

# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



November 2022

## It's Shoebox Time Again!

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair



As we have been doing since 2009, each year our church has been filling shoeboxes for kids around the world as a way to show them God's love in a tangible way. That first year the FROG kids (anyone remember what FROG stood for?) filled them as a mission project during their time together before WOW on Wednesdays. That first year they filled 43 boxes, and each year since then, we've filled many boxes, with the most completed in 2015 when we did 125 boxes.

This year Shoebox Sunday will be on October 30, and November 13 will be the Sunday we bring them to the church to celebrate. Although things have not changed much through the years, we might need a few reminders on how to fill our boxes.

First, remember that this is a one-to-one ministry. Even though Samaritan's Purse will distribute over 9,500,000 boxes this year, each box goes to a specific child that needs to know about Jesus and God's love for him/her. So keeping that child in mind, keep him/her in prayer.

Pick up your box at the table in the narthex, along with a 'How to Pack a Shoebox' brochure. This will guide you as you choose items for your child. Remember to select a 'wow' item appropriate for the age and gender you choose. Also include personal care items (such as a toothbrush and washcloth), school supplies, and useful or fun items. There will be a few items available to help you complete your box next to the display table. Please use these items. You can also bring items so others can use them.

It's important that you personalize your box with a picture of you or your family. Also, there are papers available to complete to tell them about yourself. That way they will know that you are a 'real' person that cares about them.

AND remember the '*Build a Shoebox online*' option. You can send the Gospel to a child somewhere in the world without leaving home. This is the easiest option and maybe the least expensive. For \$25.00, your box will be filled with quality items and includes the shipping fee. We hope to get a link set up to help you go directly to our online goal page from our church's website. Watch for more information in the weekly bulletin.

As you prayerfully prepare your box or boxes, pray that through your box a child will learn about "God's Greatest Gift," Jesus.

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Daylight Savings ends on November 6th. Don't forget to set your clocks back an hour!

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

Updates for the  
red directory:

Linda Tetreau  
504 Maple Lane  
Nappanee, IN 46550

Only have cell phone  
574-221-1060



Are you interested in working with children? We are looking for a Director of Children's Ministries. Check out the listing on Indeed.



Our condolences to the family of Ken Walters who passed away on October 17.

Our condolences to the family of Dr. Jerry Lentz who passed away on October 22.



*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



### Our Staff

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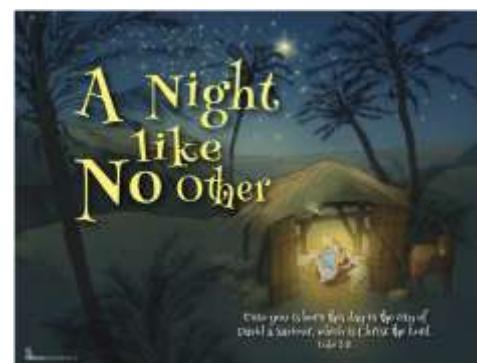
Organist: Diana Smith  
[dsmith46550@gmail.com](mailto:dsmith46550@gmail.com)

Custodian: Kathy Goodman

### Children's Christmas Program

We are so excited to announce that the youth and children of the church will be leading our worship on December 18 with the program, *A Night Like No Other*.

Following worship, we will be having a reception to continue the Christmas celebration. A sign-up sheet to provide a dozen or so Christmas cookies will be appearing on the bulletin board soon.



# Pastor's COLUMN

## In A World Devoid of Constants, We Have God

By Pastor Kevin Reed

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17  
NIV



The only constant in the world is change. And while that can make us extremely uncomfortable, we also need it and depend on it. It is an important part of living in the world.

James 1:17

I find it hard to imagine living in a place that doesn't have turning leaves in the fall. And while I hate driving in the snow and ice, winter with its frosty glaze serves an important purpose. The changes that we see in the world around us are important and valuable, even if they are sometimes inconvenient.

I see that in my own life. My children grow older each year, and I am thankful for the changes and growth that they have in their lives. I have changed many times throughout my life and will continue to do so. These changes are valuable and good, but not every aspect of every change is pleasant and enjoyable. However, that does not invalidate the goodness of the changes overall.

Our world will continue to change in many ways. We will continue to adapt with them. Over the past few years, we have added online ministry to the way we share the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we continue with our tradition of filling shoeboxes through Operation Christmas Child again this year, we will once again offer a way to fill the boxes online. After a two year hiatus from Wednesday night meals, we have brought those back, but they are a little different than they were.

Change is a constant in our church life. It is constant in the lives of our families, through births, marriages, divorces, and deaths. No matter what we do, we cannot escape change.

However, I know beyond any doubt and with great confidence that God continues to do great work, even in and sometimes especially because of change. It is my prayer for you as you move into this Thanksgiving season that you will give thanks for the amazing ways that God continues to show love and grace in the midst of the changes you have experienced in this past year.



A Heart-felt Thank You to the people of this loving church family.

We were blessed to have our husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather for so many years.

In gratitude,  
The Ken Walters Family

## Thankful for the Saints



In our day of Thanksgiving one psalm let us offer for the saints who before us have found their reward. When the shadow of death fell upon them, we sorrowed, but now we rejoice that they rest in the Lord...

These stones that have echoed their praises are holy, and dear is the ground where their feet have once trod. Yet here they confessed they were strangers and pilgrims, and still they were seeking the city of God.



Update for the red directory:

Nancy Stover has changed her email to  
stovernancy71@gmail.com



25 Jack Stair  
27 Hannah Krok  
28 Carol Cripe  
29 Susie Pletcher

02 Hannah Contreras  
02 Kellie MacGowan  
03 Linda Detwiler  
03 Sarah Wysong Shell  
05 Jeanne Berger  
07 Kurt Schwartz  
08 Joan Knepp  
10 Audrey Mather  
10 Steven Miller  
10 Andy Wysong  
11 Megan Stankovich  
12 Krystal Beer  
12 Dennis Debelak  
13 Jesse Berger  
15 Jim Stork  
16 Norma Personett  
17 Caitlin Knepp  
22 Tessa Beer  
25 Beth Huff  
25 Jean Hunt



05 Roger & Mary Buss  
24 Tom & Dana Parciak  
26 Brad & Carla Newcomer



#### General Giving

September 25      \$ 7,403.

#### Building Upkeep & Property Fund

September 25      \$ 870.

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



#### In-Person Worship

October 2	75
October 9	80
October 16	86
October 23	80

#### Sunday School Attendance

October 2	33
October 9	38
October 16	40
October 23	40

#### Monthly Financial Report

#### *General Fund*

	September	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 17,165.	\$ 177,075.
Spending	-\$ 19,194.	-\$ 187,506.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 1,954.	-\$ 17,828.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	-\$ 3,983.	-\$ 28,259.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 0.	-\$ 424.



#### *Building & Maintenance Fund*

	September	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 1,618.90	\$ 28,328.44
Spending	-\$ 256.03	-\$ 11,913.24
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 1,362.87	\$ 16,415.20
Fund Balance		\$ 22,834.17
Special Project Fund		\$ 14,778.98

## Better Together

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

Our last meal for 2022 was on October 24 at The Boat House. We had a great turnout and the food and service was wonderful. Perhaps we will repeat that gem in 2023. Due to the holidays in November and December, there will be no dinner scheduled. We will resume Better Together in January with a noon lunch location. Keep your eye on the Bulletin and Parish Voice for more details. Happy Holidays Everyone!!



## STEPPING UP 2023

*By: Dianne Debelak, Finance Chair*



Please return your commitment cards you received in the mail, to the church by **November 6**. You can place them in the offering plate during the church service, return them by mail, or drop them off at the church during office hours. It is so very important and helpful to receive your commitment cards, by **November 6**, as the Finance Committee moves forward for 2023. Thank you all for your support of our 2023 Stepping Up Campaign!



## United Methodist Student Day

On November 27, there is a special giving Sunday. The money you gift supports the United Methodist Student Day scholarships. When you give, you enrich ministry and help connect students to their faith.



## Gift Cards



We will be ordering gift cards before long. If there are cards on the list that you want, talk to Dave or Linda Detwiler. They have a list of available cards that you can order.

## Gratitude Galore



If you've ever kept a gratitude journal, you know they're fairly easy to fill. Edward King, an English bishop known for working with the poor, may not have had a fancy journal. But these words evoke such a list: "I will thank God ... for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. ... for the awe of the sunset, the beauty of flowers, the smile of friendship and the look of love ... for the leaves on the trees in spring and autumn, for the witness of the leafless trees through the winter, teaching us that death is sleep and not destruction, for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay. Truly, oh Lord, the earth is full of thy riches!"

King concludes: "And yet how much more I will thank and praise God for the strength of my body enabling me to work, for the refreshment of sleep, for my daily bread, for the days of painless health, for the gift of my mind and the gift of my conscience, for his loving guidance of my mind ever since it first began to think, and of my heart ever since it first began to love."