



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

through actively reflecting
the love of Jesus Christ.

the Messenger

southwhitleyumc.com

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

I was frustrated. AT&T Paradyne had given me the opportunity to open a field service office in Ft. Wayne allowing Lisa and me the chance to move home. My manager in Cincinnati, Bruce, was an effective leader but the reason he'd opened the Ft. Wayne office was the Indianapolis office – they were ineffective. Customer satisfaction in both sales and service was consistently low which meant revenue was down and customers were going elsewhere. That happens to churches, too.



Here's the connection: At a once thriving church in Sarasota where anger and disappointment hung heavy in the air I was brought in to lead a "closure committee." In conversations with the church's leadership, staff, and laity we came up with an alternative – bring in an effective local pastor and rebuild the local leadership teams. Some said, "You'll kill this church!" and other things I won't print here. But, within a year, they were healthy enough to engage their mission.

Let's look at the early church in the Book of Acts. In one day the church added 3,000 believers – you couldn't possibly know everyone (but that's not the mission of any church). The leaders were asked to do more and more until, like Moses, they recognized the need for a shared ministry. The mission of the church is not to serve the members but to engage each member in the ministry God has called and equipped them to do. Engaged Christians advance the mission of making disciples. Satan loves idle hands, wagging tongues, and hurts that won't be healed.

Are you engaged in the mission of South Whitley UMC? I'm impressed with the many beautiful ways Christ is being discovered and shared. Are you engaged enough to be passionate about the mission – Making Disciples? Are you engaged enough to invite your family and friends? Are you engaged enough to put the past where it belongs – behind us – and heal old wounds by unilaterally offering forgiveness and inviting those who once called SWUMC their spiritual home to come and see the new thing God is doing?

Over the long-term a church can accomplish more with 30 engaged Christians than with 3000 disengaged attenders. A disengaged church will dwindle. Let me challenge each of us to serve. Find a place where your spiritual gifts, passion, and experience will bring joy to you, Christ to others, and glory to God. Join a caring small group and let's "do life" together.

Every United Methodist is asked to engage the mission through Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service and Witness. I hope to craft a culture here at South Whitley where we expect people to serve, join a group, bring a friend and give generously. It's a simple and effective strategy: Connect (small groups); Serve (volunteers); Invite (bring friends); and Give (fund the mission). That kind of engaged church changes lives and communities. It worked for that church in Sarasota. A commitment to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment will grow a great church!

Pastor Jerry Milner

Church Chat by Pastor Jerry

The Executive Leadership Team (ELT) met on Feb. 21st and one of the items agreed upon was scheduling our first Church Chat for Sunday morning, March 24th at 10:15am following worship in the sanctuary. Church Chats are open to all members and attenders invested in SWUMC.

I hold informal Church Chats 2 or 3 times a year. This particular Church Chat will include conversation around "The Way Forward" and the results of the called General Conference that took place in February. We will end with a challenge to listen to the Holy Spirit for God's direction (our vision).



Social Covenant

A Social Covenant was created and adopted by the ELT at the February 21st meeting. The Social Covenant is how the leadership of SWUMC will

treat each other. The following is the covenant adopted.

1. How does the leadership team want to be treated by the pastor?
 - a. Available
 - b. Mentor / Coach
 - c. As an equal
 - d. Open to ideas / new ways
 - e. 2-way accountability
2. How does the leadership team want to be treated by one another?
 - a. Respect
 - b. Willingness to listen / transperence - honesty
 - c. As an equal / all ministries equally important
 - d. Integrity / Trust
 - e. Helpfulness / Teamwork
3. How does the leadership team intend to treat the pastors?
 - a. Transparency
 - b. Accountability
 - c. Uplift in prayer
 - d. Co-worker
 - e. Support System
4. How will we handle conflict or difficulties when they arise?
 - a. Remove judgment / Safe space
 - b. Proactive vs. Reactive
 - c. Win-win / Mutual purpose / Agree to disagree but support team decisions
 - d. Listen to all / Facts vs. Opinions
 - e. Prayer / Christ centered

Chat & CHEW **Meet Jerry & Lisa Milner**
 in a small group at the parsonage.
Limited space - SIGN UP today.

Join pastor Jerry & Lisa for an informal gathering in the parsonage. We will have snacks and beverages after we get to know one another and share a little of our stories. These gatherings are limited to 12 guests to help Jerry fix names to faces. Come and see your parsonage and our new home.

Gathering dates are:

- ◆ Friday, March 8th at 6:30pm
- ◆ Saturday, March 9th at 2:00pm
- ◆ Sunday, March 10th at 2:00pm

There will be a sign up sheet available on Sunday for you to sign up for a gathering or you can call the church office at 260-723-5107.

Do You Order from Amazon?
 You Can Help Your Church!



If you order items from Amazon's website, as many of you do, you can help the church financially through their program called **Amazon Smile**. It is a way to make a gift to your church that doesn't cost you anything.

When you shop at **Amazon Smile**, Amazon will donate .5% of all amounts you spend with them to our church. The products available and prices are exactly the same as through the regular Amazon site.

It is easy and there is no charge to you. Instead of logging in to the regular Amazon.com site, just go to **smile.amazon.com**. When you first log in, you select the charity you want to benefit. Select "search for charitable organization" and type in "United Methodist Church of South Whitley Indiana Inc." Our church name will pop up and once you have selected it, you will not have to do it again if you log in through **Amazon Smile**.

We suggest changing your "favorites" to **smile.amazon.com** to make it easier to log to that site each time in the future.

What could be better than making a gift to your church that doesn't cost you anything?

Sr. High Camp by Tony Klepinger

I know the snow is still flying outside but it's time again to start thinking summer camp. See, you're feeling warm already. We, at South Whitley, believe in camp. Camp is one of those events in a students life that has been and could be a life changing experience. It's a place they can be challenged, encouraged, strengthened, and most of all EAT! Okay seriously, I've been going to camp now for 18 years and I've watched first hand how camp can change someone's life. It's a week of amazing worship, powerful speaking, and meeting new people.



This year we again will be partnering with another church so early registration is crucial. The cost is \$200. If you can't afford the registration, there are scholarships available but they do go quickly, so see me if you need to look into this. We will be attending the week of July 4th (June 30th-July 5th). This is also a great opportunity to invite a friend (or 4) to come. This year we have reserved one of the new cabins so as a bonus, you get an air conditioned log cabin with stainless steel appliances, Wi-Fi, and a big screen TV. Seriously, it's called camp.

Finance Update

Because of weather, worship service was cancelled two Sundays in January. In addition to members missing a worship experience, the finances were greatly affected. Expenses for January exceeded revenue by \$4,881. Hopefully each of you will be able to do your part in helping to recover this deficit.



Your Finance Ministry Team,
Dennis Norris (Chair), Royce Ruckman (Co-treasurer), Pam Sherbahn (Co-treasurer), Baily Beiswanger, Bill Adkins, Calvin Sellers, Jeanette Eberhart, Jodi Sims, Tina Ray, Staci Beiswanger



Jesus asked, "Do you love me?...Feed my sheep." John 21:17. This is a scripture that speaks loudly to me, I guess because my grandma was a feeder. I am so glad to be a member of a church who also believes that.

For our "Fill The Cart", we are continuing our sports metaphors. This month is March Macness filling the cart with mac & cheese, pasta and sauces, peanut butter and jelly.

Your Missions team has a great year planned keeping our usual projects and we added a few new ones. This month we begin by packing totes of weekend food supplies just like the Backpack Meal Ministry program for the After School Central/Campus Life program.

Mark your calendar for another Easter breakfast at 8:00am on April 21st. We will have a sign up sheet for your carry in dishes. This year we are adding a flyer to the backpacks to invite those families to join us for fellowship and Easter service.

For those of us who shop end of season sales or are looking forward to cleaning out our closets, we are starting a coat drive this fall for K-12 Whitko students. We will be accepting new or CLEAN gently used coats.

We are also looking into doing something for our active military personnel. We are open to any ideas you have.

We always welcome help after worship service to assemble the Backpack Meals. Thank you for your generous hearts that will make this year another successful one.

Your Missions Ministry Team,
Amy Bechtold, Ellie Adkins, Hilary Nicodemus, Kate Burch, Traci Kreider, Lucy VanHoozen, Rhonda Snavley, Renee Nicodemus, Samantha Staley

Our Gifts, Our Presence (to date thru January 31, 2019)

To date thru Jan	Actual
Regular offering	\$13,330
Debt retirement	\$863
Other	- \$82
Giving Total	\$14,111

To date thru Jan	Actual
Expenses	\$18,992

Overall Expenses were higher than Giving for a deficit of \$4,881.

Mortgage balance at Jan. 31 was \$65,899

Attendance	Worship	Sunday School
Jan. 6	129	0
Jan. 13	church cancelled	
Jan. 20	church cancelled	
Jan. 27	101	40
YTD Avg	115	40



Ash Wednesday

...your invitation to a Spiritual Spring Cleaning!
 Feeling tired, regretful, or distant from the person your pet thinks you are? Come to SWUMC for a 30-minute, Ash Wednesday Service March 6th at 6:30pm. Open to all. Come just as you are and leave as you hoped you could be!



Mark Your Calendars

- March 3** - Pack Backpack Fusion Ice Skating (11:15am)
- March 5** - Zumba (6:30pm)
- March 6** - Ash Wednesday Service (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- March 7** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- March 10** - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- March 11** - Rainbow Preschool Open House (6:30-8:00pm)
- March 12** - Zumba (6:30pm)
- March 13** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- March 14** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- March 17** - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- March 19** - Zumba (6:30pm)
- March 20** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- March 21** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- March 24** - Church Chat (10:15am)
Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- March 25** - Missions Team Meeting (6:30pm)
- March 26** - Zumba (6:30pm)
- March 27** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- March 28** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- March 31** - NO Fusion

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



Popcorn Prayer

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray continually, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Fire up your faith, fill your heart and calm your soul. Come check out the Popcorn Prayer group on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We pray first to praise and thank God. We pray for each other, our church, our community, our country, and our world. We pray for everything God lays on our hearts. You can also be a silent partner if you aren't comfortable praying aloud.

Come check it out. Why not make it a Lenten commitment? Bring a sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord and just see what happens in your life.

Our Celebrations

Birthdays



- | | |
|--|---|
| 2 - Jeff Idle | 16 - Darlene Welty |
| 6 - Rodney Spurlin | 17 - Janice Swender
Bruce Wrightsman |
| 5 - Wade Eberly | 19 - Brooke Hollenbaugh |
| 6 - Bill Adkins
Dawn Britten
Mitch Yeager | 20 - Jim Eberhart
Luke Spurlin |
| 7 - Aiden Baldrige
Hudson Roman | 21 - John Langmaid Jr. |
| 8 - Carli Butt | 22 - Tony Klepinger |
| 9 - Margaret Graham | 23 - Todd Gilbert
Delaney Ray |
| 10 - Aiden Roman | 24 - Lily Spurlin |
| 12 - Katherine Ousley | 26 - Don Gilbert
Kole Kreider |
| 13 - Addyson Roman
Avery Roman
Rod Roman
Jan Winterrowd | 28 - Kaden Kreider |
| 14 - Zoey Vogely | 29 - Scott Lukens |
| 15 - Wyatt Nixon | 30 - David Ousley
Royce Ruckman |
| | 31 - Chuck Trump |
-
- ### Anniversary
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2 - Nick & Lucille VanHoozen | 19 - John & Jan Kauffman |
| 8 - Bruce & Dora Gable | 20 - Scot & Rebekah Ousley |
| 11 - Cory & Maudie Sickafoose | 29 - Buck & Laura VanPatten |
| 18 - Dan & Staci Beiswanger | |

