

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown

October & November Newsletter 2021

Words From Our Minister: Pastor Nate Eckert

Well, would you look at that...it's October already! You know what that means – soon the leaves will be changing, and our world will begin to look like a beautiful kaleidoscope of colors. That is one of the things so many people LOVE about this time of the year – well, that and pumpkin spice lattes. In 2013, a study from YouGov found that America's favorite season is fall with 29% of Americans claiming fall as their top pick. People just love the beauty of the fall season and I wonder if there is anything for us to learn from the beauty of fall?

The most important thing we can learn from the beauty of fall is that it is okay to let things go. So often in life we are afraid to let things go because we do not know what will happen if that "thing" is gone. Will life be the same? Will it be easier or more difficult? However, the trees are living examples of what can happen if we are willing to let things go – especially those things that will hinder us. Trees let go of their leaves to prepare for what is to come – new growth and new life.

People, on the other hand, are masters at holding on to things a lot longer than we ought to hold on to them. By holding on to certain things we create more damage than we allow the opportunity for growth. There are many things that we cling to that hinder us from actually creating the life we want and ultimately take away from our sense of satisfaction and fulfillment on a daily basis.

Are you hanging on to any of these things?

old grudges and resentments from past hurts that are real or imagined; excuses that make it easy to stay stuck where you are ; trying to please people or wanting everyone to like you; relationships that no longer support, encourage, inspire or lift you up; trying to control things that are out of your control; that one habit that you know you should change – yes that one – you already know what it is

Sure there are all kinds of reasons why we hang on to things when we should let them go, but let's learn a lesson from the trees. They do not sit around thinking that it's too hard or that they will never have leaves again. They just know it is the right thing to do, so they take a few weeks to prepare and then they simply let it go. When we let go of the things that hinder us we are available to become all that God has created us to be – We become a new creation. The old is gone and a new life has begun.

THE LORD LISTENED by Paula Guth, the Church Mouse"

"When I was struggling for an idea for the 2021 Church Mouse article, I started looking at some earlier ones I had done. This one is from 2015, a year after we moved to Indiana from my lifelong home in Wisconsin. It still seems to fit as we plan a trip back home. I updated a few things. I realize how many things have changed and yet life goes on.

The last few years have been a time of turmoil, change and joy for our church family and me personally. I've lost a beloved brother and some dear friends. I have watched loved ones go through serious health issues and surgery. I sold my long-time home, packed it up and moved to a new home far away IN. I made new closer connections with some family members and made new friends. Our family dealt with old and new chronic illness and bouts with cancer. Life continues to throw hurdles in our path, but God always seems to have something to teach us if we are willing to listen for His whispers. It was my faith, prayer and the help of family and friends that lifted me up and encouraged me along the way. I am truly blessed. The early morning sunshine glistening on the morning dew and the sounds of birds chirping in our backyard or the sounds of children coming to visit and warm hugs are all daily reminders that God is in control and has a plan.

One day while reading in Charles Swindoll's devotional "Day by Day" I felt he was talking about me and many people I know. Read the following excerpt and see if he was talking to you, too.

"Can't seem to get where you want to go fast enough? [Leave it to God](#). Worried about your kids? [Leave it to God](#). Living in a place you would rather not be? [Leave it to God](#). Looks like you won't graduate with honors? [Leave it to God](#). No matter how hard you try your life's partner is not responding? [Leave it to God](#). Found a lump and you see the doctor tomorrow? [Leave it to God](#). You've said the right words to that friend who is lost, and you've been all you know to be, still zip? [Leave it to God](#). Haven't got a date to the prom? [Leave it to God](#). A mid-career change seems scary? [Leave it to God](#). You did the job but someone else gets the credit? [Leave it to God](#). Getting older alone? [Leave it to God](#).

We all face difficulties and challenges, many of which are beyond our control. When the burden gets heavy, when we are afraid or discouraged – we are not alone. Continues: See Page 2



Daily Devotion Booklets
Upper Rooms & Daily Bread on Bookrack
in Friendship Haven Café Donation:

Pip, The Church Mouse continues: In Psalms 34:6 David tells how he called on God for help. *“In my desperation I prayed, and the Lord listened; He saved me from my troubles.”* God pays attention to those who call on Him. We can be certain that He always listens to those who love Him. God bless all those who talk to God and listen for His answer.

Mindy Smith, President of UM Women

“Greetings, Circle Sisters and Church Family!



Joe and I attended our cottage meeting last night at our daughter Erin’s home. We enjoyed getting to know Pastor Nate and Heather on a deeper level and seeing his insights on how we might grow as a Church family. I hope you were inspired by the gathering you chose to attend.

As usual our United Methodist Women have had many opportunities to grow and find new ways to serve since my last article. Again I hope you were able to attend or Zoom one of the many offerings United Methodist Women has made available to you.

Those opportunities will continue to be coming your way as we work thru the end of the calendar year. Most pressing on My Mind as we go forward is a new event for our group. I’ll give you some background for why we are in the process of getting ready for this new venture. In early August every UMW Group in our East District received a challenge from our East District officers. They reminded us of one of Jesus’ Parables, the one you find in Matthew 25:14-30. My paraphrase, a man was going on a trip and called his servants and handed his possessions (Talents) over to them. If you remember this parable the first servant doubled the money entrusted to him, the second one also made more money, the third man only hid the money playing it safe. So with the challenge from the District came 10 talents or dollars and some ideas of how we might turn it into even more dollars so our East District Units will be able to meet their pledges, (the money we send on to state and National level to pay for all the mission work done through our National Organization). Our Executive Committee decided to have a concession stand at a Local Car Show, the AMR Annual Car Show held the 2nd Saturday in October. We will be serving Breakfast and Lunch and

Invite Your Friends



Bring the Kids
Fun stuff happens
Every Sunday Morning
Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Agnes Birth thru 3rd Grade

Every Sunday during Worship Service there is a special time.

Kids In Divine Service

Agnes 3-3rd Grade

Stacy Herr is working with the group. Children are dismissed after the Pastor’s Welcome.

Adult Classes
Why not join one!!!

Upcoming Sermon Series

October & November



Villains: How to Avoid Their Path of Destruction

Big Idea of the Series: This series describes the lives of a few “villains” from the Bible. Through understanding their context and possible motives, we will learn how anyone can become a “villain” who destroys others, but we will also discover that God can redeem even the worst of “villains”.



Stewardship /November

Big Idea of the Series: This Thanksgiving series addresses how we can develop a heart of gratitude to God, which in turn leads to generous giving. Thankfulness is not an occasional act but a lifestyle of intentional and spontaneous appreciation that leads us into the presence of God, empowers us to be grateful in all circumstances and generates an overflow of generosity.

*News for Circle Sisters & Church Family continues:
UMW President Mindy Smith*

we're excited to see how God will use our talents (\$\$) and hard work to meet this challenge from our District . How can I help? You may be asking. If you are just hearing of this. We would love to have any of our church family working by our side and I have a work schedule. I'll be glad to put you down for a two hour shift manning our booth, or helping set up or tear down, even being a runner to bring food from the church. Please consider joining our effort to support this challenge.

Other events to participate in are:

October 1-2nd. *Our Annual Celebration will be Zoom contact me for the Link*

October 7-7 p.m. *Virtual Discernment Event for Laity in the Methodist Church who feel called by God to a full-time vocation in service for those who are marginalized and in need. Again see Mindy for a link.*

October 22-24 *Conference Silent Retreat, St Joseph's retreat Center Tipton.*

November 5-6 *Leadership Development/Officer Training, St Luke's UMC in Kokomo.*

Here at home our schedule remaining is

October 19th *Executive Meeting.*

Saturday November 6th *Fellow Hall General Meeting Hosted by O of Friendship. Light lunch will be served. More info about our program will be announced in your group meeting and in the bulletin. As numbers are coming down for COVID Cases in Indiana, we will plan to have an In Person meeting out as we have learned recently we may have to change closer to our date.*

I would like to Remind our Circle Treasurer's to be either teaching the tithe lesson and including a reminder for World Thank Offering or somehow bring World Thank Offering to our attention. Check your Eastern Indiana Flame for date this needs to arrive at the District level.

Keep your eyes and hearts open to new ways. God might be leading you to use your talents!



In our Parking Lot

Halloween October 31st
6-8 p.m.
Bring your candy!

OCTOBER



80+

- October 3 Gary Hormel **
- October 4 Peggy McCoy**
- October 10 Marvin Culy
- October 13 Pat Sharp
- October 14 Susan Sanders
- October 20 Mary Ellen Owens

** Turns 80



NOVEMBER



- November 9 Phil Bond
- November 12 Ron Luellen

FUMC Treasurer Greta Gustin

Balance Sheet as of July 31

is prepared by our FUMC

Treasurer Greta Gustin. She is always willing to share with you in regards to our church finances. We are thankful for her dedication in keeping us in balance!!



Cash Accounts — Checking, Savings-
Good Building and Savings INU.M. =
\$111,819

Good Fund \$10,749
Faith Promise \$11,060

Let us be thankful for all the bounties of blessings God gives each of us. If you need offering envelopes, they are in the pews, the Narthex, and the Church Office. Our giving records are maintained by the name of the giver either on the envelope used or by the name on the check. You may still designate your giving on the

*envelope to the same categories as we have always had: **Church Ministries (budget), Faith Promise (missions), GOOD Fund (Capital Projects), & other special offerings or gifts.***

2021 Harvest Party

Saturday, October 23rd @ 4pm

Walking Tacos
&
Pitch-In Meal
Drinks Provided

Pumpkin Painting
Hay Rides
Games & More
Bonfire

Stacy and Cory Herr's Home
10875 Moyer Rd, Cambridge City, IN

All Saints Sunday-November 7, 2021

2021 Reading of the Membership Roll Call

Nerite (Rita) Steinke	11/20/2020
Raymond Sharp	5/10/35—11/25/2020
Doris Luellen	2/17/36 —12/5/2020
Mary Asche	12/7/24— 12/17/2020
Audra Hansen	3/5/27— 1/14/2021
Betty Jane Waltz	5/11/29 — 2/9/2021
Gerald (Jerry) Adams	10/28/36--5/28/2021
Friend Frances Workman	7/8/34-4/23/2021

Contact Us:

Rev. Nate Eckert Senior Pastor
Nate.eckert@inumc.org
270-256-0684

Rick Peelle
Director of Music & Worship
nccgardenspso@aol.com
765-220-2336

Carol Meyer
Church Secretary
hfumc@firsthagerstown.org
489-5536 (After office hours)

Connect with Us-
www.firsthagerstown.org

Church Number 489-4558
First Hagerstown United
Methodist Church



Jesus said, "Did I not tell you
that if you believe,
you will see the glory of God?"
John 11:40, NIV

First United Methodist Church
199 South Perry Street
PO Box 65
Hagerstown IN 47346

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