



**The Spire
November 2024
First United Methodist Church**

Dear Friends,

I came across a poem by Gayle Boss from her book, "All Creation Waits." It goes like this:

*"In the late fall, in the world's north, the sun glides low in the sky.
Light dims, the air cools, signaling every living thing.
Animals know what to do when the season of dark and cold spreads over the earth.
Every creature makes changes to its home, its body, its habits.
Every creature makes ready to wait until the earth wakes again
into the light and warmth of spring.
Waiting in the cold dark will be hard but each creature knows...
The dark is not the end. It's a door. It's the way a new beginning comes."*

What beautiful words! And what a wonderful description of the seasonal transitions. The weather has cooled. The daylight hours have diminished. And all around us the world is bracing for the arrival of winter.

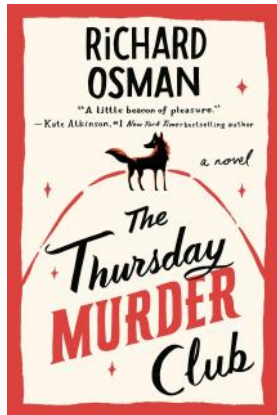
The creation around us has already made their preparations for the changes. Squirrels have stashed away ample food. Some birds have made their exodus to warmer climates. The flower bulbs are resting quietly beneath the soil, awaiting the cues that it is time to start over again.

Taking our cue from the world around us, this might be a time to change the pace of our lives and find quiet moments of rest. Read a good book. Listen to good music. Visit with a friend. Enjoy a warm bowl of soup. The season invites us to slow down, to care for ourselves and nourish the relationships around us.

We do so with the realization that the darkness and cold are not an ending, but a preparation for a new beginning that awaits. May we embrace the gifts of this season and the opportunities that await.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard



Book Club

For November, the Book Club turns to a murder mystery set within a peaceful retirement village. Four unlikely friends team up to investigate a murder that happens on their very doorstep. This is the premise of Richard Osman's book, "The Thursday Murder Club" which is our selection for November. Join us in the church library on Sunday November 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Luncheon

Wednesday November 20th will be the next Brown Bag Luncheon. This is an informal gathering to share lunch and meet new people. Bring a lunch and join us for a fun afternoon of food and fellowship.



Green Team



Do you have a passion for environmental care? First UMC is considering starting a Green Team. A Green Team consists of a few members working together to educate our congregation and community on environmental care. With the support of a regional organization, Faith in Place, Green Teams address environmental issues at the local level. If you would be interested in learning more about Green Teams please contact Rev. Boles at hboles@fumccolumbus.org.

Mountain Mission Truck

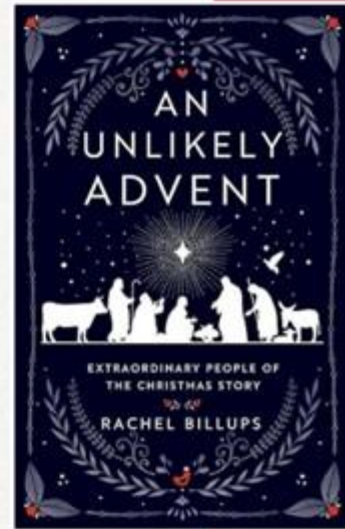
The United Methodist Mountain Mission will be coming to First UMC on Tuesday November 12th to collect donations. They will accept household appliances, used clothing, pots and pans and other gently used household items. Their greatest needs include: men's winter clothing, sheets and comforters and crafting supplies. You can bring your donations to the church during office hours.



2024 Advent Study

Led by Pastor Mackenzie

Tuesdays @ 6 pm
Nov. 26th-Dec 17th



Sign up **Oct. 27th - Nov. 17th** in the church office or email Pastor Mackenzie.

I invite you to join me on Tuesday evenings for our study of “An Unlikely Advent” by Rachel Billups. We will explore the themes of hope, love, joy, and peace by sharing the stories of Elizabeth and Zechariah, Herod, the Magi, and the shepherds. Each set of unexpected characters has something to teach about living faithfully on the journey to Christmas. Sign-ups will be held October 27th-November 17th. You can sign-up in the church office or email Pastor Mackenzie directly at mphillips@fumccolumbus.org

The cost of books will be **\$13.00** for all who want to participate. Books will be available for pick-up November 24th. I hope you will join me on Tuesday nights this Advent Season!



2025 Pledge Drive

We are currently involved in our pledge drive for the 2025 budget. If you have not yet made a pledge, you can mail your pledge card to the church or call the Business Administrator, Daron Thayer, to provide this information. Your pledge is essential for the important ministries of First UMC.

Fall Back!

A reminder that Daylight Saving Time happens on November 3rd, so be sure to move your clock back an hour so you arrive on time Sunday morning!



YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth Volunteer Opportunities

Monthly Youth Volunteering Opportunities

Monday, November 4th is the next Hot Meals opportunity. 6th graders and up are invited to be dropped off from 3:45 – 6:15 to help prepare and serve meals. Younger children can volunteer as well with a chaperone.

Saturday, November 23rd the youth are invited to help with the Cookie Walk. Last year was a great time of service and fun! Email sdublan@fumccolumbus.org if your 6th grader or up is interested or if you would like more information.



Youth Group Monthly Meetings

6th grade and up are invited to join us from 11:30 – 1:30 on November 10th & November 24th for youth group. This is a time the youth can come together and enjoy fellowship, fun and YUP Food! This month we will be looking at some well-known parables and discussing how we can find comfort for our everyday lives. If you would like to sign up to bring dinner, please follow the link, <https://signup.com/go/USUREQG> . Friends are always welcome!

YOUTH
MINISTRY



Santa's Workshop

We are hosting the workshop this year on December 7th from 9- 1. We have several crafts planned, cookies ready to be baked, Christmas music playing in the background and Santa on the way... The only thing left is YOU.

Join us December 7th for Crafting and Caring!

9:00-10:00am Sensory Friendly ONLY

10:30-1:00 Everyone!

FUMC Fellowship Hall

We collect a love offering to help fund the activities possible today

Adult supervision required (no drop-offs, please)

We are currently looking for volunteers to make this year special. Please contact Shana at shana@fumccolumbus.org to sign up to help children and families make meaningful crafts this holiday season.

Parent's Night Out

November 15th from 5:30 – 8:30

Make sure to register your kiddos for a fun filled night at the church or give someone you know a flyer. This month our movie will be "The Lorax" and we will enjoy cheese pizza for dinner.

Flip the page to find your registration form!

**Kids Night Out
Friday
November 15th 5:30—8:30**



Looking for a little time to yourself, or maybe that long overdue date night?!

We are here to help.

\$20 per child with a family cap \$60; includes 3 hours of fun, games, a movie and food.

Currently we are able to host **2 years old up to and 5th grade.**

Movie: The Lorax

Dinner includes: Cheese Pizza

Please fill out the following and bring it back by November 8th

Name of child _____ Age _____ Current grade: _____ Male or Female: _____

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Name of child _____ Age _____ Current grade: _____ Male or Female: _____

Parent/ Guardian's name: _____ Cell number: _____

Parent/ Guardian's name: _____ Cell number: _____

In case of emergency, contact: 1.) _____ phone #: _____

Special concerns (allergies, medications, medical conditions, etc.)

For additional space to list any and all allergies, medications, and medical conditions, please use the back of this form. Thank you.

I, the undersigned parent, guardian, do hereby grant permission for my child/children, named above to be a part of the Parents Night Out that First United Methodist Church of Columbus is hosting on Friday November 15th from 5:30—8:30. In order that my child may receive the proper medical treatment in the event that he/she may sustain injury or illness during PNO, I hereby authorize staff to obtain or provide medical treatment for my child for such injury or illness during the camp, and I hereby hold the event staff, as well as its representatives, harmless in the exercise of this authority.

I further understand that there is always a possibility that my child may sustain physical illness or injury while attending a church function. If this occurs, I hereby authorize the staff representatives to refer my child to a medical treatment center (hospital, etc.). I further acknowledge and understand that I will be responsible for any medical bills that may be incurred on behalf of my child/children for physical illness or injury that he/she may sustain during event.

Understanding that there is always a possibility that my child may sustain physical illness or injury. I release First United Methodist Church of Columbus, and its representatives from any claims for personal illness or injury that my child may sustain during the event.

_____ I give permission that pictures of my child can be taken for promotional purposes to be used on church website and on social media – like, but not limited to Facebook.

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

Date: _____ Signature of Parent or Guardian: _____

Sounds of Faith Choir (K-12)



Learning new songs, rejoicing with some favorite tunes, playing instruments, and celebrating in fellowship.

Meeting weekly in the choir room starting Sunday, October 27th from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Singing in service on December 15th and on Christmas Eve.

For more information, please contact Pam Perfetto at 812-344-5550 or Nancy Rumsey at 812-374-6181



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith minutes

October 14, 2024

- 25 members attended and one guest was invited
- Stephanie opened with a prayer
- An explanation sheet about UWF membership and pledge info for the active circle members was discussed. The distribution of the pledge funds was explained and another paper listed the mission giving of our Cheer Fund Monies.
- Treasury Report-\$1260 in pledges
- Minutes of the September minutes were approved.
- Fundraiser- Sheryl Nulph reported that Texas Roadhouse has several options for fundraising. Applebee's will donate 10% of a dining night if addressed as a fundraiser. Suggestion was made to check out the Hot Box Pizza program. Sheryl asked for volunteers who would help her with this endeavor to meet with her after the meeting. Subject tabled to next month.
- Stephanie listed the sign up sheets that were on the front table. She asked us to update our information for a UWF directory.
- Cathy Custer explained how the church handles requests for funeral dinners and asked volunteers to list their name and phone number.
- Raines Fest donations will be delivered by Jeri. There may be more than can be used so some of it may go to love Chapel.
- Jeri reported that an additional \$1 was added to the pledge request this year as an assembly asking donation because the 2026 Assembly will be in Indianapolis.

United Women in Faith minutes Cont.

October 14, 2024

- Jeri explained the UWF Reading program and announced UWF will no longer be having noon lunches and programs after the December meeting.
- We decided the inactive members should receive Christmas Cards. Mary Lu will take care of that.
- Since we have more than \$350 in the cheer fund there was discussion about sending money to help with the disaster relief in the South. Georgianna motioned and Jeri seconded to send \$350 to UMCOR. Motion carried.
- Donna began the worship by asking us about the number of Bibles we own personally. She talked about the UMC distribution program for 3rd-4th graders and the one she received at her high school graduation. She named the 5 Bibles she currently uses and asked how many of us had learned Bible verses when we were younger. She closed with a prayer.
- Stephanie presented a program she titled "4 Powerful God Truths We Can Learn from a Pumpkin" which she took from the book "A Pumpkin Patch Parable" by Liz Curtis Hicks. This is the summary of each of the parables: 1. We all begin as seeds where God places us and helps us develop 2. We are all different but we are beautiful and good because God made us. 3. Just like we must remove the insides of the pumpkin, God must cleanse us and gets rid of our sins as we are forgiven. 4. Just like the jack-o-lanterns, we must let our God light shine.
- The meeting was closed with prayer.
- November 11 is our next meeting. A sign-up sheet was passed for the meal contribution at 6:00. Cathy Custer will cohost with Connie Wilson, Joyce Willis will do worship, and Georgianna Waldrop will do the program.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgianna Waldrop, secretary



UWF

United Women in Faith will have a pitch-in at Connie Wilson's on November 11. The meal will begin at 6 p.m., with the meeting to follow. Those who would like to carpool are asked to contact Stephanie Taylor.

On December 4, the UWF Executive Board members will serve as hostesses for the noon luncheon. This will be an opportunity to remember the members we have lost this past year and celebrate a special member of the group. A \$3 donation will be accepted for the soup meal.

The final meeting for 2024 will be on December 9, in Fellowship Hall.

All women of the church are invited to attend all of these activities.



*"Taste and see how good the Lord is!
The one who takes refuge in him
is truly happy!"*

Psalm 34:8

34th Annual Cookie Walk

Create your own box of decorated and specialty cookies sold by the pound (\$8). Fudge, divinity, and other candies will be sold by the half pound (\$6).

-OR-

Pre-order your cookies for pickup at the Lafayette St. door between 10-11 am. To pre-order, please call the church office:

812-372-2851

Pre-order deadline is
Nov. 17th

CASH ONLY PLEASE

All proceeds go
to support local,
state, and
international
missions

Saturday, Nov. 23rd
9:00am-noon

First United
Methodist Church
618 Eighth St.
Columbus, IN 47201
Fellowship Hall





First United Methodist Church

618 Eighth Street,
Columbus, IN 47201
Phone: 812.372.2851

The Spire

Church Staff

Pastor, Howard E. Boles
Associate Pastor, Mackenzie Phillips
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, Damaris Muñiz

Do we have your email address?

If not, please send to fumc@fumccolumbus.org.

The Spire is a monthly publication of
First United Methodist Church.

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.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 by the
20th of each month.