April and May 2015 News and Events

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Chimes Submission Deadlines:

- June/July - May 1st
- August/September - July 1st

Just a Thought: Bringing Africa Home - Living with Gladness & Generosity

I was stumped. “Tell me the single best moment, the most powerful part, of your trip to Africa,” a friend said. I didn’t know how to respond. My first thought was to point to the spectacular moments like standing across from Victoria Falls, getting soaked to the skin by the mist rolling up off the water, or the evening safari drive along the Chobe River, or a lioness coming to a watering hole to drink long after sunset, or the Africa University Choir filling a courtyard with music and praise and joy as a $1,000,000 check was presented to AU to endow the chair of the Faculty of Agriculture.

It took me awhile. I said the best moments were the moments I got to spend with the Africans themselves. Every chance I had, I would begin a conversation with Africans: some of the students at AU, waiters in a restaurant, a father walking down a dusty highway on a Sunday morning with his children. Being with the Africans was the best part of being in Africa!
Do you know why? Every single person I spoke with had very little in the way of material things (compared to middle class North Americans), and yet every single person seemed to be filled with gladness. They are so thankful for the smallest of blessings! Along with that there is an extraordinary level of generosity: they will give their best away to a stranger or a guest or a neighbor in need.

I listened as one man at Africa University, who manages the crop end of the farming operation, thanked us over and over again for the gifts we send there which makes the AU farm work. He and his family have next to nothing, in a material sense, and live in an old brick house with broken windows, but his face was lit up with the joy that gladness and thanksgiving bring.

The Africans, I believe, have much to teach us. They remind us to see the blessings, even when we have less than we might hope, and let thanks-giving be a regular part of every day. They also teach us what generosity looks like. And that is a lesson we need to learn because too often our sacrificial giving to others (and God) involves far too little sacrifice. Our “first fruits” are too often the leftovers we won’t miss. (Please keep the lesson of the Africans in mind as you read elsewhere about the decade-long struggle at FUMCB to fund a ministry and mission budget.)

I'm so thankful I could travel back home to Africa. There are more stories I will share another day. But for now let me say I am praying to learn the lessons about seeing the blessings and living out radical generosity.

"We always give thanks God...when we pray for you," Paul writes in Colossians 1:3. Lord, help me have eyes to see every blessing and hands that are eager to let go of what I have to share.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Mark

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**FRUITFUL CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOPS COMING IN MAY**

Our congregation's progress in responding to the opportunities outlined in December's FCJ Consultation Report will continue in May with two more FCJ workshops led by the Reverend Dr. Doug Anderson.

A workshop on Vision will be offered on Saturday, May 2nd, beginning at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall. That workshop will continue to late morning.

At 1 p.m. the second workshop of the day, Core Values, will begin.

Persons from the congregation can participate in either or both of the workshops by contacting Jody at the church office, or signing up in the Gathering Place on the 19th or 26th (before and after the 10 o’clock sanctuary service) or in the lobby of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater (before or after The Open Door).
Those who want to want one of the simple, catered lunches should also provide their $7 (check or cash) when they register.

Several weeks later, on Wednesday, May 27th, a third FCJ workshop will be offered by Dr. Anderson. This will be the Behavioral Covenant Workshop and is open to members of the Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, staff, and two representatives each from the Food Pantry, Interfaith Shelter, adult Sunday school classes, and Chancel Choir. This workshop is not open to the entire church, but the work generated out of the workshop will come to the Church Council for consideration and adoption.

Remember to RSVP for the workshops if you want to participate. You need to register by April 26th. Please be in prayer for the work of all our FCJ Ministry Action Plan teams.

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FUMCB SHIFTS TO SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND (SUNDAY, MAY 24TH)

Beginning May 24th we will offer two worship celebrations every Sunday morning through August 9th. The Sanctuary service will be at 9:30 a.m. and The Open Door will continue to meet at 11:15 a.m.

Keep your eyes open for some cool, fellowship-type things happening as we get ready for another school year!

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SEEDS, WEEDS & NEW LIFE:
New Sermon Series Begins This Weekend

Jesus was a carpenter’s son, but he spent a lot of time telling stories (parables) that used seeds, plants, weeds, and soil to tell truth about God and life. Beginning on April 19th, we’ll launch a new series of messages titled Spring Planting.

Some of the stories you’ll hear may comfort and encourage you. Some of the parables may unsettle you...even provoking a degree of outrage.

Invite a friend to join you as we begin on the 19th with "The Seed Business" (based on Matthew 13:24-30). The following weeks' messages will be titled "Dealing with Weeds" (what is our role in judging others?) based on Matthew 13:24-30, "Big Stuff from Small Seeds" (Matthew 13:31-33), "An Un-Fair Operation" (Matthew 20:1-16 reminding us that God doesn't promise to give us what we deserve!), and "The Fruit Business" (Matthew 21:33-46).
A Note from the Finance Committee

To the Congregation of FUMCB/The Open Door

First United Methodist & The Open Door are a congregation blessed with wonderful, caring, faithful people who care about the larger world. The congregation shows this by its vibrant and diverse worship life, growing ministries with children, youth, and college students, and outreach ministries like periodic mission teams, PDO (community daycare), the Food Pantry and Interfaith Winter Shelter.

Jesus talked about money a great deal because faith/devotion/love get expressed through our giving. And money is key to the continued growth of our outreach and ministries. We are most thankful for those members of our congregation that faithfully make their financial commitments to FUMCB & the Open Door, however;

In 2014 we had pledges of $1,263,467 but received only $1,239,798. That shortfall in budget income of $23,669 includes $87,833 of unfulfilled pledges and is a key reason we ended the year with a net negative of over $125,000. While several individual 2015 pledges have increased from 2014, the overall congregational totals have fallen back to $1,185,091. This is a reduction of 6.2% over the 2014 pledged amount. FUMCB has had a decade long struggle with the gap between giving and the costs of supporting our operating costs, ministries and outreach.

We want you to know where we are, and we have waited to make this report until we have heard from late-pledging families. Right now our 2015 giving based on pledged commitments, adjusted for expected non-pledged income, will fall an estimated $100,500 short of our budgeted expenses.

Please be in prayer about this and prayerfully consider your own giving to God’s work through the church. Our Finance Committee will be making a report to the Church Council, and the Council will help us decide how best to proceed. God is doing good work in our midst, especially as we reach younger families and growing numbers of youth. It would be unfortunate if this good work were imperiled by giving that is less than robust or faithful.

If you haven’t let us know of your intention to give to the operating budget of the church and are able to do so please turn in an "Estimate of Giving" card, available at the entrances to the Sanctuary, in the lobby of the Buskirk-Chumley Theater and from the church office. If you would increase your giving to the church, please email your intention to our Administrator, Pastor Marie, at mlang@fumcb.org. Thank you for your generosity and faithfulness.
**Children's Ministry News**

**Congratulations to the 4th Grade Bible Recipients!**
Recipients included: Ben Anderson, Ryan Anderson (7th grade), Emma Armstrong, Courtlyn Bales-Hall, Nora Beatty, James Bradley, Madeline Brumley, Eva Bryant, Sophia Bryant, Nicolas Calabrese, Andrew Cockerham, Griffin Gillard, Charles Hedrick, Rhett Johnson, Luc Meunier, Annie Murer, Madelynne Murray, Madeleine Rich, Halley Rink, Abigail Scott, Catherine Scott, Kya Seibert, Emma Shaw, Emily Slotegraaf, Lucy Smith and Laurel Tayloe

**2015 Vacation Bible School - Bible Blast to the Past: Discover God's Everlasting Love!**
*Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19, 9am-noon*
Children's Ministries invites all kids to FUMC's 'Bible Blast to the Past' where they will discover God's everlasting love. Registration is now open for 2-year-olds through upcoming 6th graders. Please visit [www.vacationbibleschool.com/bloomington](http://www.vacationbibleschool.com/bloomington) or the church website ([www.fumcb.org](http://www.fumcb.org)) and follow the VBS link to register kids or become a volunteer. Please note that free childcare is provided for children under 2 when their parents are volunteers. Adult and youth volunteers are needed for one day or all five in a variety of positions. Contact Alexandra Lamb at the church office for more information.

**VBS Fundraising** - Congregation members are encouraged to sponsor a child to attend VBS. This donation is tax deductible and our goal is 120 kids. The cost to change a child's life forever by sending them to VBS is $20, but we welcome any and all donations towards this awesome opportunity. Additional information can be obtained by contacting Alexandra Lamb, [alamb@fumcb.org](mailto:alamb@fumcb.org).

**Teacher Appreciation, Sunday, May 17**
Please join Children and Youth Ministries in celebrating our amazing Sunday school teachers, mission moment/worship leaders and committee members. We will celebrate with cake in the Atrium and teachers will be acknowledged in all services.

Teachers:
Beth Abdullah
Betsy Adams
Jack Alexander
Amanda Armstrong
Nancy Armstrong
Jeff Arthur
Maika Arthur
Mary Bass
Janelle Best
Judy Best
Lisa Bradley
Rachael Bradshaw  
Angie Cantrell  
Mackenzie Clinger  
Andrea Cockerham  
Keith Dayton  
Stacey Dunham  
Angelia Floyd  
Randall Floyd  
Linda Forshee  
Joanna George  
Amber Gunthorp  
Jim Hanchett  
Karen Hedrick  
Heather Johnson  
Lexie Matthews  
Kelly Norris  
Heather Palmerini  
Jeff Pohlen  
Micky Richter  
Allison Rink  
Heaven Schrock  
Heather Smith  
Emma Sperry  
Emily Springston  
Katie Stowell  
Emily Wetzel  
Jasmine Zachariah  

Children's Mission Moments:  
Mary Bass  

Open Door Children’s Helpers:  
Sonya Dunigan  
Lacy Kantor  
Sarah Moore  
Cheryl Rich  
Catharine Roach  
Laura Strawmyer  
Susan Yeley  

Children's Ministry Committee:  
Maika Arthur  
Angelia Floyd  
Heather Johnson  
Angela Martin  
Jenni Murer  
Sarah Murray  
Kelly Norris  

Youth Parent Volunteers:  
Don & Nicole Griffin  
Cassie Lukens  
Cindy & Bill Lonnberg
Michelle Muzii  
John Seibert  
Neal & Elizabeth Abdullah  
Heather Smith  
Dave Calkins  
Angie Cantrell  
Kay Sills  
Lisa Hamilton  
Kelly Morris  
Laura Lane  
Marci Becker  
Tim & Sandy Tucker  
Wade & Jan Schultz

Youth Sunday School Teachers & Small Group Leaders:  
Jim Barnhart  
Martha Moore  
Sarah McNeil  
Michael Melfi  
Dave Helbing  
Levi Graff  
Allison Larmann  
Martha and David Moore  
Marty and Fred Schick  
Pat Garner  
Meghan Wicker  
Laura Strawmyer  
Sarah McNeil  
Laura Cox  
Kelsey Winter  
Sydney Kersey  
Michael Melfi  
Dave Helbing

Celebrating Relationships:  
Friday, April 17th - 6:00 pm  
Friday, May 15th - 6:00 pm

Summer Sunday School  
Please note that Summer Sunday school begins on Sunday, May 31st during the 9:30 worship hour.  
**Volunteer teachers are needed so that regular teachers have a well-deserved break.**  
Classes will meet for 8 weeks and will require 3 volunteers per week.

- 2 teachers will be needed for the 2 & 3 year old class
- 1 teacher will be needed for the 4’s - 4th grade combined class (you will be working with a consistent seasoned volunteer in this room)
- While there is no Club 56, junior or senior high Sunday school during the summer, we always welcome these students as additional volunteers!
- **Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available in the Gathering Space starting in May. You may also email Alex your availability for summer dates**  
  [alamb@fumcb.org]
Important Dates:

- Sunday, May 17 - Teacher Appreciation
- Sunday, May 31 - Summer Sunday school begins
- Monday, June 15 - Friday, June 19 (9am-noon) - VBS
- Sunday, June 21 - VBS Sunday

Exciting Options for Kids & Families at The Open Door - It’s almost summer and you may have already begun to make vacation plans. Summer is a great time for your family to try out The Open Door with its relaxed atmosphere, later start time (11:15am) and awesome kids programming. Kids spend the first part of their morning worshipping with their families and then head upstairs with background checked volunteers during the sermon time for a more intentional time of religious education and community building. There are snacks, activities and coloring galore, but the quieter space will allow us to talk about what we’re learning and give us time to ask questions. Children are brought back down to their families after the sermon for the final song.

Youth Summer Mission Trips Update!

Mission Belize:
If there is one thing that is for sure, the senior high youth group is passionately committed to serving others not only in our immediate surrounding community, but also through partnering with various mission organizations around the country. 2015 marks a new chapter for the group, as they embark on their first global mission trip June 20 - June 27. The youth group has formed a global partnership with the Methodist Church in the Central American country of Belize. Currently, only 40% of children in Belize are able to attend high school, due to a lack of resources and facilities. The twelve youth who will participate in the trip plan to help solve this project by helping build a Methodist high school for students in Belmopan, Belize. Please keep these students in your prayers: Benton Schultz, Ellie Calkins, Mikayla Muzii, Sydney Spencer, Caitlyn Chang, Thomas Walls, Jacob Cantrell, Emma Hamilton, Seth Cantrell, Luke Tucker, Connor Smith, and Sam Sills.

Transformission 2015:
The FUMCB youth group is excited to be participating in the TransforMission mission trip this summer in Indianapolis, Indiana from July 19 - July 25! TransforMission is a week-long mission camp specially designed by the Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church to help High School and Middle School youth connect to God and
each other while serving alongside some of the best mission agencies in the city. This life-changing mission experience will include meaningful mission opportunities, powerful worship, engaging small group discussions, action plan sessions, and fun group outings. Please pray for the youth as they prepare to embark on this exciting and life-transforming trip!

No Sleep 'til Brooklyn

As many of our peers flew off to Panama City, fourteen brave souls loaded up in two vans to make the drive to New York City. We did mission work in the neighborhood of Red Hook in Brooklyn and made memories that will last a lifetime. It's hard to share our experience into a quick little snippet, but I think that we could sum up the trip with the cliche phrase "Live, Laugh, Love."

We lived for sure. We did a lot of beautification of the neighborhood we were in. We picked up trash and helped clean the church we were staying at from left over damage from Super Storm Sandy. It was such a simple way to show the people of the neighborhood that we cared for them, even though we didn't even know them. We helped clean up around a local Catholic church that's trying to stay afloat when people are turning away from the church. Most of all, I think we learned to appreciate everything that we have. We are truly blessed here in Bloomington, and it's easy to forget that when we get caught up in our day-to-day life.

Charlie Chaplin said, "A day without laughter is a day wasted." Let me assure you, we did not waste a single day. from picking up trash, to last minute changes in plans, everyone smiled and did everything with a joyful heart. Laughter could always be heard throughout the day, even if we weren't at the comedy club in Manhattan. The friendships forged over laughter that is shared. It was amazing to make so many new friends and grow closer to those I knew before the trip.
Love was the most prevalent aspect of this triad. We were able to show our love for Christ by serving the local community. We quite literally served them several times throughout our trip. One day we served a free hot dog meal after school in the local park to the residents of the Projects. We were able to have some great conversations with the residents and show that both Jesus and others care for them. We also served lunch at a bible study at our host church and had some wonderful conversations with those who attended.

As much love as we showed others, so many groups showed us, which was such an amazing and humbling experience. Both the church we stayed at on the way there and the one on the way home were such amazing hosts. They both even made us breakfast and sent snacks with us for our trip. Their generosity was so amazing and kind, especially for people they didn't even know. At the Catholic Church that we did some clean up at, the Nuns made an amazing lunch that they then shared with us, and we shared our meager sack lunches with them. After helping clean up from lunch, I was sad that we had to leave these amazing brothers and sisters in Christ. When I vocalized this feeling one of the sisters said to me, "This is your house too. You are always welcome here and if you need anything just let us know." These amazing and kind ladies who were genuinely interested in our life, even though they just met us was so incredible.

I hope you enjoyed this little insight into our trip. If you want to hear more ask myself or any of our trip members, it would be our pleasure to share. What made our trip special were the experiences, the laughter, and the love that was shown, and if you're living life like that you're doing something right.

WEDNESDAY PANTRY

Do you remember the children's nursery rhyme "Old Mother Hubbard went to her cupboard"? Like Mother Hubbard's cupboard, our pantry is bare. We have no canned vegetables at all, and usually we like to give our clients 2 cans of vegetables every week. The Pantry has large bins at all the entrances to the church building and any canned goods deposited there will be greatly appreciated and given to people who are desperate for food.

We are also hoping to recruit new helpers, particularly to help our shoppers. Mark Wiedenmayer shops every Monday morning at the Hoosier Hills Food Bank and Charles Hahn shops during each week for bread at various locations. Both Mark and Charles could use some help and if you are interested in this valuable work, could you please contact either Mark or Charles directly:

Mark.wiedenmayer@comcast.net
Cfhahn30@gmail.com

At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we ALWAYS need brown paper shopping bags and these too, can be deposited in the collection boxes at the church entrances.

For those of you new to the church, the Wednesday Pantry, which started in 1992,
operates every week between 3:30 pm - 5:30 pm in the downstairs kitchen area of our church. Doors open at 3:00 pm for clients to sign in and we start food distribution at 3:30 pm. We have a team of 30+ volunteers running the many aspects of the program and we serve anywhere between 100-180 per people a week, including families, the homeless and those people just having a hard time making ends meet.

For general information about the Pantry and other ways to help, please call either Anne Fraker (812-336-1823) or Carol Campbell (812-332-4988)

Thank you to everyone for supporting this Ministry.

April Outreach Spotlight: Habitat for Humanity

For over 35 years, Habitat for Humanity-Monroe County has worked to "build simple, decent, affordable homes in partnership with families in need." Working together with the recipients, volunteers build energy-efficient single-family homes to benefit local families. FUMC/Open Door participates regularly in local builds and supports the mission of Habitat through donations and volunteer time. "At the dedication ceremony, Ashley mentioned that she had always dreamed of living in a house and was so excited that their 3-year-old daughter Hailey would have a yard to play in. I can't think of anything more fun and rewarding than helping Habitat achieve their vision: a world where everyone has a decent place to live." - IU student volunteer Kelsey, at the October 2013 Blitz Build In Monroe County, Habitat for Humanity is working to create distinct neighborhoods of homes in order to help build community among residents. There is one neighborhood already created in Bloomington and they are currently planning a second neighborhood along a section of the north B-line trail. For more information or to find out about donations or volunteering, please visit monroecountyhabitat.org. Make checks payable to FUMC, with Habitat for Humanity on the memo line.

May Outreach Spotlight: Circles Out of Poverty

Circles Out of Poverty is an organization dedicated to helping low-income individuals build resources and transition out of poverty by creating relationships and working to break down barriers to self-sufficiency. The Circles model was developed after the organization discovered that social service agencies could reach only a small portion of the population living in poverty with real long-term solutions. Since that time, Circles has worked to address poverty by increasing the capacity of communities. Their approach combines best practices in several disciplines including community organizing, case management, grassroots leadership, S.M.A.R.T. goal setting, financial literacy, mentoring, peer-to-peer counseling and learning, and child/youth development. Their mission has always been to inspire and equip families and communities to thrive and resolve poverty. They believe strongly that responsibility for both poverty and prosperity rests not only in the hands of individuals, but also with societies, institutions, and communities. It's the underlying foundation of the Circles model - engage people and organizations in the community to end poverty.
United Methodist Women is a community of women whose purpose is "to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church." The four mission emphases of United Methodist Women are spiritual growth, social action, education and interpretation, and membership nurture and outreach.

FUMCB women are invited to attend and, even better, to join one of the following five circles currently meeting on a monthly basis from September through May:

- Aldersgate, fourth Tuesday evening in members' homes -- Susan Lyons, 327-1403
- Bethany, first Thursday, 9:30 a.m. in the Thurston Parlor -- Helen Wiesler, 336-1263
- Circle of Love (online circle) -- Beverly Calender-Anderson, queenbee049@yahoo.com, 336-8343; Nicole Griffin, nsg@indiana.edu, 361-1715
- Lydia, second Friday, noon in the Thurston Parlor -- Margaret Pruden, 323-2489
- Phoebe, last Wednesday, noon in the Thurston Parlor or members' homes -- Kay Reglein, 327-7580

United Methodist Women Meetings and Events

- Apr. 2 - Bethany Circle -- “The Backbone of the Church,” an audiotape of the Rev. John Wesley, who has traveled across many time zones to speak about the women in his life; 9:30 a.m., Thurston Parlor
- Apr. 10 - Lydia Circle, Prayer and Self Denial program by Evelyn LaFollette, 12 p.m., Thurston Parlor
- Apr. 11 - Southeast District United Methodist Women Spring Gathering, Bloomington St. Mark's United Methodist Church, registration 9-9:30 a.m. "God Works for Good in Everything," led by Dr. Adolf Hansen, Theologian in Residence, St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Indianapolis
- Apr. 26 - Southeast District UMW Mini Retreat and Luncheon, 1-4 p.m., FUMCB Great Hall -- a family friendly event open to children age six and older with child care for younger children -- "make and take" activities with prayer beads and greeting cards
- Apr. 28 - Aldersgate Circle, a discussion of the book Being George Washington by Glenn Beck, 7 p.m., home of Helen Butler
- Apr. 29 - Phoebe Circle, 12 p.m., Thurston Parlor
- May 1 - Church Women United May Friendship Day, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, time TBA
- May 7 - Bethany Circle, 9:30 a.m., Thurston Parlor
- May 8 - Lydia Circle, program by Pastor Stacee Fischer Gehring on the Wabash Pastoral Leadership Team study tour of South Africa -- "A Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope," 12 p.m., Thurston Parlor
- May 13 - UMW Readers’ Club, 6-7:30 p.m., Thurston Parlor
- May 15-17 - UMW Indiana Conference Silent Retreat, Sarto House, Evansville
First Church UMW achieves Mission Today Gold Status

For the third consecutive year, the FUMCB unit of United Methodist Women has achieved Gold Status as a Mission Today unit by completing at least 16 out of 22 criteria. Divided into five categories -- prayers, presence, participation, gifts, and service -- the criteria include such requirements as hosting a mini spiritual retreat, attending a UMW district or conference meeting, participating in activities that offer support to children, and meeting the financial Pledge to Mission. The minimum Mission Today status is bronze, with at least eight criteria completed; then silver, at least 12; and finally gold, at least 16.

Thank you for your support of UMW mission giving

The 2014 total mission giving of the FUMCB unit of United Methodist Women was nearly $11,000.

The local unit met its $5,500 mission pledge to the UMW Southeast District as well as the special requests of $10/member for the Lucille Raines Residence in Indianapolis, $2/member for Mission u, and $1/member for the Indiana Conference Youth and Young Adult Scholarships.

The First Church youth were awarded one of the UMW Indiana Conference scholarships to help defray the cost of their mission trip to Milwaukee, Wisc.; and the First Church unit added a donation as well. Lucille Raines Residence also received an additional donation when, near the end of October, the residence boiler broke down, was irreparable, and needed to be replaced immediately. The cost: $29,942. Indiana UMW units responded; and by December, the bill for the new boiler had been paid in full.

In addition, the 2014 income provided for donations to Church Women United, Middle Way House, and the Wednesday Food Pantry. The local unit also supported “Money Is the Mortar,” the funding to build a women's literacy center in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) -- a partnership between Indiana UMW and the DRC Mulongo District UMW. A special mission contribution was the cost of shipping more than 100 MLK Day baby blankets and prayer shawls to New York, where the General Board of Global Ministries sorted and distributed nearly 7000 shawls and blankets to UMW National Mission Institutions, hospitals, and individuals in need of special support.

UMW pledges provide help to nearly 100 UMW National Mission Institutions throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Among the ones with which the FUMCB unit has had a personal connection are Red Bird Mission (Beverly, Ky.), McCurdy Ministries (Espanola, N. Mex.), and the Cunningham Children's Home (Urbana, Ill.).

Pledges also provide help to International Ministries. According to the UMW website, “Mission Giving funds support 121 programs carried out by 107 organizations in more than 110 countries.... From women farmers feeding their families in Haiti to women and children receiving treatment for tuberculosis at a missionary hospital in the Philippines, from crisis intervention for migrant domestic workers in Hong Kong to unlocking financial opportunities for rural communities in Mozambique, your contribution to United Methodist Women impacts more lives than can be counted.
Caring Ministry

Caring Ministry works quietly to minister to the congregation in times of crisis. There are several groups within the caring ministry each striving to serve people in a caring way.

BEREAVEMENT MEALS - A meal will be served after a death in the family.

FOLLOW UP NOTES - Notes are written by members of the team to those that have been hospitalized or suffered a loss.

HOSPITAL VISITATION - Lay visitors visit once a week members of the congregation that are hospitalized.

NURSING HOME VISITING - Brightening up the days of residents by visiting local nursing homes.

FRIEND TO FRIEND - When someone is lonely or just needs a friend, caring ministry is there for them.

Being a volunteer for Caring Ministry is a rewarding experience for all concerned! Please consider volunteering for one of these important teams by contacting:

Anne Kapper Parish Visitor
akapper@fumcb.org
church office 332-6396

In the Life of Our Church Family

Our Congratulations Go To:

- Jason and Jamie Sonneborn on the birth of their twins, Julius & Leila on February 15th. Grandparents are Mike and Sherry Sonneborn. Great Grandmother is June Sonneborn.
- Dave and Laura LaSuertmer on the birth of their son, Leo, on February 20th.

Our Sympathy Goes To:

- Dee & Kim Bales on the death of Dee's Sister, Dana Robinson Buelow, on February 9th.
- Bob & Mary Jane Compton on the death of Bob's nephew, Greg Compton, on February 24th.
- Joan and Jim Ferguson on the death of Joan's sister, Janet Dundee Lapey, on February 24th.
- The Family and Friends of Rev. Don McManus who died on March 4th.
- Robert Albright on the death of his wife, Corinne Delafield Albright, on March 9th.
- Chuck and Beckie Jones on the death of their granddaughter, Harper Ann Henchon, on March 24th.
Memorials Received in January and February

**Gifts to the Memorial Fund**
- In memory of Kurt Bales by the Bales-Hall Family

**Honorariums Received in January and February**

**Gift to the Webb Endowment**
- In honor of Leland & Helen Butler by James & Carol Campbell

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**Announcements**

**CONNECT**

**Honoring Skip Sluder**
Please join us in worship on April 26 as we honor Handbell Director, Skip Sluder as he retires and leaves us after 25 years of directing our bell choirs; the Chancel Ringers, White Chapel Ringers and Christ Ringers. All the best to Skip and Liz in their future endeavors! A farewell reception for Skip will follow the Symphonic Bells concert on Tuesday, April 28th. The concert begins at 7:30 in the sanctuary.

**GRADUATION RECOGNITION in MAY** - We would like to honor those in our congregation who are graduating from high school, college and grad school. Please send info by April 20th to Shari at ssprinkle@fumcb.org.

**FCJ VALUES AND VISION WORKSHOP MAY 2 - Great Hall, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.**

- **WHY?** To learn the nature of a church's core values and vision and the ways they guide decisions about future ministries.
- **WHO?** All members of FCJ and Ministry Action Plan teams, church leaders and any interested members of the congregation.
- **WHEN?** Visioning Workshop at 9 a.m.; Lunch at noon; and Core Values Workshop at 1 p.m. Workshops led by Dr. Doug Anderson.
- **HOW?** Sign up in the Gathering Place or the Buskirk-Chumley lobby April 19 & 26. Requesting a donation of $7 for lunch.

**Interested in Submitting an Announcement for the Bulletin?**
When submitting a blurb to the bulletin please make sure you:

- Submit before Wednesday at 12:00 p.m. to Ann Arbuckle at (aarbuckle@fumcb.org)
- Make sure you have the pertinent information such as time, date, place, etc.
- The blurb cannot be more than 3-4 sentences. We have many different people, committees, and events to accommodate.

Note that space is limited, so some announcements may not be able to be printed. Please send a copy of your request to Ashley Stone (astone@fumcb.org) so it can be included in the weekly announcement email.

**GROW**
New Member Classes - April 19th and May 17th from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Lunch, child care and engaging learning provided. Please contact Jody if you are interested. jodyt@fumcb.org

Project: Belize Fundraising Table!
Come out to the Gathering Space this morning to meet some youth who are a part of our Belize Mission Team! We have candy, scones, and all kinds of information about what we will be doing this summer as we partner with the Methodist Church in Belize! Come out and see us!

Library News
You are invited to visit the Children's Library in its new location in Room 110 directly next to the atrium entrance to the church. You will find a wonderful collection of books on parenting, DVD's, and children's books.

SERVE

The April Monthly Mission Offering funds Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. This wonderful organization helps so many in our community gain affordable housing. Please give generously by listing Habitat on the memo line of your check or by using the mission envelopes located in the pew rack.

Shalom is in short supply of coffee, laundry soap and personal hygiene items. Please donate if you are able. Place in the boxes at the church entrances.

FUMC to Serve as Site for April Emergency Shelter
FUMC will serve as an emergency shelter throughout April to shelter homeless men and women whenever there are tornado threats or warnings. Interested volunteers should contact Sam Harrell (sjharrel@umail.iu.edu) or Patty Andrews (andrewsp@indiana.edu).

Shalom Community Center Needs Donations
Please donate in the bins at church entrances. The following are needed: shampoo, soap, shaving cream, coffee and razors.