



The Second Word

*A monthly electronic publication with information, announcements,
and updates from First Church*

May 26, 2021

Worship:

Why are we celebrating Pride Sunday?

On Sunday, June 6th we will be celebrating Pride Sunday as a church. This idea of celebrating Pride might be new to some, so I thought I would share a few ideas behind the celebration.

Pride is a positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and gender-fluid people. Pride is also a chance to promote self-affirmation, dignity, equality, and fundamental human rights, and to celebrate in a safe environment.

First Church has been providing a safe environment to celebrate since at least 2017. In January and February of that year, our congregation officially voted to become a part of the Reconciling Ministries Network. The Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) is an organization seeking the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in both the policy and practices of the United Methodist Church. RMN equips and mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves.

On June 6th, we celebrate that all of God's children are welcome in our church and at the table of grace. That is something to celebrate especially since there are churches that refuse to welcome our LGBTQ siblings.

I appreciate the words of a clergy colleague of mine who wrote, "As someone who is theologically affirming of my LGBTQ neighbors *BECAUSE* of my exploration of scripture, not in spite of it." The Body of Christ, the church, is not complete until everyone is fully welcomed, embraced, and affirmed. On June 6th, we will celebrate that First Church welcomes, embraces, and affirms our LGBTQ siblings.

I'm so glad to be a part of First Church. This is a congregation I want to raise my boys in; one where everyone is told they are fully loved by God. Let's celebrate that on June 6th and every Sunday!





WORSHIP IN LEEPER PARK AT 10AM



Announcements:

Vacation Bible School 2021 – To Mars and Beyond: Explore where God's Power Can Take You - July 26-30, 9am to Noon – Age 4 through 5th grade at First United Methodist Church. The program is for everyone. There will be art, music, recreation, Bible study and more. The cost is \$40 per child (\$30 for each additional child from the same household). No family will be turned away for inability to pay. Registration deadline is June 6th. High Schoolers can apply to be on staff. Please see the flyer attached to the Second Word email message.

For more information contact Pastor Emily at pastoremilysw@gmail.com



Thanks to our VBS volunteers! Our congregation has shown tremendous support for our new ministry by signing up to volunteer. Many thanks to all of you who have! **Don't miss our volunteer meeting on Monday, June 14 at 6:30 PM in the Parlor**, for those who will be there during the week of VBS.

We need some out-of-this-world decorators! Calling on anyone who can use scotch tape and scissors! We will have two decorating sessions to prep for the week: Wednesday, July 21 at 6:30 PM and Sunday, July 25 at Noon. Contact Pastor Emily if you can help!

Want a different way to support VBS? Look for our **donation board** coming to worship on June 6 and see if there's a supply you can donate.

Registration for VBS is still open and we are still looking for High School staff! Share a flier with someone you know. Now is the *perfect* time to invite someone as school is letting out and people are looking at the summer head.

Young Adult Service Day DATE CHANGE July 11: PAINTING! Wear your painting clothes! We will be painting the nursery and sprucing it up to use for new children's programming in the fall. Donuts provided, bring your own beverage and meet at church at 9 AM. We will work well into the afternoon to get as far on this project as we can, painting, assembling furniture, and doing some general cleanup. No previous painting experience needed! Another service day may be scheduled for this project later in the summer. Let Pastor Emily know if you plan to attend.

GODLY PLAY: Leaders and assistants needed for new Christian education programming. This fall we will launch new programming for our children and youth at First Church. We are looking for a few adult leaders to be a part of Children's Church. This educational time, taking place during a part of Sunday morning worship, will use Godly Play, a Montessori-based curriculum. This playful, simple curriculum is structured around telling the foundational stories of our faith. Please contact Pastor Emily at pastoremilytw@gmail.com to learn more. A training day for all those interested will be held in August.

Masking at First Church – Updated – The Church Leadership Team, Trustees and Pastor Matt have discussed how to move forward on masking since the changes to the CDC guidelines for those who are vaccinated were announced. We are easing into the new CDC guidelines and anticipate that things will continue to improve over the summer.

- During outdoor worship at Leeper Park those attending who are fully vaccinated can choose whether to wear a mask or not – whatever is comfortable. Those who have not been fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask. Around children or our younger members, we encourage everyone to mask and distance as much as possible since they have not yet been vaccinated. We will continue to sing in the park.
- If worship moves into the church building due to rain, we will ask everyone to wear a mask to show hospitality for everyone, including those who have not been vaccinated and our younger ones. Masks will be available. We will continue to distance while in the sanctuary. We will sing in the sanctuary.
- In the church building we encourage everyone to wear a mask in public spaces. If there is a meeting where everyone is vaccinated, then the group can decide to take off the masks or not.

First Church afternoon at the South Bend Cubs—The date is Sunday, August 8th. Game time is 2:05 p.m. Tickets are \$12.00 each. Contact the church office at 233-9463 or email at fumcsecretary2@gmail.com to with your name and number of tickets (children under 2 years old are free). You can drop off payment at the church office, pay online via the website using “other” and “SB Cubs” as the designation, or drop your payment in an envelope marked “SB Cubs” on Sunday mornings. We do have a limit on the number of tickets at 75 total and 37 tickets reserved so far. And, Pastor Matt will throw out the first pitch that day—you certainly don’t want to miss that (We hear he’s practicing already).

Thank You!!



Thank you to Marcus and Griffin’s Upholstery – for our new pew cushions in the Chapel! This is a locally owned business here in South Bend.

And thank you to Sue Wright who donated the funds to make this possible in remembrance of her father.