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Top Story Headline: Pastor Beth Ann Cook

What the World Needs Now



1 John 4:7-9 *Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. 8 But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love. God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him.*

In the year I was born Jackie DeShannon scored a hit with the song “What the World Needs Now (is Love Sweet Love).” It was written by the duo of Burt Bacharach and Hal Davis. In his autobiography Davis recalled that the deceptively simple pop song took him over 2 years to come up with. It wasn’t until he turned the song into a prayer to God and thought about writing the antithesis—what the world doesn’t need—that it came together. The lines Davis wrote are “Lord, we don’t need another mountain, there are mountains and hillsides enough to climb. There are oceans and rivers enough to cross until the end of time.”

As 2020 came to a close most of us were grateful for a fresh start. Out with the old and in with the new! But January 2021 has been a rough month. I find myself thinking of that old pop song and praying, “God help us love one another as you love us. Help us see one another as you see us. That is what the world needs right now!”

Recent events have revealed just how divided politically our nation is and how little love we have for one another. That division is, in my opinion, made much worse by the fact that we increasingly live in echo chambers. We have the luxury of only interacting with and hearing from people we agree with. If you are conservative you can watch Fox News. If Fox isn’t conservative enough for you—you can try Newsmax or OANN. Prefer a liberal source for your news? Try the New York Times or MSNBC. Your worldview will be affirmed and your thoughts won’t be challenged.

Social media is even more of an echo chamber. If you haven’t watched the Netflix



original movie “The Social Dilemma,” I urge you to do so! It is eye opening. The movie examines the rise of big tech like Google, Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest. It features interviews of executives who were key leaders in these companies. These platforms utilize algorithms to maximize our time on them (and therefore their profit from advertising). The dangerous side effect of these algorithms increasing addiction, depression and an ever more polarized and divided society.

So what is the solution? It is as simple and as complex as love. Jesus taught us that all of the law and the prophets are summed up in loving God and loving each other.

Mark 12:30-31 *And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’ 31 The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”*

Of course Jesus quickly discovered that we want to define “neighbor” much too narrowly which is why he told us the parable of the Good Samaritan!

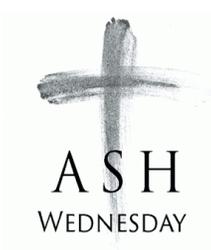
We can’t love people who are different from us unless we interact with them and get to know them. I want to encourage you to take a few steps outside your comfort zone:

- 1) Join me in praying for God to help us love each other well.
- 2) If you haven’t watched “The Social Dilemma” please, please do!
- 3) Intentionally seek out news and information written from different perspectives.
- 4) Take steps to get out of your echo chamber—whether it is liberal or conservative! Try to talk with and understand someone who disagrees. How did they come to that opinion? Why? Try to understand their arguments even if your conclusions are very different.

We have enough politicians, pundits, and platforms. What the world needs now is love sweet love.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Beth Ann

Ash Wednesday– February 17



First UMC will offer two drive thru times to receive prayer and the imposition of ashes in the First Church parking lot. You may choose to either have Pastor Beth Ann place ashes on your forehead or receive a small vial of ashes to take home with you. Pastor Beth Ann will be in the church parking lot from 6:30—7 AM and 6:30—7 PM.

Prayer Concerns



- Myanmar
 - Violence in Indianapolis
 - Teachers
 - Donna Lou Smith
 - Jennifer Burkhart
 - Shirley Dominick
 - Joyce Lawrence
 - Claudia Henderson
 - Family of Mark Pullen
 - Family of Richard James
 - Family of Dick Graf
- Lauren Hanawalt
Ed Hanawalt
Sharlene Arnold
Tim Taylor
Deb Swartzell
Terry Young
Larry Merritt

Email your prayer requests to the church office at loganfirst@comcast.net or call 574-753-3491.

Nursing Homes



McKinney Place: Beverly Hess, Beverly Vietti
Woodbridge: Mike Doering
Milner Community Healthcare: Bev Bartunek

Active Duty Military



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

February Daily Bible Reading



1 Leviticus 1-4	11 Leviticus 26-27	21 Numbers 22-24
2 Leviticus 5-7	12 Numbers 1-2	22 Numbers 25-26
3 Leviticus 8-9	13 Numbers 3-4	23 Numbers 27-29
4 Leviticus 10-12	14 Numbers 5-6	24 Numbers 30-31
5 Leviticus 13	15 Numbers 7	25 Numbers 32-33
6 Leviticus 14-15	16 Numbers 8-10	26 Numbers 34-36
7 Leviticus 16-18	17 Numbers 11-13	27 Deuteronomy 1-2
8 Leviticus 19-21	18 Numbers 14-15	28 Deuteronomy 3-4
9 Leviticus 22-23	19 Numbers 16-18	
10 Leviticus 24-25	20 Numbers 19-21	

Birthdays



Feb 1	Paul Yerkes	Feb 17	Vic Sutton
Feb 8	Laura Karnafel, Bill Byrd	Feb 18	Dale Byers
Feb 10	Bruce Stuart	Feb 21	Jacob Fisher, John Schafer
Feb 11	Carly Hall	Feb 22	Mark Baker, Luke Smith
Feb 15	Nancy Hamilton	Feb 23	Martine Byers
Feb 16	Judy Williamson	Feb 25	Christy Bartlett

Anniversaries Feb 22 Vic & Mary Sutton

February Schedule:



Weekly Schedule:

Monday: Staff Meeting, 10 AM, Parlor

Tuesday: Prayer, 11 AM, Sanctuary

Wednesday: Dial-up Devotion & Prayer with Pastor Beth Ann

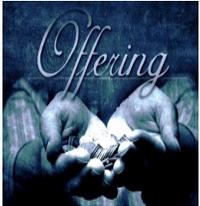
Call 605-313-5919 Code: 635572

FEBRUARY EVENTS / MEETINGS:

Wednesday, Feb 10: JOY Circle, 9 AM, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, Feb 17: Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes, 6:30 –7 AM & 6:30 –7 PM
First Church parking lot

Finance Corner- Jerry Miller, Chair



Thank you to all our members and friends for your continued support. Your generosity to First United Methodist Church has seen us through a very challenging year. We thank God for his faithfulness!

Trustee Report- Steve Longenecker, Chair



The Bright Ray Co re-finished and cleaned most of the floors in the education building. All the flooring in the office, hallways, kitchen and fellowship hall were cleaned and refinished.

After several years of delays we have purchased a replacement Air Conditioning unit for the kitchen/serving line area in the fellowship hall. We received four bids and chose the Charles Stanley Heating and Air Co. The new unit has been ordered and will be installed as weather permits. All the A/C units in the church building will be working again.

Building Relationships with Gratitude– Heather Platt



You know the old saying: we have to take care of ourselves before we can take care of others. Well, that's so true. We all need to insert pauses in our daily lives to have a mental health break, de-stress and focus on what we can control. We need to maintain a realistic notion of what we can and cannot accomplish and be at peace with that.

Relationships are no different. No relationship is perfect but by being gentle on each other and ourselves, we can get over hurdles with acceptance and gratitude. Practice being patient with the parts of other people that frustrate you. Try to set aside differences and accept the person as they are. Suspending judgement unleashes our curiosity and cultivates what is best in us. Rather than to dwell on what is not working, focus on what is. Mindfully reflect on what matters and keep perspective.

Mindfulness brings your attention to the present moment with an attitude of acceptance and non-judgement. Focus on the conversation you are having and be present in that moment. Listen to what the others are saying and observe non-verbal communication. Avoid distraction and do not plan your response without listening. Deliberately listen and engage with expression. Practicing gratitude magnifies positive feelings in relationships and connectivity.

Gratitude triggers feelings of closeness to others and helps us to bond. Those with grateful hearts have better communication, more empathy and stronger interpersonal relationships. Telling others why we are grateful for them helps to build and sustain long term relationships. Everyone needs positive feedback, encouragement and kindness, so tell them the value they hold in your heart. Optimize the time you spend with others and if you admire them, tell them!

Before you go to sleep, give thanks for the day. Think about what went well and celebrate that. Say five good things about yourself and your relationships. Think about the little things that you are thankful for as well as the big things. Gratitude produces long lasting happiness, compassion, contentment and helps us sustain mutually trusting, loyal and happy relationships. Train your brain to hold onto those positive emotions and thoughts to feel more love and connection.

Take care,
Heather

Joyful news!



Kimberly Elizabeth Paschen was born on January 6, 2021. She weighed 8 lbs 5 oz, and was 21" long. Kimberly is the daughter of Ryan & Kelsey Paschen and granddaughter of Dave & Jackie Danhauser. Congratulations to all!

Little Children's Ministry: Belinda Jordan



We are delighted to still be open and providing care for our community. We recently hired 3 new employees to help with our staff shortage. We are hopeful that this will make it possible for us to add more families from our waiting list.

Last year, an anonymous donor (who had given toys and money) sent us some wooden blocks and a building block game. We are very grateful for all that this donor has done for LCM.

Little Children's Ministry is working on taking children back to the Chapel once again. Chapel is currently taking place in the individual classrooms. This has worked out great, but we would like to get the children back in the Chapel for songs, Bible Stories, and Pledges. We are working on a schedule where each class will be able to attend Chapel individually at least once a week. The projects will continue to be done in the classrooms.

It is also our goal to redo the indoor play area to make it easier to sanitize. This play area gives children additional opportunities to experience large motor skill play outside of their classroom. We recently received news from Early Learning Indiana that will make this goal achievable.

During 2020, the *Come Back Stronger* Grant was created to help daycares afford things such as extra cleaning supplies, individual learning supplies, and other means of making our facility safe. We were also able to create additional openings for children. We used the majority of the \$20,000 to create another infant room.

On Thursday, January 28, we were once again approved for the "Come Back Stronger 2" Grant which is \$18,000!

Early Learning Indiana has the same set of guidelines for allowable expenses. We cannot use these funds for regular payroll or any type of bonus or incentive for employees. It is strictly to help make LCM as safe as possible so that we can continue to operate, provide education, teach socialization skills, and have toys available all within a safe set of standards.

LCM Valentine's Day parties will take place on Wednesday, February 10, in each individual classroom.

Thanks for all of the support and prayers for this ministry! We are looking forward to what 2021 will bring to LCM!

Sincerely,

Belinda Jordan, LCM Director

First Church Staff, Contact Information, Service Times



First United Methodist Church

Pastor: Beth Ann Cook, **Email:** Revbethanncook@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Lori Shewman, **Email:** loganfirst@comcast.net

Treasurer: Elaine Hall, **Email:** loganfirsttreasurer@comcast.net

Financial Secretary: Nancy Hamilton

Worship Leader: Ali Williams

Media Coordinator: Luann Hamilton

Pianists: Deb Binford, Jeff Smith, Elaine Hall

LCM Director: Belinda Jordan, **Email:** fumlcm@gmail.com

LCM Administrative Assistant/Treasurer: Stormie Riveria

Email: lcmsec@comcast.net



First United Methodist Church, 800 E Broadway, Logansport, IN 46947
(574-753-3491)

Email: loganfirst@comcast.net

www.loganfirst.org

Facebook Logansport First United Methodist

Service Times

Traditional In-person and Virtual Service on Facebook: 8:15 AM

Contemporary In-person and Virtual Service on Facebook: 10 AM

Haitian In-person Service: 11:30 AM (Starting February 7, 2021)

State/Regional Leaders Church Leaders



Bishop: Bishop Juluis Trimble

Conference Superintendent: Rev. Lori Blinn

Associate Superintendents: Rev Rob Seewald & Rev John Randall

Church Cluster

Crosswind UMC: Pastor Bick Robinson

First UMC: Pastor Beth Ann Cook

Main Street UMC: Pastor Doug Thomas