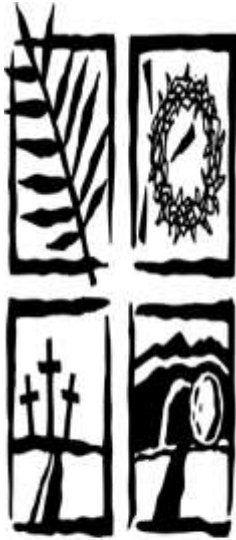


April



HOLY WEEK

March 28 thru

April 4

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



Easter and Death
Read: Luke 24:13-49

"45Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. 46He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, 47and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48You are witnesses of these things."

The afternoon of that first Easter, Jesus met two followers on the road to Emmaus. They had been in Jerusalem for the Passover Feast - they may have witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus (they had certainly heard about it). They had experienced the death of one they loved and they were trying to make sense of it. Then a stranger appeared and explained it all to them - suddenly it all made sense, and just as suddenly the stranger was gone. They had welcomed a stranger - and suddenly - death did not seem as bad - because now they knew - death is not the end.

Death is a regular occurrence in my life. Facing death (in one way or another) is a daily reality in the life of a pastor. Death is a reality. Love is a reality as well. The only reason that death is painful is because we love, and are loved. The celebration of Easter is a celebration of love over death. **God's love for you is more powerful than any other force in the universe.** Accept that -and know that love always wins (or never fails - how ever you want to put it). Each time we experience

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

the love of or for another, we experience a taste of the love that God has for us. Life is a great gift. The persons that God puts in our lives to love us and be loved by us - are gifts as well. To see life in any other way is to miss the beauty and wonder and joy that is available to us in our living.

One of the things that I have learned over the years as my faith has encountered death is that death is not the end. It is more like a milestone or a rite of passage. I know that life goes on. We have the words of scripture that tell us so. We have the love of God that never ends. We have a God that loves us too much to just take the gift of life away. That does not make sense to me. What my faith tells me is that God keeps giving life - beyond death - and beyond whatever the next milestone or rite of passage will be.

Easter has come and gone for another year - to me that means that once again we have celebrated the victory of life and love over death. Each funeral or Memorial Service should serve as a reminder of Easter - a reminder that life is a gift - that life goes **on, and God's love is forever.**

After the Easter bunnies and plastic eggs are put away for another year, and the candy has all been eaten, the beauty, the wonder, the joy of it all goes on.

Evan

A Discussion of Birth Order Theory

Whether you are a twin, an only child, the last born or part of a large family; the order of your birth has ramifications for your relationships, your job performance, your parenting skills, and your marriage. Birth order is not an exact science but there are some principles and general patterns that help us understand ourselves and others.

On Wednesdays, April 14 and 21, at 5:30 (during JIF time) Pastor Evan will lead a discussion on the insights that can be gained by understanding what role birth order plays in our life. We will rely heavily on the studies of Dr. Kevin Leman, and his birth order books.



Family Birth Order

The youth are keeping busy this spring. As I write this, we are getting everything ready for our Spring Break Mission Trip to **Tuskegee, AL. We'll be helping** families with home repairs and whatever needs to be done to help the community. What better way to celebrate Easter than by serving others and **sharing God's love with them?**



Please pray for us throughout the week.

The famine was an incredible experience for all of us. We raised over \$3700!! 15% was donated to the Salvation Army and the rest is going to World Vision. And, this was all made possible by your generous support. We, the youth group, are grateful for the love our congregation!



We have recently added another fun event to our weekly schedule. Join us for JIF on Wednesday nights. We have a discussion based on movie clips. Then, **afterwards, it's PIE NIGHT! We go to Christo's for a** time of fun and fellowship—and pie! Anyone is welcome to join us for any of our events:

Sunday morning class—10:30-11:30 Joan of Arcadia
Sunday evening—Middle School 5:00-7:00
High School 6:00-8:00
Wednesday JIF - 5:00-7:00

(Continued from page 6)

Pie Night - 7:00- ??

1st Sunday lunch - 12:00

4th Friday Movie Night - 6:00-9:00

Don't forget your Mothers' Day gift cards! We have Bath & Body, Barnes and Noble, lots of restaurants and shopping places!!

We are going to Fort Wayne on Friday, April 23rd for a concert featuring Mercy Me, Family Force 5 David Crowder Band, Francesca Battistelli, Fee and Sidewalk Prophets. Tickets are \$10 and anyone is welcome to join us.



Jennifer



NLPC CLUSTER NEWS

Some of what follows you have seen before. It will not hurt to review this information, for it provides the foundation for what we are doing as the Methodist Church in Indiana.

Turning the light switch on, or off, is easy. It is accomplished without even thinking about it. But, modifying how we have viewed church for many years requires time. Culture change is subtle. We must be exposed to what is changing many times over. This is the way we learn to internalize the changes.

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)

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

1. Purpose of a Cluster
 - A. Pray for each other by name in worship;
 - B. Study and pray for the mission in our area,

(Continued on page 9)

- 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 to celebrate.
2. 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?
- Our next scheduled meeting is for Tuesday, April 13, at Lambs Chapel.

Of special note: Two representatives from our UMW have asked to attend the Tuesday, April 13, meeting. The cluster committee has welcomed this request.

God Bless you and yours,
NLPC Cluster Committee Members

Happy Spring
from
Discovery
Days!

Discovery Days Preschool



Our enrollment is going well for next year, however, we still have openings in each class. If you know a child that will be 2, 3, or 4 by August 1st please tell them about Discovery Days. We are a ministry of this church and our mission is to help children learn new concepts each day and to teach them that God is a part of our everyday lives.

Mrs. Cahill & Mrs. Fuller's 2 & 3 year olds are learning about Spring and sunshine, mothers and things that hop. The two year olds are learning how to recognize their numbers. The 3 year olds are sequencing, printing their names, cutting and learning their phone number.

Mrs. Taylor's & Mrs. Cothran's pre-k class is learning about the life cycle of a butterfly, recycling and moms. The children are finishing up learning their letters and practicing writing both their first and last names. All classes will celebrate mom by having a special snack, story and song.

Blessings,
Jaunda Kneller &
The Discovery Days Staff

!TREASURE SALE UPDATE!

We have the official total for the Spring Sale! \$4,035.86! **I'm so thrilled we made the four thousand dollar mark again.** Thank you everyone who donated, worked, fed us and bought. This is an all church project that really works well. It would **never happen without you all! I can't list special people because you are all special!**

So many visitors tell us they love our sale and many people gave extra money instead of taking their change.

Please continue to bring in your clean, usable items. Terry and I will continue with sorting, marking and storing everything for next spring. It really helps us to get these things ahead of time. At this time we are not planning a fall sale.

The money will again go to the renovation of Friendship Hall.

Your Treasure Sale Committee



Treasures Sale

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Everyone at FUMC,
Thank you so much for the package of thin mints. It truly brightened my day and week! My semester is going well-**I'm extremely busy, but I am loving everything that I'm a part of!** I am being challenged spiritually, academically, and socially, and I am growing so much! Thank you for your prayers and support!

Love, Jen Shelton

Dear Friends at FUMC,
Thank you so much for the great February pick-me-up! It was a fabulous surprise, and tasted wonderful! I look forward to seeing all of you again very soon. Thanks again!

Megan Masterson

I would like to thank all the kind people that signed my 95th Birthday Letter from FUMC. I really

enjoyed putting faces to the names.

All My Love & Prayers,
Anita Bandistel

Thank you so much for the box of Girl Scout Cookies! It definitely made my day. I am currently finishing up my surgery internship at Univ. of Virginia and start my psychiatry rotation next week. I am still planning to go into pediatrics, but I still have my 4th year to finalize my plans.

Thank you again for thinking of me!

Deana Hadley

Thank You! Thank You!
For all your prayers, cards and visits. The Prayer Grams were very much appreciated during my healing and recovery for **knee replacement!** It's good to be back at FUMC.

Jay Kelley

United Methodist Women at a glance...

As United Methodist Women...we are in a very good place! At the March board meeting, we (meaning



everyone in UMW) were financially able to contribute to EIGHT very worthy missions: Haiti Relief Fund, UMCOR health kit fund, Dunebrook, Meals on Wheels, Youth Camp Assistance Fund (FUMC), Lend-a-Hand Fund at FUMC, Parents-Day-Out Fund (FUMC) and Arts

-in-the-Park. We truly are blessed to be in a position to share our gifts with others.

April 23, is our spring fund-raiser luncheon. Hot casseroles, desserts, and beverages will be served.

Hours are 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance and \$6.50 at the door. We will be selling tickets in advance after each service in April. Please encourage your friends and family to join us and enjoy a wonderful lunch and a time of fellowship in a beautifully decorated setting (courtesy of Martha Circle).



May 7 is the date of our Mother/Daughter dinner.



Rose Marie Dure is planning the program. Dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. So be sure to save the date. Friday, May 7th to celebrate all the mothers and daughters at this special time of year.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)



Our fall fund-raising event is in the planning stage. It will be on Saturday, October 4th, 4 to 7 p.m. We welcome your ideas on just exactly what we will do...a fish fry, chili supper, chicken & noodle supper?? Let any of the board members know what you would like to do. We want to hear from you.

So far, it has been a very exciting time to be a UMW member...let's keep going forward in our mission to be truly united in our mission to "help the least of these".

See you next month!
Your UMW Board

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

All in our Church Family Life

We celebrate the
baptism of
Kaitlin LeeAnn
Wilson, daughter of
Mark and Jennifer
Wilson, on March 14

We celebrate the
lives triumphant
of
John Crook
who died on February 25
and
Harry Carbon
who died on March 13

We gratefully
acknowledge the
following gifts
In Memory of
Jim Felton
Helen Erickson, M/M
Gary Hunsley, M/M
George Mears, Marga-
ret DeKoyer-Watson

In Memory of
Mary Paulauski
Lois Thomas, Scott &
Teri Hajek

In Memory of
Belva Jo Ingersoll
David & Mary Ellen
McCain

In Memory of
Harry Carbon
Vivian Nye, Jack & Betty
Trickler, Joyce Cooper, M/
M Charles Boston





*From the
Director of
Adult
Ministries*

IDEAS.....THOUGHTS..... SUGGESTIONS

With warm weather just around the corner I have been thinking about those activities that take me out of my home. How about you?

There was a time when our adult members gathered for day trips, dinner, lunch, discussions groups, book reviews or various events. Let me know what you enjoyed in the past and what you would like to see recreated again in the future. Remember that everything old is new again, so send those *ideas.....thoughts.....suggestions* my way.

I invite you to share any and all
IDEAS.....THOUGHTS.....SUGGESTIONS

Looking forward to all that you recommend and wishing you warm sunny days and clear starlit nights.

JoEllyn Chadwick
Director of
Adult Ministries





Weekly Food Donation Requests for the Salvation Army Food Bank

April 4—Peanut butter & Jelly, fruit snacks,
canned pasta, mac & cheese

April 11—Boxed dinners, canned fruit & pudding

April 18—Soup & crackers, pasta, noodles and
sauce

April 25—Canned meat & dried or canned beans



Dig it!

Gardening Seminar

By: Master Gardener Lois Thomas

When: Saturday, April 17, at 10:00

Information on:

Choosing plants, new plants, plant zones,
containers, herbal gardening,
and journal gardening

Sponsored by:
The Wellness Committee





We have a new book from one of our own! It is: ***A Layman's Guide to Why Are There So Many Christian Denominations? Who started them? When? Why?*** by C. Jack Trickler. Check it out.

Do you like Bible Study? Here are some of our selections:

2006 - *Traveling Light: The Promise of Psalm 23* (Large Print), by Max Lucado. With the twenty-third psalm as his guide, the author encourages us to release some of the burdens we carry, which we were never intended to bear.

2008 – *10 Gospel Promises for Later Life* (Large Print), by Jane Marie Thibault. Each chapter addresses a fear about aging and death and gives an **example of its negative effect on a person's daily life.** Next you'll find a response, the promise of the Gospel, the assurance of God's constant love that offers hope in all circumstances.

2008 – ***Jesus' Parables of the Lost and Found***, by James W. Moore. This six-session short-term study series is organized around the general theme of parables. Each chapter focuses on a particular parable and the author sheds light on what Jesus was saying through the parable, both to listeners of his day and to us today in our own lives.

2009 - *Angels Among Us*, by Leena Lane. The Bible is full of stories about angels. Some angels **bring messages revealing God's purposes, others provide strength and courage, and yet others simply**

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

praise and worship God. From the majesty of the **angels in Jacob's ladder to the protection of Elijah's** guardian angel, this beautifully-illustrated Bible story picture book celebrates the mystery of these heavenly beings as they appear to people on earth.

(Children's Book)

2009 – *In the Beginning: 50 Devotionals for Teens on Genesis*, by Laurie Polich. You know **the Creation story. You've studied Noah and the Ark, Abraham and Sarah, and Joseph and his brothers.** But do you really know these great stories of our faith? Laurie Polich takes you on a journey through **Genesis, where you'll meet some familiar and some not-so-familiar characters.** Then she challenges you **to find your place in God's story and cling to God's promises.**

2009 – ***Overcoming Life's Disappointments***, by Rabbi Harold S. Kushner. When life does not unfold as planned, Rabbi Kushner strongly but sympathetically urges his readers to take inventory, learn from their experiences and move on with an open heart. Who better to learn from, he contends, than Moses, the greatest hero of the Jewish people? Moses not only led the Jews from slavery in Egypt and through the desert for 40 years to receive the Torah, but had to continually bear the ingratitude and complaints of his people, and relegate his personal life to a distant second place. Threading vignettes of **Moses' resiliency into his discussion Kushner advises** that when personal difficulties arise—whether in the form of illness, marital problems or job frustrations—readers should not allow their faith and dreams to

(Continued on page 20)

(Continued from page 19)

die. Rather, they should draw upon hope and forgiveness to become stronger, channeling their love and fear toward a dream that incorporates the best of who they are.

2009 – *Matthew: The Book of Mercy*, by Megan McKenna. Known as a scribe, minor tax collector and public sinner, Matthew sought to create an identity for the fledgling Christian community as it struggled against persecution by the Romans and ostracism by the Jewish leadership. In her new book, Megan McKenna shows how this identity is forged of forgiveness, reconciliation and atonement.

2009 – *Not Counting Women and Children: Neglected Stories from the Bible*, by Megan McKenna. An acclaimed storyteller turns to the overlooked and often unnamed people whose stories in the Hebrew and Christian scriptures reveal the depth of God's love, especially for the poor.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1. Jennifer Casper, Deana Hadley
2. Tricia Zila
3. Jan Ladewski, Lucky Post
4. Gordon Glanders, John Straub
5. Janet Steele
6. Kayla Dunbar
7. Jean Terry
8. Sherry Burger, Bob Hull
9. Richard Thistle
10. Bob Bortz, Chris Price
12. Matthew Jones
13. Mike Downey, Randy Krentz
14. Chase Alber, Sean Laue
15. Anna Menne
16. Kate Parsons, Nikki Parsons
17. Seth Crass, Dorothy Payne, Zoe Potter
18. Dom Liberatore
19. Willetta Butcher
20. Joan Chadderdon, Marian Heath, Sharen Kooyenga, Jennifer Miller
22. Mary Kay Steele, Chandell Weis
23. Larry Cook, Jayden Domogola
24. Donna Homann, Mary Ellen McCain, Scott Simerlein, John Weeks
25. Colin Fettinger, Grant Hofer, Tom Larson, Benjamin Martin
26. Mary Ludlow
27. Pat Harder, Mel Shreve
28. Bettye Niles
29. Ian Stowell
30. Don Burger

USHERS THIS MONTH

8:00—Ron Schafer, Ray Irons, Stanley Small,
Jackie Brooks

10:30—Mel Shreve, Dom Liberatore, Ron Miller,
Scott Simerlein, Steve VanScoik

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Jackie Brooks, Jean
Caddy, Mary Christ, Leona Collins, Jessica Crass,
Mary Eggert, Delilah Euler, Ann Gropp, Carolyn
Kopkowski, Bernita Liberatore, Joann Liberatore,
Shirley Morris, Ida Nutting, Evelyn O'Dell, Judie
Rosenow, Cindy Singleton, Diana Singleton, Donna
Wainscott, Donna Weist

FLOWER CALENDAR:

April 4	Ladewski
11	Porter
18	Rudnick
25	Weiler

Year to date average attendance: 294

Year to date general budget income: \$80,036.67

Year to date general budget expense: \$80,022.95



calendar

First United Methodist Church

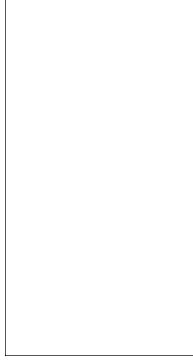
1225 Michigan Av.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone - 219-362-2443
www.laportefumc.org
Return Service Requested

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