

The Observer

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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PASOR SUSAN'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that a month ago I was in the beautiful Rocky Mountains. I am amazed at the beauty of God's creation as we explored through the Rocky Mountain National Park, Pike's Peak, the Garden of the Gods, Seven Falls, and Manitou Cliff Dwellings. It will never cease to



Husband Andy with Pastor Susan

amaze me how the mountains are like chameleons, depending if you



are approaching from the east, west, north, or south. Driving through the flat plains of Kansas, and Nebraska we saw the diversity of God's creation. We left the foot of the mountain with 90 degree temps and then arrived at the summit of Pike's Peak with wind chill of 38 degrees-- brrr... but

so refreshing after our long summer of 90+ temps. The rocks, and-stones varied from red, brown, gray, black, and sand colors-- It was truly a week I stood in Awe of the Wonders of my Creator.

The following week I attended a "Peaks of Excellence Leadership Conference" at the Colorado Springs United Methodist Church. It was a time to learn from some of the top United Methodist pastors and cutting edge ministry gurus in the United States. There were a wide range of topics which included, Effective Singles Ministry, Practical Planning for Small and Mid-Size Churches, Personal Transformation



Precedes Corporate Transformation, 20 Ways to Use the Media in Worship, The Shape of Healing: Simple Ways the Church Can Care for Hurting Children and Families, Design Matters: 7 Principles for More Effective Visuals in Worship.

I listened to Keynote addresses on Bearing Fruit, Children's Ministry, Media in Worship, and Generation to Generation. My mind is still swirling with all the information that I have consumed in the last month. I am still processing, and praying that God will help me discern the direction and shape of the future ministry of the Clinton First UMC.

What I can tell you is we are serving an amazing, wonderful, compassionate, creative God who created all humans to be in relationship with HIM. We live in a community (5 mile radius of our church) that is only 17% church—this means that 83% of your neighbors and mine do not attend church-- some may know about God; they may have attended church years ago and become dissatisfied, disillusioned, angry, or let down; they may claim they don't need to go to church to worship God; others may have never heard what God and Jesus are all about.

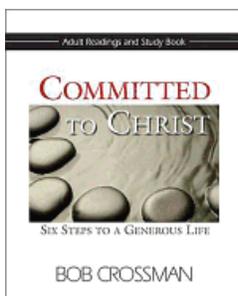
“...we have a mission field right in our back door.”

What this tells me is that we have a mission field right in our back door. It is filled with people who live in the same town you do, shop in the same stores, their children attend the same schools and play on same teams as your children and/or grandchildren; they go to the same doctors; same restaurant, etc. In many, many ways they have a lot in common with us—but they have a few things missing—that are vital to our lives. They do not have a Lord and Savior to turn to and talk to, seeking daily guidance, peace, comfort, and direction; they do not have the hope of salvation. They do not have a church family to be there for them to love, support, encourage, and help through tough life situations and circumstances in which we count on our Church family to be there for us.

September is considered by many to be “Back to Church” month. So I want to encourage you to pray, seek God's guidance, and ask Him to reveal to you the “Person/s, family/ies, he wants you to invite to come and join us. What a better time to get back into the swing of things and do something that may transform our community one life at a time, and make our world a much better place for all to live.

Blessings,
Pastor Susan

“Committed to Christ” Begins Oct. 7th And 10th



>Beginning October 7, Pastor Susan will be offering a 6-week Sunday school class-- “Committed to Christ”. It will be in conjunction with her sermon series that begins that day also. This study will also be offered at 10am on Wednesday mornings beginning October 10. Please see Pastor Susan if you are interested in signing up to attend a “Committed to Christ” Study.
>Session Titles are: 1) Bible Reading; 2) Prayer; 3) Worship; 4) Service; 5) Financial Giving; 6) Witness.



In March, a team of Ed Shew, Brian Hutchinson, Mike Rennick, Virginia Schragel, Ken and Susie Pierce, Mitch Marsolf, Kathy Haraburda, and Pastor Susan, began the Fruitful Congregation Journey – Small Church Initiative. They have been spending one Saturday every two months at Gobin UMC in Greencastle, in a session led by Ann Handschu, with FCJ teams from the Ellettsville UMC, Veedersburg UMC, and North Union UMC of Brazil. These sessions have been geared toward developing Church leaders and helping us explore ways we can be more effective in our community. We have two sessions left of the first step of our journey.

We have covered these topics:

- Session 1 – Building the Case for Hope
- Session 2 – Getting Beyond Our Church Walls
- Session 3 – Leadership Development: Foundations for Growth
- Session 4 – Empowering Laity Beyond Committees
- Session 5 – Casting Vision for Missional Clarity
- Session 6 – Developing Vision Statements and Goal Setting

We will be deciding if we are going to move on to Step 2, which will help your church assess its strengths and weakness and to identify three key objectives that will help your church to move forward. With the help of a coach, Step 3 will help your church implement the key objectives identified in Step 2. This typically will take 12-18 months.

The great thing about this process is that not only do they help you determine the objectives or the prescriptions, but the next phase is sending a consultant to walk side by side with us to make it happen.

The church council will be making the decision soon if we are going to be moving on into the next steps. Please pray that God will guide them to make the best decision for your church—and the Clinton Community.

Lay Leadership Team to Survey Your Gifts

The Lay Leadership (nominations committee) team will meet on Monday, September 17, at 7:00pm. Committee members are Lou Ann Andis, Irene Howk, Mike Rennick, Joyce Taylor, Peggy Strobel, Dean Harris, and Chairperson Pastor Susan.

They have the privilege of helping to discern the gifts and abilities of our church family and nominating, asking, and building the leadership team for your church. If there is a position you feel God is leading you to fulfill; please tell a committee member. God has built our church family with individuals who have the gifts and

abilities to be a strong and vital church for Him.

Survey Pastor Susan is preparing a Leadership Interest/Spiritual Gifts Survey for everyone in the church to fill out—she will be emailing them or passing them out during worship on September 9 and would like them to be returned by September 16th. God has called each of us to be ambassadors; servants for Him-- We each have a responsibility and a role to fulfill in building the Kingdom of God.



Bryce Weeks Is Becoming an Eagle Scout!

Your church family is very proud of your accomplishment, Bryce. Ceremony is Sunday, September 9th at 2:00 pm
Camp Krietenstein, 6445 East Co. Rd. 575 North, Centerpoint, Indiana 47840
If attending, please reply at mrs7days@gmail.com or call/text 812-240-4929

Women of Faith ...“Awesome”

“The event was awesome,” described Peggy Strobel and added, “...wonderful music (three of the singers were Amy Grant, Mandisa, and Sandi Patty) and wonderful speakers (one was Patsy Clairmont who several from our congregation heard speak at a French Lick retreat around 20 years ago or so),”

Two other members of our congregation also attended “Women of Faith” which was in Indianapolis on August 25th and 26th. They included Pastor Susan, Freida Rutan, along with Peggy’s daughter-in-law, Kim Strobel.



L to R Freida Rutan, Kim Strobel, Pastor Susan Martin, & Peggy Strobel



Fifth Sunday Dinner to Honor Youth & Leaders

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 30. That will be our next Fifth Sunday dinner in the fellowship Hall. We will honor our UMYF group and their leaders and give thanks for the successful Mission Indy Trip. We ask that you bring a covered dish of your favorite recipe & join the congregation in some food, fun &

Please Help!

Sat. September 15 @ 11:30 am,
Rose Hulman

Alzheimer’s disease is the largest underfunded public health threat facing our nation today and it’s only growing. Today, more than half of all Americans know someone with Alzheimer’s. Soon, no one will be left untouched. Alzheimer’s disease is the sixth-leading cause of death in the country and the only cause of death among the top 10 in the United States that cannot be prevented, cured or even slowed. Join the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s™ taking place on September 15, 2012 at Rose Hulman.

To participate in the walk, there is a signup sheet on the table in the lounge. To donate or for more info, contact Peggy Strobel



Backpack Project

---To Serve 125 Students (at least!)

---Seeks to Expand



At the beginning of this school year, at least 125 Central students will receive bags of food each weekend.

>Get Active!

Persons interested in learning about the Backpack Project are invited to attend a

meeting on **Thursday, Sept. 6, at 1:30 pm**

at the church. Organizers are looking for help to expand to Ernie Pyle and Van Duyn Schools. The first pack date is that same day, Sept. 6, with distribution on Sept. 7. Come and see how it works!

>Kids Matter!

Kids were helping kids through Bible School. Offerings totaled \$68.94!

If questions, contact Phyllis Marsolf or Shelby Marsolf

---Many Thanks to Sponsors & Supporters

Thanks to these businesses and organizations (in no particular order) for their support and contributions last year! If you get a chance, please stop in and thank them in person for their contributions to the Backpack Program. Also, great appreciation goes to the many individuals who played a very significant role, through volunteerism, financial support and food donations.

- Elanco Clinton Laboratories
- WalMart
- 500 Auto Group
- Vermillion Convalescent Center
- DQ Grill & Chill
- McDonalds
- First Financial
- Sawyers Flowers
- Dr. Rutan, Advantage Eyecare
- Pastore Bros. Lumber
- Wakofe
- South Vermillion County Indiana Council of Senior Citizens
- Somerville Animal Hospital
- Central Elementary Staff
- Delta Theta Tau
- Lions Club Clinton
- Eagles
- Helts Prairie Homemakers
- Turner Coaches
- Business and Professional Women's Club
- Clinton First United Presbyterian Church
- Clinton First United Methodist Church
- Thomas Cloyd, DDS



Children's Ministries Crank Up for the Fall!

New Format in Sunday school--Starting in September, our Sunday school for children and youth will have a whole new format! With the new curriculum, all children and youth, preschool through 12th grade, will meet upstairs. Preschoolers through 5th graders will meet together for interactive worship, skits, and an introduction to the lesson, before breaking

into smaller groups for more in-depth discussion, application activities and games specifically designed for their age level. Youth in grades 6-12 will meet together upstairs, separately from the younger classes.

Subs Needed--We are currently searching for Sunday school substitute teachers! Please see Shelby Marsolf if you are willing to be on-call.

>Check Out Upcoming Fun Activities for Kids!



Coming up in October

Sat. 10/27 Time: 10:00-Noon—Fall Festival in barn LOTS of children's games and activities. (See below for more details for your kids and/or to volunteer)

Looking Way Ahead—Think Christmas and the Holidays!

12/8--Parents' Day Out/Advent Adventures, 10am-4pm for preschool through 5th grade. Help spread the word! This event will be at our church and open to the community with activities all day for the kids. For the children, it will be more like an Advent-themed VBS that lasts all day, rather than several evenings. For the parents, it will give them a chance to do some serious Christmas shopping!

12/30--Pre-New Year's Eve Party for Grades K-8th --(time and place TBA) (cluster sponsored)



>Fall Festival, Sat. Oct. 27--Volunteers Needed!



Just a two-hour commitment! 10am--noon on one Saturday morning, Oct. 27

Select a game or activity from the suggestions provided at church or create your own.

Add your name and activity to the list of volunteers.

Gather the materials for your activity and be set up, ready to go, by 10 am on 10/27. Game prizes will be provided by Intentional Faith Development.

Sample activities: traditional lawn games (cornhole, ladder ball, ring toss, washers), face painting, duck pond, clothespin drop, cup stacking, obstacle course, paper airplane game (church has kits), ping pong ball bucket toss, candy bar walk (instead of cake walk), lollipop tree, guess how many ____, pin the nose on the clown/scarecrow, storytelling, tour a fire truck, magic trick demonstration/lesson, word puzzles, crafts (leaf rubbings, other quick and easy-dry crafts)

Contact person: Shelby Marsolf

Hillcrest Chicken and Noodle Dinner

Saturday, Sept. 15 3:55-7:30 pm

Come, eat and buy noodles!

Homemade Noodles for sale \$3 for small bag and \$5 for large bag

Donations of desserts will be requested.





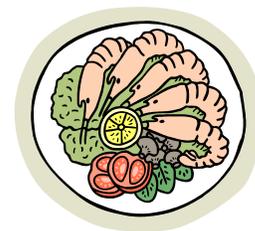
**COUNTRY RHODES FISH FRY
ALL-U-CAN-EAT
FISH—SHRIMP—CHICKEN**

SAT., SEPT. 22, 2012, 4:00 – 7:00 PM

CAYUGA FAIR GROUNDS

*Sponsored by Wabash Valley 83 Cluster
United Methodist Churches
Clinton First, Dana, Bono, Salem, Wayside,
Newport and Eugene*

**Proceeds from the event will be used for Youth
Activities (K through 12th)**



Adults: \$8.50, Children: \$5.50 (12 and under)

Desserts available by donation

Carryouts Available

**Advance Ticket Purchases/Questions,
contact Nedra Tilley at 765.323.8213**



Help Out at the Fish Fry, then Eat! (Yum)

Six youth are needed to help at the fish fry plus many volunteers to man the stations. Audrey Lientz will be calling on you to bake some of your favorite

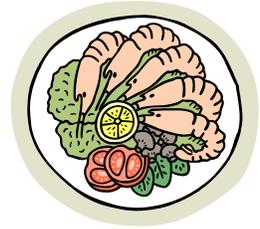
desserts for the event. If you can help in this way, let Audrey know and she will not have call you. To work at the Fish Fry, please call Sandee Frey or sign up on the sheets available on the table in the gathering area. A coordinator is also needed to take the desserts to the Fairgrounds by 2:00 p.m. on September 22.

Cluster News

Cluster Meeting to Plan Fish Fry

The next Cluster meeting will be on **Thursday Sept. 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the 4-H Building in Cayuga at the fairgrounds.** Focus will be on outlining how things will be done for the fish fry and where

people will be working for the various volunteer jobs. If you are working at the Fish Fry, and would like to attend, contact Sandee Fry or Audrey Lientz.



Cluster Youth: Goin' Strong!

Lock-In

A Back to School Lock-In sponsored by the Wabash Valley 83 Cluster of United Methodist Churches was from 7:00 pm Friday August 10, 2012 to 9:00 am Saturday August 11, 2012. It was for those entering Kindergarten to 6th Grade. It was held at the Newport United Methodist Church. Pizza, movies, games, a scavenger hunt, and a whole lot more was enjoyed by 28 children and several adults. A delicious breakfast was

served on Saturday morning

Coming up in October Hog Wallow Trip, Sat. 10/13 -

Time: TBA

A trip to Hog Wallow is planned for K-6, which includes a wiener roast and other fall fun



Barn Fest: Pet Blessings



(l to r) Chris & Ashley Downs enjoy their puppy, "Buster." So does Grandma Margie Lapworth

One bird, one cat, two fish, and seven dogs all received a special blessing from Pastor Susan at the Barn Fest on August 26th. All of the pets are valued, special members of their families. Their names are intriguing or ironic in some cases, cute in others, and somehow just suit them in others. Some of their names were goldfish, Goldie and Coo Coo. (How do they tell them apart?) The cat was named Prince and certainly looked the part. There were two Chihuahuas, Lily and Rocky. Ollie is a poodle, Gizmo is a two-lb. Yorkshire terrier, Eddie is a small rescue dog, and Buster is a 3-month old puppy, full of energy.

Some barked, some hid, some swam, but all were blessed and so were we!



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Day(s)	Date	Time	Event
Thursday	9/6	1:30 pm	Backpack Ministry Organizational Meeting & pack day (P.5)
Sunday	9/9	9:30 am	Leadership Interest/Spiritual Gifts Survey handed out in worship (P. 3)
Sunday	9/9	2:00 pm	Eagle Scout Ceremony for Bryce Weeks (P.4)
Sunday	9/9	7:00 pm	District Supt. Installation Service--Rev. John Groves at First UMC 212 E. Wabash, Crawfordsville
Thursday	9/13	7:15 pm	Church Council Meeting
Saturday	9/15	11:30 am	Alzheimer's Walk at Rose Hulman (P. 4)
Saturday	9/15	3:55-7:30pm	Chicken & Noodle Dinner at Hillcrest (P.6)
Tues.	9/18	7:00 pm	Esther Circle @ Lou Ann Andis' home
Thursday	9/20	7:00 pm	Cluster Meeting at 4-H Fairground in Cayuga (P.8)
Saturday	9/22	4-7 pm	Cluster Fish Fry at Vermillion County Fairgrounds (P7)
Monday	9/17	7:00 pm	Lay Leadership Meeting (Nominations) (P.3)
Sunday	9/30	Noon	Fifth Sunday Dinner (P4)

OCTOBER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday	10/ 7	10:40 am	New Sunday school class
Weds.	10/10	10:00 am	New Bible Study (same as above) (P.2)
Saturday	10/13	TBA	Trip to Hog Wallow (K-8) (Cluster sponsored) (P.6)
Saturday	10/27	10:00am-Noon	Fall Festival in barn (children's games & activities) (P.6)



Prayer Concerns

*Telecare Prayer Chain: Contact Pastor Susan at (765) 592-3445 if you have a prayer request or concern. Or, email church at clintonfirst@gmail.com

Wine Weekend Getaway

A big shout out goes to the local Delta Theta Tau Sorority for donating proceeds from their drawing during LIFT to the Backpack Project. If you are reading this before September 3rd, you still have a chance to enter! See below.....

Oliver Winery:

Wine Weekend Getaway

Overnight Stay for two at Bloomington, IN bed & breakfast

Enjoy a relaxing Saturday afternoon & evening in the Bloomington area with numerous unique shops and restaurants on Saturday, Sept. 15 the day before the vineyard tour.

2 tickets for Oliver Creekbed Vineyard Tour Sunday, 9/16 12:00-2:00 pm

Tour includes guided walking tour of Creekbed Vineyard, wine tasting, gourmet cheese and meat platter, and more
Tickets \$1 each or 6 for \$5.

Drawing held 9/03

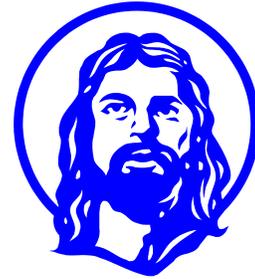
You do not need to be present to win. Must be 21 to enter.

For tickets contact Phyllis Marsolf from our church, or Amy McMullen at 812-243-1225 or amcmullen75@yahoo.com

Contact Information

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>Regular Events Calendar<

- Sun 9:30 am Worship service
Communion 1st Sunday
Food Pantry & Hillcrest
donations 1st Sunday
11:00 am Sunday school for all ages
6:30 pm Youth Group
Tues. 7:00 pm Worship at Chateau
6:00 pm First Place Weight Loss /Bible Study
Th. 1:30 pm Pack for Backpack Project