

June 2009



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: Michael Warner

Discovery Days Preschool Staff

Dorothy Cahill, Shawn Cothran, Kyleen Fuller,

Jaunda Kneller, Melissa Newland, Shae Taylor

calendar



### Just for Fun

A man and his dog were walking along a road. The man was enjoying the scenery, when it suddenly occurred to him that he was dead. He remembered dying, and that the dog walking beside him had been dead for years.

He wondered where the road was leading them. After a while, they came to a high, white stone wall along one side of the road. It looked like fine marble. At the top of a long hill, it was broken by a tall arch that glowed in the sunlight.

When he was standing before it he saw a magnificent gate in the arch that looked like mother-of-pearl, and the street that led to the gate looked like pure gold. He and the dog walked toward the gate, and as he got closer, he saw a man at a desk to one side.

When he was close enough, he called out, 'Excuse me, where are we?'

'This is Heaven, sir,' the man answered.. 'Wow! Would you happen to have some water?' the man asked. Of course, sir. Come right in, and I'll have some ice water brought right up. 'The man gestured, and the gate began to open.

'Can my friend,' gesturing toward his dog, 'come in, too?' the traveler asked.

'I'm sorry, sir, but we don't accept pets.'

The man thought a moment and then turned back toward the road and continued the way he had been going with his dog.

After another long walk, and at the top of another long

hill, he came to a dirt road leading through a farm gate that looked as if it had never been closed. There was no fence.

As he approached the gate, he saw a man inside, leaning against a tree and reading a book.

'Excuse me!' he called to the man. 'Do you have any water?'

'Yeah, sure, there's a pump over there, come on in.'

'How about my friend here?' the traveler gestured to the dog..

'There should be a bowl by the pump.'

They went through the gate, and sure enough, there was an old-fashioned hand pump with a bowl beside it.

The traveler filled the water bowl and took a long drink himself, then he gave some to the dog..

When they were full, he and the dog walked back toward the man who was standing by the tree.

'What do you call this place?' the traveler asked.

'This is Heaven,' he answered.

'Well, that's confusing,' the traveler said. 'The man down the road said that was Heaven, too.'

'Oh, you mean the place with the gold street and pearly gates? Nope. That's hell.'

'Doesn't it make you mad for them to use your name like that?'

'No, we're just happy that they screen out the folks who would leave their best friends behind.'

Go ahead and laugh

You are driving along on a wild stormy night. You pass by a bus stop, and see three people waiting for the bus: 1. An elderly woman who is about to die. 2. An old friend who once saved your life. 3.

**The perfect mate you've been dreaming about.**



Which would you choose, knowing there could only be one passenger in your car? Should you save the elderly woman or take the old friend because he once saved your life? You may never find your perfect dream lover again!

This quiz was given to 200 applicants for a single job.

**The one who was hired responded, "I would give the car keys to my friend and let him take the elderly woman to the hospital. Then I would stay behind and wait for the bus with the woman of my dreams."**

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Looking down the stairs at a Cub game, a fan spots an open seat right behind home plate. He asks the woman sitting next to it if the seat is taken. "No," she replies. "I used to come with my husband to all the games, but ever since he passed away, I've gone alone." "Why don't you invite a friend?" "I can't. They're all at the funeral."



## Important Meeting

CALUMET DISTRICT  
Pre-Conference Briefing  
Sunday, June 7  
2:00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
121 East Seventh Street  
Michigan City



The Mother Daughter Banquet was an enjoyable evening for all with good food and good fellowship. Rose Philbrook and Mary Welch each read a **Mother's Day poem. We thank the Winds of Worship** under the direction of Rose Marie Dure for the evening of entertainment. The table decorations were given as door prizes, and the children were presented with filled sand pails. Thank you to all who attended.

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for my care package. It was very thoughtful of you to think of me. All the food looks delicious— I already ate the peanut brittle!

I am now starting my 3rd year of medical school at the University of Virginia. We rotate through all the fields to get a feel for what we want to go into. I am starting with anesthesiology.

Thank you again for the care package! I really appreciate it.

Deana Hadley

Our sincere thanks to all of you for your love, prayers,

cards, and caring words during Mom's journey with dementia and her passing on April 19th. Your many acts of love helped carry us through and lighten our sadness. God Bless all of you.

Love,  
Kitty & Jim Maurer

Congrats to the Youth Group and leaders on their success with Famine. You do make a difference in our church and in this world. Thank you for all that you do for others. We are grateful.

Love,  
Kitty & Jim Maurer



## All in our Church Family Life

We celebrate the baptism of  
Amirah Kopkowski  
Daughter of Arron Kopkowski and Felicia Tibbs  
on April 26

Jake Tanner Bunce  
Son of Rory & Jodie  
Bunce on May 17

Ivy Jo Schoof  
Daughter of Christien  
Schoof & Heather  
Ahlders-Schoof on May  
17

We gratefully  
acknowledge the  
following gifts

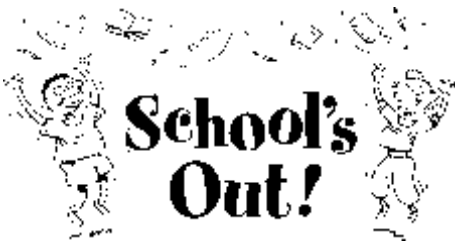
In Memory of  
Betty Dmitras  
Anne Wegner, Millie  
Condon, Alberta & Dick  
Tolton, Syd & Rose Philbrook, Sherry & Chris

Price, Pat Price

In Memory of  
Norman Lenick  
Syd & Rose Philbrook

In Memory of  
Charles Nye  
Anne Wegner, Richard  
& Mary Allesee, Millie  
Condon, Alberta & Dick  
Tolton, Bob & Marta  
Gerometta, Don & Mary  
Welch, Wesley Ann Circle, Roy & Jane Langford, John Brockett & Trinity UMC choir, Pat Spahn & Glen Mosher, Syd & Rose Philbrook





Happy Summer  
from Discovery  
Days,

What a great school year. We ended the year with our annual "outdoor" day with games and ice cream and a graduation ceremony in the chapel. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support over this past year. We are looking forward to a great year starting in the fall. All of our teachers will return. Our assistant for the 2 year old and 3 year old classes, Mrs. Fuller, is expecting her second child in September. We hope she has an easy summer waiting for the baby.

We still have openings in our 2 year old class, 3 year old class and afternoon class. Children must meet these age requirements by August 1. If you would like more information about these classes, please call the church office at 362-2443. We hope you have a great summer!

Jaunda Kneller, Dorothy Cahill, Kyleen Fuller, Shae Taylor & Shawn Cothran



Lauren E. Hofer  
Doctorate of Pharmacy  
Auburn University

Megan Downey  
La Porte High School  
Will attend Ball State University

Byron Hadley  
Willamette University

La Porte High School  
Will attend University Anderson



**MEET OUR  
GRADUATES**

# 11 – Summer book study and sermon series

Get your book now and get started. This summer we are inviting everybody to read “11” by

Leonard Sweet. It can be purchased at many bookstores or online. If you want us to order one for you, contact the church office. Books are hardcover and \$15.00 each. An easy inspirational read for the summer – based on the premise that we need persons in our lives who perform 11 different roles. Did **you see Ocean’s 11? If so, then you know that 11** team members were picked for the gifts they had. We will be getting together for discussions on the book – on 3 different occasions. You can come to an afternoon or evening session. June 10, July 8, and August 12 at 7:00 in the evening – or come on the afternoons of June 11, July 9, or August 13. Phil Miller and Pastor Lash will be leading these discussions.

In addition Pastor Lash will be preaching a sermon series on the 11 figures from the book – throughout the summer. So come on – have some fun reading a book together this summer.



## Wellness Committee

**What a beautiful time of the year!** Doesn't the sunshine and warmer temperatures inspire you to do some work around the yard or take a walk at Kesling Park? What wonderful ways to get some exercise!

God is so good to us! He gives us physical work to do and science has now proven it to be healthy for us —sweating to remove toxins and weight bearing exercise to improve bone density, among other benefits.

**Exercise isn't just about an organized program** of calisthenics and weight lifting, these will be discussed in a future article. That day spent planting in the flower bed or vegetable garden and thinning dead branches from a tree caused you to bend, stretch, carry, dig and kneel—putting many different muscles, joints, bones, etc. to work. **Isn't it wonderful we can get our work done and be healthier for it?**

Please use the time you are enjoying the beauty of **God's world to begin improving your own health** through exercise which can be done in an organized program or in the work of daily living.

Becky Zurawski



## Wellness Committee

Mark Your  
Calendar:

All Church Picnic is Sept. 20, after the 10:30 service, at Cummings Lodge. Great fun and fellowship for all ages. More information will be coming.

Kitty & Jim Maurer

## Confirmation Class

We have a confirmation class planned for this fall. We will be meeting on Wednesday evenings in conjunction with JIF. All youth who have not previously attended a Confirmation Class-from 12 to 18 years-old are invited to attend. An organizational meeting was on May 20, and the class will officially begin in September. Pastor Lash and Jennifer Casper will be leading the class. You may contact them for more informa-



## Church Clusters (Ministry Clusters)

Members of LP First attended the second meeting about Church Clusters on Thursday, April 30. The first meeting was Sunday, March 1. This first meeting included churches from district 1. District 1 is where our church resides based on new Indiana Conference alignment. There are ten districts in the new alignment of the Indiana Conference.

The purpose of the first meeting was to have churches align with other churches with two purposes in mind:

1. Local churches who choose to work together to accomplish the Gospel mission in their area; and,
2. 2. Local churches who share common ministry needs and who work together to learn from each other.

LP First chose to join with the following churches to work together to accomplish the two aforementioned purposes: Lambs Chapel, Maple Grove, New Carlisle, Rolling Prairie, and Salem Chapel.

Our church members in attendance at this second meeting were Lois Eversman, Evan Lash, Larry Trueblood, and Tim Welty (Phil Miller was out of town on business). It was at this second meeting, on April 30, that these six churches met, at Rolling Prairie, to **achieve our next "Church Cluster" goal. Several representatives from each of these six churches met to establish how we can be more effective in reaching**

our communities as a cluster; and, to nominate cluster leaders.

Dorothy Jones, pastor of Rolling Prairie, was the leader for this meeting. Three cluster leaders have been nominated. They are Vada Pulver of Salem Chapel; Ron King of Lambs Chapel; and, Tim Welty of LP First.

Each of these three nominees will receive training (for Ministry Cluster Leaders) over the next four months.

The next meeting for our Church Cluster (six churches above) will be Thursday, May 28, at 6:00. We will host this next meeting.

Progress in the development of our Church Cluster will be reported as soon as available.

Blessed to be in His Service,  
Tim Welty



# Church Photo Directory



Our last church pictorial directory was completed in 2005, and we have all changed since then. We plan to publish a new one this fall. We have not set exact dates yet, but we plan to take photos in late August or early September,

and the directories and photos should be ready before Christmas. The Newcomer Committee is organizing this project, and they need your help. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office or fill out a volunteer form, and turn it into the office. We also want you to be part of the directory by coming and having your picture taken. There is no cost to the church for the directory. You do not need to buy photos to be in the directory. It will be great to have an up to date directory.

**Is Your**  
**Pledge**  
**Up to Date?**

# *HAPPY JUNE BIRTHDAYS*

2. Tracy Blanton, Amelia Kaiser
4. Pat Legner
6. Alexa Blanton, Kay Fillmore
7. Susan Neal
8. Matt Dowty, Molly Menne, Julie Merow
9. Ralph Jones
11. Robin Podell, Karin Stark, Linda Straub
12. Gail Kirk
13. Chris Ladewski
15. Kate Hilbish
16. Rudy Legner
17. Blake Torres
18. Dave Sass
19. Shelly Lachiewicz
20. Shirley Fritzen
21. Shelly Ludlow
22. Andrew Jones
23. Judy Miller
24. Zach Fillmore, Aaron Lemaitre, Bill Scupham
25. Kaity Downey, Schuyler Overmyer, Ron Schafer,  
Willia Smith
26. Jeremy Gould
27. Mary Eggert, Eric Surma
28. Jean ShROUT
29. Gina Alber, Carter Jones
30. Travis Disler, Ray Harder



## 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: Jeanette Arndt, Julie Becknell, Jodi Bunce, Sherry Burger, Connie Caldwell, Kris Cook, Diana Corley, Nancy Downey, Pam Fleming, Maxine Harris, Trudy Hull, Betsy Kabelin, Kay Kabelin, Stephanie Kaiser, Jean Larson, Phyllis Oakes, Jill Richey, Jean Shrout

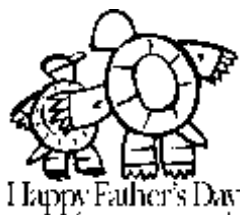
## FLOWER CALENDAR:

June 7 Jean Terry/Kelleys  
14 Becknell/J. Miller  
21 Tolton  
28 Wegner

Year to date average attendance: 313

Year to date general budget income: \$155,114.52

Year to date general budget expense: \$146,9326.37



calendar

**First United Methodist Church**

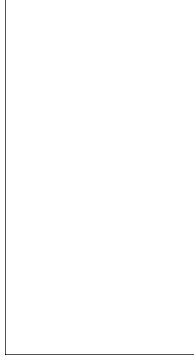
1225 Michigan Av.  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
Phone - 219-362-2443  
[www.laportefumc.org](http://www.laportefumc.org)  
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**SUNDAY SERVICES**

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