



Seeking to
make disciples
of Jesus
Christ for the
transformation
of the world

through actively reflecting
the love of Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service

State Roads 14 & 5

Worship Service
9:00 am

Sunday School
10:15 am
Features children's
programming, youth and
adult small groups.

CONTACT

**South Whitley
United Methodist Church**
6685 W SR 14
South Whitley, IN 46787

260.723.5107
260.723.6418 fax

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm

**Childcare & Preschool
Needs**
260.723.5105
Jodi Sims, Childcare
Director
Traci Kreider, Preschool
Director

**Newsletter
Announcements**
office@swc-in.org

the Messenger

www.swc-in.org

LIFE isn't a game because Easter is more than a story! by Pastor Jerry

Friends, perhaps this year Easter has taken on a significance and meaning not experienced in recent memory. Pandemic. COVID-19. Life disrupted. Lives and jobs lost. Certainties shaken. And, a cookies and Kool-Aid or social argument religion is simply not enough.



When you play Milton Bradley's "The Game of LIFE" there comes a time when you [spin]... for the last time. All the money you've accumulated goes back into the bank. The little plastic car you've been driving goes back into the box. Even the little pink & blue pegs that represented your spouse and kids – if you had them – it ALL goes back into the box. Game over.

That happened for Jesus on what we call Good Friday. Jesus had been crucified – nailed to a cross. He hung there for 6 hours from 9am to 3pm. Luke 23:46, *Then Jesus shouted, "Father, I entrust my spirit into your hands!" And with those words he breathed his last.*

Since it was Passover and Sabbath begins at sundown on Friday, they took Jesus' lifeless body from the cross and laid it in a borrowed tomb. But then – bonus round! Luke 24:1-3, *"Very early on Sunday morning the women came to the tomb, taking the (burial) spices they had prepared. They found that the stone covering the entrance had been rolled aside. So they went in, but they couldn't find the body of the Lord Jesus."*

While the details of Jesus' death are unique, his death is not that different from any other end-of-life story until... Luke 24:4-7, *Suddenly, two men appeared clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified. The men asked, "Why are you looking in a tomb for someone who is alive? He isn't here! He has risen from the dead! Don't you remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again the third day?" Remember.*

This year, 2020, feels like the worst Good Friday ever. Fear is our companion just as it was on that first Good Friday when Jesus died for our redemption. Rev. Shadrach Meschach Lockridge (1913-2000), the dynamic African-American pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in San Diego, California, famously concluded a sermon: "It's Friday. Jesus is buried. A soldier stands guard. And a rock is rolled into place. But it's Friday. It is only Friday. Sunday is a-comin'!"

Easter is Sunday, April 12th, but it's "a-comin'" when the Lord delivers us from our fears including COVID-19. Easter may be an on-line celebration this year as the CDC and our Indiana UMC bishop have asked us to extend our postponement of on-site services to the end of April. May our Lord bless you with health and hope. Please remember to mail in your tithes and offerings – the mission of Christ continues. Be kind and compassionate – we're in this together.

Hope Link by Pastor Jerry



Acts 28:20

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." - Jesus of Nazareth (Luke 22:19-20, NIV)

Let's rewind thirty or so years before Jesus shared this moment with his disciples. "*The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!*" Luke 2:11 sets the stage, allows us to understand Easter—when Jesus transformed an old Jewish tradition, the Passover meal, into a new celebration of salvation made possible through Jesus' death and resurrection.

In the words of one at that table who ate the bread and drank the wine, "*We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world*" (1 John 4:14, NIV). Jesus is the Christ—that's the heart of the Easter message.

When Jesus says, "Come to me," it's not an invitation to a set of rules or beliefs. It's a personal invitation from God to a Savior. The Christian journey is really a desire to see Jesus. We're trying to catch a glimpse of this Galilean who lived in a turbulent part of the world and made a profound impact on all of humanity. Why? He called himself the Son of God. He proclaimed his blood makes a difference.

Jesus isn't just a teacher who points us to God—He is God our Savior come down to live and work and laugh and cry among us. Like a magnet He drew people to a Savior that was willing to suffer and die for his followers. Crowds gathered when Jesus came to town. People believed in him so much they removed a roof to lower a friend into his presence. Simply reaching out and touching his hem healed them. They risked their fortunes, their reputations, their lives, to follow him and proclaim him Messiah—the Christ, Savior of the world.

Easter. No, that should be EASTER! Jesus is the message of hope, a message of mercy and salvation to you and this lost and hurting world. The disciples said, "*We have seen!*" Have you? Has the light of eternity changed the way you see yourself, your family and friends, even your enemies? Does your life testify to Easter? See you this Sunday at South Whitley United Methodist Church where we remember and celebrate the Savior behind Easter.

Rainbow Preschool News



Rainbow Preschool is now accepting registrations for the 2020-2021 school year. Children who will be 3 1/2 years old by October 1, 2020 are eligible for preschool. Currently, the morning class is full and the afternoon class is filling up fast. Registration forms are available in the church office.

Faith or Foolishness by Pastor Jerry

After talking with someone who seems to think prudent precautions are a sign of unfaithfulness or a weak faith, I'd like for us to reflect on Matthew 4:6-7 where Satan tempts Jesus. "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He orders his angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'Do not test the Lord your God.'"

To make my point more personal, below is a post from a dear friend who is a strong woman of faith, a wife, mother, and an artist whose angel artwork is highly sought after...

Wash your hands they say. That seems simple enough but I had to teach a friend how to wash their hands. I witnessed them putting soap on their hands and putting hands directly under running water. Really? Wet hands, put soap on, and then wash your hands before rinsing. The problem is not everyone knows how to wash.

We have so many who are irresponsible or believe they are invincible. Friends, you're putting us all at risk. I am under self-quarantine, as well as my son Evan, because we are high risk! I am on a ventilator and cannot take that chance. Please follow the guidelines given and be mindful of the lives you hold in your hands.

How to wash your hands properly

FIGHT GERMS BY WASHING YOUR HANDS!



Sr high Camp

Sr High Camp is June 28th-July 3rd. This year we are partnering with another church and After School Central, so early registration is crucial. Spots are filling up quickly. The cost is \$200 for church members and \$400 for non-members. If you can't afford the registration, scholarships are available. See Tony Klepinger if you need to look into this. This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend to come. With the cancellation of the South Whitley town garage sale, we will look at other fundraising opportunities...Stay Tuned! ☺



Mission & Outreach News

SWUMC Mission Team Update

By Kate Burch

"Giving is not just about making a Donation, it's about making a Difference" - Kathy Calvin, CEO & president United Nations foundation.

That thought is expressed in the thank you note we received from Misty Rucker, Pierceton Elementary Cafeteria clerk....*"Thank you for another donation to our Student Lunch Fund. It really does help quite a few families!"* We donate \$50 to the 3 schools quarterly to pay for hot lunches for kids who don't have lunch money.

We are continuing to offer backpack meals and have sent letters to our participating families. Renee will be setting a tote full of bags in entry to fellowship hall with a sign for people to serve themselves. We will do this until we run out of supplies.

The South Whitley Food Bank is still operating a drive thru pick up service. The best way to help is to send a check to: South Whitley Food Bank, 207 E. Front St., South Whitley, IN 46787. The phone number is 260-212-2964 if you want to make arrangements for a donation or volunteer.

Make a donation and a difference by praying for the people who frequent the South Whitley Food Bank. God bless your generous hearts.

Dear Friends,

I want to share with you an opportunity that God has given me. It has been placed on my heart to go on a mission trip this summer to Malawi, Africa, partnering with North Manchester First Brethren Church. Carol Collett, myself, and several others will be there from June 09-29. We will be ministering in the suburbs of Lilongwe and partnering with a local missionary (Amy Collett) who is eager for us to

MISSIONS PRAY GIVE GO

Masson & Outreach News continued

come and serve the members of the orphanage and community. As we arrive, some of the ministries we will be working on include: construction of a chicken house, renovating buildings to suit their current needs, connecting with youth, teaching family preservation skills, teaching/playing with the children, landscaping with fruit trees/other food plants around the orphanage, and showing God's love to the community.



I am excited to be partnering with First Brethren Church to bring Christ's love to the people of Malawi, and I realize I will be blessed abundantly in return. However, as I know God is calling me to serve, I am relying on Him for strength and wisdom as I plan and raise financial support. I am so excited to serve in Malawi this summer, but I know that I am not able to do it on my own. And as you feel called, I would be blessed if you would consider supporting me prayerfully and/or financially.

The total cost of the trip is \$2,727. I am seeking prayer partners to pray for our group, the ministries, safety, the people of Malawi, and the trip each day. If it is your heart to be a prayer partner for us, I would feel blessed. And if you feel God calling you to support me financially, please know that your gifts will be received as grace and will be used to serve those who are in need. These are tax-deductible donations, and if you would write "Malawi Summer Mission" in the memo, then First Brethren Church will know that it is to help pay for me go. I will place envelopes with a blue piece of paper in the back of our sanctuary. Please complete the blue paper and give it to me (or mail it).

Thank you for your support! I look forward to sharing with you about the trip and our mission to show God's love.

Sincerely, Patty Good

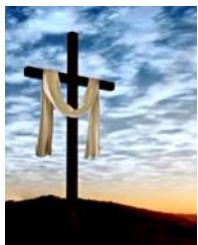
Camp Scholarships

We have the blessing of inviting students from After School Central to join us at camp this year. I have several students interested in attending but several need scholarships to make it possible for them to attend. Unfortunately the 2020 South Whitley Town wide garage sale has been cancelled, therefore cancelling the fundraiser we had planned to do at the garage sale. Monetary donation are being accepted (be sure to mark it "camp scholarships").

~ Tony Klepinger



Draping The Cross



During Lent and Easter we drape the cross with different color cloth. The colors can mean several things but to us Purple is a sign of royalty – King Jesus – and begins our annual Lenten journey (the 40 days before Easter less Sundays) on Ash Wednesday. Black is a sign of Christ's sacrificial death on Good Friday. White is a sign of Christ's resurrection on Easter. Additionally, on Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter) we may drape a second cross with white for the penitent thief and a third cross with black for the unrepentant thief.

Our Celebrations

Birthdays

4 - Derek Barnhart
5 - Marissa Cripe
6 - Poppy Roman
7 - Sydney Krider
8 - Katie Geiger
9 - Evan Rice
10 - Cole Bechtold
Maudie Sickafoose
11 - Mike Butcher
Dana Day
12 - Jeff Bryan
13 - April Bishop
14 - Katherine Hippensteel
15 - Drew Rice
16 - Stephen Butt
17 - Marisa Baldridge
Eric French
Dylan Haines
18 - Faith Roman
Dawn Wilkinson

20 - Madison Cripe
Kaitlynn Ware
22 - Jacob Ray
Braylon Williamson
23 - Storm Baldridge
25 - Dutie Browning
26 - Crystal Bollinger
Sarah Hewitt
Haley Willson
27 - Jadyn Geiger
28 - Meredith Hoffman
30 - Matt Maser
Aimee Roman

Anniversaries

8 - David & Dawn Wilkinson
9 - Tim & Laurie Kahn
30 - Todd & Amy Bechtold
Jerry & Lisa Milner

Our Prayers



Military Personnel

Johannes Bingham
Benjamin Bryan
Justin Roman
Zach Snep

Darlene Welty

Send things to Darlene in care of...
Justin Welty
46 Woodacre Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Peabody Retirement

Margaret Graham
400 West Seventh Street
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Wanda Dreyer

400 West Seventh Street
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Timbercrest Senior Living

Buford Baker
PO Box 501
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

If you wish to put something on
the Prayer Chain... During
church office hours
(Mon-Thurs, 9am-3pm)
call the church at 260-723-5107
or email the office at
office@swc-in.org.
Otherwise, call Jodi Sims at
260-609-3029.

**PRAYER IS
THE BRIDGE
BETWEEN
PANIC
AND
PEACE.**



Mowing

We are in need of volunteers to help with the mowing of the church lawn from April - October. This would mean mowing 1-2 times for the week, depending on weather and how quickly the grass grows. If you wish to serve by helping with the mowing, please email or phone the church to get on the rotation. If you have any questions, see Wayne Roberts, Trustees Chair, or any member of the Trustees Ministry Team.

Our Gifts, Our Presence (To Date Thru February 29, 2020)

To date thru Feb.	Actual	Budgeted
Regular offering	\$28,034	\$36,667
Debt retirement	\$2,709	\$3,333
Other	\$1,175	\$333
Giving Total	\$31,918	\$40,333

To date thru Feb.	Actual	Budgeted
Expenses	\$44,063	\$42,223

Expenses were over budget by \$1,840

**Overall actual Giving was lower than
actual Expenses for a deficit of \$12,145**

Mortgage balance at Feb. 29 was \$29,516

Giving was under budget by \$8,415

Faith is captured in Luke 10:27 (The Great Commandment), "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Genuine love is an action, not a feeling. United Methodists express this in the five marks of discipleship: Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness.

Attendance	Worship	Sunday School
Feb. 2	95	36
Feb. 9	113	22
Feb. 16	114	48
Feb. 23	118	45
YTD Avg	103	38