

First United Methodist Church

It's a Marathon: A Word for UMC Friends and Colleagues



I have friends who run marathons. The son of one of my former parishioners is into Ultramarathons, those are longer distance races for who think 26.2 miles is too short.

For the life of me, I don't get it. I've always hated running. In fact, I pretty much hated my high school PE teachers for forcing me to run. So running a marathon is more like my idea of hell than my idea of fun. But I have

friends who find it exhilarating and genuinely love it. I admire their tenacity and dedication.

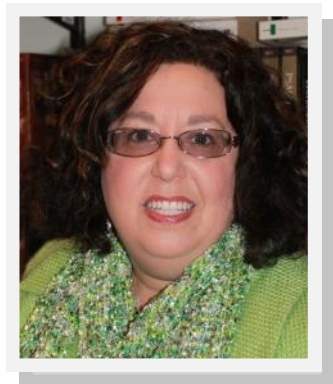
Yesterday the UMC Council of Bishops released a press release saying that they are asking the Judicial Council to rule on whether petitions can or cannot be submitted by outside parties to the called General Conference that will take place in February of 2019. There was an immediate frenzy of second guessing and conspiracy theories on social media.

All of this is understandable.

We care deeply about issues of holiness, Biblical authority, justice, and inclusiveness. We face difficult choices.

The outcome of UMC GC 2019 is far from clear. I'll let you in on a little secret: no one knows precisely what is going to happen. Anyone who says with any degree of certainty that he or she knows the outcome is either lying or deluded. Period. Bishops, delegates, caucus leaders, and "experts" all have educated guesses; but that is all we have. The situation is fluid. There are simply not yet enough details available about what legislation will be before the body. As for the Bishops and the members of the Commission on a Way Forward, they are also divided.

The ties that bind our "connection" are fraying because of lack of trust. After spending a day in a clergy meeting one colleague reflected that we are, "...acknowledging that we don't trust each other...what do we do with that? We can't put this on the sexuality issue. It's deeper. Is this repairable?"



We all know that the church that we love is, in all likelihood, going to go through a dramatic change. We are grieving what was.

We are also fearful about the future. In communities like mine, other churches have gone through ugly splits around human sexuality. So laity are worried about what will happen to their congregations. The stakes are particularly high for clergy and their families. Numerous pastors/pastor's spouses have told me that they lay awake wondering what will happen to their families if they suddenly find themselves jobless, homeless, and uninsured.

But please hear me: as understandable as our speculation and venting is, it isn't helpful. It is not healthy for us or our churches to freak out every time a scrap of news (or rumor) is released.

As I write this we have over 10 months, 318 days to be precise, before the St. Louis called General Conference. That is a long time.

I promise you that everyone involved--delegates, Bishops, and church leaders of all theological persuasions are doing their best to prepare. But this is a marathon not a sprint. We have miles to go.

(Continued on page 2)

News Around the Church

(It's A Marathon Continued)

In Matthew 6:27 Jesus said, "Can all of your worries add a single moment to your life?" (NLT)

We have a choice to make. Will we trust the teaching of our Lord and seek to live, as much as possible, in peace? Or will we exhaust ourselves with anxiety? Will we get caught up in moment-by-moment speculation on social media or stay focused for the long run?

Jesus went on to say, "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." (Matthew. 6:33-34 NLT)

The great heroine of faith Corrie Ten Boom put it this way, "Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength - carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying doesn't empty tomorrow of its sorrow, it empties today of its strength."

Right now we must take a deep breath, give ourselves to prayer, and patiently put one foot in front of the other.

Some of you may be thinking, "That is all easy for you to say, Beth Ann, you actually get to vote." Honestly, thinking about having my finger on that button weighs heavily on me.

I have to remind myself as much as anyone that I have 318 opportunities to share good news, to help captives be set free, and to give hope to the hopeless. Please join me in living for the Kingdom moment by moment for the next 318 days. One foot in front of the other, praying as we go.

God has got this. Jesus is on the Throne. Romans 8:28 still applies.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Beth Ann

- ◆ Phone: 812-550-4736
- ◆ Email: revbethanncook@gmail.com
- ◆ Instagram: [revbethanncook](https://www.instagram.com/revbethanncook)

The Finance Corner

Our finances have improved a bit since the last Newsletter - a huge thank you to all that stepped up! As of 4-30-18 after Sunday's offering was recorded we had a balance of \$1300.00 in checking.

We are grateful to Pat Seifert for her generous donation to the general fund.

We are the proud owners of a new drum set in the sanctuary. It was played for the first time Sunday, April 29th (2nd service). It was prayed over and blessed during that service, and was funded through the Memorial Fund in memory of the following people:

Catherine Grass	Dean Fager	Ellis Whitcomb
Sandra Saunders	Ethel Miller	Randy Mauck
Nelson Becker	Milo Sutton	

Your Co-Chairs, Deb Binford and Scott Schafer



Trustee's Report

Next Trustee meeting will be May 8, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

Some of the items on our agenda will be:

- Landscaping around the church property.
- Landscaping and mowing service for the parsonage.
- Bids for handrails in the sanctuary up to the pulpit level.
- Review bids for resealing and stripping of our parking lots.

Evert Wolfe - Chair

Church & Community News

May Events

National Day of Prayer May 3

The 2018 National Day of Prayer service will be held on Thurs, May 3 at the Veterans Freedom Park at 11:30 AM.



Joy Circle, May 9

JOY Circle meets Wed, May 9 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Arin Shaver, Zoning Director, will present the program. All women are welcome to attend.



LCM Graduation, Friday, May 18

Graduation begins at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



Loaves and Fishes, Saturday, May 19

Every month First Church sponsors a free meal for people in our community who are in need. If you would like to cook please come to the church at 9 AM. Servers should arrive at 10:30 AM. For additional information, contact LuAnn Hamilton at hamiltonl@lcsc.k12.in.us

Pentecost/Faith Promise Sunday, May 20

This year Kim Reisman will be speaking at First Church. Kim is an evangelist, Executive Director of Next Step Evangelism Ministries and author. Her books and resources will be available to purchase.



May 20 is also Pentecost

Pentecost is the day we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit. Let's celebrate Pentecost by wearing red, yellow, or orange!

First Church High School Graduation Recognition, May 27

Parents, please make sure the office has the name of your student ASAP.



First UMC May Meetings

- Mon, May 7** LCM Board, 5 PM, Parlor
Lead Team, 6:30 PM, Parlor
- Tues, May 8** Trustees, 6 PM, Parlor
- Mon, May 14** Finance, 6 PM, Parlor
LHS Scholarship Award Ceremony,
7 PM, McHale Auditorium

Standing Meetings

Mondays

- 7 AM Men's Fellowship, Parlor
- 10 AM Staff, Pastor's Office

Tuesdays

- 9:30 AM Bible Study, Parlor
- 11 AM Prayer Meeting, Sanctuary
- 1:00 PM Women's Bible Study (Sep - May)

Wednesdays

- 5:00 PM Bell Choir (Sep-May)
- 6:00 PM Bible Study (Sep-May), Parlor (See Schedule)
- 6:00 PM Worship Choir (Sep-May)

Bible Study on Mark May Schedule

It's never too late to join Pastor Beth Ann for the Wednesday Night Bible Study on Mark! We will meet May 16 & 30 at 6 PM in the Parlor. Bring your bible, a three-ring binder and a friend! Study materials will be provided.



Take Me Out to the Ballgame Sunday

On Sunday, June 24, First Church will take in a Tin Caps game in Fort Wayne. We will have one casual, blended service at 9:30 so we can all leave in caravans after church. Watch for ticket, time, and price information in the coming bulletins.



Calendar, Birthdays, Anniversaries



May Bible Reading Plan

May	12 1 Chron. 10-12
1 2 Kings 8-9	13 1 Chron. 13-16
2 2 Kings 10-12	14 1 Chron. 17-19
3 2 Kings 13-14	15 1 Chron. 20-23
4 2 Kings 15-16	16 1 Chron. 24-26
5 2 Kings 17-18	17 1 Chron. 27-29
6 2 Kings 19-21	18 2 Chron. 1-4
7 2 Kings 22-25	19 2 Chron. 5-7
8 1 Chron. 1	20 2 Chron. 8-10
9 1 Chron. 2-4	21 2 Chron. 11-14
1 2 Kings 8-9	22 2 Chron. 15-18
2 2 Kings 10-12	23 2 Chron. 19-22
3 2 Kings 13-14	24 2 Chron. 23-25
4 2 Kings 15-16	25 2 Chron. 26-28
5 2 Kings 17-18	26 2 Chron. 29-30
6 2 Kings 19-21	27 2 Chron. 31-33
7 2 Kings 22-25	28 2 Chron. 34-36
8 1 Chron. 1	29 Ezra 1-2
9 1 Chron. 2-4	30 Ezra 3-5
10 1 Chron. 5-6	31 Ezra 6-8
11 1 Chron. 7-9	

May Friendship Day

Logansport Area of Church Women United is hosting the *2018 May Friendship Day, In Gratitude for God's Presence*, on May 12, from 9-11:00 AM at Main Street UMC. They will be collecting pennies for *Fellowship of the Least Coin Offering* as well as non-perishable foods for local pantries. Bring your children and grandchildren!



Logansport State Hospital Job Fair, May 16

LSH is hiring for the following positions, RN's, LPN's, Special Attendants, Housekeeper, Rehab Therapists, and Behavioral Clinicians. Apply today at WorkForIndiana.IN.gov.

May Birthdays

- May 3** Mary Ingram
- May 4** Tracy Stuart
- May 6** Cameron Hamilton
- May 11** Theresa Baker
- May 14** Mike Gray
- May 14** Kendra Hall
- May 16** Donel Evernham
- May 16** Elaine Hall
- May 17** Linda Stilwell
- May 21** Elizabeth Billman
- May 23** Alex Karnafel
- May 24** Michael Swartzell
- May 29** Herbert Bowman
- May 29** Pastor Don Cline
- May 29** Duane Sailors



May Anniversaries

- May 1** Max & Paulette Waltz
- May 14** Casey & Carmen Jones
- May 27** Jay & Martine Byers
- May 31** Joseph & Barbara Leffert

The family of Imy Chapman wishes to extend heartfelt thanks for your many kindnesses to us during the passing of our Mother. Whether it was food, a card, post/text, taking time to attend the viewing or funeral— each gesture was appreciated more than you could ever know, for they are truly the angel wings that carry us through!

Gratefully, Steve, Deb & Andrew, David and Beth

thank
you

Art Association Fundraiser *Hat Stories*— May 4



"Hat Stories" featuring the hat collection of Jan Newton is this Friday, May 4, at 6:30 PM in the gallery at 424 Front Street. Tickets are \$7 or two for \$10. Call

735-2915 to reserve your tickets.

Concerns & Schedules



Prayer Concerns

- * Margie Strang
- * Jack & Elaine Butts
- * Family of Steve Puryear
Nancy Hamilton
Sharon Barr
- * New This Week

Military Service

Alex Karnafel
Matt Karnafel
Michael Kennedy
Joshua Lyons
Tim Strubell

Nursing Homes

MCKINNEY PLACE

Donna Bartlett
Ruben Vizcarra

WOODBIDGE

Jim Hoffman
Pat Siefert

Praying Together

To help us partner with you in prayer, please submit all requests in writing so we can add the names to our written prayer list. (Even if you have verbally requested prayer during a church service.) Thank you. Prayer concerns are usually listed for two weeks.

Church Leaders

Our Bishop

Bishop Julius Trimble

Conference

Superintendent

Rev. Kate Walker

Associate

Superintendents

Rev. Lamar Imes
Rev. Rob Seewald

Church Cluster

Crosswind UMC

Pastor Nick Robinson

First UMC

Pastor Beth Ann Cook

Main Street UMC

Rev. Damon Soper

Wheatland Avenue UMC

TBD

IMPACT 2018 Camps and Events

Christian activities help children discover the gospel, explore big questions, and journey on discipleship steps. It's not too late to register your student. For details on camp schedules, please go to www.BeACamper.com.



May Door Hosts

Sign-up Sheets are on the Mission Bulletin Board in the Café Area.

Educational Wing

8:15 Jill Ehrlich & Bev Bartunek

10:45 Doris Regan

Nursery Hallway

8:15 Max & Paulette Waltz

10:45 Conna Kitchel

Narthex Hallway

8:15 Rhonda & Mike Martin

10:45 Larry Kitchel

MAY CAFÉ SCHEDULE

May 6 Jan Blackburn

13 Fran Murr

20 Kit Clary

27 Conna Kitchel

Volunteers are needed to serve in our Café. Servers provide 4 dozen baked items on the Sunday they have selected. They also set-up the coffee, serve during the Hospitality Time between services and clean up after the second service. Sign-up sheets are located on the Missions bulletin board.

Missions We Support

- Zoe Project
- Kev & Deb Vance, Zambia
- Clara Biswas, Cambodia
- UMCOR Global Refugees
- Kafakumba Tablet Program
- Kafakumba Water Project, Zambia
- Kafakumba Pastor's School, Zambia & Congo
- Little Children's Ministry
- Salvation Army
- Emmaus
- Kairos Torch
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Kokomo Urban Outreach
- The Place to Be



Little Children's Ministry

Little Children's Ministry News

LCM Sunday was held on Sunday, April 29. The staff and children attended first service, and an LCM video tribute was shown in second service. It was a wonderful day of celebration. Certificates of appreciation were awarded, and alumni gave testimonies of their time at Little Children's Ministry. We thank everyone from First United Methodist for having LCM as your ministry for 28 years!

Summer is approaching. We will begin our summer Zoo Crew program on Friday, May 25. Our summer program includes various activities and field trips. This summer's theme is Sports. The children will have the opportunity to stay active and healthy while participating in different sports each week. The Zoo Crew will also host a car wash at the beginning of the summer. Proceeds from the car wash will go towards buying new sports equipment. Anyone who wishes to donate basketballs, soccer balls, croquet, corn hole, or any other sports equipment is welcome to drop it off in the LCM office.



The LCM preschool and daycare will have "Theme Weeks." We have yet to determine these themes. The past themes have been things such as Adventure, Science, Math, Safety, etc. The children love the idea of taking a break from the normal routine while adding some fun to the summer.

LCM will be having a Church Yard Sale on Friday, June 8. Anyone wishing to donate items may drop them off in the teacher's lounge/Youth Room, located in the basement) between May 21 -June 4. We ask that the items be in good condition and clean. We will ONLY be accepting Children's Clothing (sizes newborn-14 Regular). We WILL NOT be accepting adult clothing or coats. Large items (furniture) can be delivered on Thursday, June 7. All proceeds will go toward our "Project Playground" fund. We have earned \$7,831.00 thus far. Our goal is to reach \$15,000. We have recently gotten estimates to install equipment individually. The mountain on the larger side of the playground will need to be replaced first. Once we have raised \$8,861.00 (which includes shipping and installation) we will schedule a date for the "Mole Hill" climbing structure to be installed.

LCM Graduation will take place on May 18 at 6 PM in the Sanctuary. Twenty-three children will be graduating Preschool. The ceremony will include distribution of diplomas and songs performed by the children. A reception will be held immediately following in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend!

May Bible Verse: "Commit your actions to the Lord, and your plans will succeed..."
Proverbs 16:3 (NLT)

Sincerely,

Belinda Jordan, Director

May Events:

13 Mother's Day
18 Graduation @ 6 p.m. in Sanctuary
28 Memorial Day (LCM Closed)

LCM STAFF

Director - **Belinda Jordan**
Administrative Assistant - **Nicole Hacker**
Treasurer - **Tina Collins**

First United Methodist Church

Celebrating Moms & Special Women, May 6 & 11



Hats are optional for both events!

Women's Brunch

Join us this

Sunday, May 6

at 1:00 PM

as we give thanks for

all the Moms and

Special Women

who love and nurture

us. Together we will

enjoy a

delicious brunch and

beautiful music.

Mothers Day, Sunday, May 11

First Church has been blessed with many wonderful women and we want to honor every one of you!

Celebrate with us on Sunday, May 11 as we honor and bless each woman with a special gift.



First United Methodist Church

800 East Broadway • Logansport, IN 46947



Communication

Phone: 574.753.3491

Email: loganfirst@comcast.net

Web: www.loganfirst.org

Church Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 AM-12:30 PM

LCM Office Hours: M-F, 6 AM-6 PM

Sunday Services

8:15 AM - Worship/Traditional

9:30 AM - Sunday School/Fellowship

10:45 AM - Contemporary Worship/*The Stand*

2:00 PM - Burmese Worship

Bible Studies

Men's Monday Fellowship - 7 AM

Tuesday - 9:30 AM

Wednesday - 6 PM (Sep - May)

Church Staff

Pastor - Beth Ann Cook

Administrative Asst - Lori Shewman

LCM Administrative Asst - Nicole Hacker

Media Coordinator - Luann Hamilton

Treasurer - Elaine Hall

Financial Secretary - Penny Schaefer

Pianists - Deb Binford, Jeff Smith, Elaine Hall

Organist/Pianist - Gina Riendeau

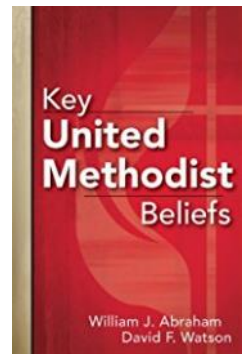
Ongoing Prayer

The Council of Bishops are meeting this week. Prayers for God's will, wisdom, winsomeness, and humility. Also, prayers for translators and group leader, Frank Beard, who lost two sisters recently. Ongoing prayers for the following UMC meetings re: human sexuality:

- **May 9-12:** Commission on General Conference in Iowa
- **May 14-16:** Final Meeting of the Commission on a Way Forward
- **May 19:** Indiana Delegation Meeting
- **May 20-22:** Good News Board Meeting
- **May 22-25:** Called Session of Judicial Council
- **June 7-9:** Indiana Annual Conference
- **Feb 23-26:** Called General Conference in St. Louis

Book of the Month

This book by William J. Abraham and David E. Watson will deepen readers faith and enrich their lives through the study of core Methodist beliefs. It will also help readers integrate these basic beliefs into their daily living.



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