

Bedford First United Methodist Church
Grace United Methodist Church
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church



Lawrence County UMC News

Remembering God in Times of Disappointment

Disappointments are sometimes hard to endure, but my experience has been that even in the most difficult of times, God’s love and grace and mercy are able to penetrate even the most severe of these. Case in point: I had been looking forward to taking a week off in October for a spiritual retreat at the convent in Ferdinand. It was so enticing. Eight days spent in silence and meditation in beautiful southern Indiana. Just me and God for the most part. The plan was that I would spend my days reading about early church leaders such as Augustine, Eusebius, the Desert Fathers, and others who played vital roles in shaping the simple ministry of Jesus and His disciples into the Christianity that we know and love today.

Alas, the funding mechanism has changed for the Conference grant that covered the expenses for this project. I would be required to cover more than half the retreat with my own funds. I prayed about the situation and decided to abandon the dream as planned. You see, I KNOW that I can encounter God everywhere and in everyone I meet and I can study the work of the church fathers anywhere. As for getting away, it is so simple when you consider that Spring Mill and McCormick’s Creek State Parks are an easy day trip. Nearby church camps like Rivervale, In-Di-Co-So, and Santa Claus have cabins that can be rented out for the day or week for much less money. So the dream continues, just in a little different form than I’d originally planned.

Pretty much the same experience happened when I applied for Ordination. That door was closed, but opportunities emerged in places like Crawfordsville and Bedford for growth and service. I am continually amazed at the work God has managed to do in and through

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me when I ceded my will to His. And I am confident that this time will be no different.

Letting go and letting God lead. Enduring disappointments, frustrations, even sadness. God is with me every step. And I am grateful.

Blessings,
Pastor Judi

Financial Report: Year 2024

Last year was a year of transition, going from a full-time minister to part-time at mid-year. Having to pay no health insurance, plus less salary and pension gave us a savings of over \$25,000. At that same time, we had people leave the church and others lower their giving. Full-year deficit for 2024 was about \$36,000 with \$16,000 coming in the second half of the year. Funds to make up the deficit came from the sale of the van four years earlier and the transfer of trust fund monies. The trust fund balance is now \$160,000.

~Jerry Jackson,
Treasurer



Strategic Planning Committee

The Administrative Council has decided to setup a sub-committee to help chart the course of First UMC. If you are interested in being part of this planning group, please contact Mary Barnes at 812-277-6666 or by email at barnes47421@gmail.com. Our first organizational meeting will be Monday, March 3 at 6:00 PM in the Friendship Classroom.

Next Generation



After taking a break in January, the Next Generation has resumed meeting on Sundays immediately following worship. We are always looking for ways to serve our church family and our community and welcome any and all suggestions!

~Pastor Judi

Soul Food

Soul Food will meet at 10:30 on Wednesday, March 5. We will discuss *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd. We will head to lunch following our meeting.

~Linda Schoonmaker



Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who contributed soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday." We were able to donate 46 cans to LIFE Food Pantry because of your generosity.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kat, Kayeh and Mae on completing the Women's Self-Defense course offered by East 50 Gym in January!





- 6 David Prather
- 8 Amy Nikirk
- 10 Anna Bruhy
- 16 Rev. Richard Bell
- 18 Janet Jackson
- 22 Bev Owen
- 23 Karen Brim
- 29 William Groce

Save the Date

13TH ANNUAL JOHN WILLIAMS
MEMORIAL TOAST HONORING

Jack Kenworthy

Kenworthy's compassion for others and his attentiveness to the city's needs make him someone to be honored!

March 1st, 2025
Bedford First Baptist Church
Doors open at 4pm
Dinner served at 5pm




- March 1 Rotary Toast at 4:00 PM, First Baptist Church
- March 2, Pitch-in lunch at 11:30 AM, BFUMC
- March 3, Strategic Planning Committee at 6:00 PM, BFUMC
- March 5, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
- March 5, UMW, Grace UMC at 1:00 PM
- March 5, Ash Wednesday Service, BFUMC, 6:00 PM
- March 11, Administrative Council at 6:00 PM
- March 21, Cum Libris book club, at 11:30 AM, BFUMC
- March 26, Lenten Lunch, BFUMC, at noon
- Every Sunday, Chimes Practice at 8:45 AM
- Every Sunday, Choir Practice at 9:30 AM
- Every Sunday, Youth Group at 11:30 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 at 2:00 PM
- Every Tuesday, Bible study at 4:00 PM
- Every Thursday, Fiber Time at 2:00 PM
- Every Saturday, Gideons at 8:00 AM



*Bedford First United
Methodist Church*

1409 K Street
P. O. Box 84
Bedford, IN 47421

812-275-2627
bedfordfirstumc@gmail.com

*Making disciples
Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world.*

