



## *The Second Word*

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

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**July 21, 2021**

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### ***Vacation Bible School:***

**IT'S TIME FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!** VBS begins next Monday, July 26! We are prepared to welcome 20 kids and 5 high school staffers as well as a host of volunteers from our church. Many thanks to all of you who have supported this NEW program! Don't forget these ways to continue to be involved:

- **Donate your empty 12 or 20 oz bottles!** Bring them to worship on Sunday or to the office ASAP.
- **Help us decorate and set up.** Meet at church either TONIGHT Wednesday, July 21 at 6:30 pm or Sunday, July 25 at Noon to help out.
- **A blessing for volunteers and staff Sunday, July 25!** Our usual worship in Leeper Park will include a special blessing for the upcoming week.
- **Check our social media all week for photos and updates!** July 26-30
- **Don't forget VBS Sunday, August 1.** Come enjoy music and stories shared by the VBS kids and welcome them to First Church.
- **Welcome visitors!** We will likely have families, kids, and teens from VBS with us in worship over the next couple of weeks. Reach out and say hello to someone new!



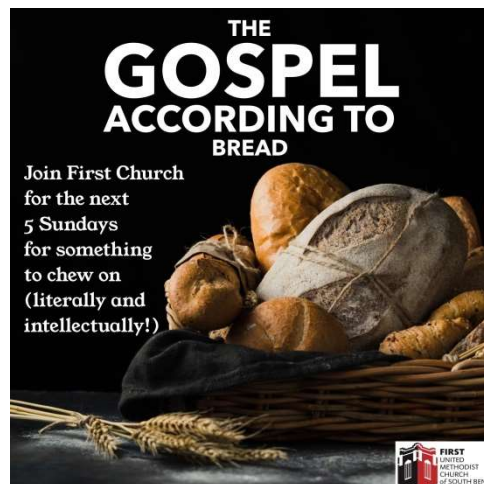
### ***Worship:***



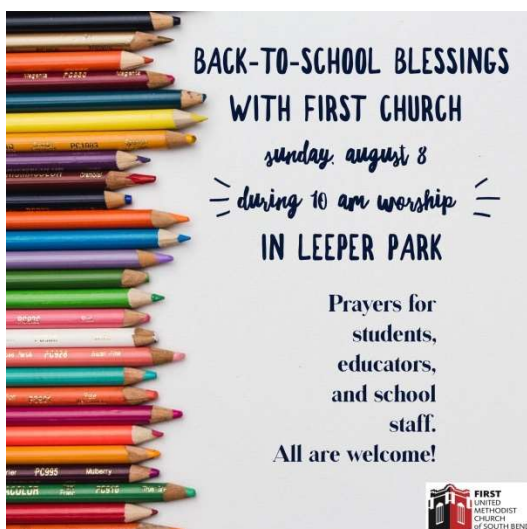
## WORSHIP IN LEEPER PARK AT 10AM



**The Gospel According to Bread:** Beginning on **July 25** with the Feeding of 5000, we get several weeks of *carb-heavy* readings in a row. But don't worry, Pastor Matt and Pastor Emily won't let things get *stale!* Join First Church for *The Gospel According to Bread* series for five Sundays. Together we consider not only what it *means* that Jesus is the Bread of Life, but we also look for ways to *experience* this embodied grace.



## Announcements:

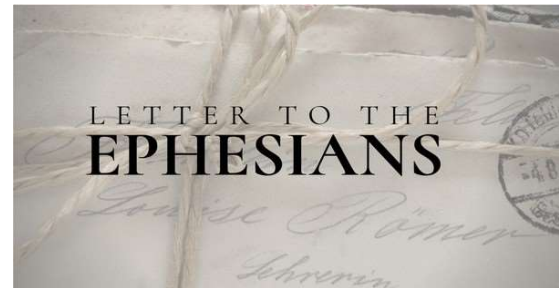


**Back-to-School Blessings: Blessing for kids and educators Sunday, August 8!** Join First Church for Back-to-School Blessings in worship on Sunday, August 8 at 10 AM in Leeper Park (weather permitting). Our worship this day will include special prayers for students (of all ages!), educators, and school staff as a new school year begins the following week. Invite someone you know! Pick up a flier in church on Sunday or share this announcement via email or on social media.



**Opportunities to Serve with Food Pantry -** Our First Church Food Pantry is open every Tuesday from 10am to 1pm. The Pantry is in need of volunteers, especially tall and strong people, who would be able to reach high and lift lots of food. If you are able and interested, you can contact the church office or just show up on a Tuesday morning any time after 9am in the Social Hall downstairs.

**Study of Ephesians**—It's not too late to join the Wednesday evening, study of Ephesians exploring God's gift of grace. Some theologians consider this book the radiant light of the Pauline letters. Max Lucado suggests Ephesians offers a breathtaking view of God's wisdom to help us live a Christian life. **This is a hybrid study** so you may join on **Zoom at 6:00 pm** or **come to the Parlor** of the church as we hear Paul cut to the heart of belonging, blessings, and being human. Together we will harvest a wealth of understanding about Christian unity as we read someone else's mail from the first century.



For more information or to register for the class: Contact, [Geni Holmes, geni.holmes@duke.edu](mailto:geni.holmes@duke.edu).

**Exciting News at First Church—Worship While You Walk! -**

We invite you to join us in a new program known as, "**Worship While you Walk!**" This is for the entire congregation, both young and seasoned! For one hour, a few times a month, we will meet to hear a scripture lesson, walk for 30 minutes while reflecting on that scripture and close with some comments and discussion and prayer. What a wonderful way to strengthen our relations with others in our church community as well as our relations with God.

- **What you need to know:** This is for the entire family! There will be activities for children to do while walking.
- **When:** Sunday, August 15th, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- **Location:** We will meet in Leeper Park where we conduct our Sunday morning service.
- **What to bring:** Comfortable walking shoes, water, sunscreen, hats and/or sunglasses.



We look forward to walking with you in August!

**FREE ice cream for First Church Young Adults!** Do you miss the summer days when you could convince your parents to stop for ice cream on the way home? Well we're bringing them back! Pastor Matt is taking us out for ice cream. **Meet at Culvers on Michigan (South side) on August 15th** directly following worship and grab your free cone and some social time with your First Church friends.



**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](mailto:pastoremilytw@gmail.com) to learn more. A training day for all those interested will be held in August.

**First Church afternoon at the South Bend Cubs**—Time is running out to get your tickets for the South Bend Cubs game on **Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:05 p.m.** Tickets are \$12.00 each. **We have a total of 75 tickets available with 61 already reserved.**

Contact the church office at 233-9463 or email at [fumcsecretary2@gmail.com](mailto: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).



**2021 Annual Conference - Report from Bob Humphrey** - I am reporting on the 2021 Annual Conference held virtually on June 11 & 12.

The speakers at the conference were amazing, both spiritual and motivational. Some of the words we heard stuck out in my mind like “**Children Matter Most**” and “**We can dismantle racism**”.

There were four resolutions passed:

1. Children Matter Most
2. Adoption and Foster Care
3. A non-binding resolution of Aspiration
4. 2021 Budget

The Board of Laity approved for their Mission the three UMC Youth Homes in the state. One of them is Bashor Home for Boys that is located in Goshen, IN. If you would like to donate you may do so through your local church.

There were two church closings in our area, Epworth and Monson Chapel. One disassociated church was Granger Community.

If anyone has any questions, contact me and I will try and get you the answers.

Thank you  
Bob Humphrey