
The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



MidMarch 2024

\$4,000 MATCHING Challenge Created \$ \$

Thanks to the generosity of two members of our congregation, **up to \$4,000 will be matched, dollar for dollar**, for donations to the Parsonage Improvement Fund. This charitable challenge will kick-start our campaign and provide a stronghold for the congregational piece of the funding pie. Let's rise together and donate \$4,000...and see it double to \$8,000! What an incredible way to help welcome our new pastor and his family to Nappanee where we want them to feel right at HOME.

Donations for the challenge will be accepted through May 19, 2024.



Christian Hospitality Comes With a House Key

By: Jane Leavitt



For the past year I have been thinking about Christian hospitality in regards to our church and how we might begin to strengthen it. So when the One Board asked if I might be willing to be a part of the parsonage improvement committee, I agreed to help. My thoughts went immediately to our new pastor

and family and how our church family could put Christian hospitality to work. I began reading scriptures and articles pertaining to hospitality and found many good resources. Hospitality was at the heart of Jesus' ministry and so it should be at the heart of ours as well. (Hebrews 13: 1-3) So when walking through the parsonage I thought about the pastor and his family and wanted them to live in an inviting, welcoming, and comfortable home. Updating the galley kitchen cabinetry, putting in solid surface flooring in the kitchen, living, dining, and family room, installing cabinets and bookshelves in the family room and refreshing the entire upstairs living area with a fresh coat of paint, gave

the parsonage a lot more storage and really updated a forty year old home. In addition, I found no linen closes for towels and sheets so add a linen closet and new vanity in the master bath. In closing, hospitality is a responsibility. A welcoming heart is at the very core of our Christian calling. We've set an example of hospitality to our new family and should feel proud to hand them the keys to their new home.



Check Your Calendar

- Rebekah/Esther Circle on Tuesday, March 19th at 11:30 am at Renee's Family Restaurant, for brunch.
- Sarah Circle on Wednesday, March 20th at 4 pm.
- One Board meeting on Thursday, March 21st at 6:30 pm.
- Better Together at Salvatori's, in Warsaw, on Tuesday, March 26th at noon.
- Maundy -Thursday Service on Thursday, March 28th at 6:30 pm.
- Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 31st, at 9 am.
- Easter Service on Sunday, March 31st at 10 am.
- Thrift Shop meeting on Monday, April 1st, at 9 am.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

St Patrick

By: Pastor Byron Kaiser

St. Patrick's Day



Sunday is St Patrick's day.

This past October, Candy and I were given quite a history of the Saint. The Grave of St. Patrick is in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland: A boulder in the Churchyard of Down Cathedral marks the legendary burial place of "The Apostle of Ireland."

Born Anglo, 5th century, in modern day England, he was carted off to what is now Ireland as a child slave. The household in which he was grew up happened to be Christian. An Anglo raiding party freed Patrick and returned him to England, which allowed for him to gain an education.

God gave Patrick a vision to return to Ireland and bring Christ to the tribes of the land. So he did. People loved his good nature and generosity. He brought the tribes to Christ and drove the Snakes, Druid shaman, out of the country.

When his death approached, he asked that his remains be placed in a two wheeled ox cart pulled by two ox. He was to be buried wherever the ox stopped.

Today, the Down Cathedral, in whose cemetery St. Patrick is buried, is a Methodist Church. Go figure. You can win lots of drinks in a bar betting on the denomination of Down Cathedral.

So, here's to a young man that survived two armed raids, kidnapping, and slavery. Here's to an old man who spent his life serving people in God's name bringing the saving grace of Jesus!



Looking Ahead.... The Transition Continues

By: Kent Schwartz, Chair of the SPRC

As we anxiously await the arrival of our new pastor, Rev. Chris Stephens, wife Michelle and their three children, Robert, Michaela, and Phillip, exciting preparations are occurring. We are currently well into the Lenten Season leading to the glorious celebration of our risen Savior on Easter Sunday.

The parsonage renovation efforts are proceeding well under the very capable leadership efforts of Jane Leavitt. Storage cabinets are to be built in the family room, carpeting replaced with laminate flooring, kitchen cabinets, counter tops, and appliances updated, as well as ceiling lighting, and the painting of all first level walls. Once completed,

future plans include an "Open House with Purpose" and a house blessing ceremony. All church members will be cordially invited to see the much needed improvements.

On the Sundays of April 7, 14, and 21, we will have a reunion in a sense of former interim pastors as Pastors Byron and Candy will take a pre-contracted vacation. Rev. Mary Hubbard will preach on April 7 and 21 and Rev. Carolyn Wirtz-Polestra on April 14. They are excited to be with us once again.

Spring is coming and wonderful changes are occurring. I will keep you updated.



Reminders

- Remember to pick up some spaghetti for our March grocery cart item to help Open Door.
- As you prepare for Easter goodies, please save the UPCs from any Our Family or Spartan item. We need at least 500 to receive some money to be used for missions.

