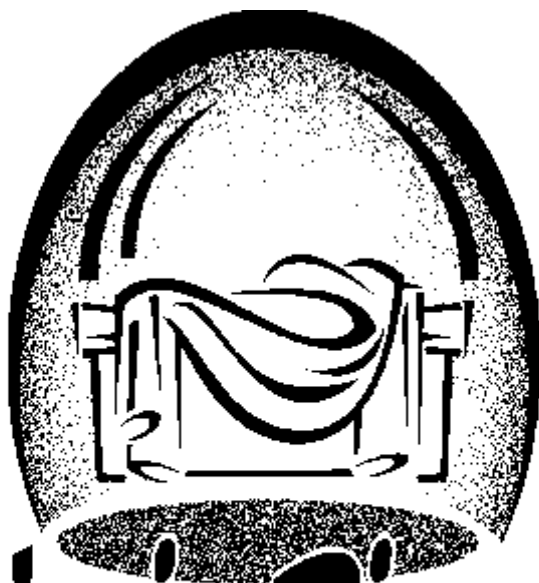


# Tower Talk



## He is Risen

Church Staff

Pastor: Evan Lash

Director of Music Ministries: Rose Marie Dure

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,

Janet Gourley, Jaunda Kneller, Melissa Newland, Shae Taylor

calendar



Combined Worship – March 29, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.

March has 5 Sundays – so we are planning another combined worship service on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to mark this on your

calendar and join us at 9:30 in the sanctuary. Musicians from all 3 of our regular worship times will be sharing/leading us in worship.



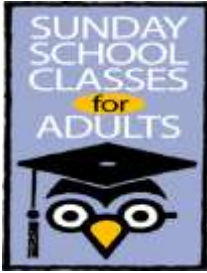
By combining, we are able to see and worship with **others of our congregation that we don't normally see** on Sunday morning, and thereby help us to get better acquainted. We will also see how blessed we are to have the musical talent that we have here at First UMC.

Lenten Study – Our Lenten Study is well underway, and it is not too late to join us. We invite you to come and be with us on Wednesday evening at 6:00 or on Thursday afternoons at 2:00. Each lesson stands on its own – **so don't** worry that you may have missed previous lessons.



Adult Classes – We have 3 classes that are meeting on Sunday mornings, and you are invited to come to any of them. At 9:00 a class meets in the library to discuss current events. At 9:15, another class meets in the chapel for bible study and discussion. At 10:00 a

*(Continued on page 4)*



*(Continued from page 3)*

class meets downstairs in the Gathering Room across from the kitchen.

Each of these classes affords the students an opportunity to grow in their faith and share in small group fellowship with other Christians. Try out all three and see what works the best for

you.

Lent is a good time to get rid of those old bad habits and to start some newer, better ones.

Bev Barnes and Lois Thomas are doing a project that would be made easier if they had a meat slicing machine. If you could loan a working slicer to us for use the third week of April...it would be appreciated.





# Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday—This service will be a traditional Tenebrae Service—remembering the events surrounding the Passover Meal and the desertion of the disciples. There will be communion.



Good Friday—The Cross Walk begins at our church at noon.

Friday evening—We will focus on **the Passion of Christ from John's Gospel**, beginning with the events following the Passover Meal and through the death of Jesus on the cross.



***Voices Needed  
Join a Choir!***

HAPPY SPRING FROM DISCOVERY DAYS!!

**Mrs. Taylor's and Mrs. Cothran's Pre-K** and afternoon classes are learning about things that fly as well as families and moms. The children have finished learning all of their letters; they are putting their skills to work as they play alphabet games and practice writing their names.

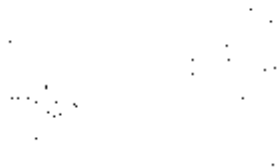
**Mrs. Cahill's & Mrs. Fuller's 2 & 3 year old classes** are learning about frogs, who lives in the ocean and moms. The 2 year olds are learning to recognize their numbers 0-5 and the 3 year olds are working on sequencing, printing their names and fine motor activities (stringing beads, puzzles, etc.)

All classes are going on a fun field trip to Dance Tech in La Porte. The children will participate in movement exercises. The children are also inviting their moms to have a snack, share songs and stories at the end of the month.

We have openings in our 3 year old and 2 year old classes for next year. If you know anyone with pre-school aged children, please have them call the church office for information about our program.

Thank you and God Bless,

Jaunda Kneller, Director



# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

I want to Thank everyone who signed my 94th birthday greeting. Nice to be remembered by so many. God Bless You.

In Christ,  
Anita Bandistel

I am writing to thank you and your church staff for the radical hospitality shown those who attended the Pre-Lenten service at La Porte First United Methodist Church.

The event was a beautiful way to begin the season of Lent, and your hospitality was a beautiful witness of Christian charity.

Thank you again for your leadership.  
Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Michael J. Coyner

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Group,  
Thank you for the concern you expressed to me on Sunday, March 1st by

praying for me after the service and presenting me with a most beautiful prayer shawl. The warmth and beauty of the shawl is only exceeded by the love and caring you gave to me that morning. Do know that your love and caring continues to provide comfort and grows in my heart each day as I pray for your **ministry and for God's** Blessings for each of you. In Christian Love,  
Roy Gropp

Thank you so very much for helping our Sunday School class with our mission project. We collected a great deal of food for the Salvatiodn Army. The food will help countless families throughout our community, in their time of need. All of us are very appreciative for your help. Sincerely,  
4th & 5th Grade Sunday School Class

## All in our Church Family Life

**We celebrate the  
baptism of**

Kira Paige Childress  
Daughter of Michael &  
Jennifer Childress  
on March 8

**We celebrate the life  
triumphant of**

Norman Lenick  
who died on March 8



**We gratefully  
acknowledge the  
following gifts**

In Memory of  
Anne Tonagel  
Bob & Sharen  
Kooyenga, Marian  
Lehker

In Memory of  
Reuben Eversman  
Scott & Teri Hajek, Mar-  
garet Norman, Matt &  
Susan Denzine, Gail Kirk

In Memory of  
Norman Lenick  
Ed & Alice Mueller, The  
Family of Esther Kend-  
all, Stewart White,  
Joyce & Paul Diesslin





It is our task as Christians to provide hope for the world by caring for the sick, feeding the hungry, teaching people to read and write and to take care of themselves, to console the broken-hearted, bind up the wounds of war and to welcome the strangers in our midst.

Blankets+ (formerly called Tools & Blankets) is a special mission opportunity. Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. provide funds to help people in need around the world, including the U.S.

During the last 50+ years, there has not been a humanitarian crisis in any region of the world where Church World Service has not been present. Church World Service has learned that providing the smallest, simplest things can truly make a major difference in the daily life and future of peoples everywhere in need.

For over 60 years, Church World Service has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including:

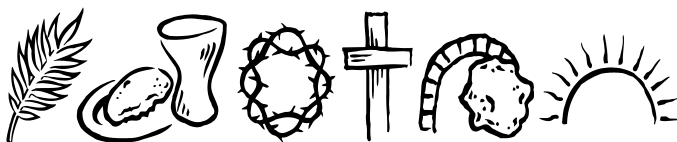
- \* Blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster
- \* Tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields
- \* Wells for families living in drought prone areas to provide clean, safe water to drink and to irri-

gate crops and gardens

- \* Literacy training and microcredit for women struggling to realize their potential.



Please remember, YOU are the plus in Blankets+!



### What About You?

Have you ever felt called to youth ministry? The Staff Parish Relations Committee is looking for a person (or persons) for a part-time, paid, youth position. This person would be responsible for planning, coordinating, and implementing youth programs in conjunction with the youth group and adult volunteers. This is more than a job—it is a calling to serve and share in ministry with youth.



If you are interested, or have questions, please contact a member of the SPR committee, Rory Bunce, or Pastor Evan.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt!: Saturday, April 4, 2009 at 10:00 **at Fort La Play Porte! Don't forget to bring your baskets! Let's remember**



Reuben Eversman on this joyous occasion! What a fun way to prepare for Easter, Sunday, April 12!



"Go Fly a Kite! Ascension Celebration!": Remember Christ's Ascension by flying a kite! Meet at Kesling Field; off 18<sup>th</sup>. Street, by La Porte Missionary Church: Sunday, May 17, at Noon! **"Let's go fly a kite, up to the highest heights....." Bring a blanket and lunch!**

Pentecost Picnic!: Come and Celebrate the Church's Birthday with us on Sunday, May 31 at Noon in Friendship Hall! Remember to wear RED and please bring a **side dish! Drinks and meat will be provided. We'll join together in one voice; one church----with a "Hymn Sing!"**

"Crocodile Dock!"-Vacation Bible School  
Held at La Porte First Church of God, June 8-11! Activities will be held from 5:00-8:00. Dinner is provided! Our first V.B.S. meeting is February 17, at 6:30. If you feel called to "Help Fearless Kids Shine God's Light!" please call Robin. God bless and enjoy Christ's seasons!



## Our Youth Are Going To...

Starve for Food

April 24-25, 2009

**World Vision**



Chris was lucky. He got to eat breakfast this morning. A brown and white mushy breakfast will be the only meal **he'll eat today. And in Zambia, where almost half the population – more than 5 million people – is hungry,** Chris is blessed to have that mush.

**But some kids won't get anything to eat—all day. And you won't see them on the TV or hear their stories on the radio.** In fact, before this day is over, 26,000 children under age 5 will die because of hunger, disease and poverty.

14,000 of them will die from causes linked to malnutrition alone. **Today... tomorrow... and the next day... That's one every seven seconds.**

**But here's the good news. Students in our congregation are choosing to make a difference. They are getting ready to take part in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. They're going to raise money by not eating for 30 hours so that kids like Chris can eat every day.**

**In the coming weeks you'll hear more about the 30 Hour Famine. So here's where you come in: please pray for the Famine participants, and then prayerfully consider how you can offer your financial support to help save kids' lives. Our youth group members will be asking for your help. You could even come and share in the activities during the 30 hour event on April 24 - 25.**

# United Methodist Women *At a Glance...*

Each year United Methodist Women prepare a Program Book for the members. The book includes the names of the incoming UMW leaders, circle leaders, circle members, general members and calendar of events for the coming year.

The 2009 Program Book includes a message from our pastor. We would like to share this message with our church family.

*My own personal experience of the Ministry of the United Methodist Women has been shaped by my **mother's long involvement. She has been active in UMW and predecessor groups for over 60 years in various churches and in various roles. I have heard first hand of the value and importance of this group in terms of fellowship, missions, activity, and Christian devotion.***

*Since 1869, women of our denomination have been officially working to further the Kingdom of God locally and globally. Women had no vote either in the government or in their church. They had no say in how funds were to be spent. To counter these realities, the generation of women who founded the early missionary societies developed networks and structures to help women attain full participation in the life of the church and society.*

*Because of the faithfulness and courage of the millions of women who prayed, planned, organized, marched,*

*(Continued on page 14)*

*(Continued from page 13)*

*petitioned, labored, and supported the work of the early missionary societies, the lives of countless individuals, especially women and children, have been irrevocably changed. Women, children and youth in our generation, and the ones that will follow us, are **living the legacy of the women's missionary movement of the 19th century.***

*As you take your place in this ministry of the church, I want to encourage you to see yourself as a modern day pioneer. The women of the church have as **significant a role to play in today's society as their fore-runners did over a century ago.** War, poverty, disease, hunger, social injustice, the need to hear the Gospel—these are still issues that need to be faced around the world.*

*Share and live the spiritual keys of reaching others—Love, Prayer, Faith and Justice. These are gifts from God that never lose their power and never go out of style.*

*Evan Lash*

Thank you, Pastor Lash, for your thoughts!  
We always welcome new members!

Millie Condon & Alberta Tolton  
326-6314      326-5159





## REPORT

First of all we want to report our income since the sale last April which is a total of \$5,032.50!

Next we want to thank everyone who donated in any way toward this wonderful project. By the way...did you know that we are being GREEN? Instead of all these things going into landfills, they are being recycled! This project is also a service to the community. We are helping those less fortunate by making available the necessary things they need at a price lower than Goodwill. The leftover items will be donated to various service projects in the community such as the County Home, the Library, the local church that does free clothing give-away, Casa House and one of the nursing homes.

We want to let you know that we are going to do a Fall Sale on November 13 & 14! This will be smaller and will be held on the second floor. Keep bringing in your things! We will be selling winter clothes, Christmas items and gift items.

This is truly an all church project! Bless you all.

Your Committee: Lori & Bob Sensow, Terry Wiesner, Sharon & Greg Rudnick, Jan Ladewski, Sharon Daniels



The Wesley Ann Circle invites you join them on May 18 at noon to hear more about the Lucille Raines Residence in Indianapolis. This is a 3/4 house for persons recovering from substance abuse that is a ministry of the United Methodist Women

in Indiana. Barbara Jackson will show one of the DVD presentations she has created for them and answer your questions. Please bring an item for the **LRR "bathtub" ministry. They are always in need of** personal items (deodorant, disposable razors, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc.) inexpensive shower liners, paper products (toilet paper and Kleenex), and laundry soap. Lucinda pins will be available for sale (also at the worship services on May 17.

### **Youths' Journey**

The youth will collect for Famine through the month of April. Please help them help the world! They want to make a difference.

Any youth, 6 thru 12 grade, is invited to join the youth for a 30 hour famine beginning on April 24. You must have a parents consent to attend. If interested please notify the church by April 12.



# *HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS*

1. Deana Hadley
2. Tricia Zila
3. Jan Ladewski
4. Gordon Glanders, John Straub
5. Janet Steele
6. Kayla Dunbar
7. Jean Terry
8. Bob Hull
9. Richard Thistle
10. Bob Bortz, Chris Price
12. Matthew Jones
13. Mike Downey
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. Marian Heath, Sharen Kooyenga, Jennifer Miller
21. Belva Jo Ingersoll
22. Mary Kay Steele, Chandell Weis
23. Larry Cook
24. Mary Ellen McCain, Scott Simerlein, John Weeks
25. Grant Hofer, Tom Larson, Ben Martin
26. Betty Dmitras, Mary Ludlow
27. Pat Harder, Mel Shreve
28. Bettye Niles
29. Ian Stowell



## 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 5	Weist
12	Porter
19	Burkhart
26	Weiler



Year to date average attendance: 292

Year to date general budget income: \$114,161.37

Year to date general budget expense: \$92,212.84

Bell Tower/Pit/Window/Friendship Hall Fund

Pledged to date: \$162,088.00

Received to date: \$82,700.45

calendar

**First United Methodist Church**

1225 Michigan Av.  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
Phone - 219-362-2443  
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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