

May

May 30 Combined
Service at 9:30 in
Friendship Hall
followed by
an all
church
Cookout



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



Parenting and Our Church Family

NEWSFLASH—Talking to your children is good for them.

A new study suggests talking to babies as young as 3 months old influences their cognitive development and helps the brain learn to form categories.

Researches say the results add to growing evidence **that it's important to talk to babies from an early age to foster infant development and cognition.**

In the study, published in *Child Development*, researchers tell us that words may have special meaning for babies long before they are able to speak. (Ferry, A. *Child Development*, March/April 2010; vol 81: pp 472-479.)



Wow! Imagine that—talking to your child from their earliest moments may be good for them. If that is true then maybe—reading to children—spending time with children—talking to children of all ages, and generally showing them your love for them—might be good for them as well. If we can make that leap, then it follows that sharing our faith—and helping them to understand concepts like LOVE, COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS might be good for them as well.

(Continued on page 4)

Forgive me my sarcasm, but it is always nice to have our long held beliefs affirmed by research. So I want to take this opportunity to encourage all of us—to *RENEW and strengthen the loving commitment we have to the children in our lives.*

As a church, caring for children must always be one of our priorities. When we look at the present, we see the need. When we contemplate the future, we recognize the consequences. When we reflect on our faith, we know what Jesus calls us to do. For people of faith, the place to begin is in prayer. And as we pray, let us ask ourselves, do we love Jesus? We can say yes only if we do all in our power to feed his lambs.

At First UMC, we are striving to do all that we can to love our children—through our Sunday School, through JIF **and our other children’s activities, through Vacation Bible School, through Discovery Days, through our concern for child abuse prevention. And of course through our love and support of parents. Consider what you might do to help care for the children of our church family.**

And of course—love those children and grandchildren—talk to them and show your love in every way you can.

See you Sunday,

Evan



*"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."*



Become Part of *Our* Church Family

Would You
Like To Join
First UMC?

If you have been attending First United Methodist Church, and have decided that you would like to join the church—then we have an opportunity for you!

You are invited to participate in a new member class that will begin on Thursday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m. in our church library. We will be meeting 3 times to discuss First Church history and activities, United Methodist beliefs, and also how to get more involved than just Sunday morning. These sessions will also give us an opportunity to get better acquainted. Contact the church to let us know of your interest—or you can just show up on May 6th.



We are collecting the names of our church family 2010 graduates.

Please call the office if you know of a member who is graduating high school or college. We would like to know where they are graduating from, and what their plans are for after graduation.

Yoga Classes

Yoga classes will not be held during the summer. The last class for the spring will be May 24. Classes will resume September 13 for the fall. I look forward to seeing you then.

Namaste'

Toni Lux



Combined Worship Service

May 30th—All Church Worship and Cookout

Plan to be at church on Sunday, May 30th! We will be worshipping at 9:30 in Friendship Hall and pulling out all the stops. It will be a great celebration of our life together as First UMC. Immediately following worship, we will be going out to the courtyard where folks from the Johnsonville Sausage Company will be grilling our lunch. There will be all the trimmings for a great Memorial Day picnic. Bring your family and enjoy this celebration of the **first weekend of the summer. You won't want to miss this!**



Thank you! Thank You!
Thank you! The auc-
tion was a huge suc-
cess! With the money
we raised, we were
able to pay for our van

and gas expenses to Alabama!

The week in Alabama was amazing! I was so proud of everyone in our group as they worked together, grew in faith, and were an example of Christian love. We built a ramp for Nigel Andrews, a man who has had four strokes, a heart attack, and currently has 17 tumors and is awaiting surgery. He is only 47. But, his faith and trust in God was evident as he spoke **these words.** "People think my



life has been so hard. But, it has been easy because **I have Jesus in my life!"** Please join us on May 2nd as we share experiences from the 30 Hour Famine and the mission trip. The youth will be speaking at all three services.

I am looking for people from the congregation to **share their spiritual journey's with the youth during August.** This would be a great way to connect with the youth and give them a chance to see that everyone has a different journey to God. For those that did it last summer, I believe it was a great experience

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

to stop and think about their **journey's**. **Please let me know if** you would like to participate in this experience.



The youth will be helping with Vacation Bible School in June.

Summer activities are also being planned.

If your child is in 5th grade and you are interested in having them join us next year, please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. And, as always, anyone from 6th-12th grade is always welcome to join us Sunday at 10:30 for class, Sunday at 5:00 for Middle School Youth Group, and Sunday at 6:00 for High School Youth Group.

Jennifer

MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY

Church Women United will observe May Friendship Day on Friday, May 7. There will be a luncheon at noon for \$6.50 with a program following. This will be at Tracy United Methodist Church. Call for reservation to Wilma Marsh, Phone: 393-3757.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to JoEllyn Chadwick and the FUMC Youth Group for praying for me during the 30 hour famine. It was greatly appreciated.

Judie Rosenow

Thank you all so much! A great comfort in a time of turmoil and self-doubts. It is comforting to know that regardless of where I am, I have friends and family who care. Hope all is well.

Zane Hilton

Marian Lehker's Grandson

Thanks to God and the great friends of FUMC for all the wishes on my birthday card. Also a big thanks for the very pretty tulip plant. So glad someone **could read all the names to me. It's Great!**

Pauline "Pat" Segelstrom

My Friends,

How can I ever thank all of you for your messages of love and hope during the last year? The cards **were beautiful and I've re-read** each one many times.

I'm back attending service—walking one-sided but with the help of a cane. There are months of rehab work ahead and I will undertake each problem the best I can.

I do know there is a special one in my life I can talk **and pray with and whatever God's decision for me I** will accept with gratitude and feel His special love. God Bless all of you, our beautiful church and our

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Pastor Even Lash.

Joyce Carey Cooper

A Big Thank You to all who brought food and served **the lunch for the "Welcome Home Soldier" Build**. We had 35 Marines who were very appreciative. They invited anyone who would like to join them to prepare lunches all of the time.

Dwight Graham

La Porte Habitat For Humanity

I want to thank all of you for your cards, prayers, and well wishes surrounding my recent surgery. The meals were delicious and quite an unexpected gift. I love my prayer shawl. Receiving it truly touched my heart. Thank you all so much! I am in for quite an extended recovery period, but I know I can count on the support and blessing of your prayers. I am grateful to have such a kind and caring church family.

Barbara Jackson

Thanks to all who helped with the Seder meal on Holy Thursday. There are far too many people to name, who made phone calls, prepared food, did set up, clean up...you did a sensational job. Special thanks to Teri and Sandy Burkhart, who took on this project as their own, and to all who pulled together at the last minute and made everything happen, when I became ill. You were great!

Barbara Jackson

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

Thank you to all those who helped to make our **March 20th "Child Abuse: A Call to Action"** a major success. For those of you who were not able to attend, we had close to 100 people in attendance and our efforts to raise awareness and promote action all over our District have started to snowball. Every day we get excited e-mails from women all over the District, who want more information and want to share what they have been doing to commemorate April as Child Abuse Awareness Month. Many plan to celebrate Blue Sunday (April 25th) in their churches, as we will here at First Church. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 22nd in Friendship Hall. Registration and refreshments begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9:00 a.m. Look for posters with more information at the church. Please come and get involved with us in this worthwhile effort. Together we CAN make a difference! Thanks again to all.

Sue Hickman, Nina Salyer, Barbara Jackson

Thank you to everyone who worked and/or donated food for our April 23rd luncheon. The Martha Circle did a beautiful job on the decorations and centerpieces. **If you didn't make it to the luncheon you really missed it!** Thanks to all of you ladies. Also, thanks to Leona Collins and Anne Wegner for donating the plates. That was very generous. We have a wonderful church family. We thank you for your support.

Bev Barnes

All in our Church Family Life

We celebrate
the baptism of
Lucky Post
son of Jim and Lydia
Post
on April 4

We celebrate
the birth of
Annabelle Marie
Brown
born to Matthew and
Ashley Brown on
April 23

We celebrate
the life
triumphant of
James Biehl
who died on April 11



We gratefully
acknowledge the
following gifts

In Memory of
Harry Carbon
Mary Miller, Elizabeth
Amos, Tim & Sharon
Welty, Anne Wegner,
Ken & Lorrie Grom,
Nancy & Jim Clark,
James & Sandra
Heffner, Jean Kohler

In Memory of
James Biehl
Bessie Biehl

In Memory of
Belva Jo Ingersoll
Rudy & Pat Legner,
Paul & Noralyn
Erickson

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1. Jennifer Casper—This time for real!
2. Greta Friedman, Bob Kooyenga, Clarence Rollason
3. Mary Craft, Sean Wilson
4. Shaw Friedman, Betty Woods
6. Sandy Burkhart
7. Marian Lehker
8. Angie Baugher
9. Kira Childress
10. Brian Dragos, Kyle Gould, Jane Langford
11. Nancy Day, Hannah Harrison, Alexis Wilson
12. **Ed O'Dell**
13. Ben Huff, Brendon Smurdon
14. Daniel Karagory
15. Larry Dunbar, Carol Lee
16. Helen Disler
17. Jay Kelley
18. Brad Foldenauer, Alex Friedman
19. John Woods
21. Mary Christ
22. Aidyn Shreves, Diane Surma
23. Troy Brady
24. Bettye Kolar
25. Olivia Hubble
28. Sue Kuchel, Ruth Soetje
30. Diane Graham, Dean Runkle
31. Justin DeCamp,
Godron Kuchel,
Phyllis Miller



USHERS THIS MONTH

8:00— Bob Caldwell, Gordon Kuchel, Pete Luther,
Jack Miller, Dick Ulam

10:30—Leona Collins, Craig Keson, John Kolar,
David McCain, Perry Stump

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Linda Adaschik,
Martha Brady, Carole Buettner, Teri Burkhart,
Joyce Cooper, Nancy Day, Lori Dowty, Maxine
Eggert, Cathy Eldridge, Lois Eversman, Pam Huff,
Jan Ladewski, Dana Lee, Pat Legner, Toni Lux, Mary
Reel, Connie Shaw, Joanne Thornburg

FLOWER CALENDAR:

May 2	Stump
9	Bowers
16	Available
23	Available
31	Kuchel



Year to date average attendance:

308

Year to date general budget income: \$112,728.85

Year to date general budget expense: \$118,343.54

I  *Mom*

calendar

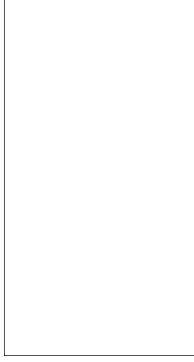
First United Methodist Church

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