought: this is where I can find time to pray. It's actually the perfect time to pray. I'd already committed to stay in the line, so why not turn off the radio and instead use the time to pray for the situation or anything else. And that is what I did. I first prayed for the workers and their circumstance, asking for peace and calmness, feeling their vulnerability in whatever was causing this huge delay. By this time we had been waiting almost 20 minutes, and five cars had pulled out of line. I continued to pray for the people in the drive thru line knowing that many may be aggravated and greet those employees with frustration, so I asked for peace and understanding. I knew the employees at the window probably weren't the cause of the delay, but they were the faces that would meet the annoyed, angry, frustrated driver at the window, so I prayed for forgiveness for all the thoughts and words that would be exchanged. And I decided to be intentionally kind and show God's grace to whoever greeted me.

After my prayers in that drive thru line — for what ended up being a 30 minute wait — I noticed that the person in the car in front of me and directly behind me chose a path of grace and patience as both seemed to greet the drive thru attendant with a smile, no frustration, and what seemed to be a kind word. Any other day I probably would not have stuck it out. But this day I did, and when I went home I searched scripture and found this passage from Mark 11:22-24: ***“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”***

I encourage all of us to find new places and times for prayer, even while waiting in line. And let our prayers sometimes be for those working through frustrating situations, so that they might be blessed by the grace we ask for in prayer. | *Melodie Coles, Lay Leader*

From the Director of Music

It's been fun for me to have the choir back in its regular routine of rehearsals and singing each Sunday morning. For the choir and me, the preparation and offering of the music we sing has become an important aspect of our own worship experience. As we learn new music or refresh anthems we've sung before, the power of text and musical notes often moves us to a rich, worshipful experience even in rehearsal. It's part of the blessing of being part of a choir, and it's difficult to fully understand unless you've experienced it yourself. Our prayer each Sunday morning is basically that we ourselves may get out of the way of how God will speak through our music that day. We are often surprised how things seem to come together in the context of the entire service on a Sunday morning. It reminds us that the Holy Spirit is always at work among us, and that God uses our gifts of time and modest talents and somehow brings them together for God's own glory and the building up of God's church.

If any of you are interested in a shorter-term commitment to the choir by joining us for our annual Christmas Concert – please talk me soon. The program is on December 9 at 4:00 pm, and the rehearsals take place on Thursday nights during last part of the regular choir rehearsal, beginning at 7:00 pm.

As I mentioned last month, Pastor Rob and Kristi are both singing in the choir and playing in our Praise Band! I also wanted to let you know that two of our college student music interns have returned to sing in the Choir: Caroline Lively, soprano, and Miles Garn, tenor. We're very happy to have them and hope to gain a few more students in the weeks to come.

New to our student line up this fall is Hillsdale College freshman Kevin Stucker, who has joined our Praise Band as drummer/percussionist. We suddenly have a full band to lead the music at our 11:00 am Sunday morning service!

If you've never attended our weekly 11:00 am service, I hope you'll come sometime just to get an idea of how that service goes. I've always considered a second, contrasting worship service as yet one of many different ways a church may provide a point of entry for people to experience God's love and grace. Our 11:00 am service may actually be a more comfortable doorway for both unchurched folks, as well as those who might have some church background but no longer attend for whatever reason. Perhaps someone you know would be blessed by your invitation to either service, but I would encourage you to consider particularly our 11:00 am service as a unique option also. Pastor Rob brings a wonderfully fresh and easy going manner to this service, and our enhanced Praise Band and the more informal and interactive setting (especially once we get back in the Fellowship Hall!) add to the relaxed style of this service.

Please remember to mark your calendars for **Sunday, December 9 at 4:00 pm for our 6th annual Christmas Concert!**

Speaking of our church providing various opportunities to invite folks to experience God's love and grace, this is a terrific event to invite a friend to so that they may hear the story of God's love through the gift Jesus Christ at Christmas time. It may well be the perfect entry point for someone out there to begin further contact with you and the church. | *SDG, JO*

Missions and Ministries



Missions: Lord's Mountain Orphanage | The Missions Team is grateful for the recent contributions received for UMCOR hurricane relief and in support of United Methodist missionaries Delbert and Sandy Groves.

The mission focus for October is the Lord's Mountain Orphanage in Zambezi, Africa headed by Rev. Bernard and Betty Lumene. Their stated purpose is: "to rescue, protect, and ensure proper physical, educational, and spiritual development of orphans."

Rev. Bernard Lumene and his wife Betty work with over 30 children, "parenting" them physically, spiritually, and academically. They also focus on helping the women of the area, and Rev. Lumene describes his wife Betty as having felt a calling to train women to help them sustain their lives. Other tasks at the orphanage include maintaining hygiene to prevent diseases, sourcing building materials locally, and starting a Visitor's House project to respond to the challenges of accommodation. Please pray for this ministry and consider how you might offer support through your gifts and contributions so that others doing Christ's work in other lands can continue their mission.

Building Renovation Update

This capital campaign project was intentionally named, *Our Heritage, Our Turn, God's Tomorrow* so that we can respect what was done in the past, do what we can do now, and prepare for what our ministry can be in the future. In essence the plan has been to connect our 1865 sanctuary to the 1956 education wing. No engineer could have predicted all the surprises encountered along the way. Therefore, the building project timeline needs to be extended due to several situations beyond our control. Last month, we were "hopefully optimistic", but this month reality has set in that the completion will be at least a month later than expected.

The finishing need not be hurried to meet a deadline but finished to complete the quality project we expect. The elevator is 95% done and has been seen by some to move up and down. The walls for bathrooms and hallways have been constructed and the plumbing is done. The heating system yet needs to be tested. The narthex tile floor and walls remain to be completed. As of now, the final walk through by the architect is scheduled for the morning of **November 2**. Our dedication is scheduled during worship on Breakfast Sunday, **November 18**. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.
Barbara Vallieu, Building Committee Chair

Our Heritage, Our Turn, God's Tomorrow

Construction Progress



September 28, 2018

Left: Elevator entrance on office level

Center: Upstairs bathroom entrance with privacy wall; drywall and cement board installed

Right: Elevator entrance on narthex level, and narthex level bathroom. New drywall added after moving bathroom wall for required hallway width to elevator



September 28, 2018

Top Left: Drywall added over new ducts in Fellowship Hall

Top Right: Entrances and hallways to elevator on Fellowship Hall and preschool levels (center opening for closet)

Bottom Left: Boiler/mechanical room with piping installed

Bottom Right: Music room hallway and mechanical room with new walls framed and drywall added



Bulletin Board Headlines

Prayer Requests *Prayers for anyone who is in need of God's comfort and peace.*

Current: Tom and Pat Bildner and family

Continuing: Family and friends of Kathy Bangma (Laurel Ourensma's cousin), Wendy Billman, Jack Bowles, Ruth Brown, Lorna Busch, family and friends of Ardice Casarda, Marie Crall, Aaron Delauter, Mike Hamilton, Kristine Hasty, Pat Laurell, Beth Crapo Liebold, Peg Long, Bettie Monroe, Carolyn Parker, Gene Parker, Jack Reamer, Betty Scheibner, family and friends of John Turner, Jr., Maribeth Watkins, Gary Welch, Frances Wells, Rev. Tamara Williams

In Nursing Care or at Home: Dorothy Aspinall (in Illinois), Sammy Brink, B.J. Clark, Shirley Connolly, Susie Eichler, Lois Fosbender, Bert Hill, Ruth Huston, Jackie Mitchell, Bettie Monroe, Colleen Ridenour, Betty Scheibner

Serving in the Military: Ricardo Arellano, Emily Mitchell

Note of Thanks

To our Brothers and Sisters at Hillsdale First United Methodist Church—Thank you so much for allowing us to be a part of your church family for a short time, and for letting us share our music ministry. We felt it a privilege to participate in your 11:00 am breakfast service.

We have been greatly encouraged by the people of your congregation who welcomed us not as strangers or foreigners, but as family. Your generous offering to us was a blessing and will help us to continue in our ministry. Please pray for us, as we will be praying for you as we travel down the road. We will remember you with joy, and hope for the time when we can visit you again in the future.

John and Connie Nicholas

www.saltystings.com

October

Anniversaries

- 1 Curt & Anne Jensen
- 1 Jim & Jan Tesch
- 8 Noble & Anna Bertalon

Birthdays

- 1 Anna Scheibner
- 2 Suzanne Dumaw
- 6 Linda McKay
- 7 Carol Emery
- 9 Aaron Delauter
- 14 Jim Tesch
- 17 Robin Curtis
- 19 Martha Smith
- 23 Carol Yearling
- 25 Pam Laurell
- 25 Sam Nash
- 30 Ruth Huston
- 31 Jim Bowen

November

Anniversaries

- 1 Carlene & Roland Patterson
- 24 Rick & Sheri Piper
- 27 Marvin & Elaine Rich

Birthdays

- 1 Tom Holland
- 6 Nancy Payne
- 9 Jackie Mitchell
- 14 Joel Fontana
- 15 Chrissy Coles
- 28 Dick Curtis
- 28 Katie Holland
- 28 Sonja Slagle

New Student Musician



Kevin Stucker, Hillsdale College

Joining our music program this year as a drummer in the 11:00 am praise band is Kevin Stucker, a freshman from Franklin, IN, just south of Indianapolis. This is Kevin's first year at Hillsdale College and he has loved his time here so far. In addition to being a student, Kevin is a quarterback for the Charger Football Team and is also a member of the college's percussion ensemble. At home in Franklin he attended Community Congregational Church where he served in the praise team for four years. Kevin added, "Thank you all for welcoming me to your church community!"

OCTOBER 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------|---|--|---|-----|---|
| | 1 | 2 6p Lions Club 7:30p Handbell | 3 6:30p Choir 8p Praise Band | 4 | 5 | 6 9:30a Church Conference 11:00a Ardice Casarda Funeral |
| 7 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Sanctuary) 7p Boy Scouts | 8 5:30p Trustees | 9 6:30p Finance 7:30p Handbells | 10 9:30a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study 6:30p Radio Club Board 7:30p ONE Team | 11 3p Love INC 6:30p Choir 8p Praise Band | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Sanctuary) 7p Boy Scouts | 15 6:30p Worship Team | 16 6:30p Habitat 7:30p Handbells | 17 9:30a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study | 18 6:30p Choir 7p Radio Club 8p Praise Band | 19 | 20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |
| 21 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship/ breakfast (Elks) 7p Boy Scouts | 22 7p Ad Board | 23 6p Building Comm 7:30p Handbells | 24 9:30a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study | 25 6:30p Choir 8p Praise Band | 26 | 27 TENT & TREAT HARVEST FEST noon-2pm  |
| 28 9:30a Worship (Sanctuary) 11a Worship (Sanctuary) 7p Boy Scouts 7p Singspiration (Camden) | 29 | 30 7:30p Handbells | 31 9:30a Bible Study 6:30p Bible Study | <div style="background-color: #fff9c4; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>Tent-and-Treat Harvest Fest</p> <p>Saturday, October 27</p> <p>noon to 2:00 pm, rain or shine</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Come in costume and enjoy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · a free hot dog lunch · a free trick-or-treat bag · games, prizes, treats </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> </div> | | |

Tent-and-Treat Harvest Fest

Saturday, October 27
noon to 2:00 pm, rain or shine



Come in costume and enjoy

- a free hot dog lunch
- a free trick-or-treat bag
- games, prizes, treats



Come experience the love of Jesus!

Fall 2018

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Hillsdale First United Methodist Church

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