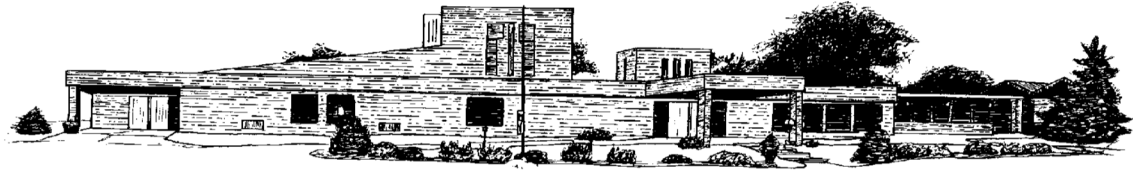




THE PARISH PAPER



February 2024

Churubusco United Methodist Church



"Deep Roots, Wide Branches"

So what are you giving up for Lent?

It is a question that some during the season leading up to Easter ask themselves and/or others. As if Ash Wednesday is a redo on New Year's Eve, many will look to improve their spiritual walk in some way starting this month. Some will give up a food, or something else like unplugging from social media or a streaming service. Whatever the fast you are choosing for Lent, I would invite you to consider these questions as you prepare for the upcoming church season:

Does fasting from (fill in the blank), make more room for God in my daily life?

Fasting during Lent is very common practice. The goal of fasting, as N.T. explains is "to be cleaned out and ready for the good things God has in store." Fasting should empower us to make room for the things that fill us with life and joy.

Does this move me towards the awareness of my reliance on God's grace through faith in Jesus?

Fasting (whether food or something else) is designed to create the reality of our total dependence on God's grace through Jesus.

"Self-denial means knowing only Christ, and no longer oneself. It means seeing only Christ, who goes ahead of us, and no longer the path that is too difficult for us.... Self-denial is saying only: He goes ahead of us; hold fast to him."

— **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**

Does this move me towards loving God and my neighbor more fully?

In Isaiah 58:6-9, God describes the fast that God's people should choose, and the fast is to love and serve their neighbor. To break the yoke of oppression. It is clear that to fast during Lent should not be simply centered on ourselves and God but also how we love and serve those around us.

"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

— **John Chrysostom**

During this season of Lent, may you choose a fast that loves God and your neighbor more deeply. May you seek to make more room for God in your life and also the needs of those around you. May you rely on the cross of salvation more and more in your daily life. May God break you free from the old yokes that held you back so that you may break the yokes of injustice holding back others.

Grace and Peace,

PJ

February Worship Schedule

8:15 (Hymnal/Organ) and 10:30 a.m. (Praise Band)

8:15 a.m.—Traditional Worship

*10:30 a.m.—Contemporary Worship

Children's Church & Nursery Available

@ 10:30 a.m. Service



Follow us on
Instagram
@buscoumc

NewsLetter DEADLine

March 2024 Newsletter Articles need submitted by the THIRD Sunday in FEBRUARY: Sunday, February 18th, 2024
Give articles for newsletter to the church office or email: cumc99@aol.com.

Contact the Stream Team:

Do you have something you need displayed on the TV monitors in the church for your ministry? Please see Wendy Herendeen, Amy Carpenter, or turn your request in to the church office.

Details needed:

Event description:
Date: Time: etc: Also, what time period (month and days) do you need it displayed?

Find us on social media:



buscoumc



Churubusco United
Methodist Church

Ambassadors of the Gospel: The Congregation

Staff

Pastor: Rev. John Huff

8:15 Music Director: Mindy Cox

10:30 Music Director: Aaron Childress

Accompanists: Carmen Fitzpatrick,
Rosalie Geller, & Rolin Mains

Office Manager: Wendi Jarrell

Secretary: Rita Ransom

Building Superintendent: Keith Shultz

Children's Director: Bev Huntsman

Nursery School Co-Directors:

Debbie Leitch & Cheryl Fleetwood

Nursery School Teachers:

Danielle Bischoff
Shuree Claymiller
Shelly Davis
Koreen Knapp

Ashley Macy
Jennifer Ruble
Makenzi Tonkel
Zoie Tonkel

Volunteers that process the newsletters for mailing each month include:

Shirley Fleming
Rita Ransom

Gloria Parish

Please let us know if you would like to start receiving your monthly newsletter through email instead of the U.S. Postal Mail.

Also available on the church's website:
www.churubuscoumc.org



March, 29th, 2024

Best Wishes - Mindy Cox

March 3rd



Mindy Cox who has served as choir director for the traditional 8:15 am church service and special music for the last 5 years will be leaving Churubusco United Methodist Church, her last day will be March 3, 2024. We are excited for Mindy as she will have the time to focus on the next several months with her son as he finishes up his senior year in high school and prepares for his college career.

We thank Mindy for her devotion to CUMC. Mindy has strived to provide challenging music helping us learn and grow as a choir.

Please come celebrate Mindy between services to offer our farewells and thanks for serving our church over the last 5 years. **March 3, 2024 from 9:15 am to 10:20 am** in Fellowship Hall. A basket will be available to place cards of Thanks on the table during this open house.

The journey of a pint of lifesaving blood begins with you!

The American Red Cross is experiencing an emergency blood shortage as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. The blood collected at upcoming blood drives is critical!

CUMC will be hosting 3 blood drives in 2024. Those three along with 3 drives at Faith Lutheran Church give you 6 opportunities to donate in Churubusco this year! Join the other faithful donors from CUMC and give the gift of life!

Please mark your calendar for these Red Cross Blood Drives in 2024!

February 1 - Faith Lutheran

March 28 - CUMC

June 23 - Faith Lutheran

July 18 - CUMC

September 12 - Faith Lutheran

November 7 - CUMC

If you have not scheduled your appointment to give blood at Faith Lutheran Church on February 1st or CUMC on March 28 please do so online at redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-REDCROSS. If you need help signing up please contact Carol Allman: 812 701-0577 or rjallman@gmail.com. Ensuring that a single drop of blood isn't wasted is their way of honoring the selfless efforts of every generous donor.



Have one of these?



If you are a Kroger shopper you can support Churubusco United Methodist Church through their Kroger Community Rewards Program. Simply log into your Kroger account, enroll in Community Rewards, and search for and choose Churubusco United Methodist Church.

Food Ministry

FOOD MINISTRY OFFERS MANY THANKS AND HAS A NEED

Your generosity has been tremendous in helping the CUMC Fish & Loaves food ministry serve others - WE'RE VERY BLESSED BY ALL THAT WE RECEIVE FROM SO MANY!

- * Our pantry shelves are fuller thanks to those who donate items monthly and those who took part in the reverse Advent calendar.
- * SGCS students delivered non-perishable food, paper products & baby items they collect at school.
- * St John Bosco delivers donations weekly from their congregants.
- * Local farmers donate meat from livestock they have processed.
- * We have coats and shoes for our pantry clients thanks to many donors.
- * Churubusco IGA & Sav-U-Mor makes frequent donations of food items and paper bags.
- * Target, Walmart, Kroger & Aldi all donate food & other items weekly.
- * Community Harvest Food Bank supplies us with government commodities.
- * We have funds to purchase food & other items thanks to the generosity of our monetary donors within our congregation and community.

We share our abundance with many including our CUMC Preschool families, Martha's House, BABE of Whitley County, Churubusco Childcare Center, Whitley County Council on Aging, Cub Scouts, United Women of Faith, Shepherd's House, St Paul of the Cross Food Pantry and Ft Wayne homeless. Many people pick up our old bread and produce for their critters. The giveaway tables in Fellowship Hall are stocked with excess items for anyone to take.

We are very thankful for the 30+ volunteers who help with the food ministry every week! It takes many hands to help with food collection and to keep the shelves stocked plus serving food pantry patrons and our bi-weekly food giveaways.

We currently have need for daytime volunteers who are able to lift heavy boxes. If you'd like to learn more about joining our food ministry team please call the church office.



Upcoming Dates

- *February 13 - Food Giveaway
- *February 21 - Fellowship Meal
- *February 27 - Food Giveaway
- *March 12 - Food Giveaway
- *March 20 - Fellowship Meal
- *March 26 - Food Giveaway



Support Our Food Pantry

The **Last Sunday** of this month you have a chance to...

Be a blessing by donating

CANNED TUNA & PEANUT BUTTER

on Sunday, February 25th, 2024





Open Hands Ministry

This is a group for adults of all ages. We will focus on adult community, spiritual growth, and hands that seek to serve our church, our community and our world.

2024 Open Hands Mission Trip: Our team of 21 will be travelling to East Peoria, IL, April 3 – 7, 2024. Dayspring Native American UMC is located on a 42 wooded acre lot in the middle of a city. They have approximately 30 regular congregants. They worship Creator (Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit) using Native American music, drums, and ceremony as a way of connecting, praying and praising.

Some of the work needed at Dayspring ranges from organizing storage rooms, outdoor work, installing doors, trim and tile to name a few. With the vast project list, there will be something for each member of our team.

Thanks to all who supported our Bake Sale on December 17! What a great gift this has been!

Super Bowl Sunday Mission Trip fundraiser on February 11, 2024: Please support our Mission Trip Fundraiser. We will be offering a Nacho Dip & Chip combo preparing you for the game or and afternoon treat! This will be available to purchase after each service.

***Mission Trip Meeting Feb 18, 2024 from 2 - 5 pm in Fellowship Hall.** (includes Intercultural education (thanks to Jen Huff), Safe Sanctuary Training, and CPR and AED training (thanks to Kathy Shively), followed by our regular meeting)

***Bible Study Opportunity:** Five things God Uses to Grow Your Faith: Andy Stanley. Our study is held in the Seekers classroom. Join us from 5:30 – 7pm on Feb 8 (we will be on lesson 3)

Imagine how different your outlook on life would be if you had absolute confidence that God was with you. Imagine how differently you would respond to difficulties, temptations, and even good things if you believed with certainty that God was in all of it and was planning to leverage every circumstance for good.

***Open Hands Ministry participated with Blessed Portions to provide a meal to approximately 80 homeless on December 22, 2023, in Fort Wayne.** We were the ones who were greatly blessed as those we served shared their lives with us. Some shared of their struggles, their progress and their gratefulness for the gift of warm food and some necessities. We were so thrilled to take the donations provided by CUMC (gloves, hats, scarves, sweatshirts, socks, shoes, cookies, hand warmers, etc.). Many thanks to those who prepared the meal at CUMC and all whom went to serve.





United Women in Faith

KEEP IN MIND THAT ALL LADIES OF THE CHURCH—YOUNG, SENIORS AND THOSE IN BETWEEN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT MEETINGS—FRIENDS

Missions:

We have reinstated collecting shoes for Africa. You may put them in a container by the lounge near the phone and bookcases. This is a much needed item in the countries there.



Prayer Calendar

One of the great pleasures of teaching is witnessing students' faces light up as they suddenly reach a new insight.

The pandemic and the public health guidelines enacted by the Costa Rican ministry of education moved all classes online at our university before I arrived at my placement, and this situation continues as I write today. While technology has provided opportunities to stay connected with students living across Latin America and the Caribbean, I miss the energy and the personal encounters of the face-to-face classroom.

At the same time, navigating these challenges has provided another opportunity to witness God's great faithfulness.

Several of my students live in areas where internet connections are limited, which makes video conferencing difficult. Nevertheless, these amazingly dedicated students' passion for the learning and commitment to developing their knowledge and skills to serve God's people and all of creation are truly inspiring.

In their steadfast efforts to overcome daily challenges and in their dreams for a more just and loving future, I see God's faithfulness.

Ann Hidalgo, Global Missionary, Universidad Biblica Latinoamericana, (Latin American Biblical University), San

United Women in Faith News

Feb. 14 is our meeting date for this month in the church lounge at 9:00 a.m. Our program will be : A Call to Prayer & Self Denial 2024. Gifts and offerings for this event will support programs for Climate Justice put into action by U.W.F.

Devotions: Peggy Wise, Refreshments: Rita Frech

Will be sending valentines to shut-ins and others.

Bring a paper product for the Lighthouse/Mission 25 in Columbia City.

Save the date, 9-28-24, for our Fall Market fundraiser held outdoors in rented spaces, as we have been doing this for several years now.

Posters with info are available on the UWF bulletin board.

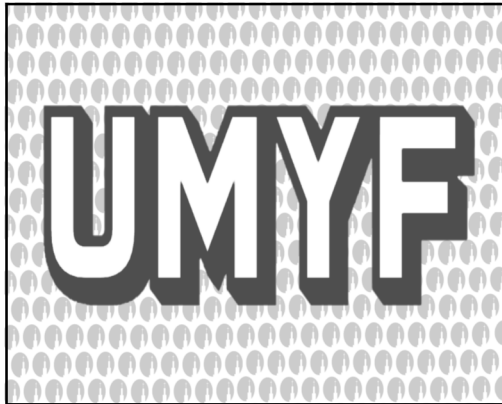
There is a supply of heart pillows with a scripture card in the workroom. These have been made by some of our ladies and we are grateful for their labor. If you know someone who may need encouragement, comfort, etc. Take one and put the recipients name in a small book by the pillows container. This is one of the ways we can share God's love.



Food Ministry Has Need for Coat Donations

The Food Ministry Team will again offer free “used, warm coats” to our pantry clients for this winter. If you have any coats that can be used—please put on the Coat Rack at the top of the stairway near the Fellowship Hall. We can use all sizes—children also—We will be asking our patrons to limit 2 coats/family so there will be enough for everyone.

Thanks for your help!



CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Youth Fellowship (UMYF)

6th-12th graders

**meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m.
in the Youth Room. Join us!!**



**Please come and join us for:
“OPEN DOORS” FELLOWSHIP MEAL
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 @ 5:30–6:30 P.M.**

**Children’s activities will be 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Everyone is welcome, so invite family, friends,
and neighbors to join you for food & fellowship.**

Upcoming Dates: March 20, April 17, May 15, June 19

Kid's Activity Page

Puzzle!

After solving the equations, write the words on the correct numbered lines below. Complete Ephesians 1:3 (NIV) to discover how God shows his great love for us.

$14 - 7 =$ ____ Father
 $10 + 9 =$ ____ heavenly
 $9 + 9 =$ ____ the
 $12 + 12 =$ ____ blessing
 $2 - 1 =$ ____ Praise
 $7 + 7 =$ ____ has
 $11 + 11 =$ ____ every
 $13 + 13 =$ ____ Christ
 $8 + 8 =$ ____ us
 $10 + 10 =$ ____ realms
 $8 + 9 =$ ____ in
 $5 + 5 =$ ____ Lord
 $10 + 11 =$ ____ with

$10 + 15 =$ ____ in
 $10 - 5 =$ ____ God
 $6 - 3 =$ ____ to
 $12 - 6 =$ ____ and
 $6 + 6 =$ ____ Christ
 $18 - 9 =$ ____ our
 $22 - 11 =$ ____ Jesus
 $1 + 1 =$ ____ be
 $7 + 6 =$ ____ who
 $2 + 2 =$ ____ the
 $10 + 5 =$ ____ blessed
 $4 + 4 =$ ____ of
 $10 + 13 =$ ____ spiritual

HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup cornstarch
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup water
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26		

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. Ephesians 1:3, NIV



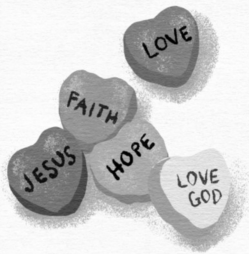
Children And Family Ministries 2024

Scrip is Fundraising While You Shop!™



SCRIP IS FUNDRAISING WHILE YOU SHOP!

Scrip Fundraising for children and youth ministries has more possibilities than just purchasing physical gift cards. You can create your own account by going to <http://www.ShopWithScrip.com> and follow the instructions to "Create Account". Ask Bev Huntsman for the enrollment code so CUMC gets the credit. You can order ecards and reload certain physical cards that you have purchased through Scrip. If you are interested, ask Bev Huntsman for more information. By the way....we now have \$10 Magic Wand Cards on hand.



Nursery School Notes February 2024

January Review: We made snow pictures, and worked on shapes, colors and letter recognition. Making vegetable (stone) soup was fun. Thank you for the vegetables, crackers and supplies.

February: February is a busy month. We celebrate Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day and Ground Hog Day.

February Units: We will continue to work on letter recognition, shapes and colors. We will

be using these skills on our Valentines.

Reading: Reading to your child is very important. It develops a calm, quiet closeness to your child, improves their attention span and listening skills. Hearing words read in a clear voice improves speech skills in young children. It is also very enjoyable for parents and children.

Love Month: February is Love Month and we talk about God's love for us, our love for Him and the love for our family and friends.

Valentine Party: Our Valentine Party will be on Wednesday, February 14th. We encourage the children to exchange Valentines with friends. **To make the exchange work more smoothly, help your child print his or her name on the Valentine card and leave the envelope blank.** The children can drop a card in each friend's bag without teachers help. The children will decorate bags for their Valentines and feel free to send a special treat that day.

REGISTRATION: We will begin taking registrations for the 2024-2025 school year on Fridays in February and continue on Fridays through the coming months. If you want to RE-REGISTER for the 2024-2025 school year, current paper work is good for one more year. **(Unless you have made changes)** The \$55.00 registration fee will be due to secure an A.M. or P.M. spot. Requests for new students can be sent home with your child or parents can come in on Fridays.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 12th Mom's Night @ 7:00 P.M.

We do have School on Feb 16th and Feb. 19th (Smith Green is off)

A.M. Conferences Wednesday March 20th

P.M. Conferences Wednesday March 27th

Spring Break March 29th -April 5th

NURSERY SCHOOL STAFF

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for love
and helping me
love my family.
Help me show love
to everyone
around me even
when I don't feel
like it. Amen

*Thank
you*

★ Thanks and much love for all the prayers lifted up in our time of grief. Though we knew his heart was bad, it was unexpected. The luncheon was delicious and very appreciated. It is wonderful to have a church family.
Bob and Karen Lahr

★ Thank you, church family, for the generous Christmas gift. I appreciate each one of you. Happy New Year to all.
Rosalie Geller

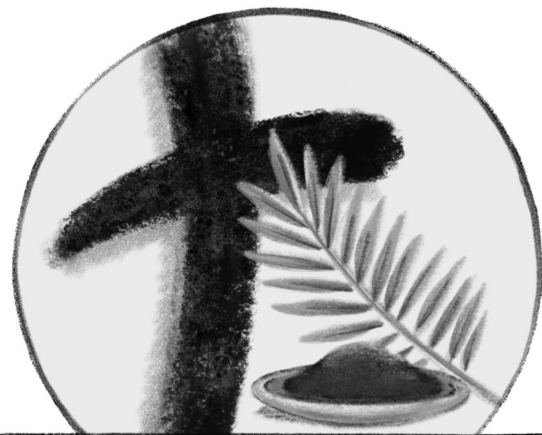
★ Dear CUMC Church Family, thank you all so much for the cards, hugs, gifts, and reception with the yummy cake and refreshments! My family and I have been blessed for 14 years by all of you. I will miss being at the church daily but look forward to worshipping with you on Sundays. Thank you again!
Love, Jennifer Meyer

Churubusco UWF will be hosting a Fall Market outdoor event on September 28, 2024, from 9 am – 2pm. This is during the town-wide garage sale. We welcome all (including hand crafted items, antiques, bargain finds and treasures and food trucks). We are excited to offer booth spaces for Rent for \$25/each. Registration forms are available on the CUMC Bulletin boards, they contain additional information on the back of the form. Also feel free to contact Denise Geller at 260-625-4786 for more details.

UPCOMING

*Mark your
Calendars!*

- February 14 ~ Ash Wednesday
- March 24 ~ March 30 ~ Holy Week
- March 30 ~ Easter Egg Hunt
- March 31 ~ Easter Sunday



Ash Wednesday



Check out our
homepage at
www.churubuscoumc.org

WITH DEEPEST
sympathy

*Extending deep and heartfelt sympathy
to you and your family*

**KERRY RAPP
MARILYN ROSENTRADER**

*The above names were listed in the
prayer book for JANUARY*



Get all the latest news and pictures of
all the great ministry happenings.

*Search for "Churubusco UMC"
and like us today!*

Better yet, share what we are posting so
that others may be included into our
awesome community!

BUILDING WEATHER CLOSURE POLICY

The building will only be closed and all activities
cancelled whenever there is a Travel Warning (red)
declared for Whitley County. Find the current
advisory levels here:

www.in.gov/dhs/traveladvisory/



Please take time to wish
those with February birthdays
a "Happy Birthday!"

Robin Smallwood	02/02
Luke Wilson	02/04
Autumn Stein	02/06
Jann Johnson	02/08
Michele Sade	02/09
Randall Keller	02/10
Kay Price	02/11
Barry Anderson	02/15
Lorele Yager	02/17
Ariya Johnson	02/18
Wilbur Shank	02/18
Callahan Ostrowski	02/19
Larry Shively	02/23
Kerry Perlich	02/25





Churubusco United Methodist Church
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Churubusco, IN 46723
Phone: (260) 693-2154
Email: cumc99@aol.com

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Valentine's Blessings to:

Worship Opportunities

8:15 a.m. Sunday Worship (Hymnal/Organ)
9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship (Praise Band)



FEBRUARY 2024

*"By the sweat of your
brow you will eat your
food until you return to
the ground, since from it
you were taken; for dust
you are and to dust you
will return."*

Genesis 3:19

