

POPLAR LEAVES

Memorial United Methodist Church

July, 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.

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 children's ministries
Ginger Bedford, administrative assistant
and bookkeeper
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

It's been a really busy few months for me. And, regardless of how the last six months have felt for you, there have been changes. Some of you have gone through the disruption of your community by closure, and some of you are experiencing disruption of your community with the influx of new brothers and sisters from Northside Community UMC.

Disruption is another word for change, and in the late 1990s a theory called Disruptive Innovation was introduced to the business world. Essentially, disruption is a way for an organization to innovate and grow. The United Methodist Church has been involved in just this kind of disruptive innovation, and it led to the recent schism. Individuals disrupted what had become the normal way and interjected change initiatives that conflicted with one another so that, in the end, the UMC has become different.

Jesus was a disruptor—he called it pruning. In John 15:2, we read, “He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.” And although the idea of pruning sounds good, it's a different thing when you, or the things you love, are on the receiving end of the shears; but innovation and growth

“He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.”
— John 15:2



are the fruits of the labor. And, just so you know, our first worship service post-merger included 178 souls in the building and more than 30 online.

I write this note to confess that I am a disruptor. While I do believe that disrupting the norms of a community are useful, I recognize that this often leaves people concerned, frustrated, or disconnected; and for that I sincerely apologize. I also apologize for the times when I've pushed, and we may have been better served by humble patience.

So now—after pandemics, schisms, worship changes, and mergers—I hope we can enter a season of waiting for the sun and rain (or God's grace and mercy) to work, because the ground is prepared, and the seeds have been sown. So let us pause together and see what grows.

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Ron





Lay of the Land "Certainly NOT"

David Peter
Certified Lay Minister

Summertime for me is the opportunity to read (or re-read) things that I have either skipped over, overlooked, avoided (strong, I know), or just haven't been interested in. So, this summer, I will take a deeper look into the Book of Lamentations between Independence Day and Labor Day.

I am fairly confident that the Book of Lamentations is one of the least-read books in the Old Testament. Some biblical commentaries label it tragic, using strong and graphic language. Some would even lead you to believe that the entire book shows the absence of joy and hope - and it might if we didn't know the rest of the story (apologies to Paul Harvey).

Take a moment and read the passages from Lamentations.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (CEB)

²² Certainly the faithful love of the Lord hasn't ended; certainly God's compassion isn't through!

²³ They are renewed every morning. Great is your faithfulness.

When I read Lamentations, I'm reminded of the life of Jesus. The old gives way to the new, one leading to the other. It's hard to imagine one without the other. For me, this understanding is a beacon of hope, a reassurance that the doubts that seep into our days are not the end. The love and compassion of God are eternal.

Waking up each day and watching the sunrise is a truly visible reminder. Yesterday may have been filled with a lot, but as the sun rises, I can see the renewing of my soul.

It might be time to read through Lamentations again and see what I've missed.



Can you believe summer is half over?
That means back to school is right
around the corner.

August 27th from 4:30-6:00pm
The Education Team will be hosting a
back-to-school cookout with the families
of our preschool.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

We are also looking for volunteers to
help with some kid's activities.

Call the office at 812-234-0776

Preschool News

Summer has finally arrived. Since the preschool is not in session during the summer it's time to organize, clean and redo classrooms and work areas. Please forgive our mess if you happen to stop by during one of these sessions.

We are still accepting registrations for the 2024-2025 school year. Space is limited in a few of the classes. If you know of anyone interested have them visit the website at www.memorialpreschool.org. The contact information is listed there. They may also talk to Christy Cresgy or Missy Wilcox.

Thank you to everyone that is supporting the garden table by donating plant or produce or by purchasing items off of the table.

In Ministry Together,
Christy Cresgy and Missy Wilcox



CHILDREN'S Sunday School

The Memorial Children's Sunday School has an age-appropriate bible lesson each week to learn about Jesus and the Bible. The children will hear a bible story, talk about it, and complete a craft to reinforce the lesson. They also have plenty of time to play and interact with other children.

We have a piano to sing our favorite songs, an online TV and everyone has a prayer buddy. There is a focus on hands-on manipulatives and fine motor skills through our craft projects.

We are starting a new curriculum in a few weeks. More information coming on that soon!

Would you be able to help? We are in need of a second helper (based on our Safe-Child Program) as well as a teacher on the **2nd Sunday of each month**. I have to be gone (filling in as a pianist) that day and would still like the class to meet. Would a group be able to help?? If possible, please see our Sunday School Superintendent Zina Vangilder.

ANY child at Memorial is invited to Sunday School. We meet in the classroom located by the east entrance. Come on down! – *Michael Walker*



Ice Cream Social

Saturday, July 27 from 4pm to 7pm

Join the United Methodist Men for hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans chips, drinks and.....

ICE CREAM!!!

Can you help? We need donations of homemade Ice Cream.

Free will offering accepted. Funds raised will be used for the UMM scholarship fund.



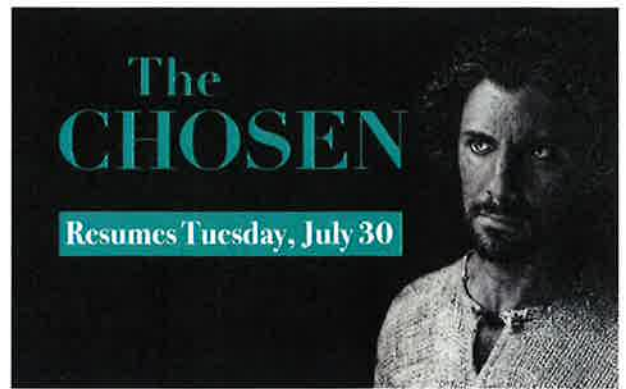
SAVE THE DATE

The 2024 WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Will take place on September 21st.

It is not too soon to sign up.

Go to Alz.org, team name: memorialume



THE CHOSEN DINNER CHURCH

"A Show That Explores Jesus Through the Eyes of Those That Knew Him"

Season 4 of the Chosen has been released. Beginning on **Tuesday, July 30th**, we will start with episode 4 of season 3, going straight into season 4. Would you like to join this amazing story? Join us at 6:00 for food and fellowship followed by a viewing of the Chosen at 6:30 with a discussion wrapping up at 8:00. A side dish or perhaps a dessert is always welcome BUT not expected!

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for this adventure it is available to stream on all platforms through the Chosen App. Contact Pastor Ron or Michael in the office for more information.

Dinner Church will not meet the second Tuesday of each month so that those who wish may attend the monthly Taizé service at Saint Mary of the Woods at 7:00 at the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Everyone is invited to attend. If you need more information or would like transportation to Saint Mary's, please call the church office.



Pam Crane
Prayer Corrdinator

Mighty Prayer Warriors,

With so many tragic and horrific events happening in our world it's easy to become fearful and discouraged. But Jesus tells us in Mark 4:40, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" Recently a husband and wife, (Davy Lloyd, 23 and Natalie, 21) Christian missionaries were killed in Haiti while working at an orphanage. Davy's parents said, "They both went to heaven together." and Natalie's parents asked for us to pray for them to get through this really hard time. There are many instances where the family and friends of victims need our prayers. We can pray for them and remain strong, unafraid and determined to carry on as God and Jesus intend for us.

Heavenly Father, It breaks our hearts to hear about and experience so many tragic events. We lift up all those that are suffering and grieving over loss of loved ones. May they feel Your loving presence through the people that are surrounding them and through our prayers for them. Empower us through the Holy Spirit to not be afraid and to remain strong and determined in our faith in You. Awaken us to see the difference we can make in another person's life while demonstrating Your

love to them. "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave nor forsake you." Deut. 31:6. We lift this prayer in the powerful name of Jesus, Amen.

THE
POWER
OF PRAYER

Prayer Ministry at Memorial
Pam Crane is our prayer coordinator. She writes a weekly prayer reflection and manages the prayer chain. If you have a prayer request or would like to be added to the prayer chain as well as receive the weekly reflection, Pam may be reached at:
PrayingMemorial@gmail.com.





United
Women
in Faith

The UWF will not be meeting in July. Our next meeting Keep an eye out for information about our August meeting. Remember that all women are invited to attend. If there is something you want to be discussed in the meeting, please contact Vicki Certain.



YARN MINISTRY- Will meet in the parlor at 1:00pm on July 18th and 25th and at 5:00pm on July 11. We will not meet on July 4th.

Line Dancing!



COUNTRY LINE DANCING with Sue Paulin. Every Thursday in the Narthex from 11:am-12:00pm. All are welcome.

Chair Yoga

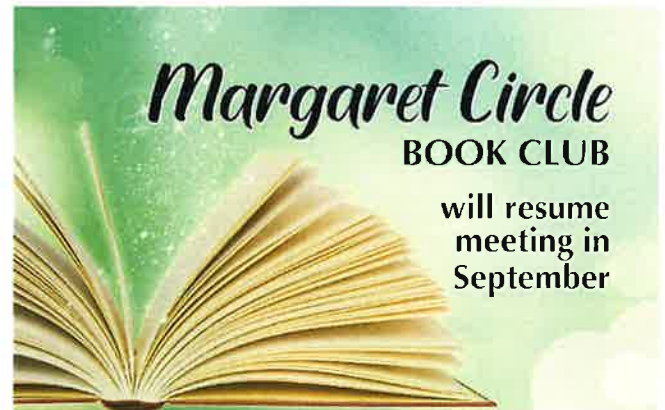


Every Tuesday
4:00 p.m.



Triple-F Lunch

Will not be meeting in July, Come enjoy the Ice Cream Social on July 27. The August FFF will meet on the 16th.



Thank You!

If you did not attend Ladies Night Out, this year, then you missed out on a wonderful evening. Steve Friday, the chief, along with the men of Memorial served us a delicious meal. Jill Moffett and Dan Rodríguez ave an outstanding performance that moved and inspired us. A special thank you to Pat Friday and Paula Johnson for organizing the event. – Vicki Certain, UWF President



Giving online to our church
is easier than ever before!

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 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



July- Open Door Class
 August- United Methodist Men
 September- Church Staff

Getting the coffee bar ready on Sunday morning is a lot of work. Carol Davis, John Thompson, Samuel Ray and others have done a great job. Would you be able to help? If so, please contact the office.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, July 13
8:00 a.m.
Meadows Cafe



M-CARD NEWS

M-Cards was started in October 2011 for the purpose of helping the church reduce its debt. Since the conception of the program, we have raised close to \$50,000 for our church. All of the money raised from this mission outreach has gone toward paying any debts for the church, helping with repairs and any other project that the church needed. We are happy that the program has been able to help with all of these needs. This is what this mission outreach dedicated for and all about.

How does the program work? People may purchase the gift cards for the face value that they are. A percentage, whatever the merchant decides upon, is given back to the program. After the initial operating expenses, the extra money is given back to the church.

There are over 700 vendors that the coordinators can order cards from. A list is always available on the M-Card table on Sundays. We order on Sunday afternoon to guarantee shipment by midweek. We order cards that you can purchase on Sundays at the table or during the week during office hours.

If you would like to help work at the table on Sundays, please let Bev Huddleston know. If you have further questions about the program, please ask Bev Huddleston or Kevin & Sandy Sell. We would be happy to answer all of your questions.



BIRTHDAYS

Paula Sparks, July 1
 Elaine Seitz July 4
 Chuck Hilton July 7
 Shirley Martin July 7
 Paula Metheny July 8
 Kyllie Henman July 9
 Larry Singleton, July 10
 Michael Walker July 11
 Pat Ralston July 14
 LaDonna Howard July 15
 Keith Diss July 18
 Saundra Mouser July 21
 Rebecca Graves, July 23
 Mac McCalister July 25
 Phyllis Koszewski, July 26
 Alan Mouser July 26
 Linda McNichols July 28
 Marsha McCool July 29
 Ron Branson, July 30

ANNIVERSARIES

Sue Paulin July 3
 John & Irma Davis July 7
 Steve & Paula Metheny July 14
 Ron Branson and Janette Helm July 17
 Chris & Danielle Jena July 24
 Linda Krawiec July 24
 Pat & Nancy Ralston July 31



A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Pastor Ron's office hours are Tuesday noon to 3:00, Wednesday 9-3 and Thursday 9-3, unless an unforeseen circumstance arises. Additionally, Pastor Ron is in and out of the office nearly every day. If you would like to reach him outside of his normal business hours, please call the church office voicemail (812-234-0776), press 2 and leaves a message. It will automatically be sent to Paster Ron's phone 24/7 for a response!

CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED!

UWF is collecting books for children and young readers for little free libraries to **ENCOURAGE SUMMER READING!**



A special THANK YOU to all who have provided books for the UWF special summer reading collection. We will continue to collect books in the narthex. Thank you! – Linda Yates



WELCOME

Ginger Bedford to Memorial

Ginger will be in the office on

Tue, Wed and Thurs.

9:00-12 Noon

She may be reached at the office
number: 812-234-0776 and at
ginger@umcMemorial.org

Let me introduce myself...

I am a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of Mount Pleasant UMC since 1998. Long story short, I came from Pennsylvania 60 years ago.

I was married for 42 years to a wonderful husband; we had two children a boy and a girl. They each produced a boy and a girl. So, I have four grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

I worked at Standard Register for 26 years until they closed. I held various part time jobs. I spent many years as a CASA volunteer and then a CASA recruiter. Some of my more rewarding jobs was as a CASA recruiter and church secretary.

I got my first church secretary position quite by accident at North Terre Haute Christian Church. I worked there 5 years, the last year being a Covid year. I then was hired at Northside Community UMC as their secretary. I fell ill and had to resign. As I was recuperating Pastor Clark called and asked if I would be interested in coming back not only as their secretary but also their treasurer. Fast forward and here I am at Memorial.

I am a member of Why Make Waves, an organization pulled together by seniors who was not pleased with the YMCA closing the pool, and instrumental in getting the pool reopened. I am very proud of this fact. I enjoy sports and I am a season ticket holder for both men and women's ISU basketball as well as a season ticket holder for the Rex summer baseball team.

