

# The Messenger

November 2024

Darlington United Methodist Church

Dave Bushfield, Interim Pastor

Church phone: 765-794-4824 Website: [www.umcdarlington.org](http://www.umcdarlington.org)

P. O. Box 86, Darlington, IN 47940-0086

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Vision: By being a visible sign of restoration and hope in this community

**Open Hearts**

**Open Minds**

**Open Doors**

## A Shepherd's Sharing:

November 2024

Is November here already? How can that be? Seriously!! That can only mean that it is time to give thanks. And boy, do we have a lot to be thankful for. At the time I am writing this, there has been no political winner declared in our nation's presidential election, but I am going to be grateful when that race is over! Tensions are high, and will continue to remain this way, even as you read this. I have been praying for our nation as it heads towards the conclusion of this political mayhem that happens every 4 years. But don't get me wrong...even though it is messy and contentious, it is necessary and a gift that we can celebrate in our great land. I always try and do my civic duty to vote, because I know that is how our land is set up to succeed, for us all to do our part. I hope that no matter who wins the election, you find it in your heart to pray for the nation and our leadership. Pray that they have Godly wisdom and discernment on how to handle worldly affairs and that our world stay a safe place for all of humanity. The leader of our nation truly is the leader of the free world. So, this is very serious, and I hope you join me in praying for them. It can be very tempting to be cynical and negative but try and uphold this office and the person in it in prayer before God Almighty!

Speaking of leadership, it was announced just a few short days ago, that I will be permanently at BOTH Colfax United Methodist Church and Darlington United Methodist Church. I can hardly contain my excitement about the opportunity that I have in leading two amazing congregations in ministry. Both churches are steeped in tradition and success and have amazing leadership from the lay people already. I want to recognize all of your hard work and let you know that I believe you have been, and I expect will continue to do, good work for the Kingdom of God!

I want to publicly thank Pastor Dirk and Cathy Caldwell for their wonderful leadership of Darlington UMC the past 5 years. As Pastor Dirk continues to serve as a reserve officer in the US Navy as a chaplain, please keep them both in your prayers for his safety and leadership to our young men and woman in our nation's military branches. Thank you, Pastor Dirk, for serving our great country! I would also like to thank the District Superintendents, Rev. Lore Gibson and Rev. Dr. A. Fulbright, for entrusting me with a second church. Thank you for your Godly leadership and counsel over the past few months. I look forward to growing in my faith and leadership with this opportunity.

I have been serving Darlington UMC since Easter Sunday this year and have enjoyed getting to know many new faces these past 6 months. Shepherding two churches on a permanent basis means the flock has gotten bigger, and with this, more opportunities will be there for us to find ways to build relationships and build Kingdom. I can only see good things coming down the road for us all!

Please be sure to reach out to me if you have any questions about anything. I will have an office day at each church if you want to come in and see me or give me a call anytime about anything. Colfax office hours Tuesday's 9-1 and Darlington office hours Wednesday's 8-12. Let's continue to grow together in our faith walk and pursue the mission of the United Methodist Church to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." We can start in Darlington and Colfax! Let's do this!

In Christ!  
Pastor David

## Sermon Info for November 2024 Prayer Focus Opportunity

**November 3, 2024, Sunday after Pentecost**

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 24

Revelation 21:1-6a

John 11:32-44

**Preaching Text:** Psalm 103

**Sermon:** We the People United In Christ

**Prayer Focus:** The election is this week...pray for all people running for office as our public leaders. Pray for safety for all people casting votes. Pray for peace and harmony in our nation.

**November 10, 2024, Sunday after Pentecost**

Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17

Psalms 127 or Psalm 42

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

**Preaching Text:** 2 Timothy 2:3-19

**Sermon:** Soldier for the Lord

**Prayer Focus:** Veterans Day is Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup>. Pray for all veterans and spouses. Pray for those who are still serving our nation. Pray for the nation of Israel and for its security and protection.

**November 17, 2024, Sunday after Pentecost**

1 Samuel 1:4-20

Psalms 113

Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25

Mark 13:1-8

**Preaching Text:** Luke 14:12-24

**Sermon:** The Invitation

**Prayer Focus:** Colfax UMC Dinner Church first meal will be served on Tuesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. Pray for all who are serving and for God to open doors for those in our community to come and receive and be blessed with a good mean and sweet fellowship.

**November 24, 2024, Sunday after Pentecost**

2 Samuel 23:1-7

Psalms 132:1-12

Revelations 1:4b-8

John 18:33-37

**Preaching Text:** Romans 8:12-17

**Sermon:** Giving Thanks for Being God's Children

**Prayer Focus:** Thanksgiving is this week. Pray for families to gather together and for the Holy Spirit to be present among all believers to help be a light to loved ones who walk in darkness. Pray for courage to speak honestly and openly about the things of righteousness and not be hidden when the enemy raises his voice. Pray for love to soften hearts of all God's children.

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## November Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary to all our members and friends who have birthdays or anniversaries this month. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*May God lead you and guide you always.  
Long life is in your right hand;  
in your left hand are riches and honor.  
Proverbs 3:16*

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## Dates to Remember

All Saints' Sunday	November 3
Daylight Saving Time Ends	November 3
Election Day	November 5
Veterans Day	November 11
Newsletter Articles Due	November 18
Hanging of the Greens/Brunch	November 24
Thanksgiving	November 28
Advent Begins	December 1
Ad Council Mtg., 6 p	December 9
German Christmas Eve Service	
Colfax UMC, 4 p	December 24
Christmas Eve Service, 7 p	December 24
Christmas Eve Service	
Colfax UMC, 11 p	December 24
Christmas	December 25
New Year's Eve Service, 2 p	December 31
New Year's Eve Service	
Colfax UMC, 4 p	December 31
New Year's Day	January 1

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## Silly Dates to Remember

Deviled Eggs Day	November 2
Saxophone Day	November 6
Bittersweet Chocolate/Almonds	November 7
Tongue Twister Day	November 8
World Kindness Day	November 13
Pickle Day	November 14
Fast Food Day	November 16
National Play Monopoly Day	November 19
Cake Day	November 26
Black Friday	November 29
Computer Security Day	November 30

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*In-Person Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.*

*Fellowship Time - 10:00 a.m.*

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## Announcements for the Bulletin

Please contact Dustin Gardner at 317-220-7667 or [dustin-gardner@gmail.com](mailto:dustin-gardner@gmail.com) by Wednesday, if you need any announcement included in the bulletin on the following Sunday morning.

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## Wheelchair Available

If anyone is in need of a wheelchair to get from the Lift Chair to the pew, one is available in the vestibule. Please ask and it will be made available to you.

Thank You.



## What's Coming Up...

### Welcome To Darlington UMC, Pastor Dave

The announcement was made Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> that Pastor Dave will be replacing Pastor Dirk as our pastor. With the uncertainty of Pastor Dirk's military assignments, it was the Conference's decision to appoint Pastor Dave to pastor both the Darlington and Colfax UMC's. We are sad to see Pastor Dirk and Cathy move on to another chapter of their life, but we are pleased to welcome Pastor Dave. There will be no change to our service time. So, let's welcome Pastor Dave to this permanent appointment.

### Office Hours

Pastor Dave's Office Hours will be  
Wednesday 8:30 – 12:30  
or by appointment.

P. O. Box 121 (mailing address)  
207 W. Jackson Street  
Colfax, IN 46035-0121

[dave.bushfield@inumc.org](mailto:dave.bushfield@inumc.org)

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### Daylight Savings Time Ends



It's time to change the clocks back an hour. Early on Sunday morning at 2 a.m. **the time changes.** So before you go to bed on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, you will need to set your clocks back...unless you are fortunate and have an automatic digital or smart clock that will adjust to the correct time. We will gain an hour on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you don't change your clocks, you will be coming to church an hour early and that would be a good time to be in prayer.

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### Election 2024 – Good Wisdom for Voting

John Wesley the first Methodist, had this advice for Christians during elections. "I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them:



1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy.
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against.
3. To take care that their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side."

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### Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Even though we were studying the book of Ezra, we have paused after chapter 6 to find out what the prophets of the day are saying! They were sent by God to encourage the people. We all need a little encouragement now and then, so join us as we see who is speaking and how their words play out in our lives today. We are meeting **at 9:00 every Wednesday morning** in the Fellowship Room. It is a great time of studying and sharing. The coffee awaits you! If you can't join, send me your email and I will forward the handouts to you if you'd like to participate from home.

In Christ, we stand.

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## The ReinDEAR Program

We will have three children to provide Christmas for this year. Ages and sizes will be available later this month. We will also know closer to the time when the date of delivery will be. Remember these items do not need to be wrapped, but you can include wrapping paper for the gifts.



This is such a worthwhile program and helps those who need a little love extended to them to make it through the holidays.

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## Tongue Twister Day November 8

Betty Botter bought some butter  
But she said the butter's bitter  
If I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter  
But a bit of better butter will make my batter better  
So 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter

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## Hanging of the Greens

This year Advent season starts the first Sunday in December. We will have the Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** directly after our 9 a.m. service. A **Pitch-in Brunch** will be served immediately afterwards in the basement. Please join us! Many hands make for small work and what better way to kick of the Advent season of 2024 than by spending some quality time with your church family!



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## Pitch-In Brunch, November 24th



Come and enjoy the fellowship after decorating the Sanctuary. We will have a **Pitch-in Brunch/Lunch** in the basement. A sign-up sheet will be in the Fellowship Room. If you can't bring something, please stay and eat with us. God always provides.

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**Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks, unto thee do we give thanks: for that thy name is near thy wondrous works declare.**  
*Psalm 75:1*

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*No matter what you are going through,  
you are not alone.  
God is always by your side!*



## Special Services in December. . .

### German Christmas Eve Service Colfax UMC

Mark your calendars because we have been invited to attend a traditional German Christmas Eve Service delivered by Pastor Esther Berger at the **Colfax UMC on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m.** This service will be given in German and translated into English. The church is located at 114 N. Oakland Street, Colfax, IN. All are welcome to attend.



## *Frohe Weihnachten*

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### Candlelight Service



### Christmas Eve at Darlington UMC

At 7 p.m. Darlington UMC will have a Candlelight Service for Christmas Eve. Join us as we await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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### Christmas Eve at Colfax UMC

If you can't make it to Darlington UMC for the Christmas Eve Service, you are welcome to come to Colfax UMC and join them at 11 p.m. for their Candlelight Service. Don't miss the chance to celebrate our Lord's birth. The church is located at 114 N. Oakland Street, Colfax, IN



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### New Year's Eve Service

We will celebrate the year we had (2024) and look forward to the year we will have (2025). We will commence to look back on all the good things that took place during the year, Some of the things we will be doing in remembering the past year will be to honor those who have had significant life changing events. Personal and spiritual. Babies that have been born, marriages, milestones anniversaries or birthdays, recognize the oldest member of the congregation and the youngest, deaths, and baptisms. Join us at **Darlington UMC at 2 p.m.** or at **Colfax UMC at 4 p.m.**

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## Church Business

### Ad Council

Seven members were present when the meeting was called to order with prayer at 6 p.m. The minutes were approved as sent electronically.

Two scriptures Psalm 78:72 (**And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them.**) and Proverbs 11:14 (**For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers**) were read. Pastor said he appreciated the church. Then he announced that he had been permanently appointed as Pastor of Darlington UMC. We were asked the questions: "Why does this church exist? If we didn't exist what would the town be missing?" This gave us something to think about.

1. Hanging of the Greens on November 24<sup>th</sup> with a Pitch-in Brunch afterwards,
2. Christmas Eve Service at 7 p.m.
3. New Year's Eve Service at 2 p.m.

Charge Conference will be held on November 17<sup>th</sup> at the First UMC in Crawfordsville at 2 p.m. Missions Chair and Worship Chair are stepping down from their positions. They will be sorely missed. The Nominating Committee will meet to fill the positions.

The treasurer gave the Financial Report. He sent the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter pledge to Guatemala and will send the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter soon. The Finance Treasurer and Chair will meet to prepare the budget for 2025 so it can be approved at the December Ad Council meeting.

The Trustee Chair gave the Trustees report. This year both oil furnaces have been replaced with gas furnaces. The west wall of the sanctuary had to be repaired. The kitchen cabinets and appliances in the parsonage have been replaced. The Committee will do an insurance review after Charge Conference on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Prior to Charge Conference the Trustees will inspect the parsonage. They will also check to see if there needs to be any Preventive Maintenance (PM's) done to the furnaces of the church.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was closed with prayer. Our next meeting will be on **December 9, 2024, at 6 p.m.**

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### Financial Report January – September, 2024 (YTD)

Thank you for your blessed giving. Jesus is our shepherd and together we will become a strong body. Take time to reflect on what he endured for our salvation.

Dan Hampton, Treasurer

God is good – All the time.  
All the time – God is good.

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### Fear of the Lord

*The fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom.*  
*Psalm 111:10*

We know that "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18), so you would think that there would be no place for persistent fear. We are assured time and again in God's Word that we do not need to fear the future; He will take care of us.

But what about another kind of fear – fear of God? Do I fear God? Oh, yes, but it is the kind of fear that is the beginning of wisdom. You can replace the word "fear" with "reverence" or "awe." We should be in awe of God: His power, His love, His grace, His compassion. How could we not be in awe of Him?

As believers, we should have that kind of fear, which is actually reverence of God.

Then there's the fear of God's judgment. "Justice for man comes from the Lord" (Proverbs 29:26). "We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God" (Roman 14:10).

I believe I would sum it all up by quoting yet another verse: "The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened" (Proverbs 10:27).

God said it. I believe it!

Taken from Great is Thy Faithfulness, October 18, by Larry Burkett

## Missions

We have several opportunities for you to get involved. Each opportunity is a wonderful way to reach out to the community around us. **But please, don't feel that you must be involved in every project that is offered.** Pick what you are passionate about and give whatever support you can. Thanks for your help.

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### National Safe Haven Alliance Kroger Community Rewards



The Kroger Family of Companies is committed to community engagement, positive social impact and charitable giving at the national and local levels. Every community is unique, but our common goal is to partner with the neighborhoods we serve and help the people there live healthier lives.

One of the ways in which we do this is through our Kroger Community Rewards program. This program makes fundraising easy by donating to local organizations based on the shopping you do every day. Once you link your Card to an organization, all you have to do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Shopper's Card. Here's how it works:

**Whether you're a customer or an organization, get started today!**

Note: If you are a customer, make sure you have a preferred store selected to view participating organizations. If you are applying on behalf of an organization, please select a store in the same area as your organization.

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### Guatemalan Project

Hi Diana -

I hope you are having a great start to fall!

The school year is getting close to completion for our scholarship students. The year begins in January and runs to late October /early November.

We have held more workshops recently with the scholarship students and their parents. The workshops for 2024 have included:

- an art workshop for incoming 7th grade students,
- a day for girls workshops for 7th and 8th grade girls and also for all moms of 7th and 8th grade students,
- a self-esteem workshop for 7th, 8th and 9th grade students,
- a leadership and safety on the internet were the workshop topics for the 10th, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students,
- and a safety on the internet, bullying, drug use and depression were the workshop topics for parents.

All of the workshops were led by local psychologists.

We are so grateful for the continued support of the program!

Doing all the good we can together...  
Leigh



**Leigh Randall**  
Director of Development,  
Mission Guatemala  
1-800-563-8103  
[leigh@missionguatemala.org](mailto:leigh@missionguatemala.org)

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## Backpack Program

Come to the church basement any **Thursday at 9:30 a.m.** and help pack for the weekend.

We have sufficient funds for shopping for anyone wishing to help, so please contact Lynn Cox. Drinks and cereal deplete rapidly, since we send out 42 boxes of milk and juice each week. Cereal in individually packed bags are also given out at that rate which this number fluctuates all the time.

Thank you to all for whatever help you have done or can do to help with this project.



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## Hygiene Bags.

We are collecting items for the hygiene bags for the school. This will be an on-going project because there is a real need at all the schools. You can place the items in drawers in the east Vestibule. All bags need the following:



Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Shampoo	Soap
Deodorant	Mouth Wash
	Feminine Hygiene

**These items need be small travel sizes please.**  
Thank you for your help.

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## Bottle Caps for Benches

You know all those bottles with the lids you throw away. Benches are made from these lids. Save them, bring them to church, and they will be delivered. The caps cannot be any larger than 6". Don't put them in the recycle because they just throw them in the trash and you know where that goes – into huge trash hills that are becoming mountains right here in Indiana.

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## PB&J Mission

**The need right now is more JELLY!**

We have become the "Peanut Butter and Jelly Church." We are providing our collected goods to the FISH Food Pantry and they have indicated they are always in need of peanut butter and jelly. They like grape jelly the best.



We will keep track of our collection throughout the year as we did in 2023, and this will go towards our donation/missions numbers for the year. DUMC is an incredibly generous and caring church, and we are going to keep track of not only the PB&J donations, but all of the generous in kind donations that you all show all year, every year.

Thank You for your help.

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## Our Shut-In List

Our Shut-Ins, need their days brightened with visits, mail, calls, and including them in your daily prayers.

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Please remember the following members and friends of our church family in your daily prayers.

Thank you for your continued prayer.

### Praises

Christ the Lord is Risen!!  
Baptisms  
New jobs  
Successful surgeries/procedures  
Harvest  
PB & J abundance  
Weddings  
Recovery from illnesses and COVID

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### Other prayer needs:

Children in backpack ministry – needs are met  
Community, State, Nation, World and all the leaders  
Darlington UMC, Christ UMC, and UMC at large,  
Congregational Christian Church, and East Christian Church  
Families of those who have passed  
Relocation to South Carolina  
Darlington UMC and changes that need to be made  
Farmers  
Our school children, teachers, support administrators  
Our college students  
Our Guatemalan children  
Our Guatemalan Project  
Those in foster care and all the challenges they face  
Upcoming elections in November  
Victims of wild fires  
Victims of hate crimes and discrimination  
Victims in Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Maui, Haiti, Israel



staff, and

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**Those who serve during worship and fellowship.**

**Those in treatment or suffering with cancer.**

**Those Serving in the military**

**Those with other health**

***Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.***  
**1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**

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Dear Father,

We lift up all those who are facing illness or other adversities in their bodies and minds today. We ask that you bring comfort, peace, and healing. Surround them with your love and touch their bodies with your healing hands.



Amen

***My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.***  
**James 1:19-20**