

November



*O give thanks
to the LORD
for he is good*

PSALM 107:1, NRSV

Church Staff

Pastor: Evan Lash

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 & Pam Braddy

Maintenance—Paul Lux

Discovery Days Preschool Staff

Dorothy Cahill, Shawn Cothran, Kyleen Fuller,

Laura Gray, Jaunda Kneller, Shae Taylor

calendar

It is that time of year again when we must consider our church budget for the coming year. As we plan for 2010, let us reflect upon our task as a church and how we have approached that task in 2009.



Our vision as the church is expressed in three primary tasks:

1. Evangelism - introducing persons to Jesus Christ, and bringing them into the life of the church.
2. Christian Nurture - being involved in Christian education, prayer, worship, choir, fellowship groups; and other programs designed to nurture our faith and help us to grow spiritually.
3. Missions - reaching out to others in Jesus' name. Helping others with their basic needs - physical, mental, and spiritual.

Catch the Excitement!
Witness the Joy!
Shape the Vision!

To accomplish these three primary tasks, First Church provides quality ministry 365 days of the year which includes: the

weekly worship services, Sunday School Classes, regular UMW and UMM meetings, regular committee meetings, weekly youth group meetings, pastoral visits, a weekday preschool, donating to the food pantry, donating through the clothesline, and emergency help to those in need. Each week the church is involved in doing ministry in too many ways to mention.

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These are only some of the ways in which we have been involved in Evangelism, Nurture, and Missions as a church in 2009. They are a good sign that we as a church are taking our Christian commitment seriously. We need to continue to build upon the strengths that they represent as we move into 2010.

As we look ahead to next year we need your help in the following ways:



1. Prayer - the ministry of First Church needs to be supported by your prayers. We ask that you commit yourself to praying regularly for the church, its members and friends and its ministry.
2. Service - the ministry of First Church needs to be supported by your service. We ask that you commit yourself to serving God through your church in some way during 2010.
3. Worship attendance - worship and fellowship are essential parts of the Christian life. We ask that you commit yourself to regular worship attendance in 2010.
4. Financial - the ministry of First Church needs to be supported through the sharing of your financial resources. Set a goal of 10% (Leviticus 27:30). Whether you can tithe or not is not as important as setting the goal and striving to reach it.
5. Sharing your faith - invite persons to church. We ask that you commit yourself to bringing at least one person to church during 2010. Be involved in a small group.

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First Church is a wonderful place to worship, to fellowship, to serve, to learn, to share in the living of our faith in Jesus Christ. First Church is all of us. Our future can be brighter, richer, and more fulfilling than our past, but it will take our common commitments to Christ and his ministry through us to make it so.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a pledge card for you to use to declare your commitment to Christ's ministry through First Church for 2010. Pray about it, fill out the card, and bring it to church on November 29, at the combined worship service. We will ask you to bring it to the altar for a special dedication during the worship service. Thank



**Christmas
Vesper
Service**

December 6

at 4:00

THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

To All the Beautiful Ladies of FUMC,
On behalf of the Family of Baby Conlin Shaughnessy, thank you for your love, kindness and generosity! With heartfelt thanks.

Kerry Sevigny

Thank you so much for the care package! That was very thoughtful, and I will definitely use it all to help me avoid the flu. Hopefully, my flu shot will help too.

I am on my pediatrics rotation at Univ. of Virginia this month and I love it! I still think I want to be a pediatrician of some kind.

Thank you again for thinking of me!
Deana Hadley

Thank you to all who came out for Habitat For Humanity Work Day at 611 Ridge St. We accomplished a lot in spite of the rain. Special thank you to Jennifer Casper and the youth group that worked with us and to Diane & Bev for the great lunch.

Dwight Graham
La Porte County
Habitat For Humanity

Thank you to those that helped on Thursday set-

ting up for the casserole luncheon. We think we did it in record time! Thank you for your food donations and for helping out on Friday, even our cleanup was done in re-

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All in our Church Family Life

We gratefully
acknowledge the
following gifts

In Memory of
Muriel Thistle
Don & Mary Welch,
Anne Wegner, Ron &
Phyllis Miller, Larry &

Wilma Ray, Indiana
Masonic Home Founda-
tion, Inc., Melvin &
Marlene Shreve, David
& Mary Ellen McCain,
Jack & Georgia Whit-
ted, Becky Read, Ellen
Brashares, Bill &
Peggy Soderberg
|

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cord time! Not all circles
have had their monthly
meeting so we are not
sure all ticket money is
in, but at this point we
have realized a profit of
over \$1300!! We hope
you were able to come
and enjoy the food and
fellowship. Thanks again.
Diane & Bev

Thank you for the many
cards and greetings sent
to my father, George

Forrest, in honor of his
100th birthday. He so
enjoyed hearing from
everyone! The 100th
Birthday Tribute during
the church service on his
actual birthday was
lovely and very much
appreciated. Thank you
for the continuing love
and support you all have
so graciously shown to
my Dad.

Gratefully,
Cathy DeWitt



UMW Library Donors

Anita Bandistel ~ In memory of
Jeanie Fasbender

Eleanor DeMarco ~ In memory of Keith
& Wilma Jones

Barbara Jackson ~ In memory of my
grandmother, Hazel Cornell Jackson

Steve & Connie VanScoik ~
In honor of Michelle Kietzman and
In memory of Fred & Evelyn Arndt &
In honor of our church family

Connie Shaw ~ In memory of Debra Rae Shaw

Bernita & Dom Liberatore ~ In honor of our family

Jan & Jerry Mayes ~ In honor of our church family

Carol Lee ~ In memory of my daughter, Brianne

Jean Caddy ~ In memory of Dick Caddy

George M. White & Aleta Gaye Davis ~

In memory of Virginia White Kennedy

In memory of James L. Davis, Sr.

Laurel & Dale Peterson ~

In memory of Jeremy Hoehne

Ruth Lempke Judson ~ In honor of Alpha Lempke

In memory of Frances Lempke

Irene Lempke Slaughter ~

In memory of Owen Lempke

Sharon Lempke Daniels ~

In memory of Frances E. Lempke

Tim & Sharon Welty ~

In memory of Grace Brandon Welty

In memory of Leslie Noah Job

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Anne Wegner ~ In memory of Richard Wegner

Joan Graham ~ In memory of Lu Ann Garrett

Carol McCombs ~

In memory of William J. McCombs

Willa P. Smith ~

In memory of Edgar William Smith

In memory of Ross Edgar Smith

Richard & Joan Welch ~

In memory of Marie B. Wicks

Lloyd & Dottie Lempke ~

In memory of Frances Lempke

Alberta Huff ~ Memory of my sister, Ann Huff

In memory of my mother, Anna E. Huff

Pat Zeisig ~ In memory of Robert C. Zeisig

Bob Kolodziejcki ~ In memory of

Jeanine Kolodziejcki

Joyce Carey Cooper ~

In memory of Deidre Jayne Stephani

In honor of my niece, Ophelia Baughman

Deborah Bremer ~

In memory of Andrew Ryan Nestor &

In memory of James Ferner

Shirley Morris ~ In honor of our church family

Cynthia Harper ~ In memory of our parents

Darlene Francis ~ In memory of my cousin,

Jeanie Bandistel Fasbender

Rebecca Mathis ~ In memory of my cousin,

Jeanie Bandistel Fasbender

Cindy & Roger Singleton ~

In memory of Ermabelle Thorndyke

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RUMMAGE SALE

Our income since the March sale is \$2,379.71. This includes any furniture that has been sold since the sale in March.

We are going to start taking pictures of the furniture and other items that are available for sale during the year and post them in the main hallway and in the lower hallway. This will help you know what the items look like. We will also tell you where it is located so you can look them over closely. If you want to buy, just write your name on the price tag and pay Sharon in the office. Please tell her when you will be able to pick up your item. We would like to have these large items sold quickly.

We want to keep our prices low to help people purchase what they need and still help our church budget.

Everyone has done a wonderful job of donating truly nice items. A big thanks to everyone who worked so hard setting up for the sale and during the sale. Thanks to the cooks who made the coffee and meals to keep us going. We truly appreciate the people volunteering at 10 AM who carried tables up and down the stairs and boxes down the stairs. Thanks to Kabelin Hardware for donating large bags for people to use for shopping. They really appreciated the convenience. An extra thanks to Tim Welty

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World Community Day will be celebrated on Friday, Nov. 6, at the St. Mary of the Angels Church, 811 Monroe St., at 9:00. The speaker, Daniela, will speak on the topic "Worthy Recovery", a program she's in-

involved with, helping women who have been incarcerated. Everyone is invited to come to this Church Women United event.



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& The Muscle Men for hauling furniture when it becomes available. A special thanks to Terry Wiesner who quietly keeps Jan going and helps her remember the details involved in putting this all together.

Keep the donations coming in so the Spring Fling in March 2010 will be as successful as March 2009. However, it would be fun to break our record!!

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

By now the La Porte County United Way 2009 Campaign is in full swing. As with last year, we plan as a **congregation to gather a "Sabbath of Caring" special offering**. Our designated Sunday will be November 8. Beginning early that weekend, you will see other **opportunities around town (Al's Supermarkets, fire stations, and a busy intersection or two) as the city participates in "Building Community" weekend. Last year we contributed \$571.71. I was proud to be part of such a generous effort.**

This year we won't have the bonus of matching Lilly dollars, and the need, as you can guess with the past year's economic woes, is even more intense among those served by UW agencies. We will be periodically showing this year's UW video between worship services so you can see what some of the 26 agencies have been doing to make a difference, often within blocks of here. I support the United Way by payroll deduction from my hospital salary...and I'm also going to share a gift on November 8th because I know it's a great investment in real, life changing ministry.

If you have questions about the campaign or want to know more about the member agencies, see Sandy Gleim, Kevin Gould, or me!

Steve Laue



CHRISTIANS
Caring for each other



Baby Jesus needs His Manger filled with blankets and newborn clothing.

During the month of November the UMW at First United Methodist Church is collecting new baby clothing, diapers, blankets and more for their Gifts for Mary program for La Porte Hospital.

A manger containing an infant doll swathed in a blanket is in the hall near the church office.

People can bring new, not used, unwrapped, donated items for new parents who cannot afford some of the **basic necessities needed for newborns**. **Don't wrap** them because the hospital needs to see what the items are to know who to give them to.

United Methodist Women began the collections in 1982. They are supposed to be gifts for Mary, as if you were giving Mary a baby shower, bring gifts for Jesus.

Sometimes it's nice to go shopping for baby clothes even when you don't have a need to or make something!

We've always included the whole church, but this year we want to promote the project because it seems like there are more people out of work with factories closing.

Jan Mayes & Bev Barnes

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Mary Beth Kell

Jim & Kitty Maurer ~ In honor of our church family

Prayerfully Made Ministry ~

In memory of Phyllis Jean Miller

Diana Singleton ~

In memory of my mother, G. Fernhite

In memory of my grandmother,

Icy M. Stant

In memory of my mother-in-law,

Irene Singleton

Harry & Carolee Gardner ~ In Honor of

Pastor Lash & Family

Linda Douglass ~ In memory of

Jeanie Bandistel-Fasbender

The Wellness Committee ~

In celebration of good health

Janet Barb ~ In memory of Frances E. Lempke

In memory of Alpha Lempke

In memory of Elizabeth A. Lempke

Barbara & Evan Lash ~ In celebration of the

youth of FUMC

Becky Read ~ In memory of Donald Read



November 1

at 2:00 A.M.!



Last month, the youth group started their new fundraiser. Each week, we will be taking orders after each service for gift cards.

We have some available in case people want to purchase them on that Sunday. The youth are then giving 10% back to the church. This is a great lesson in tithing for the youth. The great thing about the cards is that we have gift cards available for things people use every day. So, you can all support the youth just by getting a gift card instead of using cash at your favorite restaurant, store, or gas station. By slightly changing your shopping habits, you can support the youth and the church!

In September, we started 4th Friday Movie Night. **Every month, we'll invite area youth groups to join us** for an evening of fellowship with other Christian teens. Spread the word and let everyone know they are welcome to join us! Girls can bring a 2 liter of pop and boys can bring a snack to share.

We are excited to be going to Acquire the Fire, a conference in Chicago, on the 13th and 14th! As of now, we have 11 people going.

With Advent fast approaching, we will begin discussing advent and the significance of each week using the lighting of the advent wreath as our focus. We

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will also focus more on acts of love and kindness than on gifts this holiday season.

Youth in 6th through 12th grades are welcome to join us on Sunday mornings from 10:30-11 for our class and Sunday evenings from 6-8 p.m. for youth group. You can check out the church website for a monthly calendar and pictures of our events.

Soup Cooking Class

When: Saturday, November 7th

Time: 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Where: Kitchen/next to Friendship Hall

You will be impressed by Davelle's wonderful recipes. If you plan to attend, please sign the attendance pad the Sunday before or call the church office. Knowing the count is important.

It is not too late to join:

Gentle Yoga Class with Toni Lux

When: Monday

Time: 5:45 p.m.

Where: Parlor

Cost: \$5.00 per class (Pay as you go)

Mats included.

Kitty Maurer



Happy
Thanksgiving
from Discovery
Days!



Discovery Days
Preschool

The children at the preschool are busy this month learning their Thanksgiving songs for the service that Pastor Evan will conduct. They always enjoy this time to sing and listen to a story about all for which we are thankful. To show our appreciation for all of our blessings the children are bringing food for the food pantry.

Mrs. Cahill's and Mrs. Fuller's 2 and 3 year old classes are learning about planets and rockets and about all types of birds including, of course, turkeys! The two year olds are finishing their colors and the 3 year olds are learning their shapes.

Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Cothran's pre-k class has been working very hard getting ready for their class play. **This year's play is called, "A Fish Tale". It's all about**



the adventures of a school of fish. The class is also learning about woodland animals and hibernation.

Beginning in October Mrs. Taylor began "Enrichment Fridays". This is a voluntary class for the children to learn sight words, participate in additional math and

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Hello All!

Church clusters have popped up all over the state of Indiana. Church clusters are the way of our future. To review, here are the churches in our cluster: Lambs Chapel, LaPorte, Maple Grove; New Carlisle, Rolling Prairie, Salem Chapel.

The cluster "kickoff" was March 1, 2009, for our district (#1—not in order of importance). South Bend Grace was the site of this "church cluster kick-off". There will be ten (10) districts in Indiana (effective 1/1/10). Church Clusters are FOR REAL, not something that will go away.

Representatives from our church cluster have met four (4) times since the 3/1 kickoff. In addition, there was a cluster training session (all day Saturday, 9/19) held at the Mexico, Indiana UMC. This training was for representatives from church clusters around Indiana. Three of us (none are pastors) had been chosen as delegates for this training session.

Radical Hospitality; Passionate Worship; Intentional Faith Development; Risk-taking Mission and Service; Extravagant Generosity—these are the 5 practices contained in a short book by Robert Schnase. **Books title is "Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations". This is the text to help us follow the leadership of our Indi-**

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ana United Methodist leadership.

The mission statement is: "Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world".

The book, and the mission statement are the two guides for moving forward in Methodism in Indiana.

By the time you read this we will have had a "Cluster Charge Conference". October 25th was our first charge conference as a cluster (our six churches).

Our next church cluster representative meeting (2-4 representatives from each of the 6 churches) will be held Tuesday, January 26, 2010. Meeting will be held at the Salem Chapel UMC at 6:30 PM Central Time.

God be with you and yours.
Cluster Members



We will be holding a New Member Class in November. If you are interested in joining First Church, please contact the church office. We will set the date and time according to the schedule of the folks who are interested.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1. Bill Beemon, Ginny Beemon, Wilbur Eggert,
Amanda Jones, Emilee Lachiewicz
2. Kaley Post
3. Trudy Hull
4. Rowan Ryszka
5. **Evelyn O'Dell**
6. Ashley Jones, David MacCartney
7. Kevin Hundt, Chris Lash
8. Dana Lee
9. Ted Melnyk, India Potter
10. Evelyn Parker
11. Marilyn Decker, Paul Harris, David Karagory,
Phil Kmitta, David Miller
12. Davelle DeMarco, Teri Hajek, Joann Liberatore,
Pheobe Wasickanin
13. Tony Adaschik, Jeri Fettinger, Janet Reider
14. Perry Stump
15. Joseph Kirk
16. Phyllis Oakes
17. Miranda Steele
18. Lori Byrd, Hannah Hubble, Claudia
Weiler
19. Brittany Dunbar, Rip Ludlow,
Sammy Smelser, Allison Zila
21. Veronica Karagory
22. Jeramiah Ruiz, Shannon Ryszka,
Chris Smelser, Larry Trueblood,
Michele Williams



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- 23. Gaye Davis, Megan Downey, Angie Mayer,
Ronda Shelton
- 25. Carson Crass, Lori Dowty, Maddy Dowty, Ruth
Judson
- 26. Ethel Adams, Stanley Small
- 27. Jay Kurzydlo
- 28. Jack Miller
- 30. Duane Miller, Phil Miller, Ron Miller



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science activities and engage in cooking projects. The children that are coming on this day are having a lot of fun learning!

I would like to thank the congregation for all of our well wishes and prayers. We are truly blessed.

Jaunda Kneller & the Discovery
Days Staff



USHERS THIS MONTH

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

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

HOSTESS COMMITTEE: Gina Alber, June Brown,
Greta Friedman, Sandy Gleim, Cathy Hofer, Shelly
Jones, Jeannie Martin, Jill Melnyk, Bonnie Miller,
Emily Morris, Bonnie Netzer, Claudia Weiler, Georgia
Whitted, Michelle Williams, Jan Yandt,

FLOWER CALENDAR:

Nov. 1	David Porter, Ginny Beemon
8	Shirley Morris
15	Tim & Sharon Welty
22	Dwight & Diane Graham
29	Anne Wegner



Year to date average attendance: 303
Year to date general budget income: \$
Year to date general budget expense: \$



calendar

First United Methodist Church

1225 Michigan Av.
LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone - 219-362-2443
www.laportefumc.org
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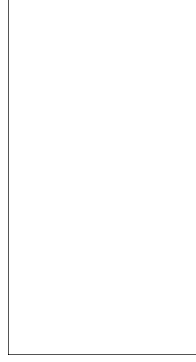
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SUNDAY SERVICES

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