

November
2025

THE BEACON

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



VETERANS DAY SERVICE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND AT 11:00 AM

SPECIAL GUEST:
SGT. 1ST CLASS (RET)
SAMMY LEE DAVIS
MEDAL OF HONOR
RECIPIENT



ALL
SAINTS DAY
SERVICE



SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 9

WE WILL REMEMBER AND
GIVE THANKS TO THOSE
WHO HAVE GONE
BEFORE US IN FAITH BY
LIGHTING A CANDLE IN
THEIR MEMORY AND
HONORING THE
IMPACT THEIR LIVES HAVE
HAD ON US.



FRIDAYS - 9:30 TO 11:30 AM
CRAFTY GRANNIES IN DOWNEY HALL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
BLOOD PRESSURE / BLOOD SUGAR SCREENING
8:30 AM TO 11:00 AM IN THE PARLOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
SPECIAL VETERANS DAY SERVICE AT 11:00 AM
SERMON BY... SGT. SAMMY LEE DAVIS
MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD
NEW BEGINNINGS THANKSGIVING LUNCH
12:00 NOON IN DOWNEY HALL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH
ALL SAINTS SERVICES
8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 AM
A SPECIAL TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
THE BREAKFAST CLUB @ 9:00 AM
CASA BALBINA RESTAURANT
CROWN POINT, IN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23RD
HANGING OF THE GREENS AT 12:30 PM



EISENHOWER SCHOOL VISIT...

ON A FRIDAY IN
OCTOBER, STUDENTS
FROM EISENHOWER
SCHOOL—ALONG WITH

THEIR TEACHERS AND PARENT CHAPERONES—
TOOK A WELL-DESERVED BREAK ON OUR FRONT
LAWN.

THE GROUP WAS ON A FIELD TRIP TO THE CROWN
POINT FIRE STATION FOR A TOUR AND
EDUCATIONAL VISIT, AND WE WERE HONORED TO
BE PART OF THEIR DAY.



IT WAS REFRESHING TO SEE THAT OUR FRONT
LAWN PROVIDED EVERYONE WITH A CONVENIENT
AND SAFE SPACE TO RELAX.

THANK YOU, JULIE, FOR TAKING THE PICTURE!

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

🎄 ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: The Improbable Story

Four thousand years ago, God made a promise through Abraham's bloodline. Two thousand years later, Jesus was born. And now, two thousand years after that, we are still talking about it.

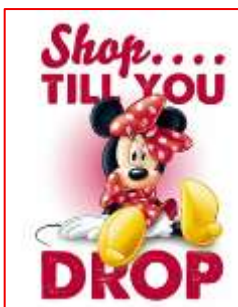
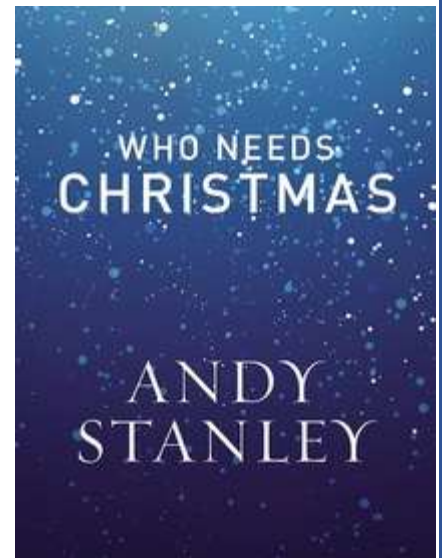
Why?

Because the story of Jesus' birth was nothing like anyone expected:
A baby... born in a forgotten corner of the Mediterranean...
To save us from sins we did not even know we needed saving.

This Christmas season, join Andy Stanley and Pastor Mark as they unpack why the improbability of the Christmas story is exactly what makes it so believable.

No one could have—or would have—made it up.

This four-week study begins on Tuesday, December 2nd at either 10AM or 2 PM. Please sign up at the Welcome Center!



HOLI DAZE BAZAAR

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 8TH
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

🎁 HOLIDAY MARKET EXTRAVAGANZA! 🎄

🍀 OVER 25 UNIQUE VENDORS

🎁 GIFTS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

🛒 BEAUTIFUL GIFT BASKETS & DELICIOUS BAKED GOODS

🦃 TRY OUR FAMOUS TURKEY & GRAVY ON A BUN FOR LUNCH



Crazy Bunco Night

Sponsored by United Women in Faith

Door Prizes

Saturday, November 22nd

Games start at 6:00
(doors open at 5:30pm)

Refreshments & Snacks

Tickets = \$15.00 each

3 games (6 rounds/game)

Tickets can be purchased in advance at First United Methodist Church OR at the door (with cash) Bunco Night

Raffle Baskets

WIN PRIZES

We help support local missions:

- Phil's Friends
- St Jude House
- Cedar Lake Food Pantry
- Adopt-a-Family
- Meals on Wheels
- Royal Family Kids Camp
- Community Help Network

First United Methodist Church
352 S Main St
Crown Point
Call 219-663-1515

🎄 SHARE THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED 🎁



Our church has a long and generous tradition of supporting families in our community during the Christmas season. Each year, we partner with six Lake County agencies who help us identify and vet families facing hardship—ensuring your gifts go where they are needed most.

This Christmas, we invite you to participate by donating Meijer or Walmart gift cards in denominations of \$25, \$50, or \$100, or by contributing monetary donations of any amount. These stores offer food, clothing, toys, and gas—giving parents the dignity of choosing items that best suit their family's needs.

👤 How You Can Help:

- Visit the Welcome Center to adopt a child or family from one of our partner agencies.
- Our goal is to provide \$100 per child and at least \$50 per family for groceries.
- Please label each gift card with its dollar amount.
- Envelopes will be available at the Giving Tree and Welcome Center.
- Donations can be placed in the offering plate, dropped off at the church office, or made online at fumccp.org.

🔔 **Moments for Missions** – Sunday, November 9 Representatives from three of our partner agencies will speak during worship to share how your generosity impacts families from their perspective.

📅 **Donation Deadline:** Sunday, November 30, 2025

Let us come together once again to make Christmas a season of hope, love, and joy for those around us.

Missions committee.



JOIN US FOR OUR UPCOMING EVENTS



SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 9TH
2:00 PM

HOSTED BY...
grow
a ministry of
First United Methodist Church
Crown Point, IN * www.FUMCCP.org



BLOOD DRIVE
DECEMBER 1ST ...
3:45 TO 7:00 PM



THIS WILL BE OUR LAST BLOOD DRIVE FOR 2025.
YOUR GENEROSITY HAS MADE A LIFE-SAVING
DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY. LET'S FINISH STRONG
- JOIN US ONE LAST TIME TO GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE!

FEEDING THE BULLDOGS, FUELING THE SPIRIT

On Thursday, October 9th, members of our church came together to serve dinner to the Crown Point Bulldog Football Team ahead of their Friday night matchup against Chesterton. The Bulldogs responded with a dominant performance, securing a 48–10 victory!



These Thursday Night Dinners have become a cherished tradition at Crown Point High School, offering not just nourishment but encouragement, community, and a reminder that the town stands behind its team. We're proud to play a small role in supporting these young athletes—on and off the field.

Go Bulldogs!

Pictured left to right are Eric Howard, Jayne Gibbs, Mitch Gibbs, Deb Perzo, Barbara Woods, Jane Wilkins, Denny Woods, Becky Sills, Jeremy Dykhuis, Paul Sills Ed McLoud.



Get into the Christmas spirit by joining us on Sunday, November 23rd after the 11:00 am service as we come together to decorate the church for Advent and the Christmas season.

Enjoy fellowship, festive music, and help transform our church into a warm and welcoming celebration of the season!



Because of a very special and generous gift from Tom and Judy Wisniewski, the flooring in Downey Hall, the kitchen, and the stage area will be replaced this November.

This update is especially meaningful, as the current flooring is the original tile installed when the church was first built—making this refresh long overdue and deeply appreciated.

1 THESSALINIANS 5:18...
GIVE THANKS IN ALL
CIRCUMSTANCES; FOR THIS IS
THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST
JESUS FOR YOU.



NEW BEGINNINGS LUNCH PROGRAMS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Our guest speaker will be Diane Nelson from Little Help Food Pantry Lake Village. Our mission committee supports them throughout the year.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

**RSVP TO CHURCH OFFICE AT 219-663-1515
BY NOVEMBER**

 **LUNCH IN DOWNEY HALL • 12:00 NOON • \$2.00**

JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS AND AFFORDABLE LUNCH
SERVED WITH LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP! ALL ARE
WELCOME—BRING A FRIEND & ENJOY GOOD FOOD
AND GREAT COMPANY.

 **DONATION OPPORTUNITY:**

WE ARE COLLECTING PERSONAL HYGIENE AND
HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS TO INCLUDE IN OUR
MONTHLY BLESSINGS BAGS FOR LITTLE HELP FOOD
PANTRY IN LAKE VILLAGE, IN. YOUR GENEROSITY
HELPS NEIGHBORS IN NEED.



 **Be Safe...
Get Checked!**

Join us for our next Blood
Pressure & Blood Sugar
Screening

 **Sunday, November 2nd**

 **8:30 AM – 11:00 AM**

 **In the Parlor**

These screenings are lovingly
provided by the dedicated
nurses of our church.



Crafty Grannie's

Join us every Friday from 9:30
AM to 11:30 AM in Downey Hall
for creativity, conversation,
and community. Whether
you're a seasoned crafter or
just curious, you're welcome—you don't need to be
a Granny to join!

Our New Beginnings Christmas tree
will be going up November 23rd. We
will be collecting gloves and hats for
those in need. Please join us for fun
and pizza.



COATS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES, TOO

SHARE THE WARMTH THIS WINTER!

COATS FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES, TOO IS A LOCAL
ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO PROVIDING WARM COATS TO
CHILDREN AND ADULTS IN NEED ACROSS NORTHWEST
INDIANA. EACH YEAR, THEY DISTRIBUTE OVER 1,000
COATS—AND YOU CAN HELP MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

 **COLLECTION DATES: NOVEMBER 1–15 (FIRST TWO
WEEKS OF NOVEMBER)**

 **DROP-OFF LOCATION: DONATION BIN IN DOWNEY
HALL AT FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CROWN
POINT, IN.**

WE'RE COLLECTING GENTLY USED OR NEW COATS OF ALL
SIZES. EACH COAT WILL BE WASHED AND REPAIRED BEFORE
BEING DISTRIBUTED AT FREE GIVEAWAYS THROUGHOUT THE
REGION.

LET'S KEEP OUR NEIGHBORS WARM THIS WINTER!



♥ Project Love Food Pantry: Nourishing Hope in Lake County, Indiana

In the heart of Cedar Lake, Indiana, a beacon of compassion shines every Wednesday morning. The **Project Love Food Pantry**, operated by the Cedar Lake United Methodist Church, opens its doors from **9:00 AM to 11:30 AM**, offering more than just food—it offers dignity, respect, and hope to those in need¹.

The pantry serves the **southern half of Lake County**, including Hanover, Center, Winfield, West Creek, Cedar Creek, and Eagle Creek Townships. With 5,000 **individuals living below the poverty level** in this area, Project Love estimates that **125 people per week** may need food assistance¹.

Project Love Food Pantry is more than a place to get groceries—it is a community lifeline. Whether you are seeking help or looking to give back, this pantry is a powerful reminder of what love in action looks like.

📅 November Food Drive for Project Love Pantry

This November, our church community is coming together to support the Project Love Food Pantry in Cedar Lake by collecting non-perishable food items. It's a wonderful opportunity to share the spirit of giving and help families in need as we head into the holiday season.

🛒 What to Donate:

We welcome all non-perishable items—canned goods, boxed meals, pasta, rice, peanut butter, and other shelf-stable foods.

📍 Where to Donate:

Please bring your donations to church and place them in Downey Hall. The final day to drop off items is Sunday, November 23rd.

🚚 Delivery Day:

Our amazing AMPED Youth Group will be delivering the collected items to the Project Love Food Pantry on Friday, November 28th. We are so proud of their commitment to service and community outreach!

Let us make this season brighter for our neighbors in need. Every can, box, and bag makes a difference. Thank you for your generosity!



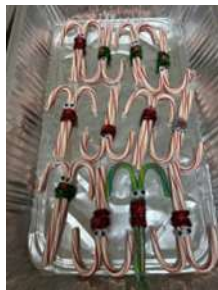


SPECIAL GIFTS FOR THE HEART

The grannies have been very busy making gifts for residents of Two Hearts Home for Seniors in Crown Point and Lowell.



Left... Jesus in a Jar tabletop Christmas ornament.
Right... Candy Canes for their Sweet Tooth.



Our Family at *Two Hearts* is dedicated to caring for your loved ones. With the highest caregiver-to-resident ratios in the industry, our family is dedicated to yours.

We specialize in providing a personalized approach to assisted living care at both our Lowell and Crown Point assisted living facilities. We only house 16 people at a time, which allows us to offer one-on-one service to every client under our care. At our senior living communities, we take the time to get to know what you even like in your morning cup of coffee.



Financial Update – Year-to-Date Through September 30, 2025

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the final quarter of 2025, we want to share a snapshot of our financial activity through September. Your generosity continues to make a meaningful impact, and we are grateful for every gift that supports the mission and ministry of First United Methodist Church.

 Year-to-Date Overview:

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Actual Income	\$ 483,809
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 529,148
Income vs. Budgeted Expenses	(\$45,339)
Actual Expenses	\$ 496,208
Actual Income vs. Actual Expenses	(\$ 12,399)

We were encouraged to see a modest increase in income over last year, and we have kept expenses well below budget. However, income remains below our projected needs, and expenses—while carefully managed—still exceed income.

Thanks to prudent stewardship, we have reserves to cover the shortfall for now. But as we look ahead, we ask everyone to prayerfully consider how they might help close the gap. Some discretionary costs can be trimmed, but essential expenses like staff payroll, utilities, and insurance must be maintained.

 A Call to Support

The Finance Committee invites each member to support the church to the best of their ability. Every contribution helps sustain our ministries, outreach, and worship life. Together, we can finish the year strong.

With gratitude,
The Finance Committee