



The Spire

January
2021

I was having a conversation about what we were doing a year ago at this time, and it seemed more like 20 years ago since the COVID pandemic began.

While there is a light at the end of this long dark tunnel in the form of vaccines, this third surge we're experiencing now is worse than the two preceding waves, and the statistical modeling shows it will continue to be bad for the next month at least.

In November Bishop Julius Trimble held a Zoom meeting with all the clergy of the Indiana Conference and members of the Infectious Diseases Department of IU Medical Center—with whom the Bishop and Extended Cabinet are in constant communication. At that Zoom meeting Bishop Trimble **strongly requested that all Indiana United Methodist Churches suspend in-person worship for the foreseeable future.** Our Conference Superintendent, Mitch Gieselman sent out an email the next day reiterating to all of us in the Southwest District the Bishop's request. We complied.

On January 8 Bishop Trimble sent an email to all the clergy and leaders in our churches saying, **"I believe it is to be the better part of wisdom to continue to not meet in person at your churches."**

The Bishop's request was not a mandate because mandate implies punishment. It was, however, just shy of being a mandate for the good of our communities and the hospitals that are feeling the brunt of the burden of caring for COVID patients.

On January 11 The Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments—a group made up of leaders from many denominations (including United Methodists) and health care professionals continued to recommend that churches not meet in person for the foreseeable future.

This group continued by saying **"If *any* of the following are true for the county where you live, we recommend you do not meet indoors.**

The number of new cases is rising.

ICU occupancy rates average above 80%

The Georgia Tech Risk Assessment Tool (which the Bishop and Cabinet use and encourage us to use as well) ranks your county above 40% likelihood for someone being present with COVID-19 at a 5 to 1 ascertainment bias.

Two days ago, as of this writing I gathered the most recent data for Vanderburgh County. The results are as follows:

Vanderburgh County is in the Red Zone with Weekly Cases per 100,000 Residents: 739 and a 7 Day Positivity Change of 22.1% with new cases on the rise.

ICU Occupancy Rate for Deaconess Hospitals is at 92% and Ascension is at 100%. That means if you or a member of your family needs an ICU bed *for any reason* they are nearly full or not available at our hospitals.

The Georgia Tech Risk Assessment Tool ranks Vanderburgh County in the following: In a group of 25 people there is a 75% probability that at least 1 person has COVID and in a group of 50 there's a 94% probability.

Right after Christmas our congregation had its first COVID death. The hospital chaplain called me in because it was an end-of-life situation (Currently all hospital patients can only have one visitor per day except in the COVID unit where no one is allowed in except at end-of-life).

I stood outside the patient's room and was able to look in through a glass in the door as a nurse held a phone to the patient's ear while I prayed the Ministry with the Dying (the United Methodist version of Last Rites) on the chaplain's phone.

Like you, I've heard the stories on the news about what hospital workers and patients are going through, but it's an entirely different experience to see it in person. While it was an honor to serve a member of this congregation this way, it's not an experience I'm eager to repeat.

This is a hard time. It's hard not to meet in our spaces. I don't like not meeting in person. No one does. **But I believe we have a moral obligation not only to ourselves but to our community and the hospital staff to do all we can to mitigate the spread of this virus.**

I believe our Bishop and Extended Cabinet are right in requesting we do not meet in person at this time and for the foreseeable future.

There is a light at the end of this dark tunnel. God will lead us through this time. As John Wesley said, "The best of all is God is with us!"

Peace and Good!
Tim



February Scripture Readings

- February 1—Brigid of Kildare—Hebrews 11:32-40; Psalm 35:1-10; Mark 5:1-20***
February 2—The Presentation—Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40*
February 3—Ansgar—Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Psalm 103:1-2, 13-18; Mark 6:1-6*
February 4—Cornelius the Centurion—Hebrews 12:18-24; Psalm 48:1-3, 7-9; Mark 6:7-13*
February 5—Philipp Jakob Spener—Hebrews 13:1-8; Psalm 27:1-13; Mark 6:14-29
February 6—Hebrews 13:9-17, 20-21; Psalm 23; Mark 6:30-34
February 7—5th Sunday after the Epiphany—Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39
February 8—Elfleda—Genesis 1:1-19; Psalm 104:1-12, 25; Mark 6:53-56
February 9—Hugh Price Hughes—Genesis 1:20-2:4a; Psalm 8; Mark 7:1-13
February 10—Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17; Psalm 104:25, 28-31; Mark 7:14-23
February 11—Fanny Jane Crosby—Genesis 2:18-25; Psalm 128; Mark 7:24-30*
February 12—Genesis 3:1-8; Psalm 32:1-8; Mark 7:31-37
February 13—Absalom Jones—Genesis 3:9-24; Psalm 90:1-12; Mark 8:1-10*
February 14—Transfiguration Sunday—2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9
February 15—Tobit 1:1-2; 2:1-8 (Exodus 19:7-25); Psalm 112:1-6; Mark 12:1-12
February 16—Tobit 2:9-14 (Job 19:23-27); Psalm 112:1-2, 7-9; Mark 12:13-17
February 17—Ash Wednesday—Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
February 18—Martin Luther—Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Luke 9:18-25*
February 19—Isaiah 58:1-9a; Psalm 51:1-10; Matthew 9:10-17
February 20—Frederick Douglass—Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 86:1-11; Luke 5:27-32*
February 21—1st Sunday in Lent—Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
February 22—Kanichi Miyama—Leviticus 19:7-14; Psalm 19:7-14; Matthew 25:31-46
February 23—Polycarp—Isaiah 55:6-11; Psalm 34:15-22; Matthew 6:7-15*
February 24—Matthias—Acts 1:15-26; Psalm 15; Philippians 3:13-21; John 15:1, 6-16*
February 25—Amanda Berry Smith—Esther 14:1-6, 12-14 (Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18); Psalm 138; Matthew 7:7-12
February 26—Romey Pitt Marshall—Ezekiel 18:21-28; Psalm 130; Matthew 5:20-26
February 27—George Herbert—Deuteronomy 26:16-19; Psalm 119:1-8; Matthew 5:43-48*
February 28—2nd Sunday in Lent—Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

In Memory

Please keep the families of the following people in your thoughts and prayers.



Ellen Frederick

Corrine Schwartz

Martha Freeman on the passing
Of her sister

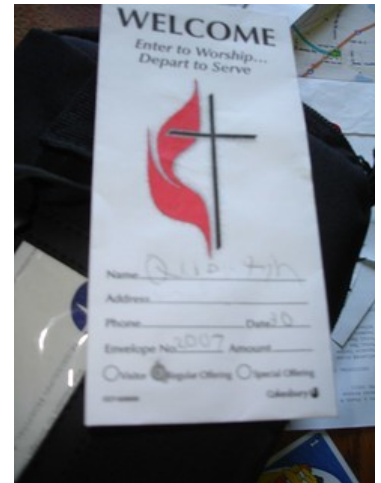


The Pastor Parish Committee would like to express our appreciation to our staff. If anyone would like to contribute towards the appreciation gift please send checks (made out to Centenary United Methodist Church and with "Staff Gift" in the memo line) to Greta Jackson 14420 Old State Rd. Evansville, IN 47725



"But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."
Gal 5:22-23

New Offering envelopes are now available
Please see Cheryl Blythe, or the office to get a new box for 2021



**DON'T JUDGE
SOMEONE JUST
BECAUSE
THEY SIN
DIFFERENTLY
THAN YOU.**

An elderly pastor was searching his closet for his tie before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 25 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings.

She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box. The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 25 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbors for \$1."



Family Order Form

Centenary United Methodist Church

Clothing & Accessories	%	QTY	Total
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$
American Eagle Outfit \$25.00	10%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
DSW \$25.00	8%		\$
Express \$25.00	10%		\$
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Gap \$100.00	14%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
Journeys Kidz \$25.00	10%		\$
Marshalls / TJ Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Marshalls / TJ Maxx \$100.00	7%		\$
Maurices \$20.00	7%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Old Navy \$100.00	14%		\$
Ross Dress for Less \$25.00	8%		\$
Shoe Carnival \$25.00	5%		\$
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Dining - Casual	%	QTY	Total
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$
Azzip \$10.00	10%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants \$10.00	10%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants \$25.00	10%		\$
Bonefish Grill \$25.00	8%		\$
Bonefish Grill \$50.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings \$25.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$10.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$25.00	8%		\$
Cheddars ® \$100.00	8%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$50.00	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
Denny's \$10.00	7%		\$
Golden Corral \$25.00	9%		\$
Gracie's Chinese \$10.00	10%		\$
Hacienda \$20.00	10%		\$
Logan's Roadhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
LongHorn Steakhouse \$100.00	8%		\$
Los Bravos Mexican \$20.00	10%		\$
Los Tres Caminos Mexican \$20	10%		\$
Merry-Go-Round \$10.00	10%		\$
O'Charley's \$25.00	13%		\$
Old Chicago \$25.00	6%		\$
Olive Garden ® \$25.00	8%		\$
Olive Garden ® \$100.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$50.00	8%		\$

Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Texas Roadhouse \$100.00	8%		\$
TGI Fridays® \$25.00	9%		\$
Dining - On The Go	%	QTY	Total
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
Culver's \$10	10%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
Domino's \$25.00	8%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$
GD Ritzys \$10.00	15%		\$
Fazoli's \$25.00	9%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Krispy Kreme Doughnuts \$10.00	8%		\$
Little Caesar's Pizza \$20.00	8%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	9%		\$
Papa Murphy's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Spuds-N-Stuff \$20.00	10%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	7%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	7%		\$
Steak 'n Shake \$10.00	8%		\$
SUBWAY \$10.00	6%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Taco Bell \$25.00	5%		\$
Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$
Zaxby's \$25.00	30%		\$
Health & Beauty	%	QTY	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$
CVS Pharmacy 100.00	6%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Sephora \$25.00	5%		\$
ULTA \$25.00	4%		\$
Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Walgreens \$100.00	5%		\$
Home Décor	%	QTY	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$100.00	7%		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25.00	7%		\$
Pier 1 Imports \$25.00	9%		\$

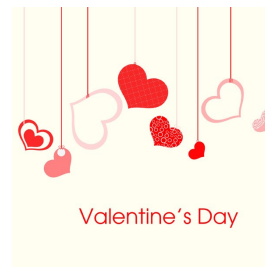
January Birthdays

1 - Matt Rettinger
 2 - Jeanne Neely
 4 - Cheryl Lasher
 4 - Keeley Wingerter
 6 - John Clark
 6 - Greg Unfried
 6 - Hadley Bottoms
 7 - Geraldine Martin
 7 - Nancy McCutchan
 7 - Steve Schneider
 12 - Roger Huebner Jr.
 14 - Jake Yocum
 17 - Judy Aldridge
 19 - Lee Crow
 20 - Kiley Huebner
 20 - Lauren Fendrich
 24 - Callie Graves
 29 - Roger Huebner Sr.
 31 - Amber Ferguson



February Birthdays

4 - Shirley Ackerman
 4 - Stason Stacer
 5 - Joan Crowe
 5 - Kelly Harris
 6 - Jeff Carnahan
 7 - Vernice Lindell
 8 - Cyndi Gish
 9 - Sherry Hiatt
 9 - Danielle Otto
 10 - Jim Sharp
 10 - Diane Walker
 10 - Emilio Delgado
 12 - Charity Marquis
 13 - Sadie Seibert
 17 - Abby Jackson
 18 - Jim McCutchan
 18 - Kim Wingerter
 20 - Vince Bowden
 21 - Brooke Huebner
 24 - Andrea Kaucher
 24 - Madeline Stone
 25 - Sharron Brace
 25 - Luke Jackson
 26 - Gayle Harper
 27 - Don Fuhrman



January Anniversaries

2 - George & Mida Creekmur
 14 - Larry & Bonnie Tindle
 19 - Wayne & Nancy Brack



February Anniversaries

11 - David & Mary Jane Woods
 14 - Bob & Martha Freeman
 14 - Don & Jennie Fuhrman
 27 - Randy & Felicia Bowden



A Record of Our Faithfulness

Date	Attendance	General Fund Offering
11/15	60	1690.00
11/22	50	1215.00
11/29	50	1200.00
12/6	50	2735.00
12/13	50	0.00
12/20	50	6700.00
12/27	50	3450.00
1/3	50	0.00
1/10	50	1875.00

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! If you find any discrepancies in our Birthday/Anniversary listings, please call the office or email us. This would include names that are missing or misspelled, as well as wrong dates.

Attendance includes in person and virtual attendance

Prayer Concerns: Rosie Ritchie, Callie Graves, Dave Heavrin, Rosemary Rudolph, Wayne Aldridge, Debbie Young, Jackie Arman, Cris Brunson, Mary Edmondson, Jim Fleming, Joan Davis, Lee Crow, Shawn Jackson, Roger Huebner, Sr., Miriam Seibert, Nancy McCutchan, Mary Anna Fanok

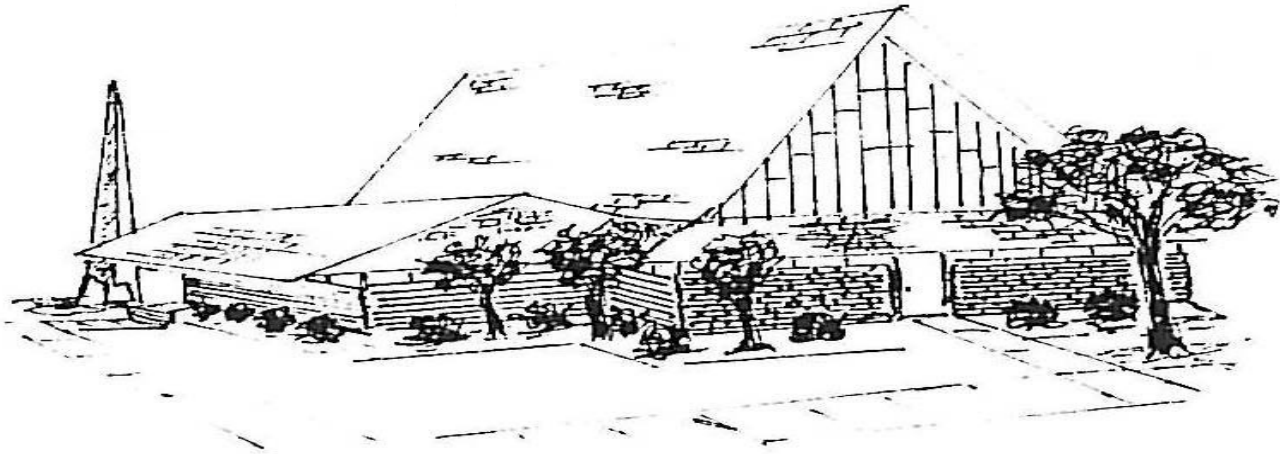
January 2021

Calendar

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Your source for calendars

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
					New Year's Day	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Martin Luther King Day					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6



CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation;
everything old has passed away, see,
everything has become new!" 2 Corinthians 5: 17

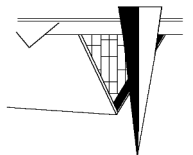
"Seeking God and God's Kingdom First"
"Seeking to Live as Disciples"

"Seeking to Be the Body of Christ, the Church"
"Seeking to Discover the Joy of God"

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The Spire
"Pointing Life in the
Right Direction"



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