

FIRST NEWS AND NOTES

A Newsletter of The First United Methodist Church in Hagerstown IN

July 2022



The word **community** is one of those words that can mean different things to different people. To some, it may mean the neighborhood in which they live. For others, it may mean their entire town. For some, it brings up ideas of sameness or kinship. And yet others, a television show on NBC. No matter the meaning or picture the word **community** brings to mind, it is always followed closely by an idea of togetherness.

It is our togetherness or our ability to live in **community** with others that will change the world. Helen Keller once said, "Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much." **Community** is not just an idea or concept for living, but it is something to be treasured because of the relationships it builds and the lives it changes. Through these relationships, we accomplish more than we can ever imagine. Just like the ripples that spread in the water when a stone is tossed, so our impact spreads when we work, live, and love in **community** with others.

Coretta Scott King said it beautifully when she said, "The greatness of a **community** is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." Now we, as the church, do not work together to show or prove our greatness, but the greatness of God. Our God is a Triune God. Three distinct persons living in absolute unity, working and serving together because of a common interest – us. A better way to say it is that God is the perfect picture of **community**.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working together for our benefit and His glory. As Christ followers, we are to be reflections of Who God is to those around us. Like God, we are to work, play, and serve together for the benefit of others as we bring glory to God. Throughout Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation, we see word-pictures of **community**. Word pictures that show the importance of "common unity," like us being the body of Christ or God's holy people. There are also many Scripture verses that refer to the importance of **community**, like Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Peter 3:8, Colossians 3:14, and Psalm 133:1, just to name a few.

I hope you will join me in the weeks and months to come as we look to grow in **community** with each other and those outside our church. Will you join me as we become a **community** that serves others? Will you join me as we become a living, breathing picture of **community** as we bring others along? Will you join me as we impact our **community** by reflecting God's **community** as we work in **community** with each other? Great things can and will happen through **community** – come and be a part of it!

Pastor Nate Eckert

The Church Mouse

ROAD TRIPS

God created a majestic world with fascinating topography, vegetation, animals and diverse peoples. Road trips are an opportunity to explore new and old places. I enjoy road trips with family and friends to share our experiences. I have chronicled many of them in my journals. Some of the best moments are the unplanned glimpses of natural beauty and the many marvels of our National Park system. God's creations are ever changing and amazing. I have met some unique and quirky characters eager to share their stories or what is special about their hometown. I am eager to try their recommended local foods and diners. As a farmer's kid, I am intrigued to check out how the farmers are doing, the crops, the farm animals and how they have adapted to the vastly different topography and climate zones across our large country. I find it fascinating to learn about the history and stories of the people living in various places. Man has developed some surprising and unbelievable attractions and urban marvels.

We are richly blessed when we can travel and explore unfamiliar places. I am also happy to go back home to my quiet rural life. I am grateful for my comfortable old house with a great backyard, loving family close by and so many wonderful memories to read about in my trip journals. My family claims I exaggerate when I tell about funny conversations or experiences involving them. Perhaps, but they often chuckle when they read my edited versions.

One of the best parts of road trips is reconnecting with family and old friends. We are eagerly planning a fall road trip to spend time with family, see some old and new places and enjoy the vibrant fall colors in northern Michigan and Wisconsin. May your days be filled with the joys of anticipation and sweet memories of your life journeys. To God be the glory!

Paula Guth, the Church Mouse

Happy Days Ahead!

Retirement Congratulations!

Sherrie Knoblock was named the 2022 Shapiro Award recipient for the retiree with the most years of experience with New Castle schools—38 years!

Congratulations on your retirement and service to the students.!



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
JULY 28	10 am – 12 pm
AUGUST 25	10 am – 12 pm
SEPTEMBER 22	10 am – 12 pm

Gleaners - Volunteer helping with this Mission Outreach!

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN IS NOW UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH!

(Shared by our Member Mary Ann Pollard)

This new name is part of a refreshment of our organization that includes a new look, new and improved programs, and a way to nurture our current members as well as welcome new women into our organization. United Women in Faith will continue to put love into action as we advocate for women, children, and youth.

Our new Logo for United Women In Faith! United Methodist Women will be maintained as the legal name of this organization while operating as United Women in Faith and is still the only official women's organization of the UM Church. Our history includes many name changes over the 153 years we have been organized for mission, but we have continued to serve God.



To The Women and Church Family: July is here! Are you ready for Picnics and Family Fun?

The **O** of Friendship has been busy planning for our annual “**Indoor Summer Picnic**” where all the Circles will gather together. This year's theme is “Happy Days Flashback to the 50's” to be held on **Monday July 11th** from 5:45 p.m. to 8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. **O** of Friendship will provide the drinks, meat and fixings. Reflections will do the salad and side dishes and Morning Glories is providing the ice cream sundaes and all the fixings. Fellowship Hall will be decorated, and we'll even have music like the 50's! Dig out your poodle skirts, saddle shoes or other clothes from the 50's! Also, there will be games with prizes plus best dressed 50's award!

BRING A FRIEND FOR GAMES, MUSIC, FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!

Don't forget about **Virtual Mission u** that will be held **July 15-17**. The Bible, specifically Luke 13 will be the main resource. The secondary resource book “Who Can We Be Together?” is a teacher's manual which can be used as a Bible Study or in a Sunday School Class.

Also, mark your calendar for **Tuesday, August 2nd at 7:00 p.m.** **O** of Friendship will have a guest speaker, Cheryl Wilson, who is on the Lucille Raines' Residence Board and will speak to us about Lucille Raines Home and about the new elevator. Please join us for more information about this mission.

Submitted by United Women in Faith Program Resource Coordinator Mary Ann Pollard



Loving Hearts & Helping Hands

LH & HH ministry is open for business of serving others. Several persons of our church have volunteered their willingness to help others in our church community.

LH & HH ministry is offering assistance with...home visit, nursing home visit, prepared meal, transportation to appointment, church and/or errand.

Do you know of a person or persons within our church and/or Hagerstown community who could benefit from receiving any one of these care actions?

Please Call our HUMC 765-489-4558 or
Pastor Nathan at 270-256-0684 or
Debra Salhoff 317-726-6131.

Continued: Loving Hearts & Helping Hands

The information received about a potential client (name & phone number & need) will be held in strict confidence.

This ministry is open to anyone who is willing to serve in the name of our **Lord Jesus Christ**.

In our HUMC Café' there are **LH&HH Ministry** sign-up sheets. Complete back of sheet and place in offering plate.

A **LH&HH** Ministry may be of any age. Take another sign-up sheet for other family members who may want to serve in a different way than yours's.

Sympathies and Prayers to the Families and Friends

Our friend and member **Jo Anne Sager** passed away. She'll always be remembered for her great alto voice and singing "He's Alive" on Easter for many years. She served the church in many ministries. She leaves son Greg, wife Kathy, daughter, Cheryl.

Nathan Rhoades, son of Randy and Ciss, brother Cary, Debra, Shelby & Camden, passed away Saturday, June 11.

Rick Peelle's brother, **Doug Peelle**, has passed away June 20. He suffered with cancer and was on our prayer list for months. He now is pain free!! May God comfort all families in their loss.



Mission Moment

Making a difference in our Community

Our Jefferson Township Food Pantry continues to be in desperate need. As part of our partnership with them, we will continue to collect donations at church and take to the Food Pantry for distribution.

For the month of July 2022, when the kids are home from school, we will be collecting lunch 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:

SpaghettiOs/Ravioli
Macaroni and Cheese

Ramen Noodles
Peanut Butter

Coolers will be on hand to receive:

Hot Dogs

Meatballs

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 am 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 from regional distribution centers.

During the first two weeks of June we collected \$225 for the Food Pantry and food donations were delivered both here to the church and directly to the pantry.

With your help, we can continue to Make a Difference in Our Community.



July Sermon Series – Songs of the Summer

- July 3rd – Song of Joy – Psalm 33
- July 10th – Song of Sadness – Psalm 88
- July 17th – Song of Anger – Psalm 137
- July 24th – Song of Repentance – Psalm 51

Big Idea of the Series: The Bible is full of emotions. This myriad of emotions is best highlighted in the rich and artistically beautiful book of Psalms. This series will explore four emotional themes found in the Psalms, detailing what they mean for our relationship with God today. “Songs of Summer” discusses God’s delight in our joy, his presence in our sadness, his understanding in our anger, and his eagerness to forgive in our repentance.

Take a Hike We are trying something **NEW!** Each month we are picking a different state park to do some hiking. This is open to anyone and everyone - families, couples, singles, young, and young-at-heart. Our hope is that as we enjoy the great outdoors, we will see how great it is to get to know each other too! We think connecting with others is important to our mental well-being so we want you to know that



For the month of July, we have chosen one of the best hiking spots in Indiana—Cliffy Falls State Park. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10 a.m. on July 16th and caravan/carpool to Madison, IN together. We will also be stopping for lunch to make sure we have the energy for hiking and conversations.

Contact Us:

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**First Hagerstown
United Methodist Church**



First United Methodist Church

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9:00 a.m.
Adult, Youth,
Children
Sunday School
10:15 a.m.
Worship
K.I.D.S. during
worship.
Join us!

Non-Profit Org.
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Return Service Requested