

POPLAR LEAVES

Memorial United Methodist Church

March, 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
Toble 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

On the first Sunday of Lent, I talked about how it might be valuable to pick something up as a sacrificial gift instead of letting something go. However, for this Lenten season, it feels like I've picked up about as much as I can, so I decided to work a little at letting go.

I've often talked about the size of my library, and I've also noted that sometimes our "stuff" can weigh us down, even keep us from doing what God might be calling us to. So, I decided to clean out my video library and let go of videos I used in classes taught 15 years ago, along with other DVDs I bought and can't quite figure out why. I also let go of a collection of VCR tapes that I used in a Bible study 13 years ago—and, yes, there were a couple of boxes of old textbooks that have departed the premises.

Letting go of old books and videos doesn't lead to spiritual development, but perhaps not having so much stuff to take care



of can encourage us to keep engaged in the world, finding new books and videos, new friends, and experiences, and, perhaps, more time to spend in prayer and ministry. Because, you see, sometimes when you are focused on your earthly things you can miss heavenly gifts.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

—Matthew 6:19-21 (NIV)

Shalom, Shalom.

Pastor Ron





Lay of the Land

March 2024

“Three thoughts”

David Peter, Certified Lay Minister

I. The Nature, Design, and General Rules of Our United Societies, written by John Wesley, in 1739, that provide us with three rules. The third rule is really for me the blueprint for living the Christian life. Wesley reminds us that we should be “attending upon all the ordinances of God; such are: public worship of God - ministry of the Word, read or expounded - Lord’s supper - family AND private prayer - searching the scriptures - and finally, fasting or abstinence.”

II. That is a lot to even begin to think about, at first glance. But if you stop and look at each of the ordinances, they are not that difficult or demanding. Remember when we said, “we will FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE in the ministries of the Church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service AND our witness”?

III. When I truly take a look, a study of these things I can see how the duty of a Methodist has been so clearly and carefully presented. Granted, the pieces Wesley mentions are ones that are continual, each day, week, month and year - I attend public worship, and fellowship with others; I read, search and study the word of God - I pray publicly and privately.

III. i. What more can I do? For me, I can seek ways to abstain - from situations that would cause me to not fulfill my covenant with God, made when I became a Methodist.

III. ii. What will we do as a congregation? What will you do not only as a Christian, but a United Methodist? This is the season of Lent, leading to Easter. And isn’t this the time to be renewed?
Just a thought.

“Open our hearts for compassion - open our minds to learn - open our ears to hear - open us to seek and serve you.”





Saturday, March 30, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Bring your phone or camera for pictures with the
Easter Bunny!

It is that time of year again and the education team is busy helping Mr. Easter Bunny get ready for our annual Easter egg hunt On **MARCH 30**. We need help getting ready, help the day of the event and candy donation. For more information visit the welcome table or call the office at 812-234-0776. PLEASE help.



Wow is all we can say about our awesome preschool families! We put out the challenge to the Littles that if 100 pounds of food was collected for the Campus Ministries food drive we would throw them a PJ, Popcorn and Movie party. The Littles collected almost 250 pounds of food. We are so proud of them.

March has many fun activities planned, the biggest one being the above

party. We will celebrate all things Dr. Seuss on Thursday, March 5. Spring pictures will be taken on Tuesday, March 12 and Wednesday, March 13. The children will celebrate Easter on Thursday, March 21 and Spring Break on Monday, March 25 - Friday, March 29.

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year began on February 20. We are accepting applications for children ages two - five. For more information or a registration form please visit our website at memorialpreschool.org. Registration forms are also available in the church office. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the Co-Directors, Christy Cresgy or Missy Wilcox. We have one class that is already half full.

It will soon be time to start working on our gardens. The preschool is in need of milkweed. If anyone has some that they could donate we would really appreciate it.

As always, thank you so much for all your prayers and support.

In ministry together, Christy and Missy



MEMORIAL PRESCHOOL is celebrating 40 years and we need your help. We are looking to invite former students, teachers, parents and anyone who has been involved with Memorial Preschool to a celebration in the spring. Please share and reach out to your friends and family who may have a connection. Check the April Poplar Leaves for all the details of our celebration!



"The value of someone showing up once a week for an at-risk child is priceless. Teachers and principals say it over and over. The gift of one-on-one attention, consistently given, is the greatest gift these children have ever been given."

--Dorian Poole, school principal

Been thinking of getting involved with Memorial's Kids Hope ministry? There's still time before school is out for the summer! A long list of referrals at Sugar Grove Elementary indicates a need for more mentors who will spend one hour once a week with a child, helping them with schoolwork, playing with them, and most importantly, being a caring friend. Most of the children on our waiting list right now are under 8 years old and in need of someone who will give them much needed one-on-one time.

It's amazing what one hour a week can do for a child! Besides helping a child catch up with work or practice social skills by playing you are communicating -- just by showing up! -- that he is a worthy, valuable person. And it's an amazing feeling to know that child thinks you're the best thing ever (because you are!).

Please consider becoming a Kids Hope mentor or coming back to mentor again. The need is great, and it is guaranteed you'll make a difference! See Paula Metheny or contact me at (812) 249-3903.



Men's Breakfast

March 9, 8:00 a.m.

**MEETING AT
THE CHURCH**

All men are welcome to the monthly men's breakfast. Please note that we will be meeting at the church this month in the fellowship hall.

United Women in Faith to hold a Service of Prayer and Reflection

Please join UWF on Saturday morning, March 16 at 10:00 for a special Prayer and Reflection Service. Our speaker will be Janette Branson with the theme, "Come To Jesus." It is our hope and prayer that many women will be able to join us with this Saturday morning time. An authentic communion experience is planned making this Prayer Service one that will deepen your Lenten Season, please join us!



April Poplar Leaves Due March 19th

Lent and Easter

Remaining events, February 25, 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

Thursday, February 29-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

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

Maundy Thursday Service

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

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

Good Friday Service

Memorial UMC
2701 Poplar 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

Easter
CELEBRATE WITH US!

Following the sunrise service at Temple UMC, Join Memorial for our regular Sunday services at 9:30 and 11:15 as we celebrate our risen Lord.

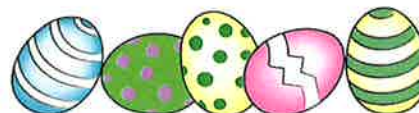


REMINDER

Orders for Easter lilies or spring flowers are due (with payment) on March 10th. The flowers will adorn the alter on Easter Morning.

EASTER SUNDAY RECEPTION

Member Care invites everyone to our Easter Reception on March 31st, Easter Sunday, after first service. We will be serving cookies, punch and coffee. Please plan to stay a while after First Service or come early before Second Service and enjoy our Easter Celebration with your Memorial friends.



The mission team has decided to make Happiness Bag of Terre Haute the beneficiary of our **Lenten Offering**.

"Happiness Bag is dedicated to providing adapted educational and recreational services and programs that encourage the unique potential of children and adults with disabilities."

Please give as you are able to this very worthy local program.



On Sunday March 10th we welcome back to the pulpit **Rev. Chiyona Bourne**. Former memorial associate pastor Chiyona is currently a Certified Education Candidate in the Spiritual Care and Chaplaincy Services of Indiana University Health Methodist Hospital. Rev. Bourne will share with us "Loving the Light"



Job Opening

Linda Lutz has been our treasurer at Memorial for many years. Linda has resigned her position to pursue her professional career at Saint Mary-Of-The-Woods. We wish her the best of luck in this new adventure. This means we are looking for a new treasurer. Any inquires should be made to S/PPRC chair, John Thompson.



Giving online to our church
is easier than ever before!

Visit the website below or scan the QR code to donate securely from your phone!

GIVE TO OUR CHURCH TODAY AT:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZJNE>

OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO DONATE SECURELY FROM YOUR PHONE



United Women in Faith

Thank You!

Wow! What an outstanding congregation we have at Memorial. With your donations and outrageous bidding, we raised over \$7000.00 for UWF.

A special thank you to Joanie and Tom Kendall who organized and set up for the auction. To Scott Johnson for being our exceptional auctioneer and to Steve Friday for the delicious meal.

God Bless each and everyone.

Vicki Certain
UWF President

****There will be no UWF planning meeting in March due to the Prayer and Reflections program.**

Margaret Circle

Thursday, March 14, 10:00am

Join is for a discussion of

Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker

By Jennifer Chiaverini



Thank you to everyone who participated in the UWF Sunday. Your help was greatly appreciated. A special thank you to Irma Davis who inspired us with her message about "love". Vicki Certain



Lifting heart, mind, and soul

Spring, 2024, Update

Brent Gordon McPike, guitar
Solly Burton, mandolin
Saturday, February 3, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Logan Williams Vocal Recital
Saturday, March 23, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Jonathan D. Rudy Organ Recital
Friday, April 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENT
Natalie Layne in Concert
Thursday, May 2, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Farrington Grove Chorale
Friday, May 17, 2024
6:00 p.m.



Memorial UMC Music Director, Logan Williams, along with collaborative pianist, Jinhee Kim, and other wonderful musicians present an evening of music including and ranging from a Baroque Cantata by Telemann through to a piece from a set composed for the tenor by local composer, Daniel Powers, in 2019!



Pam Crane, Prayer Coordinator

"In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus, You can have all this world, just give me Jesus" We tend to have our minds and hearts overflowing with "stuff" of this world, don't we? Perhaps this Lent can be a time of clearing some of that "stuff" and filling our minds and hearts with Jesus.

Heavenly Father, We are thankful for the material blessings that You provide us but forgive us for letting all of this world fill our minds and hearts in place of You. Help us to free our minds and hearts of all this world and focus on Jesus. "When I am alone, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, give me Jesus, When I come to die, give me Jesus. You can have all this world, just give me Jesus." We offer this prayer in the holy name of Jesus, Amen.

Pam may be contacted at PrayingMemorial@gmail.com for all your prayer needs.



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



FFF Lunch

March 15th at 11:45

Pizza will be the main dish

**Jesse Walker will speak
on the upcoming eclipse**

Be sure to sign up in the narthex or contact
the church office at 812-234-0776

*Congratulations
& thank you!*

**TERRE HAUTE
2023 TOP COMMUNITY TEAMS**

1. ISU Sigma Kappa -
Gamma Gamma
2. Memorial UMC
3. Clinton First United Methodist
Church

**WALK TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION



*Birthdays included are from the new directory
information sheets.*

March Birthdays:

- Paula Johnson Mar 1
- Carol Davis Mar 4
- Doris Williams Mar 8
- Sandy Sell Mar 8
- Ken Amos Mar 11
- Peggy Nelson Mar 17
- Doug Keiser Mar 18
- Phil Welch Mar 18
- Logan Bridgewater Mar 25
- Pat Friday Mar 27

No Anniversaries for March

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



March- United Women in Faith
April- Trustee Committee



March 23rd from 8:am-Noon
Bring rakes and clippers
See George Nelson for more info!



We Need Help

The member care team is in need of
COOKIES for the April 7th "Evening Before
Darkness: Son of light" eclipse event (see
insert). Homemade (if possible) cookies are
needed for the reception following the
service. Please Bring your cookies to church
during regular hours (Tue, Wed, Thurs.
9am-3pm) or on Sunday morning, April 7th.
Thank you in advance for your help and
don't forget to bring a friend.

ECLIPSE



EVENING BEFORE THE DARKNESS

Sun of Darkness,
Son of Light.

An evening worship

April 7, 6:00 p.m.,

the night before the eclipse.

Pastors Ron Branson and Tim Voll will
consider together the physical eclipse of the
sun and the spiritual eclipse of the **Son**.

All are welcome!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>5:15pm - Farrington Grove</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>5pm - Lenten Study at Bredden</p> <p>5:15pm - Farrington Grove</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>6:30pm - NAMI</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>11:45am - Triple F Luncheon</p>	<p>8am - Lay Academy</p> <p>8am - Men's Breakfast at</p>	
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>9am - Easter Flowers Due</p> <p>5:30pm - Communication</p> <p>5:30pm - Member Care Team</p> <p>7pm - Bowling League</p>	<p>5:30pm - Staff Meeting</p> <p>7pm - SAI Meeting</p> <p>7pm - Taizé Prayer Services</p>	<p>4pm - Delta Kappa Gamma-</p> <p>6pm - Chapel Bells</p> <p>6pm - Wilson Neighborhood</p> <p>7pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>10am - Margaret Circle:</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>5pm - Lenten Study at Bredden</p> <p>5:15pm - Farrington Grove</p> <p>5:30pm - Mission Team</p>	<p>10am - UWF Prayer Service</p>	
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>6pm - Preschool Advisory</p>	<p>10am - Sewing Stitches</p> <p>6pm - Dinner Church: The</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>5pm - Lenten Study at Bredden</p> <p>5:15pm - Farrington Grove</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>8am - Trustee Work Day</p> <p>6pm - Music Series: Logan</p>	
<p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>Preschool Spring Break</p>	<p>6pm - Dinner Church: The</p>	<p>9am - Fold Poplar Leaves</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>6pm - Maundy Thursday at</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6pm - Good Friday Service at</p>	<p>2pm - Easter Egg Hunt</p>	
<p>5th Sunday</p> <p>Easter Sunday</p> <p>7am - Sunrise Service at</p> <p>9:30am - First Worship</p> <p>10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>11:15am - PrayZ Worship</p>	<p>5:30pm - Admin. Board</p> <p>7pm - Education Team</p>	<p>6pm - NA - Library</p>	<p>9am - Fold Poplar Leaves</p> <p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue</p> <p>1pm - Yarn Group</p> <p>6pm - Cub Scout Meeting -</p> <p>6pm - Maundy Thursday at</p> <p>7pm - Chancel Choir</p>	<p>6pm - Good Friday Service at</p>	<p>2pm - Easter Egg Hunt</p>	