

High Street UMC Tower Topics



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Our Vision

High Street United 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

Setting Goals

Every summer during our annual update conversation, I'm asked by our District Superintendent what my goals are for the coming year. Ideally, at least one or two of them will relate to the goals of the congregation I'm serving.

Up until now, I've not pushed our church leadership in goal-setting exercises. The first 2-3 years I was here, we were in a bit of a "healing" mode as a group, and I discerned that was the primary goal for this community. We've made tremendous progress on this goal, and it's time we step back into active discipleship formation again.

For the past several months, the Church Council has been wrestling first with the adoption of the church's new Vision Statement, and then with a set of goals for the church/congregation. It's important that goals be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Timely). With that in mind, the Church Council has adopted the following goals for July 2026 – June 2027 for High Street UMC:

High Street Vision: High Street United 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.

In line with its Vision, the High Street UMC Church Council has set the following goals for the church and congregation for June 2026 – June 2027:

1. EVANGELISM / SHARING THE GOSPEL:

Every active member and constituent will invite at least one person to church during the year.

NOTE: this does not mean the person invited must say "Yes." We are setting a goal that everyone *invite* ONE person to church to get everyone accustomed to doing so.

- A good way to start is to invite a person to a church event (e.g., Movie Night) or a special service (e.g., Orchestra Sunday)
- Aids to help in inviting people (e.g., branded pens) will be purchased for your use

2. DISCIPLESHIP

Every active member and constituent will take one step to increasing their discipleship.

Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Volunteer in a current, ongoing mission and/or ministry of the church (e.g., the Food Pantry, the Samaritan Fund, Thursday Lunch, Sanctuary choir, Bell choir, children's ministry, etc)
- Active participation in an ongoing Sunday School class and/or Bible Study
- Participate in congregational pastoral care:
 - Send cards to homebound members, students, visitors

- Provide periodic transportation of member(s) who are homebound or in assisted living to church or church activities
- Actively visit our homebound members or those in assisted living
- Serve as a confirmation mentor

3. FINANCIAL STABILITY FOR HIGH STREET

With broad-based input from the congregation, the church leadership will develop a long-range plan for financial stability for the ongoing functioning and thriving of High Street UMC (i.e., with income greater than expenses / budget)

Prayer from everyone should underlie and support each of these goals, and these prayers should include High Street UMC, its mission, its members, and its leadership.

Each of these specific goals is completely attainable, measurable, relevant, and timely. We trust that you will do your best to live into them – for God’s glory and for the well-being of High Street and its congregation.

June 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.

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. Such beginning of the year giving has come to an end. Our income for June was \$28,216. This means our June income was \$13,025 less than the \$45,380 that’s 1/12 of our \$544,554 budget. Our expenses were \$41,241, lower again this month than usual. This is because both May and June were unseasonably cool, and we have a credit with the water company. However, our monthly expenses were still \$17,164 greater than our income.

Our YTD income (including the one-time extravagant gift in February) is \$276,637, which is \$4357 more than the \$272,280 we have budgeted YTD. Expenses YTD are \$261,252, which is \$15,385 less than our YTD income, and \$11,028 less than we had budgeted for YTD. Again, unusually low utility expenses for May and June, as well as tight spending control by staff, 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.

June 2026 Financial Snapshot:

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

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

Actual income: \$28,216

Expenses: \$41,241

Net Income (June): -\$12,375

YTD 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted YTD: \$272,280 (6/12 of \$544,554)

Pledged YTD: \$165,066 (6/12 of \$330,134)

Income YTD: \$276,637

Expenses YTD: \$261,252

Net Income YTD: \$4357 (Budget v. Income)

Q2 Financial Statements

You should have received your Q2 Financial Statements, along with an update letter, on or about July 8, 2026. It would have come via Breeze, our electronic contact management system. Please double check the statement for the accuracy of your year-to-date financial contributions. It's easiest to make any necessary corrections early, rather than waiting until the end of the year when everyone needs their statements for tax purposes. Thank you for your generous support of our mission and ministries. You ARE the church!

New Church Mouse: Welcome Rigby!

As we've previously written, Marilyn Peña, our church mouse for the past two years, decided she wanted to live closer to her family in Lafayette. She chose to move out during the week of July 20. The timing was a bit of a last-minute decision by Marilyn, and it was a little earlier than we had expected or planned for. That's why we didn't announce it in advance. We know you wish you'd had more of a chance to say good-bye, and we're sorry for that. We wish you had that opportunity as well.

Until our new church mouse starts, we'll not have a resident security person living in the church. That means any committee meeting during a time the church is not usually open will need to make arrangements to let their committee members into the church, and "man" the door while they're arriving. We ask everyone to be extra vigilant in turning off lights and locking up, as well.

The good news is that we have a new church mouse, who will be moving in no later than August 8, with his first Sunday "on the job" August 9. His name is Rigby Hyten, and he will be

starting school at Ball State this year, majoring in Animation & Game Design. However, he has been taking classes online at Ivy Tech from his home in Carmel prior to this year, so he's a little older than a typical freshman.

It can take a little while for a church mouse to learn the job, so grace is urged as Rigby learns about us, Muncie, Ball State, and all the things he needs to know to be a church mouse. In the meantime, be sure to introduce yourself to him when you see him around. He's super friendly, and we're very glad to have him with us.

Nominations & Leadership

Yes, it's that time of year again! While the pastor attends and is part of many (most?!) of the committees of the church, the ONLY* committee that the pastor chairs is the Nominations Committee, as set forth by the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*.

Nominations began meeting the week of July 20, and has been prayerfully considering who would be best for our open committee (and, in some cases, committee chair) positions. This is not a matter of placing "warm bodies in seats." The committee truly wants to match the gifts and graces of the right people with the right positions.

The United Methodist Church is designed to be led equally by clergy and laity. And clergy are never permanently assigned to any one congregation – that's also by design, because a UM church is never to be all about its clergy. So, the laity in leadership are extremely important in each and every church. You not only are the Body of Christ here on earth, you are THIS church – literally and figuratively. How well it thrives depends on your willingness to serve. So, thank you to those who have stepped up and will be stepping up as the new terms begin in January 2027.

*The pastor is also in charge of worship, but that "committee" does not plan worship.

Confirmation!

If you haven't noticed, our young people are growing up. And that means several of them have reached the age where it's appropriate for them to go through Confirmation. Confirmation is an opportunity to respond to the grace of God available to us, as acknowledged in baptism, and to promise to live as a person of faith. It's a time young persons learn about United Methodist beliefs, and reaffirm the vows made on their behalf at their baptisms, as they decide whether to join the church.

A very important part of the Confirmation process is the Confirmation Mentor. These persons walk with our young people, guiding and teaching them during the confirmation journey.

Ms. Joy and I have prayed about our potential confirmands, and who would be good Confirmation Mentors for each of them. We will be approaching some of you to take on this special task. We pray and hope you will agree. From past experience, we know you will be as blessed by the experience as the confirmands are.

Confirmation this year will run September 2026 through May 2027. It's not expected to meet every week, but it is a commitment of time and energy. We hope all of you will pray for our confirmands and our Confirmation Mentors as they begin their journeys – **and** say "YES" if the opportunity is presented to you.

Help Keep Our Restrooms Clean & Stocked

Friends, I say this so often that I know I sound like a broken record: You ARE the church. But I say it because it's true.

We can't be everywhere or see everything. If you see a mess in one of the restrooms, or if we run out of any of the paper products, please let our church mouse or our custodian or Diana know. We try to stay on top of these things - but again, we can't be everywhere at once. So, help us out and let us know as soon as you discover an issue. DON'T stay silent and assume someone else will take care of it. Thank you so much for your assistance.

Children • Youth • Family

August 2026 High Street United Methodist Church

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS!



SUNDAY MORNING

- **August 2:** No Sunday School
• Children's Church with Ms. Ann
- **August 9:** God Wants Us to Know Him & Jesus Gave His Followers a Mission
- **August 16:** The Disciples Replaced Judas
- **August 23:** The Holy Spirit Came

Sunday School @ 9am
Children's Church @ 10am

CONFIRMATION:

There will be 2 informational meetings for any parents interested in knowing more about our confirmation classes!

Please plan to attend one to receive more details about our Confirmation

Classes:

Tuesday • August 25th @ 6:30pm

or

Sunday • August 30th @ 11:15am

It would be especially helpful to know which class you plan to attend, please RSVP to Ms. Joy.

See Ms. Joy with any further questions!

UPCOMING FUN:

Activities coming up:

- Putt-Putt Outing
- Trip to Water Park
- Trip to State Park

**Youth will resume
September 13th!**

jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

**HEY!! HIGH STREET
ALL-CHURCH IMPORTANT INFO!**

August 2026

HIGH STREET UMC
**BLESSING
OF THE
BACKPACKS!**

Bring your backpack to be blessed!

August 16th 2026

during the 10am church service ...

jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

August 2026

**HEY!! HIGH STREET
ALL-CHURCH IMPORTANT INFO!**

ANNUAL GRILL OUT • EAT IN PICNIC

AUGUST 16TH

Immediately following the 10am service!



High Street Church Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Teri Crouse
tcrouse@munciehighstreet.com

Church Administrator and Finance Director: Diana Smiley
dsmiley@munciehighstreet.com

Children's, Youth & Family Ministries Director: Joy Bricker
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

Angels on High Preschool Director: Elisha Lynn
aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com

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 August Worship

August 2
Sermon: Holy Communion
We Believe / The Church:
the Communion of Saints
Scripture: Matthew 9:35-38;
1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Hebrews 11:1-2

August 9
Sermon: We Believe
The Forgiveness of Sins
Scripture: 1 John 1:5-10;
Ephesians 4:31-32; Mark 11:25

August 16
Blessing of backpacks/Grill Out/Eat In
Sermon: We Believe
Resurrection and Life Everlasting
Scripture: Romans 6:3-5, 22-23;
Luke 24:36-49; Philippians 3:20-21

August 23
Sermon: Lessons in Leadership
Power
Scripture: Exodus 1:8-2:10; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30
Sermon: Lessons in Leadership
Acceptance
Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15; Matthew 16:21-28

Men's Breakfast

IT'S STILL SUMMER !!

The August Methodist Men's Breakfast will be on the 19th at 8:00 AM. Join us for good food, good friends, and inspiring thoughts from Jim Carr. Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle & UWF

There will be no meeting in August. See you in September!



Wisdom People August



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



John T Bradburn will be 94 on th 13th
LaRayne Burlison will be 102 on the 15th
Jo Ann Riggins will be 90 on the 17th
Mary Louise Neff will be 101 on the 23rd

Bethany Class Invitation

Join us from 8:45 to 9:45 am on Sunday mornings during Bethany Class, from August 16 to September 6, for a 4-week discussion on the video-based Bible study by Max Lucado titled "Before Amen." Hope to see you there.



Celebration of Oren Olinger

When: August 2, 2026
2 - 4 pm

Where: Meeks Mortuary, Mt. Pleasant Chapel
7901 W. Isanogel Rd. Muncie, IN

Who: Friends & Family of Oren Olinger are invited

What: A brief service of celebration of Oren's life, followed
by a time of visiting, memories, and light refreshments



Faith & Fellowship

"To grow together..."

Join us for Coffee Hour!

**The Gathering Place
Before and After the 10am Service**

Angels on High Preschool & PDO

A special ministry of High Street UMC

August 2026

Contact Information

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Director, Elisha Lynn

aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com
or 765-216-7919.

Angels on High will be closed on Monday, August 10, and Tuesday, August 11 for scheduled Teacher Work Days. Our staff will be deep cleaning and preparing for Meet the Teacher Night!

Donations

- Vinegar
- Corn Starch
- Baking Soda
- Plastic Forks
- Plastic Spoons
- Small Paper Plates
- D Batteries
- Black Sharpies

**Our next fundraiser
Wednesday, August 12,
from 5:00-7:00PM!**

The Papa John's Pizza Truck will be in the High Street parking lot serving fresh, hot pizza.

Stop by, grab dinner, and help support Angels on High Preschool & PDO. Thank you! Leo's Lemonade LLC will also be set up with yummy lemon shake-ups!

The results for Muncie's Quest for the Best 2026 are in, and while AOH didn't place this year, we are so thankful for everyone who voted for us each day! Angels on High Preschool will always be #1 in our eyes!

Our first day of preschool is almost here! Preschool will begin the last week of August (August 24-28). We can't wait to see everyone! It's going to be another great year at Angels on High!