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# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



March 2024

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## Sanctuary: The 50th Anniversary Part Two: History of Furniture and Artwork in the Sanctuary

*Phil Lehman, Chair Church Archives and History*



Sunday, May 5th, will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of worshipping in our sanctuary. The first worship service in May 1974, was also on Sunday, May 5th.

The final service in the old sanctuary was led by pastors James Willyard and Terry Rhine. Following the opening, the congregation followed the pastors and choir into the new sanctuary. Members carried the worship symbols into the new sanctuary: Willard Hoffer, altar Bible; Doug and Brenda Bitting, candlesticks; Fern Doughtery and Bernice Byers, flowers; Karen Hornish and James Miller III, flags; Angie Pletcher and Mary Ann Gwin, pulpit hymnals; Shannan Murphy, guest book; Kindergarten Children, attendance books. The congregations followed, carrying Bibles and hymnals. Entering the new sanctuary, they were greeted by a brass ensemble of John Leavitt, Steve Lentz, Gary Miner and David Willyard. More than 500 people were in attendance for the opening day services.

In the sanctuary, the cross on the north wall was designed and built by George Hornish and Louie Yoder. The flame was given in memory of Jack Templeton. The chancel included five especially hand-crafted pieces of furniture with recessed religious symbols, highlighted in gold: lecture, the trinity; baptismal fount, the descending dove; communion table, the Greek letters alpha and omega and pulpit, the first three letters of Jesus in Greek. In the front right corner was a sacristy screen used as the "Groom's Room." The theme of the beautiful stained-glass windows to the east is "To the Glory of God." There was a small audio console where the a-v booth is now located.

Church organizations helped furnish the sanctuary by making special gifts. The United Methodist Women gave the ceiling lights. The exterior cross and letters were given by the Senior High Youth. The Junior High Youth gave the communion rail. The organ had not been installed but would be in time for the dedication in the fall.

Over the years, changes have been made to the Sanctuary. The sacristy screen has been removed to give a more open feel to the sanctuary. When the office wing was added the audio console was relocated to a space above the office and an opening cut in the back wall. Today that opening is used for recording video. The audio-visual booth at the rear of the sanctuary was installed when the screen was added. At the front where there were two rows of communion rails, one was removed and the three steps rebuilt to improve safety. The lecture is no longer on the stage and the baptismal fount is brought out when needed.

In the front of the sanctuary the eternal flame was given in memory of Lorabelle Burt. The framed stained-glass panel is from the skylight in the sanctuary of the 1916 building. Below the stained-glass panel is the communion table and cross from the 1916 building. The Clavinova Digital Piano was given in memory of Julie Berger.



Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

**Special Dates**

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1st*
- Daylight-Savings Time begins, *March 10th*
- First day of spring, *March 19th*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28th*
- Good Friday, *March 29th*
- Easter Sunday, *March 31st*



**Church Camp 2024**

**Where will your next adventure take you?**

Our United Methodist Outdoor Ministries offers many different opportunities for an exciting camping experience this summer for all ages. You can check out the calendar of events at [Impact 2818.org](http://Impact2818.org). If you register before April 20th, you can take advantage of the early bird discount. Also, our church will pay half of the camp fee. See Kathy in the church office for a camp code before you register. Real Fun · Real Impact!



Our sympathy goes to Dianne Debelak and the family of Dennis Debelak. Dennis passed away on February 17th.

Our sympathy goes to the family of Betty Gwin. She passed away on Wednesday, February 21st.



Thank you for all the prayers, calls, texts, visits, food, and cards during David's surgery / recovery and Sue's recent stay in the hospital. A special thank you to Pastors Byron and Candy for their visits and calls to the hospital (before, during & after our stays). We are so happy to be part of such a caring congregation..  
-Dave & Sue Gilley

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](mailto:office@nappaneeumc.com)  
[www.nappaneeumc.com](http://www.nappaneeumc.com)



**Sunday Worship**

10:00 a.m.

In-person or available on YouTube



**Our Staff**

Interim Senior Pastors:  
Byron & Candy Kaiser  
[pastor@nappaneeumc.com](mailto:pastor@nappaneeumc.com)

Administrative Assistant/Parish Voice  
Editor: Kathy Harding  
[kathy@nappaneeumc.com](mailto:kathy@nappaneeumc.com)

Financial Secretary:  
Dawn Argese  
[dawn@nappaneeumc.com](mailto:dawn@nappaneeumc.com)

Communication & Technology  
Coordinator  
Sandy MacGowan  
[sandy@nappaneeumc.com](mailto:sandy@nappaneeumc.com)

Children/Family Ministry Coordinator:  
Alison Stair  
[alisonbleavitt@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbleavitt@gmail.com)

Sanctuary Choir Director:  
Steve Phillips  
[sphillipsnapa@gmail.com](mailto:sphillipsnapa@gmail.com)

Organist: Diana Smith  
[dsmith46550@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith46550@gmail.com)

Custodian: Kathy Goodman



- 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 Pat Lehman
- 07 Megan Trachsel
- 08 Brian VanVoorst
- 10 Maggie Berger
- 10 Martha Berger
- 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



In-Person Worship

February 4	89
February 11	93
February 18	93
February 25	74

On-Line Worship

February 4	18
February 11	20
February 18	23
February 25	26

Sunday School Attendance

February 4	33
February 11	35
February 18	35
February 25	32



WOW

The next WOW meal will be Wednesday, March 13th. Serving starts at 5:15 pm. The meal will be a hot ham sandwich, baked beans, chips, and a Dessert. Please make sure to sign up on the sheet outside the office.



- 26 Dick & Marilyn Strakowski
- 28 Mark & Tammy Hines
- 29 John & Norma Personett

Finance Update

By: Jenni Wysong

January was a strong month financially thanks to your generosity and commitment to supporting and celebrating the ministry of our church. General Fund offerings were \$37,078, an increase of nearly \$14,000 over last year's January. General Fund expenses were \$20,361, \$800 below 2023. Building Fund offerings were \$958 for the month while spending was \$1,109. Our Building Fund balance is \$19,887. The Endowment balance is \$104,842 and over \$11,000 was given out to Missions in January.



Update

The closing on the sale of the youth house was delayed from the original date of February 12th. The City had not filed the paperwork with the county on the abandoned alleyway years ago. This was discovered in our closing process and needed to be corrected before moving forward. The closing is still anticipated to occur by the end of February.



## UMCOR is More Than Responding to Natural Disasters!

*By: Dorothy Haney*

Each year our church's largest mission donation goes to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Whenever we hear of a new disaster in the world, whether it is a tornado in Kentucky, or an earthquake in Turkey, we give to this fund.

However, UMCOR's main purpose is not to be a first-response organization. Instead, its purpose is to be ready to assist communities that are in need over the long haul of recovery until they are well on their way back to a 'new normal' after the crisis.

An example of this is UMCOR'S ongoing support for Ukrainians which continues as the war continues. Every day, your gifts provide transportation, food, water, clothing, shelter, medication, medical supplies for families, women, and children.

Long after the Haiti earthquake in 2021, UMCOR is still there working with local churches to provide six new water purification plants and mobile health clinics. UMCOR is also supporting vocational training and a new school building that will double as an evacuation center.

To date, UMCOR has awarded five emergency grants to local partners in Israel and Gaza. Partners are using funds for relocation support, food and hygiene kits for internally displaced people, psychosocial treatment and trauma counseling to women and children, and telemedicine services for disabled children in need of follow-up care, but without safe access to a clinic.

Every day, thousands of people leave their homes in search of a better life for their families. UMCOR's Global Migration program helps refugees and migrants as well as the churches and ecumenical networks that assist them.

Each year on the fourth Sunday of Lent, which is March 10th this year, we celebrate UMCOR Sunday with a special offering to share God's love with communities everywhere. This special offering underwrites UMCOR's 'cost of doing business.' This helps UMCOR keep its promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go to that project, not to administrative costs.

There is always a need for showing God's love through our prayers and gifts. When you give generously on UMCOR Sunday, you make a difference in the lives of people who hurt. Together we can do so much more. Give to UMCOR Sunday.

## How About Going On a 'Field Trip'?

Thanks to everyone that donated to our 'We Love Our Women...Period' project. We'll let you know soon how many items were donated. But now these items need to be delivered to Broadway Christian Parish early in March. If you'd like to be a part of this and get a tour of the mission, too, let Dorothy Haney or Erin Garl know. Who knows, we might even enjoy a late breakfast together, too.

P.S. Do you have any great ideas for a mission project for our church to work together on? Short term projects that will result in short term commitments? Bible drive? Shoe collection? Grocery collection? Mission trip? One-day hands-on project? This way more of us can be involved in our mission of showing God's love in multiple ways. Let me know what you're thinking!



## Better Together

Our March lunch together will be held on **Tuesday, March 26 at 12:00 noon**. Details on the location to follow. So please watch for the sign up sheet on the bulletin board by the office. Thanks in advance for your understanding.

## The Sacred Time of Easter

*By: Pastor Candy Kaiser*

Recent events in the life of our congregation have reminded me once again of what a privilege it is to be invited to share in the sacred times and spaces in people’s lives. There are many events that take place that remind us of the importance of our faith as well as our faith community. We are also reminded that God walks with us always – through times of sadness as well as times of joy.

The time of Lent and Easter is a time for reflection, a time to remember and acknowledge the promises of God. It is a time for us to consider our relationship with Jesus and seek to draw closer to the Divine. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most significant event in the history of the world. And because he has been raised, sin is defeated, death is conquered, and we live in hope.

So, this Easter Season may we pause in the sacred moments God provides.

Let us put our trust in the One who carries us  
 So that we can let go of every disappointment  
 Let us cling to love, to the hope ahead of us  
 So that we can hold on to every single promise  
 Christ is risen, He is risen indeed!



## A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all who bought Super Bowl Subs and cookies. We sold even more subs than our last sub fundraiser two years ago. Thanks especially to Candy Tobias for helping wrap subs and Peggy for helping purchase the ingredients as well as getting the tomatoes and onions sliced, baking cookies, and weighing out meat. Thanks also to Diane for helping sell the sub tickets for two weeks prior to kick off, Karen Tobias for stepping in to sell cookies and extra sub tickets, and Ruth for coming in on Saturday to cut and plate cheese slices. Of course, thanks to Donna and Sue for making and decorating 106 cookies (we sold out). Nancy, Betty, and Sally all helped bag and deliver subs on that Sunday. Although the final total is yet to be determined, I believe we made approximately \$600 to be used for missions. It took a team to make that possible, so thanks to all who helped and apologies for anyone I inadvertently missed.

## Easter Breakfast

Easter breakfast will be March 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00. The sign-up sheet for those who can help is posted on the bulletin board by the office. If you would like us to bake your casserole, please note that and have it at the church either the night before or 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning at the latest. Workers will be needed Easter morning to plate items and bake the casseroles. Anyone who can help decorate the tables please talk to Sue to decide on a day and time. Thanks in advance.



## Easter Flowers

The sign up sheet is posted for Easter lilies and other spring flowers. The cost is \$10. Please sign up if you’d like to purchase one in memory or honor of a loved one. You may place your donation in the offering plate. Please mark your offering envelope accordingly. The deadline to sign up is March 24th. If you have a certain picture you would like to use for your loved one, please send it to Sandy at [sandy.macgowan@gmail.com](mailto:sandy.macgowan@gmail.com).



## Maundy Thursday Service

March 28, 2024

6:30 pm

Main Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday celebrates the remembrance of Jesus having his last meal with his disciples before his arrest. It is this meal we recreate when we share the Great Thanksgiving and Holy Communion. On this night we will share in Holy Communion, and we will remember his words to his disciples as well as the laying his life down for you and me. We solemnly celebrate with reverence and respect. Attend the service to prepare your heart for Good Friday.



## Easter Prayer Vigil

From March 29, 7:30 pm, until March 30, 8:30 am

30-minute slots

Sign-up to pray at home.

From evening on Good Friday until Easter morning, Christians have traditionally spent the time in prayer and reflection. In the Apostles' Creed, we recite, that Jesus "was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead." Holy Saturday, reminds us of the time that Jesus descended. Jesus will go anywhere to redeem people. The cycle Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter may be reflected upon by reading Psalms 22, 23 and 24. Jesus quoted Psalm 22 from the cross. Psalm 23 helps us reflect upon his descending. Psalm 24 helps us to celebrate resurrection.

Please sign up for times to pray during the vigil. You may pray at home. Scriptures are provided for your reflection if you need them. A list of situations and people are provided to help you pray. Everyone will receive an email with this included, as well as paper copies available on Palm Sunday. Of course, you may just be present for God without words during your time.

You may sign up for more than one time slot. The sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board in the church entry.



## Parsonage Improvement Project

The One Board met at the Church Parsonage on February 15, 2024. The meeting was held there so all members could see what the overall project was attempting to accomplish. The project main items include:

- Removal and replacement of the kitchen cupboards
- Removal and replacement of flooring in the main level except for the bedrooms & baths
- Improved lighting in the kitchen and living area
- Removal of shelving and gas fireplace in the family room and replacement with new cupboards and shelving.
- Upgrade of master bath with new lavatory and additional cupboards.
- Painting of the entire main level.
- Replacement of windows in the patio doors.

The removal of carpet and cupboards will be completed by volunteers. All of the other items will be completed by contractors/professionals.

Funds to complete the project are being allocated from several different sources, including undesignated memorials, special projects fund, and the pending sale of the Youth House property. In addition, we want to offer the opportunity to participate to the congregation. In the near future, a posting of the project will be available in the narthex. The overall projected cost of the project is \$60,000. The additional amount we want to raise for the project is \$10,000. Any amounts we would raise over that amount would reduce the funds needed from the property sale.

Please indicate on your contributions that it is for the **Parsonage Improvement** fund. Please do not take away from your normal support of the church budget to support this project.