
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



June 2023

McCurdy Missions

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair



With the passing of member Joan Knepp, I would like our church to honor her memory by supporting McCurdy Missions.

McCurdy Mission, now known as McCurdy Ministries Community Center, is the mission where Joan served as a medical technologist for many years.

As McCurdy begins their 110th year in the Española Valley of New Mexico, it is hard to even begin to count the number of lives impacted through the years because of McCurdy's presence. McCurdy has been much more than just a system that provided an excellent education with a Christian influence. Among the programs and services started by McCurdy are a fire department, a local nursing school and hospital, and after-school programming.

The following is from a recent letter we received from the mission. I think it presents this mission in a way that explains why it is important for our church to continue to support it.

"For 110 years, McCurdy Ministries Community Center has been an oasis that provides our Pre-K and Camp Stars students (after-school homework program) who may be hungry two square meals a day. McCurdy is also a place of structure, safety, learning, and fun for students whose home lives may be in chaos. McCurdy is a place where students, confused by life issues, can be unconditionally listened to, loved, and helped to grow by our Project Cariño counselors. The sad fact is that many of our students are stressed by the conflict they experience on a daily basis, so the unconditional positive regard and peaceful presence our counselors provide may just be the most important thing in a student's life."

McCurdy Schools are still creating a safe haven and giving students in the area a chance at a better life. Joan served as a medical missionary in Española, N.M., Vietnam and Pakistan. Let's give to McCurdy Ministries to honor Joan's service to God as a missionary in the New Mexico area that she loved.



Vacation Bible School is almost here! VBS dates are June 4-6 with a Family Night Dinner on June 7th at 6:15. As we approach the event, we still have a few needs:

1. Direct any potential participants to our website www.nappaneeumc.com to register!
2. We are still in need of Crew Leaders! Crew Leaders simply help lead kids from station to station and help them participate in activities. No preparation required!
3. Lastly, please be in prayer for all involved with VBS and for the kids and families that will be walking through our doors!



Graduation

If you or a family member is graduating this year, please contact the office for a Graduate Recognition form to fill out and return to the office. Graduation Recognition Sunday will be June 18th.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



Condolences to the family of Joan Knepp who passed away on May 8th.

Summer Camp

Summer church camp registration is still open. Through beautiful locations, exciting activities and intentional relationships, campers and guests are encouraged to reflect, grow, and amplify the impact in their world. Get details at impact2818.org. Contact the office for the camp code before you register online to receive a 50% discount.



Kendall Wiggins
Graduation Open House
June 9th, 2023
5-8 pm at West Park Pavilion
Everyone is welcome!



Scholarship Opportunity

Are you or someone you know attending a Christian college or university? Apply for the Bolin scholarship to earn some money to help offset the cost of attending college. Contact the office for the application. The deadline is July 1st.



Thank you to my church family for all the wonderful get well wishes. I appreciate your prayers, cards, texts and phone calls so very much.
-Audrey Mather



Lois Cook
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Goshen, IN 46526

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

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



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Pastor's COLUMN

Following God's Journey

By Pastor Kevin Reed

*We always thank
God for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV

“We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 NIV

This is my last newsletter submission to *The Parish Voice*. I dare say it is probably my last newsletter submission to a local United Methodist Church's newsletter. By the time you are reading the July newsletter, I will be serving Cimarron and Kalvesta Methodist Churches, part of the Global Methodist Church denomination, in Southwest Kansas. And Nappanee United Methodist Church will be beginning a new journey with an interim pastor and looking forward to the pastor who will bless you and serve with you in ministry into the new year and beyond.

There has been much speculation and, in some cases, surprise that I am leaving. Let me be clear that I am not leaving Nappanee because of anything that was done or not done in this church or due to any issues with any person or committee in this congregation. I love this church, and I love serving as your pastor and being in ministry with you.

I am leaving the United Methodist Church because of differences in practical applications of theology and the aspirational trajectory of the church endorsed by many local and regional governing bodies within the denomination. Quite simply: the United Methodist Church is no longer my spiritual home, and God is calling me to serve somewhere else. I believe continuing to serve a local church somewhere I can no longer call home would be irresponsible and lacking integrity. And honestly I love Nappanee UMC, the United Methodist Church, and the universal Body of Christ too much to give you less than the best I have. Therefore, I am following God's next journey for me and making space for God's next journey for you.

I want to be clear: I am not angry or bitter with anyone. The only emo-

tion I wish to convey is gratitude. I am grateful for every local church I have had the privilege to serve, and serving this church has been a tremendous honor. Together, we engaged in mission locally and around the world; celebrated births, deaths, and new members; and weathered a pandemic. I have valued our times in worship, Bible study, and building relationships. I am also thankful for the United Methodist Church, where I grew to know the love of God in my own life and experienced a calling into full-time ministry. I have served alongside many great pastors and grown greatly in my faith over the years.

As my family and I depart, please know that I will continue to hold this church and all who worship and serve here, in my prayers. I pray that God will use you in marvelous and powerful ways in the community of Nappanee and everywhere your love and faith can reach. May God continue to provide, strengthen, and encourage you at all times and in everything.





- 01 Roy Young
- 02 Marguerite Adams
- 06 Dianne Debelak
- 07 Dave Detwiler
- 07 Jack Miller
- 09 Hope Sword
- 14 Harley Garl
- 14 Jo Slabaugh
- 16 Harold Umbaugh
- 19 Brooklyn Leeper
- 19 Christi Stankovich
- 21 Honey Walters
- 25 Dick Strakowski
- 27 Harvey DeFrees
- 27 Alison Stair
- 29 Stan Heckaman



In-Person Worship

April 30	74
May 7	74
May 14	98
May 21	78

Sunday School Attendance

April 30	34
May 7	33
May 14	35
May 21	29



Peace with Justice Sunday

You have a special envelope in your envelope box for Peace with Justice Sunday, June 4. This offering funds programs that advocate for peace and justice in the United States and around the world. These programs empower United Methodists to speak out for removing structures and systems that harm God’s children globally.



- 04 Kevin & Julie Reed
- 05 Nick & Lindsay London
- 07 Adam & Candi Tobias
- 14 Denny & Sarah Myers
- 16 Dave & Sue Gilley
- 18 Jesse & Amy Berger
- 22 Jim & Ruthann Stork
- 27 Don & Pat Miller

Financial Update

By: Jenni Wysong, Finance Chair

For the month of April, our general fund offerings were \$23,790 while general fund expenses were \$22,429. There were five Sundays in April 2023 and only four Sundays in April 2022. We will catch up and be even with numbers of Sundays for the year at the end of May.

Offerings year to date are up 19% (with that fifth Sunday included) and expenses are up year to date 4%. All apportionments/tithes for April were paid.



Better Together

By: Dennis & Dianne Debelak
BETTER TOGETHER

On Monday June 26th, we will be riding the **Dixie Boat in North Webster, 401 S. Dixie Drive**. Plan to arrive at 5:30 pm at the outdoor pavilion right on the lake, for a box meal. The cost per person for the meal will be \$7.50. We will then walk a few steps to the Dixie box office to purchase tickets for the Boat ride at 6:30. The sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board by the office. Please mark on the sheet if you want a ham croissant sandwich or a turkey croissant sandwich. Please contact us if you have any questions.



First Woman Ordained in the Methodist Church

By: *Phil Lehman, History Chair*



Another project of the Indiana Commission on Archives and History is recognizing Helenor Davisson who in 1866 became the first Methodist woman ordained into the ministry. Helenor was born in 1823 in Pennsylvania and moved to Jasper County, Indiana with her family in 1835. The commission had planned to have her home, church, and gravesite recognized as a Heritage Landmark of the United Methodist Church at the 2020 General Conference. However, the conference was postponed because of covid.

Helenor has the distinction of being the first woman to be ordained as a minister in any of the churches that make up the United Methodist Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church was slow to recognize women as pastors but other branches of Methodism were among the first to include women in the ministry. In 1844, the Wesleyan church split from the ME Church over slavery, initiated the revivalist wing of the church and in 1848 launched the women’s movement. The Methodist Protestant Church of which Helenor was a member was part of the revivalist wing.

After the move to Indiana, the family eventually settled near Remington in Jasper County. Here she began holding services in 1849. As a young woman she preached regularly in the Methodist Protestant Church and when encouraged to seek ordination, she did and presented herself for preaching credentials in 1863. She was found favorable for Deacon’s orders and was ordained three years later. Most of her ministry was in Jasper County where she is buried. In 2014, a clergy medallion was placed at her Sandridge Cemetery gravesite.



Pastor Kevin’s Departure

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

Although announced on Sunday, May 14th, and emailed on Friday, May 12th, I wanted to include the itinerary of events to occur following Pastor Kevin’s last Sunday with us on June 11th.

- Guest pastor(s) will be with us on the remaining two Sundays in June, the 18th and 25th.
- An **interim** pastor will be appointed by the Bishop effective July 1st. This individual will remain with us through the rest of the year, guiding us through this transitional period.
- Our new pastor will be named and appointed by the Bishop by January 1st, 2024, at which time his/her ministerial duties will begin.

Should you have any questions or are in need of clarification, please reach out to myself or any of the Staff-Parish Committee members.

Committee Members:
 Kent Schwartz, Linda Detwiler,
 Sue Hostetler, Lois Cook, Erin
 Garl, Audrey Mather, Nancy
 Stover, Denny Berger



Just like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

“I didn’t think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange,” Steen recalls. “He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants.” Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. “I want to be dusty like you, Dad!” his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. “I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father,” he says, “a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything.” What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

