

March

Lent is the season for
working on our
relationships

- * With God
- * With our children
- * With family and friends



Church Staff

Pastor: Evan Lash

Director of Adult Ministries: JoEllyn Chadwick

Director of Music Ministries: Rose Marie Dure

Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Jennifer Casper

Coordinator of Children & Family Ministries: Robin Podell

Secretary: Sharon Daniels—Receptionist: Becky Read

Housekeepers: Phyllis Jones—Maintenance—Paul Lux

Discovery Days Preschool Staff

Dorothy Cahill, Shawn Cothran, Kyleen Fuller,

Laura Gray, Jaunda Kneller, Shae Taylor

calendar



The season of Lent in the Christian year is a time of review and reflection. Lent is an opportunity for each of us to review our spiritual life and to reflect upon our relationship with Jesus Christ. Each day

take a few moments, begin with a brief prayer, read the scripture passage for the coming Sunday, and close with a prayer for your relationships, the church, **God's will for you, and share your other joys and concerns** of the day with God. Please remember that taking the time for this daily exercise is more important than what you say in your prayers or what you meditate upon.

We hope that you will make personal devotion time and Sunday worship a priority for your observance of Lent this year.

Sunday morning Meditation
Time at Stone Lake - led by
Steve Laue

Over the first five Sundays of Lent, we will watch the lake transition from winter to spring while reflecting on the lectionary scripture readings assigned for each week.

Most of our time together will be in silent observation and reflection. Each gathering will begin at 6:45 AM, and each will take place in a different location, so that we will have circled the lake by the end of the series. We will conclude by 7:30 AM so participants who want to attend the 8:00 AM Sunday service will have time to return to church. We **have been invited to Carol McCombs' home for coffee** and a warm-up time following our meditation time.

Please dress warmly, and wear shoes/boots



**Sunday Morning
Meditations**

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)



that assure firm footing!

Bring a small notebook and pen to record field notes & inspired thoughts.

Steve will be bringing a digital camera to add pictures to his field notes & build a slide show that will be shown Palm Sunday. You may bring a camera as well, and add to the slide collection.

Lakeside locations will be as follows:

Feb 21: Grangemouth Bridge (Use gravel parking or park at New Beach lot & walk)

Feb 28: New Beach/ Cummings Lodge

Mar 07: Pine Lake Channel Bridge (Use North lot)

Mar 14: Link Picnic Area

Mar 21: Craven Pond (Use designated lot)

Sunday Worship Themes for March

March 7, 2010 - Scripture: Luke 13:1-9

Theme: Jesus challenges us to bear fruit, and be faithful.

Where are the signs of Spring blossoms in our life - What if we were given only one more year?

March 14 - Scripture: Luke 15:1-32 - Lost!

Theme: In this passage, Jesus tells three stories about lost

"things." Each example increases the value of that which is lost.

What is lost or missing in your life?

March 21 - Scripture: John 12:1-11 -

The anointing at Bethany

Theme: How do we show our gratitude to Jesus for what He

has done for us? What "gift" can we give; what action can we

take; what words can we say to show our love?

(Continued on page 5)



March 28 - Palm Sunday - Scripture: Luke 19:28-40 and John 12:12-16

"Wave Those Palms!" Theme: The faithful have come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. It is the annual event that remembers God saved his children in the past, and God will not forget them now or in the future. God has been faithful to us as well - and we know that God will continue to watch over us in the future.



Each week, please look at the passage for the coming Sunday, and take time to retreat each day from now until Easter.

See you Sunday,

Evan





By the time you read this, we will have starved for 30 hours—and hopefully raised a lot of money for people who have been starving

longer than 30 hours! Right now, we have over \$1100 towards our goal of \$2010. The youth and I thank you for your continued support!

There is no rest for us as we now prepare for our mission trip to Tuskegee, AL during spring break. So, I now have several youth looking for Operation Serve hours to earn towards their trip. Please contact me if you have a project that needs to be done soon.

Any youth from 6th-12th grade is always welcome to join us Sunday for class at 10:30, youth group (5pm-7pm for middle school and 6pm-8pm for high school), and on Wednesday night for JIF at 5. After JIF, we **take a trip to Christo's for .99 pie night!**



**Youth are
Going Places**

United Methodist Women at a glance...

Congratulations to Barbara Jackson and everyone who worked so very hard on the pancake breakfast. The food was delicious. It was wonderful to see so many church members working together, getting to know one another and enjoying being together. A special thank you to the members of the Abigail Circle who made the snowmen centerpieces. The snowmen will be used at a later date as a fund raiser for the circle.

UMW has many events taking place in the near future. On March 20th, a special seminar concerning sexually assaulted and abused children will be presented. Did you know that Indiana has the eighth highest rate of sexually assaulted and abused children of all fifty states, and La Porte County, at one time, was number one per capita in Indiana with incidents of sexual and abuse of children? The panel discussing this very serious problem will include representatives of law enforcement, La Porte Hospital, Dunebrook, county coroner, and the state legislature. Please plan to attend this important event. Notices are being sent to all the churches in our district. The public is invited as well as many local officials.

On April 23, our fund raising casserole luncheon will be held. This year, Bev Barnes and Lynn Karagory will co-chair this event. Martha Circle volunteered to decorate **Friendship Hall. We will need everyone's help. This is**

(Continued on page 9)



Treasure Sale News

Here is updated information regarding the Treasure Sale for Friendship Hall Renovation.

Please bring in your treasures

BEFORE THE FIRST OF MARCH. If you have furniture to donate, call Tim Welty @324-2859. He and his crew will set a date with you to pick up your large items the week before the sale. We appreciate clean, working items.

If you need a receipt for tax purposes, let the church office know and they will give you one.

We have a new design for the sign-up sheets this year. Please turn them in as soon as you are able so I can start filling in the Schedules. The Schedules will be in the hallway or on the hallway bulletin board three weeks before the sale or about February 17th.

Setting up Friendship Hall will be scheduled for only three days this year since we have been getting done early.

On Wednesday, March 10th starting at 4 P.M. we will have a PRE-SALE FOR THE CONGREGATION that will last until about 9 P.M. Come and browse...those items you never knew you needed will be available!

Do you think we can beat our record of \$5,000 we made last year? You can help by donating, buying or working.

In His Service,
Your Treasure Sale Committee

(Continued from page 7)

one of our main fundraising events each year.

On May 7th at 6:00 p.m., the Mother/Daughter dinner will take place. Plan to attend with your mother, daughter, best friend, niece, aunt etc. Everyone is welcome!

It will be a very busy spring for UMW and our church family!

See you next month,
UMW Board & Membership
Alberta



Dot McDonald has had some set-backs and could really use some cheering up! Her 97th birthday is March 9th and she would love to hear from you.

Her address is:
Dot McDonald
5354 W. 62nd Street, #309
Indianapolis, IN 46268

NLPC Cluster News

New La Porte Prairie Cluster member churches in review: Lambs Chapel; La Porte; Maple Grove; New Carlisle; Rolling Prairie; Salem Chapel. Six churches choosing to join together to further our local Methodist impact by living out our global church mission: *To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.* (Methodist Book of Discipline; para. 120)

Goshen was the site of the first, of four, sessions being held thru the week of February 8, 2010. The Saturday 2/6 session lasted just the two hours scheduled.

Presented points will be summarized below. (We hear, repeated, the same message moving forward as the New Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church)

We are expected to do these things within our church clusters:

- I. Purpose of a Cluster
 - A. Pray for each other by name in worship;
 - B. Study and pray for the mission in our area, using demographic tools;
 - C. Study and pray for ways to make an impact of shared mission, perhaps through shared ministries;
 - D. Share resources, expertise, or best practices of congregations;
 - E. Recognize and celebrate fruit of ministry;
hold accountable when there is no fruit

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

to celebrate.

II. Supportive accountability:

Clusters exist to help congregations stay focused on the mission based on the "*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*," by Robert Schnase

- Choose one of the five to practice, and to live as a church—all members of the congregation doing what they can to help.
- How did we do on the Practice we were doing?
- What did we learn?
- What would we do differently?
- What is the next step?

III Two types of churches. Preference-driven vs. Purpose- Driven (churches are called to be purpose, not preference, driven)

Purpose-driven is what we want to be:

1. Focused outward, on mission.
2. Our best discernment of what God wants us to accomplish (individually, and collectively as a church).
3. Not competitive, but collaborative.
4. Power (energy harnessed) in pursuing mission.

Our church cluster (NLPC) representatives met Tuesday, January 26, at the Salem Chapel. We will meet again as needed. Next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday, April 13, at Lambs Chapel.

God Bless you and yours,
NLPC Cluster Committee Members

THANK YOU!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Greetings!

I would just like to thank you so much for all the praying you did for me while I was sick, you will never know how much it meant to me! It was through all the love, support, and prayers from fellow believers that kept me strong and able to keep fighting cancer. I also would like to thank you for the awesome care package I got in the mail from the church! That was so generous and thoughtful. Getting something so special in the mail really made me feel loved. God Bless! In Him,

Kara McCormick
(Granddaughter of Dom & Bernita Liberatore)

Dear Church Family,
I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers during my eye surgeries. My eye has healed and I

am able to see now. I also want to thank you for your prayers for my brother-in-law, Patrick Gordon. He is in remission from colon cancer after having the tumor taken out. He is on light duty at work but he is very happy to get back to work and a normal routine. He has seen what the power of prayer can do and he thanks you from the bottom of his heart. Thanks **again for showing God's love.**

Love,
Karen Waltz

Thank you to all who signed my birthday care gram. It was a wonderful surprise.

Pete Luther

Discovery
Days
Preschool



No matter the weather we are always busy with fun activities. All of us are gearing up for our Open House/Fall Registration on Monday, March 15, at 6:30 p.m. If you or a friend have a child that will be 2, 3, or 4 by June 1, 2010, please come and meet our fantastic teachers and see what we have to offer!

Mrs. Cahill's 2 & 3 year old classes are having fun with our musical instruments. They are learning about the sounds each make and how to make simple rhythm patterns. The children are also sharpening their fine motor skills by practicing cutting, stringing beads and working on their numbers and counting skills.

Mrs. Taylor's Pre-K class is discovering the silly rhymes of Dr. Seuss. They are also learning about parts of a story and how to tell a story and how to tell a story that has a beginning, middle and end. This class has been working very hard mastering their phone number and their address. Way to get ready for kindergarten.

All of the classes will celebrate Easter by attending a service with Pastor Evan. He will share a story and prayer and the children will sing some songs for their parents.

May you have a Blessed Easter Season!
Jaunda Kneller & Discovery Days Staff

All in our Church Family Life

We gratefully
acknowledge the
following gifts

In Memory of
Belva Jo Ingersoll
Gail Kirk, Rose Marie
Dure, Anne Wegner

In Memory of
Jim Felton
Jacob DeKoyer, M/M Richard
Trubey, John & Barbara Kel-
ley, Ron & Phyllis Miller,
Corinne Felton & Family,
Barbara Knoll

We celebrate the
lives triumphant of

James Felton
who died on February 6
and
Mary Paulauski
who died on February 14

In Memory of
Mary Paulauski
Lois Eversman



Do you have an old cell phone gathering dust in the closet? Bring it on in, and benefit FUMC! Look for the special boxes on the lower and first floors. The church will earn \$1 for each recycled cell phone it collects. Some folks also **have dropped ink cartridges into the boxes, and we'll** be glad to accept those too. The money collected will go toward the friendship hall renovation, as well as a local mission project.

Thanks in advance for your support!
Sandy Gleim



Oh, give me a pity, I'm on a committee,

Which means that from morning to night,

We attend and amend and contend and defend

Without a conclusion in sight.

We confer and concur, we defer and demur

And reiterate all of our thoughts.

We revise the agenda with frequent addenda

And consider a load of reports.

We compose and propose, we suppose and oppose

And the points of procedure are fun!

But though various notions are brought up as motions

There's terribly little gets done.

We resolve and absolve, but never dissolve

Since it's out of the question for us.

What a shattering pity to end our committee.

Where else could we make such a fuss?

Easter Memorials

If you want to provide flowers or cash as gifts for Easter, fill in the form below and return it to the church office. If your gift is flowers, the information must be in the church office by March 10.

The prices are: lilies \$15, and tulips \$10. OR you may help purchase Easter lilies for our shut-ins by sending a check marked "Easter flowers for shut-ins" to the church by March 22.



Easter Memorials and Gifts

Donor: _____
_____ gift of flowers _____ (list choice)

Person or persons to be memorialized:

Person or persons to be honored:

Amount enclosed: _____

Plants may be picked up following
the 10:30 Easter Service.



*From the
Director of
Adult
Ministries*

Thank you so much for your well wishes and welcomes, I am honored to serve on our church staff.

My job description includes: Adult Education, Parish Shepherds, and visitation for shut-in's.

Making sure that our current adult education classes are sustained and that we look ahead to future educational opportunities is my mission. Please contact me with any and all ideas that might cross your minds for additional classes or adult events.



We currently have three adult Sunday School classes:

- Current Events held in Library at 9:00 am,
Gordon Kuchel
- Class held in the Chapel at 9:00 am
Dave MacCartney
- Class held in the Gathering Room at 10:30 am
Joanne Mathis

The Parish Shepherds are looking to expand their already able group of congregational caregivers; this program only involves caring for others. Have you ever felt God calling you? This ministry



(Continued on page 18)



(Continued from page 17)

within our church is an answer to that call. Our vision is for expansion, so that all members of our congregation will be tended by one of our caring shepherds. Please prayerfully think about accepting this call. Our next meeting takes place on Monday, March 22.

Feel free to contact the church office (362-2443), Marian Heath (326-6789) or JoEllyn (324-2763) to find out more about this ministry.

“Lord may my hands, be your hands.” Please let me know if there is a church member who is home bound and would benefit from a one-on-one pastoral visit at this time.

Praying You Through,

JoEllyn Chadwick
Director of Adult Ministries



Lent

Lent should be more than a time of fasting.
It should also be a joyous season of feasting.

*Lent is a time to fast from certain things
and feast on others.*

It is a season in which we should:

Fast from emphasis on differences

And feast on the unity of all life.

Fast from judging,

And feast on Christ dwelling in everyone.

Fast from apparent darkness,

And feast on the reality of all light.

Fast from thoughts of illness,

And feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute,

And feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent,

And feast on gratitude.

Fast from personal anxiety,

And feast on eternal truth.

Fast on encouragement,

And feast on hope.

Fast from lethargy,

And feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from anger,

And feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism,

and feast on optimism.

Fast from worry,

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

and feast on God's providence.

Fast from complaining,
and feast on appreciation.

Fast from thought that weaken,
and feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow,
and feast on the sunlight of serenity

Fast from idle gossip,
and feast on purposeful silence.

Fast from suspicion,
and feast on truth.

Fast from problems that overwhelm,
and feast on prayer that sustains.

Fast from negatives,
and feast on affirmatives.

Fast from unrelenting pressures,
and feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from hostility,
and feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness,
and feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern,
and feast on compassion for others.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3. Delilah Euler, Fran Major
4. Donna Wainscott
5. Jamie Ruiz
6. Paul Diesslin
7. Bev Barnes, Sharon Garber
8. Vivian Nye, Pam Steele, Donna Weist,
Samantha Zirzow
9. Dot McDonald, Connie VanScoik
10. Liz Kirk
12. Blake Rasiuk
13. Gloria Sass
15. Susan Denzine, Morgan Zirzow
17. Zachary Eldridge, Dick Ulam
18. Mike Goodrich, Dwight Graham, Pam McNeal-Laue
20. **Clarence O'Connell, Marjorie Reickel**
21. Steve Batusic
22. Cindy Harper, Aaron Lachiewicz
23. Barb Kelley, Dick Tolton
24. Carolee Gardner, Regina Smelser
25. John Okrzesik
26. Becky Dunbar, Jeff Dunk, Bernita Liberatore,
Cheri Swan
28. Tina Leonard, Paul Lux, Barb Stefano
30. Rose Marie Dure,
Jim Hickman,
Pat Segelstrom,
Mitzi Simerlein



USHERS THIS MONTH

8:00— Lester Chadwick, Nina Salyer, Sharon Welty,
Tim Welty

10:30—Paul Graham, Donn Weiler, Don Welch,
John Woods, David MacCartney

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Janet Ahlders, Kathy Anderson, Kathryn Bormann, Deborah Bremer, Doris Buell, Lori Byrd, Bonnie Cardwell, Eleanor DeMarco, Marian Lehker, Mary Ludlow, Shelley Ludlow, Susan Neal, Bettye Niles, Connie Niles, Ronda Shelton, Lois Thomas, Alberta Tolton, Sharon Welty

FLOWER CALENDAR:

March 7	Taylors
14	Available
21	Available
28	Available



Year to date average attendance: 291

Year to date general budget income: \$55,923.25

Year to date general budget expense: \$54,560.99

calendar

First United Methodist Church

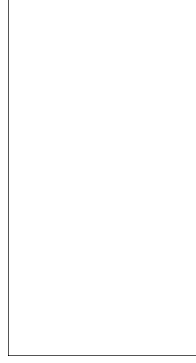
1225 Michigan Av.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone - 219-362-2443
www.laportefumc.org
Return Service Requested

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
LaPorte, IN 46350
Permit No. 60

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 - Chapel Service
9:00 – Contemporary Service
10:30 - Sanctuary Service

OFFICE HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 to 4:00



Sharing Christ's Love