

FUMC News

MARCH 2024

FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BEDFORD



Three Verses

This year, part of my daily devotional time is dedicated to a program designed to get one through the Bible in a year. Each day features a brief commentary on the assigned passages, and then readings from either Psalms or Proverbs, the New Testament and the Old Testament. The program was set up several years ago and I've completed it a couple of times now, but never in a leap year. So I was really curious to see what would be included in this special day that interrupts the normal rhythm of the march of the months. I wasn't disappointed. The three passages spoke of our need to consistently and conscientiously spend time with the Bible each day because the words will speak to us in different ways at different stages (and sometimes even moods) we encounter on our life journey.

I found myself thinking of three verses (one from Psalms/Proverbs, one from the New Testament and one from the Old Testament) that are speaking to me at this moment in time. I came up with Psalm 40:1-2 (although I tend to use the rephrasing from the group U-2: "I waited patiently for the Lord. He inclined and heard my cry. He lifts me up out of the pit, out of the miry clay"). My New Testament verses remind of Jesus' promise to return for me once all the arrangements have been completed to meet His specifications. The Jeremiah passage speaks of the promise God made to me when I started seminary and the process of entering the ministry. It has also lifted me up and sustained me when I struggle, feel totally incompetent, or find myself doubting my calling. Below are these verses as found in the Common English Bible.

Psalms 40:1-2--"I put all my hope in the LORD. He leaned down to me; he listened to my cry for help. He lifted me out of the pit of death, out of the mud and filth, and set my feet on solid rock. He steadied my legs."

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P.S. A huge *thank you* to all of you for all the kind prayers, gifts, flowers, cards, and infinite patience as I navigated the frustrations and joys associated with a milestone birthday. It was a glorious, blessing-filled day!

Lenten Lunches

A huge thank you to everyone who turned out for the second Lenten lunch and to everyone who provided food and/or worked behind the scenes to make this a very successful event.

My best count showed around 48 people in attendance. We were able to use the opportunity to talk about Midwest Mission and our status as a permanent collection site for them in addition to discussing the second chapter of Magrey deVega's book, *Embracing the Uncertain: A Lenten Study for Unsteady Times*. As an added bonus: \$129 was raised for the youth mission trip this spring.

Remaining lunches are: March 6 at Grace UMC, March 13 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and March 20 at First Baptist Church. Lunches begin at noon.

Pastor Judi



Midwest Mission Update

I wanted to update you regarding our partnership with Midwest Mission. We have agreed to be a collection site for them. I have placed signs in front of and beside our church to let people know we are a collection site. I have also placed an advertisement on Facebook to let the public know. There have been some changes to kits according to the February "Zoom" meeting notes. The kit changes for 2024 are: removed birthing kits and added 8- to 10-ounce lotion to personal dignity kits. Current needs include 8- to 10-ounce lotion and 2-ounce diaper cream with zinc oxide.

I am happy to announce that we have received our first donation for Midwest Mission from St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Bloomington.

For your convenience, I am including the list of kits that are collected at Midwest. Should you wish to donate items for the mission team to deliver when we go to the Mission in May, there is a box in the left-hand corner for those donations. If you decide to donate, please make note of the exact items, sizes and packing requirements stated in the kits listed. (NOTE: Kit lists are at the end of the newsletter.)

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Sincerely,
Judy Clifton



The Next Generation youth group tries to do at least one mission-oriented project each month. In February, they decided to bake and decorate cookies for the men and women who serve in one of the three fire stations in Bedford. We had a great time mixing, cutting, baking and decorating the cookies on February 9 and delivered the treats on February 11. Also, 87 cans of soup were collected during the "Souper Bowl" Sundays.

In March, we are going to attempt to make fleece blankets using the material left over from a previous mission project. The finished blankets will be donated to the Men's Warming Shelter.

Due to scheduling conflicts for Pastor Judi, we have postponed the Indoor Yard Sale originally scheduled for April 13 to October 19. The Bedford-North Lawrence School District will be on fall break October 14-18 so the youth will have additional free time during the week to help with setting things up for the sale. This also gives everyone more time to collect and bring in donations for the sale. The money is being raised to cover the costs of our mission trips in the summer.

On April 26, 2024, the Art Department at Bedford-North Lawrence High School will be holding their annual Art Show in Fellowship Hall beginning at 5 pm. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar and plan to spend some time perusing the exhibits, some of which were completed by our own talented youth.

Levi King
Next Generation Director
bedfordfirstyouth@gmail.com



Delivery Time!



Soul Food

Soul Food book club, which meets the first Wednesday of each month at 10:30 in the Friendship Classroom will be discussing *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto* on March 6th.

Our book for April 3rd is *Joey* by Jennifer Marshall Bleakly and for May 1st we are reading *Death by Darjeeling* by Laura Childs.

All those who are able go out to lunch after our meeting always have a great time visiting with each other.

Linda Schoonmaker



2024 Sermon Manuscript Contest

The Indiana Conference Board of Laity is pleased to sponsor the 2024 Laity Sermon Manuscript Contest again this year. The contest is open to all laypersons in the Indiana Conference.

In collaboration with the 2024 Indiana Annual Conference Session, the theme for this year's manuscript contest is ***Cultivate Joy!*** based on Romans 15:13: ***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*** The author of the winning manuscript will present his or her manuscript during the Laity Session of Annual Conference, which will take place at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis June 6-8.

Rules:

- Manuscripts must be original and based on the theme stated above.
- Manuscripts should be no more than 10 minutes in length when presented.
- Entries will be judged based on clarity, originality, relationship to the theme and composition.
- Manuscripts must be accompanied by a cover sheet that includes the writer's name, phone number, email address, local church name and district.
- Entrants are asked not to include any personally identifying information in the manuscript itself since the manuscripts will be judged anonymously.
- Previous winners are ineligible for 3 years.
- All entries **MUST** be received no later than Sunday, April 7.
- The winner will be notified on or before Friday, April 19.

Entries should be submitted to Kim Arnott, Conference Director of Lay Servant Ministries, at kimarnott@mac.com. For additional information about the contest, please contact Kim Arnott at the above email address.



6 David Prather
 8 Amy Nikirk
 16 Rev. Richard Bell
 17 Marley DeWolfe
 18 Janet Jackson
 20 Millie Bertolino
 22 Bev Owen
 23 Karen Brim
 29 William Groce



UPCOMING Events

March 5, Hospitality Committee at 9:00 AM
 March 6, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
 March 8, Pizza & Painting at 1:00 PM (Orleans)
 March 12, Administrative Council at 6:00 PM
 March 28, Maundy Thursday service online
 March 29, Good Friday service online
 Every Sunday, Chimes Practice, 8: 45 AM
 Every Sunday, Choir Practice, 9:30 AM
 Last Monday of the month, Euchre at 2:00 PM
 Every Tuesday, Men's Breakfast at Bob Evans at 9:00 AM
 Every Tuesday, Grief Share from 2:00 to 3:30 PM
 Every Tuesday, Bible study at 4:00 PM
 Every Thursday, Fiber Time at 2:00 PM
 Every Friday, Youth Group at 6:30 PM
 Every Saturday, Gideons at 8:00 AM

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*Making disciples Jesus
 Christ for the transfor-
 mation of the world.*