

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown IN

June 2022

Pastor Nate Shares

Let's keep the momentum going! God is doing amazing things! God definitely has plans in the works for Hagerstown and our church! Doesn't that get you excited? There are people who need us. There are people searching. There are people looking for that missing piece or meaning in life.

God is choosing to use YOU! God is choosing to use US! God has called each one of us to be a part of His plan; to impact the lives of people in our communities. I am writing this to you personally, as my brother and sister in Christ, so that if you feel overwhelmed or need encouragement in the days ahead, you can read this and hopefully hear God speak to you through it.

I want to remind you of the great future that God has in store for you and for our church. I know this because God said so. God said that we have not seen, nor heard, or even imagined the great things He has planned (**1 Corinthians 2:9**). That means that whatever we envision for ourselves or for our church is already too small. We may dream BIG but God's plans are BIGGER and God never will forsake us.

Although God promises us a future bigger and better than we could imagine, it's not going to happen automatically. There are some things that we have to do. One of them is to pray about our future. (**Jeremiah 29:11-13**). Another thing we must do is obey. But don't worry, God will help us all with both of those things. The Holy Spirit is God's guarantee of that help. Every time you pray and obey, every time we pray and obey, we are investing in our future.

In the meantime, you may want to do something now for God, for our church, or for the community and move into new areas of ministry for His Kingdom. God is looking for us to be committed to living for His kingdom and His purposes for our lives. God hopes we will look for ways to connect, build relationships that listen, and establish a life that loves. He wants us to be willing to step out of our comfort zones to impact the lives of others for His glory.

Remember, Ephesians 3:20 says, "God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." He has more for us than we could ever imagine. But we have to be willing to take the next step even if that means stepping out of our comfort zones to make a "kingdom impact" on others. Stay focused on God, and He will keep us in perfect peace as He moves us into the future He has for you and our church.

FATHER'S DAY

As Father's Day approaches it can be a triggering event for those dealing with the grief of losing a father, husband, grandfather or other male loved ones. Hopefully, with the passing of time those sad moments become blessings of sweet memories.

My father has been celebrating special days in heaven for 15 years. Yes, celebrating – this man loved people and enjoyed multiple birthday parties or holidays. He was the proud father of 7, grandfather of 9 and the great-grandfather of 2 when he passed away at 87, Dad enjoyed spending time visiting and helping a wide variety of people over the years. When a neighbor or relative needed a helping hand, Dad was there doing what he could. Dad modeled how to be a good parent, husband and friend for all of us. Was Dad perfect? Of course not and he'd be the first to tell you that.

One of Dad's good deeds made it into a book while he was serving as a church deacon. "Angel Kisses and My Beating Heart" was a memoir written by Jack Ramsay, our interim pastor in 1995. Rev. Ramsay wrote, "I enjoyed making monthly communion visits to shut-ins in isolated areas. The church deacons assisted me, sometimes helping me through deep snowdrifts to farmhouses and cabins well off the main road. I will always remember one of my communion assistants, a robust deacon named Ernie Guth, who would use his heavy boots to trample out a pathway through accumulated snow for me. He took delight in telling his fellow church officers that he had finally found a preacher who would "walk in my footsteps" rather than the other way around."

Like most farm kids of his era, Dad had only an 8th grade education. He respected and admired more highly educated people who used that learning to help others without being full of themselves. Dr. Jack Ramsay was such a man. He was a slim, soft spoken, very successful retired minister and author with a Texan accent and inappropriate footwear for unplowed Wisconsin driveways. He gently and skillfully shepherded our church family as we transitioned to be ready to welcome a new minister. May the sweet memories of your father or other male figures be true blessings as we celebrate this Father's Day.

Paula Guth, the Church Mouse

Transfers and Changes in our Membership.

Loma Doerstler has transferred membership to the Economy United Methodist where she is attending.

Karen Leonard has transferred membership to the Avon United Methodist where she is attending.

Peggy Pierce Bullock moved to Heaven on May 17th. A beautiful service was given Saturday, May 20th. Sincere sympathies to her husband Bob Bullock, to her son Eric & Mindy, son Jamie & Indie, girls Tamara Carlton, Dawn Miller, and Anita Pierce; grandchildren Alivia Pierce, Jessica Moore, Makalya Miller plus many more and the greats.

Congratulations to Bruce and Shirley Rueter on their 37th wedding anniversary May 18.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY 2022

If you need extra help, Joe Smith will assist you. Located at 47 E Main Street, Hagerstown. Office will be closed most holidays. Please call Joe Smith at (765) 489-4824

Jefferson Twp - Hagerstown 4th Thursday

Date	Serving Hours
APRIL 28	10 am – 12 pm
MAY 26	10 am – 12 pm
JUNE 23	10 am – 12 pm
JULY 28	10 am – 12 pm
AUG UST 25	10 am – 12 pm
SEPTEMBER 22	10 am – 12 pm

TO THE WOMEN AND CHURCH FAMILY

Dear United Women in Faith and Church Family,

May is almost over! I can't believe how another year is flying by!

Graduation will soon be here and we're working on getting Bibles ready to pass out to four Seniors with ties to our Congregation. This year we will be honoring Emma Carter, Shayna Lane, Lauren Retherford and Trey Sharp. Please be remembering these graduates in your prayers. I believe God loves it when we pray scripture to Him and as I think of giving Bibles to these young people, the scripture I was lead to pray for these graduates was Hebrews 4:12 "because God's word is living, active, and sharper than any two-edged sword. It penetrates to the point that it separates the soul from the Spirit and the joints from the marrow. It's able to judge the heart's thoughts and intentions." I'm praying they will feel God's word, feel that it is alive and active in their hearts. Who knows how God can use His word to touch their hearts and lives? That's why we pass out Bibles to our Seniors.

Something I forgot to share in last month's newsletter is that when we attended the Spring District meeting in Muncie at the end of April we received our Mission Today Certificate, stating that we achieved the honor of being a Silver Unit for the year 2021. I will be displaying our certificate at our joint meeting. Thank you to each and every member, everyone working together is what enables us to make this accomplishment.

I hope you are all prayerfully remembering the task before us, of doing our part to help pay for the new elevator at the Lucille Raines Residence. Pray and consider ways we might raise additional funds to help with this ministry of our United Women in Faith.

I was very proud and touched by how many of you supported our recent General meeting at the Christian Church, when we combined our meeting with the Annual Thrift Store Report. Our attendance was outstanding and all who attended were pleased to hear how our Thrift Store is bouncing back from the problems caused by having to shut down the store during the COVID Crisis. God is good...all the time.

During June we will only have our Circle's unit meetings. In July we will have all the Circles together for our annual "Indoor Picnic", I'm going to have to share the particulars of that get together in next month's newsletter, so be watching for those details.

Keep praying, reading God's word and trying to live out our Purpose.

United Women in Faith President Mindy Smith

80+ & 90+ Happy Birthday
All reside in Hagerstown
47346



Dottie Culy June 1 8221 Baker Rd

Clona Bond June 4
301 S Washington St

Clarence Plankenhorn June 16
204 E Graceland Hgts Dr

Nikki Foust June 23 7370 N St Rd 1

Dick Carey June 24 6481 N St Rd 1



HUMC...A MISSIONS Oriented Church



Our church is devoted to growing "Loving Hearts & Helping Hands"

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving Col 3:23-24.

Mission Moment Making a Difference in Our Community

Our Jefferson Township Food Pantry is in desperate need. FUMC Leadership has seen a way to help by partnering with our Township Food Pantry as an ongoing mission for our church. Beginning the month of June, we will start a new program whereby each month the congregation will bring the raw ingredients to church for a designated meal. The ingredients will be collected at church and taken to the Food Pantry for distribution.

For the month of June 2022, when the kids are home from school, we will be collecting breakfast items for them. The bulletin board in the Café will have cards that you can take as a reminder of what is needed, for the following items:

Boxes of Cereal Bread Peanut Butter Jelly Juice (not refrigerated)

If you are not into shopping, there are other ways you can serve this Food Pantry mission.

- Physically by participating in the distribution of the food provided once a month by Gleaners. Come on the fourth Thursday of the month at 9:15 a.m. to assist in repackaging and loading cars for those in need. The fellowship is great!
- Monetary donations can be made at any time. Just mark your check or cash envelope for Food Pantry and drop it in the offering plate. These funds will be used to purchase meat and discounted food regional distribution centers. Last month, we had a special collection that provided \$874 to the Food Pantry.

Right now the shelves at the pantry are pretty bare.
With your help, we can change that and make a difference in our community.



June Sermon Series – Spirit, Lead Me

Big Idea of the Series: Through this series, we will explore how we can live a life led by the Holy Spirit—both in a general sense and in specific choices. We will come to better understand the role of the Spirit in our lives and in the church based on how Jesus talks about the third person of the Trinity.

- June 5th – Pentecost Sunday – Loving God – John 14:15–26
- June 12th – Our Advocate – John 16:12–15
- June 19th – Father’s Day – Help Wanted – John 16:4b–11
- June 26th – Mission Possible – Acts 2

*Be looking for another Bible Study led by our Pastor Nate.
Check us out on the web site and Facebook.*

First United Methodist

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United Methodist Church



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