



Vol. XXVI No. 2 & 3 – FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

Dear Church Family,

As we move further into 2021, we are seeing some much-needed signs of hope that we will come out from under this pandemic. Many of you are either receiving your vaccine or are signed up to do so in the coming weeks. Our Pandemic Safety Team has been a great support to our Servant Council in making wise decisions for how we can continue to do our part in caring for our church family and community. This team met this past Sunday to look at where we are health wise in our community and is recommending to our Servant Council that we continue to limit in person gatherings inside through February. Our communications team will keep everyone posted on decisions from our Council as we go forward. We will continue to offer opportunities for us to worship both on WIOE and through our church media outlets. Our communications team continues to develop ways for us to engage in the ministry and mission of the church in addition to worship on Sundays for both those online as well as those who are not.

We were not able to have our annual church-wide retreat in January this year to look at where we've been the previous year and where we are going in the new year. Needless to say, 2020 has presented a number of challenges in working toward the goals set last year. From the list of great ideas generated we prioritized the following goals for 2020:

1. Develop life skills programs/ financial classes
2. Establish a transportation program for shut ins and those who live alone
3. Provide, discover and/or establish community support groups
4. Develop an intentional discipleship pathway

Our church Operational Team has been meeting via Zoom and has been very helpful in making needed adjustments this past year in the face of pandemic. We have been reminded that the church is much more than our buildings and even more than us gathered physically. We have learned much about the state of the Church in America and discovered important ideas for how to minister effectively post-COVID in our community. Our DNA as a church continues to be mission and loving our community and world. At our last meeting we reviewed the list of goals to determine which ones we can work toward this year and developed the following goals for 2021:

1. Continue to work on the intentional discipleship pathway.
2. Partner with community organizations to find ways we can more effectively engage our people, resources and buildings for mission.
3. Build on our existing prayer ministry to engage more of our community
4. Form a Communications Team to further enhance church communications and connections

In spite of the challenges this past year, God calls us to make disciples of Jesus and to allow the Holy Spirit to transform us and our communities through us. Our goal and mission continues to be to connect others to God. The way we do that, and the tools God gives us may change, but the mission is the same.

I am excited to be a part of that mission here at Warsaw 1st UMC with you and to see what God will do in and through us.

Yours in the journey,

Pastor Brian

1st Quarter Mission



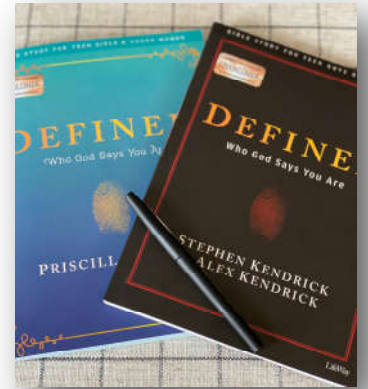
Help for today . . . Hope for tomorrow

Bashor Children's Home began nearly 100 years ago as the Bashor Deaconess Orphanage for boys near Goshen, Indiana, on land donated to the Methodist Episcopal Church by John and Emaline Bashor. Around 1970, Bashor evolved from a traditional orphanage to a provider of professional residential treatment services. In 1974, Bashor began admitting girls into residential care. While continuing the affiliation with the United Methodist Church, Bashor has expanded services over the years to provide "Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow" to troubled children and their families in collaboration with a number of agencies and through a variety of programs including education, residential treatment, community based services and therapeutic foster care. Most recently, Bashor began the construction of a facility that will provide shelter and care for up to 34 girls rescued from human trafficking. The hope is to have the building, program and staff ready by July or August of 2021. Mission funds (including any coin offerings) collected during the 1st quarter will support Bashor's programs. Learn more about Bashor Children's Home at their website (www.bashor.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/BashorChildresHome). Your generous support is greatly appreciated!

Youth Ministry

The Youth Group is currently in an 8-week virtual Bible study—Defined—based off of the movie

Overcomer that we viewed this fall. The movie and series were created by the group that made War Room, if you are familiar. We are learning that we are to find our identity in our Creator, the One who made us, not in outside influences or peers.



Children's Ministry

The Family Ministry team will be meeting February 3rd at 6:30pm via Zoom. Please email communications@warsawfumc.org if you are interested in joining us. The team is currently sending monthly care packages to the children to keep connected with them. We are also working on recording stories from the Jesus Storybook Bible and sending them to families on Wednesdays to watch together and review questions based on the Bible story.

Deborah's Circle

A new group is offering opportunities for spiritual growth, mission giving, social action and vital discipleship during these difficult times. Our community of women's purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church. We strive for love of God and neighbors. All are welcome. Interested? Please contact Kathie Votra (260) 568-0977 or kvotra1@gmail.com

I am thankful for



Church Finances

Averages for Year 2020	
Attendance: In-person: 123 Online: 246	Giving: Offering \$8,553 Missions \$1,303
2020 Year End—Operating Budget	
Operating Income:	\$461,947.20
Operating Expenses:	\$431,518.25
4th Quarter Mission Focus: Community Closet	\$9,946.92

A note from the Servant Council Finance Team...

We are truly blown away by the generosity of our church family and our community. We were able to pay the church's full tithe to the Annual Conference and North District at the end of the year. Thank you for your continued support of the church and its missions.

A big thank you to "Santa" for an upcoming donation of a few new appliances for both campuses.

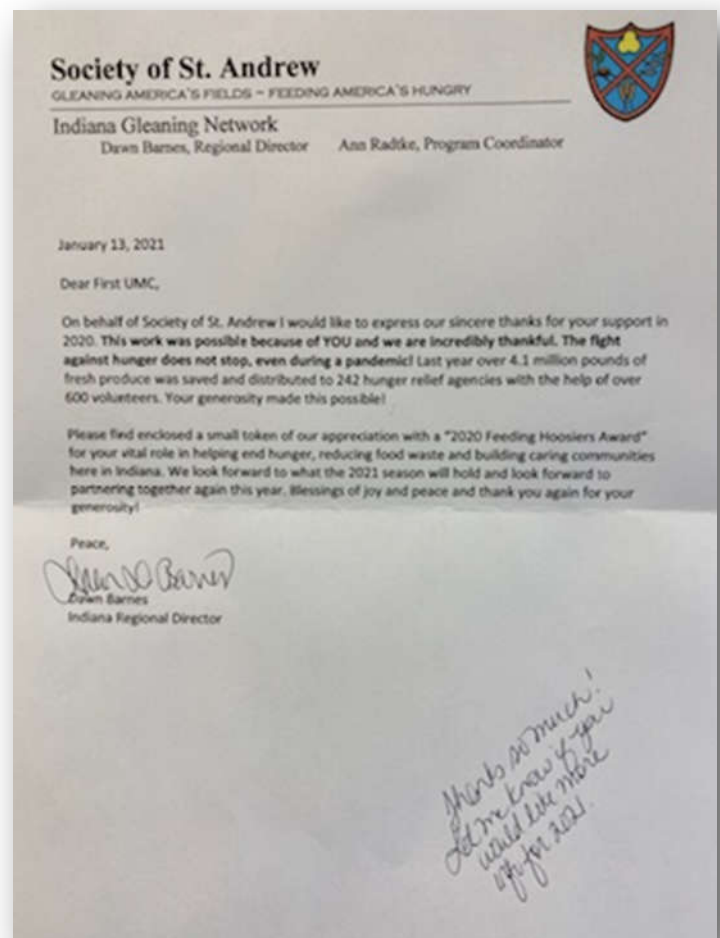
Also, from remaining funds of an estate gift for the Downtown Campus, we were able to improve the Atrium entrance for a more safe entry to the building. From those same funds we were able to complete the Video Streaming project that greatly improved our virtual streaming of the Sunday worship services including Christmas Eve.

As you plan for the future, please remember you can support the future missions and projects of Warsaw First UMC by including your wishes in your estate planning. For information, contact the church office.

Online Giving is now a secure and reliable way to set up recurring or one-time donations to the church. Visit warsawfumc.org and select "Give" at the top of the page.



2020 Feeding Hoosiers Award!



Small Group Studies

The holy season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. Due to the continuing COVID 19 pandemic we are not able to meet for worship or as small groups. We will be able to worship virtually on Ash Wednesday.

Regarding small group studies there are several studies that are good for the season of Lent that are available in the Small Group Studies Resource Room on the third floor in the downtown church building. I will place these studies together on a shelf in the Small Group Studies Room. Leaders may be able to lead a study by zoom or FaceTime, etc. I will list some of the studies available in this article.

At this time there is no plan to lead a virtual Lent Study like we did for Advent. If that changes we will let you know.

Recently we added the entire congregation to the weekly "Wired Word" emailing. This is an excellent weekly biblical study centered on current events and how they impact how we live out our faith. These weekly studies are excellent for individual and group study. You may want to create a study with close friends or neighbors, they do not need to be connected to the church.

Here is a listing of some of the studies available in the Small Group Studies Room:

**24 Hours That Changed The World by Adam Hamilton*

**The Way - Walking In The Foot Steps of Jesus by Adam Hamilton*

**Forgiveness -Finding Peace Through Letting Go by Adam Hamilton*

**Final Words from the Cross by Adam Hamilton*

**Made For a Miracle by Michael Slaughter*

**Yes Lord I Have Sinned But I Have Several Excellent Excuses by James Moore*

**John: Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton*

Note: All of these studies have a book and DVD and Leaders Guide.

May you have a blessed Lenten Season.

David Heim—Small Group Leader

Historian



In the last Chimes, I mentioned "My Old Kentucky Home" written by C. Perry Gibbs, a former pastor at this church. He is buried in Oakwood Cemetery here in Warsaw. To know his story, I share:

Commodore Perry Gibbs was born in the mountains of southeastern Kentucky near Paintsville in Johnson County on March 18, 1880. He was the son of Abraham and Maltilda Jane Gibbs, the seventh of 13 children. His father served four years in the Civil War and afterward became a minister of the United Baptist Church, preaching for more than 50 years. Young Perry received little formal instruction and by age 12 could barely read or write. But an ankle injury and infection kept him from working for more than a year, and he devoted the time to educating himself. He entered Berea College in Kentucky at age 18.

*He married Flora E. Newman (1881*1968), a teacher in Ripley County, Ind. In 1907. He then entered Moores Hill College, united with the Methodist Episcopal Church and received a local license to preach. After serving churches in Shelbyville and Morgantown, he entered Garrett Biblical Institute, graduating in 1914. During World War I, he spent a year working for the YMCA in France. He served Grace M.E. Church in Franklin from 1923 to 1926. During his next appointment, North Church in Indianapolis, he realized his health was weakening. He died February 20, 1931, at the Methodist parsonage in Decatur, Ind. He was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Warsaw, Ind. He left his widow and three children. His accomplishments included rebuilding the church at Oak Grove after it burned, redecorating the church at Morgantown, helped pay off the debt for a new building at Jeffersonville, remodeled the North Vernon church after it was damaged by a tornado, oversaw the construction of Sibert Hall in Franklin, and helped raise \$100,000 for construction and improvements to North Church.*

Janet K—Church Historian



2/1	John Clay
2/2	Melanie Carmer
2/5	Chad Laird
	Deana Smith
2/6	Marceil Conley
	Jon Siesennop
2/8	Kim Kesler
	Kelsey Nethercutt
2/10	Lori Roe
2/12	Katie McKibbin
2/13	Richard Balke
	Nancy Holmes
	Lynne Shafer
2/14	Richard Harrold
	Makira Walsh
	Mariah Walsh
	Melaina Walsh
	Charlotte Zachary
2/15	Nick Kelley
2/17	John Kirkpatrick
2/21	Shirley Bartol
	Priscilla Wood
2/22	Don McDermit
2/24	DeLaney McCammon
2/25	Marilyn Savage
2/26	Sue Bradway
	Heenam Jung
	Kathy MacDonald
	Jennifer Savage
	Tom Till
	Jan Wilcox



3/1	Cassidy Neubaum
3/3	Jennifer Kerns
	Tim McCammon
3/4	Emily Gough
	Aaron Quance
	Amelia Sale
3/6	Andy Wright

3/7	Kay Ritter
3/8	Katie Smith
3/9	Deb Bishop
	Laura Bixel
	Kara Harris
	Diana Wright
3/11	Carol Clay
3/12	Keller Bailey
3/16	Grayson Kelley
3/18	Pastor Brian Smith
3/19	Meaghan McCammon
3/21	Penny Helvey
	Jo Spangler
3/22	Murray Bartel
	Lynne Christiansen
3/24	Deb Wright
3/25	Andrew Gauger
	Nick Hamrick
3/28	Barbara Anderson
3/30	Freida Helm
	Meighan Laird
	Jeff Neubaum

Announcements

- We are starting a Pen Pal group open to all ages of our church family. If you are interested, email communications@warsawfumc.org or call the church office. At the beginning of February we will be randomly pairing Pen Pals to connect through handwritten letters, drawings, etc. so that we can get to know each other and keep connected to our church family!
- Ash Wednesday is February 17th. The Downtown location will be offering a drive-through "Receiving of the Ashes" from 2-4pm. Drive through the Lake City Bank

alleyway entry, remain in your vehicles and receive the ashes. At noon, our Ash Wednesday service will be available on our Website and YouTube.



Community Closet



THANK YOU to our wonderful church family for their generosity in participating in the Church Advent calendar again this year! We received an overwhelming amount of donations and the volunteers as well as our families really appreciate it! The Community Closet is still operating in a drive thru format and serving anywhere from 50-60 families—around 220 people each week. We have a current need of bar soap and all other items are pretty well stocked. Thank you so much for your continued support in our success.

Krystal Smith—Community Closet

Help Support the Schools

Dear Church Family,

You all have AMAZINGLY kept our school pantry lovingly full of snacks for our students. Many of you asked us to let you know if we were in need of more. For anyone new, Dave and I coordinate an alternative education program at Warsaw High School called Step



One, where we provide academic and emotional support for students throughout their high school career and beyond. The pantry is running low, and we would be so grateful for any donations (granola bars, fruit snacks, prepackaged crackers, etc.). Please drop any snacks off in the church office. Thank you for considering! We appreciate you all SO MUCH!

Thanks—Mandy & Dave Bailey

Dear Church Family,

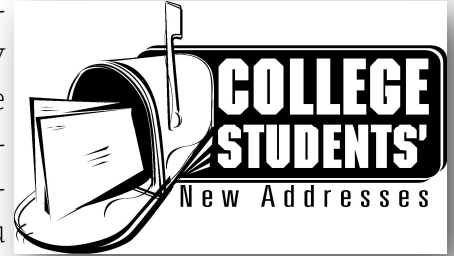
I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate the donations for my classroom. I am just blown away by the support from our church family. In addition to the supplies and monetary donations, I

loved reading the individual notes of encouragement! Thank you for lifting me up. My students and I are thankful.

Emily Gough

Please continue to pray for our teachers, students, and other school support staff as they continue to navigate through this complicated year.

The higher education ministry team will be sending Valentine cards in February so if you have a college



student, please let the church office know if your student's address has changed from last fall. Please continue to keep all of our students in your thoughts and prayers as they go through this unusual school year. If you have any suggestions for anything that can be done to help and support our college students please let me know.

-Diane Wulliman, Higher Ed Committee Chairperson dwulliman@gmail.com

Our newly formed Communications team is looking for individuals to help with the following projects:

- Sending out handwritten inspirational cards, notes
- Gathering daily devotion content
- Stuffing envelopes
- Participating as a member of the Communications team

If you or anyone you know of may be interested, please email communications@warsawfumc.org or contact the church office!

Thanks—Communications Team

Thank you, to our entire church family, for all of the love, support, cards, and flowers! Our family gratefully appreciates all you have done.

During a time like this we realize how much our family and friends really mean to us...
Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

By the family of
Marilyn Kay Rode
the mother of Sara Rode

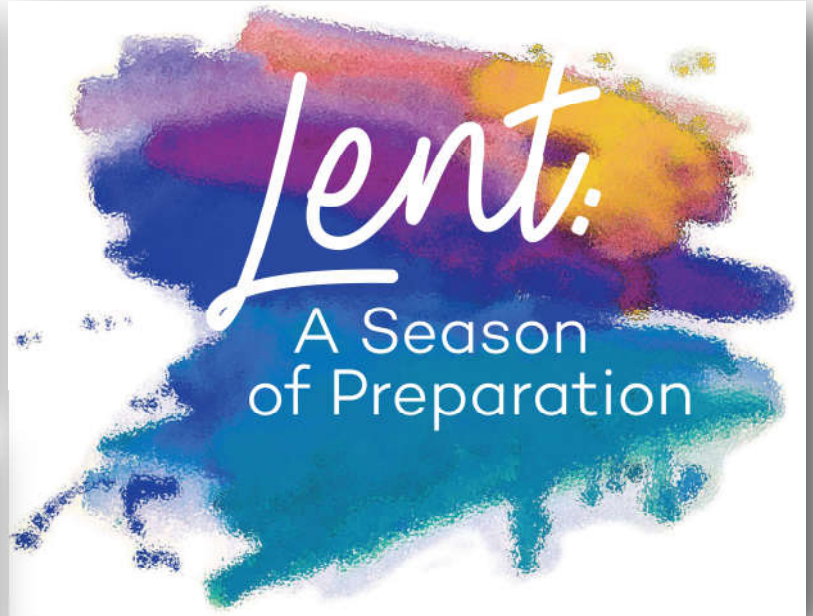
Dear Warsaw First and Connection,
Harrison Elementary and I would like to thank you for all of the board games, card games, and decks of cards that you donated to us. We were overwhelmed by your generosity. The students got to use many of them this past week while staying indoors because of cold wind chills.

Thank you again for your very kind donations.

Sincerely,
Paul Sileston
3rd Grade Para Harrison Elem.

**WE'RE
IN THIS
TOGETHER!**

Church Care Network is a group of volunteers who make calls out to our church members to connect and check in on them. Interested in making calls? Email Pastor Brian bri-an.smith@inumc.org Or call the church office with your interest and potential names of people you know from church who you'd like to check in on.



Vaccination Information

COVID-19 Vaccination has arrived in Indiana

Those who qualify currently must be:

- Healthcare Worker
- First Responder
- 70 years or older

To schedule an appointment, visit:
vaccine.coronavirus.in.gov
or call 2-1-1



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or current occupant



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Team
Brian Brauchla
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Courtney Sale
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Business Manager/Finance Secretary

Ann Baker
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Communications Coordinator

Mandy Ferguson
communications@warsawfumc.org

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

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