

The Messenger

February 2026

Darlington United Methodist Church

Dave Bushfield, Pastor

Church phone: 765-794-4824 Website: www.umcdarlington.org

201 W. Harrison Street, 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 LOVING LIKE GOD LOVES

February 2026

"This I command you, that you love one another." John 15:17

Loving one another sounds easy enough, but it seems to always be harder than we expect. Maybe it's because we have bought into the world's definition of love and the actions that follow. The world would say that love is an uncontrollable emotion that you feel or don't feel.

Jesus gives us an entirely different understanding of love. Love is not a feeling we follow, it is a command we obey. Something to keep in mind is that God never gives us anything to do that is impossible.

Christ followers know that love is not something we have to create. **1 John 4:12 tells us, "if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us."** Notice, it's His love. There is beauty in knowing that genuine concern for other believers is a natural result of knowing Jesus and growing in our relationship with Him. So, we can choose to respond in a loving manner, even to those we find difficult to like. That's not to say that we put on a pretense but that we love one another the way Jesus loves us (John 13:34; 15:12).

What exactly would that look like? Well, 1 Corinthians 13 is a great place to start. **"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things"** (vv4-7).

So often this passage is used for weddings, but I think that does an injustice to it. We forget that it describes how believers are to respond each and every day. Of course, this is in sharp contrast to how the world loves—which is exactly the point! Christ-like love should be a defining characteristic of every believer. **"By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another"** (John 13:35).

Is there a fellow believer you find difficult to like, much less love? How about a coworker who just grates your nerves? Truthfully, even our own children (young and old) can cause us to question our love when they do stupid things...if we are honest with ourselves.

In those moments...set your feelings aside and allow your mind to be inundated with God's definition of love.

All of February, I challenge you to read 1 Corinthians 13 again and again. Read it in different versions...read it out loud...read it and put a person's name in the text...for example "Love is patient to (fill in the name), love is kind to (fill in the name)... etc."

My prayer is that all of us can sow love into our environment in the name of Jesus Christ. The world needs to see the difference in the two ways of loving. Let's show them by loving them as Christ loves them! Have a great February and stay warm! God bless you!

Blessings!

~ Pastor David

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

February 2026 Scripture Reading

February 1, 2026, 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8

Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Sermon: Message of the Cross

February 8, 2026, 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a, (9b-12)

Psalms 112:1-9, (10)

1 Corinthians 2:1-12, (13-16)

Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon: Teaching and Doing Like Christ

February 15, 2026, Transfiguration Sunday

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

Sermon: Glory Revealed

February 18, 2026, Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sermon: A Clean Heart

February 22, 2026, 1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon: The Wilderness Road

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.

What does "quoz" mean?

Elder Warrior Strange person Commoner
Answer on page 5.





February Birthdays

Happy Birthday 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

Groundhog Day
"Souper" Sunday, 11:30 a. to 1:30 p.
Bishops Day Apart
SPRT/Ad Council Mtg., 5 p./6 p.
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
Pastor David's Classes Begin
St. Valentine's Day
Valentine's Day Brunch, 10 a.
President's Day
Shrove Tuesday
Ash Wednesday, 7:30 p.
Newsletter Items Due
George Washington's Birthday
Bible Study w/Pastor David, 6 p.
Brianna's Hope - St. Matthew UMC, 6 p.
Palm Sunday
Maundy Thursday, Colfax UMC, 6 p.
Good Friday, 6 p.
Easter Sunrise, 7 a.
Easter Breakfast, 7:30 p.
Easter Worship Service, 9 a.
Ascension Sunday
Pentecost
Trinity Sunday

February 2
February 8
February 11-12
February 11
February 12
February 14
February 14
February 15
February 16
February 17
February 18
February 18
February 22
February 25
February 28
March 29
April 2
April 3
April 5
April 5
April 5
May 17
May 24
May 31

Silly Dates to Remember

Feed the Birds Day
Bubble Gum Day
Pizza Pie Day
Umbrella Day
National Cheddar Day
National Cherry Pie Day
Play Tennis Day
National Tortilla Day
National Strawberry Day

February 3
February 6
February 9
February 10
February 13
February 20
February 23
February 24
February 27

***From its chambers comes the whirlwind
and cold from the scattering winds.***

Job 37:9

God of days, months, and seasons, thank you for this time deep in winter when, after the excitement of holidays, we settle back into our routines and relish the quiet. Thank you that right in the heart of this season we take time to celebrate what is at the heart of every love-filled relationship: your love. Help us keep warm with the love that fills our families and friendships. Amen.

**Here comes February, a little girl with her first valentine,
a red bow in her windblown hair, a kiss waiting on her lips,
a tantrum just back of her laughter.**

Hall Borland, Sundial of the Seasons

Taken from *My Personal Daily Prayer Book*, February 1

What's Coming Up . . .



Wednesday Morning Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible Study:

We continue to journey through Ezekiel and are quickly approaching the last section of prophecy in his book. As we begin Ezekiel 33 things begin to change, the light is starting to creep in and hope and restoration are on the horizon. Come and see what is happening on Wednesday mornings, 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall!

In Diana's two-weeks-away break (January 28 and February 4th), Marie Howard will be leading the class in the book of Acts. Exciting things are happening on Wednesday mornings at 9 a.m. for more information.

"Souper" Sunday

The Super Bowl is here, so help us celebrate the "big game" with "Souper" Sunday at the Community Center on **February 8th from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.** Donations of crocks pots filled with your favorite soup and desserts would be welcomed.



This is a fund raiser for the Community Center so come and support the event. A free-will donation will be accepted. The game doesn't start until 6:30 p.m. so you have plenty of time to come, eat, and fellowship with your neighbors.

Back To School

Pastor David is taking COS 222 this spring...Theological Heritage 2:Early Church. Pastor Brian White is the instructor. Please pray for all the local licensed pastors and leaders as we meet at North United Methodist Church in Indianapolis on February 14th, March 14th, and April 18th. Thank you.

Valentine's Day Brunch

Now that the Christmas festivities are over for the year 2024 and we are settling down into the "Winter doldrums of 2025", it's time to have a pitch-in. Mark your calendars for **February 15th immediately after worship service**. We will have good food and lots of fellowship. Bring your favorite foods to share with your friends and family. If you are unable to bring a dish, please stay anyway. We always have plenty.



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday is **February 18, 2026**. This is the beginning of the Lenten Season. The Ash Wednesday service will be at Rossville UMC at 6:30 p.m. and **Darlington UMC at 7:30 p.m.**



Grow old along with me!

The best is yet to be,

The last of life for which the first was made;

Our times are in His hand

Who saith, "A whole I planned,

Youth shows but half; trust God; see all, nor be afraid!

Robert Browning

Taken from *ideal Valentine Vol 40, No. 1*

Colfax Hickory Community Dinner 2026 Schedule

As you plan for the upcoming year, we would love it if you would consider taking time to join us for sweet fellowship and good food once a month at The Gathering Place in Colfax Indiana. As always, we appreciate any free will donations that people contribute to help us with the cost of the food.

This year, we would like to see if there would be any businesses willing to become a corporate sponsor for a meal for one month. We will gladly advertise your company name on each table with any generous gift to the ministry.

The following dates are when we are scheduled to gather together at 6 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month (except for December.)

February 19th	March 19th	April 16th	May 21st
June 18th	July 16th	August 20th	September 17th
October 15th	November 19th	December 3rd	

The kind and loving people of Colfax United Methodist Church invite everyone to come and eat. Our goal is simply to build relationships with our neighbors and spread the love of Jesus.

Together we can make a difference!

Pastor David Bushfield

Lenten Study

Wednesday, February 25th at 6 p.m. begins the Lenten Study, **The Final Days** – by Author Matt Rawle. *Each church has a limited number of sign-up slots.* Pastor David is hosting the event at the parsonage at 207 W. Jackson Street, Colfax, IN. For 6 weeks we will be reading and talking about this book as we prepare for Easter. Please pray for all who are planning on attending. And if you signed up, remember to order your book on Amazon or contact Elaine at Rossville UMC (765-379-2981) for her to order you one. They are around \$10.

Brianna's Hope

Please feel free to join Pastor David as he preaches at Brianna's Hope on **February 28th at 6 p.m.** Brianna's Hope meets at St. Matthew UMC 1951 Wilshire Drive, Frankfort, IN 46041 on Thursdays each week. Please pray for Pastor David and all those who are attending. There is a real spiritual battle taking place, and your prayers can help people be set free.

Holy Week Services

The following is the schedule of the Holy Week Services.

Maunder Thursday Service April 2nd at 6 p.m. Colfax UMC

All three churches are invited to join Pastor David, Pastor Mike, and Patsy in the basement for this service.

Good Friday Service April 3rd at 6 p.m. Darlington UMC

Pastor David will conduct the Good Friday Service.

Rossville Community Service will be held at Rossville Bible Fellowship at 7 p.m. Colfax Community Service will be held at New Hope.

Easter Sunrise Service April 5 at 7 a.m. Darlington UMC

Darlington UMC will have Easter Sunrise at 7 a.m. with Pastor Ron Brown leading the Service. Colfax UMC hosting Colfax Community Service at 7 a.m. with Pastor David leading the service. Rossville UMC Community Service will be at the Rossville Bible Fellowship.

Easter Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Darlington UMC

Easter Worship Service 9 a.m. Darlington UMC

"Love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward together in the same direction."

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

Pastor Dave's Office Hours and Reachability

Church...Please know I am here for you. ALL OF YOU! I have had people say things to me like, "with three churches, I don't want to interrupt you...or I don't want to bother you." While I appreciate the sentiment and care you all have for me, it is important that you know that I am available to you as your pastor.

I want to be there for you when you need me.

EMAIL ME AT: dave.bushfield@inumc.org

CALL OR TEXT ME AT: 765-426-6271

STOP AND VISIT ME AT:

MONDAYS	9 am to 2 pm	Rossville United Methodist Church
TUESDAYS	9 am to 2 pm	Colfax United Methodist Church
WEDNESDAYS	9 am to 2 pm	Darlington United Methodist Church
THURSDAYS	WORK FROM HOME OR VISITATIONS	
FRIDAYS	DAY OFF	
SATURDAYS	MY SABBOTH DAY	
SUNDAYS	Darlington 9 a, Colfax 10:30 a, Rossville 12:00 p	

There may be times when I am unavailable, if that happens, please leave me a message and I will get back with you. Caring for your spiritual needs and concerns is part of what we do as pastors. It is my honor to be your pastor and help care for you!

(On Friday or Saturday, if there is a ministry need, please contact the Staff Parish Chairperson for any ministry needs for your prospective churches. I will not take calls on these days in order to maintain my spiritual and physical health...thank you for understanding.)

SPRT CHAIRPERSONS:

Darlington UMC:	Denise Maxwell	765-918-5227
Colfax UMC:	Tammy Greiger	317-989-8599
Rossville UMC:	Gary Hathaway	765-564-0102

Office Information for February

Pastor David will be attending an event, **Bishops Day Apart**, led by Bishop Tracy Malone for all clergy in the Indiana Conference on February 11th and 12th. Pastor David will not be in the office in Darlington on the 11th in order to attend this event.



IMPACT 2818: Outdoor Ministries
Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church



Ready to jump for joy?
Camp registration is officially open for 2026.

CIT @ Camp Rivervale

496 Rivervale Road
Mitchell, IN

February 20 – February 22

Ages: 13-17 years old

Check In: February 20th at 5 p.m.

Check Out: February 25 at 2 p.m.

CIT stands for Counselor in Training – This event is specifically designed for campers too old to be Lakewood campers, but too young to be in the cabins as a counselor. CITs will spend their days with their cabin group, watching and learning from lead counselors on how to invest and care for campers while getting practical hands on experience. They also get all the fun of camp, participating in all activities and a few special events just for them. CITs also practice leadership by serving alongside the staff doing dishes 1-2 times a day.

If you have questions, contact registrar@impact2818.org or (888) 628-2818. Scholarships are available; don't let a child miss out on camp because of finances.

**Don't let anyone tell you
that you can't do something.**
Walt Disney

2026 Montgomery County Women's Lenten Breakfasts

- February 21 **St. Bernard Catholic Church**
1306 E. Main Street
Crawfordsville, IN
- February 28 **New Market Christian Church**
100 Locust Street
New Market, IN 47965
- March 7 **First Christian Church**
211 South Walnut Street
Crawfordsville, IN
- March 14 **St. John's Episcopal Church**
212 S. Green Street
Crawfordsville, IN
- March 21 **Liberty Chapel**
3942 W. 500 N.
Crawfordsville, IN 47933-9086
- March 28 **New Ross Christian Church**
212 N. Main Street
New Ross, IN 47968-8108

In our 25th year, we continue to offer women of all denominations an opportunity to unite as sisters in Christ in a spiritual setting, providing time for prayer and reflection. In the troubled times we are currently facing there is a great need to turn to the Lord. If the world is to know the peace of Christ it must come through our united hearts as we strive together to love and serve Him. Breakfast served at 8 a.

Theme: Walking with God

*"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does He require of You?"*

*To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God."*

Micah 6:8

2026 Montgomery County Men's Lenten Breakfasts

Time: ?.

- February 21 **Whitesville Christian Church**
3603 S. Ladoga Road
Crawfordsville, IN
- February 28 **Harvest Fellowship**
1618 W. 500 S.
Crawfordsville, IN
- March 7 **The Ingathering**
120 E. Plum Street
Linden, IN
- March 14 **First Baptist Church**
1905 Lebanon Road
Crawfordsville, IN
- March 21 **Darlington Christian Church**
101 Washington Street
Darlington, IN
- March 28 **Liberty Chapel**
3942 W. 500 N.
Crawfordsville, IN



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

- February 1 Dan Maxwell
February 8 Sarah Boeh
February 15 Dan Maxwell
February 22 Mary Lou Weliever
- March 1 Lynn Cox
March 8 Sarah Boeh
March 15 Mary Lou Weliever
March 22 Diana Binford
March 29 Dan Maxwell

Scripture Reader

- February 1 Steve Greene
February 8 Lynn Robison
February 15 Tracy McHenry
February 22 Cheryl Greene
- March 1 John Wells
March 8 Kim Warren
March 15 Kathy Hampton
March 22 Steve Greene
March 29 Lynn Robison

Fellowship

- February 1 John and Marsha Wells
February 8 Dan and Kathy Hampton
February 15 Valentines Day Brunch
February 22 OPEN
- March 1 Mike and Kim Warren
March 8 OPEN
March 15 Ryan and Tracy McHenry
March 22 OPEN
March 29 OPEN

Nursery

*If you can't be in Nursery,
please call someone on the list to trade.
Thank you.*

- February 1 Jaysee Shaw
February 8 Tracy McHenry
February 15 Darsey Gardner
February 22 Diana Binford
- March 1 Cheryl Greene
March 8 Lynn Cox
March 15 Jaysee Shaw
March 22 Darsey Gardner
March 29 Tracy McHenry

*Why, what's the matter,
That you have such a February face,
So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness?*

William Shakespeare

Church Business

SPRT/AD COUNCIL

Our next meeting
will be on

Wednesday,
February 11, 2026

at
5 p.m./6 p.m.

SPRT/Ad Council Dates for 2026

February 11	June 10	October 14
April 8	August 12	December 9

Financial Report (YTD) January –December 2025

Receipts:	\$83,104.00
Disbursements:	-\$78,097.13
Difference:	\$ 5,006.87

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.

A Note from Missions Coordinator

DUMC continues to make a meaningful impact in addressing food insecurity in our community. In 2025, DUMC donated 510 pounds of peanut butter and jelly to the FISH Pantry, an incredible testament to your generosity and commitment to serving others.

Thank you to everyone who contributed gently used Bibles, devotionals, and spiritual growth materials for our new Bible Box. Not everyone has access to these resources, and offering them free of charge helps remove a barrier to spiritual growth. Please help us spread the word by sharing this ministry with your family, friends, and neighbors.

These materials:

- Provide access to Scripture and devotionals for those who may not otherwise have them
- Offer daily inspiration and guidance, nurturing a deeper relationship with faith
- Serve as a meaningful way to demonstrate care and outreach to our neighbors

Thank you for your continued generosity, compassion, and dedication to serving both the physical and spiritual needs of our community.

Missions Coordinator

His Very Best

*This is what real love is: It is not our love for God;
it is God's love for us. He sent His Son to die in our place,
to take away our sins. 1 John 4:10*

I hope you receive a rose or a special card from that special person today. If you didn't and don't expect to, remember that the One who loves you most has already sent you His very best!

Taken from Walking with the Savio, February 14 by Max Lucado

Worship Committee

Five members of the Worship Committee met on January 7, 2026, at 4 p.m. The meeting was called to order with prayer. The topic of our meeting was to discuss the upcoming dates of special services from January through June.

A discussion about upgrading the projectors and sound systems in the sanctuary followed. A proposal will be brought before the Ad Council at their next meeting.

We discussed what we could do in case our organist was ill. It was decided that we would have our Music Director fill in for this or if he was not available he would make a CD of familiar songs that we could put in the computer.

\$108 was given to the Grace Fund from the donations for the poinsettias. Palms for Palm Sunday and ten Easter Lilies for Easter Sunrise and Worship Service will be ordered.

A discussion to have a Valentine Brunch, and it was decided to have it on February 15th right after the Worship Service. A free-will dinner with the proceeds going to a missionary was discussed. It was decided that we could have a meal but the proceeds would go to a local mission. It was discussed to have a quarterly meal for the community like they do in Colfax to build relationships and generate good will.

We could not discuss the Easter Services yet. Pastor doesn't have them planned as of the time of the meeting. He would like to have more special music possibly during the Worship Service.

Sunday School material will be purchased..

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Answer to "What Does "QUOZ" mean?"

QUOZ /kwoz/

Definition: A peculiar or eccentric person; someone who behaves in an unconventional manner.

Origin: The term "quoz" is believed to have originated in the early 20th century, possibly as a blend of "quaint" and "odd."

Example: "Ever since he started wearing mismatched socks and talking to his plants, everyone has considered him a real quoz."

"Quoz" refers to a strange person, someone who stands out due to their unconventional behavior or unique quirks. Such individuals often defy societal norms and expectations, making them intriguing figures in their communities. Their eccentricities can manifest in various ways, such as unusual fashion choices, unconventional hobbies, or quirky mannerisms. While some may view them as oddities, others appreciate their authenticity and creativity. Embracing the label of "quoz" can allow these individuals to celebrate their uniqueness, fostering an environment where diversity and individuality are valued. Ultimately, a quoz can be a source of inspiration and fascination for those around them.

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

Packing the Backpacks for families is back in full swing. Please note the time has changed. It will be every **Thursday at 3 p.m.** to pack for the weekend.

We have gained more families. We are now packing for 48 children (18 families). 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 milk and juice each week. Cereal in individually packed bags are also given out at that rate each week also.

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

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 for 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.

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

The Kid's Closet



The Kids Closet is a ministry based in Montgomery County, IN. Jennifer Pruett started this in Crawfordsville a few years ago. I am happy to be able to be a part of this worthwhile mission.

Our Mission is to provide gently used and sometimes new clothing to all children in Montgomery County who have a need. The ages range from newborn to 18. Families fill out a google form to request clothes. Our goal is to provide the children with 10 outfits including socks and underwear to have plenty to wash and wear throughout the week. There is no charge for the clothing. Families learn of this by word of mouth, but our hope is for us to get the schools to help us learn of families that need some help. We give weather appropriate clothing, including shorts, jackets, school clothes, etc.

The Kid's closet is open now, and we take clothes from preemie to 14/16, We have had some requests for up to size 20, though. Right now, we're doing a sock drive, if anyone would like to donate new socks. We're always accepting donations be it clothing or monetary. If you look on Amazon, you can also find a wish list for The Kid's Closet.

Thanks for your help.

Darsey Gardner

Guatemalan Project

A Reflection of 2025 – A Celebration of 15 Years

"La Misión" Clinic:

- 54,250 patients served
- 25,400 lab tests since the lab opened in 2017

Nutrition:

- More than 383,000 lunches and snacks served
- More than 300 children have received the "Chispuditos" daily nutritional supplement and free access to medical care

"Becas con Misión":

- More than 360 students have received a middle school scholarship, with the opportunity to continue study at the high school level
- 121 students have completed middle school and 53 have graduated from high school

One last thing that I'll mention is that, as the calendar year come to a close, the Guatemalan school year is also ending. And we're excited to share that, all 11 scholarship students who were in their senior year are graduating! And in total, of the 86 students who started the year with a "Becas con Misión" scholarship, 81 successfully completed the school year! At the start of this school year we began a tutoring component within the scholarship program to help provide additional support to students who were struggling, and we've been excited to see the impact that this additional accompaniment for the students has had!



Doing all the good we can together...
David Burns, Executive Director

Take a Bible/Give a Bible Box

"Take a Bible/Give a Bible Box" located on the east side of the church, established by Diana & David Binford and Gary Cox.

Purpose: The box is available for people to both donate and take Bibles and Spiritual books.

Donation Guidelines:

Accepted Items: Gently used Bibles and spiritual books are accepted.

Preparation: Donated items should be placed individually in plastic bags to protect them from the weather.

Availability: Anyone who needs a Bible or a spiritual book is welcome to take one.

PB&J Mission



Darlington UMC continues to be the "PB&J Church" in 2025. We have made significant contributions to addressing food insecurity in the community by donating peanut butter and jelly. Food insecurity remains a concern for our community, as we can see by the number of backpacks we pack and deliver each week. Thank you for continuing to play a vital role in helping to alleviate this issue.

We thank God for giving us this blessed opportunity to provide these so-desired items. Remember to add a jar of peanut butter and a jar of "grape" jam or jelly to your shopping cart as you buy your groceries. Grape jelly or jam seems to be the preferred, but any jelly will work. Thanks for helping with this project.

God will meet all your needs according to the riches of His glory in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:19

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.

How Great is Our God!

And I said, O LORD God of heaven, the great and terrible God. Who keeps covenant, loving-kindness, and mercy for those who love Him and keep His commandments.

Nehemiah 1:5

When Dorothy finally met the wizard she had been searching for in The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, she was disappointed. The "Great and Terrible" magician, who had promoted himself as an all-powerful man with a short temper, turned out to be a normal person behind a curtain – albeit one who was good at special effects.

Rest assured, when we finally meet God, we won't have the same kind of letdown. The Bible notes God's inestimable qualities – unconditional love, unending mercy, unimaginable strength – with reverence. The New Testament authors also repeatedly wrote about God's mercy and compassion, lest we despair of ever coming near Him.

Of course, we need to fear the holy Creator and Maker of all things and strive to do his will, but as the One who formed us, God knows that we will fail (and loves us anyway). His love is why He sent Jesus to die on the cross.

Today, think about God's love, mercy, and strength as you go about your day. When you face problems, ask Him to solve them, instead of trying to fix them yourself. Repeatedly and reverently surrender to Him – because He is great, but He's certainly not terrible.

*Creator, Maker, Redeemer God – You are wonderful.
Thank you for Your wisdom, strength, and love.
Amen*

Taken from Daily Devotions for a Woman of Faith, Day 15

It's fun to collect funny sayings and improper uses of words, sometimes called *malapropisms*. Here's a fun-filled list:

- If you can't do it right, do it yourself.
- No news travels fast.
- Every clown has a silver lining.
- Run it up the flagpole and see who sits on it.
- Am I my brother's beeper?
- No man can serve two masters with one stone.
- Rome wasn't burned in a day.
- It's on the fork of my tongue.
- People who live in glass houses shouldn't throw sour grapes.

Taken from Daily Splashes of Joy, February 16, by Barbara Johnson

What's Happening at Darlington UMC New District Superintendents

Bishop Tracy S. Malone has appointed Rev. Karen Koelsch to be the District Superintendent of the Eastern Rivers District and Rev. Tom Ream to be the District Superintendent of the West Central Plains District, effective July 1, 2026.

Rev. Ream received a Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from Purdue University (FW) and a Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary. He served as a student pastor at Amanda UMC (Middletown, OH); Trinity UMC (Lafayette); Brushwood UMC (Rensselaer); First UMC (Warsaw); First UMC (Richmond), and Aldersgate UMC (Fort Wayne). He served on the Indiana Conference Trustees as secretary; on the Board of Camps (currently as chair); as board member for Heritage Pointe; various DCOMs; local pastor mentor; and various camp leadership teams.



According to Rev. Ream, "A colleague once said that ministry in The United Methodist Church means going places you never expected, meeting people you never knew, and discovering that God is already present and at work there. I have been blessed to experience this truth in the local churches I have served across the Indiana Conference. With this new opportunity, I am grateful and look forward to meeting God's people and witnessing what God is already doing in the West Central Plains District."

Rev. Ream is married to Melissa, his wife of 30 years, about whom he says that he is "thankful for her love and support." They have four daughters: Kate (married to Conner), Anna Claire, Corinne, and Mallory. They also have two Golden Retrievers, Collin and Henry. In his free time, Rev. Ream enjoys spending time outdoors, cooking, relaxing at the lake with his family, and walking their dogs.

Rev. Koelsch will follow Rev. Russ Abel, who is retiring, while Rev. Ream will follow Rev. Dr. Saneta Maiko, who has been appointed as the Director of Community Impact, both effective July 1.



Rev. Koelsch is a graduate of Ball State University and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and she has served the following churches: Auburn First (as associate), Elkhart Calvary, Galveston Covenant UMC (Fort Wayne), and Elkhart Trinity on Jackson. She has served in leadership roles in the Board of Higher Education, the Board of Ordained Ministry, the District Board of Ordained Ministry, Bashor Children's Home, and North Indiana Emmaus Community.

Rev. Koelsch said, "I am excited and humbled for the opportunity to serve the Church in this new role and am honored to care for the amazing churches, clergy, and community of the Eastern Rivers District of the Indiana Conference. I look forward to seeing what God is doing."

She adores her 1.5-year-old Golden Retriever, Ruby, and loves spending time with family and friends, baking, cooking, seeing concerts and movies, vacationing in warm places, reading fiction, and being in nature.

About both of these appointments, Bishop Malone said, "Rev. Karen Koelsch and Rev. Tom Ream are gifted and faithful servant leaders with a deep commitment to Jesus Christ and to the mission of The United Methodist Church. They bring strategic and innovative leadership, a strong passion for discipleship, and a proven ability to inspire and empower others for mission and service. Through their strong pastoral leadership, they have demonstrated a clear commitment to connecting people for deeper discipleship and service, creating spaces of belonging, and helping individuals and congregations live more fully into God's calling on their lives. I am grateful for their faithful ministry and am confident that their leadership will continue to bear fruit in the districts they will serve and throughout our wider connection."



Please remember the following members and friends of our church family in your daily prayers. If you need to add or delete any name from this list, please contact Diana Binford at **765-918-0356** or **TEXT** Marsha Wells at **765-918-9148**.

Thank you for your continued prayer.

Praises

- Christ the Lord is Risen!
- Great granddaughter baptism
- Great trip to TX
- Family time with children
- Successful surgery
- Hoosiers football excitement
- Tests were passed

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
 - May they make God-led decisions
- Darlington UMC, Colfax UMC, Christ UMC, Rossville UMC and UMC at large, East Naples UMC, Congregational Church, and East Christian Church
- Families of those who have lost loved ones
- Farmers
- Kid's Closet
- Our school children, teachers, support staff, and administrators
- Our college students:
- Our Guatemalan children: Catalina, Tomas, Franckin, and Sulema
- Our Guatemalan Project
- Those in foster care and all the challenges they face
- Victims in Haiti, Iran, Israel, Maui, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Nigeria
- Victims of dust storms, floods, and tornadoes, wild fires
- Victims of hate crimes and discrimination
- Victims of the Texas Floods

- Those in treatment or suffering with cancer.**
- Those with other health needs.**
- Those Serving in the military.**
- Our Shut-Ins.**

Prayers for Those Who Have Suffered a Death

It has been a very busy month for funerals. We want to continue to pray for those who are dealing with the loss of a loved one. There has been a lot of families dealing with this and I feel it is super important that we sustain each other in those moments. Thank you for loving those who have lost a loved one. Pastor Dave

***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***



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