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# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



April 2024

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## Sanctuary: The 50th Anniversary Part Three: History of the furniture and artwork in the Narthex and Library

*Phil Lehman, Chair Church Archives and History*



Sunday, May 5th, will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of worshipping in this sanctuary. The narthex has had many changes over the past 50 years. It has been enlarged, the office moved, library added and entrances changed. Furniture and artwork have been added, too. The south entrance portico was a gift from long-time church secretary Grace Sherwood. The Children's Communion Table was given in memory of Charles Russell Snider.

The beautiful murals on the wall by the entrance to the sanctuary were designed and painted by Jeff Stillson. Around the upper walls in the narthex are Bible verses. Bev Fales and Honey Walters solicited favorite Bible verses from the Sunday School classes and applied the verses to the walls. The communion service in the display case was given in memory of David Stoops and the communion chalice was given in memory of Jeanette Beehler. At the base of the display case are the cornerstones from the three church buildings whose congregations joined to become the Nappanee United Methodist Church. The left stone is from the United Brethren in Christ building, in the center the Evangelical/EUB building and on the right the 1887 Methodist Episcopal building. The stained-glass panel in the display case is from the skylight in the narthex of the 1916 building.

Entering the library, the stained-glass panels were designed and made by Nate Wiggins. The doors to the library were original to the 1887 building, used in the lower level of the 1916 building and restored for the library with new stained-glass inserts. The library bookcases were designed and built by Chet McCuen with wood trim salvaged from the 1916 building. Many of the picture frames were made by Mr. McCuen from salvaged wood trim. Above the bookcases are pictures of the church buildings whose congregations joined to become the Nappanee United Methodist Church. The watercolor on the south wall was paint-

ed by Wilma Snider. The picture between the windows was given in memory of John Doering. On the north wall are pictures of the 1916 sanctuary and a commemorative plate given by the Bolyard family. There are two drawings by Nappanee artist Max Gwin. The table with the spiral legs was from the Ladies' Parlor in the 1916 building and was a gift of the Women's Christian Society. The display case was made in 1928 by J. L. Neher and presented to the church by the Ladies Aid Society. Above the table is a framed elevation of the Market Street view of the 1916 building.

In the room hosting Sacred Grounds, the Cross and Flame was given in memory of Robert Bolin.

There are many more gifts that are part of our church heritage and Phil would appreciate any information you may have about their history. Our records are incomplete, and some gifts just appear with no explanation.



Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



The grocery item needed for Open Door for April will be crackers. Any variety will be fine, from soda crackers to graham crackers, even Goldfish crackers. Let's fill the grocery cart.



### A wakeup call

God — let me be aware.  
 Let me not stumble blindly down  
 the ways,  
 Just getting somehow safely  
 through the days,  
 Not even groping for another hand,  
 Not even wondering why it all was  
 planned,  
 Eyes to the ground unseeking for  
 the light,  
 Soul never aching for a wild-  
 winged flight,  
 Please, keep me eager just to do  
 my share.  
 God — let me be aware.

God — let me be aware.  
 Stab my soul fiercely with others'  <sup>pain,</sup>  
 Let me walk seeing horror and  
 stain.  
 Let my hands, groping, find other  
 hands.  
 Give me the heart that divines, un-  
 derstands.  
 Give me the courage, wounded, to  
 fight.  
 Flood me with knowledge, drench  
 me in light.  
 Please — keep me eager just to do  
 my share.  
 God — let me be aware.

—Miriam Teichner



Earth Day is April 22nd

The *Parish Voice* is the monthly newsletter of the Nappanee United Methodist Church

Articles are due the 20th of each month

*Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.*

*Articles submitted after the deadline may not be included.*



## Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday  
 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

Church: (574) 773-4183  
 Parsonage: (574) 773-7259

office@nappaneeumc.com  
 www.nappaneeumc.com



### Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



### Our Staff

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Custodian: Kathy Goodman



- 03 Amy Berger
- 04 Lily McGuire
- 05 Dick Pletcher
- 06 Tyler Phillips
- 06 Jenni Wysong
- 07 Jerry Huff
- 08 Vickie Miller
- 08 Bob Stover
- 12 Nikki Bliss
- 16 Tony Garl
- 17 Sarah Myers
- 19 Bryce Knepp
- 19 Deb Whetstone
- 20 Kent Beehler
- 21 Ian Campbell
- 21 Henry Garl
- 23 Lindsay London
- 23 Marcia McKee
- 24 Harold Collins
- 25 Tim Miller (Jane’s husband)
- 29 John Personett
- 30 Janet Lemler



|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| <u>In-Person Worship</u>        |     |
| March 3                         | 97  |
| March 10                        | 74  |
| March 17                        | 89  |
| March 24                        | 101 |
| <u>On-Line Worship</u>          |     |
| March 3                         | 19  |
| March 10                        | 28  |
| March 17                        | 10  |
| March 24                        | 17  |
| <u>Sunday School Attendance</u> |     |
| March 3                         | 40  |
| March 10                        | 21  |
| March 17                        | 38  |
| March 24                        | 36  |



**WOW**

The next WOW meal will be Wednesday, April 10th. Serving starts at 5:15 pm. The meal will be chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, and a dessert. Please make sure to sign up on the sheet outside the office.



**Finance Update**

*By: Jenni Wysong*

Financial Update:  
Offerings for February were \$20,176 (down \$3,509 from Feb 2023)  
YTD Offerings are \$57,254 (up \$8,652 over YTD 2023) a 17.8% increase  
Expenses for February were \$16,337 (down \$10,837 from Feb 2023)  
YTD Expenses are \$36,698 (down \$11,676 from YTD 2023) (pastor savings)

All apportionments/tithes were paid in February.



**Better Together**

On Tuesday, April 23rd, at 12:00 noon we will be lunching at El Rancho Viejo Mexican Restaurant. It is located in Bremen at 1106 W. Plymouth Street. Cute and colorful decor inside and great Mexican food. Join us for food and fellowship that can't be beat! The sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the office door. Olé!! Let Dianne know if you have any questions.



- 17 Todd & Krystal Beer
- 23 Bob & Helen Strang
- 26 David & Lindsae Harrold
- 27 Jeff & Angie Stillson

## Time To Spring Clean For Missions!

Spring is here! It's time to do some spring cleaning and clear out things that you no longer need or use. Be sure to check your bookshelves. Maybe your bookshelves hide some priceless treasures. *Priceless*, you ask!?



Yes, God's Word is *priceless*! This month we've having a Bible collection. Many people around the world can't afford to buy a Bible or even have access to one to read. Most of us probably have an extra Bible or two we no longer need that would be valuable to others. Maybe it's one that you don't use, a duplicate, or a version that is not your favorite. Each one of these Bibles could be priceless to those who

long to read God's Word.

Your bookshelves may hold other treasures, too! Devotional books, Sunday School literature, books on discipleship, Christian living, faith, and children's books – especially Bible story books, etc. can be used. If they are in good shape, bring them in and they will become someone's valued treasure.

These Bibles and other books will then be taken to a mission in Michigan called Mission Cry. This mission has an interesting history beginning in 1956. A junk collector noticed that among the stuff he collected were good Bibles and other Christian literature that were ending up in the landfill. He rescued them and sent it to missionaries he knew who could use them. As others found out about his work, he received more books, until today it has grown into what is now called Mission Cry. The name comes from the cry around the world for good Bibles that can be used and treasured.

Once Mission Cry receives these materials, they sort and send them out, sowing God's Word to those who long for it, but don't have the access to it that we have. Missionaries, teachers, pastors, and evangelists gratefully receive and pass them on freely to others through their churches, schools, seminaries, etc. And yes, to them, they are priceless.

At the display table in the narthex, pick up a paper that lists the accepted literature. If you find some treasures in your bookshelves, place them in the box at the display table. Ask your friends and family to check their bookshelves, as well! Maybe they, too, would have something to donate.

You can also help by donating money to cover the \$1 per book overseas shipping charge. Just mark on your offering envelope "for shipping Bibles."

God's Word is definitely valuable and shouldn't remain unused on the shelf. So please help us turn them into someone's priceless treasure.



## New Additions to the Library

*By: Pat Lehman, librarian*

The following books have been added to our library:

*Catching Fireflies* by Patsy Clairmont—a book about teaching your heart to see God's light everywhere.

*High Yield* by Tom Berlin and Lovett H. Weems Jr—seven disciplines of the fruitful leader.

*Methodist History*

*Practicing Resurrection* by Janet Wolf—the gospel of Mark and radical discipleships.

*A Journey of Faith* by Edward Grinnan—a mother's Alzheimer's, a son's love, and his search of answers.

*Loyal* by Danielle Steel—a novel as World War II rages on, the king and queen of England choose to send their youngest daughter to safety to live with friends in the country. Only her guardians know her identity. Following the war she returns as a princess to London.

## Nappanee United Methodist Thrift Shop at Work

The Thrift Shop Volunteers work each and every week to earn money to give to **Missions, both locally, and in the United States and Worldwide.**

Below is a chart to show what the volunteers donated in **2023.**

\* Paid in 2024

| MISSION   | AMOUNT          |  |
|---|-----------------|--|
| Church Utilities  | \$2,400         |  |
| Operation Classroom   | \$1,000         |  |
| Open Door   | \$2,000         |  |
| C.A.P.s   | \$2,000         |  |
| Aided a Nappanee resident to help pay for surgery                                       | \$1,000         |  |
| Aid to child under 2 years of age who needs ongoing therapy                             | \$1,500**       |  |
| Church Missions   | \$4,000         | \$2,940 to cover Missions not fulfilled by congregation. Plus \$1,060 to UMCOR |
| For parsonage—new refrigerator & range  | \$2,810*        |  |
| Bible School Expense  | \$300           |  |
| Gift certificates were given to the staff to express our appreciation at Christmas-time | \$800           |  |
| Toys for Tots   | \$500           |  |
| School Supplies Drive   | \$500           |  |
| Bright Beginnings Scholarship   | <u>\$560</u>    |  |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$19,370</b> |  |

\*\* Will continue to donate as needed

Plus \$5,000 pledged to church budget in 2024, to be paid quarterly.

## SAVE THE DATE!

The Nappanee UMC will be helping with a work day/clean up at Camp Adventure, North Webster on Saturday, May 11th. We will be asking for volunteers in the next few weeks. Look for more details as we get closer to the date. Contact Rick Jenkins with any questions: 574-903-3688



## Volunteers Needed!

There are volunteer days coming up to help ready Epworth Forest and Camp Adventure for youth ministry this summer.

Camp Adventure  
April 13th  
May 11th

Epworth Forest  
April 27th

Please let Vince Pattengale



know if they are coming. His number is 574-518-1988.

## Celebrate 50 years!

You are invited to join us Sunday, May 5th, at 10:00 am at the Nappanee United Methodist Church when we celebrate 50 years of worship services in our sanctuary. It was Sunday, May 5th, 1974, during the worship service led by Pastors James Willyard and Terry Rhine that the congregation moved from the old sanctuary in the 1916 building at 301 East Market Street into the new building to the east which included the sanctuary, office and chapel. Commemorating this special occasion Pastor Terry Rhine will return to deliver the message. Many of the pastors who have served the church will be guests at the service. Following the service there will be a reception to greet Pastor Rhine and the former pastors.

The Nappanee United Methodist Church traces its local heritage to three early Nappanee congregations: Methodist Episcopal, Evangelical Association, and United Brethren in Christ. In 1946, the Evangelical and United Brethren Churches joined nationally to become the Evangelical United Brethren Church and in 1959 merged locally to become the Nappanee EUB Church. In 1968, the Methodist and EUB Churches merged nationally and locally in 1969 to become the Nappanee United Methodist Church. The congregation held worship services in the former Methodist Church Building until their new church building to the east was completed in 1974.



## Special Sunday—Native American Ministries Sunday



April 14th, is the special Sunday for the Native American Ministries. This Sunday recognizes and supports the contributions of Native Americans to the church and society. Part of the funds collected allow us to collaborate with existing native ministries, create programs and support seminary scholarships for the United Methodist Native Americans. Fifty percent of the offering remains in your annual conference to develop local ministries. The conference committee on Native American ministry (CONAM) administers these funds. There will be flyers available on the side table in the narthex in the weeks leading up to the Special Sunday. There will be a special envelope in the bulletin and on the table in the back of the sanctuary on April 14th that you may use for any donations. You may also use your offering envelope, but make sure you note that it is for the Special Sunday offering.

## Wanted: Grass Cutters

The summer mowing schedule will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office. The mowing schedule starts in May. The Trustees are looking for volunteers to mow the church lawn. Please sign up for the weeks you are available or call the church office and we'll sign up for you. Responsibilities would include cutting the grass, checking for weeds and trimming where needed. If you have questions, contact Tom Parciak at (630) 935-9573.



Melodies of Compassion, the coins that you drop in the offering plate, has mostly been forgotten since the offering plate is no longer passed during the church service. The youth Sunday School would like to revive that by asking that you help them support a special mission by remembering to drop your coins in the plate each Sunday. They plan to donate these coins to support helping the hungry children in Gaza. Every coin will help.