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# The Parish Voice

Nappanee United Methodist Church



October 2022

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## WOW

By: Sue Matthews



We will resume 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday WOW meals on October 12<sup>th</sup>. The meal will include: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans and dessert. If you would like to help please let me know. I will need a few helpers on Tuesday for an

hour or less starting at 4:15 pm m., Volunteers to make a dessert for Wednesday would be appreciated. If you signed up to help with the meal on WOW nights, I will be in touch with you (unless you find me first) to make sure you are still available.

The sign up sheet will be on the bulletin board by Sunday, Sept. 25<sup>th</sup>. Please help by signing up. I know September's WOW meal was not on the scheduled Wednesday, but Karen made sooo much food. It takes time and money to prepare for the meal. We want to make sure there is food for everyone, but we need to know how many to plan for. Our hope is that those who need to be fed physically, spiritually, and socially will have their needs met. Feel free to mention the meal to your friends, **but add their name(s) to the sign up sheet if they plan to attend.** Thanks for you help.



## STEWARDSHIP 2023

By: Dianne Debelak, Finance Chair

We are in the process of beginning our 2023 Stewardship Campaign for the life and support of our church. As committees, we are committed to sustaining the upkeep of the church. We are lean in our spending and weigh the different projects that are needed to be done, and put a hold on the ones that can be reconsidered down the road. As a congregation you need to be aware of the commitments that many members have made by serving on these committees, by spending wisely to maintain and sustain our church.

Like many of us personally, costs to support our households are increasing as are the costs to maintain our church. But rallying together during difficult times is our strong suit as a church family. During the height of the pandemic when we had to suspend in person worship for safety measures, you Stepped Up and continued your support, by making sure your commitments got to the church whether by mail, online or dropping it at the office, donning a mask....remember those times? Many blessings and thanks to all of you during a most difficult time in all our lives.



Stepping Up to be consistent in giving, is key in supporting the life of our church. Over the next few weeks our Stepping Up campaign for 2023 will begin, and it will culminate on Sunday, November 6, with communion and the blessing of

the commitment cards. Please take this time over the next several weeks to review your ability to support our church during our Stepping Up Campaign for 2023.

Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known

Thank You to Joanna Guckenberger for serving as our Financial Secretary. Have a happy retirement!



**World Communion Sunday**



Remember and use the offering envelope for World Communion Sunday

(October 2nd) which goes to provide college scholarships for racial and ethnic students in the United States and for international students.



Start planning to fill a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child later this month. Kickoff Sunday will be October 30, and Shoebox Sunday will be November 13. Remember that shoeboxes can be completed online.

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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Custodian: Kathy Goodman



Many thanks from New Beginnings! Another Apple Festival in the books and we couldn't have done it without you. Thanks so much for those that helped in anyway. From set up, working the tent or grills, picking up and delivering supplies, tear down, purchased product, and prayed for us, many hands make light work. God continues to bless this ministry. As we gather all the final bills, it is looking like we will profit approximately \$9,000. We will make an official report when everything is in. In the mean time we wanted to tell you how AWESOME you all are. To God be the Glory!!!





## Where is Your Heart?

By Pastor Kevin Reed

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21 (NIV)

Every few months I try an experiment. I open a search engine on the computer and I begin typing this phrase “Why are Christians so...” The search engine you are using will likely provide some potential options. If you are like me, the first time you see the results you will be shocked and a little heavy in the heart. Unfortunately, the results have changed periodically, but not often for the better.

I wish that typing that phrase produced great words like “joyful,” “happy,” “generous,” “forgiving,” “understanding,” or “hopeful.” Almost always the word that appears is “mean” or “judgmental.” If it isn’t the first suggestion, it will be in the top three.

Jesus occasionally had some harsh words for the religious leaders. He even called them a “brood of vipers,” but Jesus was always open to discussion and questions. He also never lashed out at the hurting and broken. Jesus never wished harm on those he disagreed with, and he certainly had the power to make them suffer if he had. Instead, when Jesus encountered people (even people who frustrated him), he gave them hope, options to choose life, and grace even in the midst of challenging words.



WHAT DO YOU *Treasure?*

Obviously search engine auto-complete is hardly a concise barometer of culture and general perception. But it does cause me to wonder why negative descriptions about Christians exist at all. That is not who we are called to be. This led me to Jesus in the sixth chapter of Matthew. If our heart were

truly with Christ, then wouldn’t we act like Christ? So, the question I must ask is, “Where are our hearts?” What do we love? What do we celebrate? Where do we feel the most joy?

This level of relationship is crucial as we have been participating in Courageous Conversations. There are many in this world who will disagree with us, and we can calmly and rationally communicate with them. If we close off dialogue or decide they are not worthy of our time, then we are missing an important way that Jesus modeled human relationships. We must support one another and not be in the business of tearing one another down.

We are reminded of this again as we begin the annual stewardship campaign. The church is asking you to support the ministry and life of Nappanee United Methodist Church for the coming year. We are asking you to put your treasure toward the work of Christ in the church. Your financial contributions enable us to host worship services on Sunday mornings, create relationships with families of small children who need Jesus, and provide discipleship opportunities for children, youth, and adults. Your financial gifts are appreciated greatly. Your support of the ministry of the church should be a priority because the relationships we have and the primary calling of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ are a priority. They are where our hearts are.

This year’s stewardship campaign is an opportunity to commit to placing your treasure and your heart firmly at NUMC and in the lives of people who need Jesus. Let us be known for that.



Pastor Kevin will now have office hours from 10 am– 2 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.





General Giving

August 28 \$ 7,046.  
September 11 \$ 8,950.

Building Upkeep & Property Fund

August 28 \$ 1,785.  
September 11 \$ 879.

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

- 01 Pat Stackhouse
- 03 Sue Gilley
- 12 Nathan Wiggins
- 16 Keith Knepp
- 20 Kinzie Leeper
- 22 Margaret Cousins
- 23 Kenton Ervin
- 23 Nicki Wiggins
- 24 Sean Sword
- 27 Lindsae Harrold
- 28 Bev Fales
- 28 Georgia Wiggins
- 29 Parker Leeper
- 31 David Harrold
- 31 Denny Myers

- 04 Mel & Janet Lemler
- 05 Eric & Vivian LaVine
- 06 Dave & Linda Detwiler
- 10 Ken & Phyllis Walters



In-Person Worship

September 4 72  
September 11 74  
September 18 65  
September 25 81

Sunday School Attendance

September 4 30  
September 11 35  
September 18 34  
September 25 39

Monthly Financial Report



*General Fund*

	August	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 13,862.	\$ 159,910.
Spending	-\$ 24,033.	-\$ 168,267.
Tithe Paid	-\$ 744.	-\$ 15,874.
Total Surplus or (Deficit)	-\$ 10,916.	-\$ 24,231.
Tithe in Arrears	-\$ 699.	-\$ 699.

*Building & Maintenance Fund*

	August	Year-to-date
Giving	\$ 15,589.59	\$ 26,709.59
Spending	-\$ 3,909.00	-\$ 11,657.21
Net Surplus or (Deficit)	\$ 11,680.59	\$ 15,052.38
Fund Balance		\$ 21,471.30
Special Project Fund		\$ 14,558.98

### Jesus Loves the Little Children ---

By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair

Yes...all the children of the world.



On Compassion Sunday, October 2nd, we will have an opportunity to have a part in showing Jesus' love to at least one of God's children through the ministry of Compassion International.

They're an organization dedicated to helping release children from poverty in Jesus' name. They do this by connecting children living in poverty with a loving sponsor...someone like you or me! Our sponsorship connects us to a local church in a child's community where they will receive the physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual care needed to escape poverty. And we can create meaningful relationships by exchanging letters a few times a year.

Last year I signed up to sponsor a young man named Adbultifu in Tanzania. I have his picture on my refrigerator where I am reminded to pray for him often. He just turned 16 in August. We've exchanged 3 letters this year, and I sent him birthday and Christmas greetings. I sent him a picture of snow and he in turn replied "Here at our home, it is warm condition."

So on 'Compassion Sunday, stop by the table in the narthex to look at the pictures of children that need a sponsor. Choose the one that says 'choose me' to you, and sign up to make a difference in his/her life. They will know that they have a friend from far away that believes in them and it will change the path for their lives. Give a child hope through the Jesus that loves all the children of the world.



### Library News

By: Pat Lehman, Librarian

Several additional books have been added to our library. *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn is about unlocking the secret of joyful giving. *Help, Thanks, Wow* by Anne Lamott is three simple prayers to get you through tough times, everyday struggles, and the hard work of ordinary life. Please contact Pat Lehman, librarian, before donating books to the library. Otherwise they won't be properly cataloged and added to the library.



### Better Together

By: Dianne & Dennis Debelak and Diana & Dick Smith

Our last evening meal for 2022 will be held at The Boathouse Restaurant, in beautiful Winona Lake located at 700 Park Avenue, at 6:00 pm, Monday, October 24th. The menu is expansive and delicious and the view of the lake is spectacular! We will not dine out together in November and December due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. But we will resume for daytime lunch dates in January, February and March. Wait 'til you see what we have in store for you!! Please join us on October 24 for a delightful evening together.



### New Staff Welcome!

Dawn, originally from New Jersey, has been in Indiana for 19 years. She currently lives in Elkhart. She is very recently married, although she and her husband have been together 19 years. They have 2 teenagers and 2 dogs. She currently works customer service full time and is a freelance bookkeeper on the side and is also a notary public. Her degree in business is from Indiana Wesleyan and her degree in HR Management is through Columbia Southern. She is always available through text or call. Her number is available on request.



## New News about Susanna’s Kitchen (Elkhart Kitchen)

*By: Dorothy Haney, Missions Chair*

Susanna’s Kitchen has finally moved into their permanent home at Grace Lutheran Church, 831 W. Marion Street in Elkhart. They had to move even though the church building is not ready for them to move into at this time. Necessary improvements have been coming along slowly, due to the fact of getting parts and labor. The church has been very helpful and are allowing them to use their fellowship hall until the construction can be completed.

They are asking for help with their expenses through GoFundMe on Facebook. Or you can just give through our church to the mission budget.

The people they are now serving on a daily basis are very appreciative for the hot lunch they receive and with your help and prayers, they want to continue this mission at their new location.



## Cents-ible Stewardship

During a children’s sermon, the pastor gave each child two pennies and told them to put one in each hand. “With full hands,” he asked, “how would you do other things, like drink a glass of juice?” They’d have to let go of one penny. (Likewise, adults must be willing to “let go” of material goods and desires to worship God alone.)

The pastor let the children keep the coins. When my 5-year-old returned to her seat, I suggested she could put them in the offering. Her quite loud response was, “NO! I need more money!” (Maybe my at-home talks about generosity — not to mention the kids message — hadn’t sunk in?) Granted, giving is a tough concept, even for grown-ups. But adults would gladly give away “worthless” pennies.



When the offering plate came by, my daughter put in her pennies all by herself. “Now maybe some little girl can eat tonight,” she said. God’s prompting may take some time to change our hearts. But may we all give so freely and give up what seems important at the time.

—Julie Lee



## Be-attitudes

- Be understanding of your enemies.
- Be loyal to your friends.
- Be strong enough to face the world each day.
- Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
- Be generous to those who need your help.
- Be frugal with what you need for yourself.
- Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
- Be open enough to believe in miracles.
- Be willing to share your joys.
- Be eager to share the sorrows of others.
- Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
- Be a follower when you are shrouded by uncertainty.
- Be the first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
- Be the last to criticize a colleague who fails.
- Be loving to those who love you.
- Be loving to those who don’t love you; they may change.
- Be yourself, above all.

