

July 2020 Harbinger



See, I am doing a new thing!

Dear Friends,
We have made it to July!! Whew! What a year it has been so far! Amen?

We are now back in our church building worshipping together and it makes my heart so happy!! For those of you who have not felt comfortable coming back just yet, please know that I, that we all, miss you and are praying for you!! You are not forgotten!! God is so good to us even in these days that we find ourselves!!

I have been in a lot of prayer, intentional prayer, this past month! You might say, “Well, Pastor Gwen, shouldn’t you be in intentional prayer all of the time?” I would say, yes and then ask shouldn’t we all? With that being said, I am human and these past few months have been somewhat overwhelming to me, as I know it has been for each of you! I will admit that there was a short time that I just felt like what do I pray for? Do I pray for the pandemic to be gone? Do I pray for those who have fallen ill with the coronavirus? Do I pray for the doctors and nurses? Do I pray for those in the nursing homes? Do I pray for the families who have suffered loss and couldn’t have funerals due to the virus? Do I pray for the family of George Floyd? Do I pray for the communities who are suffering from the riots? Do I pray for those who are rioting? Do I pray for the police officers that are being hated upon and even killed due to the killing of George Floyd? Do I pray for our church to be open again? Do I pray for those who have reached out to me for prayer for various things in their lives? Do I pray for my son and granddaughters, my family, my friends? Who do I pray for and which situation is more important to pray for than the other? I think that it was so much all at once that I kind of fell into not knowing what exactly to pray for! Can any of you relate?

I found myself saying a lot of times, “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus” and “Lord have mercy on your people! Lord we need you!” When I reflect upon this I realize that these words cover all of those situations and people that needed prayer! Now this does not give us an easy out! We should be intentional in our prayer life and pray for what the Lord places upon our hearts! Absolutely! And I also know that when we are overwhelmed and not sure what or how to pray we only have to cry out to God, call on His name, call on Jesus’ name and He hears and He knows!! So what I want to say to myself, and to all of us, don’t stop praying!! Even if you don’t know what to pray for! Just pray!

Our world needs it, our country needs it, our community needs it, our families need it, our church needs it, and we need it!! Don’t stop praying!! For God is listening!!

Let me leave you with these encouraging words from Isaiah 43:18-19 “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it

springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.”

And also these words from Jesus found in Matthew 11:28-30, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

God is always at work! Don't fear! Just pray and look for Him in the faces of everyone that crosses your path! No matter who they are! God loves them, just as He loves you!

Please make note of the CDC guidelines we will have in place starting July 5th which will be listed here in the newsletter!

Take care and be in prayer! We need it, our nation needs it and our world needs it! Do not despair! God keeps His promises, always and forever!!

Love to you all,
Pastor Gwen

Workers Needed!



Since it is so hot and I don't know when we can arrange a work day for the church and parsonage, here is a list of what needs to be done. If you can do any of them and are willing, we would be so thankful. If you do the job, please let me know so I can take it off the list. Linda

1. trim trees in the front of the church - if you have one of those saws on a "stick", that would be great.
2. trim shrubs around the sign in front of the church (Doug will do these)
3. a gutter is loose on the church and needs to be re-anchored
4. fix locks on Pastor Gwen's front storm door (this has been taken care of)
5. trim tree back off the roof at the front of the parsonage - or possibly taking that tree out (your decision)



July Birthdays

- 7th Ellie Branson
- 14th Bob Cox
- 17th Roger Mapes
- 19th Doug Brown
- 21st Ruth Friend
- 22nd Karl Harmeyer

Piecemakers have a large quilt made, "Pansy Park", for which tickets are now available. 6 for \$5 or \$1 each. We do not yet have a date chosen for the drawing of the lucky person. Contact Lori Dickerson, Janet Harmeyer, Connie Robb or Sandy Brown. A picture of the quilt is available by these ladies and one will be in a later Harbinger. Thanks for your support.

Community Christian School is looking for some part time teachers for the fall. 5th-7th grade Math is needed; Art, Music and 1st year Spanish would be great to have. This would cover less than 10 students right now. If you have any interest or questions, please contact Sandy Hodson (765-309-3188)

GRAND AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES
June 9, 2020

Members present were: Pastor Gwen Pew, Robbie Geise, Roger Mapes, Brian Robb, Linda Fennell, Connie Pitcher, Chad Hodson. Connie Robb attended as secretary. Donna Stern, Keith Runyon and Cindy Perez were absent. Gwen opened the meeting with prayer as we do what God has planned for us.

Our first service since the pandemic will be held on Sunday, June 14th and will seem quite different as we deal with the virus. No music, no bulletin (will be on screen), offering will be given individually, masks should be worn, no shaking hands. If you want to congregate we hope you will meet others outside following the service. The building will be sanitized following service, will be locked up and no one should be in the church from Sunday to Sunday. Service will continue to be shown on you tube for those who cannot come to church. However, the Krauses will not be doing the children's message. They did a great job.

The next topic has to do with necessary equipment needed to keep our church services streaming and available to other users. We have submitted a grant request for some video equipment but have not heard the status of our request.

Brian has concern for the Happy Time Pre-School and will be following the state school guidelines on how we should proceed for the school.

Connie Pitcher talked about having a yard sale on July 24 and 25 to sell summer clothing and get ready for fall and winter. Will need help from the congregation in helping set up, tables, racks etc. The rain date would be last of July 24th and 25th. Council approved the yard sale.

Linda explained that there are 2 leaks that need to be repaired. The first leak will cost approximately \$4,000 and water damage in the Volunteer Room has not been determined but there is a large hole in the ceiling area.

Chad presented the financials and explained the finances for May as
Total Revenues: \$14,891, total expenses: \$9,684,

A special meeting using the Zoom teleconferencing was held to explain what "equalizing members" are and how they will represent our district. Two members from First United Methodist were selected to attend Conference and represent our district.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. No date was set for the next meeting.

Just a little humor

The teenager was in my boutique for at least an hour choosing the perfect dress for a party. But the next day she was back with the outfit.

“Can I exchange it for something else?” she asked. I was surprised but I couldn’t argue with her explanation: “My parents like it.”

When my friend phones the IRS recently, he prefaced his comments by stating, “I’m calling with the stupid question of the day.”

The tired-sounding agents replied, “Too late.”

For the umpteenth time in one shift, my coworker at the grocery store somehow managed to offend a customer.

“Do you ever think about the things you say before you say them?” I asked.

“No,” he admitted. “I like to hear them for the first time with everyone else.”

On the way to church one Sunday morning, Johnny’s mother turned to him and asked if he understood why it was important to be quiet during the service.

“Yes, Mommy, I know. Because Daddy will be asleep.”

A church preschool teacher was watching her class of four-year-olds enjoying free time for art. One little girl seemed especially engrossed in her drawing, so the teacher walked over for a closer look.

“I’m drawing a picture of God,” said Callie.

“Oh, honey, no one knows what God looks like,” said the teacher.

“Well, they will when I’m done!” replied Callie.

PHASE 3 Re-Entry – July 5, 2020 Worship

In addition to the East Ramp/Front Doors; the North Volunteer room door will be open to use.

Bulletins may be provided by Greeters and/or Ushers.

Offering plates will be at each entrance/exit. Folks are asked to place your offering in the plates upon entry of the building.

Hymnals, and Pew Bibles can be used. They are in boxes at the back of the church. If used, please place on the pew as you leave so that they can be wiped down and sanitized.

Social Distancing will still be encouraged, but there is no maximum number of gathering.

Holy Communion will continue to be celebrated using Phase 2 guidelines. Holy Communion will be celebrated each month, however we will use pre measured cups of juice and cups with wafer for each person prepared by one person wearing a mask and gloves. Those in attendance will be invited to come forward one row at a time on each side of the sanctuary and pick up their own cups and then place them on the inside of the wooden cover to be disposed of after the service.

Children's Church and Nursery will be open and available. Masks and sanitizer will continue to be available throughout the sanctuary and are encouraged.

Meetings/Small Groups Social distancing guidelines are still encouraged but not required.

"LYNN & FRIENDS"

Sounds of Faith and Freedom



Sunday, July 19, 2020

3 PM ~ FREE!

Rusty Ammerman, Ann Frost,
Kim Giesting, Andrew Jones, Lynn Kennedy



First United Methodist Church
729 Central Avenue
Connersville IN

