

POPLAR LEAVES

Memorial United Methodist Church
December, 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

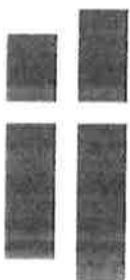
GiveMemorial.org

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
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



Open hearts.
Open minds.
Open doors.
Memorial.

Reflections



Merry Christmas!

I can't help but reflect on my memories of Christmas. Growing up in Muncie, Indiana, I recall the festive street decorations that crisscrossed downtown, the holiday music filling the air inside and outside the stores, and, most of all, I remember the bustling crowds. People crowded the shops, filled the sidewalks, and packed the restaurants—all with what we called "good cheer." Malls were busy, lines of people holding onto the season's most coveted gifts, and, of course, there was always snow. It seems like we always had lots of snow. Another memory that stands out is the nativity scenes scattered around town—little ones, big ones, and even live ones.

I'm not sure that every celebration reflected the true meaning of Christmas, but even the Peanuts Christmas special reminded us that Jesus is the reason for the season. Do we still have Christmas cartoons like that anymore?

Things certainly feel different today—and, of course, they are. Some changes are for the better, but what

I miss most of all is the laughter. When I'm out and about, I don't hear as much of that good-natured joy anymore. There's less Christmas cheer, and less gratitude for the sacrifice of Jesus. Frankly, it feels like there's not as much gratitude for anything these days.

I know, I probably sound like an old Scrooge (lol)—but here's what I want to remind all of us: we can be the trendsetters! We have the power to choose joy. Surrender your troubles to God, laugh, celebrate, and be thankful for the countless blessings that rain down on us. Think about the things you love most and lift them up. I'm so grateful to be here with you all, and for God's boundless love.

May you recognize all the blessings God has given you in this season. And, even more, may you be a blessing to those you meet, helping lift them out of the darkness and into His light.

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Ron



“Rested and Ready”

Lay of the Land

December 2024

David Peter, Certified Lay Minister and Lay Leader

Well, December has quickly arrived. This year will soon be a memory. Time flies the older I get. Or at least it seems that way.

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and words of care and concern for my health over the past several months. My decade-long journey with Parkinson's continues, and now and then, it just seems like I need to rest. And so, with many supporting me during this time, I am taking November and December to rest. Attending the District Charge Conference as the Lay Leader, I was warmly welcomed by the District Staff and Superintendent. The prayers of so many throughout the District have indeed strengthened me.

I started re-reading “The Rest of God” by Mark Buchanan last month. The book reminds me of the connection between my soul and honoring God while getting so busy that squeezing God into finite spaces and places wasn't working. Deep inside, I knew that I needed to rest. But I couldn't quite see that amid everything going on.

28“Come to me, all you who are struggling hard and carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest. 29Put on my yoke, and learn from me. I'm gentle and humble. And you will find rest for

yourselves. 30My yoke is easy to bear, and my burden is light.” -Matthew 11:28-30 (CEB)

Jesus reminds us that if we but come to Him, He will give us rest. Remember to learn FROM Him.

This time of year is marked by more than getting the presents wrapped, finding the perfect tree, and filling calendars with things not focused on Christ. It's not all about us. Instead of filling a calendar with our events, why not use the weeks and days to prepare and reflect on the coming of Christ in the Nativity as well as His anticipated return?

Keep that in mind as the season of Advent arrives. Take time to reflect on each Advent Sunday: hope, peace, joy, and love. Approach the birth of the Savior with awe and thanksgiving. You will have a much more profound and spiritually enlightening month if you are genuinely rested. Being too busy, you may miss the Shepherds, the Star, the creche, and most importantly, Jesus.



Winterwear Collection Drive

Well folks it's that time of year, with the arrival of blustering winds and cold temperatures, the UWF is asking for hats, gloves and mittens for the kids at 14th and Chestnut Community Center. So as you are Christmas shopping, please keep these children in mind. Donations will be collected in the narthex or can be dropped off at the office.





Merry Christmas from the Preschool. December is always a fun and busy month for the Littles as they learn about the true meaning of Christmas, have fun with all different kinds of Christmas activities and perform at our annual Preschool Christmas Program, which will be held on Thursday, December 19 at 11:00.

Thursday, December 12 will be our Ugly Sweater / Red and Green Day so if you happen to be in the building that day, please feel free to join in on the fun by wearing your ugly sweater or red and green. Our winter break will begin on Monday, December 23 and we will resume classes on Monday, January 6, 2025.

Everyone at Memorial Preschool would like to wish you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

In Ministry together
Christy and Missy



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, December 14
8:00 a.m.
Meadows Cafe



The annual Kids Hope Christmas Party will be happening soon and the children are getting excited. Many of our children are new to Kids Hope and haven't experienced an after-school party with all the fun stuff- gifts, games, crafts, pizza, music and a special story. But the party, to be held this year on December 6, is a highlight for the children who have been a part of the ministry for a while. It is such a joy to see their faces light up when they realize this party is just for them.

You, the congregation at Memorial, are a big reason for these smiles. You support Kids Hope in so many ways, and never more than at Christmas time. It is so appreciated. Many wishes for a wonderful holiday season, and may God bless you!

Reminder: Mentors and friends, the Christmas party will be at 2:30pm on Monday, December 9. The last day to mentor will be Friday, December 13. Mentoring will resume January 7.

For
Unto
us
a
CHILD
is born
Unto us a Son
is given, and the
Government shall be
Upon His shoulders,
and His Name shall be called,
Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace!
Isaiah 9:6



Pam Crane, Prayer Coordinator

Mighty Prayer Warriors,

One of our daughters worked as a cashier in a retail store for some time. She said that the customers were usually frustrated, angry and just generally out of sorts. (This was especially obvious at the Customer Service Desk.) She felt like they wanted her to work as a machine with no interaction and simply wanted to get checked out and be gone asap. With this in mind and since the pandemic (remember during the pandemic when we couldn't shop in stores and didn't even have cashiers?!) now when I'm checking out in a store I try to make eye contact and thank them for being there. Many times, they respond by being very surprised, smiling or saying, "Wow, that makes my day!" How sad is that, that something so simple can make a difference? What an opportunity this Holiday season (and beyond!) we have to be God's messengers of His love, the love and grace that we have received. Perhaps we can even be so bold as to say more, something like "Jesus loves you" or "Would you like to come to church with me?"

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your marvelous grace that You have given us. Prepare us to see opportunities when we can share Your saving grace, love and hope with those who are sorely in need of You. Embolden us with the power that we already have through the Holy Spirit to be Jesus' hands and feet in this hurting world. We lift this prayer in the powerful Name of Jesus, Amen.



Do You need a place to pray?

Do you need a quiet place to pray and reflect or maybe just some time for yourself? The sanctuary at Memorial is open for you anytime the office is open. If you wish to use it at another time, contact Pastor Ron to make arrangements.



HELP NEEDED ON SUNDAY MORNING

Would you like to help during worship on Sunday morning? There are several things you can do:

- Sign up to greet and welcome those entering the sanctuary. Look for a sign-up in the narthex or contact the office
- Become a liturgist
- Read scripture
- Help with audio/video if needed
- Have a great idea for a children's message?

Contact the office, member care or Pastor Ron if you are interested or have questions!



It's that time of year to think about decorating for the holiday! Get turkey out of your thoughts and think about the 4 Sundays of Advent starting Sunday December 1st. We will again take 2 days to decorate:

First day is Friday November 29th at 2:00 pm to "carry up" from the basement. We plan to get started then. Second day is Saturday November 30th at 10:00am to finish decorating. Thanking you all in advance.

Sue Welch, Chair of Decorating Team



We have 2 Blood drives in December

December 17

9:00am to 2:00pm

AND

December 30

1:00pm-6:00pm

*This drive has extended hours to help facilitate those who normally can't give due to schedule conflicts.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org to schedule an appointment.



Our thoughts and prayers are with Paula Metheny and her family at the loss of her brother, John C. Adams

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Sharon Kay Fleschner who passed on November 14. Sharon was a member at Northside UMC.

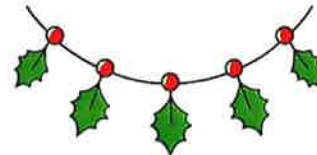
"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank

And how wonderful it is to direct a ministry in which so many people are willing to give of their time, resources, and prayers in order to give young children a better start to their lives. Thank you for all the ways you have loved on our children at Sugar Grove. The year is going well so far (13 children, mentors, and prayer partners!) and we look forward to many happy times and important successes as we continue mentoring after Christmas break. We appreciate your continued support!

And a sincere thank you to those who made a contribution to our Kids Hope ministry through the Second Mile Giving in October. Your donations, as well as your prayers for the ministry, help these very needy children in lots of different ways, including our highly anticipated Kids Hope Christmas Party to be held December 9. They can't wait! - Paula



Thank you for inviting me into your church. I am really excited about this new adventure. Thanks for the bag of goodies. Thanks, and Love, Carolee Hicks



A special thanks to my Memorial UMC family for the kindness and support shown to the Tom Clayton Family. Thank you for the prayers, the meal and the cards. -Pat Clayton



14th and Chestnut Community Center

At 14th and Chestnut, we help more than 50 families with a Christmas food basket. With your help, we are able to relieve some of the holiday stress and spread the joy and love of Jesus to the families of our children. Below is a list of food items we are collecting for the food baskets. We ask that you prayerfully consider collecting the items for one basket, or collecting one or more items in bulk.

We are offering food baskets to 50 families this Christmas.

Each Basket Contains:

- 2 cans of Corn
- 2 cans of Green Beans
- 2 boxes of Mac and Cheese
- 1 box of Stuffing
- 1 can Sweet Potatoes
- 1 can/jar of Gravy
- 1 package of Dinner Rolls
- 1 box Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1 Cake Mix
- 1 can of Frosting
- 1 can of Pumpkin
- 1 can of Pie Filling
- 1 can Evaporated Milk
- 1 can Cranberry Sauce
- 2 Pie Crusts
- 1 foil Roasting Pan



**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**



Memorial Sweatshirts and Hoddies

Royal "ISU" Blue

Sweatshirts are \$20.00 and

Hoddies are \$25.00

Sizes S-3XL

Order forms are in the office and narthex.
Orders due Wed., December 11th and will be available by Christmas.

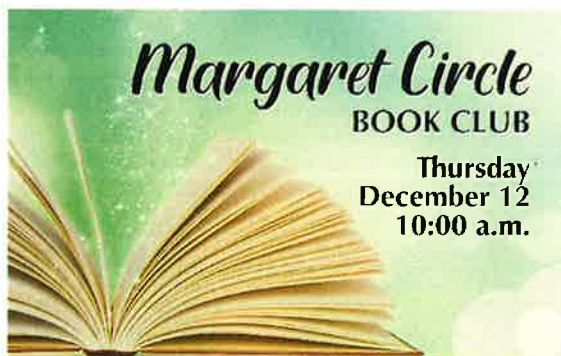


United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith, UWF, is our women's organization at Memorial We are a group to include ALL women, not just older ladies. We have several events and groups throughout the year for spiritual growth, fellowship, fun, service and fundraising. Some of these include: Call to Prayer and Reflection; Auction; Garage Sale/Clothing Drive; Chili Supper/Craft Fair; Yarn and Sewing Ministries and a Book/Reading group.

Through our fundraising efforts we are able to help support many charities such as Ilula Orphan Program in Tanzania, Midwest Mission Center in Illinois, Evansville Youth Home, CODA, Crisis Pregnancy Center and YWCA. This is only a partial list of our many missions. For a more complete list of our groups, projects and missions pick check the UWF brochures located on the Welcome Table in the Narthex.

All women are invited to attend our monthly organizational meetings every 2nd Wednesday of the month at 11:00am at the church. We meet in the large conference room near the office. We would be thrilled to have more ladies join us in our calling and service as United Women in Faith.



We will discuss Faking Grace by Tamara Leigh.

After our meeting we will go to the Park Avenue Diner for a Christmas lunch.

If you have any questions,
contact Joanie Kendall
812-298-4276



Many thanks for the extravagant support for the Chili Supper/Craft Fair. There are so many people that help make this a wonderful event. Thank you: for the hamburger and delicious dessert donations; to all the workers before, during and after the event; to the men for cooking the chili; to everyone that attended; and lastly, for your generous free will offerings. The proceeds (\$1100.00) will go to some of the many organizations that we help support.



Special invitation to all women for UWF Christmas Soup Luncheon, Thursday, Dec. 5, 10:00-12:00 in the Fellowship Hall. If you are new or haven't attended for a while or never attended, please come and be our guest. We'll have a brief business meeting, installation of officers for 2025, a Christmas program presented by the preschool children followed by delicious soups and more for lunch. It's a wonderful way to start the Christmas season and enjoy fellowship as United Women in Faith. Please sign up in the Narthex.





M-CARD NEWS

The holidays are here! Let M-cards help with all your shopping needs and gifts. We have over 700 vendors we can order from.

We have several gift cards on hand. Stop by on Sunday mornings to see what we have. If we don't have something you need, we can order it for you and get it by the following Sunday.

If you need it immediately and it is an E script (paper copy), we can have that for you within just a few minutes.

All Christmas orders must be placed by December 15th.

If you have any questions, please ask someone at the M-Card table on Sunday mornings or contact Bev Huddleston .

****Last day for Christmas orders is:
December 15th****



PANCAKE SUPPER

December 10 from 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Join the Men as they take over the griddle for our winter **pancake supper** on December 10. The menu will be pancakes, sausage, fruit and drinks. The cost will be a free will offering. Great time to bring a friend!



December- Member Care
January- Church Staff and 30 Minute
Sunday School Class
February- Education Team
March- United Women in Faith

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



Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed on December 24th and reopen on January 2nd. During this time, if you require assistance, please email office@umcmemorial.org. This email is monitored while the office is closed. The Memorial staff wishes all a Merry Christmas.

POPLAR LEAVES

DEADLINE for submissions:

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2024

NEW for 2025. A new online pictorial Church Directory! Details coming soon.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS:

- 5- Steve Newman
- 10- Katie Wilcox
- 14- Jack Hendrix
- 16- Pam Crane
Sarah Henman
- 18- Janet Cutsinger
- 22- Linda O'Neal
Lorie Richter
- 23- Jim Finley
Peggy Wiggins
- 24- Dick Becker
- 25- Ken Crane
- 27- Jane Linville

ANNIVERSARIES:

- 17- Steve and Pat Friday
- 18- Tom and Joanie Kendall
- 21- Jim and Anita Cheeseman
- 20- Church and Glenda Hilton
- 24- Phil and Sue Welch



Most of you are aware that I have some debilitating mobility issues that may get worse in the future. This is making it impossible to physically lead the children's Sunday school class. If we are unable to find a new teacher coordinator, we will no longer be able to offer this ministry. One person doesn't have to take over, it can be as many as are willing. Please contact me if you can help. Thank you- Michael "It DOES take a Village"



ANGEL TREE for 14th and Chestnut

The Angel Tree is a mission project that is our annual Advent Offering. The 14th and Chestnut Community Center provides snacks and dinner during the school year and breakfast and lunch during the summer for every child, everyday that participates in the offered programs. That is a LOT of food. Our angel tree donations go to help offset the food budget. Jim and Vicki Baily have set up a table in the Narthex with directions on how to participate. This is an opportunity for us to help make sure that no child goes hungry.



Bishop Malone is On the Move!

Bishop Malone is ALL IN and on the move throughout Indiana! Bishop Malone will be hosting the:

***West District Praise and Celebration
at Mount Pleasant UMC***
(3050 E Davis Dr., Terre Haute)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10th
3:00pm-4:30pm

All are welcome!



MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>9:30am - First Worship 10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>29</p>	<p>6:30pm - Trustees Committee</p> <p>9:30am - First Worship 10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>23</p>	<p>11:30am - Grace Circle at Paula 3pm - Bishop Malone at Mt. 4:30pm - UMW Pancake Supper 7pm - Tabal Prayer Services</p> <p>10</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study w/Scott 4pm - Newcomers 6pm - Chapel Belts 7pm - NA - Library</p> <p>4</p>	<p>10am - UMF Soup Luncheon 11am - Line Dancing w/Sue 1pm - Yarn Ministry 6:30pm - NAMI 7pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>5</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>13</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>14</p>
<p>9:30am - First Worship 10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>15</p>	<p>2:30pm - Kids Hoppe Party @ Sugar 5:30pm - Communication Team 5:30pm - Member Care Team 6:30pm - SPPRC Committee 7pm - Bowling League</p> <p>9</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study w/Scott 11am - UMW Planning Meeting 6pm - Chapel Belts 7pm - NA - Library</p> <p>11</p>	<p>10am - Margaret Circle- Chapel 11am - Line Dancing w/Sue 1pm - Yarn Group 7pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>12</p>	<p>11:45am - Triple F Luncheon</p> <p>20</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>13</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>14</p>
<p>9:30am - First Worship 10:30am - SS Classes</p> <p>22</p>	<p>9:30am - Bible Study w/Scott 6pm - Chapel Belts 7pm - NA - Library</p> <p>18</p>	<p>11am - Line Dancing w/Sue 11am - Preschool Christmas 1pm - Yarn Ministry 7pm - Chancel Choir</p> <p>19</p>	<p>11:45am - Triple F Luncheon</p> <p>20</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>13</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>14</p>	<p>8am - Men's Breakfast at 12pm - Dubois Party Fellowship</p> <p>14</p>
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