



Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. **Hebrews 12:1**

Good morning from Evansville! I'm writing this article as my renewal leave is nearly over. It has been a tremendous blessing to spend this special time with Mom and Dad. We've been cooking, talking, watching Endeavour, and just hanging out. I've also been helping Mom with some home maintenance projects that would be hard on them.

Many years ago my parents neighbor planted a Formosa Tree (aka Mimosa) tree. It has beautiful pink fluffy blooms. Who wouldn't want that? Unfortunately these trees are prolific, invasive spreaders. Ugh!

I have been trying to dig these invasive trees out of Mom's rock garden. Some of them are several years old and have extensive root systems—more than I can begin to dig out. They got this way because Mom couldn't pull them and cut them off at the ground with pruning shears. The roots hung around and it sprung back the next spring.

Thank God for Youtube! After some research, I learned you can cut them back and paint the root stub with brush killer. I'm hoping that works; if it doesn't Mom's garden is in danger of becoming a Formosa forest.

As I've been working in the yard, I found myself thinking about how much sin is like a Formosa tree. It looks wonderful—like something that will give us joy. In reality it brings heartache. Sin is also horribly hard to eradicate from our lives. The longer we let it grow, the deeper the hold it has on us. This is true of just about every kind of sin--lust, greed, gluttony, racism, pride, covetousness--you name it. It is far easier to deal with our "besetting" sins while they are small. We are better off if we don't indulge them--if we yank them out by the root while we can. I think this is what Jesus meant when he said in Matthew 5:30 "And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell."



Fortunately Jesus died on the cross to set us free from even the sins that have enslaved us! The Holy Spirit will come alongside us if we invite Him to help us kill off even the most entrenched sins and sinful habits.

May God save us and sanctify us to the uttermost!

Blessings and peace to you from Donna Gale's Garden,

Pastor Beth Ann

First United Methodist Church * 800 E Broadway * Logansport, IN, 46947 * **Phone:** 574-753-3491
E-mail: loganfirst@comcast.net * **Website:** www.loganfirst.org * **Facebook:** LoganFirstUMC

“Be Still”- Pastor Tim McKaig

I love words. Maybe it's because words are my business or maybe it's simply because words fascinate me. The word “tumultuous” has always fascinated me...maybe it's all the “U's and T's.” Webster defines “tumultuous” as an “uproar.” “Uproar” is a good descriptive word for the state of events in our country during the past several months. The year 2020 began with impeachment hearings for President Trump that never quite gained any traction. This created political unrest between the President's supporters & his detractors. COVID-19 brushed the impeachment hearings out of the news & made a mad dash into our lives...“sheltering in” style. The economic impact of businesses that shut down as well as the first stimulus package created concern for many. Again, there was a “tumultuous” response to the shutting of borders & ventilators.

There was plenty of good news during the COVID crisis, but it rarely got reported. Then racial unrest blew into our nation replacing the COVID news. Protests surrounding “use of force” by police too often turned violent. Drug use/abuse continues to be a major problem in every community in the country; the political divide in our country continues to grow wider by the day...even locally there is unrest over WSP. Even the sports world is “upside down over how the games will return, how many games will be played, and whether they will be played “in a bubble” or not. These headlines don't even begin to scratch the surface of all of the events that are happening in our nation and in our own lives which results in an “uproar” in our spirits.



When my life is filled with circumstances that I regard as tumultuous, I turn to God's Word. It is the foundation on which I can stand confidently because I know it will not be shaken. I love the 46th Psalm: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake in their surging.”

The Psalmist is reflecting on some major events that would certainly cause great trauma. It seems a little bit like hearing the doctor say that you have cancer; or your boss telling you that you are no longer needed; or your wife informing you that she no longer loves you; or news that your spouse/parent/child has died. These are “tumultuous events” that affect our lives and change us forever.

When your world is in an uproar because of “tumultuous” events, the only place that we have to turn for relief is to God. He is not surprised by anything that happens in this world. That does not mean that He is the author of events that turn our worlds “upside down,” but He does allow everything that enters our lives. He wants to be your solace in times of trouble. The Psalmist encourages us to stop, to be still, and to know that Creator of everything in the universe is waiting for us to bare our hearts and souls before Him...to pour out our hurts and unfulfilled dreams. God IS our refuge and strength in trouble. Anywhere else that we turn for comfort will leave us feeling empty and hopeless. Turning to God will not change the circumstances of our lives, but it will change our focus from the heartache to hope. It probably will not happen overnight, but God will demonstrate to us that He is faithful in all of our circumstances in life.

No matter what is happening in your world right now...some of you must feel like the earth is surging and quaking underneath your feet, put your trust in the One who calms the storms of life. Your trust in God will prove to be the right decision.

“BE STILL, AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.” Psalm 46:10

Church picnic on July 5



The Lower Pavilion at Spencer Park has been reserved this Sunday, July 5 from 11 AM– 2 PM for First Church’s first social outing since the COVID crisis. Please bring your own food and drinks. Social distancing will be followed at the picnic tables or you may bring your own lawn chairs to sit in. Anyone who wants to bring games is encouraged to do so, but personal fireworks are not permitted. Let’s enjoy a fun time of celebrating July 4, Pastor Beth Ann’s return and being together in a safe way.

First Worship in Sanctuary on July 12

First Church plans to hold its first worship service with people attending on July 12, at 9:30 AM. From the responses to the survey, many may not feel comfortable attending in July. Therefore, we will start with one service and continue to evaluate each month after that before deciding when to hold two services again. Watch for updates regarding future changes. Virtual services will continue along with live worship.



Recognizing our 2020 Graduates



Plans are in the works for graduate recognition on Sunday, July 26. Watch the bulletin for details.

High School: Arin Deane, Lauren Shilts

Higher Ed: Chase Fisher, Sarah Fisher, Abby Geer

JOY Circle



JOY Circle has not met this summer due to the Corona Virus. We are planning to continue our regular schedule of meetings.

Penny Shaefer has stepped aside as chairman. Officers retaining their posts are:

Program– Judy Williamson and Pat Wilkinson

Secretary– Fran Murr

Treasurer– Marge Miller

Phone– Doris Regan

Acting Chairman– Jayne Sullivan

Our next meeting will be September 9, at 9 AM, in Fellowship Hall. Doris Regan and Judy Williamson will be the hostesses, Marge Miller will give devotions. Pastor Beth Ann will speak on the topic of human trafficking. All women of the church are invited to attend. Please consider coming to the meeting! If you have a question, call Jayne Sullivan at 574-737-7756 or the church office at 574-753-3491.



Finance Corner

There are two pieces of information about First Church finances.

The first is that we have continued to maintain a healthy double digit balance in the church operating account.

The second is that a good portion of the money that was given by many members for LCM support during the time they were shut down wasn't needed. Most have agreed to have their contribution go to other missions within the church.

I guess I could say there is a third bit of good news and that is, there is no bad news, Praise the LORD!

Jerry Miller,
Finance Chair

Trustee Report

- Joyce Sandberg has spent many hours at the parsonage mowing the lawn, working in and mulching the front and back gardens on her knees. I'm sure God was worshipped!
- Elaine Hall and I have been busy painting the parsonage garage doors and touching up the shed.
- I also trimmed the hedges in the rear of the parsonage and checked the gutters for any debris.
- I hauled three loads of trash the trash company would not pick up from the parsonage to the church dumpster.
- New pulls for the Narthex outside doors will be installed so the new operating rods will not be damaged when pulling them to latch the doors.

We are beginning some new projects associated with the grant that LCM received.

- Three classes will move to make room for a new infant class at LCM.
- A new sink and counter will be installed in the basement classroom.
- A new small restroom will be installed in a second floor classroom (elevator room).
- A new vestibule may be added to the north parking lot entrance to the building allowing for new security when entering the building.
- The basement restroom in the education building will be painted.
- I'm also hoping to replace an A/C unit that has been out of service for several years. It cools the kitchen/serving line area in fellowship hall.
- I also numbered all the exterior doors for emergency identification when directing emergency personnel to the correct door at the church.

Steven C. Longenecker
Chair, Trustees



July Bible Reading Plan

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Psalms 90-97 | 17 Proverbs 29-31 |
| 2 Psalms 98-104 | 18 Eccles. 1-6 |
| 3 Psalms 105-107 | 19 Eccles. 7-12 |
| 4 Psalms 108-116 | 20 Song of Sol 1-8 |
| 5 Psalms 117-118 | 21 Isaiah 1-4 |
| 6 Psalms 119 | 22 Isaiah 5-8 |
| 7 Psalms 120-135 | 23 Isaiah 9-12 |
| 8 Psalms 136-142 | 24 Isaiah 13-16 |
| 9 Psalms 143-150 | 25 Isaiah 17-21 |
| 10 Proverbs 1-4 | 26 Isaiah 22-25 |
| 11 Proverbs 5-8 | 27 Isaiah 26-28 |
| 12 Proverbs 9-13 | 28 Isaiah 29-31 |
| 13 Proverbs 14-17 | 29 Isaiah 32-35 |
| 14 Proverbs 18-21 | 30 Isaiah 36-38 |
| 15 Proverbs 22-24 | 31 Isaiah 39-42 |
| 16 Proverbs 25-28 | |

Dear First UMC,
 Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. You all meant so much to our mom, Elizabeth Billman. Thank you for the planter.
 Deb Tocco Schulze and family
 David Tocco



PRAYER CONCERNS

- Family of Edith Beatty
- Family of Chad Geer
- Family of Gil Thomas
- Lauren Hanawalt
- Jane Williams
- Don Everham
- Essential workers
- Hospital staff and patients
- A COVID-19 vaccine
- Peace and reconciliation in our nation
- Government and Church leaders during this season of unrest and pandemic

Nursing Homes

McKinney Place Beverly Hess
Woodbridge Mike Doering

Military Service

Braxton Baker Jacob Kaley
 Alex Karnafel Matt Karnafel
 Oakley Lewellen Joshua Lyons
 Tim Strubell

BIRTHDAYS

- July 4** Fran Murr
July 6 Alyssa Geisler
July 8 Patricia Hammons, Mitch Karnafel
July 13 Penny Schaefer
July 14 Hailey Baker
July 15 Lori Sailors
July 20 Ben Baker
July 21 Heather Platt
July 23 Casey Jones, Tori Weese
July 26 Brian Newell
July 30 Milt Hess
July 31 Kayla Swartzel



Anniversaries

- July 9** Steve Longenecker & Mary Ingram
July 14 Howard & Sandy Cox
July 23 Scott & Rosie Schaefer
July 27 John & Kristen Schaefer

Little Children's Ministry

Welcome Back!! Little Children's Ministry reopened its doors on June 1. We have several restrictions and guidelines that we have implemented since the reopening, and we are proud to say that we have not had any problems with COVID-19 thus far!!

The majority of the families have returned. However, we have also had several families go to the minimum each week and approximately 25 children have been withdrawn per the family's wishes due to COVID-19. We are in the process of getting settled back. We will call our waiting list and fill those spots as soon as possible. We are still very blessed to be able to reopen and operate after such a long closure.

LCM was awarded a \$20,000 Come Back Stronger Grant from Early Learning Indiana and the Come Back Stronger fund sponsored by the Lilly Endowment. The Grant money has specific allowable expenses. We have been approved to use this money for individual toys in classrooms as well as any type of construction necessary to open another classroom. Cass County has showed a demand for infant care for the past couple of years. Therefore, our goal is to open a new infant room in the near future. Plans, estimates, and approvals are still in process for this project.

The preschool classes have continued their preschool lesson plans so children can finish out their "preschool year." Graduation is tentatively scheduled for July 24th. Additional information will be available once the time draws near.

Stormie Rivera is our new Administrative Assistant. She previously worked at Miller's Merry Manor as an Assistant Office Manager for over 19 years. We are very lucky to have her as a new member of the LCM Family! She is doing a wonderful job!!

Nicole Hacker, previous Administrative Assistant, did not choose to return from maternity leave. However, she is continuing to prepare our Chapel lesson plans for the entire facility. She emails the stories, projects, and instructions to Stormie, and she distributes them to the classrooms. There are daily Bible lessons for all children! We are thankful for her continuing to lead LCM in the ultimate goal of teaching our children about God, Jesus, and Christian values.

This pandemic has changed a lot of our policies to keep our families and staff safe. These policies are to protect everyone in every way possible as we move forward in the stages of our reopening process. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation.

July Bible Verse: And be sure of this, I am with you always. Matthew 28:20

Sincerely,

Belinda Jordan, Director

LCM STAFF

Director - Belinda Jordan

Administrative Assistant– Stormie Rivera

Treasurer - Julie Slater





Contact Us:
Phone: 574.753.3491
Email: loganfirst@comcast.net
Web: www.loganfirst.org

SUNDAY SERVICES:

Open Sanctuary Worship– July 12, 9:30 AM
 Safe distancing, masks required, no coffee time until further notice

Live Streaming

9:30 AM: FaceBook Live @ LoganFirstUMC

Church Staff

- ♦ **Pastor:** Beth Ann Cook
- ♦ **Administrative Assistant:** Lori Shewman
Email: loganfirst@comcast.net
- ♦ **LCM Director:** Belinda Jordan
Email: fumlcm@gmail.com
- ♦ **LCM Administrative Assistant:** Stormie Riveria
Email: lcmsec@comcast.net
- ♦ **Treasurer:** Elaine Hall
Email: loganfirsttreasurer@comcast.net
- ♦ **Financial Secretary:** Penny Schaefer
- ♦ **Worship Leader:** Ali Williams
- ♦ **Media Coordinator:** Luann Hamilton
- ♦ **Pianists:** Deb Binford, Jeff Smith, Elaine Hall

Church Leaders

Our Bishop

Bishop Julius Trimble

First UMC

Pastor Beth Ann Cook

Conference Superintendent

Rev. Lori Blinn

Main Street UMC

Pastor Doug Thomas

Associate Superintendents

Rev. Rob Seewald

Rev. John Randall

Wheatland Ave UMC

Bert Stover

Church Cluster

Crosswind UMC

Pastor Nick Robinson

Our Mission

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision

REACH • EQUIP • SEND

