

POPLAR LEAVES

Memorial United Methodist Church

February, 2024

2701 Poplar Street
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803
(812) 234-0776
office@umcMemorial.org

Sundays

Worship, 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School, 10:30 a.m.
Prayz Worship, 11:15 a.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Livestreamed Services

MemorialSunday.org

Calendar

MemorialEvents.org

Website

umcMemorial.org

Giving

GiveMemorial.org

Prayer Requests

PrayingMemorial@gmail.com

Memorial Staff

Ron Branson, pastor
Michael Walker, administrative assistant
and financial secretary
Linda Lutz, treasurer
Logan Williams, music director
Jinhee Kim, accompanist
Joe Cresgy, media director
Tobie Wrightsman, nursery attendant
Alfred VanGilder, building custodian
Christy Cresgy and **Missy Wilcox**,
preschool co-directors
Paula Metheny, Kids Hope USA
David M. Peter, certified lay minister
and lay leader



All are welcome

Reflections

Have you ever received a receipt from a cashier, self-checkout, or even a fuel pump? If so, there's a good chance the little reel of paper was made on a machine built by a friend of mine. The same equipment also makes the spools of paper that become the tape holding your Amazon shipment box together. It's an international company distributing manufacturing equipment throughout the world from a little rural town in Indiana.

Having spent a large part of my life in manufacturing, I look at the accomplishment of a small Indiana global business and think that nothing is impossible if you're willing to do the work and invest in Hoosiers. The people who work for my friend are paid well and they love being part of a team where they are valued and even loved.

Just before Christmas, the little manufacturing facility caught fire in the night. Firefighters from miles around came and did their best, but as workers and families stood by, the building burned. It was a total loss.

A few days later my friend stood in front of all his employees with his family and said, "The collective talent in this room is what makes us what we are. We have all our data and all our people (all of you). The equipment, inventory, and offices can be replaced."

All the employees continue to be paid, temporary offices have been procured, and I have no doubt that the company will be rebuilt.

But here's the real point: my friend is at peace despite all the destruction. He is at peace because he is faith-filled. While I was inclined to admire the initiative and teamwork of determined people, my friend remembers that all of it was a gift from God, and that the biggest gift was the people, his employees.

*I can do all things through
Christ who strengthens me.
Philippians 4:13*

Shalom, Shalom.

Pastor Ron





LAY of the LAND

David Peter, Certified Lay Minister

"Talking about and defending love" "L-O-V-E"
Nat King Cole, 1964

¹⁵Whenever anyone asks you to speak of your hope, be ready to defend it.
1 Peter 3:15b (CEB)

Just how does this one piece of scripture fit into the month of February, you ask? Not quite the best fit for a Valentine's Day card, or anything even close to Easter, right? Well, this has been one of my scriptural notes that I carry in my bible.

For some context, let's remember that being a Christian during the time this verse was penned could be a problem. And for even another perspective, remember that Peter was the one who denied Christ not one time, but three. Don't worry, I'm not going to give away the whole story, so read 1 Peter and the Acts of the Apostles for all of the details.

It's one thing to think about love and expressing feelings for one another, but to defend that? How many would? Valentine's Day, as celebrated now, didn't become a holiday with a focus on love and relationships until the 14th century, or so. Prior to that time, it was more often than not associated with the Christian martyrs, a number of them named "Valentine."

Valentine's Day cards were printed, distributed and sold commercially in the United States in the mid-1800s.

And that brings us to today. Ash Wednesday will be soon, then the time of Lent, all to bring us to Easter. We find it so easy to talk of and even defend as we proclaim our love for brother, sister, mother and father. And even some, the love of their pet. We will do this boldly. But the real question for all of us is, how would we speak about the hope we have in Jesus? our hope in the Christ? Peter provides us with this to consider:

¹⁶*Yet do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. Act in this way so that those who malign your good lifestyle in Christ may be ashamed when they slander you.*
1 Peter 3:16 (CEB)

I find myself recalling the U. S. Army motto, "This We'll Defend," and wondering why that same three words is not emblazoned on the bible I carry. Kind of silly, perhaps. But maybe the most succinct expression of what we will defend, each day, every hour, every encounter with others.

From Nat King Cole's "L-O-V-E" in 1964, Stephen Stills "Love the One You're With" in 1970 to Frederick Whitfield's lyrics for "O How I Love Jesus" in 1855 and William R. Featherstone's lyrics for "My Jesus, I Love Thee" in 1864 we can quickly see that for some, love is something that just doesn't ask us to defend it. But the love we have for Jesus is so much more. Defend it? We must.

Always be ready – David



PRESCHOOL NEWS

The first month of 2024 is over and we are excited to start the second month of 2024 with lots of fun activities. January proved to be a chilly month and a lot of our activities revolved around cold and winter. All the students helped Cruz, our therapy dog, celebrate his first birthday and the pre-k students got to enjoy a field trip to the Allen Memorial Planetarium.

February will be another fun filled month. They will learn all about dental health with the help of Dentistry Just for Kids. For our school theme day, we will celebrate another four-legged friends' birthday with Clifford the Big Red Dog Day on Thursday, February 8. We will celebrate Valentine's Day parties on Wednesday, February 14 and there will be no school on Monday, February 19 to honor President's Day.

In Ministry Together,
Christy and Missy



Caring Christian men can be revolutionaries. How? Armed with God's love and supported by prayer, these men can literally save a generation of children and redeem our culture by committing an act that is outrageous in its simplicity: to love one fatherless child for one hour each week by being a Kids Hope mentor.

Children who do not have a father figure are more likely to be poor, experience school, health, emotional and psychological problems, become victims of child abuse, and engage in criminal behavior than peers living with their biological mother and father. This situation describes 34% of America's children.

The love of a caring Christian man will give these children hope and a future. It will revolutionize their lives and their world.

Virgil Gulker, founder of Kids Hope USA

There is currently a waiting list of children, both boys and girls, needing mentors at Sugar Grove Elementary School. Interested in learning more? I'd love to talk to you! – Paula Metheny (812) 249-3903

CHILDREN'S
Sunday School

CAN YOU HELP?

We are in need of individuals that would be willing to help with our Sunday School, especially the 2nd Sunday of each month. You can help in many different ways. Story, Crafts, Teachers, and more. Wanna have some fun? See Michael in the Office.



**Pam Crane, Memorial Prayer
Coordinator**

Mighty Prayer Warriors,

The book of Jonah in the Old Testament is a fascinating and quick read. In addition to Jonah's well-known experience with a storm at sea and a whale he has big problems. God called him to go to the wicked nation of Nineveh and preach repentance to its people. But Jonah doesn't want them to repent and receive the mercy, grace and forgiveness that our compassionate God gives. I trust I'm not alone in thinking the same way about some evil people. Think: the people holding the Israeli hostages. The conditions and treatment can't be good. It's a natural human response to want the evil-doers to be punished as they have punished others. But we must remember that punishment is not up to us, it is up to God. "'Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." (Romans 12:19b) And God wants all the world to be saved, this includes the most evil among us. "...this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

Heavenly Father, We thank You for the Good News of the Gospel that has been given to us. Forgive us when we are not as compassionate with others as we want You to be with us. Open our hearts and minds to the fact that we all are unworthy of Your grace and forgiveness. Enable us to offer this unwarranted grace and forgiveness to all of Your children. We ask this in the Holy name of Jesus, Our Savior, Amen.



Birthdays included are from the new directory information sheets.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Sally Manning Feb. 4
Merrie Ray Feb. 18
Jim Woolsey Feb. 23
Dave Goss Feb. 24
Jerry Cockrell Feb 28

Anniversaries

Mac and Jetty McCallister Feb. 1

A special thank you to Judy Peter for keeping track and printing out all of this information.



Blood Drive

**Memorial United Methodist
Church**

Sanctuary Lobby
2701 Poplar St
Terre Haute

**Tuesday, February 27
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



We are excited to announce that we had a very successful year at Memorial in 2023. The Red Cross hosted 155 Total Donors, 15 first time doners, 161 units collected and **483 potential Number of lives saved.**



MEMORIAL MUSIC SERIES

Join us on Saturday, February 3rd at 6:00PM for an evening of outstanding chamber music from some of the best in the field. Admission is free. What a great opportunity to bring a friend with you.

TOUCH DOWN

HELP MEMORIAL WIN the First Annual Ecumenical Souper Bowl of Caring to benefit the food pantry of Campus Ministries?

All the rules are posted in the narthex.

Churches from all around Terre Haute are participating food during the playoff season...

All denominations, all ages all sizes. **WE CAN DO IT!!** Let's win the playoffs!

SAVE THE DATE

Evening before the Darkness": Sun of Darkness-SON of Light

Memorial UMC will present an evening Worship on April 7, the night before the total eclipse. Pastors Ron and Tim will consider together the physical eclipse of the **sun** and the spiritual eclipse of the **Son**. So, put April 7, 6 pm on your calendar and hold the evening open to join us.



UWF AUCTION

Please Join Us

Sunday, **February 11th** 2023, 3:00-5:00

Silent auction starts at 3:00

Live auction starts 3:30, starring Auctioneer Extraordinaire Pastor Scott Johnson

Dinner will be served following the live auction, brought to you by the Multitalented Steve Friday and friends.

How can you participate?

1. **Attend** what many describe as Memorial's most fun event of the year.
2. **Bid** on live and silent auction items- vigorous friendly competition to get those prized items. All of the money supports worthy causes.
3. **Volunteer** to help. Contact Auction Chair Joanie Kimball at joaniekimball@yahoo.com or call 812-298-4276.
4. **Donate** items to the auction: **Live auction** items are bigger ticket items or delectable contributions likely to spark generous bidding and **silent auction** items. Special items that you would not normally find at our rummage sale.
5. **How?** Tell us your name, contact information, and a description of the item or service to be auctioned. You will find forms in the narthex, in the church office or feel free to contact the auction chair.



March Poplar Leaves Deadline is on Tuesday, February 20th

Sewing Stitches Update

It has been a busy year for our small group of "Stitchers" as we have sewn our way through lots of projects. Donated fabric has provided supplies for quilted bags and "Covered With Love* blankets as well as small quilts and fleece scarves. Cash donations and donations in kind have given us lots of blanket kits to put together.

We have donated almost 150 fleece blankets in 2023. Most blankets are (*kid* size 48" x 60") and others are larger or lighter weight blankets. We have delivered them to Head Start, Hope House (an emergency housing for children home), CODA, Meals on Wheels (Christmas gifts for their clients) and CASA. Kids Hope students and the kids at 14th & Chestnut received fleece scarves from our group. The quilted bags were part of Christmas gifts distributed by Memorial Church Member Care group.

As we begin another year of sewing, we want to thank everyone for their support and encouragement. If you wish to contribute to help purchase blanket kits for us to complete and distribute you may drop your contribution off at the church office or place it in an envelope in the Sunday Offering baskets. Be sure to designate Sewing Stitches on the envelope.

If you have questions or suggestions of groups, we could donate to please contact: Freda Hocking Peggy Nelson, Dick Becker or Carol DeFrance.

Thanks again for all of your interest and support of the mission of our group.



The Mission Committee has decided to support a local charity for this year's Lenten Offering: Happiness Bag. Happiness Bag is Wabash Valley's only facility designed for the care for ages 5-adult with disabilities by providing educational & recreational opportunities. Currently, there are 200 people that participate annually in their programs, ranging from age 5-85. The program consists of an Adult Day Program, Summer Day Camp, Residential Habilitation, Respite Care- to provide temporary relief for primary caregiver, PAC service- to remain and live successfully in their own homes, Wellness, Music Therapy, etc. The facility is located behind the fairgrounds at 3833 Union Road, Terre Haute. Their financial need, right now, is for supplies for their various sports, crafts, and activities.

Our community is very fortunate to have this valuable charitable organization.

Please give careful consideration in supporting this wonderful program, both for the dedicated workers and the special participants.

Also, the Mission Committee would like to remind the congregation that in the past we have generously supported Illula Orphan Program in Tanzania (IOP), a worthy charity. Even though our charity selection has changed, we may want to follow our hearts with a donation to IOP as well.



LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES

CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES
THRIVING THROUGH CONNECTION

*Sharing God's loving kindness with others
is a calling we should all explore.*

A great way to do that is through the Lay Servant Ministries program, which is designed to equip laity for their roles in ministry as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Sign-up is now open for the West District

Lay Servant Academy on Saturday, February 24, 2024, at Brazil First UMC. Register at

<https://inumc.swoogo.com/WELsa2242024>

opportunities and how you can participate in the mission of the United Methodist church as we seek to transform the world by making disciples who follow Jesus.

The four class offerings are Basic Lay Servant Ministries, Preaching, UM Heritage and UM Polity. Future Academies will offer other advanced courses. The Academy begins at 8 a.m. and usually concludes by 4:30 p.m. You will meet other lay people from around the West District and the state as we study and discuss together.

Each participant should bring their own sack lunch. Youths ages 13 and older are welcome to participate in the readings and discussion.

- Participants must order their own book, which are encouraged to discover and employ their personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership, developing future leaders, remaining rooted in constant spiritual practices, and being part of a group that holds members accountable in their discipleship. You will need to order and read this textbook in advance: Lay Servant Ministries Participant's Book, by Sandy Ziegler Jackson & Brian Jackson ISBN: 978-0-88177-626-3
- **Preaching Advanced Course: Called to Preach** - Called to Preach is designed for those who have not completed formal preaching training, for pastors seeking a basic refresher course, and for others who are called upon to preach in a pastor's absence. Called to Preach is the required preaching course in the lay speaker track of study. You will need to order and read this textbook in advance: Participant's Book – From Pew to Pulpit, by

Clifton F. Guthrie • AB6660 • 978-0-687-06660-5 • \$15.99 (Available in Kindle, \$9.99)

- **Living Our United Methodist Beliefs (United Methodist Heritage)** - This course will explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization that The United Methodist Church brings to the church universal, how we got where we are today, and how our distinctive emphases are still needed in the 21st-century church. You will need to order and read this textbook in advance: Participant's Book – Living Our Beliefs: The United Methodist Way, by Kenneth L. Carder
- **Life Together in the United Methodist Connection (United Methodist Polity)** - This course gives participants an overview of the structure and organization of The United Methodist Church. A copy of the 2016 Book of Discipline is recommended. You will need to order and read this textbook in advance: Participant's Book – The Method of Our Mission Lacey C. Warner • AB717 • 978-1-4267-6717-3

Future Lay Servant Academies in 2024. Dates and locations are:

April 13 at Linton First UMC in Linton with advanced classes in Lay Pastoral Caregiving and Leading Worship.

September 28 at Memorial UMC in Terre Haute with advanced classes in Spiritual Gifts and Lay Pastoral Caregiving.

November 30 at Clinton First UMC in Clinton with advanced classes in Public Prayer and Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders

The Basic course and Preaching are offered at all Academies.

available at www.Cokesbury.com and at www.Amazon.com. Order the book more than two weeks prior to class to ensure delivery and time to completely read it before class.

For more information, contact Lisa Trigg, certified lay minister, at lisa.trigg@inumc.org.

A summary of the classes and books are:

- **BASIC Lay Servant Ministries** - This course is foundational for all courses in lay servant ministries. Participants are

Thank You...

4th and Chestnut Games Party

Thanks to the Women of Faith for again funding the Christmas Games Party Memorial sponsored on December 5th for the children at 14th and Chestnut Community Center. The participants had a great time while competing. There were no losers. Everyone who played the games won prizes. The interns assisted Shanda Johnson and Vicki Certain in directing the games.



The family of Myron (Gene) Johnson extend a sincere "Thank You" to Memorial members and Pastor Ron for the years of expressions of love, the many prayers, and your blessed support of the family as he fought his valiant battle against cancer. We will always remember the many acts of kindness shown to us. Sincere thanks, Shanda Johnson



Dear Memorial Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and support for Carol and I during this time of her multiple surgeries and convalescence. Those of you who have provided meals have been a special blessing, Thank you! Our Memorial Church family has been and continues to be a treasured point of access to the Body of Christ. Sincerely,
John and Carol Thompson

MARGARET CIRCLE

on Thursday, February 8th, Margaret Circle will be discussing A Voice in the Wind by Francine Rivers.

On March 14th, we will be discussing Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by Jennifer Chiaverini.



Join the women for their monthly planning meeting



Join the men for some fun and food at the Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner! Bring a friend. Plenty to go around

FFF LUNCH

February 16th at 11:45
Chicken and Dumplings
Pastor Ron will speak on "The Military Pastoral Field Kit from the Viet Nam War Era"

FEBRUARY COFFEE HELPERS

The Education Team

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>6pm - Dinner Church: The</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study -</p> <p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Ministry</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>6:30pm - NAMI</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>10am - Margaret Circle:</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>5:30pm - Mission Team</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Ministry</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6pm - Music Series: Piano</p> <p>8am - MOVED to next</p> <p>9am - Lenten Family</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>2nd Mile Giving</p> <p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p> <p>1:30pm - Newcomers</p> <p>3pm - UWF Auction</p>	<p>4:30pm - UMM Pancake</p> <p>7pm - Taizé Prayer Services</p>	<p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>11am - UMW Planning</p> <p>6pm - Ash Wednesday</p> <p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>9am - Fold Poplar Leaves</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Ministry</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11:45am - Triple FFF</p>	<p>9am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>5:30pm - Communication</p> <p>5:30pm - Member Care Team</p> <p>6:30pm - S/PPRC Committee</p> <p>7pm - Bowling League</p>	<p>8:15am - Preschool Staff</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>8:15am - Preschool Staff</p> <p>9:30am - Bible Study</p> <p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Ministry</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9am - Fold Poplar Leaves</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>Poplar Leaves Due</p> <p>10am - Sewing Stiches</p> <p>6pm - Dinner Church: The</p>	<p>9am - Blood Drive</p> <p>6pm - Dinner Church: The</p>	<p>5:30pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>7pm - Education Team</p>	<p>5:30pm - Communication</p> <p>5:30pm - Member Care Team</p> <p>6:30pm - S/PPRC Committee</p> <p>7pm - Bowling League</p>	<p>5:30pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>7pm - Education Team</p>	<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>
25	26	27	28	29	1	2
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>5:30pm - Finance Committee</p> <p>7pm - Education Team</p>	<p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Brede</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>

Lenten and Easter Events

2024

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Breden Memorial
United Methodist Church

Emmanuel
United Methodist Church

Memorial
United Methodist Church

Northside Community
United Methodist Church

Seelyville
United Methodist Church

United Methodist
Temple

Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Service

Led by Pastor Scott Johnson
Northside Community UMC
1075 North Fruitridge Avenue
Terre Haute

Thursday, March 28, 6:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Led by Pastor Tim Voll
Seelyville UMC
2351 2nd Street
Seelyville

Saturday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.

Lenten Family Breakfast

Reflection by Pastor Ron Branson
R.S.V.P. by February 10 to:
emmanuel6076@gmail.com
Emmanuel UMC
6076 U.S. Highway 150
West Terre Haute

Friday, March 29, 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday Service

Memorial UMC
2701 Poplar Street
Terre Haute

Thursday, February 22-

Thursday, March 21, 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Study

Led by Pastor Deb Moore-Hardin
using *Remember: God's
Covenants and the Cross*
by Susan Robb
Breden Memorial UMC
2228 South 7th Street
Terre Haute

Sunday, March 31, 7:15 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service

Led by Pastor Rick Swan
United Methodist Temple
5301 South U.S. Highway 41
Terre Haute

