

# The Chimes

## Dates to re- member:

- Rethink Church, Sat, Oct 29th, 10 am
- Charge Conference, Sun, Oct 30th 2 pm
- Fall Harvest Party, Sun, Oct 30th, 4 pm

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October 2016

## A LETTER OF THANKS AND HOPE by Pastor Gary Lewis

Dear Friends in Christ,

I want to again express to you my sincere thanks for your many prayers for my recovery, for the letters, cards, texts and phone calls lifting me and my situation in prayer. My decision to have elective surgery on Aug. 8 was a decision based on controlling my Type 2 diabetes for good. I had no idea what happened to me could happen. Thanks to all the nurses in the congregation for your assistance, too, it was invaluable to my recovery.

James 5:14-16 says, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven." Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (NIV)

I was anointed with oil twice in the hospital – and I am so thankful for the ministry of faithful men and women who have committed their life to the Lord. It was a humbling experience before God to let go of my fears and my stress and allow the oil to drip on my forehead. It reminded me that God still loves me. Even me, a forgiven sinner.

Our church is at a crossroads. While I was ill, we sought the assistance of Ministry Architects to evaluate what we need to do in order to move forward in children's and youth ministry. Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Youth Advisory Board are working on a recommendation to the Church Council on how to move forward.

Please pray for our church leaders as they work together to find what is best for the future of First United Methodist Church. Our church loves Crawfordsville and Montgomery County. Many of our members have been leaders in business, education, government and entrepreneurship. We were instrumental in the formation of the community food pantry that is housed here and we established Rainbows & Rhymes to educate preschool-aged children. Through the ministry of the pastor's discretionary fund and housing assistance to the needy through Table of Grace we have touched the lives of many needy residents.

Yet, I know our children's ministry is suffering with declining numbers. Currently, there are 16 children, 0 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade on the rolls of the church. On most weeks about 10 children participate in either Sunday School, children's church or Wednesday Night Life. We need to do better. With the work of our leaders and the help of Ministry Architects we can find a way together.

There are about 46 students (grades 6 to 12) on the rolls of the church and youth ministry. About 25 of them per week participate in Sunday School, worship, Sunday night youth group, or Wednesday Night Life. We are blessed to have many parents invested in leading our youth with an effective youth ministry team.

We have many other challenges facing us. As people of faith, though, we always have hope because of our Lord Jesus Christ. "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

Here are the signs of hope:

- \* *We have two adult Sunday School classes and two adult classes at Wednesday Night Life.*
- \* *We have 10 children coming to either Sunday School, children's church or Wednesday Night Life each week.*
- \* *25 youth coming to youth group on Sunday nights.*
- \* *39 1-5 year olds coming to First United Methodist Church every Monday through Thursday to Rainbows & Rhymes*
- \* *We are a critical piece to the web of care for the needy of the community.*

**Our  
Mission  
Statement:**

**To make  
Disciples of  
Jesus Christ  
for the  
transfor-  
mation of  
the world**

**Food for the  
FISH Pantry  
Current Needs:**

- Empty water bottles w/lids
- Canned Fruit
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Pasta
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal

**Donations can be left at any of the FISH Food containers or grocery carts throughout the church.**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**PRAYER MAKES A DIFFERENCE!**

Please remember to pray:

- For all persons connected to our church who are confined to their nursing home or home
- For our TV Audience (9 am Worship)
- For veterans, public servants, police/fire/medical personnel
- For the Rainbows & Rhymes Preschool families
- For our nation, Christ's Church universal, the United Methodist Church, Sugar Creek Cluster, our congregation, pastor and staff

**Prayer concerns:** Terrie Colosino, Angela Sledge, Renda Harmon, Mickey Clifton, Barbara Odle, Melba Rivenbark, Ola Mae Mikesell, Blake Ratcliff (overseas), Janet March, **Our missionaries:** Chris & Anna Pratt, Cru (formerly Campus Crusade for Christ) in Orlando, FL

**Our Sympathies** to Marsha Smith and family on the passing of Mary Hunt.

**2016 MISSIONS GIVING**

Our church has given \$48,386.44 to support mission efforts so far in 2016. This giving comes from our Missions Endowment, Special offerings and individual donations. Below is a breakdown of those disbursements:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Montgomery County Free Clinic - \$1,350</i> | <i>FISH Financial - \$1,350</i>               |
| <i>Brightwood Community - \$568</i>            | <i>Trinity Life Ministry - \$4,500</i>        |
| <i>Discretionary Fund - \$4,570</i>            | <i>Back to School Backpacks - \$500</i>       |
| <i>South Carolina Mission Team - \$8,775</i>   | <i>Heifer International - \$450</i>           |
| <i>Rainbows &amp; Rhymes Sch - \$135</i>       | <i>Rural Mission South Carolina - \$3,150</i> |
| <i>Food Backpack Ministry - \$900</i>          | <i>FISH General - 2,500.66</i>                |
| <i>Imagine No Malaria - \$450</i>              | <i>Cru - \$2,250</i>                          |
| <i>Midwest Mission - \$500</i>                 | <i>Africa University - \$1,800</i>            |
| <i>New Day Charities - \$1,285.68</i>          | <i>Women's Resource - \$345.68</i>            |
| <i>Lucille Raines Home - \$510.00</i>          | <i>Half Way Home - \$4,805.66</i>             |
| <i>Fletcher Place - \$300</i>                  | <i>UM Children's Home - \$565.68</i>          |
| <i>FISH Food Pantry - \$1,250</i>              | <i>Table of Grace - \$3,570</i>               |
| <i>VBS Special Offering - \$179.67</i>         | <i>UMYF Mission Trips - \$961.66</i>          |
| <i>Coins for Camp - \$363.75</i>               | <i>UMCOR Health Kits - \$500</i>              |

**PRAY FOR OUR NATION**

St. John's Episcopal has invited us to join them on Monday, November 7th for prayer and meditation for the upcoming election. This will be from 5-7 pm in their Sanctuary. We need to lift our nation up to God and what a better way to do it then praying together! Please make plans to come!





Happy Fall...or Indian Summer, I suppose! The weather has been incredible for this time of the year. We've been able to play outside the majority of days – which is much needed for our preschoolers. Our students and families seem to have fallen into a routine and things are running smoothly. We continue to operate at our maximum, which is such a blessing. The staff at Rainbows & Rhymes has done a phenomenal job assisting the children in their transitions to preschool. If you see

any of them around, please give them a pat on the back for their hard work and dedication to these children.

We are gearing up for fall activities in & out of the classroom. One of our most favorite times of the year is when we get to travel to Rockville to Hobson's Fun Farm. It's filled with a corn maze, hayrides, an air pillow, pumpkin launcher, giant underground slide, a petting zoo and so much more. All 39 children and their families get to attend this fantastic event and even eat a picnic lunch together.

We are looking forward to cooler temps, fall themed days and learning more about Christ as we head into October!

Blessings,  
Leslie

### **THERE IS A TIME (OR SEASON) FOR EVERYTHING by Pastor Patty**

The book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, points out that there is a time (or season) for everything. It gives us a reason to examine the importance of our lives. Solomon's point in this section is that God has a plan for all people. There are many opportunities to discover that without God, life's problems have no lasting solutions.

We cannot help but notice that the farmers in our community are either getting anxious to get into the fields to start harvesting or maybe some of them have already began. Farmers can certainly be used as an example of reaping from what has been sewn during the seed's time of maturing. As a child I witnessed this as I watched my own family gathering in the harvest as well as our neighbors.

The farmer's goal is to produce a large crop of something, sell it, and receive money for it. We understand that he cannot get to the money until he properly goes through the seasons required to produce a crop to harvest. Also, as he goes through each season, he must do the right things such as preparation which means cultivating the soil for planting, fertilizing, and etc., or otherwise, he won't successfully produce a crop that will bring him the money he desires to take care of his family.

Seasons are time frames that are allotted for something to happen in our lives. In order to take advantage of the benefits that a season has to offer, we need to ask God to show us the right things to do during the season, and then to go forth doing them. Enjoy the colorful fall season as we watch over the farmers in the community fields. And let us each remember that when we have the proper view of God, we discover that real pleasure is found in enjoying whatever we have as gifts from God. I do recognize that farmers are thankful for their gift of land and each of us must find that same ability to find satisfaction in our work which depends to a large extent upon our attitude.

## **FOOD & FELLOWSHIP AT WNL**

OCTOBER 5  
&  
NOVEMBER 2

5-6 PM

ADULTS \$4  
CHILDREN \$3

EVERYONE IS  
INVITED!

## **RETHINK CHURCH**

### **WHEN:**

*Saturday, Oct 29  
10 am - 12:30 pm*

Outdoor and In-  
door projects will  
be available.

### **TO HELP:**

Contact the  
church office at  
362-4817

### **NEED HELP?**

If you have a pro-  
ject you need help  
with, call the  
church office at  
362-4817

**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST  
CHURCH**

212 E Wabash Ave  
Crawfordsville, IN 47933  
765-362-4817

Gary Lewis, Sr Pastor  
[gary.lewis@inumc.org](mailto:gary.lewis@inumc.org)

Patty Bymaster, Asst. Pastor  
[patty.bymaster@inumc.org](mailto:patty.bymaster@inumc.org)

Leslie Peacock, Dir of Rainbows &  
Rhymes  
[lpeacock@cvfumc.org](mailto:lpeacock@cvfumc.org)

Sherrie Lacy, Admin Assistant  
[slacy@cvfumc.org](mailto:slacy@cvfumc.org)

Marsha Smith, Choir Director  
Cindy McCormick, Organist  
Randy Neideffer, Maint  
Sunny Lollar, Custodian

**Service Times**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Traditional Worship  
in the Sanctuary  
&**

**11:10 a.m.**

**The Gathering in the  
Fellowship Hall**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Sunday School with  
classes for all ages!**

**9:30-11:00 a.m.**

**Take-Up-A-Cup in the  
Library & Narthex**

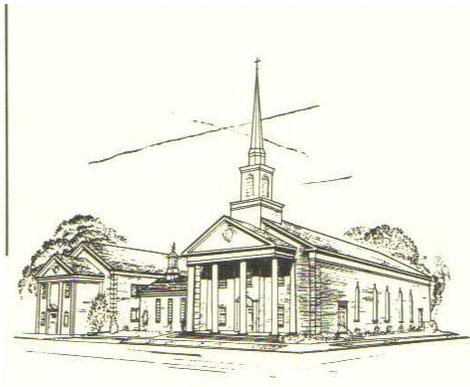
**The Chimes**

**October 2016**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CRAWFORDSVILLE, IN**

**DATED MATERIAL**



**OCTOBER MONTHLY MISSION & RETHINK CHURCH**

During the first 3 weeks of October, the Missions Committee invites you to contribute towards the purchase of items for UMCOR health kits. Health kits provide basic necessities to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. For example, in West Virginia's record flooding this past June, UMCOR was there to help with cleaning buckets and health kits. The list of items to go into the kits is very specific, so rather than asking for donated items, we are requesting money so that items can be purchased. The approximate cost for the items in one kit is \$12. Will you consider donating to fill one or two (or more!) kits? If so, please designate "UMCOR health kits" on your check and simply place it in the offering or drop it off at the church office. Thanks for helping UMCOR prepare for the next disaster!

