

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



Lawrence County UMC News

Advent is here! Our worship service on November 30 marked the first Sunday in Advent for 2025.

Growing up, Advent always mystified me. I never understood why the grownups got so excited. My mom would patiently explain that Advent was a time to prepare for the birth of the baby Jesus. OK, that made sense, I thought. But it never was too long after that when I would go back with what I thought was a question with a pretty obvious answer: "Wasn't Jesus born a long time ago?" With a heavy sigh and what was probably an internal grimace, Mom would answer, "That's right," even though she knew what was coming next. "If He's already been born, why are we acting as if He hasn't?" By then I'm sure my mother struggled to suppress the suggestion that I go to my father, who for the most part considered all Christians to be "hypocrites." Instead, we continued to talk about the amazing man who could be born long ago, and reborn in men's hearts every December 25.

Later I learned that while Christians **SHOULD** celebrate that joyous occasion when God's Son was born of human virgin, we **SHOULD** also be celebrating in anticipation of Jesus' return. So when we sing Christmas carols, we are not only joyously sharing the news that Jesus lives, we are also expectantly waiting for His return. Every year, Jesus is born again in our hearts, our souls, our spirits; and we celebrate with gladness and gratefulness. But we also joyously anticipate His return in fulfillment of His promise found in John 14:14. Let the party begin!

Blessings,
Pastor Judi

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Next Generation

You won't want to miss the Next Generation Christmas pageant appearing as part of our Christmas Eve service on December 24, so MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! All your favorites will be appearing in this production: Madison, Abby, Kayeh and Richard **AS WELL AS** Kinnon, Tabatha, Deklin, Daxin and Dustin Kopp. Revisit the Nativity story as imagined by our author, Kristen Bell. YOU WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED! Service starts at 5:00 PM on December 24. See you there!

CONGRATULATIONS:

Madison Thompson has been accepted into the Early Childhood Education program at Ivy Tech--Bloomington. She will begin her studies in the fall of 2026.

Kayeh Kwakye was elected Captain of the Bedford-North Lawrence High School Swim Team.

Congratulations, ladies!

~Pastor Judi



Financial Report

October 2025 was a three-payroll month for employees (about \$2,000 every two weeks), so our deficit was \$3,963 in October. Also, Jack Kenworthy has agreed to be treasurer in 2026. Thanks, Jack.

~Jerry Jackson,
Treasurer



2026 Liturgists

It's time to produce the list of liturgists for the upcoming year. People currently serving as liturgists will be left on the list unless they let me know to remove them. If you don't currently serve, but are willing to do so, please let me know. Thanks to everyone who serves in this vital role.

~Tammy Dodds,
Administrative Assistant



Soul Food

Soul Food Book Club will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 3 at 10:30 AM in the Friendship classroom. We will be discussing *The Christmas Candle* by Max Lucado; a good way to start off the Christmas season. Linda will lead the discussion.

I look forward to seeing all of my members at the meeting and anyone else who wants to come and join us is welcome.

We are already almost through compiling a list of books to read for 2026. I have a few months left, so if you have a suggestion, please let me know.

We will head out to lunch after our meeting for a time of fellowship.

~Linda Schoonmaker



Special Worship Service on December 28

In addition to our traditional Wesleyan Covenant Service, during our last worship service of the year, we will also take time to revisit our baptismal vows with the “Congregational Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant” service ritual.

Several of you have approached me in the past few months wanting to be “re-baptized” by professing your faith in Jesus once more. I cannot fulfill your desire because the United Methodist Church recognizes one baptism for the remission of sins. Here’s how they put it on their website:

“United Methodists do not re-baptize those who have already received Christian baptism. We believe baptism is ultimately an act of God, and God does it right the first time” (<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-may-i-be-baptized-again>).

~Pastor Judi



Encourage Kat!

Katarina Kwakye will be taking finals the week of December 8. If you would like to offer some encouragement, her address is: 354 Vigo Hall, 3 Locust Street, Vincennes, IN 47591.



Strategic Plan

Copies of the finalized Strategic Planning Committee report can be found on the table in the hallway. Please pick one up, review the recommendations and seek God's guidance as to where your specific gifts and abilities might suit one of the goals in the plan.



Happy Birthday!

1 Karyn Price
7 Cathie Whitted
11 Lamar Peterson
21 Kristen Bell and Bill Barnes
26 Kay Greenhaw
31 Anita Purdy



Dec. 3, Soul Food at 10:30 AM , BFUMC
Dec.3, UMW Christmas Party at 6:00 PM, Grace UMC
Dec. 9, Administrative Council at 6:00 PM, BFUMC
Dec. 21, Longest Night Service online
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 PM, BFUMC
Last Monday of the month, Euchre at 2:00 PM
Every Tuesday, Men's Breakfast at Denny's at 9:00 AM
Every Tuesday, Grief Share at 2:00 PM (ends December 16)
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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*Making disciples
Jesus Christ for
the transformation
of the world.*

