

POPLAR LEAVES

Memorial United Methodist Church

January, 2025

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

Reflections

Happy New Year

Here we are—another year around the Sun. The hectic holiday season is wrapping up, and we're moving into the relatively quiet season of winter. Personally, I'm kind of hoping for enough cold and snow to keep me from being out and about too much, but not enough to freeze my pipes or make me shovel the driveway.

I suppose that's pretty much a metaphor for life. We'd like to have a calm and unmolested life with not too much discomfort.

It's certain that 2024 will be one for the record books: a truly crazy political season and our own United Methodist Church finishing its long breakup. As I look ahead (and based on everything we hear in the news), there are going to be even more interesting times in 2025.

I'm already trying to map my path through the coming year, trying to figure out what to do. But at the same time, my prayer

is for less worrying so I can become stronger by focusing on Him.

All this takes me back to the Christian season of Advent. I hope you've heard me say *don't put your hope in the world but in Christ*. Don't let your peace be influenced by the world, but instead live into the peace of Christ. Don't look for joy in other people or physical things, but find joy through your connection to Jesus. And finally, let your love be like His, not just sacrificial, but unconditional.

Shalom, Shalom,

Pastor Ron

“But blessed are those who trust in the Lord and have made the Lord their hope and confidence.

⁸ They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought.

Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

—Jeremiah 17:7-8

*They are like trees planted
along a riverbank...*





“Random thoughts for the new year”

David Peter, follower of Christ

The new year has arrived! I know, I know, where did the old one go? I have often heard that “time goes by faster the older you get,” and now realize how true the adage can be. It seems like a lot when I stop and consider everything I’ve gone through the past year. On top of that, thinking about how things could have been does not accomplish a lot. Rather than dwell on what could have been or what should have been, focus on where we are and what needs to be done.

As the new year has started, well even before it occurred, I began the process of discerning what scriptures provided a foundation for my walk as a Christian. One that immediately came to mind is:

“O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” -Micah 6:8 NLT

This verse reminds me of how my life is to be lived: drawing closer to God and following Jesus. It is simple to imagine but requires much more.

“Don’t be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks.” Philippians 4:6 CEB

Bobby McPherin wrote a song in 1988, “Don’t Worry, Be Happy,” that reminds us to find joy wherever we may be and not dwell on those things out of our control. “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms,” hymn 133 in our hymnal, reminds us of the joy Jesus brings.

Even as the Christmas boxes are placed back in the attic, school starts back; our routine is re-established, and we need some guidance,

advice, and counsel to put us in sharper focus. It has been here, with us, all along our journey. In prayer, ask. Listen, see what surrounds you. Whether in Scripture or the melody of hymns, the focus will sharpen. And we will be better equipped “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”

A lofty mission indeed. But it begins with one prayer, one step, one person. And that is where this year of potential and opportunity begins. Amen!



Happy New Year! It seems like 2024 just flew by. We have so much planned for our second semester with the Littles. December was a busy month with programs, learning about the true meaning of Christmas and a visit from Santa.

We will return to school on Monday, January 6 after our two-week winter break. On Thursday, January 16 we will have an All-School Pajama Day. There will be no school on Monday, January 20 due to Martin Luther King Day.

We recently received some exciting news. After dreaming of expanding our playground we have received funding from resources previously left to Northside by the Pease family who approved this new use. The project was further assisted by other funds transferred during the combining of the two faith communities. Construction will begin on the playground addition in the Spring. Hopefully it will be completed before the end of the school year so that our Pre-K class will get to enjoy it. We are wanting to add a new climbing cave to the new playground as well and are in the process of fundraising for this.

Thank you so much for all your support and prayers.

In Ministry together,
Christy and Missy



Another Kids Hope Christmas party has come and gone. Held on December 6, mentors, children, and lots of helpers stayed busy crafting, eating pizza, singing carols, playing games, and filling a bag of gifts for another child, which is always the best part of this event. There was lots of smiling and laughing that day, too, and we thank you for that.

Thanks to all who helped either by showing up to assist, making cookies, or buying items for the gift bags. The mentors and I appreciate the efforts of so many, as it would be difficult to get this party together without all of the great help.

Now, on to the second half of the school year!



14th and Chestnut Kitchen workers!

Two volunteers needed
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays

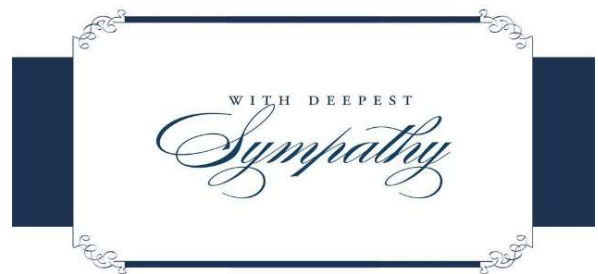
Contact Judy Hatch



Member Care would like to thank our Sewing Group led by Peggy Nelson for making the beautiful Shoulder Pocket Shawls for our Homebound friends to put in their Christmas Gift "Baskets". We purchased a few useful items to go in the pockets and wrapped them in beautiful Christmas gift bags.

Also a very big thank you to our Visitation Committee led by Donna Lowey for delivering the gifts. Every year both these groups help our church to stay in touch with members and friends that can no longer attend church. We want them to know that we care for them and want them to be a part of Christmas at Memorial.

Happy New Year to All our Memorial family.



Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of James Cheeseman. James was an active member at Northside Community UMC. He passed away on December 19th at the age of 81.

Harriet Wagner passed away on December 14th at the age of 99. She was a resident of Sycamore Manor and an attendee at Memorial. Please keep her family in your prayers



Pam Crane, Prayer Coordinator

JOY!

Mighty Prayer Warriors,

So how do we get joy and how is it different from happiness? It's an age-old question, isn't it. Of course we all like to be happy but happiness is fleeting. Happiness tends to be based upon our circumstances and external factors. But joy is an internal and eternal attitude based on our relationship with God. And this all comes from Jesus, recognizing what a gift He is for us and all that He has done for us.

So now we have the building blocks of our faith stacking up: Grace; Gratitude; Hope and Peace. These are all based on Jesus and are leading us into JOY!

Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your gift of Jesus as a tiny baby. May we have grateful hearts as we come nearer to Christmas and deepen our relationship with You which in turn will give us that deep down JOY in our hearts. We lift this prayer in the precious name of Jesus, Amen.

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with JOY." Psalm 126:3



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!



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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:

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An important reminder: If you wish to use the building, cancel or reschedule a previously scheduled meeting or event, PLEASE let the office know. You may call, stop by or email at office@umcmemorial.org. We have come close to having multiple scheduling conflicts. If you have questions about an event/meeting being on the calendar, please go to MemorialEvents.org and view the official calendar or feel free to call the office at 812-234-0776.

- February- Education Team
- March- United Women in Faith
- April- Trustee Committee
- May- Konania and Multi Media Class
- June- Kid's Hope

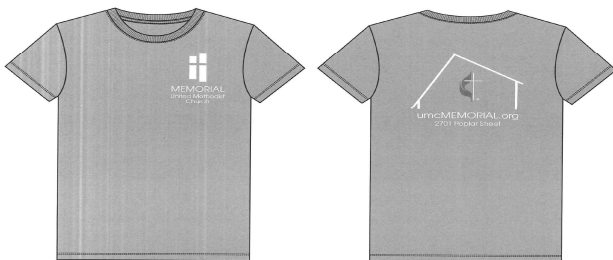
Getting the coffee bar ready on Sunday morning is a lot of work. Carol Davis, John Thompson, Sam Ray and others have done a great job. Would you be able to help? If so, please contact the office.

POPULAR LEAVES

DEADLINE for submissions:
Tuesday, January 21



Can anyone help with Children's Sunday School? Contact the office if you can. Without help, it can no longer be offered after January.



Memorial Sweatshirts and Hoodies

We were unable to meet the minimum requirement of orders to get our sweatshirts and hoodies from the original company that printed our t-shirts. However, we have found another company that will print them without a minimum so please look for them to come in during January. Thank you!



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 11
8:00 a.m.
Meadows Cafe



United Women in Faith

Our monthly meeting will be January 8 at 11:00 in the large conference room near the church office. All ladies are welcome to attend. We have devotions followed by a brief business meeting and of course some time to visit with each other as sisters-in-faith. We look forward to new input and ideas.

United Women in Faith Sunday is scheduled for January 26. We are planning a service that celebrates and highlights some of the many contributions of our UWF group. Please plan to attend and be willing to serve in the best way you are able.



It's not too early to start brainstorming ideas of goods and services that you can donate to our Auction, February 16.



Margaret Circle will meet on Thursday, January 9th in the chapel. We will be talking about books that Joanie picked out for you from the church library.

If you have any questions, please call Joanie Kendall at 812-298-4276 or email joaniekendall@yahoo.com



Birthdays:

- 2 Laura Hendrix
- 3 Jeri Grogan
- 5 Brent Hall
- 9 Summer Turpen
- 10 George Nelson
- 10 Robert Pendley
- 10 Janet Sheldon
- 10 Steve Williams
- 12 Maggie Swank
- 13 Sue Alger
- 14 Sally Sudbrink
- 15 Tiffany Herring
- 18 Ernestine Wheeler
- 20 Ruth Haas
- 20 Marilyn Harney
- 20 Brian Hewitt
- 23 Richard Drake
- 23 Tom Kendall
- 23 Nancy Ralston
- 24 AJ Nicoson
- 24 Elizabeth Johnson
- 26 Phyllis Koszewski
- 27 Judy Hatch
- 27 Ernestine Buzzell
- 29 Ed Grogan
- 29 Pansy Seybold

Anniversaries:

- 17 Marty and Becky Miner

THANK YOU!

I want to thank those at Memorial for giving me the funds needed to pay for the care I needed after my surgery at the end of August. It made it possible to get the needed care. I am back to work. I do have a lasting effect from the surgery that I deal with every day. I am blessed to be alive. I am thankful to each person who gave the funds and those who check on me during the time of healing. Bless my MUMC for the prayers and help! Blessing for a blessed holiday season. The birth and resurrection of Jesus tis the season to celebrate our father God and Jesus Christ for guiding and keeping us. The Sacrifice gives, so that we can live a life filled with peace and love. Amen. – Sandy Linville

Thank you so very much to the Memorial family for all the cards, gifts and holiday tidings. Cheers to a prosperous 2025!

-Pastor Ron and Janette

Dinner Church will resume
January 21, 2025

Drive Thru History

ACTS TO REVELATION
THE WORLD OF THE FIRST CHRISTIANS

“Join Dave Stotts on his biggest adventure yet! He travels the Mediterranean region to share the people, places, and events that launched the Christian faith – using the book of Acts as a roadmap”- Amazon.com

As we await the next season of the Chosen, join us in the fellowship hall on January 21st.for food, fun, fellowship and world travels..



I would like to thank all the Memorial workers who helped to prepare meals for the kids at 14th & Chestnut this past summer. A special thanks to Sandy Sell and Jude Reppell for working three breakfast shifts.

An extra special thanks to Phil and Sue Welch and Larry Singleton who worked a lunch shift once a week throughout the entire summer. Sabrina Kennedy, head cook, was grateful for their help. If you are interested in working the evening/dinner shift during the school year, please contact the Center to volunteer. Thank you! -Judy Hatch

Thank you for all the Christmas greetings and get-well cards. It means a lot as I continue to explore my mobility options. Happy New Year! -Michael



FFF Cranberry Salad

Dissolve one 3oz. package of cherry Jello in 1 ½ cups of boiling water. Set aside to cool.

Grind ½ package fresh or frozen cranberries and ½ orange. Add ¾ cup of sugar. Let stand for 1 hour.

Pour cooled Jello into cranberries. Add one 8oz can of crushed pineapple and ½ cup

chopped pecans. Pour into serving dish.

Refrigerate and enjoy!

- Mary Ann Boyer



Saturday, January 11, 2025
6:00 p.m.

DATE CHANGE:

Angelus Duo

Memorial
MUSIC
Series

POPULAR LEAVES
Memorial United Methodist Church
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