



# High Street UMC



# Inside Tower Topics

## January, 2025

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## Our Vision

Creating Space  
for the future

Creating Space  
in ourselves for  
spiritual formation

# Creating Space for others to be

## Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9am-3pm,  
Closed Friday

You will need to be buzzed in the door.  
765-747-8500

## Join Us For Sunday's Worship

10am Traditional Worship Service  
and livestream on Facebook & YouTube

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com>

HighStreetUMChurch

YouTube: [bitly.videohighstreet](https://bitly.videohighstreet)

## **From Pastor Teri**

### **New Outlook Time - Again**

Last January, I wrote that we here at High Street UMC were at the point where we were going to need a new outlook, a fresh perspective, and change for many of the things we were used to. I wrote that change can be scary, but it doesn't have to be. We just need to remember that God is with us through it all. Well, here we are at the beginning of a new year, with even more changes ahead – most of which we didn't anticipate!

As we all know, Pastor Daryl discerned a need to resign and re-retire to care for his health. I want to reiterate that we all fully support his decision to prioritize his health. No one can pour from an empty cup, and we all know how very important it is to take care of ourselves. We wish Pastor Daryl all the best now, and in the future; and hope to continue to see him around. As he reminded us, he still lives here in Muncie so it's not like he's going anywhere.

The Finance and SPRC committees recommended, and the Church Council approved, a budget to keep things "as is," which included support for a half-time associate pastor. While our DS, Rev. Russ Abel, is aware of our need, part-time associate pastors are not easily found. They do not itinerate the way full-time elders do, so we would need to find someone already living in the area. We are brainstorming on creative solutions to our need.

In the meantime, we – as a congregation – must move to a more volunteer-oriented (and less staff-focused) model of doing things. We already have a great start on this. We have amazing leadership capability within our congregation, and so many outstanding members who have taken charge of our missions, ministries, and committees.

We also need to remember that when tasks and items need to be done (labels, minutes, copies, forms, binders, and so forth), that we no longer have the staff to do that without plenty of notice. We want to help you, but our very few staff members are juggling a lot of balls now, and need your help in making things happen. As much as possible, committees should do these things for themselves (we can show you how to operate the copier if you don't already know how).

Jesus tells us we are the church. That means each one of us. High Street doesn't belong to the staff; it belongs to everyone who attends it. We all love it. We'd love to see everyone get involved in keeping it vital. Let's all join in.

### **November Financial Update**

In November, our giving was \$42,268 which was \$9517 more than November expenses, and \$7685 more than we budgeted for. We received several generous one-time extravagant gifts (gifts beyond their pledges) from a few members of the congregation in November, which is included in the giving total and for which we give equally extravagant thanks.

Our total giving year-to-date (YTD), excluding the Ethel Gantz gift in May, was \$414,621, which we celebrate; but our expenses YTD totaled \$433,373. This means our expenses exceeded our Year-to-Date (YTD) giving by \$18,752; and our YTD budget of \$380,417 by \$52,956. With the May Ethel Gantz gift and Gladys Hendricks Trust income for 2024 figured in, our income was \$440,039, which was \$6666 more than YTD expenses. As we've noted before, our budget does not cover our greatest expenses, which are salaries and building expenses. We are nonetheless grateful for your continued generosity and support.

## From Pastor Teri

We encourage you to remember to keep up your support as 2025 begins. If you did not complete your 2024 pledge, we can still make great use of it. Your support means everything. You may give online at [www.highstreetumc.breezechms.com/give/online](http://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. If you're able to give extra, please prayerfully consider doing so. As always, you may bring your offering or pledge form into the church in person; we'd love to see and talk with you.

### **November and YTD Financial Snapshot:**

Nov. budgeted giving: \$34,583

Nov. actual giving: \$42,268

Nov. expenses: \$32,751

Cash balance (Oct.): \$9517

YTD budgeted giving: \$380,417

YTD actual giving: \$414,621

YTD income (with Gantz & trust income): \$440,039

YTD expenses: \$433,373

Net Operating Income: \$6666

### **Church Leadership Update**

This is the time of year that leaders rotate off committees following the end of their terms, and new members come onto committees. The Nominating Committee met back during the summer to discern these new committee members and Chairs of committees, and the Church Council voted on the slate at their August meeting. It was made official at our October Charge Conference.

First, we thank all those whose terms are coming to an end and are taking a respite from leadership. While ministry never ends for any of us, it's good to give a break from time to time to those who've shouldered the burdens of leadership.

Second, we welcome those who are stepping up and into committees here at High Street. You are the lifeblood that keeps the church alive and vital. We are grateful for your ministry.

Finally, as many of you know, Steve Swanger had agreed to serve as Chair of Trustees for a term beginning in January 2025. His untimely death left the Trustees with a dilemma in leadership.

After considerable prayer and discernment, Lance Brand has stepped forward to serve as Chair of Trustees for a term. Jason Bricker will be the Vice-Chair, and Carey Arnett will continue as the Secretary. We are very grateful for their service to the Trustees and to High Street.

Because of this change, Lance will no longer serve as Chair of the Finance Committee. Mary Le Gloire has agreed to step up and into that position, and we are equally grateful for her ministry.

# Fellowship Opportunities

## 67 Children Received Angel Tree Gifts

Thank you for another Successful Angel Tree year.

High Street congregation you are awesome! All tags were taken or funds were provided for secret shopper help.

All gifts were returned on the deadline, wrapped and prepared as instructed. This made distribution very easy. Thanks to you, many children and their parents' day was brightened.

This is a special program. Here is one of the thank you text we received.

"Thank you all for what you do.

I think it is so special and such a blessing in dark times. Like a message from the Lord."

Another thank you text from a recipient "I want to truly thank all of you. This is so thoughtful and means so much. My son has struggled with his dad being gone and this is going to mean everything to him. God bless all of you and I hope you have a Merry Christmas"

These kiddos are going through dark times. You help remind them and their family that the Lord is the light, and he works through people like you to get his light to those who need it most."

-Cynthia Dale

## **Winter Waffle Palooza**

On Sunday, January 28, following the worship service, join us in Parish Hall (the basement) and warm your belly with all you care to eat waffles, sausage, juice, and coffee.

This event also will allow you to warm the hearts of other as all donations from the event will go to support our High Street 2025 Walk a Mile team! Don't miss out!

## **Resolved to get Involved!**

On Sunday, January 28, during the Waffle Palooza you will have to opportunity to meet with representatives from various teams/ programs/groups of our church to learn more about all that is going on at High Street and find the right place for you to get involved.



# Thank you to our Christmas Carolers!



We had an amazing group of over 30 High Street friends come to carol to some of our members that are home-bound or in nursing facilities.

It was lovely getting to visit with friends that are unable to come to our weekly worship services!

- We returned to the church for a yummy Hot Cocoa bar with fun toppings!!





# HIGH STREET STUDENT MINISTRIES

JANUARY 2025

FAMILY - CHILDREN - TWEENS - YOUTH



## Welcome to 2025!

*May God give you the desire of your heart  
and make all your plans succeed!*

*Psalms 20:4*

### •PROJECT 219• STUDENT MINISTRIES GRADES 4-7

JAN. 5: NO PROJECT 219 MINISTRY TONIGHT!!

JAN. 12: WHAT'S YOUR 2025 RESOLUTION?

JAN. 19: MOVIE & DISCUSSION

JAN. 26: Annual NERF & NACHOS!!

### Project 219 • Tweens • Christmas 2024



Our tweens celebrated our Christmas at the home of Dick and Liz Marshall. We played games, enjoyed pizza and ice cream sundaes, and a lively gift exchange! We are so grateful for The Marshalls opening their home to us!

JOIN US EVERY WEEK FOR:  
CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL (9AM)  
& CHILDREN'S CHURCH (10AM)

GOSPEL  
PROJECT

JAN 5: WISE MEN VISITED JESUS

JAN 12: ESTHER SAVES HER PEOPLE

JAN 19: ESTHER

JAN 26: NEHEMIAH REBUIDS THE WALL

DEC 29: EZRA READS THE LAW

Sunday Morning:  
Sunday School @ 9am in G1  
Children's Church - during Traditional Service - @10am in G1

Need to contact Joy?  
[jbricker@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:jbricker@munciehighstreet.com)





**ANGELS  
ON HIGH PRESCHOOL & PDO**

*A special ministry of High Street Church*

765-216-7919

[aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com](mailto:aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com)



**Angels on High will be closed on  
January 20 in observance of  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

**January Donations**

A big THANK YOU to all of the High Street UMC members who have helped with donations for the 2024 school year! Angels on High truly appreciates your support through the year! In **JANUARY** we will be accepting the following donations: Kleenex and small paper plates. We go through lot of Kleenex during the winter months. Small paper plates are used to warm up home lunches. All donations can be dropped off at the Preschool or to the Church Office.

Thank you!

**Angels on High Preschool & PDO  
collected over 150 pairs of socks for  
the 2024 UWF Sock Drive! The  
students and staff enjoy collecting  
warm socks each year for this  
wonderful drive. Thank you to the  
UWF for another successful year!**

**Preschool Update:**

We are so excited to finish out the second semester of preschool with more field trips, Chapel, special events like Dr. Seuss Week, Easter, Muffins with Mom, and of course preschool graduation. Family & Friend referrals mean a lot to us! If you have a friend or family member looking for a wonderful preschool, please send them our way. Thank you!

Preschool registration will open to Angels on High and High Street United Methodist families for the 2025-2026 school year on February 18. Due to limited space, families are encouraged to resister before we open registration to the public in March. Due to the amount of 3 & 4 year olds this past school year we may need to open a PM class for the 4/5 Pre-K class!

**AOH Fundraisers**

Thank you HSUM Church members for participating in all of our 2024 school year fundraisers. Please watch for more information about upcoming 2025 fundraisers in the weekly Friday e-mails and in the monthly Tower Topics. School fundraisers help with purchasing snacks for PDO, supplies for Preschool Classes, Teacher gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week, Back to School, Christmas, etc and so much more! We really appreciate all of your support in helping us make our school the very best!

# 2024-2025 COLD WEATHER WARMING CENTERS

*Warming Centers available when temperature is below 32°F*

- **Center Township Trustee Office - (765) 288-8876** 1200 E Main Street  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY 8am to 4pm**

- **The Muncie HUB - (765) 282-3948** 318 W 8th Street  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY 8am to 12noon, 1pm to 4pm**

- **YWCA - (765) 284-3345** 310 E Charles Street  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8am to 6pm | SATURDAY-SUNDAY, 7am to 3pm**

- **Salvation Army - (765) 289-7924** 1015 N Wheeling Avenue  
**MONDAY-FRIDAY, 8:30am to 4:30pm**

- **The New Norm - (765) 524-5378** 1127 S Madison  
**DAILY 10am to 4pm | TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY 10am to 9pm**  
*When temperature is 0°F or below, OPEN 24 HOURS*

## Overnight Emergency Shelter

*Individuals concerned for overnight safety should seek shelter.*

- **WOMEN - YWCA - (765) 284-3345** 310 E Charles Street  
**Intake hours are MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8am to 3pm**
- **MEN - Christian Ministries Sleeping Room - (765) 288-0601**  
403½ E Main Street **Intake hours are NIGHTLY from 6pm to 8pm**
- **MEN - Muncie Mission - (765) 288-9122** 1725 S Liberty Street  
**Intake DAILY until 8pm**



## High Street Church Staff

**Lead Pastor:** Rev. Teri Crouse

tcrouse@munciehighstreet.com

**Director of Admin, Finance, and Outreach:**

Diana Smiley

dsmiley@munciehighstreet.com

**Building Superintendent:** Denby Turner

dturner@munciehighstreet.com

**Children's, Youth & Family Ministries**

**Director:** Joy Bricker

jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

**Angels on High Preschool Director:**

Elisha Lynn

aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com

**Music Director:** Dr. Andrew Crow

Andrew.crow.dma@gmail.com

**Organist:** Dr. Sally Kang

Soyeon.Kang@bsu.edu

**Handbell Director:** Dr. Ann Hicks

amhicks2@bsu.edu

## Food Pantry Needs

Apple Sauce

Peanut Butter

Instant Potatoes

Canned Vegetables

Diced Tomatoes

Canned Fruit

Canned Soup

Jelly

Rice

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese

## Methodist Men

Come join us !! January 15th at 8:00.  
Breakfast by Laurah West. Thoughts to  
start the New Year by Jim Carr. Share  
Food and Fellowship!

## Ruth Circle

The January meeting will  
be held on January 14, 2025 at 9:30 am in  
the Gathering Place.

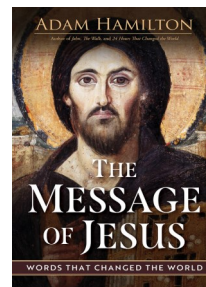
Hostess is Linda Needham.

Devotions by Jane Perry.

The program will be untrimming Christ-  
mas trees throughout the church.

## Women's Bible Study

The weekly Bible study will  
resume on January 8th at 9:15 in  
Room 307. The study will be from  
the book titled "The  
Message of Jesus." Books can be  
purchased from Cokesbury, if not  
already ordered.



## Worship Schedule

### January Worship

**January 5th** Holy Communion  
**Sermon:** *Led by Joy*  
**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1–12

**January 12th** Baptism of the Lord  
**Sermon:** *Baptized in Love*  
**Scripture:** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

**January 19th** Embracing the Familiar  
**Sermon:** *What Concern is That?*  
**Scripture:** John 2:1-11

**January 26th** Embracing the Familiar  
**Sermon:** *As Was His Custom*  
**Scripture:** Luke 4:14-21



We need help with our Samaritan Fund. Unable to help financially? Sign up to call those we serve and help them today. Contact the Church Office for more information.

### Trustee Things

The New Year will bring changes to the Trustees.

Carey Arnett will continue as secretary, Jason Bricker will become vice chair, and Lance Brand will lead as chairman. New members will include Nick Werner, Lonita Bassett, and Oren Olinger. Returning members in addition to the three officers will be: Jud Motsenbocker, Jim Schneider, and Dave Kistler.

The nine members represent strong, experienced and dedicated group. Don't hesitate to share your observations, and concerns with them. As you all know, our church requires constant attention. Ask for guidance and discernment as you remember them in your prayers.

They will give their best efforts to maintaining this beautiful place we love and cherish called High Street.

Thank you for your support these past years.

Larry Crabtree  
Outgoing Chairman