



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

Dear Friends,

The concepts of land and place and home are important threads that run throughout the Bible. It all begins in a garden, what have come to know as Eden. To this day, the notion of Eden is understood to be a holy place, a place where God walks among us. Land is also important when the Hebrew people are enslaved. They long for a place of their own, a place they can call home. They embark upon a long, arduous journey to arrive at that place which they call “The Promised Land.”

Even into the gospels and New Testament, land and place and home are important themes. Jesus told a parable about seeds and how even the tiniest of seed can provide a home for the birds of the air. This, he said, is like the kingdom of God.

These and many other biblical images ran through my mind when I came across a question posed in a book. The question was this, “Tell me about the land that raised you.” That is a great question.

When I pondered this, I thought about the wooded area near my childhood home. As children, my friends and I explored “the woods.” We built forts and tree houses, chased rabbits caught an occasional snake, and spent countless hours exploring. That place nurtured our imaginations.

I also thought about the backyard where we stayed out until the sunlight waned playing baseball. When Dad came home from work, we would play catch there. I can easily recall the smell of the irises that grew there. A few years ago, I drove by that old home and was pleased to see the maple tree I helped plant as a child had become a large shady respite in that yard.

“Tell me about the land that raised you.” Was it a farm? Was it a garden? Was it a pond or a lake or a river where you could spend time relaxing? Was it a park where you played?

In the month of July we will begin a sermon series about hiking/walking around. But don’t worry, you don’t have to walk far. It might be a walk around the block, or onto your patio, or even a trip down memory lane. Along the way, I encourage you to ponder that question about the holy places around us. “Tell me about the land that raised you.” Or perhaps, “Tell me about the holy places that continue to teach you, nourish your spirit, ease your anxiety.”

Pace bene (peace and all good things),

Howard

Reception for new Associate Pastor

The Staff Parish committee is pleased to welcome our new Associate Pastor, Mackenzie Phillips who joins our staff on July 1st. Mackenzie has been serving at High Street UMC in Muncie for the past four years. The Staff Parish committee will host a reception on Sunday July 7th after worship where you can meet Mackenzie. Please join us in welcoming her to Columbus and First UMC...and don't forget to wear your nametag!



Brown Bag Luncheon

The Brown Bag Luncheon is an informal gathering of folks who share lunch and conversation together. There is no particular agenda, just a chance to enjoy one another's company. Our next luncheon will be held on Wednesday July 17th at noon. Bring a lunch and we'll take care of the rest.

Destination unknown

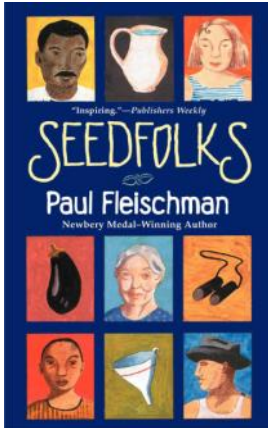
If you like adventure, plan on meeting up on July 14th from noon to 2pm. Lunch will be provided. For more details about this event, contact Shana Dublan at sdublan@fumccolumbus.



**American
Red Cross**

Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at the church on Friday July 26th from noon – 5:00 p.m. To sign up to donate, please visit the website for the American Red Cross.



Book Club

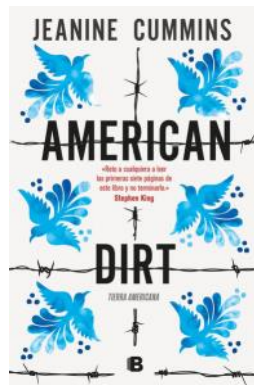
The selection for the July book club is a young adult work of fiction entitled, “Seedfolks” by Paul Fleischman. This delightful, short novel tells the story of a young girl’s attempt to reconnect with her father and the ways in which community is built as a vacant lot is turned into a neighborhood garden. A copy of this book is available in the church library. Free copies of the book are available at the church for our youth who would like to join the discussion. The book club will meet on Sunday July 21st at 6:00 p.m. in the church library.

Upcoming Selections for the Book Club

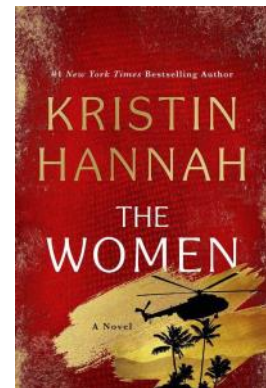
A copy of each title is in the Church Library collection, although most likely checked out due to demand. If you are ever curious of current or past titles in the Book Club, check <https://www.fumccolumbus.org/book-club>. On this page of the Church website, you can access a complete list of all the books listed by author, title, and date read for Book Club.



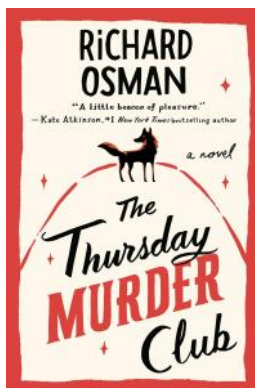
“The Measure”
By Nikki Erlick
August 18th



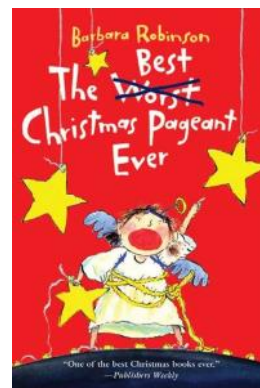
“American Dirt”
By Jeanine Cummins
September 15th



“The Women”
By Kristin Hannah
October 20th



“Thursday Murder Club”
By Jeanine Cummins
November 17th



“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever”
By Barbara Robinson
December 15th



In the Garden

"Where flowers bloom so does hope..."

Lady Bird Johnson

We hope you are enjoying the flowers in bloom around the church grounds. But, you know, all the flowers in full bloom in various colors, sizes, and shapes, do have a function beside just a great show. Many of the plants on the church grounds are active bee and butterfly pollinator plants.

Looking around our gardens you can see *Blazing star* and *Butterfly Weed* near the Labyrinth, *Catmint* along Lafayette Avenue, *Coreopsis* and *Allium* in the Memorial Garden, and *Coneflowers* on the East walk... just to name a few. All these plants not only provide a palette of color but are great for the environment.

The Church Garden Group loves to nurture the flowers for beauty and nature. During the season, the Garden Group meets most Thursday mornings (about 9:00am). We enjoy the great outdoors with a little work... and a lot of fellowship!

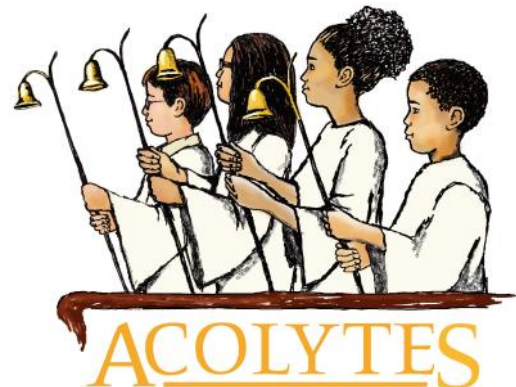
Clothe-a-Child



Clothe-a-Child is a longtime ministry of First UMC in cooperation with our friends at the Lincoln Central Neighborhood Foundation. We partner together to provide school clothes for children in need in our community. Lincoln-Central provides the names of those in need and First UMC raises the funds and takes them shopping. One of the areas of need is for interested shoppers. By shopping together, children can pick out items that they would both need and like. If you would be interested in participating in this important and meaningful ministry, please contact the church office.

Become an Acolyte!

Acolyte training on July 21st at 9 am in the youth room. No need to sign up if you're interested just plan on attending.



Come Join Us
SUMMER PICNIC

4th August 2024



Church Picnic

The annual church picnic will be held on Sunday August 4th at Donner Park. We will have an informal worship at church, featuring the Jazz Trio and then head to the park for a time of food and fellowship. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Food and drinks will be provided.

Guatemala 2025

First UMC will once again be taking a trip to work with our mission partners in Guatemala. Those who have participated can tell you that it is a well-organized, wonderful way to express your faith through serving others. The dates for the trip are June 7-15. We have reserved spaces for 20 participants. If you would like further information or would like to add your name to the participant list, please contact Rev. Boles.



Auction Donations Needed

The Church picnic will be held on Sunday August 4th at Donner Park at noon. As part of this year's picnic we will be auctioning items for the upcoming mission trip to Guatemala. If you have items to donate please let the church know. In the past, some of the donations have included craft items, baskets of items, a dozen cookies each month, a plane ride, a homecooked meal for friends, etc. Let your creativity guide you and help us raise funds for this important mission trip.



New Members

On Sunday June 9th, we welcomed four new members at First UMC. Ron and Kathy Panning and Elizabeth and Lucas Imafuji joined our fellowship that day. Already they have jumped into service, helping out with Hot Meals and other ministries of the church! We are pleased to welcome them here and look forward to getting to know them better!



New Members Are Joining



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.