



December

January

Vol. XXV No. 12 & 1 – DEC 2020 & JAN 2021

Dear Church Family,

As we once again made the shift, and I believe rightfully so, from gathering in person in our church buildings for worship, study, fellowship and mission to having to connect in alternate ways with one another, many of us are feeling alone, isolated, and frustrated. Not all of us are easily able to connect virtually, and when we do, it certainly doesn't feel the same. We are sick and tired of the words "social distance" and just want this stupid pandemic to be over. I am right there with you! But just because we've been encouraged to keep from gathering in person, we don't need to stop being the church and we don't have to be disconnected.

I am grateful for the ways we have been able to remain connected worshipping on our website, Facebook, You Tube, WIOE; through emails, phone calls and old fashioned mail; and grateful to those who have worked hard to keep us connected. That has been the amazing thing through all of this and the past almost 9 months....that we have been able to provide opportunities to remain connected as a church even though it has been challenging, different and unfamiliar.

Courtney Sale, our church's Youth Leader sent me an ABC 57 news article she read from an investigative report on the effects of the pandemic on mental health and the importance of connections. In the news segment, the writer highlighted how the pandemic has impacted our mental health and stressed the importance of recognizing signs our mental health is suffering in ourselves and others, finding alternate ways of staying connected, reaching out for help as needed and changing the language we use in this time of pandemic. It recommended rather than using "social distancing" we use "physical distancing" as a reminder that we do not need to be socially isolated and alone and that continuing to reach out to one another in other ways can be a critical life-line.

Because of the importance of keeping the spread of the virus down for not only the safety of our families and ourselves, but also for our healthcare workers and communities I believe it is vital we maintain physical distance, but not social distance. Thanks to the advances in technology and the creativity of people who are willing to make needed adjustments, we can and must remain connected to one another as the Body of Christ. Rather than seeing our church as closed, I see it being untethered from the buildings reaching out to our church family and into our community in many different ways.

During Advent, we will have the opportunity to be connected through not only worship services on our "virtual" platforms, but also in small groups via Zoom, a tool being used by many to stay connected online as well as on the telephone. Dave Heim will lead a four-week Advent study on Wednesday nights 7pm beginning December 2nd entitled Incarnation based upon the Adam Hamilton book by that title. I will continue to offer Bible study on Thursdays at 8am (men's Bible study) and Thursday evenings 7pm (everyone Bible study) via Zoom. If you have questions regarding how to join either by internet or by phone to a Zoom meeting, please let me know. Our communications director, Mandy Ferguson, is working on making training available to anyone interested in learning more about how to connect virtually as well. And then there is the old-fashioned ways of connecting virtually through a phone call or a note of encouragement. If someone comes to mind, give them a call or send them a note of encouragement.

We will get through this! The church will still have a mission to fulfill of making disciples of Jesus and a community to love. Church looks a little different as we wade through this and it is important that we are open to the Spirit's leading to discover new ways of reaching out and connecting. I believe we can come out stronger and better on the other side. We are learning a lot about ourselves, about life, about God as we walk through this together in spite of the challenges. So, while we are being asked to maintain physical distance, God continues to call us to make disciples of Jesus, grow as his disciples and to love one another.

Yours in the Journey—*Pastor Brian*

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24th
Streaming at 7:00 p.m.

warsawfumc.org/worship

Warsaw First United Methodist Church

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will be available for streaming at 7:00 p.m. on our website warsawfumc.org/worship.

Giving for the Christmas Eve service will be virtual this year, go to our website warsawfumc.org and click on the "Give" tab at the top of the page. From there you can set up an account and select "Missions" fund. The funds from this year's Christmas Eve collection will be split evenly between Fellowship Missions (Warsaw's homeless shelter) and the Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children.

In preparation for this year's service we'd like to have messages from individuals or families to their church family. If you would like to participate, send a short video to communications@warsawfumc.org.

Ways to Worship

As we continue meeting virtually, we want to inform you of the ways you can participate in our Worship services. The most up-to-date information and postings will be on our website, warsawfumc.org. There are banners on the main page with important and timely announcements. From there, you can click on the Worship tab where you will see a YouTube video of the latest Service, as well as a link off to the side for that Service's bulletin so you can follow along. The new services are posted at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays. The services for that week will remain on the website until the next Sunday at 9:00 a.m. when the new one is posted. To re-visit past services, go to our YouTube page (Warsaw FUMC) and all of the past services are saved there. On YouTube you can like our videos (thumbs up) and click the Subscribe button to receive notifications when we post a new video. To connect with others, join our Facebook Warsaw FUMC Group (link on our Facebook page) so you can join in conversations, prayer requests, and praises with those you

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miss seeing in the next pew. You can also listen to the service on the radio at 101.1 WIOE at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays.

If you are having trouble viewing the service and need help with the technology or any other assistance, please reach out to the church office and we can work with you.

Thank you all so much for your continued patience and prayers for this church staff as we continue to navigate this new way of worship!

*In Christ,
Mandy Ferguson
Church Communications*

Averages for YTD November 20	
Attendance: In-person: 123 Online: 220	Giving: Offering \$8,250 Missions \$768
YTD November 24—Operating Budget	
Operating Income:	\$403,259.08
Operating Expenses:	\$365,520.42
4th Quarter Mission Focus: Community Closet	\$5,001.09 (incl. coin of \$192.81)

4th Quarter Mission Focus . . . Community Closet & Deb's Closet



FUMC's Community Closet (Downtown Campus) & Deb's Closet (Connection Campus) is the mission focus for the remainder of 2020. Personal care and household items that cannot be purchased with SNAP funds continue to be available curbside on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Downtown and with Strengthening Families on Mondays at The Connection. We have been consistently assisting about 80 families – well over 200 individuals. Your “mission” donations as well as a “noisy offering” (aka coin offering) made through your regular giving financially supports this ministry. Please indicate “Closet” in memo section of checks made payable to FUMC, on a separate line of your giving envelope, or choose “Missions” in the dropdown for online giving—warsawfumc.org and then click the “Give” tab at the top of the page.

Thanks so much for your generous support!

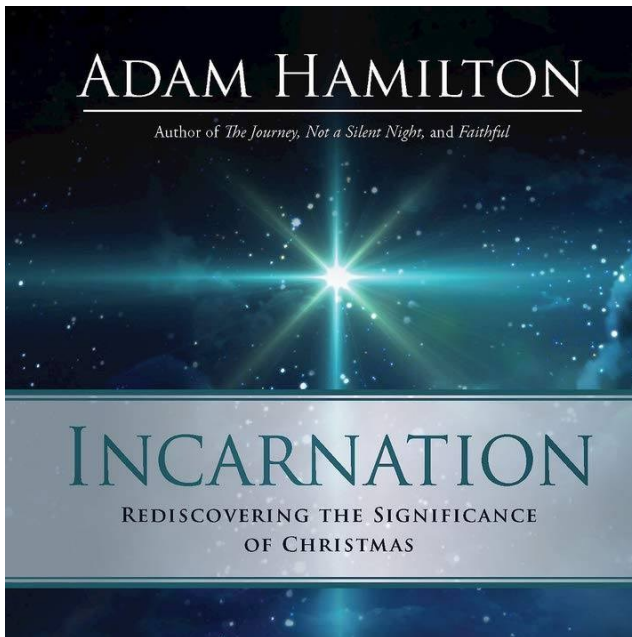
2021 1st Quarter Mission Focus . . . Bashor Children's Home

First Quarter Mission Focus for 2021 is Bashor Children's Home, a facility offering specialized care and therapy for children and youth located in Goshen, Indiana, and affiliated with the United Methodist Church





Join our virtual Advent Study of Adam Hamilton's book "Incarnation." We will be meeting via Zoom the next four Wednesdays at 7:00PM beginning December 2 and concluding December 23. If you are interested, please email Dave Heim at david.heim@inumc.org



The Monday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin a new study in January. The group has a twofold plan. A video study of Psalm 23 by Jennifer Rothschild will be used if meeting in person. If the pandemic restrictions prevent in person meetings, we will use a book study and virtual discussion of *Sensible Shoes: A Story about the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. Please contact Kathee Reed, by phone, text or email, 574-527-5402 or katheereed@comcast.net for more information.



12/1	Ann Compton
12/2	Ana Hamrick
12/3	Ashley Neubaum
	Diane Quance
12/4	Gail Olds
12/5	Walter Johnson
12/6	Mike Armey
	Michelle Becknell
	Jon Garber
12/7	Jason Seiffert
12/8	Patrick Fuller
	Deb Starbuck
12/9	Christa Shenefield
	Carol Wood
12/10	Ryan Wood
12/11	Steve Allen
	Mike Arford
	Shayna Cooper
12/12	Blayne Shenefield
12/13	George Gilbert
	Keely Roe
12/14	Steve Harris
	Nancy Helstern
	Lorena Siesennop
12/15	Sydnnee McCam-
mon	
	Luke Smith
12/16	Penny Bartel
12/17	Amy Williamson
12/18	Deb Halfacre
12/18	Bev Miller
	Krystal Smith
	Raygan Wright
12/20	Jenni McCammon
12/26	Sarah Kirkpatrick
12/27	Ann Seward
12/29	Candi Kizer
	Brianna Walsh



1/1	Rick Helm
1/2	Jerry Craig
1/4	Tim Mangas
1/4	Shianne Shafer
	Randy Wilcox
1/6	Cathie Ressler
1/7	Laura Arford
	Todd Shenefield
1/8	Jake Mangas
	Debra Vitoux
1/9	Katie Maile
1/12	Gary Cooper
	Ava Drudge
1/15	Willis Alt
	Tyler Miller
	Bob Rearick
1/18	Becky Watson
1/19	Edie Seewald
	Bob Vitoux
1/20	Ammie Devenney
1/21	Jeannine Cavell
	Maxine Harris
1/26	Tanner Hughes
1/27	Sara Rode
	Griffin Roe
1/28	Jane Eaton
1/29	Clara Griner
1/31	Mary Garrett
	Hope Osborn



Community Closet Advent Calendar





























HELP STOCK THE CLOSET!

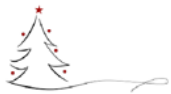
Make the countdown to Christmas fun! Use this Advent calendar for your countdown. Each day of December, choose an item such as a toothbrush, roll of toilet paper, paper towels, shampoo, cleaner, or any other personal items the Community Closet stocks and put it into a bag/box. Color in the day on your calendar and when all of the boxes are colored--have a Merry Christmas! After Christmas, bring your box or bag of items to the church office. Thank you for helping to stock the Closet



Advent 2020



11/29 	11/30 	12/01 	12/02 	12/03 	12/04 	12/05 
12/06 	12/07 	12/08 	12/09 	12/10 	12/11 	12/12 
12/13 	12/14 	12/15 	12/16 	12/17 	12/18 	12/19 
12/20 	12/21 	12/22 	12/23 	12/24 	12/25 	12/26 





Our Church's HERITAGE

From Janet Kirkpatrick, Church Historian:

This summer I discovered an amazing bit of history from our church. I had just finished framing the pictures of our former pastors to be displayed in the hallway in the downtown church. A few of the photos were obviously copies of pictures published in the local newspaper, and as a result, their quality was not the best. I got the idea to search the internet and my genealogy website to see if I could find any better depiction of those early pastors. One of those early pastors was Commodore Perry Gibbs, who was at the Warsaw Methodist Episcopal Church from 1929 to 1932. My search did not find a better picture of him, but it did uncover a manuscript that he had written entitled "My Old Kentucky Home". The work was a reproduction described as "being culturally important and ... part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it." My curiosity was peeked; then suddenly I remembered something my mother had told me about her experience at church. She fondly remembered a pastor who told stories about his 'Old Kentucky Home'. He had apparently made quite an impression on Mother, who at that time was a young Indiana farm girl. Yes, that pastor was C. P. Gibbs.

In the downtown location you can find a copy of his manuscript about his home; his education, his religion and his advice to young and old. It is a small booklet and an easy read. When time permits, come to the parlor and experience Pastor Gibb's message. JK

Church Family I wanted to say "thank you" for your prayers, notes of encouragement, tasty goodies, cards of blessing, and gift cards during pastor appreciation month in October. We feel so blessed to be a part of the Warsaw First UMC family!

Pastor Brian and family

An excerpt from Design Outreach letter dated November 11, 2020

Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you so much for sponsoring a LifePump and a LifePumpLink! By giving \$10,500 for the LifePump and a LifePumpLink, you are providing reliable water access to a community in need and promoting positive transformation.

We cannot thank you enough for your passion and generosity. A sustainable water source has the power to bring health, economic opportunity, and individual empowerment to a community. Thank you for partnering with Design Outreach as we seek to alleviate global poverty through long-term, sustainable solutions.

We will be in touch in the coming weeks and months to provide updates on your LifePump. The project timeline included with this letter will give you an idea of when you can expect each step in the process to occur. Please keep in mind that this is a general overview; the timing for each project varies based on a variety of factors, including weather.

Thank you again for your support and partnership. We truly could not do this work without you.

Blessings,
The Design Outreach Team



Warsaw First United Methodist Church
179 South Indiana Street
Warsaw, IN 46580-2810

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Warsaw, IN 46580



or current occupant



Warsaw First United Methodist Church

Pastor

Brian Smith – pastor@warsawfumc.org

Director of Worship Ministries

Sanctuary Choir / Ginn Handbells / Praise Team

Brian Brauchla – music@warsawfumc.org

Praise Team Director

Deb Bishop – praiseteam@warsawfumc.org

Director of Children's Ministries

Mandy Bailey – children@warsawfumc.org

Director of Youth Ministries

Courtney Sale – youth@warsawfumc.org

Business Manager/Finance Secretary

Ann Baker – busmgr@warsawfumc.org

Communications Coordinator

Mandy Ferguson –
communications@warsawfumc.org

Our Mission: Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Downtown: 179 South Indiana Street, Warsaw (mailing address)

The Connection: 1692 West Lake Street, Warsaw

Office: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday

(574) 267-6933 / office@warsawfumc.org / www.warsawfumc.org

