
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



March 2023

New Books in the Library

By: Pat Lehman, Librarian



Several new books have been added to the library. *Disarmed* by Marshall V. King was donated by Janice Cunningham. It is a biography of Michael “MJ” Sharp and his radical commitment to peacemaking. He was a modern Mennonite who moved to Germany after college, where he persuaded soldiers to choose peace and step away from the military’s violent systems. He was working for the United Nations

Group of Experts in the Democratic Republic of Congo when he and his colleague Zaida Catalan were murdered, likely assassinated by those with government ties.

Let Us Adore Him by W.A. Poovey, is a drama for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. It explores the Christmas season in various ways. Two are biblical in setting, one is a fantasy, and the others aim at realism in contemporary life.

Faith Still Moves Mountains by Harris Faulkner was given in memory of Phyllis Walters by the Rebekah/Esther Circle. This is a book about prayer and how God helps us in our daily lives. This is a collection of powerful true-life stories of resilience, healing, rescue, and protection by FOX News anchor and author Harris Faulkner.



What is Our Mission as Christians?

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair

I recently read the following quote in a newsletter I received in the mail. I thought it was worth sharing this month. “Sometimes I forget how blessed I am...My hot water works on a dime, my a/c works when I need it to, I can go to the grocery store and purchase what I need or want to eat, I have pots, pans, plates, silverware, and a clean kitchen in which to cook and eat, I have

a clean shower to bathe in and a roof over my head.”

When we read this, we know its not this way everywhere. All you have to do is watch the news or read the newspaper to know this is not true around the world, and it’s up to us to decide what we can do to help. As a Christian, we need to share. We need to share both things and the good news of Jesus.

We know that there are people in the Ukraine that haven’t had this privilege of a comfortable and safe home for over a year now, or enough food. The earthquake in Turkey and surrounding areas have left so many homeless.

As the mission committee in our church, we have *19 missions* that we regularly support. Each of these share the good news of Jesus in their own special way.

All of these need funds to do the job they are called to do for others, whether a disaster or day-to-day expenses to keep the mission going.

Remember as Christians, we are not just to keep ourselves comfortable, but to share with others less fortunate and to think of the needs of others.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known



Our condolences to the family of Don Stackhouse who passed away on February 2nd.

Summer Camp

Summer church camp registration is now open. Get details at impact2818.org. Contact the office for the camp code before you register online to receive a 50% discount.



Thank You!

Open Door would like to thank everyone for the continued financial support and all the donated items through the grocery cart program.

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

office@nappaneeumc.com
www.nappaneeumc.com



Sunday Worship

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



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To my dear friends of the church. When my heart was breaking, it was the touch of your hand, or a warm hug, or a thoughtful and heartfelt card I received, that helped to ease the ache and numbness.

Thank you for showing your love for Dean in so many ways; the food, the flowers, the phone calls, the visits and the love. My family will always be grateful for your kindness.

With Christian love,
Sally Guard



Special Dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 3, 2022*
- Daylight-Savings Time begins, *March 12, 2023*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2023*

Pastor's COLUMN

These Things Are True

By Pastor Kevin Reed



TRUST IN THE LORD
WITH ALL YOUR
HEART,
AND DO NOT LEAN ON
YOUR OWN
UNDERSTANDING.
PROVERBS 3:5. ESV

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5-6

There are three things I have always found true in life. First, there is always trouble in the world if you look hard enough. Second, there is always joy in the world if you look hard enough. No matter what happens there will always be something you can stress about and worry about. And we as humans are very good at it. We like to find the things that can go wrong, and we like to worry about what will happen when they happen, which they rarely do...at least not our worst version of it.

I love examining the Bible people of the Old Testament because they have so many things go wrong in their lives, and it is not unusual that they help cause most of that trouble. The story of Joseph is one disaster after another, punctuated by brief moments of relief. Abraham is a big liar when it comes to his wife Sarai, and it goes horribly wrong. Twice. Adam and Eve bring sin into the world through one very poorly thought out choice. And as we have been learning in the life of Moses, he loses a lot. There is always trouble nearby if we look for it, and some of it will find us even if we do not.

It is also true that there is quite a bit of joy in the lives of the people of scripture. They find moments of great celebration. There are births and opportunities that arise from the ashes and struggle. They find purpose in their lives. They have families who love them most of the time. Moses is blessed by being included in two families that adopt him when he should be dead instead. There is always joy nearby, as well.

It is in this moment I should transition into a greeting card and throw out some trite phrase like, “Seek out the joy, and embrace the best of life.” *Gag.* The hackneyed phrases and tired faux wisdom merely props

up a crazy idea that our lives should focus on our happiness. It makes it sound like it is the center of who we are, and should be, and our personal feelings on life. However, all of that is empty and meaningless because we miss the third thing that I have always found true in life.

Third, the joy is found most reliably when sticking close to and relying on God. Adam and Eve sin; God provides coverings and prevents them from eating the fruit that will permanently keep them in a fallen state. Joseph gets sold into slavery; God elevates him to second in command of Egypt. Ruth and Naomi experience the loss of their husbands; God gives them a safe place and blesses them in the ancestral line of the Messiah. Moses finds God in burning bushes, water locked in rocks, and pillars of fire and cloud. If we want to know the joy, then we could benefit from leaning into God’s constant presence and understanding of the world.

The trouble will come, but we weather the trouble in the shelter of God. It reminds me of the hymn: “Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.”





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Vivian LaVine
- 01 Carla Newcomer
- 03 Denny Berger
- 03 Garnet Campbell
- 03 David Swartz
- 03 Sydney Wysong
- 04 Todd Beer
- 04 Roger Buss
- 06 Doris Chokey
- 06 Anita DeFrees
- 06 Pat Lehman
- 07 Adriana Mast
- 07 Megan Trachsel
- 08 Brian VanVoorst
- 10 Sandy MacGowan
- 10 Linda Tetreau
- 18 Kent Schmucker
- 24 Sue Hostetler
- 25 Martha Dinkeldein
- 26 Collette Knepp

- 26 Claude Brown
- 27 Morgan Leavitt
- 28 Donna Bliss
- 30 Lois Cook



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 06 Octavio & Amanda Contreras
- 17 Adam & Natalie Leeper
- 26 Dick & Marilyn Strakowski
- 28 Mark & Tammy Hines
- 29 John & Norma Personett



General Giving

January 22	\$ 12,503.
January 29	\$ 5,360.
February 12	\$ 20,296.

Building Upkeep & Property Fund

January 22	\$ 520.
January 29	\$ 3,400.
February 12	\$ 820.

The amount needed each Sunday to meet the program budget is **\$5,781.**



ATTENDANCE

In-Person Worship

January 29	65
February 5	76
February 12	72
February 19	71

Sunday School Attendance

January 29	33
February 5	38
February 12	47
February 19	45

Monthly Financial Report



General Fund

	January	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 24,667.	\$ 24,667.
Spending	-\$ 21,015.	-\$ 21,015.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 185.	-\$ 185.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 3,467.	\$ 3,467.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 2,479.	-\$ 2,479.

Building & Maintenance Fund

	January	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 3,844.00	\$ 3,844.00
Spending	-\$ 2,529.00	-\$ 2,529.00
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 1,315.00	\$ 1,315.00
Fund Balance		\$ 26,412.00
Special Project Fund		\$ 15,518.00

Indiana United Methodist Church History The Robertson Meeting House

By: *Phil Lehman, History Chair 8*



The Indiana Conference Commission on Archives and History is responsible for Indiana UMC history and records. The commission works closely with the archivist at DePauw where UMC history is housed. One of the Commission's current projects is maintaining the Robertson Meeting House. The Robertson Meeting

House, formerly called "Old Bethel," built in 1807, is the oldest United Methodist church still standing in Indiana. It is presently located on the grounds of Camp Rivervale, a UMC camp, near Mitchell, Indiana.

However, this little log church, only twenty by thirty feet, was moved around southern Indiana before ending at Rivervale in 1999. The church was built for Nathan Robertson on his farm north of Charlestown. (Charleston is by the Ohio River near Jeffersonville). The building is built of hand-hewed poplar logs, clapboard roof and puncheon floor (the floorboards were split from virgin yellow poplar trees and hand-hewed to a fairly uniform thickness). It has had an interesting life. It served as a church for the first half-century. In 1857 it was moved and put to use as a barn for sheep and oxen. After the building was moved several more times, for a while even residing in Charlestown, it was moved to the DePauw University campus around 1899. While at DePauw, it underwent extensive restoration in 1904. However, it lacked regular maintenance and in 1999 it found its permanent home at Camp Rivervale.

Over the years maintenance has been sporadic and interrupted a number of times but beginning several years ago its care was taken over by the Commission on Archives and History. The commission has a small budget and some funds invested from gifts. Resources are limited but the commission has been able to keep the building and grounds in good repair.



UMCOR Sunday

By: *Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair*

When we give to UMCOR SUNDAY, celebrated on March 19th, we equip Christ's people to serve others in His name. This offering is what allows UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) to act as the hands and feet of Christ's church, moving toward the most hurting, in their times of trouble.

Because we give, the United Methodist Church's compassionate response to human suffering continues today. UMCOR will be able to offer aid in Jesus' name to those who suffer because United Methodists give. It's our generous giving that allows UMCOR to respond when disaster strikes, and will keep on helping until the job is done.

Your gifts on UMCOR Sunday underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a *specific* project will go toward that mission, not for administrative costs.

That's why we need to support UMCOR. It is ready to respond to a crisis immediately and over the long haul. To give to this Special Sunday, mark your offering envelope for 'UMCOR Sunday.'



Better Together

By: *Dennis & Dianne Debelak and Dick & Diana Smith*

Our next outing for Better Together will be a lunch at 12:00 pm on **Tuesday, March 28**. We will be dining at **The O (Oasis) located at 702 W. Lincoln in Goshen**. It has a great atmosphere and a diverse menu.....something for everyone. As always please sign up on the list by the office door if you can attend. We are always happy to have new faces joining us for a meal together!! Contact us if you have any questions.

WOW

By: Sue Matthews



Our WOW meal for March 8th will be spaghetti, garlic bread, applesauce, and dessert. We were hoping to get some suggestions for meals you would like us to fix. February’s sign up sheet had only 11 names signed up, but we served 48 meals. Please sign up if you are coming, even if it is a take out. I know that some of our previous WOW people who do not attend NUMC have started coming back. It is so good to see old friends. We would hate to turn someone away because we planned according to the number of people who signed up. Yes, we do add a few “just in case”, but it was fortunate that I had purchased for a lot of extras in February. We try to make sure we do not have a lot of wasted food. Thanks for helping us out. Hope to see your name on the sign up sheet for March 8th, or call the office, Karen, or Sue.



God Provides

By: Jenni Wysong, Finance Chair

This emoji is familiar to many as “praying hands” on many smart phones and Facebook. If you think about two people facing each other, this emoji can also resemble a “high five!” The finance committee has pledged to pray consistently for the financial strength of our church in 2023. God is an abundant Provider and we give Him, and you all, a high five for the month of January! Thank you for your faithful stewardship to further the ministry of our church. Your giving for the month of January exceeded the church’s expenses. Let’s continue to grow together and celebrate our renewed energy as the body of Christ at the Nappanee United Methodist Church.



General Fund Information:

January 2023 Giving \$24,482 up 12%
January 2023 Spending \$21,015 up 9%

Building Fund Information:

January 2023 Giving \$3,844 up 52%
January 2023 Spending \$1,418 183%

Surrender



What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

—Max Anders



Shamrocks

St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, “Is this one leaf, or three?” Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

