

Tower Talk

God is Here as well as Everywhere!



This past winter, I went to Israel and visited the Wailing Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. The history and meaning behind the wailing wall is deep. The Wailing Wall, also known as the Western Wall, is a 187-foot-high section of the ancient wall of Herod's Temple, the second temple built on that spot. The Wailing Wall is on the western side of the Temple Mount in the Old City of Jerusalem.

Herod the Great constructed the oldest layers of the wall between 20 B.C and 19 B.C. as the second Jewish temple was being built. Today the exposed portion of the Wailing Wall faces a large plaza in the Jewish Quarter, which has been a venue for pilgrimage and prayer for Jews since the 16th century.

At least 17 layers of the wall are below the street level, but the massive lower stones, called ashlar, of the visible portion date to the time of Herod. These colossal limestone stones, each weighing between one to eight tons, were crafted with masterly precision so that they fit perfectly against each other without mortar. Some of the joints, however, have eroded, and orthodox Jews fill many of the chinks in the lower blocks with written prayers. The wall takes its name from the fact that, on a daily basis, many Jews gather at the wall to pray, chanting and swaying before the wall.

You may ask, "why does the Western Wall have its better known name as the Wailing Wall?" The Wailing Wall has also been called "the Wall of Tears", since it is a symbol of the destruction of the Jewish temple and for centuries Jews had come there to pray and, quite literally, to cry in mourning. The name "the Wailing Wall" is an expression of the morning of this reality as well.

I guess I would ask the question, "how long do they morn for the destruction of the temple?" 2,000 years of crying and wailing is not long enough? Move on and begin a new movement or build another temple like the Muslims did next door with their beautiful Temple Mount, or the Christians did just down the street with the church of the Holy Sepulcher. Start new life!

As I walked up to the wall myself, I stood quietly and said prayers for so many different things. Prayers for the church, prayers for individuals in my church who need healing or to be made whole, prayers for my family, and prayers for our city and nation. I wrote 15 or 20 different things on my small scrape of paper and then folded it up and tucked the paper in to the crack in the wall. Certainly, God heard my simple prayer.

As I stood there quietly praying, there were others around me chanting softly as well as loudly, dancing and singing, as well as reading the holy scriptures. It was beautiful as God was at this place and somehow listening to us all. God's presence was real at the site of His old temple that has been destroyed. Yet the truth is also clear that God's presence is on the other side of Jerusalem as well. The Lord is also up in Nazareth and down to the Dead Sea. God's sweet presence is in the various countries surrounding Israel. In fact, God's Holy presence is everywhere! All one needs to do to tap into that power and presence of God is to pray and begin the conversation. God is waiting for us to start the relationship. Whether you are at the site of the old torn down Jerusalem temple, or at home as you sit at the dinner table to pray...

God's sweet presence is there! Remember the words of Jesus at the Great Commission in Matthew 28: **Behold I am with you always to the very end of the age!**

Pastor Bob Vale

Thank you so much to everyone who has helped and participated in the blue walk we could not do this without all the support.

Thank you to everyone who helps support the clothesline this ministry is so important to the community.

Thank you to all that supported and bought items for the silent auction, this money supported our mission trip to Texas.



SALVATION ARMY MEAL

Our church is in charge of serving the Salvation Army meal on the second Thursday of each month. Bev Barnes takes care of preparing the meal. (Thank you so much Bev!) We are looking for people to sign up for serving the meal throughout 2018. If you would be willing to serve, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board outside the main office.



Discovery Days



DISCOVERY DAYS

WOW! Can you believe it, the school year is almost over! We're working hard on learning new skills and reviewing old ones.

In April we visited Luhr Park. We went on a nature hike. We even got to see their pet snake, Corny. We also, welcomed different visitors to teach us about insects and recycling.

In May the Fire Department is coming to visit us. The kids can hardly wait. We are also going to the zoo. We will be ending our year on the 23rd with a graduation/ stepping up ceremony.

We are currently accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year. We will be having a 3 year/ PreK class and a 2 year old class! We still have openings available! Spread the word!

Thank you for all your continued support and prayers! We really appreciate them.



Clothesline

Please remember to check our clothesline on the first floor outside the library. These cards help our children in area schools receive items they need.

CLOTHESLINE is welcoming gently used clothing, infant to size two. These items will go to LPHS to assist young women attending school and raising children. Periodically pink and blue cards will be on the clothesline to supplement the needs.

Please bring your gifts to the church office labeled LPHS. They will then be delivered to the school. We were asked to participate in this project by a LPHS counselor as a result of our CLOTHESLINE involvement.

Thank you for all the support you give CLOTHESLINE to make it a successful mission for our community.

Jane Langford



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Jennifer Casper May 1
Lorna Cooksey May 2
Greta Friedman May 2
Bob Kooyenga May 2
Mary Craft May 3
Ella Moran May 4
Betty Woods May 4
Sandy Burkhardt May 6
Angie Baugher May 8
Jane Langford May 10
Nancy Day May 11
Ed O'Dell May 12
Ben Huff May 13
Brendan Smurdon May 13
Anne Wegner May 13
Daniel Karagory May 14
Larry Dunbar May 15
Kira Fischer May 16
Bonnie Quigley May 16
Nancy Vale May 17

John Woods May 19
Mary Christ May 21
Matt Deckard May 21
William Johannes May 22
Ken Orłowski May 22
Diane Surma May 22
Joan Berner May 24
Mike Gillock May 24
Olivia Hubble May 25
Sue Kuchel May 28
Stacy McClain May 28
Ruth Soetje May 28
Whitney Walter May 29
Ron Daszkiewicz May 30
Phyllis Miller May 31
Gregory Walter May 31

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

John & Freda Black May 1
Ron Schafer May 1
Jennifer & Andrew Kmita May 3
Scott & Teri Hajek May 6
Michael & Suzie Hasselfeldt May 6
Terri & Jeff Hundt May 11
Steve & Trillis McClatchey May 16
Bob & Lori Sensow May 16
Gordon & Rosalie Glanders May 18
Pat & Paul Day May 24
Mike & Joyce Gillock May 25
Carole & Harry Buettner May 26



FLOWERS

May 6- Nancy Bowers
May 13- Available
May 20- Available
May 27- Available



USHERS

8:00 Service

Bob Caldwell
Dee DeVincent
Dick Ulum
Larry Wade

10:30 Service

Paul Day
Steve Benson
Pat Day
Della Wittgren

Bob Bell

If you are interested in becoming an usher, please contact Ron Schafer for the 8:00 service, Tine Geyer for the 9:00 service, and Donn Weiler for the 10:30 service.



HOSTESS

Linda Adaschik
Nancy Day
Lois Eversman
Diana Singleton
Carole Buettner
Tory Halfacre
Toni Luz
Joanne Thornburg
Teri Burkhardt



COMMITTEE

Mary Reel

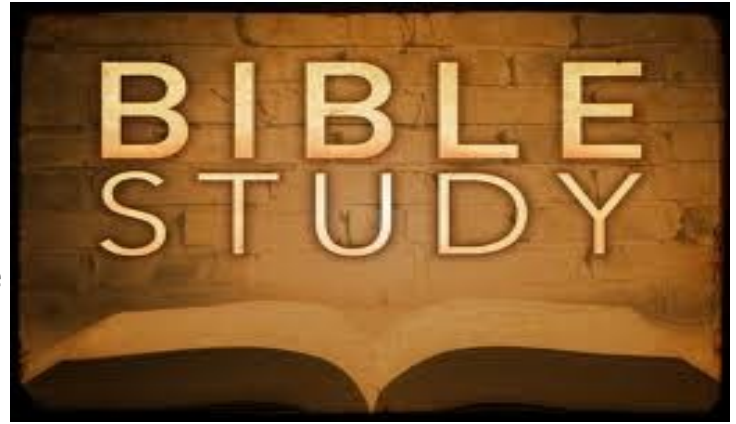
Jan Ladewski

Catherine Eldridge

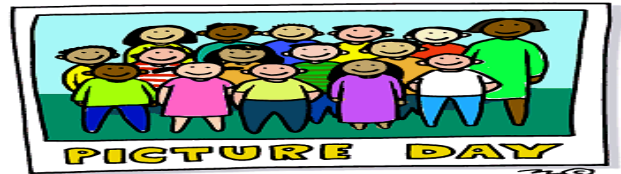
If you would like to be on the hostess committee, please contact the church office.

The hostess committee is called to help with funeral dinners one month a year.

Please come and join our Community Bible Study. On April 18th we will begin The Book of Philippians. Come and be a part of this great group of believers. We will be going of a day trip to the Shrine of Christ in St. John Indiana on May 16, 2018. We will be meeting at the church to car pool. There is a \$5 Charge for the carriage . Please RSVP By May 1 to Joyce Gillock 219-393-8906



Please mark your calendars for the fall pictorial Directory! It will be October 8th-13th 2018



New Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8-3

Friday 8-12

We have changed our hours!



We have a very talented "Handyman" who serves our church as a maintenance man / director. His name is Jim Weis and Jim has worked for the church for thirteen years. He has been a tremendous blessing to our church in so many ways. Jim actually works part-time for our church and serves others in the community by doing odd jobs to make ends meet.

Jim is looking for more "Out Side" jobs to serve both the community and people in the church. If you have an odd job that deals with construction, plumbing, painting, tiling floors, install or repairing doors, drywall, or bathroom remodels, he would like to serve you.

If you would like to use Jim Weis or have friends who need handyman type of work done around the house, please give him a call on his cell phone or email him. Jim Weis: 1-219-575-2211 or his email is: jimweis17@gmail.com. If you are a member and have a special talent, or a service that you would like advertised please contact the church office with the information.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH

PLEASE WELCOME Judith Wantuch, the newest member of our church. Judy joined us at the 10:30 service on March 27th. Indiana is Judy's home stated and she was born and raised in Michigan City and lived in La Porte for many years. She moved to Florida nine years ago, and recently moved back to Laporte to help her family. Judy has two adult sons, Patrick and Leo a grandson, Caleb, and a granddaughter, Paeton.

Judy has always worked as a Realtor and has a degree in Computer Science to assist her with her work. Judy says her most important job is being a Mother and Grandmother since her family is everything to her. She enjoys travel, reading, and oil painting and considers herself blessed to have seen nearly every state in the U.S as well as to have traveled in Mexico, Canada, Alaska and the Caribbean. We are blessed to have Judy in our church family.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING SOON!

JUNE 11TH-15TH

5:30PM- 8:00PM

5TH GRADE & UNDER
CLASSES FOR ADULTS
FREE!

MUSIC, BIBLE STORIES,
GAMES, & CRAFTS
LIGHT DINNER
PROVIDED



Pre-register here <http://hc.cokesburyvbs.com/LaPorteFUMC>

Want to volunteer? Contact Jennifer Casper 219-575-0135

***lunch
friends***

TWEEN TUESDAY IS BACK!
EVERY TUESDAY THIS SUMMER
3RD, 4TH, & 5TH GRADE
12:30- 4:00

***fun
free***

JUNE 5- COOKOUT AND GAMES
JUNE 12- FIELD TRIP
JUNE 19- PIZZA AND A MOVIE
JUNE 26- LUHR PARK FISHING DAY
Call the church office to register- 219- 5362-2443

YOUTH GROUP

4:00- 7:00 EVERY SUNDAY THIS SUMMER

WEDNESDAY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP TIME BEGINS AT 6:00 JUNE & JULY
METHODISTSWAG WEEK- JULY 21TH- 28TH

Register now! Deadline to register june 24th

We are looking for volunteers to help drive, bring a meal, or work with us throughout
Methodistswag Week.

If you are interested, please contact Jennifer Casper 219-575-0135

TURNING AROUND: BY KELLY RIVERA

2 Corinthians 7:10 "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."



Humility is the key to having a loving relationship. Jesus tells us to forgive seven times seventy for a good reason. It is unfair and unrealistic to expect anyone to be perfectly innocent in a relationship because we are human. Begin by admitting your own mistakes. By humbling yourself and dropping self righteousness, you become obedient to God's commands. If there is a disagreement, be willing to listen quietly to the wrongs and hurts with an open mind and open heart. Don't be accusing or abusive, but gentle and kind. Sit on it for awhile and cool down, separate for awhile if needed. But always value the other in regards to the fact that they are God's children as well as you also are. Admitting when you are wrong, not denying your own sins is a path that leads to knowing Jesus. Love is not a feeling, but a character of fruits of the spirit. If there are no fruits of the spirit in a relationship, the relationship will break. We should all take this to heart. Blessed are the peacemakers. Peaceful and honest communication require meek listening skills. Love the way you want to be loved. There is always good in the other person, no matter how mad and hurt you are by them. Don't define the relationship by the mistakes you or the other has made, but know when to turn and be humble. Wounded relationships can heal. But watch your mouth, as the tongue can pierce and destroy someone that you value the most. By turning the other cheek, you can turn the hurt around. That's what it's all about.

Hello Church Family: I want to begin to get more ministries started in our church to both bring attention as well as help stop opioid addiction in our La Porte country. Our church is known for highlighting and trying to stop child abuse. Which is wonderful and part of our DNA. Let's keep championing that cause. Can we also pick up the cause to help stop opioid addiction?

There are other churches in our community who have a heart to also stop opioid addictions, so let's jump into the fight to stop this menace that is killing our youth of the county.

There are some ideas about hosting a bake sale fund raiser to help our local police get Narcan medicine in their police cars, to save the life of an addict as a first responder. I think we as a church could help with such a community cause.

There are other ideas we can draw upon as a church family. If you would be interested in being part of a ministry team to look at ways our church could help with this important need in our community, please get in touch with me as the pastor. Bobvale1961@gmail.com



Funeral Dishes

If you donate funeral food and want your dish or pan back please put your name on the item and try to pick it up as soon as you can after the funeral. Thank you!

Hostesses

When there is more than one funeral in a given month you may be called upon for a food donation more than once. Also if we are having trouble contacting people we may go to another month for food donations.

Thanks Vee

FRIDAY E-NEWS



Want to keep up to date on everything going on at the church? Sign up to receive the weekly e-news. It comes out every Friday and includes the event calendar for the upcoming week, special events in the next month, birthdays and anniversaries for the upcoming week, and prayer concerns. You can sign up by emailing reception@laportefumc.org and letting the office know you want to receive it. You can also text LPFUMC to the number 22828.

EMAIL TOWER TALK ARTICLES TO lpfumcnewsletter@yahoo.com by the

UMW BOOK REVIEW

Susan Yazel –

Secretary of Program Resources

UMW Reading Program and Books Purchased
This Year



UMW Book Review

50 Women Every Christian Should Know by Michelle DeRusha

2018 Leadership Development

Do you like to read? Check out the United Methodist Women's library in the church parlor. If you are interested in increasing sensitivity to all human beings and delving into important issues facing humanity today, consider reading books from all five mission categories. To participate in the reading program, take a Reading Program Reporting Form from the bookshelf and keep track of the books and magazines you read this year. Record the name and year of the book in its proper category. Adult, youth and children's books from years **2013-2018** are eligible. Bonus Books count as 2 books. We had seven ladies participate last year and would love to have more in 2018!

Books Purchased in 2018 for the UMW Reading Program

Education for Mission

Massacre At Sand Creek – How Methodists were Involved in an American Tragedy (Bonus Book)

Without You, There Is No Us, My Time With the Sons of North Korea's Elite

Leadership Development

50 Women Every Christian Should Know - Learning from Heroines of the Faith

Hallow Faith - How Andy Griffith, Facebook, and the American Dream Diluted the Gospel

The Sacred Secular – How God is Using the Word to Shape the Church

Feathered – Youth

Rainbow Weaver - Children

Nurturing for Community

Detained and Deported – Stories of Immigrant Families Under Fire

An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States

It's Okay to Ask – Children (Back Ordered)

Social Action

13 Steps to Sustainability – free download at

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/sustainability

Hospitable Planet – Faith, Action, and Climate Change (Bonus Book)

Spiritual Growth

Bus To Cornith

Christ Walk Kids – A 40-Day Spiritual Journey for Tweens and Teens - Youth

Nurturing for Community

The Book of Joy - Lasting Happiness in a Changing World - Dalai Lama & Desmond Tutu (LP)

Stick Up For Yourself - Every Kid's Guide to Personal Power & Positive Self-Esteem

May is the month in which we honor our Mothers and other women who have influenced our lives. *50 Women Every Christian Should Know* is a series of mini-biographies of 50 women who changed their world and ours. These stories that span from the 12th century to today, remind us that we are not alone. The battles we face today are not new, and God is always with us in the midst of the struggle. This is one of those books that makes you question how far you would go for God.

Some of the women in the book are famous heroines, but many are women I have never heard of. It was surprising to read about their doubts, imperfections, and insecurities. Their trials and triumphs serve as an important reminder that God can use anyone willing to respond to His call.

Our lives have been forever changed by these brave women in history. Don't forget to tell the important women in your life how much they mean to you, and find the courage to be a heroine to others.

Susan Yazel

UMW Secretary of Program Resources

OPEN HEARTS

OPEN MINDS

OPEN DOORS



Christ Revealed

I am so impressed with this series called Christ Revealed that I decided I'd buy it for my 29th Birthday-haha & share it with my church family. It should arrive sometime in May & I will put it in the Library so it can be checked out & returned just like the books. I will also lend a small portable DVD player for those who'd like to watch it but might not have a DVD player.

Tina Geyer

AD COUNSEL MINUTES

If you are interested in reading the minutes to the Ad Counsel meeting, please stop in the office for a copy. The Ad counsel consists of the leaders of all the committees in the church. They come together to discuss what is going on with their committee and what will be coming in the next two months.



GAME NIGHT

Looking for something fun to do with friends? On the 3rd Friday of the month at 6:00, come to the church for game night! Anyone is welcome to come. If childcare is needed please let us know ahead of time. We have board games and cards here, but if you have a favorite game you would like to play, feel free to bring it. Everyone is encouraged to bring a snack to share.



Come join the fun and bring a friend!

Church Work Day An excellent group of volunteers to help with church workday! Many thanks to all who helped. Blessings



United Methodist Women News

Who are United Methodist Women?

A group of women of all ages (teens to seniors) who join together in many ways to address mission issues concerning women youth and children. The group is called a Unit.

Mission and Christian growth are the main goals of each Unit. United Methodist Women is a great way to experience faith building, help with mission work and develop lasting friendships.



United Methodist Women invite you to be our guest at the annual

Mother/Daughter Banquet

May 11, 2018 6 p.m.

Fellowship Hall



Swiss Vegetable Medley

1 16 oz. bag frozen broccoli, carrots, cauliflower combination

1 10 3/4 oz can cream of mushroom soup

1 cup shredded Swiss cheese

1/3 cup sour cream

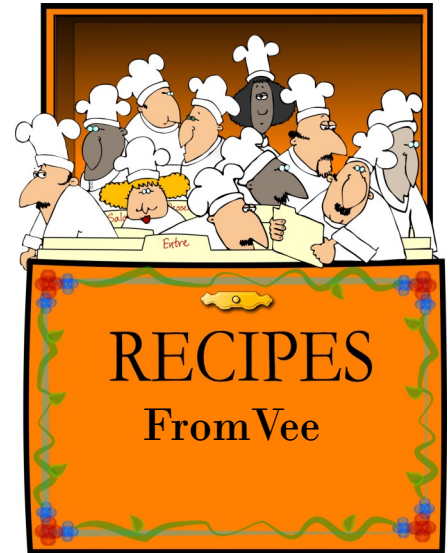
1/4 tsp. pepper

1 4oz. jar pimiento drained (or diced fresh red pepper)

1 2.8 oz French Onions

In a bowl combine veggies, soup, 1/2 of the cheese, sour cream pepper, pimiento and 1/2 can French onions. Pour into a lightly greased casserole. Cover and bake at 350 deg. for 30 minutes.

Remove and top with remaining cheese and French onions. Bake Uncovered 5 to 10 minutes longer till cheese melts. Makes 6 servings so **double for funeral dish donation.**



Sunday School News Sunday school K-1 Class

Our Heifer chick project is on going. For each \$20 donated we are able to help provide a family in need with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks.

Thank you parents and children for you continued offering. You are making a difference.

God Bless you Kitty and Jim Maurer



Singing in the Choir

9 out of 10 Doctors Recommend....Choir?

A study of older adults revealed that those who participated in a choir were in better health, used less medication, were less lonely, and had fewer falls after a year than a similar group of non-singers. This could be due to the effect singing has on breathing and heart rate, as well as the emotional benefits of creating harmony with a group. So join a choir not only for the privilege of praising God, but for your health!

Movie Review

Paul, Apostle of Christ

I encourage you to go see the new movie about the life of the Apostle Paul, who wrote much of the New Testament. This past week, myself and several folks from the church met at the movie theater to watch the movie titled, **Paul, Apostle of Christ.**

The movie is the story of two men. Luke, as a friend and physician, risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero's darkest, bleakest prison cell. But Emperor Nero is determined to rid Rome of all Christians, and does not flinch from executing them in the worst possible ways at his "Circus" events in the crowded Colosseum. Before Paul's death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of "The Way" and the birth of what will come to be known as the church. (The book of Acts.)

Bound in chains, Paul's struggle is internal. He has survived so much—floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure—yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. Alone in the dark, Paul wonders if he has been forgotten . . . and if he has the strength to finish well.

The two men struggle against a determined emperor Nero and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world.

The movie certainly helps us understand the persecuted Christian church in the first century, who were persecuted by the Jewish religious leaders, and the Romans. Yet, surprisingly, the church grew in the midst of these dangers. In the first three centuries of Christianity, being a Christian came with the potential risk of being killed for simply believing in Jesus.

With our American Freedom of Religion laws, it is hard for us to understand that type of persecution reality. Over the past 2,000 years, there have been seasons of persecution across the globe and still goes on today in some countries. The Apostle Paul reminds us that death is simply a beginning; the beginning of eternity with God.

I hope you are able to see the movie in the theater or to watch the movie when it comes out on DVD. Pastor Bob Vale

Grace Cafe

Thank you very much! I want to thank all the committee and ministry team leadership, who helped sponsor a Grace Café meal on Wednesday evenings during the fall and winter months. All the meals were delicious and the teams did a great job creating a wonderful meal plan for those who attended. It was always fun to walk into the Friendship Hall, smell the wonderful food, and ask the question, what is on the menu to-night? The kids also loved the hot dogs and chips each week.

Each Wednesday evening, we averaged around 60 people and some weeks there were as many as 80 people who came to the Grace Café meal. The meal gave us wonderful fellowship time together and a way for three separate worship service congregation members to meet together and get to know each other better. Following the Wednesday evening meal, families went several different directions in the church to Bible Studies, Children's Programs, and Choir / music programs.

Many thanks also go to Sharon Rudnick and Lynn Karagory for their leadership to help each committee with their set up in the kitchen. Each committee of the church was so willing to host one meal in the fall and one meal in the winter, which made it easy and a fun experience. When we all pitch in and take a turn, it does not put undue pressure on other groups. I hope and pray your ministry team will be able to host again the fall and winter of next year. We will take May through August off and begin again in September. Thanks again for reaching out to our church family with the wonderful ministry of Grace Café. (Pastor Bob Vale)

Treasure Sale News

We had a very successful Treasure Sale in March with a total of \$10,728.79. This amount has been designated to help repair the leaks that have opened up on the roof.

This is the largest spring sale ever and we have all the church members and friends to thank for that. We had so many wonderful treasures in this sale. I also want to thank the ladies who cooked for us. The delicious lunches kept us going through the whole week. We are so grateful for what you do for us. Thank you to all the hard working people who help set up this sale in two days. It always amazes me that it is done so quickly and attractively. We make so many people happy by offering all these treasures at low prices so people can live within their means. Strangers feel comfortable in our church because of the friendly people who work during the sale. Some of them come back on a Sunday. The work on the bathroom continues. It will be beautiful when it is finished. Winn Bremer is doing most of this work to save us money.

Blessing to you from Bev, Gail, Jan, Lori, Sue, and Tom

Epworth Forest Cabin Rebuild

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Epworth Forest is an historic camp that has served thousands over the years to get to know God . The cabins we are remodeling will host children and teens this summer who will get to know God better through our efforts. Several folks from the church volunteered to spend time there in April. There were lots of things to be done including, painting, cleaning, sheetrock, building decks, indoor stairs, fixtures for lighting, kitchen and bathrooms. We want to thank all that were able to participate with this project. All of the work done was for the future of our children's camp. Blessings!



First United Methodist Church

1225 Michigan Avenue
LaPorte, IN 46350

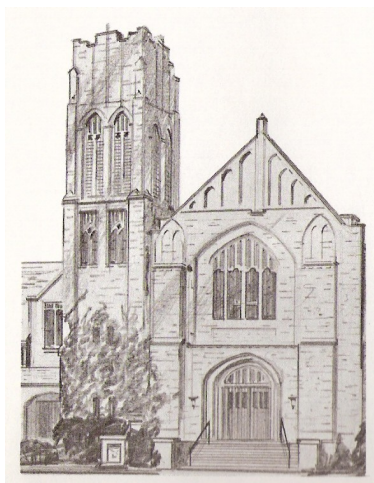
Website: www.laportefumc.org
Phone: 219-362-2443
E-mail: reception@laportefumc.org
Tower Talk e-mail:
lpfumcnewsletter@yahoo.com

May

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TOWER TALK

2018



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Bob Vale
Visitation Pastor: Evan Lash
Director of Children and Youth
Ministries: Jenifer Casper

Administrative Assistant:
Autumn Reese

Director of Music Ministries:
Rose Marie Dure

Bookkeeper: Sharon Daniels

Housekeeper:
Phyllis Hendrickson

Maintenance: Jim Weis

OFFICE HOURS

Monday thru Thursday 8:00– 3:00
Friday 8:00– 12:00



SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 Chapel Service
9:00 Contemporary Service
10:30 Traditional Service
Sunday School at all three
services
Adult classes at 9:00
Nursery available 7:45– 11:45



WELCOME
TO WORSHIP