

Mid-June 2016

Tower Topics

HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

219 S. HIGH ST • MUNCIE, IN 47305

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Upcoming Events

June 19, 2016

Father's Day

June 19 - June 24

Youth at Camp

June 26 - 30

Vacation Bible School
Surf Shack

July 4, 2016

Office Closed

July 31, 2016

9:30 a.m. Outside
Church Service

High Street United Methodist Christians:

- **Worship** God;
- **Connect** with other Christians to grow as disciples; and
- **Serve** Christ in the community.

Service Times:

8:30 – 9:30 AM
Traditional Worship

9:45 – 10:45 AM
Sunday school

9:45 – 10:30 AM
Chapel Worship

11:00 – Noon
Contemporary Worship

Traditional Worship is
Broadcast at 11 AM on
WXFN – 1340 AM and 102.9 FM

TOWER TOPICS DEADLINES

Deadline for Submission is 8:00 A. M. on Tuesdays

MM = Mid-Month Tower Topics Issue

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Sending date</u>	<u>Issue</u>
June 21	June 29	July
July 5	July 13	July Mid-Month
July 19	July 27	August
August 2	August 10	August Mid-Month



The Safe Table

My major at Ball State was theater. I was not a very good actor – too nervous about being in front of people – but I loved learning how to do the backstage work of sets, lights, costumes and make-up.

We had a group of friends that would meet at a big, round, corner table at the Sambo's restaurant on Wheeling Avenue after rehearsals and stay up way too late at night drinking bottomless cups of coffee and talking about anything and everything under the sun. We weren't a very diverse group in terms of age, but in other categories we were a pretty mixed bag: actors and "techies," male and female, gay and straight, black, white and international students – it was a group that constantly changed as people just seemed to understand that everyone was welcome (and the coffee was cheap!)

One night, there was a girl that I did not know well. The conversation was bouncing around, just like it always did; yet we began to notice that she was very quiet, with large eyes seemingly on the verge of spilling tears. One of the older, bolder women at the table finally reached across to touch her hand and said, "What's on your mind dear? You can tell us – this is a safe table."

Through our United Methodist General Conference, we wrestle with many difficult things, not least of which is how to find unity in a very diverse world. Delegates come from the Methodist church all over the globe, representing a rainbow of diverse opinions, all held by earnest Christians who have dedicated their lives in service to Christ. Human sexuality, especially the area of homosexual rights, has been a divisive point for several years.

Although we are united in insisting on the sacred worth of all God's children, we are still treading to find the way toward defining the role for homosexual persons in the life of our church. Again, there is agreement that all persons, regardless of sexual orientation, are to be welcomed as full participants in congregations – as full members, as leaders in church ministries, as friends and fellow journeyers on the way. But we do not ordain openly practicing gay clergy, and we, as pastors, are not allowed to officiate at gay marriages. This issue, of course, goes deep into our understanding of how to read and interpret scripture, how to navigate our Christian faith in a rapidly changing world, and how to best honor God and follow Jesus Christ.

This year, the body of the Conference asked for leadership from the bishops, and has voted to accept the bishops' proposal: that a task force would be named which would be as diverse as the church itself, that this group would take two years to listen and learn from one another and from stories all across the denomination, and that the Conference would convene for a special called Conference in two years' time to deal with this issue alone after hearing the Task Force's report. In the meantime, they are asking for earnest discussion and prayer from all the churches, that we would be able to discern God's path together.

As the pastor at High Street with the privilege of working alongside the Small Groups Team, I would be very happy to hear from anyone who might be interested in this conversation. Whether we read together, pray together, tell stories together, or sit together with scripture, I believe that we can create "safe tables," where a wide variety of experiences and understandings can be shared. Like the earliest Christians, we are working to proclaim Christ and the gospel of love and grace in a world of vast cultural differences. If you have ideas about how we can uphold this effort, please let me know.

Peace be to you,

Pastor Sherrie

WORSHIP

Upcoming Sermons

"THE RAINBOW PROMISE" FOR WORSHIP AND CHILDREN"

During the month of June, our children will be studying the stories of Noah in Sunday School. And when they get in their vehicles to head home, the children will be able to talk about what they learned with parents who heard the preachers talk about the very same topic the children had in their lesson.

June 12

Sermon: "Two of Every Kind"

Scriptures: Genesis 7:1-16

June 19 FATHER'S DAY

Sermon: "Sending Out the Dove"

Scriptures: Genesis 8:1-19

June 26

Sermon: "The Rainbow Promise"

Scriptures: Genesis 8:20 – 9:17

Outdoor Service

Each summer we hold a one-service outdoor worship in our west parking lot. This service at 9:30 a.m. will be held on Sunday, July 31. Please mark it on your calendars!

CONNECT

VBS WEEK: June 26 - 30 Surf Shack: Catch the wave of God's Amazing Love

Vacation Bible School is approaching and we are looking for a few donations for VBS! We are currently looking for donations of:

- Pool Noodles (no specific color)
- Large and Small Sea Shells
- Blue Material/ Fabric
- Blue Tarps (can be returned to you, please put your name on it!)
- Clear or Light Color Umbrellas (can be returned to you, please put your name on it!)

Registration is now **FREE** because of a significant donation made to VBS. This donation was given in order to provide VBS for all children and families. Registration is still open so sign your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, God-children up today! Registration forms can be found in the church office or contact Kasey Needham or Joy Bricker if you want more information!

I invite you to be in prayer with us. I am specifically praying for our volunteers, students that will be involved and their families, and our mission partners: Muncie Mission and Hearts and Hands United of Delaware County.

I also want to invite you to attend our VBS Celebration and Commissioning on June 30th at 5:30PM in Parish Hall. We will be celebrating our VBS Week through worship and dinner.

Thank you for all your support and love as we dive into VBS!

Kasey Needham and Joy Bricker, VBS Co-Directors

Angels on High Preschool

The past three years have definitely been a blessing in my life. Being a part of Angels on High Preschool & PDO has brought so much joy in my life and created many wonderful memories. It is a strong ministry of HSUMC, one that has met many needs in the community and will continue to do so. I would like to offer my appreciation for the love and support the congregation of HSUMC has given me during my time as the director. It truly takes a village! Thank you for the Love Offering. It means much to me and I will always be grateful. Finally, a special thank you to all of you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Angels on High Preschool & PDO ministry. I am excited to see what the future holds and wish you all the best. Thank you!

Rebecca Swander

Hot Box Prayers

In the sanctuaries you may have noticed stacks pizza boxes. Sorry to say that these pizza boxes do not contain pizza. The pizza boxes contain different ways to help you and your children connect in prayer.

So here's the **deal**.... Pizza is kind of like our prayers! There are many different ways to pray to God as there are ways to order pizza. For example, you may have varying likes for toppings from bacon, ham, veggies, just cheese, or even anchovies! Praying is just the same! We all connect to God in a different way. The neat thing is that God accepts every pizza, I mean, prayer delivery! He longs to hear your hearts, children and adults alike!

The boxes follow the children's activity bag ages. In the Age 3-6 box, you will find an Alphabetical way to pray using scripture! The Age 7-10 box have a detailed way that kids can learn how to pray with guided ways to talk to God. You may use them during the service during our prayer times or feel free take a box home and use it as a resource to talk about

prayer and a way for your children to pray with you or on their own!

"But when you pray, go to your room, shut the door, and pray to your Father who is present in that secret place. Your Father who sees what you do in secret will reward you."

Matthew 6:6

High Street Travelers - Since 1974

WED JULY 20 BEEF & BOARDS: CHURCH
BASEMENT LADIES \$85 PER PERSON

WED AUG 17 INDIANA HISTORY, PART 3
INDIANPOLIS, \$85 PER PERSON

SEPT 8 & 9 OVERNIGHT MYSTERY TRIP: WAITING
LIST ONLY!!

SEPT 11 – 17 BEAUTIFUL MAINE SOLD OUT!

WED SEPT 21 BEEF & BOARDS: MENOPAUSE THE
MUSICAL \$85 PER PERSON

WED OCT 19 INDIANA HISTORY DAY, PART 4
CORYDON \$85 PER PERSON

NOV 15-18 **HURRY!** CHRISTMAS AT THE BILTMORE
\$569 PER PERSON 3 NIGHTS / 6 MEALS /
CANDLELIGHT & DAY BILTMORE TOURS /ASHEVILLE

WED DEC 7 BEEF & BOARDS: A B & B CHRISTMAS
\$85 PER PERSON

Reservation Policy:

- 1) Contact High Street UM Church at 765/747-8500
- 2) Payment MUST accompany reservation.
- 3) Cancellations made within 7 days of trip are NOT guaranteed a refund. Tours are open to the Public, clubs & groups. All trips are deluxe motor coach unless noted. High Street Travelers is sponsored by and is a mission of High Street United Methodist Church, 219 So High St Muncie, IN 47305. COORDINATOR-Deb Heeter

EMAIL: dheeter601@comcast.net

SERVE

High Street Gardening

Help! Several years ago, a small group accepted the task of caring for the gardens on the north and east side of the church. We need help! If you like to be outside and play in the dirt please call Jane Freestone, Susan Trout, Sandra Wimmer, Kelly Wolfe, or Wilma Robinson. Thank you!

GENERAL INFORMATION

Calendar of Events – June

Thu Jun 16, 2016 Habitat Week

8am - 11am SHIP Counseling - Office
11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon -PH

Fri Jun 17, 2016 Habitat Week

7:15am - 8:15am Kingdom Advisor's Group - G6
2pm - 3:30pm Family Ministry staff meeting
7pm Adult Game Night - Hug's House

Sat Jun 18, 2016 Habitat Week

Sun Jun 19, 2016 Father's Day/Youth Camp

8:30am - 9:30am *Traditional Worship Service
9:30am - 9:45am *Fellowship and Coffee Time
9:45am - 10:30am *Informal Worship Service
9:45am - 10:45am *Sunday school Classes
9:45am - 10:45am College Group - Room 305
10:30am - 11am *Fellowship and Coffee Time
11am - 12pm *Contemporary Worship Service
11am - 12pm Young Families LifeGroup

Mon Jun 20, 2016 Senior Youth Camp

9:30am - 5pm DS Pastoral Interviews
12pm - 2pm UL Mah Jongg Class - Room G6
1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens

Tue Jun 21, 2016 Youth Camp

6:45am - 8am Renovare Group - Parlor
 8am Tower Topics Deadline
 8:30am - 10am Church Staff - Library
 10am - 11am Pastoral Staff - Office
 12pm - 2pm Samaritan Fund Lunch
 1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens
 5:30pm - 6:30pm Martha Mary - Choc. Moose

Wed Jun 22, 2016 Youth Camp

9:15am - 10:45am Women's Group - Room G6
 8pm - 9pm AA's - Room 204

Thu Jun 23, 2016 Youth Camp

8am - 11am SHIP Counseling - Office
 11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon - PH
 1:30pm - 2:30pm Archive Committee - 301

Fri June 24, 2016

1pm - 2:30pm UMW Executive Meeting - G6

Sat Jun 25, 2016**Sun Jun 26, 2016**

8:30am - 9:30am *Traditional Worship Service
 9:30am - 9:45am *Fellowship and Coffee Time
 9:45am - 10:30am *Informal Worship Service
 9:45am - 10:45am *Sunday school Classes
 9:45am - 10:45am College Group - Room 305
 10:30am - 11am *Fellowship and Coffee Time
 11am - 12pm *Contemporary Worship Service
 11am - 12pm Young Families LifeGroup - 205
 4pm - 5:30pm VBS SET UP
 5:30pm - 8pm Surf Shack (VBS)

Mon Jun 27, 2016

12pm - 2pm UL Mah Jongg Class - Room G6
 1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens
 4pm - 5:30pm VBS SET UP
 5:30pm - 8pm Surf Shack (VBS)

Tue Jun 28, 2016

6:45am - 8am Renovare Group - Parlor
 8:30am - 10am Church Staff - Library
 10am - 11am Pastoral Staff - Office
 1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens
 4pm - 5:30pm VBS SET UP

5:30pm - 8pm Surf Shack (VBS)

Wed Jun 29, 2016

9:15am - 10:45am Women's Group - Room G6
 4pm - 5:30pm VBS SET UP
 5:30pm - 8pm Surf Shack (VBS)

Thu Jun 30, 2016

8am - 11am SHIP Counseling - Office
 11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon - PH
 4pm - 5:30pm VBS SET UP
 5:30pm - 8pm Surf Shack (VBS)

Contact Information

High Street Church Staff Email Addresses

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