

High Street UMC Tower Topics



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Our Vision

High Street Unitedf Methodist Church nurtures disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, **love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously** in our local communities and in worldwide connections.

Join Us For Sunday Worship

10am Traditional Worship Service
And livestream on Facebook and YouTube
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com>
Muncie High Street UMC
YouTube: <http://bit.ly/4tS7Ehu>

Office Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9am - 3pm; Closed on Fridays.

You will need to be buzzed in the door.

High Street United Methodist Church 219 S. High St. / Muncie, IN 47305

From Pastor Teri

A Wonder-Full Life

October is our official stewardship season here at High Street, although stewardship is a year-round activity. Stewardship is not about deciding what we'll give to the church for any given year. It's a spiritual practice, a response to God's love with our own love, a way we recognize both that we and everything we've been given actually belongs to God, and that we are simply "stewards" of those gifts. We are entrusted to care for the gifts, and to share them with God and one another for the glory of God. And we agree in our vows of membership to support the church with our prayers, our presence, our service, our witness, and our GIFTS.

All that said, once a year we have a set period we call "stewardship" when we seek the estimates of giving from each of you to help us with budgeting and planning purposes. That, too, is good stewardship.

This year, our stewardship series is called, "A Wonder-Full Life," and is inspired by the book, *Integrating Money and Meaning* by Maggie Kulyk and Liz McGeachy, in which the authors help us look at our own money practices through the lens of the classic Frank Capra movie, *It's a Wonderful Life*. We all have our own issues around money. Through scripture, images and characters drawn from the movie, and concepts from the book, we'll look these issues squarely in the face and shine a light on our money practices with compassion in ways that can bring us greater spiritual peace.

This can be very scary AND inspiring. But our own acts of generosity (we might call them "stewardship") are affected greatly by the underlying fear most of us have lurking in the shadows – even if we seem secure; like we "have it all together." There's a reason that "death and taxes" are said to be the two things we fear most. It turns out there is a strong relationship between our fear of death and our inability to have peace about money.

Spiritual practices feed that part of ourselves that is oriented toward serenity, harmony, truth, compassion, gratitude, love, and joy. But these are not always words we use to describe the role of money in our lives. In the classic film, *"It's a Wonderful Life,"* a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. In this four-week series, we will "look" squarely in the face of our money issues in compassionate ways that can offer more depth of meaning, healing, and wholeness and a whole new "outlook" on what constitutes a wonderful – and "wonder-full" – life.

August Financial Update

As previously announced, the Church Council approved a 2026 budget of \$544,554, which again was a “meet-the-needs as is” budget. We’ve received \$330,134 in pledges for 2026. We’ll report our monthly income, which will include any one-time gifts, as well as money provided by the trustees from their accounts to cover some of our building expenses and some of the money from the Foundation grant, against both numbers.

Also as previously noted, our giving trends are unusual, because so many give through RMDs, QCDs, and other annual tax-minimizing means – usually at the beginning or end of the year. Our beginning of the year giving has come to an end. Our income for August was \$25,399. This means our total July income was \$19,981 less than the \$45,380 that’s 1/12 of our \$544,554 budget. Fortunately, our expenses were only \$32,261, which was \$6862 less than our monthly income.

Our YTD income (including the two one-time extravagant gifts in February and July) was \$366,491, which is \$3451 more than the \$363,040 we have budgeted YTD. Expenses YTD are \$341,951, which is \$24,540 less than our total YTD income, and \$21,089 less than we had budgeted for YTD. Again, unusually low utility expenses for May and June, as well as continuing tight spending control by staff through the year, contributed to this.

We encourage you to keep up your support as 2026 continues. You may give online at www.highstreetumc.breezechms.com/give/online . You may also text your offering to 765/222-5007, or mail your checks into the church at 219 S. High Street, Muncie, IN 47305. As always, you may bring your offering or pledge form into the church in person; we’d love to see and talk with you. If you’re able to give extra, please prayerfully consider doing so. Your support means everything.

August 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted: \$45,380 (1/12 of \$544,554)

Pledged for 2026: \$27,511 (1/12 of \$330,134)

Actual income: \$25,399

Expenses: \$32,261

Net Income (Aug): -\$6862 (Income v. Expenses)

YTD 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted YTD: \$363,040 (8/12 of \$544,554)

Pledged YTD: \$220,088 (8/12 of \$330,134)

Income YTD: \$366,491*

Expenses YTD: \$341,951

Net Income YTD: \$3451 (Budget v. Income*)

*Includes two one-time (unpledged) extravagant gifts in February & July

“Thank You” to our Trustees

We’ve learned over the years that our beautiful building requires dedicated attention. The many systems that keep it running, the physical infrastructure, interior and exterior amenities, and more, all require constant attention and ongoing maintenance. We are fortunate that many in the past planned ahead and set up endowed funds for such maintenance and repairs (administered by the Trustees), and that we have persons willing and able to serve as trustees here at High Street.

Our trustees take their responsibilities seriously, and I’m grateful for their guidance and thoughtful decision-making. They are good stewards, both of the physical property with which we have all been entrusted, and the funds which they administer to keep our building in good shape. Costs continue to increase; and our HVAC, utilities, plumbing, and other systems continue to age and require work. If you see a trustee, thank them for their work.

Church Utilities & Stewardship

The sanctuary is set at 72° year-round. This is at the recommendation of Reynolds & Co., the organization that services our organ. Clearly, we all appreciate the organ, and it’s worth a lot of money. So, we want to care for it properly.

We know that in winter, some find this temperature too warm; and in summer, some think it’s too cold. Our best suggestion is to dress in layers. Additionally, **PLEASE do not prop any of the doors to the outside open** (either the front “High Street” doors or the glass atrium doors). That disrupts the temperature equilibrium set in the church and sanctuary, and our heat pumps have to work harder and longer to re-establish the set temperatures – which also raises our utility costs. Even if this was a practice we “always did before” or “always used to do,” that was before utility costs rose so high. We are counting on your good stewardship.

We appreciate your good stewardship of the facility and everything we continue to cherish here at High Street.



Wisdom People

Carolyn Minnick will be 91 on October 3

Virginia Metro will be 95 on October 16

Sydney Wulff will be 91 on October 20

Wilber Chestnut will be 96 on October 28



ALL-CHURCH IMPORTANT INFO!

October 2026

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com



PIZZA!
POPCORN!
POP!
TREATS!

Private Eyes

1980's
Classic!!



Don Knotts &
Tim Conway

OCTOBER 23 @ 6PM

RATED PG : PLEASE CHECK COMMONSENSE MEDIA TO SEE IF THIS
MOVIE IS A GOOD FIT FOR YOUR FAMILY!

\$5 PERSON ... \$20 FAMILY MAX

GET YOUR
TICKETS
NOW

RSVP with Ms. Joy
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com



YOUTH NEWS

Acolyte Schedule:

Oct. 4: Sam & Sophia
 Oct. 11: Dean & Leo
 Oct. 18: Josiah & Leo
 Oct. 25: Joseph & Esther

Sunday School:

Oct. 4: Jesus appeared to Thomas
 Oct. 11: None
 Oct. 18: Jesus forgave Peter
 Oct. 25: Jesus gives his followers direction

Youth:

Oct. 4: Youth: Putt-Putt
 Oct. 11: None
 Oct. 18: Youth @ 5pm
 Oct. 25: Trunk or Treat

Confirmation:

Oct. 4: Kick-Off @ 11:00am
 Oct. 11: Lesson #1 w/Mentor
 Oct. 18: Lesson #2 w/Mentor
 Oct. 25: Service Opportunity!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**COME DECORATE A TRUNK ...
COME SET UP A COMFY CHAIR ...
COME PASS OUT CANDY!**

OR PLEASE DONATE CANDY TO HAND OUT!

AND DON'T FORGET TO INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS!



JOIN US FOR HIGH STREET UMC'S ANNUAL

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday • October 25 • 3:30pm-4:30pm



Family Friendly!!

**219 S High Street
Muncie, Indiana 46792**

Need to contact Joy?
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High Street Church Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Teri Crouse
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Church Administrator and Finance

Director: Diana Smiley
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Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

Director: Joy Bricker
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Angels on High Preschool Director:

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Director of Music: Dr. Andrew Crow

andrew.crow.dma@gmail.com

Organist: Dr. Sally Kang

Soyeon.Kang@bsu.edu

Handbell Director: Dr. Ann Hicks

amhicks2@bsu.edu

Worship Schedule October

October 4	Holy Communion
Sermon:	Looking Back
Scripture:	Matthew 22:15-22
October 11	A Wonder-Full Life
Sermon:	Looking In
Scripture:	Matthew 6:19-24
October 18	A Wonder-Full Life
Sermon:	Looking Out
Scripture:	1 Timothy 6:17-19
October 25	A Wonder-Full Life
Sermon:	Looking with Gratitude
Scripture:	Acts 2:32-35

Men's Breakfast

The October Methodist Men's Breakfast will be on the 21st at 8:00 AM. Join us for good food, good friends, and inspiring thoughts. Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 13th, at 9:30 AM in The Gathering Place. Gretchen Schneider will lead devotions; Jane Freestone will serve as the hostesses.

UWF General Meeting

There will be no UWF General Meeting in October,

Thursday Luncheon Wants You!

Do you like socializing? Do you like good food? Do you like bad jokes and puns? Well, then Thursday Luncheon is calling your name. Join us Thursday at 11:30 in Parish Hall for food, fun, and fellowship! We'd love to have you join us. Just call the church office by noon on Tuesday to make a reservation.



ANGELS ON HIGH PRESCHOOL AND PDO

A SPECIAL MINISTRY OF

HIGH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

 — **OCTOBER 2026** — 

Angels on High will
be **CLOSED** for
Fall Break
October 5-9



October 26
Cheeseball Orders
begin!

October Donations:
Large Bags of
**HALLOWEEN
CANDY**



Candy Corn
Mellowcreme
Pumpkins

September was a busy and exciting month in preschool! The boys and girls have been learning all about the life cycle of an apple and the beauty of the fall season. The 3-4's preschool class took a field trip to Jacobs' Family Orchard, where they learned about apple trees, bees, and even got to see how apple cider is made! The 4/5 Pre-K class visited Whitetail Tree Farm, where they explored the farm, met the animals, and each student brought home their very own pumpkin!

This month, each preschool class will be celebrating with a Fall Party. Parents are invited to donate special snacks and volunteer in the classroom to help make the day extra fun. We can't wait to see all of the students dressed up in their non-scary costumes for the celebration!

Angels on High's famous cheeseballs (made with love) are here again this holiday season! Orders Open: Last week of October. Thanksgiving Pick-Up: Sunday, November 22. These cheeseballs are a holiday tradition you don't want to miss. All proceeds go to Angels on High Preschool. Help us spread the love, one cheeseball at a time!



Bon Apple-tite

