



# THE FIRST WORD

News from the First United Methodist Church  
of South Bend, Indiana

In the heart of the city since 1831

November 9, 2011

Issue #446

## JUST IGNORE ME

This summer I had the delightful opportunity to do a “busman’s holiday”. While the busman may go riding the busses on his day off, I attend worship on the Sundays I am vacationing.

Often this is the opportunity to choose churches based on the speaker – I have a favorite here in town, which makes it easy. But sometimes I have chosen on the basis of music. Sometimes I have chosen on the basis of liturgy. But worship on my “time off” is a pleasure, refreshing me and lifting me up. Of course, it also gives me ideas! One is to look afresh at our church, having seen what seems to work or not work from my very subjective experience.

A commonality in all the churches this summer was that if the people did not know me personally, I was ignored. Totally.

I had to ask for bulletins, was not greeted by either the “Greeters” nor the Ushers, one Sunday even had to be proactive in tracking down the guy with the offering plate so I could put my donation in (although I give my tithe to our church, as it is my church home!).

We do it too.

We greet those we know, we trudge through the familiar routine without a thought for the brand-new person down the pew from us, we don’t turn around to shake hands and introduce ourselves, we chat with those we know in the Gathering Room. Too often, our guests might as well have a sign on their chests that says, “**JUST IGNORE ME**”.

Help me as together we shift our culture and pay *special* attention to our guests. That way, they might actually come back – and we might actually have made a new friend!

Mary L. Hubbard

## Worship Schedule

Worship, Chapel  
9:00 a.m.

Sunday School  
10:00 a.m.

Worship, Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m.

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

7:00 a.m. - Noon

12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:00 a.m. - Noon

Phone: (574) 233-9463

Fax: (574) 233-9478

### First Staff

Mary L. Hubbard

Senior Pastor

Robert Lewis

Associate Pastor

Marsha Dollar

Administrative Assistant

Wishart Bell

Director of Music

Leora Nauta

Organist

Lou Anne Wilson

Financial Manager

David Frey

Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Ben Noell

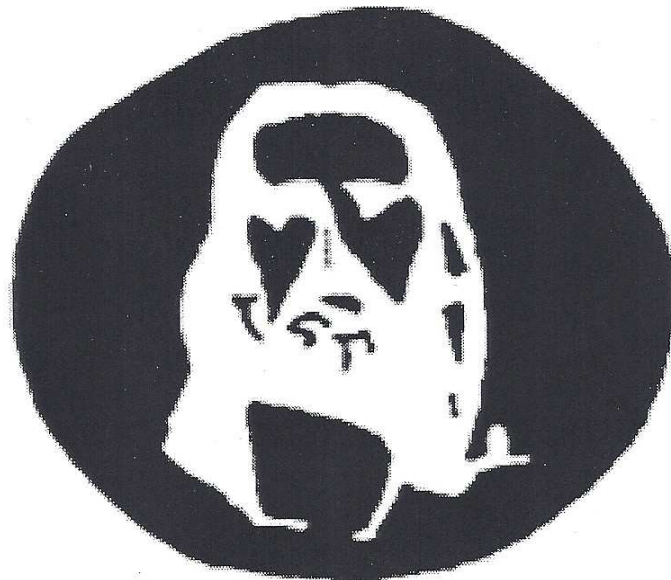
Building Manager

John Jung-Zimmerman

Upper Room Director

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon is our Celebration Dinner in the Social Hall.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. is the Children of Abraham Concert at Clay Church. Tickets are \$10. Contact Clay Church or Grace UMC to purchase tickets.
- November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. is the Charge Conference for our cluster. It will be held at Clay Church.
- December 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. is our next New Members Class. It will be held in the Parlor. Contact Linda Phillips (291-1074) if you are interested in being part of it.



Stare at the dots on his nose for 30 seconds, then look at the wall...blink a few times. ( Can you see Jesus ? )

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED  
FIRST CHURCH IN YOUR  
WILL?

## PRAYER LIST

**Following is a prayer list. Please remember to include these people in your regular prayers:**

Brandon Berger - Deployed to Afghanistan	Mary Lou Gordon - Health concerns
Jonathan Mayers - In military service	Ron Florey - Health concerns
Michael Pershell - In military service	Marilyn Prue - Health concerns
Stephen Gramza - In military service	Carol Goodhew - Health concerns
Jeremy Martin - Special needs	Mary Jo Beemer - Health concerns
Christyne Woolridge - Health concerns	Will Johnston - Health concerns
Jim Pickens - Health concerns	Betty J. Byers - Health concerns
Willa Pickens - Health concerns	Al Levy - Health concerns
David Easterbrook - Eye Problems	Beverly Torres (Stone Soup) - Health concerns
Thorin Grey Yeager (Deb Mayers' Grandson) - Health concerns	

**Also remember to pray for our members in long-term care, assisted living, and independent living:**

Martha Abernethy	Betty Byers	Mary Jo Beemer	Mary Etta Rees
Ruth Garen	Virginia O'Hair	Rich Daniels	JoAnn Ballard
Clem Gramza	Hannah Messersmith	Jo Perkey	Betty Barnes
Hugh & Lois Warren	Jim Borden	Thair Best	Margaret Grant
Melvena Stenger	Betty Fisk	Jeanette Koehler	Margaret Wickizer

**Additionally pray for:**

Our Bishop Mike	Our Church	Our Pastor Mary
Our District Superintendent, Cindy	Our Church Staff	Our Pastor Bob

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**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2011  
IS CONSECRATION SUNDAY**

**REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR  
COMPLETED PLEDGE CARD  
TO THE WORSHIP SERVICE, IF YOU  
HAVEN'T ALREADY TURNED IT IN.**

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## OCTOBER 2011 MISSION TALLIES

**Food Pantry:** For the month of October, the Food Pantry served 359 families, representing 1,338 individuals. 26% of those served were new for the month of October.

**Soup Kitchen:** 1,223 people were served and 960 carry-out bags were given away for a total of 4,515 cups of soup and 3,143 meals given out in October.

**Upper Room:** 20 residents at the end of October (19 men and 1 woman).



*Clay, First, Grace and Northwest United Methodist Churches Present  
in a Benefit Concert for Children of Abraham*

*Recording Artist  
David Wells  
& The Jim Pickley Trio*

*Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.  
Clay Church, North Campus  
52866 Ironwood Road,  
South Bend, Indiana  
Tickets Available Here, \$10  
Children and Youth Free with Parent*



*Medical Equipment to Heal the World*

We hope you will come, enjoy the evening, featuring *David Wells*, the 2010 American Smooth Jazz Award nominee for Gospel Jazz Artist of the Year, and *The Jim Pickley Trio*, Michiana's top smooth jazz group. In doing so you will support *Children of Abraham*, an Indiana based United Methodist charity that closely works with other Christian denominations, Muslims and Jews to provide U.S. surplus medical supplies to hospitals and clinics that provide free treatment to the poorest and most desperate people on earth. *Children of Abraham* is sponsored in this area by *Methodists in Mission to South Bend*, made up of the Clay, First, Grace and Northwest United Methodist congregations. The organization has also been supported by *Memorial Hospital* and the *Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center*. We are a charity closely tied to the *Northwest Indiana Islamic Center*, *Saint John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church* and *Temple Israel*, all in Lake County, Indiana, and to the *Indiana Conference of the United Methodist Church*. Our Board of Directors has physicians and clergy from all of these religions.

Created in 2003, our goal is to provide relief to people regardless of creed or nationality. We have shipped nearly \$60 million of medical supplies to 32 nations on five continents, resupplying hospitals from war-torn Iraq to mountain villages in South America to the most remote places in Africa and Asia. We have supplied clinics in former Soviet states in Europe and have shipped to Hurricane Katrina disaster sites in the United States. We do not seek theological consensus between Muslims, Jews and Christians. We agree to politely disagree on matters of faith, except for this: We profess that the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Ishmael, the God of Moses, the God of Mohammad, the God of Jesus Christ, is a God of mercy, and when people are sick or dying they deserve God's mercy regardless of the religion of the person delivering it, or the religion of the recipient. Through this we assist each other in the demand of God found in all three religions that trace themselves to Abraham; that we have compassion for those in need. We hope to show the world that people of all faiths can work together for the common welfare. Our motto is quite simply, "*Medical Equipment and Supplies to Heal the World.*"

**Call the office (233-9463) to reserve your ticket.**



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JOE DONNELLY  
SECOND DISTRICT, INDIANA

October 11, 2011

The Reverend Mary Hubbard  
First United Methodist Church  
3629 Wexham Court  
South Bend, IN 46614

Dear Rev. Hubbard,

Congratulations to the First United Methodist Church on its 180<sup>th</sup> anniversary! The impact the church has had on its congregation and community over the years is praiseworthy. I am continually impressed by the tenacity, strength and faith of our community. I hope you and your congregation enjoy this blessed year of celebration.

Wishing you continued blessings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Donnelly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "D".

Congressman Joe Donnelly



## **STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT**

**Here at First Church we enjoy the services of a very conscientious and dedicated staff. We love them and love what they do for us throughout the year, but we haven't included any provision for a Christmas gift in our budget. For the past few years we have been unable to give merit increases. We want to be generous this time of year.**

**The Staff Parish Relations Committee asks that individual gifts from the congregation be given in the envelopes provided. These gifts will be combined and distributed as Christmas gifts to the staff. Envelopes for this gift will be in the bulletins on Sunday, November 20. Checks may also be mailed to the church office to arrive there by November 21.**

**Checks should be payable to:  
"First United Methodist Church,"  
with "staff gift" on the memo.**

**Our goal is to present the staff members with the checks at the Staff Christmas Party on December 4. Therefore we need to receive the gifts in time to process them and be able to write the staff checks and obtain appropriate signatures.**

**Thank you,**

**The Staff Parish Relations Committee**



*“No matter what I do, I want to die having done something to better the planet.”*

## UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY

“You ought to serve the world with your gifts,” said Josh Union, United Methodist Student Day scholarship recipient and student at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. He plans to use his degree in business management and computer science to make the world a better place.

“No matter what I do, I want to die having done something to better the planet,” added Josh, who envisions ways that he can use his business acumen to invest in development projects overseas. His goal is “to serve God as faithfully, as obediently as I can.”

Every year hundreds of students like Josh receive scholarships and loans funded by United Methodist Student Day. “You can actually help provide students with the very materials and encouragement they need,” he said about the importance of this offering.

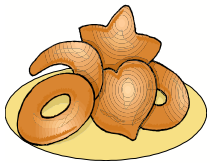
An honors student with interests that range from fencing to magic to missions, Josh sees how supporting students like himself equips a new generation to change the world. “Supporting United Methodist Student Day would help students help the world. And that’s a great cause,” he commented.

When you give to **United Methodist Student Day**, you support students who are finding new ways to serve God in the world. Your contributions are needed more than ever.

**We will be taking a special offering for the United Methodist Student Day on Sunday, November 27, 2011. Please give generously.**

## The Soup Kitchen Thanksgiving Dinner will be Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

If you wish to make a contribution to the dinner, the following items will be needed: (Please write the number you plan to bring next to the item.) Bring desserts to the church on Tuesday (22<sup>nd</sup>) from 8:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. or on Wednesday morning (23<sup>rd</sup>) before 10:00 a.m. **Turkeys need to be at the Church by Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>.**



\_\_\_\_\_ Cookies



\_\_\_\_\_ Cake(s)



\_\_\_\_\_ Pie(s)



\_\_\_\_\_ Other Dessert



\_\_\_\_\_ 1 Turkey

Name & Phone Number

**RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE or  
PUT IN THE OFFERING PLATE  
BY SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

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**First United Methodist Church**

**333 North Main Street**

**South Bend, IN 46601**

**Phone: 574-233-9463**

**Fax: 574-233-9478**

**Check out the website:**

**[www.firstumcsb.org](http://www.firstumcsb.org)**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **A GREETING FROM THE CELTIC MUSICIANS**



*May good luck be your friend in  
whatever you do. And may trouble be  
always a stranger to you.*

**Join us for Worship Sundays at 9:00 a.m.  
and hear the Celtic Musicians play.**



## **The People of The United Methodist Church**

- Help people in their community
- Accept you for who you are
- Offer a place to belong
- Care for and support each other
- Show respect for other religions
- Support people facing difficulty
- Welcome diverse opinions and beliefs
- Guide others to find deeper meaning