

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



Lawrence County UMC News

A wise person once observed the only constant in life is change. (Actually, it was Heraclitus!) And there's been a lot of change in my life in the last month.

- A disappointment turned into a huge joy after I discovered that when I submitted the correct form for a Sabbatical I was really looking forward to attending, the Indiana Conference was willing to cover the cost of the entire project. So, I'm once again looking forward to an eight-day Sabbatical in October at the convent in Ferdinand, Indiana.
- After realizing that retirement was inching closer, I visited the site of my future retirement home in Franklin last week. I'm happy to report that I have been placed on the waiting list for a cottage at Otterbein Senior Life Retirement Community.
- Finally, I was accepted by a health program that will help me monitor my blood sugar levels, hopefully preventing me from developing diabetes in the future (it runs in my family) as well as getting me on a healthier lifestyle routine.
- And I've started recognizing answers to long-submitted prayers both personally and professionally.

New challenges and changes to established routines continue to keep me on my toes as I navigate life and my journey towards Christian perfection. And I'm thoroughly enjoying God's surprises that I encounter each day. One of my devotional readings cited Isaiah 41:10 recently. It seems fitting for me at this point in my life. "Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you" (MSG). And I'm praising God constantly for doing just that!

Blessings,
Pastor Judi

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Next Generation

Next Generation is working to organize a Sunday school for children attending worship services on Sunday morning. They are currently cleaning, sanitizing, and selecting toys and games to place in the Nursery area as well as developing lesson plans for the sessions.

We should all be proud of these girls. They saw a need and stepped up to volunteer. Our future in action!

~Pastor Judi



Financial Report

As most of you know, Bedford First United Methodist Church is experiencing some challenging times. For many different reasons, the financial health of the church has gone into a decline over the past few years. We ended 2023 with a \$16,000 deficit. The pastor volunteered to move to a part-time employment which enabled us to reduce our annual expenses by \$15,000 for the second half of 2024. The move helped, but was not enough, and we ended 2024 with a deficit of \$36,000. The estimated deficit for 2025 is \$30,000. In 2024, we sold the church van for \$23,000 and removed \$5,000 from our Trust Fund to cover expenses. In 2025, the vote at a Special Charge Conference (held on February 23) was unanimous to remove an additional \$20,000 to cover an anticipated deficit this year.

Our Trust Fund balance is currently \$160,000. We estimate a \$30,000 deficit in 2025 which suggests that we will need to remove an additional \$10,000 this year to cover all our expenses. If that pattern continues, our Trust Fund will be depleted in about five years.

Looking ahead, Pastor Judi will retire in June 2026 as required by the United Methodist Church. Currently, our parsonage expenses are around \$7,000 per year. Since churches are not required to provide a parsonage for part-time pastors, we will have some savings there and also have the opportunity rent out the parsonage for additional income.

~Jerry Jackson,
Treasurer



Soul Food

Soul Food will meet at 10:30 on Wednesday, April 2. We will discuss *The River We Remember* by William Kent Krueger. We will head to lunch following our meeting.

~Linda Schoonmaker



Lenten Lunches

- April 2 at Grace United Methodist Church
- April 9 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church



Pre-Easter Services

- ✙ Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 7:00 PM, First Christian Church
- ✙ Good Friday Tenebrae Service. April 18 at 7:00 PM, Bedford First Assembly of God, 2601 27th Street, Bedford.

Rotary Toast

On March 1, 2025, the Bedford Rotary Club honored our own Jack Kenworthy. Among the “toastmasters” at the event were Judge Nathan Nikirk, Katarina Kwakye, and Pastor Judi. Here is a link to a video of the event (and if you look closely, you’ll see several members of Bedford First United Methodist Church) <https://fb.watch/yA7CUAwPwF/?>. Congratulations, Jack. It was a great evening!

~Pastor Judi



Easter Gift

Deklin and Daxin present Pastor Judi with the Easter plaque they made for her with the help of their little brother, Duttin.



UMW Yard Sale

Grace UMW will hold a yard sale on Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Grace United Methodist Church, 1730 H Street (next to the Post Office).



- 11 Vicki Groh
- 12 Sarah Burk
- 17 Kathy Thompson
- 18 Candy Stedman



April 2, Soul Food at 10:30 AM, BFUMC
 April 2, Lenten Lunch at 12:00 Noon, Grace UMC
 April 8, Administrative Council at 6:00 PM
 April 9, Lenten Lunch at 12:00 Noon, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
 April 17, Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM, First Christian Church
 April 18, Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM, Bedford First Assembly of God
 April 20, Easter Sunday Service at 10:30 AM, BFUMC
 April 26, Yard sale from 8:00 AM-2:00 PM, Grace UMC
 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

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