

August 2012

# The Observer

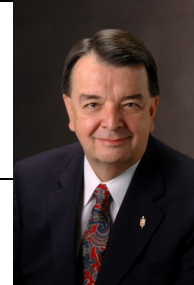


FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## *THE COWARDICE OF EVIL*

*BY BISHOP MIKE COYNER*



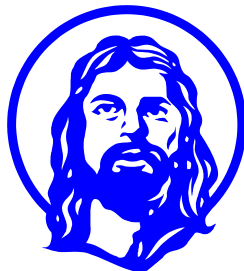
The news this week is all about the terrible shooting in Aurora, Colorado, and the NCAA punishment of Penn State University over the terrible child abuse scandal and cover-up by their football program and university leadership. Those two stories have caused me to reflect on the reality of Evil and the violence it often causes. But it has also led me to this realization: Evil is cowardly because Evil always attacks the weak. By contrast, God loves us and sometimes tests us where we are strong to help us become stronger.

*“In the midst of such Evil and tragic results some people respond by saying ‘It is God’s will.’ That is wrong.”*

Hear the difference? Evil led a football coach to commit horrible acts against children – young boys – and to control them with the power of that coach’s

position. How cowardly! Evil led a young man to purchase unbelievable amounts of weaponry and body armor and then to shoot innocent people attending a movie theatre. How cowardly! Evil exerts its power by attacking people where they are weak. Such “power” is really cowardice, although we have to admit that it does challenge us, harm us, and frighten us. Evil’s power is cowardly violence.

In the midst of such Evil and tragic results, some people respond by saying “It is God’s will.” That is wrong. It is never God’s will to harm, hurt, or damage the innocent. Even when tragedies come, God is always at work to help make some good come out of those tragedies. I have in my office a framed



quote from Romans 8:28 given to me by Dr. Adolf Hansen. It is his own translation of the text after many years of study and personal inquiry, especially following the tragic death of his own daughter. It says profoundly: "God works for good in everything." I believe that.

I also believe that God's love allows us to be tested where we are strong, in order to help us become even stronger. That is a far cry from Evil, which cowardice tries to hurt us where we are weak. God's love tests us and strengthens us much like an athletic trainer helps us to work our muscles and become stronger.

So the real question of discernment when trying times come into our lives – and they always do – is this question: Am I being confronted by the cowardice of Evil which is trying to hurt me where I am already weak? Or am I being strengthened by the love of God which tests and challenges me where I am strong in order to become stronger in my faith?

The two terrible cases in the news this week are obviously the results of Evil at work hurting and cowardly attacking the weak. Other challenges in our lives are less clearly defined.

I hope that this E-pistle might offer some guidance, comfort, and discernment as we go through trying times.

May God continue to love us, challenge us, strengthen us, and lead us in the pathways of God's love.

## Creeds from the Confirmands

*My Creed*  
I promise  
To listen and follow *God*  
To respect and listen to his decisions  
To put my life in his hands  
To respect the Bible and follow the guidelines of it .  
*Madison Michalic*

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### My Creed

I was always taught to know amazing things from the Bible. But for now, I'm going to tell you what I know from my heart.

I believe that God put us on this Earth for a reason. And I believe that reason is to love and cherish one another. I believe that no one deserves to feel left out, or feel like they're nothing. It doesn't matter if you're black or white, or if you have different life styles. Even if you act different, that's no reason to be made fun of. I believe that we're all the same in our own ways. We all have flaws, no matter who you are. And no one is better than anyone else.

I believe that Jesus Christ is our savior and that God is our Father. I believe that God loves us no matter what. I believe that God gave His only begotten son to die on a cross for our forgiveness. I believe that Jesus will come down from Heaven to take believers to His Holy Land.

I believe that everything happens for a reason. I believe that God makes things happen in His own way to open more doors, or create miracles for those who love Him. I believe that God knows us better than anyone else. I believe in our God.

Arionna Rennick

# Check Out Upcoming Events!

## ***THREE Barn Fests!***



**Sun., August 19--Come to church for a sundae!**

**Sun. August 26--Pet Blessing**

*Repeating a popular event: Bring your pets again or for the first time to be blessed by Pastor Susan.*

**Sun. Sept. 2--10:00 am Spontaneous Sing!**



## ***Y'All Come! Mostaccioli Dinner***

***September 1 & 2, Sat. & Sun. In the barn  
Sponsored by the Youth.***

***Workers will be needed.  
More details to follow.***

## ***Walk to End Alzheimer's***



**Chuck Strobel dancin' to the music in 2008**

**Save Date Sat. September 15 @ 11:30 am**

The 2012 Walk to End Alzheimer's will take place at 11:30 a.m. on September 15, 2012, at Rose Hulman. We have had a team for several years from our church and I'm hoping to have a team of walkers again this year. Walkers walk the track at Rose Hulman or often we walk the trail behind the track which is more in the shade. Walkers, donations, and prayer partners are welcomed. Please let me know if you are wishing to walk to support our team. I will place a sign up sheet on the table in the lounge soon.

Thanks for your support. As you know, it's a cause dear to my heart...Peggy Strobel

# 2012 MissionIndy Trip: Demolition

## Youth Cover Devotions AND Demolition!



Our team of 9 youth and 4 adults left for MissionIndy at 2pm Sunday, July 8, for a week of work, devotions, and “fun”. We stayed at Grace Christian Church, one of four host churches for MissionIndy, near Mooresville, IN.

Sunday night we found that this week’s devotional topic would be on Identity, or who are we in Christ. Each day we read how God wants us to see ourselves compared to how we see ourselves from the worldview. Monday told us we are Chosen by God, Tuesday we are Adopted. Wednesday was maybe the most difficult to understand, we are Slaves of Christ, but it also brought out some deep intense discussion during our evening time together. Thursday we are told to be Ambassadors for Christ. Closing out Friday, we learned to find where we fit as The Body of Christ by using those unique gifts and talents God has given each of us. Friday night also brought meaningful discussion and a chance for each of us to hear how our gifts and talents are viewed by others.



We did do a lot of work on two houses located about 2 miles east of the Circle and just north of Washington St. One was being demolished, so there were plenty of black-faced girls from tearing out lathe/plaster walls and ceilings. The other house was being restored to house people needing a place to stay right out of rehab or homeless. At this house we

poured a sidewalk, replaced flooring, insulated and hung drywall, and helped replace a broken sewer line.

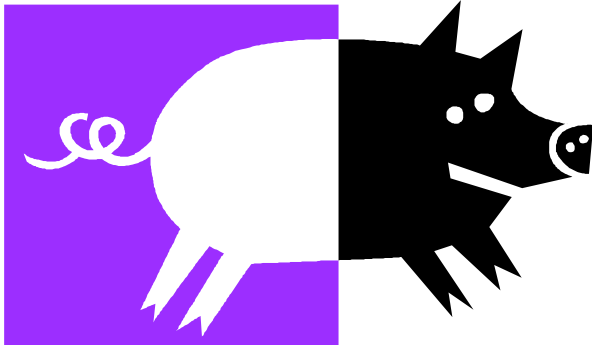
It was a week of great accomplishment on the job site (especially after 2pm Thursday), deep and meaningful discussion about or Identity in Christ, and renewing friendships with other groups.

Those going to MissionIndy were: Craig Eldridge, Brooke Harvey, Sally Harris, Madison Michalic, Allison Reardon, Christian, Arionna, and Mike Rennick, Daisy, Nicole, Kierstin, and Lyndsay Roberts, and Ed Shew. Just ask any of us about our experience to see that we had a very fulfilling week both physically and spiritually.



By Ed Shew

## Food Pantry News: Thanks for Donations!



A big thank you to all who donated to help make it possible for Ed Shew to purchase nine pigs at the Vermillion County Fair 4-H Auction. They have been processed and given to the Vermillion County Food Pantry. By doing this, it not only helps the needy in community but supports the 4-H youth. May God bless all who gave.

Audrey Lientz,  
Food Pantry volunteer

## Church Offers Message Prayer Wall for Aurora Tragedy

AURORA, Colo. (UMNS) – As Aurora and people everywhere reel from the July 20 shooting that left 12 dead and dozens injured, The United Methodist Church is sending messages of hope and healing into the community. The church placed a full-page ad in the July 23 Denver Post declaring: “Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Aurora. Through the darkness, we come together in search of the light. The people of The United Methodist Church join with all of

those affected by this recent tragedy. To understand. To heal. To find hope.” The ad also appeared in the Aurora Sentinel on July 26. In addition, people are invited to post prayers for the Aurora community on a prayer wall on Facebook. ( Post these prayers at Facebook.com/ The United Methodist Church.) The ads and call to action were developed by United Methodist Communications, the denomination’s communications agency.



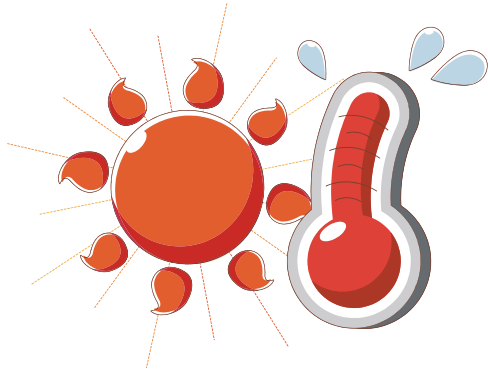
Chet Rutan reads his part as one of the characters looks on.

## Completely Hollywood! (Abridged)

Although he wasn’t planning to do so, Chet Rutan “volunteered” to be a part of the play, “Completely Hollywood (Abridged) that church members attended at Indiana State University on July 22. . The play was fast moving, VERY zany, and, if you sit on the front row, interactive. Attending were Lou Ann Andis, Sara Nield, Peggy Strobel, Audrey Lientz, Margie Lapworth, Chet and Freida Rutan, and Larry & Karen Carlson.

On July 5 a group also attended the heart-warming play, “On Golden Pond. That group was Freida Rutan, Peggy Strobel, Pastors Susan & Andy Martin, Matt Martin and Larry & Karen Carlson

# Seniors and Summer Heat



Seniors are especially at risk in high heat situations. Large stretches of the USA, including Indiana, are experiencing extreme temperatures at the moment. Care-givers, including churches, need to check on the elderly. If you live in another city, call the police department, or someone you know, to check on your loved one.

Does an elderly person live in your neighborhood? Go knock on the door and ask how things are going. Do NOT accept the first answer. We all want to say, "OH, I'm ok, don't worry." The person may not realize they are

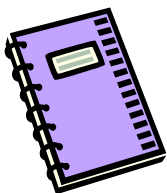
suffering from heat exhaustion. Invite them into air conditioning, offer to take them to an air conditioned mall or other building. Sit in a hospital waiting room. Anything to get out of the heat for a while. Ask a senior to become an overnight guest.

## Top ten tips on keeping seniors safe in summer heat

*From Living Independently Group*

1. Drink plenty of liquids – eight or more 8-ounce glasses per day and or fruit juices – every day to stay hydrated.
2. Avoid caffeinated and alcoholic beverages.
3. Dress appropriately. Wear loose-fitting clothes in natural fabrics like cotton and dress in light colors that will reflect the sun and heat instead of darker colors that will attract them.
4. When outdoors, protect your skin from damage by wearing hats, sunglasses and a sunscreen of 30 SPF or more.
5. Stay indoors during extreme heat.
6. If you do not have air conditioning in your apartment, go somewhere that does. A movie theater, the mall, a friend or relative's home or a community senior center are all good options.
7. If you need to get out of the house and don't drive a car, call a taxi, a friend or a transportation service. Do NOT wait outside for the bus in extreme heat.
8. If you are absolutely unable to leave the house and do not have air conditioning, take a cool bath or shower to lower your body temperature on extremely hot days.
9. Temperatures inside the home should not exceed 85 degrees Fahrenheit for prolonged periods of time.
10. Know the signs of heat stroke (e.g. flushed face, high body temperature, headache, nausea, rapid pulse, dizziness and confusion) and take immediate action if you feel them coming on.

– adapted from SeniorArk.co



## Stuff the Bus!

United Way is pairing up with KidKare to have a school supply drive at Clinton WalMart during the day (maybe 8a – 4p or so) on Friday, August 3.







# Scenes from “SKY” VBS



Karen Hartman leads while “Flash” attempts to slip in. Flash was played by Matt Martin.

A vacation Bible school doesn’t just happen: it takes months of preparation, planning, phone calls, and praying, among other things. Needless to say, it can be stressful. For the second year, however, **Shelby Marsolf** directed VBS in a soft-spoken way and the results showed. Similarly, **Debbie Bonness**, threw her artistic style and talent into transforming the front of the sanctuary into the beautiful “Sky.”

Thanks to them, all the dedicated volunteers, and the precious children, VBS was once again a success!



L to r Karen Hartman and Freida Rutan lead the singing in front of the “Sky” display, which was the brainchild of Debbie Bonness. Debbie and a crew of volunteers spent many hours creating clouds and sky. .





# CALENDAR



## AUGUST UPCOMING EVENTS

Day(s)	Date	Time	Event
Friday	August 3	8:00 am-4:00pm	School supply drive at WalMart (P7)
Monday	August 6	7:00 pm	Trustees Meeting
Thursday	August 9	7:15 pm	Church Council Meeting
Tuesday	August 14	7:00 pm	Worship & Hospitality Meeting
Thursday	August 16	7:00 pm	Cluster meeting at Clinton First
Sunday	August 19	9:30 am	Barn Fest Come to church for a sundae.
Thursday	August 23	7:00 pm	SPRC meeting with District Supt. Intro of John Groves, new District Supt.
Sunday	August 26	9:30 am	Barn Fest--Pet Blessing
Sunday	Sept. 2	10:00 am	Barn Fest--Spontaneous Sing

## SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sat. & Sun	Sept. 1-2	TBA	Mostaccioli Dinner in the barn sponsored by youth
Saturday	Sept. 15	11:30 am	Alzheimer's Walk at Rose Hulman (P. 4)
Tues.	Sept. 18	7:00 pm	Esther Circle @ Lou Ann Andis' home
Thursday	Sept. 20	7:00 pm	Cluster Meeting at Eugene
Saturday	Sept. 22	TBA	Cluster Fish Fry at Vermillion at County Fairgrounds
Sunday	Sept. 30	Noon	Fifth Sunday Dinner



## Prayer Concerns

\*Telecare Prayer Chain: Contact Vera Shew if you have a prayer request or concern. Or, email church at [clintonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:clintonfirst@gmail.com)

# Bishop Coyner to Return to Indiana for Third Term

AKRON, Ohio – The North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church announced Thursday afternoon, July 19, during its conference in Akron, the assignment of Bishop Michael J. Coyner to Indiana for his third term as Bishop of the Indiana Area.

Coyner, who during the past eight years, led in uniting the former North and South Indiana conferences of the church into the new Indiana Conference, will remain in Indiana based at the Indiana Conference Center of the church located in

Indianapolis.

The announcement was good news to the 36 lay and clergy delegates of Indiana who asked the NCJ Conference Episcopacy Committee to return Coyner to Indiana. Bishops serve four-year terms; however, they are usually moved after two terms in one area. They can be permitted to serve a third term by the jurisdictional conference at the recommendation of the 20-member NJC Episcopacy Committee.



## Contact Information

A Publication of the  
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<b>AUGUST 2012 CALENDAR REGULAR EVENTS</b>		
Sunday	9:30 am After worship 6:30 pm	<b>First Sunday of month: Communion Sunday, Food Pantry Sunday Hillcrest donations taken</b> Worship Coffee Time Youth Group
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Worship at Chateau
Wednesday	10:00 am	Acts 29 Bible Study
Thursday	6:00 pm	Weight Watchers

