

Hi Faith family,

I hope you are enjoying our theme for this year - FRUITFULNESS. As we continue with sermons and discussions on how we can become a church that is fruitful corporately and individually, we are exploring numerous disciplines. Our highlight for February is the Ash Wednesday. I was pleased by the attendance and the intergenerational participation (plenty of kids represented). We kicked off the 40-days that end on Holy Saturday before Easter.

What a perfect time for self-reflection, and recalibration of ourselves spiritually by practicing spiritual disciplines in an intentional and concerted effort? One of my friends joked with me about Lent, 'the only big thing I am giving up is giving up'. Jokes aside, there is benefit in giving up something though that is not the gauge to measure the depth of our Christian faith. The society sells us many addictive stuff and before we know it, we feel like we cannot survive without. Could we do less of Facebook, online shopping, or screen time and use the time spent there in profitable endeavors like time with family, reading etc.?

John Wesley was known for regular prayers, giving up eating food (fasting) and sacrificial giving - he gave away all the coins in his pockets on the way home every day, and most of his wealth during his life. We may not be able to live up to his standards but are invited what more we can give to 2026 budget if we are going to meet the obligations of growth as Faith family such as an outreach pastor, etc.

On Palm Sunday when we commemorate Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a donkey, we intend to bring a live donkey here and go round our block. That Maundy Thursday when Jesus was betrayed, we will have some intimate time with Christ through feet washing from 4:30-5:30pm followed by the regular service at 6pm. On Easter Sunday, we will have sunrise service at 7:30am followed by breakfast and then a resurrection celebration in our Sanctuary at 10am.

May the Lord continue to make us so fruitful so that we grow vertically (depth in Christ) so much so that horizontal growth (increase in numbers) will be automatic as people are attracted to this family.

You are a blessing,  
Pastor John Kamau Nyota

### You are Welcome here!

8:30 am Traditional

9:45 am Growth Studies (Sunday School for ALL AGES)

10:45 am Contemporary & Breakout (Grades K-6)

The first Sunday of each month is Family Worship. No Breakout.  
Nursery care is available for both services and during Sunday School.

We live stream a full service at 10:45 am

You can find our videos through Facebook, YouTube, Vimeo, and at [www.FaithUMC.com](http://www.FaithUMC.com)

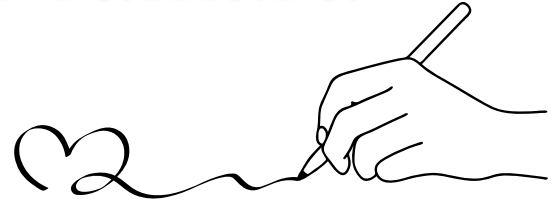


## Dates to know

**Wednesday, March  
4th, 11th, 18th & 25th  
Youth group 6:30 to  
8pm**

**Sunday, March 29th  
Palm Sunday  
there will be a live  
donkey present  
from 10-10:45am.  
Bring your children,  
Grandchildren & friends  
for this wonderful time  
as we celebrate Jesus  
on Palm Sunday!**

# Notes from Tamara



## Rooted & Rising

God is doing something intentional among our children and youth. This is more than weekly lessons — this is foundation work. This is planting seeds that will shape future leaders, worshippers, and disciples.

I believe our children are ready for more.

As I pray about the direction of our ministry, I see opportunities for them to grow not only in learning but in leading. I would love to develop a children's travel choir that can minister beyond our church walls and represent the heart of our congregation. I also envision teaching sign language as an expression of worship — giving our children creative ways to praise and include others in powerful ways.

There is so much potential sitting in our classrooms each week. Gifts. Confidence waiting to bloom. Faith that is growing roots.

But vision requires partnership.

To bring these plans to life, I am asking for volunteers who are willing to serve — whether that's assisting in class, helping organize rehearsals, supporting special events, or sharing musical or sign language experience. You don't need to have all the answers. You just need a heart that says yes.

If you feel called to invest in the next generation, now is the time. What we build today will impact tomorrow.

Let's rise together.

Tamara  
Tamara@faithumc.com

## Studies & Small Groups

### Veterans Life Group

Thursdays @ 5pm or 6:30pm

### Men's Group

Mondays @ 6pm

Michael's Italian Restaurant

### Lunch & Learn

2nd & 4th Mondays @ 11:30am

Bring a sack lunch

### Youth Group & J-Squad

Wednesdays at 6:30-8pm

### United Women In Faith

Meets once a month

## Sundays @ 9:45am

### Next Generation Pre-K-12th

Age appropriate teaching & discussion.

### Parents' Sunday School

We discuss a topic that's on your mind that week. Join us in Room 311

### Boomers - Upstairs Rm 603

### "Followship" - Room 102

Our class is one which loves to share, discuss, and laugh!

### "Adult Study" - Parlor

Study: Multi-generational

All are welcome!

### "Moving Forward" - Room 112

We welcome you to an atmosphere of support and encouragement for each other while praying for the needs of the group and the church as a whole.

## More Connections

### Worship Team

Singers & musicians of all talent levels leading worship during 2nd service.

### Bags to Mats

Turn plastic shopping bags into sleeping mats for the homeless.

Wednesdays @ 10am.

Led by Glenna Pletcher

### Pickleball

Good, clean, competitive fun!

Wednesdays @ 6pm

### Adult Senior Lunch

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at a different restaurant



Christ caring for people through people

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

March is a promise of spring and warmth. Are you ready? I am. This winter has been very cold, long, dreary, weary, Gray and Grey. It has been difficult dealing with all the Gray and Grey of life during this winter. It has been like being in a battle just coping with the weather, keeping our vehicle battery charged against the cold; as well as keeping our own personal battery charged. I have for many years had a problem staying charged and up in spirit when there is no sunshine. I become lazy, depressed, apathetic and lonely, any of which on their own, can be battle for any of us to fight.

Many of us are also striving to survive other battles along with the weather. When my father had bone cancer, my mother had to go back to work after she had been retired for several years. She would come home exhausted, ready to just sit and rest, while my father on the other hand, was ready to talk, play games or go somewhere after spending the entire day by himself. When he would get sick, Mom, would then need to spend time up at the hospital after a long day of work. Both of them would also need to make difficult decisions on whether to accept certain treatments for dad. I experienced the exact same experiences and feelings when my husband had a stroke and ended our known way of life. Having someone to talk to can help immensely.

Sometimes our battles are illness, losing a job/ career, losing a family member, financial losses, loss of a home, having enough resources to meet our needs. Whatever our battles are, we all often need someone we can trust to talk to; just to relieve tension, as a sounding board, help us realize what the real problem is and/or how to handle the problems.

There is no one problem or difficulty that is more difficult to handle or get through than another and every problem deserves to be prayed for, discussed, cried over, and handled. Our Stephen Ministers are available and willing to create a relationship with you by meeting weekly. No matter what the problem is, you can contact Gayle Thielen 574-370-3427 or John Moore 574-238-4906. Either of the two will be pleased to match you up with a likeminded Stephen Minister. Don't hesitate to call, our Ministers are waiting.

## MARCH MISSIONS

### LOOSE COINS GO TO: Adult Mission Trips

### CART COLLECTION FOR CCS:

- Infant & Adult Diapers
- Nonperishable Food

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT:

2026 Budget: \$782,099  
Year to Date Need: \$100,710  
Year to Date Rec'd: \$76,171

## WORLD MISSIONARY PRESS

Year to Date Total: 99,600  
Running Total: 10,818,106

## WAYS TO GIVE

Mail  
Giving Envelope  
Online: [www.faithumc.com](http://www.faithumc.com)  
Text "give" to 833-942-1919  
Online & Text options can be set up as a one-time or recurring gift.  
**Thank you for faithfully giving!**

## ≡ HAPPY BIRTHDAY ≡

3/1 - Mahra Chris

Vicki Wheeler

3/2 - Suzan Mortrud

3/3 - Jackie Lundy

3/5 - Roger Niccum

3/6 - Marilyn Anderson

Veradine Berkey

3/7 - David Long

Terry Alber

3/8 - Craig Stiver

Miranda Chris

3/9 - Sherrie Putman

3/11 - Jackie Wade

3/12 - Louise McDowell

Brenda Horein

3/13 - Patricia Griffey

Jane Hershberger

3/14 - Jean Hilligoss

3/17 - Dale McDowell

Rebecca Nelson

Patrick Shaffer

Dan Null

3/21 - Christine Niccum

Laura Stout

Nathan Deranek

3/23 - Elaine Fair-Crump

3/24 - Irene Weesner

Kenneth Wheeler

3/26 - Laura Radeline

3/27 - Christiana Youngblood

3/30 - John Southern

3/31 - Marilyn Smith

## ♡ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ♡

3/24 - John & Cathy Southern

Kent & Sherri Stauffer

3/25 - Dean & Jan McDowell

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are in need of people willing to volunteer for Kingdom Kids Daycare when teachers call off.

And also for Sunday school and breakout during 2<sup>nd</sup> service for the children.

Please contact Shannon in the office if you feel led to volunteer in these areas.

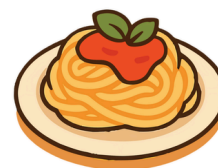
Thank you!



## Faith Feeds Families

A Free Meal For The Community

March 18<sup>th</sup>  
2026



5:00-  
6:30 PM

This Month: Spaghetti

Drop by for a good meal and meet others in the community!

March

# In our Prayers

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

## Medical

Tonda Alwine  
Larry Bellamy  
Karen Bohn  
Bob & Kathy Burris  
Al Carlson  
Dan Carlson  
Nancy Carlson  
Chris Cook  
Erica Dailey  
J. Mark Dougherty  
Kathy Eash  
Sue Fitch  
Jim Hendress  
Jean Hilligoss  
Dave Hochstetler  
Riley Hollar  
Ron Huber  
Bettye Kilburn  
Betty Love  
Hazel Miller

## Medical

Skip Miller  
Becky Nelson  
Betty Plaisted  
Sonya Schrock  
Joy Stankus  
Cathy Van Huystee  
Chuck Waite  
Ashley Wright  
Wanda Wyrick  
Irene Weesner  
Pastor John Newman's  
grandson Jesse

## Cancer

Josie Butler  
Ainsley Coy  
Lanny Harman  
Craig Hartung  
Gary Heater  
Anthony King  
Theresa Null  
Pastor David Schrader

## Other

Our Youth & Children  
Our Church  
Stephen Ministers  
Susanna's Kitchen  
Kingdom Kids Daycare & Staff  
Faith Staff

## February Loses

Ted Burson (Sherry Riedel's Brother)  
Cathy Corns (Dax & Cindi Corns)  
Sandy Polk  
Jackie Rentfrow  
Harold Targgart (Amy & Brian Seegert)



Military: Josh Eash, Jr. • Chris Fisher • Stephanie Hempel • Jed Hendershot  
Caleb Toler • Vanessa Toler • Aaron Zigler • Lexie Austen  
First Responders and Law Enforcement

**Please update the office about those you have added to the prayer list. Thank you.**

### OUR MISSION

**To make disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the  
world.**



Faith United Methodist Church  
22045 County Road 18  
Goshen, IN 46528  
574-875-4438

### OUR VISION

**To become like the Good  
Shepherd  
for families and children.**



# Lenten Breakfast Schedule

**MARCH 7 @ 8:30 AM**  
NEW HOPE METHODIST CHURCH  
28765 COUNTY ROAD 4, ELKHART

**MARCH 14 @ 8:30 AM**  
GOSHEN FIRST CHURCH  
214 S. 5 TH STREET, GOSHEN

**MARCH 21 @ 8:30 AM**  
DUNLAP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
23674 US HIGHWAY 33E., ELKHART

**MARCH 28 @ 8:30 AM**  
JAMESTOWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
59218 COUNTY ROAD 3, ELKHART



South Bend  
Medical Foundation

# The Heart of Giving



BLOOD DRIVE  
TUESDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>  
1-3 PM

Sign up at:

**GiveBloodNow.com**  
or at info desk




## 7th Annual Michiana Master Gardeners Expo

@ Faith United Methodist Church

**Saturday March 7, 2026**  
**9am - 3pm**



\$10 Tickets at the door or on their website:  
[MichianaMasterGardeners.com](http://MichianaMasterGardeners.com)

Speakers, Workshops, Food,  
Vendors, Silent Auction!



# Holy Week

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Palm Sunday

MARCH 29TH

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2ND

Good Friday

APRIL 3RD

Holy Saturday

APRIL 4TH

Easter Sunday

APRIL 5TH

SEE FAITHUMC.COM FOR MORE

# Missions Committee Announcements

The missions committee will be conducting an ongoing fundraiser for our Dale and Judy Stickel Scholarship Fund. Many of you may remember long time members Dale and Judy for their hearts for service and mission by going to Haiti, Henderson, and raising money for the Crop Walk. A scholarship fund was set up to honor them and to provide first time mission trip attendees assistance with financial aid. We need to keep our fund growing and are using Judy Stickel's mantra of "One Dime at a Time." There will be a container on the table in the narthex next to the loose coin container where we want everyone to put their dimes for the scholarship fund. We also welcome any designated giving and quiet money that might be offered. Thank you for helping us honor the Stickels and being able to provide assistance to our congregants who have hearts for missions.

-Faith United Methodist Church Relational Missions Committee

*Mission Committee & Church Members*

## Thank You!

Your recent monetary donation was greatly appreciated by Susanna's Kitchen.

We provide many meals during the year. Your donation will help to continue this program.

A Christian Outreach Program in the Elkhart Area.

*Thank you so much for your donation to Susanna's. It will help with our expenses. We do this service for the love of God. Dale & Sharon*