



Dear Friends,

The Chambon region of France is well known and respected for their work to take in Jewish families and children during WWII. They provided a safe haven for thousands of Jews, often at great risk to themselves. Had they been found out, the citizens would have faced severe punishment and possibly death. As a community, they made the decision to act faithfully and compassionately amid such dangers. Where possible, some of the Jews were smuggled into nearby Switzerland. Others remained living within the community, fed and cared for until the war was over.

Many books and documentaries have been made about their noble work. But I came upon an article in Smithsonian magazine a few years ago that was very interesting. When asked about the decision to shelter these refugees, at great peril to themselves, one citizen commented that this was who they were. As a community, such compassion was a part of their identity.

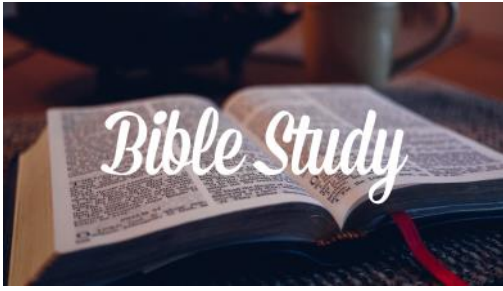
He pointed out that during the Reformation, residents sheltered Protestants fleeing persecution from the Catholic Church. During the World War II they provided shelter to Jews, sparing an estimated 3200 people from certain death. And in more modern times, they were welcoming refugees from the wars in the Middle East. The local resident said, "It's not a decision we reflect on. It's always been spontaneous. We just keep doing what we're doing."

I love the notion that compassion is a part of their communal identity. This is who we are. We are a people of love and kindness. And that reality impacts their actions, both as individuals and as a community. The decision to be kind and caring was made centuries prior, and they just keep doing those things.

Seldom do we put our actions to such scrutiny. Why do we feed our neighbors in need through Hot Meals? Why is it important for First UMC to have a preschool? Why do we serve funeral dinners to grieving families? We seldom pause to ask such questions because the decision was made long ago. This is who we are. We are a community of believers seeking to live out our faith in meaningful ways together. The ministries and activities may evolve over time and new opportunities emerge but underlying it all is a collective identity of kind and compassionate faith that is expressed in tangible ways through our service together.

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard



Adult Weeknight Bible Study

Last Spring, Rev. Boles led a four-week Bible study on the verses often associated with homosexuality. The study was well attended and well-received and a request has been made to repeat the study. So, beginning on Tuesday October 1st at 6:30 pm we will offer this study again. No advance preparation is required. Just bring your Bible, meet in the Blue Room, and we will explore these verses and stories together.

Blessing of the Animals

Our pets are important parts of our families. They are a source of love and comfort to our lives. On Saturday October 5th, 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 am. Be sure to share this with your friends and neighbors.



Hot Meals

October 7th is the next Hot Meals opportunity. 6th graders and up are invited to be dropped off from 3:45 – 6:15 pm to help prepare and serve meals. Younger children can volunteer as well with a chaperone.

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 here at First UMC on Wednesday October 23rd at 6:00 pm. 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.

UWF

United Women in Faith will be meeting on Monday, October 14, 2024, at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Sue Romine will be the hostess, assisted by Judy Townsend. Donna Crim will lead the Worship, while Stephanie Taylor will have the Program. All women of the church are invited to attend.



UWF

Sheryl Nulph has graciously agreed to look at some ideas for fundraising for the Lucille Raines Residence (LRR).

This facility is wholly owned and operated by The United Women in Faith of Indiana.

Recent fundraising paid for the building and installation of an elevator in this six-story building, making the entire building handicap accessible.

Monies are now being raised to pay for the newly installed boiler.

Located in downtown Indianapolis, LRR has been around since 1977. It houses up to 49 individuals, recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. LRR's 12-step recovery process and meetings help residents rebuild their lives and relationships with God. LRR offers a safe, clean and sober environment for residents and the opportunity to work on a "self-help" program.

Jeri Ahlbrand is a member of the Board of LRR. She is presently accepting donations of items for Raines Fest, an event where the residents enjoy food, fellowship, and games, where they can 'win' necessary items like shampoo, pillows, paper towels, dish cloths, non-fridge items, etc. Please see Jeri for a list of items needed. Items need to be brought to the October United Women in Faith meeting.



First United Methodist Church will be hosting this year's District Meeting on Wednesday, October 23. Members of UWF will be providing refreshments after the meeting.

Looking ahead, the November 11 meeting will be a pitch-in at the home of Connie Wilson. The meal will begin at 6 p.m. Car-pooling will be available if needed. A sign-up for food will be available at the October meeting.



Youth group

6th grade and up are invited to join us from 11:30 – 1:30 on October 6th & 27th for youth group. This is a time the youth can come together and enjoy fellowship, fun and YUP Food! We will be continuing our exploration of the teachings of Jesus. No need to sign up and friends are always welcome.

Brown Bag Lunch

Wednesday October 16th 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 at noon for this fun gathering in room 116.



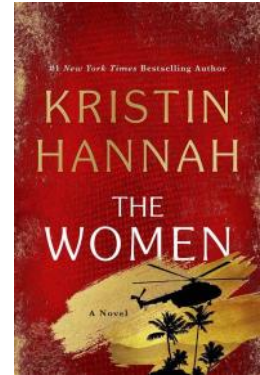


New Member Class

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 20th 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.

Book Club

On Sunday October 20th at 6:00 p.m. we invite you to join the First UMC Book Club as we discuss "The Women" by Kristin Hannah. This highly acclaimed novel tells the story of a young woman who serves as a nurse in Vietnam and the struggles she faces both in her wartime service and in the years that follow. Come join us in the church library for an evening of discussion.



Mission Donation Requests

During the closing months of the year, there are many appeals for help, especially related to Christmas. The Missions Committee is aware of these needs and that different opportunities appeal to different givers. So, as we prepare for the upcoming requests, we want to make you aware of what is coming so that you can select the area(s) where you would like to contribute.

One of the historic giving opportunities has been a canned food drive for the Love Chapel Food Pantry. They will be doing things differently this year. Rather than asking churches to donate specific canned goods, they are asking for a direct donation for food baskets which will be distributed to those in need in our community. The estimated cost of each basket is \$80. So First UMC has agreed to provide funds for 25 baskets for a total of \$2000. This financial drive will run from mid-October to mid-November so that baskets can be distributed after Thanksgiving. If you would like to donate to this local ministry, please put "Love Chapel" in the memo line of your check.

The second opportunity will be gift cards for local ministries like Just Friends and Turning Point. The Learning Tree Preschool will be selling gift cards on Sunday November 17th, and you can purchase an Amazon gift card for one of these organizations to support their ongoing work in our community.

The third opportunity will come later in November and into December as we will have an angel tree with specific gift requests for families in need. With the help of the Lincoln Central Neighborhood Foundation we will be offering specific requests for holiday needs that you can purchase and bring to the church.

The Missions Committee is excited about all these opportunities and wanted you to know what was coming so that you might find your passion and area of interest to help those around us.

34th Annual

Cookie Walk

Saturday, November 23

9:00 a.m.-noon



Mark your calendars for the 34th Annual Cookie Walk on Saturday, November 23, from 9 am to noon. Cookie baker sign-ups will begin on Sunday, October 27th, before and after church services. Pre-Order forms will also be available at this time. Cookies will cost \$8 per pound, while candies will be \$6 per half-pound.

Monies raised support the United Women in Faith missions, including the Lucille Raines Residence, the United Methodist Children's Home in Lebanon, Learning Tree Pre-School, and Love Chapel.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Cookie Walk Chair Sue Romine.



Plan on joining us on October 24th from 5:30 – 7:30 for our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat event. We are looking for several volunteers for this wonderful outreach opportunity. We need people to help with preparing and serving food, setting up and cleaning up, being active eyes on activities as well as just offering a friendly face.

We are also asking for people to decorate their trunks and pass out candy. You will need to have enough candy for 300 children! We will vote on the best decorated Trunk, and you might win bragging rights for the whole year! Can't make it that night, that's fine. You can still support the event by bringing some bags of candy on Sunday morning.

Please contact Shana Dublan at sdublan@fumccolumbus.org to find out more or sign up!



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith minutes

September 9, 2024

- 22 women attended.
- Stephanie Taylor opened the meeting with a prayer and announced the front table had sign up sheets for all upcoming events.
- Minutes were approved as corrected.
- Treasurer reported \$1255 in pledges.
- Jeri Ahlbrand reported 9 women attended the TTL visit to the Lucille Raines home and distributed a list of items we need to donate for the Raines Fest event. A SE district member is needed for the Lucille Raines board for Jan. -June. Susan Gobert volunteered to do it.
- Prayer calendar was for Proverbs 8:3 -9:6 and Hebrews 11:29-12:2 which talks about the faith of Israelite heroes. The reflection compared making bread to our religious walk with God.
- Sheryl Nulph reported on the cost of the ingredients to make California Caviar Cheese spread. There was much discussion about the difficulty of preparing this recipe, storing the product and selling it as a fundraiser for the Lucille Raines Home. It was suggested doing a Dine and Donate event instead of making the spread.
- Georgianna motioned \$25 be taken from the Cheer Fund to repay Sheryl for making the sample cheese spread and doing the research. Susan Gobert seconded the motion.
- Sheryl distributed flyers about the CARS program and its next event.
- Jane Lyle presented flyers about the two line dancing classes at FUMC.
- Sheryl motioned to accept the new slate of officers with Susan French as secretary and Cathy Custer seconded. Vote approved.
- Stephanie announced donations and workers were needed for hosting the district meeting at FUMC on Oct. 23. Members were signed up.
- Anne Johnson started the worship based on Thessalonians 5:11. She had prepared a list of scriptures relating to encouragement. She began the program with the writings of Max Ehrmann and shared his thoughts about life with "Desiderata" and closed with the Serenity Prayer.
- Cynthia Stephenson reported that our unit's pledge to the district would be \$2000. Since we only have pledges of \$1255 at this date, we need to raise more funds. Maybe we should consider a fundraiser. There are also vacancies on the Executive board that need to be filled. Tabled this discussion for a later date in October.
- Cheer fund total was \$286 before paying \$20 for Proxy Parent and \$25 to Sheryl Nulph. The balance after this meeting is \$316.
- Susan Gobert showed us the FUMC quilt that was made by members many years ago. Since she had the quilt cleaned, she plans to display it on the wall of the main hallway.



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith minutes

September 9, 2024

- Next meeting October 14 Hostesses -Sue Romine and Judy Townsend. Worship and Program are Donna Crim and Stephanie Taylor.
- November 11 will be a pitch-in dinner with sign-up at the October meeting.
- Stephanie closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgianna Waldrop

Kids Night Out
Friday
October 4th 5:30—8:30

Must
Pre-register

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: Cars

Dinner includes: Grilled Cheese, Mac n Cheese and apple slices

Please fill out the following and bring it back by September 4th

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

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

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 October 4th 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: _____

Prayer Ministry Launch Update



In my first few months here, many conversations have been had that I am coming in with “fresh eyes.” With fresh eyes, I can bring ideas and suggestions of how we can continue to grow and expand into greater faithfulness and discipleship, all while we continue to do the vital and wonderful ministry that is at the heart of our community. Prayer has become an essential part of my spiritual practice, and upon coming in and seeing our prayer list, I felt a nudge from the Holy Spirit that our church could find new and more intentional ways to make prayer an essential part of our daily practice as a worshipping community.

Responding to this nudge, after much prayer and discernment, we launched a new weekly digital prayer ministry. We have dedicated ourselves to praying for one another, Columbus, our nation, and our world each week. This list is available every Wednesday at noon via email subscription and on Facebook.

Our ministry launch has exceeded anything I could have anticipated, with over one-third of the congregation joining in weekly prayer. It's amazing what can happen when we are faithful to the Lord's nudges. I'm excited for more "nudges" together. Thank you for saying yes and taking a leap of faith to begin something new together. It can be scary to step out in faith. I look forward to seeing people experience Christ in new ways and seeing lives transformed as we join in celebration and prayer together!

Blessings,
Pastor Mackenzie



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.