

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

May 2026



LAWRENCE COUNTY FUMC NEWS

Active Listening

Just in case you didn't manage to write down the active listening points that I covered in the April 26 message, here they are again:

- Give full attention to speaker
- Use verbal and nonverbal cues
- Wait for person to finish before speaking
- Paraphrase what you heard
- Ask open-ended questions
- Hold off judgement
- Silence is Golden

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As I mentioned in the message, these skills are also useful in prayer:

- Put away distractions
- Fully concentrate on having a two-way conversation with God
- Allow moments of silence for God to respond
- Paraphrase what it is that you think God is telling you
- Ask open-ended questions
- Be honest

These are simple techniques that will help you stay in the moment and be present for God, available to the ministrations of the Holy Spirit while considering exactly what it is that Jesus might do in any situation. And most of all, remember to listen and be watchful. God speaks to all of us in a variety of ways throughout each day. The trick is being open and accessible!

Blessings to you all!
Pastor Judi

Next Generation

Abby, Kayeh and Madison are excitedly making preparations to host a baby shower for Tabatha Kopp on Sunday, May 17 beginning at 2:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of Bedford First. Refreshments, games and fun are on the agenda. Please plan to join us in celebrating new life with good friends!

A graduation celebration for our three BNL graduates will be held on Saturday, June 6 from 1:00-4:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall of the church.



Our three graduating seniors from Bedford North Lawrence High School: Kayeh, Abby and Madison in their prom finery.

Kayeh will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington and studying psychology, Abby is headed for Ivy Tech in Terre Haute to study paramedic science and Madison is going to Ivy Tech in Bloomington to study elementary education.



A handsome prom couple—Richard and date. (Richard graduates next year.)

Choir Practice

The last choir practice of the season will be May 10. Rest those voices for the summer.



Soul Food

SOUL FOOD BOOK CLUB: We will meet at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, May 6. Bev Owens will lead us in discussing *Mrs. Endicott's Splendid Adventure* by Rhys Bowen. It is a good book involving a lady whose husband asks her for a divorce after 30 years of marriage. She makes some big changes in her life, and it leads her to making new friends and adventures she never would have had otherwise.

Lunch to follow at a place we decide on locally in Bedford. This is always a good way to get to know each other on a more personal basis.

We always welcome new members.

Our book for next month is *Death in the Details* by Katie Tietjen with Karyn Price leading the discussion.

Linda Schoonmaker
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Odd Jobs

Pastor Judi has announced that her last Sunday in Bedford will be June 28, 2026. There are a variety of odd jobs that she performs each week that will need someone to assume responsibility for including:

- Making sure the paraments on the altar, Lectern, Pulpit and Bible are changed according to the liturgical calendar.
- Keeping the altar candles and white Funeral/Paschal/Advent wreath candle filled with oil
- Maintaining and sharing the weekly Prayer List
- Watering the indoor plants
- Sending out birthday and anniversary cards to members
- Supervising security camera
- Setting the digital thermometers in Fellowship Hall, upper level, and office area



200th Anniversary



The 200th Anniversary Celebration Committee has decided that since there are many other activities in May, the celebration will be rescheduled for sometime in the fall.

Spring Cleaning

Pam Bell and others plan to clean and declutter the church soon. If you (or your family) have donated any item in the church in memory of someone, please either let Pam know (812-277-6823), or tell Tammy in the office (812-275_2627). Thank you.



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Tony Purdy
- 6 Bart Bertolino
- 13 Catie and Abby Scott
- 14 Jack Kenworthy
- 15 Darryl Ivanson
- 22 Marilyn Sanders
- 23 Phil Scott
- 26 Charlie Elkins
- 28 Mike Berry



May 5, Hospitality Committee at 9:00 AM
May 6, Soul Food at 10:30 AM
May 13, Administrative Council at 5:00 PM
May 17, Tabbie Kopp's Baby Shower at 2:00 PM
Every Sunday, Choir Practice, 9:30 AM (ends May 10)
Last Monday of the month, Euchre at 2:00 PM
Every Tuesday, Men's Breakfast at Denny's at 9:00 AM
Every Thursday, Fiber Time at 2:00 PM
Every Saturday, Gideons at 8:00 AM

Hospitality Committee

The Hospitality Committee will be honoring women who made significant contributions to our church throughout its 200-year history at our May 10 Mother's Day service. If you would like to honor a specific woman whom you remember as being particularly impactful, please let a member of the Hospitality Committee know and we will bring the microphone to you during the service. Hospitality Committee members are Rowena Mount, Sandy Thomas and Rowena Cross-Najafi.



Bedford First United Methodist Church

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*The Mission of Bedford First
United Methodist Church is to
grow in faith in Christ and to
reach out in God's love to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.*