

January 2016

# Tower Topics

## HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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### Upcoming Events

**January 16, 2015**

9 am – 12 pm Leadership  
Retreat – Parish Hall

**January 17, 2016**

10:30 am Bishop Mike Coyner  
is preaching

**January 23, 2016**

9:30 am – 12 pm Listening For  
God In A New Way Seminar

**January 31, 2016**

5 – 6:30pm  
PHAMPPFNGANQLYBIC in  
Parish Hall

### 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

#### Deadline

January 5  
January 19  
January 19  
March 22

#### Distribution date

January 13  
January 27  
January 27  
March 30

#### **WORSHIP At High Street Church**

Stranger at the Door..... Page 2  
Leadership Retreat..... Page 3  
Bishop Coyner preaching.... Page 3

#### **CONNECT At High Street Church**

UMW Men's Breakfast..... Page 4  
Wisdom People..... Page 5  
UMW General Meeting..... Page 6  
High Street Travelers..... Page 6  
Angels on High..... Page 7

#### **SERVE At High Street Church**

Food Pantry ..... Page 8  
Walk a Mile..... Page 8  
Servant Ministry Opportunity Page 8

#### **GENERAL Information**

Thank you's..... Page 9  
Email addresses .....Page 10  
Calendar ..... Page 11

# Stranger at the Door

When I was appointed to Parker City United Methodist Church, it was my pleasure to get to know Lourdes Manning, a member, the director of our Food Pantry and an eager participant in United Methodist Women's activities from the local church to the Conference level. I learned many lessons from Lourdes about a range of important topics, but I'll never forget the day we were chatting and she casually said, "Did I ever tell you I was a Peter Pan baby?"

Of course, I'd read the book Peter Pan, and had seen various plays, movies and presentations through the years, but I'd never heard of a "Peter Pan baby."

It turns out that Lourdes was part of a group of young children who were sent in the early 1960s by their parents to travel alone from Cuba to the United States to escape Castro's Communist regime. The hope was that they would be given a chance for a better life. It was too dangerous for adults to try to flee, but children were bundled into airplanes and sent away from home – hopefully into the arms of friendly American Cuban communities like the one in Miami, Florida where Lourdes and her little brother went. Lourdes has a vivid memory of walking the gangplank to the airplane, holding her little brother's hand, looking back at her mother who was waving and sobbing.

Lourdes did survive and thrive with her indomitable spirit, but her memories of early childhood include moving from school to school, house to house, and, in some ways most importantly to Lourdes, from church to church. That, in large part, was the way she was fed, clothed, taught and encouraged. Churches became safe sanctuaries in a chaotic world. The kindness of strangers left such an indelible mark, that Lourdes' adult life is full of compassion and empathy for others, and long hours of work to provide help to those in need. "After all,"

she said, "I know what it feels like to be the stranger at the door."

I feel extremely privileged to be part of a congregation that has an open door policy. I continue to be astounded at the number of different kinds of people who flow in and out of the church on a daily basis. I have overheard conversations between "strangers" and compassionate office volunteers who listen to stories about wives and husbands who have recently passed, about serious health concerns, about the need to leave a life-long home and move into a care facility, and about hopes and dreams for children and grandchildren. No matter who you are, where you come from, what you look like, or what your need, the door is open, the "comfy chairs" are waiting, and we as a church will be able to help, if in no other way than by treating you with dignity and respect.

Our world has gotten complicated with issues of refugees, and terrorists, and poverty, and home-grown violence. But in a way, these are problems that have always plagued humankind in a broken world. While he was just a toddler, Jesus and his family became refugees in Egypt, fleeing the violence of Herod. I wonder how many doors Joseph and Mary had to knock on to find assistance on that tough journey? Our challenge as people of faith is to continually pray that we will find ways to be welcoming in a world of fear.

High Street embodies a great and powerful truth. By being a downtown "sanctuary" to all people, we are opening our hearts to Christ himself. And who knows how many young lives are being shaped, and what futures are being changed in the process?

Bless you –

*Pastor Sherrie*

# WORSHIP

## Leadership Retreat

Saturday, January 16, 2016

9:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon - PH

This event is for all chairpersons, committee members, and Church Council members.

The retreat will feature:

- Opening worship
- Tips on conducting a successful meeting
- Ministry Audit Reports (part of our Fruitful Congregation Journey)
- Some Dreaming Time
- Initial Calendaring for 2016

The reports from our Ministry Audit Team will be shared with all. Those groups who submitted audits to the team will have a chance to read their respective audit reports and to interact with members of the Ministry Audit Team. Those ministry areas submitted to and covered by our Ministry Audit Team include:

Adult Sunday school

Children's Ministry

- Church School
- Children's Church
- Kids' Hope

Communications Media

Finance

Library

Preschool

Small Groups

Thursday Luncheon

High Street Travelers

Update Learning

Youth

In addition, the Ministry Audit Team reviewed a number of our staff position descriptions.

## Bishop Coyner preaching here January 17

We are privileged that in his final year as our episcopal leader prior to retiring Bishop Mike Coyner has requested to spend some time with us here at High Street.

In order to accommodate Bishop Coyner's schedule, we are altering our typical Sunday morning schedule in this way:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Service in the Sanctuary with Pastor Mendenhall preaching

9:30-10:30 Fellowship and Refreshments in the Parlor

9:40 – 10:20 Sunday School

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary with Bishop Coyner preaching

## Mission Focus

Our monthly mission focus for January is Christian Ministries. Christian Ministries of Delaware County is a non-profit, social service agency that serves the poor and needy of our community with emergency assistance through its programs and commissions. As a church we will have an opportunity to support this important outreach and mission. If you would like donated still you may use your pew envelopes.

## Bucket Offering Changes

We are glad we have a new Missions Committee, which has grown out of our Fruitful Congregation Journey. This new committee has already been meeting in

the co-chairs of Del and Jayne Brinson and is implementing some changes to our monthly bucket offering for missions.

We are moving the monthly bucket offering from the last Sunday of the month to the second Sunday of the month. You may simply contribute cash in the bucket that will be passed in each of the three services or you may use the special monthly envelope from your giving envelopes.

What if you miss the second Sunday and would like to contribute to that mission being emphasized that month? You have a few options:

- You can use the special envelope, designate your gift, and return it at any time.
- You can use your regular giving envelope and add your special designated gift.
- You can use a special envelope that will be provided on the fourth Sunday of each month for this purpose.
- You can use a pew envelope to designate and make your gift.

Our special missions bucket offering in January will go to support Christian Ministries of Delaware County.

## **CONNECT**

### **UM Men's Breakfast**

The Men's Breakfast is Wednesday, January 20. Join us in Parish Hall at 7:00 a.m. for a great breakfast, devotions, and

fellowship. All men of the church are welcome to attend!

## **Listening For God In A New Way**

Have you ever found yourself restless and feeling like there was something you were missing out on?

Have you ever wanted to be feel closer to God but didn't know how to accomplish that?

Have you ever felt that God was trying to lead you toward something but you didn't know what?

Have you ever hoped to hear from God or feel God's presence but just couldn't seem to find it?

On Saturday, January 23, 2016 from 9:30 am until noon, we will be offering an opportunity to explore ways to listen differently. When you come, you will get to choose a few different methods/spiritual disciplines that people have used for centuries to help them in their relationship with God. You can learn about what is involved and then even get a bit of experience so that you can decide whether it is something that might work for you.

## **Come Join Us!**

Come connect with us on Facebook, Twitter, and our church website.

## Wisdom People for January

**Beatrice Wolfe** • 98 on January 17

524 W. Jackson St.

Muncie, IN 47305

**Betty Fetz** • 94 on January 19

5801 West Bethel Ave.

#609 Westminster Village

Muncie, IN 47304



## Hospitalized This Past Month

and giving High Street at their preference:

Carol Turner, Don Vogelgesang, Greg Smith, Jim Lambert, Lori Siefker (*IUH Ball Memorial Hospital*)

## High Street Memorials/Honors

- James Webb
- Albert Schuch
- Ray Lanum
- Harriet Nelson
- Katy Geckler
- Joseph and Geraldine Wagner
- In honor of Rebecca Stafford

- In honor of Rebecca Swander
- In honor of Ned & Becky Kammyer

## PHAMPFFBGANQLYBIC is almost here!

What is PHAMPFFBGANQLYBIC? Easy, it's the Post-Holiday After-MLK Pre-Final-Football-Bowl-Game And Not-Quite-Lent-But-It's-Coming Pancake-Sausage Supper and Small Groups/Activity Fair! Looking for a time to gather with friends and fellow High Streeters for a pancake-sausage supper hosted by the Koinonia Class? Wondering if there are any new activities and groups at the church you could join up with? Wanting to broaden your horizons in this New Year? Meet new people? Learn new things? Then, this event is for you!

Come to Parish Hall on Sunday afternoon, January 31, at 5:00! Join us for fellowship and pancakes and sausages (proceeds from the supper's free-will offering will go to support Joy in the Harvest Ministries in Tanzania) and hear about what's happening and what will be happening right at High Street! All ages are invited! To help us with a count for the supper, please let us know you'll be there by calling the church office or by marking the Sunday worship attendance pad with a P (for PHAMPFFBGANQLYBIC, of course) by your name and with the number of people coming with you!

Mark your calendar for PHAMPFFBGANQLYBIC! We'll look for you there!

## High Street Travelers - Since 1974

### 2016 OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Feb 17 (Wed.) Beef & Boards: Sister Act \$85 per person

Mar 19 (Sat.) American Passion Play \$100 per person

Apr 13 (Wed.) Cincinnati Flower Show \$50 per person

May 11 (Wed.) Indiana History Day, Part 1 \$85 per person

May 16 – 20            **BRANSON WITH A TWIST! 4**  
**NIGHTS / 5 DAYS    \$860 PP DBL OCC 5 SHOWS / 4**  
**TOURS / 11 MEALS / LAMBERT'S CAFÉ**

Jun. 15 (Wed.) Indiana History Day, Part 2 \$85 per person

July 18 – 31        **SCENIC IRELAND INCLUDES: RT AIR /**  
**13 DAYS / INSURANCE / TOURS**

July 20 (Wed.) Beef & Boards: Church Basement Ladies  
\$85 per person

Aug 17 (Wed.) Indiana History Day, Part 3 tba

Sept 8 & 9        **OVERNIGHT MYSTERY TRIP:**  
**Transportation/ Lodging/ 4 Meals / 6 Tours \$398 per**

Sept 11 – 17        **BEAUTIFUL MAINE** Waiting List

Sept. 21(Wed) Beef & Board: Menopause the Musical \$85

Oct. 19 (Wed.) Indiana History Day, Part 4 \$85 per person

Nov. 15 – 18 New!! Christmas at the Biltmore \$569

Dec. 7 (Wed.) Beef & Board: A B&B Christmas \$85

#### 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 a mission of High Street United Methodist Church 219 So High St Muncie, IN 47305.

COORDINATOR-Deb Heeter

EMAIL: [dheeter601@comcast.net](mailto:dheeter601@comcast.net)

## UMW General Meeting and Continental Breakfast

Tuesday, January 19, 2016  
10:30 A.M.

Program:

Memorial Service  
Installation of 2016 UMW Officers  
Pastor Charlotte Overmyer

Please call Mary Swanger

282-9197

for reservations

Hostess: Ruth Circle

# Angels on High Preschool

## Preschool News

Our first Christmas Program was wonderful! The sanctuary, including the balcony, was full of families and congregation members. What a blessing to listen to the children praise our savior through songs! A special thanks to Kasey Needham for accompanying the preschool children on the piano and Mike Overmyer for helping with the sound. We are excited to make this a new tradition in our preschool!

## Preschool Registration

It is hard to believe it is already time to start preschool enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year! The enrollment for current Angels on High Preschool, PDO, and High Street United Methodist Church families will begin on Monday, February 1. To reserve a spot for your child in our preschool program, please return the registration form and fee promptly. Enrollment is based on the day and time we receive the enrollment card. Open enrollment (families outside of the preschool or church) will begin on Monday, February 15. We have registration packets available in the church office, on our website, or by contacting director Rebecca Swander. Please feel free to share our preschool with many in the community!

## Family Bible Study

In the upcoming months, we will host a bible study for parents both at the preschool and at the church. This bible study will be held in the church building, while a special program (similar to Vacation Bible School set-up) will be offered for children at the preschool building. We will be studying the book, Am I Messing Up My Kids? by Lysa TerKeurst. This bible study is being put together by both Rebecca Swander and Amanda Droste. We are really excited! All church parents are invited to join us! More information will be available soon. If you are interested in being a part of this bible study, please email Rebecca at [rswander@angelsonhigh.org](mailto:rswander@angelsonhigh.org).

## Donations Needed

The following donations are needed at Angels on High Preschool & PDO:

- Lysol Disinfecting Spray
- Packaged Snacks
- Disposable forks and spoons
- Baby Wipes

You can bring your donations to the preschool anytime during the week or leave them in the front office of the church. We appreciate your help!

*Preschool Director*

*Rebecca Swander*

# **SERVE**

## **A SERVANT MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY:**

**Providing breakfast and dinner for the Christian Ministries Men's Sleeping Room January 24-30, 2016**

- Prepare and serve the meal and clean up after the meal
- Breakfast is 6:00 – 7:30 a.m.
- Dinner is 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- Usually 8-15 men are served
- It is best to have 2 people per meal
- This is a great family ministry
- There is a long, steep staircase to the sleeping room. If you can't navigate stairs, you can prepare the food and the shelter manager will meet you at the door to take it up and serve it.
- **To sign up you may contact Sue Stover or the church office.**

## **High Street Food Pantry Served in 2016**

### **34 clients**

*We ended 2015 with the final total of 1,386 of clients we were able to help.*

*Thank you for your contributions, both food and monetary, to the High Street Food Pantry! Please leave donations in the wicker baskets at the North Door entrance and in the Narthex.*

### **Food pantry needs:**

- Spaghetti
- Pasta sauce
- Cereal
- Canned green beans
- Pasta
- Jelly

## **Samaritan Fund 2016**

**People Helped: 11**

<b>Utilities:</b>	\$300.00
<b>Rent:</b>	\$100.00
<b>Prescriptions:</b>	\$0.00
<b>Misc:</b>	<u>\$54.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	\$454.00

## **Final Samaritan Fund report for 2015**

**People Helped: 379**

<b>Utilities:</b>	\$6,341.34
<b>Rent:</b>	\$5,075.80
<b>Prescriptions:</b>	\$702.94
<b>Misc:</b>	<u>\$1,431.79</u>
<b>Total:</b>	\$13,551.87

## **Walk A Mile in My Shoes Saturday, February 13, 2016**

Our church is forming a team, the High Street Strollers, to participate in this fund-raising event for the Muncie Mission. Each of the last two years our church team has won the Golden Sneaker Award for raising the most donations.

The Opening Ceremony will take place at 9:00 a.m. at the Muncie Fieldhouse with check-in prior to the ceremony. We then walk from the Fieldhouse to the Mission at 1725 S. Liberty Street. Transportation is provided back to the Fieldhouse. You may choose to turn around and walk back to the Fieldhouse.





Foundation strongly recommends that applicants type their answers to the application questions rather than writing them out. All applications, along with the required documentation, must be turned into the church office by March 31, 2016. LATE applications will NOT be accepted. If you have any questions, please contact Dan at the church office or at [dmooresnyder@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:dmooresnyder@munciehighstreet.com).

## Final Advent Donations

- In memory of our parents, donated by Charles and Paula Smith.
- In memory of our parents & Jane Lambert, donated by Judy and Jim Lambert.
- In honor of Jane Perry, donated by Julie Harris.
- In honor of Stan Sollars' expertise in the sound system, donated by Jay and Penny Nolley.



## Contact Information

Our Visitation Pastor, Charlotte Overmyer, is available in the church office on Tuesday mornings, 8:30--10:00 a.m. This is a good time to talk with her about opportunities to visit our homebound members, concerns you may have about your own family members, or an insight or question you would like to share with her.

### **High Street Church Staff Email Addresses**

Church: [info@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:info@munciehighstreet.com)

Pastor Dale:

[dmendenhall@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:dmendenhall@munciehighstreet.com)

Pastor Sherrie:

[sdrake@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:sdrake@munciehighstreet.com)

Pastor Charlotte:

[covermyer@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:ccovermyer@munciehighstreet.com)

Pastor Jack:

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Ann Hicks: [amhicks2@bsu.edu](mailto:amhicks2@bsu.edu)

Clay Arnett: [hclayarnett@yahoo.com](mailto:hclayarnett@yahoo.com)

# Calendar of Events

## Thu Jan 14, 2016

8am - 11:30am SHIP Counseling – Office  
11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon - Parish Hall

## Fri Jan 15, 2016

3:30pm - 5pm FCJ Small Group Team - Parlor

## Sat Jan 16, 2016

9am - 12pm Leadership Retreat - Parish

## Sun Jan 17, 2016

8:30am - 9:30am \*Traditional Worship Service  
9:30am - 10:30am \*Fellowship and Coffee Time  
9:40am - 10:20am \*Sunday school Classes  
10:30am Bishop Mike Coyner is preaching  
3:30pm - 5pm Confirmation - Parish Hall  
5pm - 7pm The Grove – YL/PH/Kitchen

## Mon Jan 18, 2016 Office Closed

**Martin Luther King Day**

## Tue Jan 19, 2016

6:45am - 8am Renovare Group – Parlor  
8am Tower Topics Deadline  
8:30am - 10am Church Staff – Library  
10am - 11am Pastoral Staff – Office  
10:30am - 12pm UMW General Meeting - PH  
12pm - 2pm Assistance Appointments Lunch – Parlor  
1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens  
5:30pm - 6:30pm Martha Mary Circle - Merk's  
6:15pm - 7:45pm Lilies (Women's Group) - YL  
7pm - 8:30pm Staff-Parish Relations - Room G6

## Wed Jan 20, 2016

6am - 7am Men's Breakfast prep - Parish Hall  
7am - 8am UM Men's Breakfast - Parish Hall  
9:15am - 10:45am Women's Bible Study - Room G6  
4pm Foundation Meeting – Room 204  
5pm - 8pm Youth Game Night - Garden Court  
5:45pm - 7pm Handbells - Room 303  
6pm - 7pm Call to Christ/Praise Kids  
7pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
8pm - 9pm AA's - Room 204

## Thu Jan 21, 2016

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

## Fri Jan 22, 2016

## Sat Jan 23, 2016

9:30am - 12pm Listening For God In A New Way

## Sun Jan 24, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

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  
10:30am - 11am \*Fellowship and Coffee Time  
11am - 12pm \*Contemporary Worship Service  
11am - 12pm Young Families LifeGroup - Room 205  
5pm - 7pm The Grove – YL/PH/Kitchen

## Mon Jan 25, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

12pm - 2pm UL Mah Jongg Class - Room G6  
1:30pm - 2:30pm High Street Pantry Opens

## Tue Jan 26, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

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 - 5pm Facilitators meeting w/Doug Anderson

## Wed Jan 27, 2016 All day Travelers Southern

9:15am - 10:45am Women's Bible Study - Room G6  
5pm - 8pm Youth Game Night - Garden Court  
5:45pm - 7pm Handbells - Room 303  
6pm - 7pm Call to Christ/Praise Kids  
7pm - 8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
8pm - 9pm AA's - Room 204

## Thu Jan 28, 2016 All day Travelers Southern

8am - 11:30am SHIP Counseling – Office  
11:30am - 1:30pm Thursday Luncheon - Parish Hall  
4:30pm - 6pm Wesleyan Circle - Parlor

## Fri Jan 29, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

1pm UMW Executive Meeting – Room G6

## Sat Jan 30, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

## Sun Jan 31, 2016 Travelers Southern Caribbean

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  
10:30am - 11am \*Fellowship and Coffee Time  
11am - 12pm \*Contemporary Worship Service  
11am - 12pm Young Families LifeGroup - Room 205  
5pm - 7pm The Grove – YL/PH/Kitchen  
5pm - 6:30pm PHAMPFFBGANQLBIC – PH

High Street United Methodist Church  
219 S High Street  
Muncie, IN 47305

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**JANUARY 17, 2016**

**8:30 a.m. Service**

*Scriptures:*

**Psalm 36:5-10 & John 2:1-12**

**“More Than We Can Explain”**

Pastor Dale Mendenhall

**10:30 a.m. Service**

*Scripture:*

**Matthew 5:13-16**

**“This Little Light of Mine”**

Bishop Mike Coyner

**JANUARY 24, 2016**

*Scripture:*

**Luke 4:14-21**

**“Then Is Now”**

Pastor Sherrie Drake

**JANUARY 31, 2016**

*Scriptures:*

**1 Corinthians 13:1-13 & Luke 4:21-30**

**“Is Jesus Too Inclusive?”**

Pastor Dale Mendenhall

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