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# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



July 2023

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## Ashworth Headstone

By: Phil Lehman, History Chair



In the April Parish Voice article about Moses Ashworth and the restoration of his headstone there was a picture of the damaged headstone. The headstone renovation has been completed and has been placed at the UMC Camp Rivervale near Mitchell, Indiana. Camp Rivervale is now the location of the oldest Indiana Methodist Church building still standing and also the headstone of Moses Ashworth, Indiana's first ordained Methodist minister. Neither the headstones nor the church building are original to this site. The

church building was located near Charleston, Indiana and the headstone was located near Mt. Vernon, Indiana. They both needed a permanent location and this southern Indiana UMC site fit the need. However, it is quite likely that Rev. Ashworth preached in the church building when it was located at Charleston as it was part of his circuit.



## Susanna's Kitchen—A Christian Outreach Program in the Elkhart Area

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair

Recently we received this thank you from Susanna's Kitchen so I thought I'd share it.



*We at Susanna's Kitchen want to thank you very much for your April mission donation. It is greatly appreciated. We are moving into our new location this week (May 21, 2023) and hopefully up to serving the less fortunate in about 2 weeks. Thank you for your prayers. Dale McDowell, Director*

Susanna's Kitchen is an important mission in Elkhart that serves a hot noon meal to anyone needing it. These are individuals that need help because of age, health, or physical reasons without reference to ability, age, gender, race, or religious belief. The idea to serve these meals had their roots beginning in

the Grace United Methodist Church of Elkhart over 40 years ago. They have only 1 paid director and over 60 volunteers coming in each month to help.

Susanna's Kitchen has been struggling for the last year or so to find a permanent home. As soon as they pass the final inspections, they will finally be setting up in its new home at Grace Lutheran Church on Marion St. in Elkhart and will open their doors to the community near the end of June.

As they finally get to open up their new space and prepare to serve those in need, they kindly ask for our continued prayers and support. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a significant impact on the lives of those less fortunate. Your generosity will help them continue their mission of providing nourishing meals to those who need it most.



Thank you for all the prayers and concern showed for Maggie. She is recovering well from her surgery!  
-The Berger Family



Thank you to all that donated cookies and to Nancy Stover for her help. Also to all who came to say goodbye to the Reeds on June 11th.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



Thank you for recognizing my recent graduation! Not only did I receive a card and an Amazon gift card from the church, I got many well wishes and gifts from members of the congregation. I appreciate the effort this church puts in to keep up with the things going on in my life.

Kendall Wiggins

Dear Nappanee United Methodist Church,  
 I am so thankful for all of the prayers since my accident!  
 My parents always told me “that if you mess with fire, you will get burned”, well they were right!  
 One of my friends told me that I didn’t need to take “being on fire for Christ, literally!”  
 Jokes aside, I am blessed in so many ways! I am thankful for a loving family that believes in the power of prayer, and Christians that don’t just say they will pray, but actually do pray!  
 I’ve had a front row seat, seeing how intercessory prayer can be such a blessing!  
 I am thankful for you all!  
 To God Be All Glory!  
 Sincerely,  
 Trenton Smith  
 aka/Dick and Diana Smith’s Son



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.*



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

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 Parsonage: (574) 773-7259

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 www.nappaneeumc.com



**Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



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Custodian: Kathy Goodman

While an Interim Pastor is unusual for a United Methodist Church, we have one for the next six months. The Rev. Mary Hubbard comes to us from South Bend, after serving churches in our Conference for more than forty years, and in some cases, while also working in social services. She began in Etna Green, served a coopertaive Parish as Director in rural Miami County, and served as Senior Pastor of multiple staff churches since then, mostly in South Bend. Her last appointment was as Senior Pastor at First United Methodist in South Bend, serving for twelve years. She brings experience not only as pastor, but in social services and in Interim Pastoring. Since retirement, she has been Interim at both Coalbush UMC in Mishawaka and at Grace UMC in South Bend. Please remember to introduce yourself to her several times (after all, she is old) so that she learns your name. She is excited and happy to come to Nappanee, for she knows our community and several of our previous pastors. Thus, she has kept track of us over the years. Welcome, Mary!



- 01 John Loucks
- 04 Larry Haney
- 05 Caelynn Tobias
- 05 Randy Slabaugh
- 07 Rick Jenkins
- 07 Alexander Knepp
- 09 Maya London
- 13 Roxy Elphick
- 15 Kathy Anglin
- 16 Dorothy Haney
- 17 Steve Phillips
- 18 Andrew Tobias
- 25 Mark Hines
- 28 Bob Riley
- 30 Dean Cousins



- 05 Wayne & Martha Dinkeldein
- 07 Bob & Jan Neidigh
- 11 Dick & Diana Smith
- 16 Randy & Jo Slabaugh
- 25 Zoran & Jade Sipic
- 26 Ben & Krista Leavitt



In-Person Worship

May 28	66
June 4	77
June 11	85
June 18	71

Sunday School Attendance

May 28	28
June 4	36
June 11	38
June 18	37



**Congratulations!**

Martha and Wayne Dinkeldein will be married 70 years on July 5th! They will be celebrating with a family dinner. The girls are asking anyone that would like to, to please send cards and/or say a prayer for them.

427 Hickory Ln  
Nappanee, IN 46550



**Better Together**

*By: Dennis & Dianne Debelak*

Our July 24th Better Together will be held at the farm of Don Truex and his family. They will be treating us to a cookout of hot dogs and hamburgers and some wonderful fellowship together! Plan to bring a dish to share, of your choice, with the group. We will carpool from the church parking lot on Monday, July 24th, at 4:45 pm. It is about a 30 minute drive south to Mentone. Don's address is: 510 S. Franklin St.(Franklin St is SR 19) in Mentone. In advance we'd like to thank Don for hosting us that evening. Please contact us or Don if you have any questions. As always, the sign-up sheet will be posted by the church office door.



**Sacred Grounds**



Sacred Grounds, our Coffee Bar, is located off of the narthex. It is open on Sunday mornings before and after Sunday School. Regular decaf coffee is provided and also the 'fancy flavored' coffee. Each week we have a volunteer hostess who provides us with goodies and snacks. Come a little early to have a cup of coffee and snack and chat with your friends before worship. A sign-up sheet is located in Sacred Grounds if you'd like to sign up to provide the snacks one Sunday. Contact Roxy Elphick if you have questions.

## Congregational Survey Results

By: Kent Schwartz, Chair of the Staff-Parish Committee

Thank you to those forty nine individuals that completed and submitted their responses to the recent survey distributed to gain insight into the congregation’s perceptions on what was needed in the qualities of our next appointed pastor. Your responses were compiled, without editing, and then forwarded to our District Superintendent and Bishop for their consideration.

When asked for your perception of what listed statement best described our church in terms of worship, discipleship/outreach, and decision-making, the number one response was:

- Worship - “Worship is important but our primary identity is caring for one another and providing a place where people know and are known by one another.”
- Discipleship and Outreach - “Our pastor should be visible in the community and well connected with community activities.”
- Decision-Making - “In decision making, process is important to us. People will live with a decision if they believe the process for making it, allowing everyone to be heard. Important decisions require lots of discussion.”

You were then asked to contribute your remarks on three different issues. Your exact remarks were submitted but due to the number of remarks, a condensed summary is given for each question asked.

The first question asked for what concerns, if any, or special needs the new pastor should know. Overwhelmingly, it was felt that there was a strong need for prioritization of the needs of our shut-ins, sick and hospitalized members. Visits and phone calls needed to be made. Recognizing that we are presently an older, aging congregation, there was a perceived need to bring into membership, younger families with children in order to sustain our existence as a church. Thirdly, there were quite a few remarks focusing on the need to balance the traditional worship service format with the contemporary, expressing a need for inspiring sermons with relevant and practical application within our daily lives.

The second question asked for limiting factors relating to race, gender, age. Very few chose to provide any written responses, only twelve. The majority of those who did respond felt that we were a generally accepting, welcoming congregation. Several believed that we were mission-focused, and that life-styles were grounded in Scripture.

The third and final question asked for a response centered on leadership qualities needed in our next pastor. Most often mentioned were the need for a pastor that had the ability to reach out to all groups and had the needs of shut-ins, sick, and hospitalized as a top priority. Also often mentioned was the ability to be a good communicator, leading our church with direction to its mission. Graced with strong lay committee leadership, the new pastor needs to embrace the structures and staff that are in place and build from there.



## Financial Update

By: Jenni Wysong, Finance Chair

The finance committee continues to pray consistently to achieve financial sustainability in our church and we greatly appreciate your faithful stewardship. We are working hard to S T R E T C H our dollars each month. Year to date, we are still ahead in general fund offerings by \$7,500, however expenses (not including tithes/apportionments) are up \$4,140. We’ve paid \$1,878 less in tithes/apportionments in 2023 due to insufficient working cash balances. It’s important to note that the increase in offerings includes \$3,000 from the profit on the sale of Martin’s/Meijer gift cards. Payroll, insurance, and utilities continue to account for the vast majority of our spending.

From July – December, we will realize savings of 25% of our pastor salary budget with our Interim Pastor at a ¾ scale. We will also save on insurance and pension responsibilities for those months.

General Fund Information:

May 2023 Giving \$22,742 - down \$3,192 from May 2022

May 2023 Expenses \$25,923 - up \$795 from May 2022 (but we paid \$1,716 less in apportionments in May so general fund spending actually up \$2,500)

Building Fund Information:

May 2023 Giving \$1,309 / Spending \$99

Fund Balance \$28,010

