



Seeking to
make disciples
of Jesus
Christ for the
transformation
of the world

through actively reflecting
the love of Jesus Christ.

WORSHIP

Sunday Morning Service

State Roads 14 & 5

Worship Service
9:00 am

Sunday School
10:15 am
Features children's
programming, youth and
adult small groups.

CONTACT

South Whitley
United Methodist Church
6685 W SR 14
South Whitley, IN 46787

260.723.5107
260.723.6418 fax

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
9:00am - 3:00pm

Childcare & Preschool Needs

260.723.5105
Jodi Sims, Childcare
Director
Traci Kreider, Preschool
Director

**Newsletter
Announcements**
swumc@embarqmail.com

the Messenger

southwhitleyumc.com



Introducing Rev. Jerry and Lisa Milner:

"By the will of God, I will come to you with a happy heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other. And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all." (Romans 15:32-33)

Like Paul, Lisa and I come to you with happy hearts and encouraging spirits. We've been married 35 years and have two grown, married children – Leon – his wife, Rebecca, and Meghan – her husband, Chris. Leon & Rebecca live in Sarasota and have one child, Elaina. Meghan, our daughter, lives in Atlanta, and had her first child the beginning of December.

I grew up in nearby Hicksville, Ohio, and attended Bethel Methodist in neighboring Cecil. Lisa grew up in New Haven, Indiana, and attended Salem UCC in Ft. Wayne. I graduated from New Haven; she from Woodlan High School and later from Ball State University.

As a teen God called me into ministry but I, like Jonah, I went another way. At Ohio State and in the Air Force my spiritual life cooled. Then, God sent me to Carswell AFB where my grandparents had retired. Grandma said, "We'll pick you up at 8:30 for church." I couldn't find an excuse so there we were. We went to lunch with the pastor and, somehow, I became Ridgela UMC's youth pastor.

After the Air Force, I worked in data communication and computers for AT&T Paradyne in Texas, Indiana, and Florida. God called again through a men's Bible study at Aldersgate UMC in Seminole, Florida. After receiving a promotion and raise, I felt a voice asking: "Is it enough?" I admitted that I was climbing the wrong ladder. Again the Voice came: "It's time." And, I knew. In 1994, Lisa and I sold our home and moved our little family to Kentucky to receive a Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary.

In 1998, we returned to Florida and served on staff at a large church in St. Petersburg. We went on to serve Christ as the senior pastor at First UMC in Jacksonville, a decade at Trinity UMC in Sarasota, and our final 4-year appointment at Hudson FUMC. This summer we retired from the Florida Annual Conference after 20 years of service and returned to Indiana to be near family.

At this point in my life, I'm too young to really retire. "We make our plans, but the Lord orders our steps." Through a series of "God incidences" we have been led to South Whitley UMC to be your spiritual coach and pastoral family.

We look forward to meeting you, building trust, and taking Christ into our hearts and to our community. Until that time, Lisa and I leave you with the apostle Paul's blessing: "And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all." Christmas is here – time to celebrate that God has given us His Peace, the Prince of Peace – Jesus who is the Christ!

Un-hanging Of The Greens

The Amish have a phrase they use when they are building a new barn...it is "Many hands make light work!"

We are not building a barn, but we know that many hands will make the work lighter as we "un-hang" the Christmas greens in our church.

This Sunday, January 6th, right after coffee fellowship, we will take down and store all of our Christmas greens and we need your help!

Please join us in this wonderful tradition, right after coffee fellowship, on Epiphany Sunday, January 6th.

~ Michele and the worship committee

Thank You!

There are many things I cannot possibly do on my own at the church and "Hanging of the Greens" is one of them! Our church is blessed with a beautiful sanctuary as well as many other wonderful areas that are decorated for Christmas. This created a beautiful foundation for all of our worship services. We received several positive and encouraging comments from visitors, who appreciated our dedication to the tradition of transforming our church.

One of my love languages is acts of service, so this group of people who helped with "Hanging of the Greens", filled up my "love" tank on Nov. 25th. Although our team was small, I would like to especially thank the following people for helping with the "Hanging of the Greens" this year: Rod Roman, Luke Spurlin, Storm & Aiden Baldrige, Rick, Chloe, & Kendal Bollinger, Jeremiah & Heather Bingham, Patty & Jerry Good, and Tony, Julie & Reagan Klepinger.

Also want to say thank you in advance to all those who help with the "Un-hanging of the Greens". Again, there is no way I can do all of it myself. Your servant heart and hands are very much appreciated.

~ Michele Payton

Mission News

We received this note from the Food Bank..."Thank you for your donation and continued support to the South Whitley Food Bank. We are truly blessed by people like you that help us provide assistance to families and citizens in need. We appreciate your generosity and giving spirit! Your donation will allow us to continue serving members of our community. Your donation means the world to us. Have a Blessed Day! Thank you, South Whitley Area Emergency Food Bank Board." It is signed by the members of the board.

There was such a great response to our Bring Back the Sack project, (Rod had to make 2 trips) we would love to start the new year with another overwhelming response. For January's cart we are asking you to again Bring Back the Sack. There is a supply of sacks in the cart. The list on the front asks for hygiene items... soaps, lotions, toothbrushes and paste, laundry and dish soaps, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Thank you for keeping the blessings flowing through your generous spirits into this new year.

Zumba

Zumba resume on Tuesday, January 8th with a with a \$5 drop in class followed by a 6-week session. The 6 week session cost \$35 or you can do \$7 drop in on any Tuesday. The Tuesday evening classes are at 6:30pm in SWUMC's Social Hall. The easy-to-follow demo class is designed for ALL ages, shapes, sizes and fitness levels. No registration needed just drop-in and help us get the News Year Zumba party started.

2019 Giving Envelopes

The 2019 giving envelopes are available in the Church Lobby. You can help the church save postage by picking up the envelopes labeled with your name. If you would like to start using envelopes, you may pick up a packet without a name on it.

Our Gifts, Our Presence (to date thru November 30, 2018)

To date thru Oct	Actual	Budgeted
Regular offering	\$195,686	\$229,167
Debt retirement	\$18,409	\$16,500
Other	\$3,019	\$981
Giving Total	\$217,114	\$246,648

To date thru Oct	Actual	Budgeted
Expenses	\$218,673	\$238,184

Expenses were under budget by \$19,511

Overall Expenses were higher than Giving for a deficit of \$1,559

Mortgage balance at Nov. 30 was \$68,438

	Attendance	Worship	Sunday School
Nov. 4		116	24
Nov. 11		85	33
Nov. 18		103	44
Nov. 25		109	0
YTD Avg		112	38

Giving was under budget by \$29,534



Mark Your Calendars

- January 1 - Office & Sonshine Child Care CLOSED
Happy New Year!
- January 2 - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- January 3 - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- January 7 - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- January 8 - Zumba (6:30pm)
- January 9 - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- January 10 - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- January 13 - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- January 15 - Zumba (6:30pm)
- January 16 - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- January 17 - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- January 20 - Fusion Bowling (after church)
- January 22 - Zumba (6:30pm)
- January 23 - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- January 24 - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- January 27 - Fusion (6:30pm)
- January 29 - Zumba (6:30pm)
- January 30 - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- January 31 - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)

Our Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 - Sam Mink
Laura VanPatten | 22 - Lee Eberly
Lisa Engle
Greg Hippensteel
Deb Norris |
| 4 - Vivian Sickafoose | 23 - Nevaeh Bingham |
| 6 - Tyler Barnhart | 28 - Kaylee Adkins |
| 8 - Gabriel McDevitt | 29 - Todd Bechtold
Heather Bryan
Devin Krider |
| 11 - Tim Kahn
Kelli Kreider | 30 - Reese Klepinger
Mike Kline, Sr
Larry Nicodemus |
| 13 - Matt Lopshire | 31 - Alicia Sellers
Natalie Bryan |
| 15 - Ethan Nicodemus | |
| 18 - Amy Bechtold | |
| 19 - Terry Eberly
Rylie Ousley
Katey Till | |
| 21 - Baily Beiswanger | |

Anniversary

- 30 - Larry & Alice Nicodemus



Our Prayers



Military Personnel

- Johannes Bingham
- Benjamin Bryan
- Justin Roman
- Zach Snep

Darlene Welty

Send things to Darlene in care of...
Justin Welty
46 Woodacre Drive
Carmel, IN 46032

Peabody Retirement

Margaret Graham

400 West Seventh Street
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Geraldine Graves

400 West Seventh Street
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

Timbercrest Senior Living

Buford Baker

PO Box 501
North Manchester Indiana 46962

Mitten Trees

Annually SWUMC's Children's Education Department has a tree for our church family to donate hats and mittens for children in our community. This year we have two! One is located in the Church Lobby and the other is located on the lower level of church just outside the church work-room. We will be collecting gloves, mittens, and hats through January 6th. Thank you in advance for your generosity. All items may be placed on or under one of the two Children's Ministry Giving Trees.

Cap Collection

Little Turtle Elementary in Columbia City will be collecting plastic bottle lids to build outside picnic tables for the teachers to take students outdoors and have a space/surface to learn at. You can place the caps and lids in the white plastic tub located in the church Lobby. Sarah McGehee, childcare staff member, will then get them to the Little Turtle Elementary School. Here is the list of acceptable caps and lids:

- milk jug caps
- medicine bottle caps
- detergent caps
- toothpaste tube caps
- coffee can lids
- cool whip container lids
- ice cream bucket lids
- drink bottle caps
- hair spray caps
- ointment tube caps
- spray paint caps
- mayonnaise jar lids
- butter container lids
- flip-top caps
- yogurt lids
- cottage cheese container lids
- cream cheese container lids
- spout caps deodorant caps
- peanut butter jar lids
- prescription bottles (labels removed)
- caps with recycle numbers 2,4, and 5

