# THE BEACON



2024

THE BEACON IS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CROWN POINT, IN





FEBRWARY 14TH

ASH WEDNESDAY

SERVICE

7:00 PM

SUNDAY

SERVICE

SCHEDULE

PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY

8:00 AM: TRADITIONAL SERVICE

9:30 AM: CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

11:00 AM: TRADITIONAL SERVICE

THERE IS QUITE A BIT OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION

IN THIS MONTH'S BEACON

INCLUDING THE LENTEN SCHEDULE AND

**NUMEROUS UPCOMING EVENTS.** 

# ALICE JENKINS SCHOLARSHIP

THE APPLICATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR OUR GRADUATING SENIORS BY MID-FEBRUARY IN THE CHURCH OFFICE.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON **APRIL 5, 2024**.

EACH SCHOLARSHIP IS UP TO \$1,000.



# FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR MARK FAITH IN JANUARY

As I write this, I am looking out my office window and seeing that this is a picture of what January is all about. Over the last week we have been afflicted with what weathermen call "sub arctic cold" - but should be described as a "Polar Vortex of DEATH". Temperatures have been holding at or about the zero-point making us all want to winter indoor. Something about this time of the year awakens in us the hibernation instinct, making us just want to stay home, curl up, and "GET THROUGH IT".

Yet, as I stare gloomily out my window at the dreary winter landscape, in some small corner of my mind I can picture what spring will look like. Emotionally it may be hard for me to fathom, but in just a few months the air will be softer, the warmth will return, and life will spring forth from a lawn currently covered in ice. In short, I must believe that the world will once again be living out a "comeback story".

We all love a comeback story. The underdog, apparently on the ropes and ready to be beaten, somehow miraculously comes back to defeat the villain. Whether it be George Washington at Valley Forge or David picking up a rock to sling at Goliath, comeback stories give us hope.

This is particularly significant to me right now because in a few short weeks we will be starting the season of Lent. Lent, which probably comes in dead last on our "favorite church times of the year" list, has popularly come to mean for us depravation ("Give up what you really like!"), repentance ("Say you're sorry and mean it!") and contemplation ("Go think about what you've done!). As such, we adopt the attitude that we need to just hunker down and get through Lent till we can get to the celebration of Easter yet to come.

I think Lent is something more life and faith giving than that.

Lent is the invitation to the greatest comeback story in history. Lent is a revolutionary time when we look into the darkness of our lives and world and dare to proclaim that the darkness will not, cannot win. A time when we walk through the cold hard realities of our lives with the sure knowledge that He has already tread those paths, and with Him we will come out the other side into His victory.

Lent may have the reputation of being the "January" of our faith lives, but in fact it is something that is meant to be anything but simply endured- it is something to be embraced and even celebrated. It is not simply Jesus' comeback story but our own. It doesn't start when we get to Easter, it starts here and now, as He opens a new road and invites us to journey with Him into the greatest comeback ever.

I hope that you will join us this Lent. I hope that you will take advantage of the activities and ministries we will be offering to help us along the road. But more than anything, I hope that this Lent we can all wake up, fire up, and join in His great comeback and ours.

Let's journey on to life! In my love and His,

Pastor Mark



# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CROWN POINT, IN LENTEN SCHEDULE



#### WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE AT 7:00PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

TRIVIA NIGHT @ 6:30 PM
EAST POINT VENUE, 1430 EAST JOLIET ST., CROWN POINT, IN

Tuesday, February 27<sup>™</sup>

START OF LENTEN BIBLE STUDY AT 10 AM & 6 PM "WHO IS JESUS"

MONDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>

New Beginnings Lunch

12:00 NOON IN DOWNEY HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

BUNNY HOP FROM 10:00 AM -12:30 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup>

PALM SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00 am Traditional • 9:30 am Contemporary • 11:00 am Traditional

Thursday, March 28<sup>™</sup>

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE @ 7:00 PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE @ 7:00 PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 31st

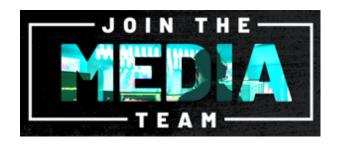
**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES** 

SUNRISE SERVICE @ 6:30 AM

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

**CHURCH SERVICES** 

8:00 am Traditional • 9:30 am Contemporary • 11:00 am Traditional



The Media Team at church consists of Visual/Lighting, Sound and Live Stream. The Media Team provides important services and back-up to the 3 Sunday services along with special services during Lent, Easter, Christmas, The 9/11 Memorial Service, and during funerals.

Each of our different Media Teams need additional volunteers to help provide the support to all of our services. With vacations, illness, and team members wanting to take a Sunday off the remaining members double-up on services. In joining the Media Team, you could select the service(s) you would like to work. For example, with all 3 teams, some individuals work 2 services back-to-back while others work 1 or 2 different services a month. The choice would be yours!

Training is provided so that you are comfortable and confident in operating Visuals/Lighting, Sound, or Live Stream.

If you would like more information, please let Mark know and he will put you in touch with the right person or talk to Danno or Ed Warren.



# FEBRUARY FUN FACTS

The length of February was finalized when Julius Caesar remade the Roman calendar and assigned the month 28 days and 29 days. In 713 B.C., February was officially added to the Roman calendar.

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days.

Originally, February was made the last month of the calendar year. Eventually (c. 450 BC), February was moved to its place as the second month.

It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show." Over 73 million Americans watched!

February is the only month where it's possible to go the entire time without having a full moon.

February, March, and November always start on the same day unless it is a leap year.

On February 2, 1848, U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended their war. The U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million in exchange for California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

The second Monday in February is celebrated as National Clean Out Your Computer Day, a day to organize and clean up your digital files.

February 20th is Love Your Pet Day, a day to show your furry friends some extra love and affection.



Source: World & History, Holidays & Events Fun Fact



# GROW CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

JOIN US THIS FOR THESE EXCITING

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR

YOUR FAMILY & CHILDREN!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN

UP TO ATTEND PLEASE SEE OUR

FACEBOOK PAGE

@FUMCCP.SUNDAYSCHOOL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2:00 PM IN DOWNEY HALL

BLANKETS FOR LINUS PROJECT

MISSION PROJECT



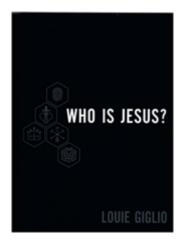
SATURDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> 10:00-12:30 PM BUNNY HOP



SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH
2:00 PM IN DOWNEY HALL
- CARD MAKING FOR SOLDIERS –
MISSION PROJECT







Have you or someone you know ever wondered about whether Jesus was truly who he claimed to be in the Bible? Is he truly God or just a good teacher? Is he truly a friend or just a judgmental foe? Is

he *the way* to God or just *a way* among many?

In Louis Giglio's 5-session Bible Study," Who *Is Jesus?* you will explore these and other questions. The Bible Study Series will begin on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th,</sup> and end on March 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be classes available at 10AM or 6PM.

Please sign up at the Welcome Center.





#### GODS BLESSINGS CARLA SMOLEK **DIRECTOR, OLDER ADULT MINISTRIES**

"DO EVERYTHING IN LOVE.": 1 CORINTHIANS 6:14

HAPPY VAI ENTINE'S DAY







#### **UPCOMING NEW BEGINNING'S LUNCH'S**

# FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 12:00 NOON

LUNCH AT PARK PLACE OF ST. JOHN

RSVP WAS DUE BY JANUARY 25<sup>™</sup> AT 12:00 NOON PLEASE REMEMBER... YOU WILL NEED TO FURNISH YOUR OWN TRANSPORTATION

# March 4th at 12:00 noon... Downey Hall

OUR GUEST SPEAKER WILL BE CAPTAIN JENKINS FROM LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT SVU DEPARTMENT. DON'T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY FRIDAY FEBRUARY 23RD TO CHURCH OFFICE.

> WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE BRING A PERSONAL HYGIENE OR HOUSE CLEANING PRODUCT FOR THE LITTLE HELP FOOD PANTRY THNAK YOU!



CRAFTY GRANNIES WILL RESUME FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2ND FROM 9:30-11:30 AM. WE HAVE MANY NEW PROJECTS AHEAD.





TAX TIME IS HERE. THERE IS A FREE TAX SERVICE AT CROWN POINT LIBRARY FOR SENIORS. YOU NEED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT THRU THE CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT.

THEIR NUMBER IS: 1-219-663-0207.

GODS BLESSINGS,

**CARLA** 



On a lonely stretch of highway iust outside of Groom. Texas (near Pampa) stands a 19-story tall cross that can be seen for miles from direction. The arm spans are 110 feet across. It constructed of a welded steel framework covered with steel sheeting.

This cross is the result of the efforts of Steve Thomas and

family of Pampa, Texas. It took 250 welders eight months to complete and weighs 1,250 tons. It stands alone, unsupported by guy wires, and can withstand winds of 140 miles per hour.

September 30, 2008, by Georgy

# IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NEW BEGINNINGS LUNCH

MONDAY, MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>

**NEW BEGINNINGS LUNCH** 

12:00 NOON IN DOWNEY HALL

A REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S

DEPARTMENT WILL BE SPEAKING

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup>
BLOOD PRESSURE & BLOOD SUGAR SCREENING
8:30 AM TO 11:30 AM
DOWNEY HALL

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11<sup>™</sup>

2:00 PM IN DOWNEY HALL

BLANKETS FOR LINUS MISSION PROJECT
A GROW CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14<sup>™</sup>
ASH WEDNESDAY

SERVICE AT 7:00 AM & 5:00 PM

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>
BREAKFAST CLUB
9:00 AM @ SCHOOPS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>
TRIVIA NIGHT

6:30 PM @ EAST POINT VENUE 1430 EAST JOLIET ST. CROWN POINT, IN

FEBRUARY 27<sup>™</sup> – MARCH 26<sup>™</sup>

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: "WHO IS JESUS"

CLASS AT 10:00 AM & 6:00 PM

PLEASE SIGN UP AT THE WELCOME CENTER

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD

BUNNY HOP

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

A GROW CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES SPECIAL EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> BEARS & BADGES

On The Square Sports Academy
Doors open at 5:30

PLEASE SEE INFORMATION IN THE BEACON & REGISTER AT FUMCCP.ORG



THE UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
WILL BE SELLING BUTTER BRAIDS FROM
FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> TO FEBRUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>
IN DOWNEY HALL.

THE BUTTER BRAIDS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP IN MID-MARCH.











### **Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief**

## **Medical Supplies**

#### Dear Congregation,

The news of war in Ukraine strikes us all as a human tragedy and continues almost two years to this day. A quarter-world away, one may feel helpless about how to help. Medical supplies are needed. Whatever the resources of medical supplies, each is appreciated for the care it enables. Our candlelight vigil on March 9, 2022, had the effect of generating a collection of medical supplies for Ukraine.



Pictured are medical supplies donated at point of a medical professional review.



Pictured are medical supplies packaged in ready for shipment May 10, 2022.



Let us join together in solidarity and continue support lest the standard falter. Please donate medical supplies at collection boxes at church BEFORE Sunday Worship Services or throughout the week according to office hours:

February 1, 2024, through February 29, 2024



### **Ukrainian Humanitarian Relief**

### **Medical Supplies**

#### Items need to be unopened and before expiration date.

Through contact information from the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America we have arrangements for logistics of air freighting them.

#### Your kind donation of medical supplies will be appreciated.

Any first aid products individually wrapped or small packages. Any personal care products individually wrapped.

Compression bandages Alcohol wipes Bar soap Corticosteroids Antibiotic wipes Toothbrushes Eye wash kits Hand sanitizer Toothpaste Sterile bandages 10x14" Gauze pads or rolls Mouth wash Non-woven adhesive tape Individual antibiotic ointment **Dental floss** First aid cream Single use instant cold Shampoo Band-Aids packs Conditioner Hand wipes Elastic bandages Deodorant

Please, no glass or large items.

Monetary donations will be accepted.

Sincerely,
Pastor Mark Wilkins
and the Mission Committee



The AMPED Youth Lock-In on New Year's Eve was a fun experience for all (except for maybe Danno, Liz, Lucy & Daniel) who chaperoned the event from start to finish! As you can see from the pictures above, the youth were split into four groups, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John who wrote the four Gospels in the New Testament. More on that a bit later.

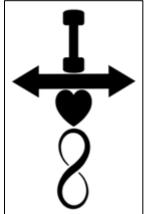
The evening festivities started with dinner which included tacos, nachos, soft drinks, and desert (cookies). Later in the evening, or early morning hours they rang in the New Year with a Pizza Party. The Lock-in concluded with breakfast on Monday morning. In-between all the eating were snacks and more snacks and even more snacks. There is a rumor going around that Lucy and Daniel calculated the number of snacks that were needed for the night (15 to 20 large bags), and then most all the youth attending brought more snacks.

# Now for Dodgeball!



No, this is not a 'line-up' (ok...it is a 'line-up, but not the kind you typically think of). This is the start of 8 rounds of Dodgeball between the 4 groups. Amazingly, there were no injuries that we know of, however, Daniel did try to take out Lucy a couple of times.

The overall winner of Dodgeball was the Green Team with a total of 7 points. Their prize was Bragging Rights for the evening, so the games were taken very seriously!



Throughout the evening the group held 4 scripture readings, one each from Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Scripture Verses included...



• Matthew 11:28-30 / 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." - Barbell or Kettle Bell... Jesus invites us to come to Him and find rest for our souls. He promises to bear our burdens and give us comfort and peace. This passage reassures us that Jesus is willing to take on our worries, fears, and anxieties and offers us a renewed sense of purpose and rest in Him.

- Mark 16:15 / 15 And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news[a] to the whole creation. Arrows Going Right and Left... This verse is part of the Great Commission, which is a call to the disciples to preach the truth to the people and places that will start a church. This is an invitation to all of us to spread the message of Christ's death and resurrection, which was in payment for the sins of the whole world.
- Luke 1:37 / 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God." Infinity Sign... This was spoken by the angel Gabriel to Mary, who was chosen to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God. It means God can do anything and northing is too hard or impossible for Him.
- John 13:34-35 / 34 I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another." Heart... Jesus calls us to a life that values others, serves others and loves others. He modeled this way of life for us.

Other activities throughout the evening included Basketball & SAGA Ball, Volleyball, and a Scavenger Hunt. At 11:00 the group held a Worship service followed by celebrating the New Year and Jesus. There was free time included for everyone to play board games, cards or just talk.

We would like to thank all the chaperones that helped throughout the evening. Your help and assistance were deeply appreciated.

#### A few additional pictures of Dodgeball!

#### A race for the dodgeballs...



#### A little bravado & planning...



#### Do you think they are good enough to hit us?







If you would like to submit information to be included on the Sunday Announcement Slides or in the BEACON, please be sure to follow the deadlines below:

#### **SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT SLIDES:**

The information you would like to have included on the Sunday Announcement Slides is Wednesday by 5:00 pm. We cannot guarantee that information received after the deadline will be included in the Announcement Slides.

#### **THE BEACON:**

Information for the BEACON needs to be submitted by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Again, we cannot guarantee that information received after the deadline will be included in the BEACON.

All information for Sunday Announcement Slides and The Beacon should be submitted to Ed Warren at <a href="eqw1149@gmail.com">eqw1149@gmail.com</a>

If you have any questions, please feel to reach out to me at 219-781-0091. Thank you in advance for your understanding.





The Royal Family Kids Camp will be our Moment for Missions on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> so all loose change as well as any checks or envelopes market Royal Family Kids Camp will go directly to this special program.

For those that may not be familiar with RFK Camps, the "Royal Family KIDS Camp fosters resiliency, self-esteem, hope and positive memories. The camp curriculum

and activities are woven through the modality of Trust-Based Relational Intervention to ensure our children are experiencing truly life-giving activities throughout the 5-day experience."

This year the RFK Camp will be the week of July 21<sup>st</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. As with any major undertaking volunteers are desperately needed. This year volunteers 16 and older are needed to be guides, staff members, facilitate woodshop, lead bible study, and lead recreational games and activities.

We also need a nurse and a social worker for the children. In addition, we need to local nurses on Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> for approximately 2-hours.

If you would like to volunteer or get additional information regarding the RFK Camp needs, the Camp Director, Amy Hedges will be at all 3 services on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> and will be happy to talk with you.



#### STAFF AFTER CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> THE STAFF HELD A AFTER-CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER. THE EVENT WAS HOSTED BY KELLY & JERRY LAMBERT AT THEIR EAST POINT VENUE.

FIRST ON THE AGENDA WAS DINNER FROM OLIVE GARDEN. WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OLIVE GARDEN FOR A WONDERFUL DINNER AND ESPECIALLY JAYNE & JULIE FOR

ORGANIZING DINNER AND THE EVENT.

AFTER DINNER KAREN ARTUM, DIRECTOR OF OUR KIDDIE-KAMP & PRESCHOOL ORGANIZED A 2-ROUND CHRISTMAS TRIVIA EVENT. THE UNOFFICIAL & SELF-PROCLAIMED CHAMPION WAS PASTOR MARK!

THE EVENING WAS CONCLUDED WITH A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE. AFTER EVERYONE PICKED THEIR INITIAL GIFT, THERE WERE 6 DIFFERENT "PAS YOUR GIFT TO THE LEFT OR RIGHT ANYWHERE FROM 1 TO 6 PEOPLE. CONFUSED, WELL SO WERE WE, BUT ALL SEEMED TO WORK OUT.



ONCE AGAIN, WE WANT TO THANK EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED AND A VERY SPECIAL THANKS TO KELLY & JERRY LAMBERT FOR HOSTING THE EVENT, OLIVE GARDEN FOR PROVIDING AN EXCELLENT ITALIAN DINNER, TO KAREN ARTUM FOR RUNNING THE CHRISTMAS TRIVIA WITH OUT-OF-CONTROL ADULTS, AND TO JAYNE & JULIE FOR ORGANIZING THE EVENT.

THE GROUP PICTURE TO THE LEFT FEATURES OUR PRAISE TEAM DIRECTOR, TIM KUIPER SHOWING OFF HIS NEW SLIPPERS!



January 15, 2024



Now that the Holidays are behind us, we can all focus our efforts on the hope of a very productive 2024. The picture is of our outdoor courthouse Christmas Eve service and is just one of the many ways we connect with our community.

Your generosity enabled us to do extraordinary things in 2023. Our successful stewardship campaign, "Changing Lives", described how your support affected lives and put us on a path to a great 2024.

Whether you are a consistent contributor, just starting your stewardship journey or someone who was moved to increase your contribution,

all gifts make a difference. It is our goal to communicate regularly to our church family on how your generosity is supporting God's kingdom.

I want to sincerely thank each one of you for your generous commitments whether it is your time, talents or financial gifts that will support all our efforts in 2024.

Sincerely, Dan Legler Stewardship Chair



**352 S Main Street Crown Point IN 46307 t.219.663.1515 f. 219.662.2714 www.FUMCCP.org** Mark M. Wilkins, Senior Pastor Danno Lambert, Director of Ministries





FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS



# **BEARS & BADGES**

FUNDRAISER DINNER FOR CROWN POINT FIRST RESPONDERS
PROCEEDS WILL HELP PURCHASE AED UNITS FOR
FIRST RESPONDERS & THE CROWN POINT COMMUNITY

SPECIAL GUESTS...

JIM MILLER
QUARTERBACK & NFL RADIO
DENNIS MCKINNON
WIDE RECEIVER & AUTHOR

Tickets \$ 50



• SILENT AUCTION OF BEARS MEMORABILIA •

www.BearsAndBadges.net

# B I B L E

WHEN IN SORROW	JOHN 14
WHEN MEN FAIL YOU	PSALM 27
WHEN YOU HAVE SINNED	
WHEN YOU HAVE WORRY	
WHEN YOU ARE IN DANGER	
WHEN GOD SEEMS FAR AWAY	
WHEN YOUR FAITH NEEDS STIRRING	
WHEN YOU ARE LONELY AND FEARFUL	
WHEN YOU GROW BITTER AND CRITICAL	
WHEN YOU FEEL DOWN AND OUT	
WHEN YOU WANT PEACE AND REST	
WHEN THE WORLD SEEMS BIGGER THAN GOD	
WHEN YOU WANT CHRISTIAN ASSURANCE	
WHEN YOU LEAVE HOME FOR LABOR OR TRAVEL	
WHEN YOUR PRAYERS GROW NARROW OR SELFISH	
WHEN YOU WANT COURAGE FOR A TASK	
WHEN YOU THINK OF INVESTMENTS/RETURNS	
HOW TO GET ALONG WITH FELLOWMEN	
FOR GREAT INVENTION/OPPORTUNITY	
FOR PAUL'S SECRET TO HAPPINESS	
IF YOU WANT TO BE FRUITFUL	
IF YOUR POCKETBOOK IS EMPTY	
IF YOU'RE LOSING CONFIDENCE IN PEOPLE	
IF PEOPLE SEEM UNKIND	
IF DISCOURAGED ABOUT WORK	
IE VOIL EIND THE WINDI D COOWING SMALL AND VOIL COEAT	

