

Worship Survey Thanks

Thank You everyone who participated in our Worship Survey.

The Worship Team is striving to facilitate worship services that are fresh, interesting, and inviting so that we may know the presence of God.

We appreciate you responding in a candid manner. After analyzing the varied survey comments and answers, the Worship Team came to the conclusion there is still a need to satisfy both the traditional style and the more contemporary style of worship. That really didn't come as a surprise to us. As a result of those findings, we will continue to present a blend of traditional and contemporary style of music and liturgy within our congregation.

There were suggestions regarding the specific nuances of our worship service which were lifted up and we welcomed them. They have been taken under advisement and into consideration. In fact, even though they are sometimes subtle and might not always be recognizable, I am happy to say some of them have already been implemented in our worship service such as a skit, time off for part of the Praise Team, more participation of children in worship, and another voice who is preparing to come along side us on the Worship Team.

We will continue to evaluate the merit of your suggestions to see if they are a good fit for our worship style. Please understand some of those suggestions may have happened already or will be put into practice later but



may not occur every Sunday. Regarding passionate, worship Robert Schnase writes in his book

Five Practices, "Variation speaks both to the heart and mind." He further writes, citing an excerpt from John Wesley's essay on *Directions for Singing*, "The motivation for enhancing the quality of worship and multiplying the opportunities for worship is about allowing God to use us and our congregations to offer a more abundant life for all. God works through us to change the world. Worship is God's gift and task, a sacred trust that requires our utmost and highest."

Remember the point of worshipping God is not the fact the leaders sing a wrong note, or we dress funny, or we make a mistake in delivering the power point or liturgy, but that we have those opportunities to continue to strive to give our best to God. It is about giving our very hearts, it is about being authentic, and it is about being passionate toward God.

As worshippers of God may we be encouraged, invited, and led to experience the Holy Spirit at work in worship and in our lives.

On behalf of the Worship Team and Pastor John, thank you once again for participating in our Worship Survey. May God move you in ways beyond your wildest expectations! In Christ's Love, Rick Peelle, Director of Music



Happy 90+

C. Jayne Miller March 21

Brookdale Nursing Home
3700 S A St Richmond IN 47374



Happy 80+

David Wilson April 8
2203 N Jacksonburg Rd
Cambridge City IN 47327

MARCH MISSIONS MADNESS MISSION CONFERENCE WEEKEND!!!



Hagerstown First UMC Church Family,

Hello! I hope this message finds you well! Spring is quickly approaching! As we anticipate spring, we can also anticipate Mission Conference Weekend (MCW) set for March 14th, 16th and 17th. MCW is a distinctive opportunity for us to tangibly live the mission of the church; to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. MCW brings us the learning, loving and living of missions in action! All we have to do is show up!

This year, MCW has a special focus on Missions of Justice for the Poor with a special focus on children and families. The First UMC Missions team has reached out to bring in several excellent speakers for the weekend who have unique knowledge and hands-on experience on topics related to mission opportunities involving children and families.

MARCH 14TH - FREE PIZZA DINNER!!

Mission Conference Weekend will kick-off on **Thursday, March 14th at 6:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall at Hagerstown First UMC. The evening will include a FREE pizza dinner! Our speakers will include Lieutenant Donnie Benedict from the Richmond Police Department and Mrs. Tiffani Hokey, Nettle Creek Elementary School Principal. Lt. Benedict and Mrs. Hokey will be discussing the School-to-Prison pipeline and at-risk youth in our communities. Is there mission opportunity for the church in coordination with our schools? Come to learn more!

MARCH 16TH - COTTAGE MEETINGS RETURN!!

On **Saturday, March 16th**, Cottage Meetings will be held at **9:30 a.m.** Pastor John and Jen and Bob and Lisa Warner will be hosting separate Cottage Meetings. Each meeting will focus on a different mission topic. The cottage meetings will provide a relaxed, informal gathering time to fellowship and learn more about missions with our church family. Invite a friend! You will not want to miss this opportunity! See additional details below....

Warner Cottage Meeting located @ 6546 Baker Road, Hagerstown

Speaker: Rita Gaither-Gant – UMC Conference Secretary for Global Ministries

“United Methodist Church Missions: From Indiana to Around the World”

Huff Cottage Meeting located @ 200 West Main Street, Hagerstown

Speaker: Karen Bowen – Director of Wayne County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program

“The Wayne County CASA Program: A Unique Mission Opportunity”

MARCH 17TH - FAITH PROMISE SUNDAY!!

On **Sunday, March 17th** during the Hagerstown First UMC **10:15 a.m. worship service**, Mrs. Phyllis Newton will be our guest speaker. We are honored to host Mrs. Newton at Hagerstown First UMC as she shares of her very active involvement in prison ministry. Mrs. Newton demonstrates how prison ministry changes lives of all ages. Her youthful spirit will surely inspire you!

Prior to wrapping up Mission Conference Weekend, we will share a quiet time focusing on God’s call in our own lives regarding missions. We will be asked to be prayerful and consider our annual Faith Promise pledge. As followers of Christ, how will God use us through missions to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world? We cannot fathom the possibilities, but by faith, all things are possible through Him.

I can’t wait to see you at Mission Conference Weekend!

Blessings, Dreu Doerstler Missions Chair