

FAITH NEWS

"An Unbalanced Life"

The first day of spring is almost upon us. It occurs on Saturday, March 20. On this date the sun will be exactly above the equator, making the day and night of equal length. In other words, there is balance.

I love balance!

I smile when I balance my checkbook to the penny, watch Anakin (and Luke) Skywalker bring balance to the Force in "Return of the Jedi," and listen to two finely tuned and balanced speakers.

In reality, though, life is much more about balancing than it is about being balanced. I'm balancing my checkbook monthly. The Force's balance depended upon those who came after Anakin and Luke. And just when I've got my car speakers balanced the way I like, someone comes along and changes it.

Similarly, we talk about a "balanced" life, but I don't think any of us actually achieve it while on this earth. It's like what I tell couples who are thinking about having children. If you wait until the perfect time (when your lives are in balance), then you'll always be waiting.

But you know what? I've come to the conclusion that it's okay not to be in balance. After all, it's in the balancing that we learn to take risks, understand the need to grow from our failures, and realize that it's not the well who need Jesus, but the sick.

"When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples, 'Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?' On hearing this, Jesus said to them, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners'" (Mark 2:16-17).

Isn't it good to know that we don't have to have everything figured out in order to join Jesus at the table? It's alright to have questions. A balanced life isn't necessary. You don't have to wait for the perfect time, because if you do then you might always be waiting.

I truly hope you have found your place at Jesus' table! And if you have, don't forget to invite others. And just like you, it is perfectly fine if they are a little unbalanced.

God Bless,
Pastor John



There is something about gathering around a table. Growing up, our dining room table was a place where family gathered, meals were loud, full of laughter and some shenanigans. When you were invited over for dinner, you were considered family. It was a place to build relationships, a place to be known.

When you invite someone to the table, you want to build a relationship with them. In ancient Israel dining with others is a symbolic act of unity, a sign that you would be friends, allies. The numerous stories in the gospels of Jesus eating with people points to the importance of the table. It is an invitation to be in relationship.

That is why I am so excited about a new focus for the year 2021, “Who’s Your Plus One?” This new campaign is centered around the idea that Christ has invited all into relationship, to come to the table. Yet once we’ve begun a relationship with Christ, we are not finished! He calls us to share that good news by building relationships and discipling others, bringing them with us to the table. In the Parable of the Wedding Feast in Matthew 22, the King tells his servants to “go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find.” We can’t keep the good news of a relationship with Christ to ourselves, we must share it! And the best way to do that is through relationship. Who are you inviting along in your journey with Christ? Who can you reach out to, build relationship with, and invite them to join you as you follow Christ? This is what it looks like for disciples to make disciples.

If you would like to invite someone to join you in this journey, make it a team effort and join a new study! We have several groups who are just starting back up! We also have two Lenten studies that are just beginning, it’s not too late to join!

Studies & Groups

- Gate Keepers Sunday School class led by Becky Nelson will meet Sundays 10:15-11am in the Parlor
- Lunch & Learn Life Group led by Bev Radeline meets bi-weekly on Mondays at 11:30 am
- The Pletcher Life Group meets in-person Wednesdays 6:30-8 pm studying *Grandparenting*
- Boomer’s Sunday School class meets weekly Sunday mornings by Zoom, contact Mike Wyrick if you would like to join.
- Ladies Bible Study meets Mondays via Zoom, contact Irene Weesner if you would like to join.

In addition, Pastor John and Pastor Sarah will each lead different 6-week Lenten Study series beginning Wednesday, February 24th at 6:30 pm. These series will be hybrid with in-person and Zoom components. Mrs. Vanessa will have activities and lessons for children who participate in-person.

Pastor John will be re-starting a series called, *In Pursuit of Peter*. “How did Peter transform from an uneducated fisherman into one of the most celebrated and beloved Jesus-followers in history? It’s one thing to read about people in Scripture. It’s another thing to trace their life histories to more fully understand their backgrounds and the profound effect Jesus had on them. Explore the places where Peter lived and traveled, starting by the Sea of Galilee where he labored as a fisherman--an unlikely disciple, but purposely called by Christ.”

Pastor Sarah will begin a series called, *Entering the Passion of Jesus* that focuses on the importance of Holy Week. “Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward. Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.”

All of these groups and studies are open to anyone that is interested. They all have a place at their tables for you!

BREAKTHROUGH STUDENT MINISTRY

PASTOR SARAH

It has been so great to be back in person this past month. We have had some fun, raised \$800 for Youth Missions, and learned about Nehemiah and his God-sized goal of rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem.

This month we are switching gears and beginning a new study called "Lost & Found." This study on Jesus helps us to see Him more clearly and to ask some big questions. Join us Sunday nights for games, snacks, and study!

March:

7th, 14th & 21st: Youth Group, "Lost & Found" 5-6:30pm

28th: Youth Activity (TBD) Watch your weekly emails!



Hello Faith Families,

It has been so nice seeing all of you at church!! If you have not joined us in person yet it is okay! We will continue to have a Children's service posted on Sunday morning on the Faith Facebook page and also on the Faith YouTube channel! I have a couple of updates to share with you all. We will have breakout for both services at 9:00 and 10:45 am. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary, stay for worship and then go upstairs for our normal programming. Throughout all of the classrooms we are really focusing on team building and building relationships to grow the church. We have been discussing how important it is to help grow the Kingdom of God. Whether that is starting faith conversations with friends or inviting friends or family members to church. I want to encourage and empower them to help others to know Christ. We discuss this through age-appropriate lessons and activities. We will also have family worship on the first Sunday of every month. Below is the topics that we will be learning about in breakout on Sunday mornings as well as the scripture reading, and monthly verse. I want to share the schedule with you all to encourage you to read the scripture with your child(ren) and to also continue faith conversations with them throughout the week. It helps them to really grasp the concepts that we are teaching on Sunday mornings. Thank you all for your continued support of this ministry.

God Bless, Mrs. Vanessa

Vanessa Rosenberg, Children's Ministry Director • ph: 574-875-4438 • e: Vanessa@faithumc.com

March Bible Lessons for Faith Kids

March's Memory Verse:

"So go to the street corners and invite to the banquet anyone you find." Matthew 22:9, NIV

3/7 Parable of the Great Banquet

Scripture Reading: Luke 14:1-24

3/14 Jesus Washes the Disciple's Feet

Scripture Reading: John 13:1-17

3/21 Too Busy

Scripture Reading: Luke 10:38-42

3/28 Jesus Eats with Zacchaeus

Scripture Reading: Luke 19:1-10





CAMP REGISTRATION

This year's camping experience will be different due to Covid-19 precautions, but we are excited to participate this year! This year we are promoting 3 different weeks of camp for our three age groups:

Elementary @ Camp Lakewood week of July 11-16th

Jr. High @ Epworth Forest week of June 20-25

Sr. High @ Epworth Forest week of June 27-July 2

Elementary and Jr. High students can sign up by going to www.faithumc.com/youth and scrolling down to the camp info banner. We are proud to announce that we will still be offering to contribute 75% of the cost for your child to attend. In order to receive this discount, you'll need to call the church office to receive a discount code.

Sr. High students will need to register through a personalized link to our rented cabin, this link will be available soon from Pastor Sarah. Payment will be collected at a later date.

If you have any questions about the camping ministry or registration, please contact Pastor Sarah.

A recap of the conversion to LED lighting:

1,302 fluorescent tubes & 922 ballasts removed

1,176 LED tubes or fixtures installed

600 Volunteer hours = \$24,000 in donated labor

\$9,900 estimated annual electrical savings

Thank you to the many folks that made this happen!



Stephen Ministry

SUBMITTED BY LINDA SCHROCK

Faith UMC is fortunate to have one new person in training to become a Stephen Minister. Her name is Pat Griffey. Pat has been involved with Faith since approximately 2008. Currently she is serving on the newly formed Hospitality Committee, looking at how we can again become a welcoming community of believers when the restrictions on in-person services are lifted. Pat and her husband, Don, have 5 grown children and 8 grandchildren. They are fortunate enough to have them all within an hours' drive from Elkhart. Pat and Don regularly attended the second service at Faith. During the summer they often attended the Monday evening service.

Pat has been working in the health insurance field for many years. In that role she has held numerous positions, including serving as President of the National Association of Health Underwriters, a non-profit association of health insurance professionals, located in Washington DC. Currently, she and Don work together in their own company dealing with health insurance.

In preparation for a leadership class which she is scheduled to teach within her field, she currently is re-reading (for the 3rd time) a book on Servant Leadership written by James C. Hunter. Many of the principles of leadership described in this book have also been a part of some of the units in Stephen Ministry training: assertiveness, leadership, mentoring, supporting others, etc. Her belief is that a good leader brings others along to their potential to become good leaders themselves.

April 29, 2021 there will be a Celebration of Completion for all 15 trainees. More details of that will be announced at a later time. Following this celebration, a consecration service at Faith will be arranged. Pat is a welcome addition to our Stephen Ministry team. Currently the Stephen Ministry classes have covered materials related to Feelings: Yours Mine & Ours, The Art of Listening, and Confidentiality. Some of the principles stressed are:

- Building trust, living one's Faith, Skilled communication, and being trustworthy.
- Christ is the source of ministry. Remain connected with Jesus throughout the caring relationship.
- Feelings are God-given. Jesus expressed deep feelings. God can "handle" all emotions of His children. Feelings are meant to be expressed. A caring listener, without judgement is important to health and wholeness. Unexpressed, unresolved feelings can lead to stress-related illnesses.
- Effective listeners have empathy (different from sympathy), composure, and attentiveness to the speaker, and awareness of non-verbal communication.
- Confidentiality is an intentional act. It is a professional and personal commitment.

Stephen Ministry is based upon maintaining in confidence all that is shared in the caring relationship, and is not shared with family or other Stephen Ministers. The Care Receiver may tell others who their Stephen Minister is, but the Stephen Minister cannot.

Updates on class content will be in the bulletin announcements and newsletter articles.

Stewardship Report:

Annual Budget: \$ 753,295
Year to Date Need: \$ 115,891
Year to Date Rec'd: \$ 92,352

2021 giving envelopes are available for pick up in the office. Thank you for your generous & faithful giving.

Ways to give:

Mail (we collect mail each day)
Online (faithumc.com)
Text "give" to 833-942-1919

Online & Text options can be set up as a one-time or recurring gift.

Worship Update

We have returned to in-person worship with blended services at 9:00am and 10:45am.

Attendance is larger at the 10:45am service making us near capacity. We encourage some, if you are able, to attend the 9:00am service to avoid having to use overflow areas. Breakout for kids is available at both times.

Please see the reopening plan in the weekly emails and on our website.

We will continue to live stream a full service online at 9am.

You will find these through Facebook, YouTube, and Vimeo. The recording will be posted at www.faithumc.com.

RELATIONAL MISSIONS



The Relational Missions Team is continuing our work in the 2021 year. 2020 was a rough year for all and we are optimistic as we look to 2021. We are meeting on the second Thursdays of March, May, July, September, and November at 6:30 PM. These are open meetings to anyone who would like to be involved in supporting the many missions that Faith United Methodist Church supports locally, nationally, and internationally.

March is Missions month, and the focus is on the Dale and Judy Stickel Scholarship Fund. The Haiti trip is being planned and we are exploring a virtual option that would allow for participation without leaving the country. If you are interested, you can contact Brian Conwell for more information. We are hoping to return to Henderson Settlement in the fall. The scholarship fund is for first time participants on any mission trip. Information is available in the church office.

JIM HENDRESS

Come along with us on an adventure!

Join SIF for a

VIRTUAL TEAM

Can't come to Haiti this year but still want to experience what it's like to serve and make an impact? Grab your friends and enjoy a **VIRTUAL TEAM EXPERIENCE!**

- *Watch small homes be built for families in need.
- *Hear interviews from the recipients of the homes.
- *Enjoy a Q&A with SIF's field missionaries and staff.
- *Learn about Haitian culture and cuisine (recipes too!)
- *Experience driving in Haiti.
- *Take a virtual tour of the new SIF Guesthouse.
- *Meet SIF's staff evangelist & hear about the amazing work God is doing within many communities.

We're SO excited to add virtual teams to SIF's 2021 calendar. For \$500 per person, you and your team can experience a team week in Haiti from the comfort of your own living room! We look forward to "seeing" you soon!

For more info contact your team leader.



Sharing Christ by Serving Others



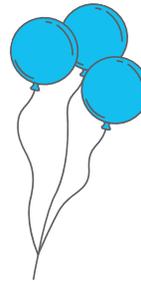



MISSIONS

- **MARCH LOOSE COINS FOR STICKEL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**
- **COATS FOR SUSANNA'S KITCHEN**
- **CCS: INFANT DIAPERS, ADULT INCONTINENCE ITEMS & NONPERISHABLE FOOD**
- **ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OUR KINGDOM KIDS TEACHERS (NOTES, PRAYER, MORNING MUFFINS/TREATS, VOLUNTEER)**

Birthdays

- Mar 1: Mahra Chris
- Mar 2: Rich Brewton, Suzan Mortrud, Danielle Thompson
- Mar 3: Vanessa DuBois
- Mar 5: Roger Niccum
- Mar 6: Veradine Berkey, Jeremiah Clark
- Mar 7: Terry Alber, David Long
- Mar 8: Mandy Chris, Marv Clark, Missy Coleman,
Richard Gorsuch, Craig Stiver
- Mar 9: Jim Hahn, Payton Starzyk
- Mar 10: Elaine Crump
- Mar 12: Brenda Horein, Loiuise McDowell
- Mar 13: Pat Griffey
- Mar 14: Jean Hilligoss
- Mar 16: Tiffany Roa
- Mar 17: Dale McDowell, Becky Nelson, Dan Null, Pat Shaffer
- Mar 21: Christy Niccum, Pat Robertson, Laura Stout
- Mar 23: Jan McBride
- Mar 24: Irene Weesner
- Mar 25: Jessica Buckmeier, Laura Radeline
- Mar 26: Larry Miller, Sandy Trindle
- Mar 27: Bruce Van Dyke, Phyllis Wood
- Mar 28: Ron Bowers
- Mar 29: Matt Simon
- Mar 30: John Southern
- Mar 31: Marilyn Smith



Anniversaries

- Mar 15: Todd & Sheila Tice
- Mar 21: Richard & Mona Gorsuch
- Mar 24: John & Cathy Southern
- Mar 24: Kent & Sherri Stauffer
- Mar 25: Randy & Joanne Hirsh
- Mar 25: Dean & Jan McDowell



ALTAR FLOWERS

You can sign up for altar flowers on the bulletin board in the narthex near the parlor.



Governing Council

Council Chair: Tim Lockhart
Vice Chair: Brian Conwell
Secretary: Susan Stemm
Treasurer: Danny Cocanower
Pastor: John Hogsett

Finance

Lead: Mike Wyrick
Robin Vance, Brian Conwell

Human Resources/SPRC

Lead: Kyle Rasler
Tim Lockhart, Susan Stemm

Facilities

Lead: Jim Smith
Larry Bellamy, Kim Snellenberger

At Large

Jessica Buckmeier, Avieell Clark



Text the word FAITH to 574-406-2620 to get updates, announcements, and even meeting reminders!

You can send in prayer requests, joys, and ask questions via text as well.



Scan the QR code to sign up for weekly emails.

In Our Prayers

Cancer

Becky Adams
Scott Arnold
Jim Bellamy
Karen Bohn
Jerry Bridenstein
Becky Cline
Don Dailey
Brittany Gasper
Mona Gorsuch
Jim Hahn
Kim Harvey*
Beatrice Juarez
Lois Leib
Alyssa Lintz
Trudy McDowell (S*)
Deb Michael
Howie Morgan
Doug Nickell
Joyce Parker
Miguel Reyes
Molly Smith
Cathy Spry
Tom Stiver
Joel Taylor
Linda Utley
Glen Wade
Joe Williams

Medical

Alex Alber
Don Anderson*
Brock Andrews
Bruce Atkinson*
Lynda Atkinson
Brayden Baker
Maureen Bellamy
Greg Benson
Virginia Bennett
Bob Buckey
John Clark
Christina Cook
Gene Cook
Jill Curtis
Michelle Dennis
Alex Derenak
Cecil Dixon
Kathy Eash
Jeff Fecher*
Carol Fort
Charlie Gonyon
Harold Greeley
Austin Groves
Renatta Hahm
Dwight Hamilton
Linda Hapner
Pam Harrington
Karen Hartung
Benitta Herman
Scott Hinman
Tom Horein
Eugene Huang
Alain Huff
Everett Jamison

Medical (cont.)

Remington Juday
Jeanne Judd
Ramona Kelly
Tyler Knudson
Eliana Martin
Diana Mathewson
Wendy Myers
Ian McMillan
Larry & Karen Miller
Connie Neely
Tyler Ponciroli
Nicole Robinson
Dan Schaefer
Bob Schlobohm
Pat Sharkey
Lori Shay
Dirk Siciliano*
Savannah Speer
Ed Stankus*
Judy Stickel
Julie Strycker (hospice)
Alicia Sullivan
Carol Tice*
Mark Tice
Todd Tice
George Valdez
Ginger Vilmure
Chuck & Kit Waite
Gerry Watkins*
Shirley Weaver
Kathy Weidner
Neil Workman

Other

Brittany Hart
Mary Karon
David Larson
Judy Ponciroli
Michael Ponciroli
Ruth R.
Doug Stamper
Persecuted Christians
Our Youth & Children
Stephen Ministers
Kingdom Kids ELC

JOYS!*
Eugene Huang
rec'd a kidney!

***New this month**

Losses: Pat Warfel (Mike DeHays), Father of Sherri Stauffer, Lee Newton (Gerry Watkins & Phyl Stiver)



Military: Chris Fisher • Stephanie Hempel • Aaron Zigler