

The Messenger

March 2025

Darlington United Methodist Church

Dave Bushfield, Pastor

Church phone: 765-794-4824 Website: 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

Of Shepherd's Sharing: The Tree

Jeremiah 17:7-8 says, "Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."

Just a few weeks ago, I shared a larger part of this passage at church, as it was part of the lectionary readings for that Sunday. While I was preparing to share the benediction and close the service, I felt led to share with the congregation an image the Holy Spirit downloaded upon me while I was standing there.

I saw a tree by a stream, like the verse describes. But then I saw the image in an added dimension, as the Lord spoke to my spirit and said, "As people of faith, we are to be planted by the stream. We are to be active in our spiritual disciplines like praying, reading the Bible (studying God's Word), worshipping the Lord with our time in music and fellowship with likeminded believers. These disciplines allow our roots to grow deep, so when storms hit, and they will hit, our roots hold us fast. They hold because they have been fed by Him.

Then I saw people coming to the trees, seeking shelter. Some from the storms of life. Trying to find a place to be shielded from the downpour of oppression and depression that they are being deluged with. Others come to sit under their branches on a hot day, resting, wanting a break from the heat and the monotonous grind of daily living. The people I saw in my vision saw the trees as a place of refuge. They were seeking the Lord, and for some of them, they didn't even know that. They were just wanting to hit a pause button on their life so they could rest.

Our trust in the Lord, and the disciplines we apply to our Christian walk will give us the ability to help others when they come seeking a place of refuge. Just be who God has made you to be.

The important thing is we have a good root system. Our tree needs to be strong and healthy. We can't become lazy or satisfied with where we stand in our faith walk. We need to constantly be asking God, how can I trust you more? What can I do to grow in You more?

After sharing this with the congregation, I had a gentleman come forward and share a story with me. He said a good friend of his was just diagnosed with cancer and the diagnosis wasn't good. His friend opened up and shared his heart with him. It was after hearing my words that this man realized, his friend had come to him to sit and rest. To take refuge in the presence of God in the midst of chaos of his life. It was the God in this man who his friend was seeking. And so, it is with all of us. We can all be used like this, so long as we allow our roots to be healthy.

So please take care of yourself spiritually speaking. Do what you need to do to make sure your roots are nourished. You never know when someone will come and sit under your tree, wanting nothing but a little peace or maybe hint of hope...that there is more to life than their current situation. In those moments...TRUST in the LORD!

~IN HIM, Pastor Dave

*In-Person Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time - 10:00 a.m.*

March 2025 Scripture Reading

March 2, 2025, Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalms 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



March 5, 2025, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-19

Psalms 51:1-13 (14-19)

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:(1-6) 16-21

March 9, 2025, 1st Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalms 91:1-13

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 16, 2025, 2nd Sunday in Lent

Jeremiah 26:8-15

Psalms 4

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 23, 2025, 3rd Sunday in Lent

Ezekiel 33:7-20

Psalms 85

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 30, 2025, 4th Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 12:1-6

Psalms 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Pastor Dave's Office Hours

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

P. O. Box 121 (mailing address)
207 W. Jackson Street
Colfax, IN 46035-0121
dave.bushfield@inumc.org



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and 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**

Dates to Remember

Ash Wednesday, 7 p.	March 5
Daylight Saving Time Begins	March 9
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Spring Equinox	March 20
Community Dinner 11:30 a.	March 30
Palm Sunday	April 13
Maundy Thursday, 7 p.	April 17
Good Friday, 7 p.	April 18
Easter Sunrise, 7 a.	April 20
Easter Breakfast, 8 a.	April 20
Easter Worship	April 20

Silly Dates to Remember

Dr. Seuss Day	March 2
Read Across America	March 3
Shrove Tuesday	March 4
Doodle Day	March 7
Plant a Flower Day	March 12
Let's Laugh Day	March 19
Purple Day	March 26
Crayola Crayon Day	March 31

Announcements for the Bulletin

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



Easter Lilies

This year we will be purchasing a limited number of lilies to decorate the sanctuary for Easter. We will be accepting free-will donations to help off-set the cost **from March 30th to April 13th**. If donations exceed the cost of the lilies, the extra money will be given to the Grace Fund. If you would like to make a donation and add a name to the "In Honor Of" or "In Memory Of" list, please contact Cheryl Greene either at church or at **765-376-9144** or cherylgreene5@gmail.com.

Thank you for your help in giving the church a little pazazz during the holidays.

**Cultivate forbearance till your heart yields a fine crop of it.
Pray for a short memory as to all unkindnesses.**

Charles Spurgeon
Taken from ideals, Vol 55, No. 4

What's Coming Up . . .

Ash Wednesday

Traditionally, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent, which ends on Easter Sunday. This year Ash Wednesday falls on **March 5th**. We are invited to join Colfax UMC at **114 N. Oakland Street, Colfax, IN at 7 p.m.** Pastor Dave will be conducting an Ash Wednesday Service for both churches.



Lan Davis Wilson



Lan Davis Wilson is the Associate Director for Diversity and Inclusion. He is a Kentucky native who has been serving in ministry on church staffs since he was ten years old. He comes to Indiana having served on the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference staff and prior to that as a teaching and worship pastor in the Susquehanna Conference. Lan comes from four

generations of pastors and preachers and has traveled the world doing ministry. He is not only a minister and educator, but also a trained coach and consultant.

During the pandemic, he led teams that developed worship and justice resources to aid churches that have been used in every jurisdiction of the US, all around the world and across several other denominations.

From his early days in the small rural church, to his upbringing at a dynamic church in the projects, to one of the fastest growing churches in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, to new church plants, historic churches, and Cross-racial Cross-Cultural assignments, Lan is experienced in many different church settings and enjoys connecting with churches and leaders everywhere.

We welcome Lans to our pulpit on March 9th. Be in prayer for Lans as he prepares to speak to us. Also, be in prayer for Pastor Dave as he travels to Switzerland to visit with Esther.

INFORMATION SUNDAY!!!

Have you ever wondered about the different committees in the church? It takes a committed team of volunteers to lead our church. As the pastor, I am beyond thankful for everything that these individuals do to keep things going at the church. On March 16th, we will be hearing from several of the chairpersons of different committees. They will share what the committee's responsibilities are, and how they see God moving in their area of ministry. Please join us on this Sunday to hear and learn how God may be calling you to help serve in the future. It will be a very casual service as these chairpersons will speak in place of the sermon. There will be extra singing this Sunday! Please plan to join us!

Fifth Sunday Dinner at the Community Center



Mark your calendars. The Community Center will host a **5th Sunday Dinner** as a fund raiser on **Sunday, March 30th from 11:30 to 1:30**. Come and

enjoy the meal and great fellowship with our neighbors. A free-will donation is always welcomed.

Donations of desserts are always welcome. If you have a favorite salad or dessert you would like to share with the community, please bring it to the Community Center before church.

Thank You.

**Don't be afraid! Stand still and you will see the Lord save you today.
Exodus 14:13 (NCV)**

2025 Montgomery County Women's Lenten Breakfast

Theme: Perseverance in Temptations

'Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him.'

James 1:12

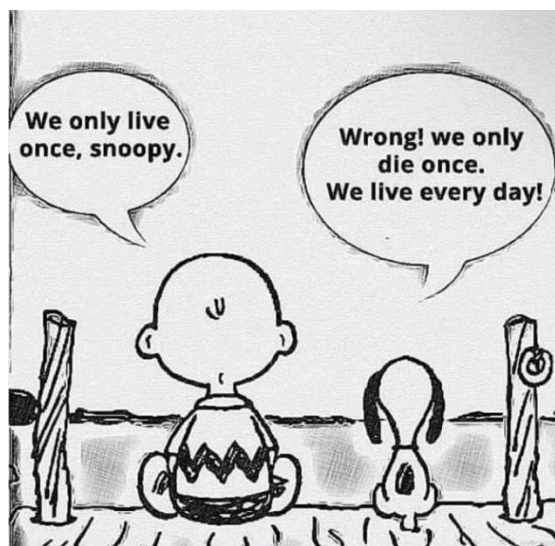
Song: "I am the Lord of Sea and Sky"

- March 8** **New Market Baptist Church**
106 1st Street
New Market, IN
Speaker: Sharon Sharp
- March 15** **Liberty Chapel**
3942 W. 500 N.
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Darcey Threlkeld
- March 22** **Mt. Zion and Friendship Baptist Church**
Hosted at Mt. Zion Church
2131 W. Black Creek Valley Road
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Ashley Summers
- March 29** **Darlington Congregational Christian Church**
101 Academy Street
Darlington, IN
Speaker: Rhoda Ames
- April 5** **Whitesville Chrisitan Church**
3603 S. Ladoga Road
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Donja Schindler
- April 12** **Wabash Avenue Presbyterian**
307 S. Washington Street
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: TBA

Doors Open at 7:45 a.m.
Breakfast Served: 8 a.m.
Program: 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Love Offering Appreciated

The purpose of the Women's Breakfasts is to bring together women of all faith denominations into a spirit of Christian fellowship, in a spiritual setting with time for prayer and reflection.



2025 Montgomery County Men's Lenten Breakfast

*Stand firm in faith, act like men, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love.*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

- March 8** **Whitesville Christian Church**
3603 S. Ladoga Road
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Phil Gabriel
- March 15** **Darlington Christian Church**
101 Washington Street
Darlington, IN
Speaker: Jeff Korhorn
- March 22** **First Baptist Church**
1905 Lebanon Road
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Jake Gilbert
- March 29** **Harvest Fellowship**
1618 W. 500 S.
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: John Froedge
- April 5** **Liberty Chapel**
3942 W. 500 N.
Crawfordsville, IN
Speaker: Allen Sparks
- April 12** **The Inn Gathering**
120 E. Plum Street
Linden, IN
Speaker: Jordan McGaughey



Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Attention All Ladies!

Even though we are not meeting for a couple of months at DUMC, Wednesday Morning Bible studies continue in Naples, Florida.

I have an amazing group of ladies who show up weekly to study the Word. We are studying the book of Esther right now and the plan is to complete it by the time David and I leave here in late March. If you'd like to follow along with us, send me your email address and I will add it to the list. I am sending out weekly handouts to help you navigate through each chapter. The Book of Esther reads much like a novel including romance, mystery, suspense, surprise happenings and more. It is one of only two books in the Bible named after a woman. I'd be delighted to have you "join" us.

Sunny blessings from Naples,
Diana.

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.

Sin is the backward pull of an outworn good.

Dr. Shaler Matthews
University of Chicago's School of Religion

Holy Week Services

Easter Week will be here before we know it. We are beginning our preparation to celebrate our Risen Lord. Easter Week will begin with Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem to be met by joyous crowds chanting "Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord..." on Palm Sunday, to Maundy Thursday with the Last Supper in the Upper Room and his betrayal and capture, to His Crucifixion on Good Friday, and to His joyous Resurrection on Easter Morning. Come and join us for all the events of the week.

Breakfast will be served immediately after the Sunrise Service. Be watching for a sign-up sheet for breakfast.

Palm Sunday
Sunday, April 13
Worship Service – 9 a.m.

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 17
7 p.m.

Good Friday
Friday, April 18
7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise
Sunday, April 20
7 a.m.

Breakfast immediately following service

East Christian Church will be joining us for the service. 😊

Easter Worship Service
Sunday, April 20
9 a.m.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

It's time to change push clocks forward an hour. Early on Sunday morning at 2 a.m. **the time changes**. So before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th, you will need to set your clocks back... unless you are fortunate and have an atomic digital or smart clock that will adjust to the correct time. We will lose an hour on March 9th. If you don't change your clocks, you will be coming to church an hour late.





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!!

Other prayer needs

A need for volunteers to help with Nursery
Children in backpack ministry – needs are met
Community, State, Nation, World and all the leaders
Darlington UMC, Colfax UMC, Christ UMC, and UMC at large,
Congregational Church, and East Christian Church
Our school children, teachers, support staff, and administrators
Our college students
Our Guatemalan children
Our Guatemalan Project
Those in California with all the devastation
Those in foster care and all the challenges they face
Those working outside in the cold
Truck drivers and others who have to be on the road
Victims of wild fires, floods, and tornadoes
Victims of hate crimes and discrimination
Victims in Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Maui, Haiti, Israel

Those in treatment or suffering with cancer

Those Serving in the military

All those being deployed and all our military, home or overseas

Those with other health issues



North Montgomery Community School Corp

Charger Send Off for the Class of 2025!

We're excited to continue the cherished Charger

Send Off tradition at North Montgomery High School to celebrate our graduating seniors!

We invite family members, friends, guardians, grandparents, employers, former teachers, current teachers, and everyone in between to write a heartfelt letter to their graduating senior. These letters will be handed out to each senior following their cookout in late May, creating unforgettable memories as they prepare to embark on their next journey.

How to Participate:

Mail letters or cards (no gifts or money) to North Montgomery High School by May 1st. Include the senior's first and last name under "NMHS" on the envelope.

Example: NMHS

Joe Smith
5945 North US HWY 231
Crawfordsville, IN 47933



Let's make this graduation season truly special for our Class of 2025! Thank you for your love, support, and participation.

[#ChargerPride](#) [#ClassOf2025](#)

If you would love to write to seniors that might not otherwise get a letter, you can most definitely do this. On the envelope, simply address it as **"Extra senior letter"** in place of their name. We do ensure that everyone receives at least one letter.

Thank you!

Shelly Chastain Crowe
Kim Carter Johnson



*But it is for you, O Lord, that I wait;
it is you, O Lord my God, who will answer.*

Psalms 38:15

Sometimes my heart is so overwhelmed, God, that I don't know where to begin my prayer. Help me to quiet my soul and remember that you know everything inside of my mind before I ever come to you with it. But still, I need to tell you about it, Lord, and I know that you have said that you want me to tell you. Thank you for being such a faithful listener and for caring about everything that concerns me. When I remember that, it helps me slow down, and take a deep breath, and finally begin the conversation. OK. I'm ready now to talk . . . and to listen.

In Jesus Name,
Amen

*God wants us to be satisfied with
what we have,
though not with what we are.*



IMPACT 2818 CHURCH CAMP

What is church camp? FUN. IMPORTANT. Camp gives your child an intentional setting to get away from daily distractions and engage in exploration and play. Campers experience life-changing growth, hear the message of Jesus, and learn to be themselves and

navigate faith.

Why Camp? Camp helps foster social character and spiritual development. Counselors provide age-appropriate support as campers manage their responsibilities. Activities develop integrity, honesty, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Who are we? Impact 2818 is the outdoor ministry of The United Methodist Churches of Indiana. Hoosier United Methodist Churches have invested millions of dollars to make our camps accessible and available for over one million kids and families. They recognize the importance and value of a safe space outside the confines of a congregation or denomination. INUMC underwrites around 20% of all our programs and facilities.

Who goes to camp? Like Jesus, we are open to EVERYONE. Regardless of what church you attend (or don't!), we invite every family to a spiritually-safe experience that can transform your camper with the hope of Jesus Christ. Impact 2818 is the outdoor ministry of The United Methodist Churches of Indiana, and everyone is welcome.

What is camp like? With 7 locations across the state of Indiana, Impact 2818 has a site that's right for you! Our camps have pools, lakes, rivers, hiking, climbing walls, low ropes courses, zip lines, giant swings, archery, volleyball, and more. For all the details about our sites, visit impact2818.org/locations.

Dear Church Family,

I recently heard an ad on the radio that shared some statistics (and I may not have them exact, but I am very close) ...the average child spends less than 7 minutes a day outside and over 4 hours on electronic devices. It was an ad encouraging people to send kids to camps...and here at the United Methodist Church, we have some of the best camps in the State of Indiana.

Please see me if you are interested in any way. We would love to send our kids to camp!

~In Christ, Pastor Dave

Church Business Financial Report January 2025 (YTD)

Receipts:	\$ 13,857.00
Disbursements:	\$ 8,900.81
Difference:	\$ 4,956.19

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.

*Do all the good you can
By all the means you can
In all the ways you can
In all the places you can
To all the people you can
As long as ever you can.
John Wesley*

Ad Council

Eight members were present when the meeting was called to order with prayer at 6 p.m. on February 10th. The December 9th minutes were amended to change a name. The minutes were approved as corrected.

We discussed guidelines for the Grace Fund .

For SPRT, it was reported the Indiana United Methodist Church is going from 10 districts to 5 districts. We will become the West Central Plains District in July. SPRT is asking members to write a letter to a graduating Senior at North Montgomery. The Pastor will be out of the pulpit March 9th through March 16th. Lan Wilson will speak on March 9th and on March 16th we will have Information Sunday. The Music Director will be gone March 23 on a Mission Trip over Spring Break.

The Pastor is taking a Spiritual Formation and Discipleship class. It is Christian Disciplines with a John Wesley slant. Ash Wednesday and Easter services are as follows:

- Ash Wednesday combined service at Colfax UMC on **March 5th** at 7 p.m. (Pastor Dave speaking)
- Maundy Thursday service at Darlington UMC combined with Colfax UMC on **April 17th** at 7 p.m. (Pastor Dave speaking)
- Good Friday service at Darlington UMC on **April 18th** at 7 p.m. (Pastor Dave and Pastor Esther speaking)
- Sunrise service with Breakfast following at Darlington UMC with East Christian Church members as our guests on **April 20th** at 7 a.m. (Pastor Ron Brown – East Christian Church speaking)
- Easter Worship service at Darlington UMC on **April 20th** at 9 a.m. (Pastor Dave speaking)

The Financial Report was given starting with December and Year End information. The Lord was good to us financially and we ended in the black for the year 2024, even with all the improvements that were made to the church building and the parsonage. January has proved to be a good month also. We paid for Pastor's spring educational class and Colfax will pay for his fall class. Comcast was contacted and they came and fixed the line. They moved the phone from the Secretary's Office to Pastor's office and put a wireless upstairs in the kitchen. We are streaming live during the worship service now. A new message will be put on the answering machine that will include Pastor's cell number for those who need to get in touch before he is in the office. The budgeted gas bill was questioned. Once we changed from oil to gas there was a big credit left over from last year's budgeting.

Worship Chair reported she had contacted two Background Checking Companies. MinistrySafe and SafeHiring Solutions (MinistryDefender Solutions) were contacted. The first one was a site that the Indiana UMC Conferences use. There is a charge to join right now, but in July when the Conference goes to 5 districts it would be free. Their checks were lower but there were extra charges for other things. The second site was with an Indiana-based company from Indianapolis. They serve 3500+ churches throughout the country. They charge no fee to join and their checks are reasonable. A motion to go with MinistryDefender Solutions using Level 1 for the Background Checks and review every three years was made and seconded. The motion passed.

Trustee Chair hasn't had a meeting yet, but they need to meet to annually review the church's insurance to make sure we have adequate insurance.

Mission Chair was to meet with the prior Missions Chair, but plans were changed.

With no other business to discuss, amazingly we finished only 10 minutes after 7. Pastor was asked to close the meeting with prayer.

Our next meeting will be on **April 14th, at 6 p.m.**

Ad Council Meetings/SPRT Meetings

April 14	June 9
August 11	October 13
December 8	

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.

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.

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.

Thank You for your help.



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.

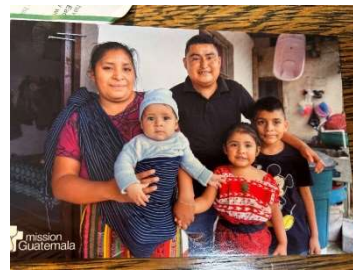
Project: Be a Fisherman

On the table in the front entrance we have placed some material that anyone can pick up. There are pamphlets, Daily Bread devotionals and crosses. These are materials you can hand out as you have an opportunity.

Denise Maxwell

Our God is the highest standard of excellence.

O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1



Guatemalan Project

Here are just a few highlights of the past year that your generosity has made possible.

- **Medical Clinic:** Over **3600 patients** have been treated with loving, respectful and quality medical care, with over **5300 lab tests** being run in our on-site laboratory!
- **Nutrition Programs:** **132 children** aged 6 months to 6 years received nutritional support and specialized treatment from our clinic doctor! Parents have also been provided **health and nutrition workshops** throughout the year.
- **Education Support:** **81 students** of the 91 that began 2024 in our middle and high school scholarship program will successfully complete the year of study and **13 will graduate high school!** In our "Kematz'ib" computer academy, **117 students** have been enrolled in computer classes and **33 will graduate** this year!
- **Community Improvement:** In 2024, we welcomed **19 teams from 10 states to serve with us** in Guatemala!

But even as we celebrate all that has happened in 2024, our work is not finished! **With your support**, Mission Guatemala will continue to love and serve our neighbors here in Guatemala in the coming year!

Thank you for being an answer to prayer for our sisters and brothers here in Guatemala! Thanks to YOU, lives are being changed!

God bless you in the coming year.

"May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."

Numbers 6:24-26



Doing all the good we can together...
David Burns, Executive Director
Leigh Randall, Director of Development

Leigh Randall
Director of Development,
Mission Guatemala
1-800-563-8103

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 in **travel sizes**:

Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Shampoo	Soap
Deodorant	Mouth Wash
Feminine Hygiene	

Thank you for your help.

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.



May We All Be Like Coffee

A young woman went to her grandmother and told her about her life and how things were so hard for her – her husband had cheated on her and she was devastated. She did not know how she was going to make it and want to give up. She was tired of fighting and struggling. It seemed as soon as one problem was solved, a new one arose.

Her grandmother took her to the kitchen. She filled three pots with water and placed each on a high fire. Soon the pots came to boil. In the first she placed carrots, in the second she placed eggs, and in the last she placed ground coffee beans. She let them sit and boil; without saying a word.

In about twenty minutes she turned off the burners. She fished the carrots out and placed them in a bowl. She pulled the eggs out and placed them in a bowl. Then she ladled the coffee out and placed it in a bowl.

Turning to her granddaughter, she asked, "Tell me what you see."

"Carrots, eggs, and coffee," she replied

Her grandmother brought her closer and asked her to feel the carrots. She did and noted that they were soft. The grandmother then asked the granddaughter to take an egg and break it. After pulling off the shell, she observed the hard-boiled egg.

Finally, the grandmother asked the granddaughter to sip the coffee. The granddaughter smiled as she tasted its rich aroma. The granddaughter then asked, "What does it mean, Grandmother?"

Her grandmother explained that each of these objects had faced the same adversity: boiling water. Each reacted differently. The carrot went in strong, hard and unrelenting. However, after being subjected to the boiling water, it softened and became weak. The egg had been fragile. Its thin outer shell had protected its liquid interior, but after sitting through the boiling water, its inside became hardened. The ground coffee beans were unique, however. After they were in the boiling water, they had changed the water.

"Which are you?" she asked her granddaughter. "When adversity knocks on your door, how do you respond? Are you a carrot, and egg, or a coffee bean?"

Think of this: Which am I? Am I the carrot that seems strong, but with pain and adversity? Do I wilt and become soft and lose my strength? Am I the egg that starts with a malleable heart, but changes with the heat and becomes hardened and stiff? Or am I like the coffee bean? The bean actually changes the hot water, the very circumstance that brings pain?

How do you handle adversity? Are you a carrot, and egg, or a coffee bean?

May you have enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human and enough hope to make you happy.

The happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way. The brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; you can't go forward in life until you let go of your past failures and heartaches.

When you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling. Live your life so at the end you're the one who is smiling and everyone around you is crying.

May we all be like the COFFEE.

*Love wholeheartedly,
be surprised,
give thanks and praise.
Then you will discover
the fullness of your life.*

~Brother David Steindl-Rast

God Finds Us Usable

Isn't it amazing to think that the God of the Universe finds us usable. He's given us specific gifts and abilities for reaching out to others. He could have chosen a thousand other ways to reach the unsaved, but the Lord picked us! Thank you for your service to our church.

Liturgist

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20

April 27

Lynn Cox

Sarah Boeh

Dan Hampton

Mary Lou Weliever

Diana Binford

Lynn Cox

Diana Binford

Sarah Boeh

Diana Binford

Scripture Reader

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20

April 27

Cheryl Greene

John Wells

Kim Warren

Kathy Hampton

Steve Greene

Lynn Robison

Pam Crull

Cheryl Greene

John Wells

Fellowship

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

April 6

April 13

April 20

April 26

John and Marsha Wells

Mike and Kim Warren

OPEN

OPEN

Dan and Kathy Hampton

OPEN

OPEN

Easter, No Fellowship

Dan and Kathy Hampton

Nursery

We are opening up our Nursery to anyone who has a need. Please sign up if you feel led to help with this exciting new venture! See Kathy Hampton.

March 2

March 9

March 16

March 23

March 30

Cheryl Greene

Jaysee Shaw

OPEN

OPEN

OPEN

