

High Street UMC

Tower Topics



Inside Tower Topics **April, 2025**

From Pastor Teri	2-5
Trustees	5
New Lenten Mission	6-7
Angels on High	8
Student Ministry	9
Family Ministry	10
General Information	11
Worship Schedule	11

Our Vision

Creating Space for the future

Creating Space in ourselves for spiritual formation

Creating Space for others to be spiritually formed

Office Hours

Mon-Thurs: 9am - 3pm
Closed Friday

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

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

Join Us For Sunday Worship

10am Traditional Worship Service
And livestream on Facebook and YouTube
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HighStreetUMChurch>
YouTube: bitly.videohighstreet

From Pastor Teri

Mourning Losses

On Ash Wednesday, our Building Supervisor, Denby Turner, entered the hospital for replacement of a heart valve. This is surgery he'd needed – but put off – for a while. The surgery was successful, but Denby suffered complications – and, as we all know now, he passed away on Saturday, March 8, 2025. I was unable to share the news publicly the next day because we didn't receive permission to do so from the family until the afternoon of Sunday, March 9.

The trustees spent considerable time at their March 11 meeting talking about how to fill the Building Superintendent position, and how to cover the responsibilities in the interim. They know we have much going on right now with the building, and that everyone will need to step in to help. Your trustees are good people and good stewards of the property of High Street. We are fortunate. The staff will also do as much as they can as well. All of your help is appreciated, too. Most importantly, if you know of someone who might be interested in a part-time position as our Building Supervisor, please let Pastor Teri, Diana Smiley, Lance Brand, or one of the other trustees know. Direct contacts are always best.

Our Christian faith promises that death is not an ending, but a “graduation” into a new dimension. And we can take comfort that Denby has joined that great cloud of witnesses in the Church Triumphant, and knows no more pain, illness, weakness, sorrow, or difficulties. Denby rests with our Lord Jesus Christ. But we still sorrow for our loss. We all approach the death of friends, family, and colleagues differently. And it's important to note that there is no one “right” way to grieve. If you want to talk about Denby's death – or any other death – I'm available.

Perhaps, as we approach Easter, it's good to remember that through the resurrection, Jesus conquered death once and for all – for us. And even as we mourn, we can anticipate a grand reunion: with Christ and with our loved ones. Thanks be to God.

February 2025 Financial Update

As previously announced, the Church Council approved a 2025 budget of \$485,000, which is a “meet-the-needs as is” budget. We hope this will be sufficient, although costs are rising in all areas. We anticipate that pledged and unpledged gifts will make up \$385,000 of the budget in 2025. The HSUMC Foundation voted to grant \$125,000 to the church to cover the gap and meet unexpected costs. While this is not a sustainable model, we are grateful for past planning and generosity that made it possible. We'll report our numbers against the \$385,000 for giving, and the total budgeted (\$485,000). That means our monthly giving total will be compared to \$32,083/month; and our monthly EXPENSES total will be compared to \$40,417/month.

In February 2025, our giving was \$32,354 which was \$271 more than the \$32,083 that's 1/12 of \$385,000. However, our expenses were \$41,773, which were \$1356 more than the \$40,417 (1/12 of \$485,000 total budget).

Our total year-to-date giving was \$70,876, which was \$6710 more than budgeted for. Unfortunately, our YTD expenses were \$85,083, which was \$4249 more than the budgeted amount of \$80,834. As we all know, February continued to be an expensive month for utilities.

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 . 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.

February Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted giving: \$32,083 (1/12 of \$385,000)
Actual giving: \$32,354
Expenses: \$41,773
Budget for month: \$40,417 (1/12 of \$485,000)
Cash balance (Feb.): -\$1356

YTD Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted giving: \$64,166 (2/12 of \$385,000)
Actual giving: \$70,876
Expenses: \$85,083
YTD Budget: \$80,834 (2/12 of \$485,000)
YTD Cash balance: -\$4249

"Fire Watch" Requirement

You may have noticed the scaffolding in the back balcony. The trustees are having the plaster on both walls repaired and restored, which required erecting scaffolding to the ceiling. This blocked two smoke sensors that are part of our fire detection system, which caused our fire alarms to go off repeatedly. Clearly, this could not continue for the entire project.

We brought the fire marshal out, and reached a compromise wherein we've taken those two smoke sensors offline while this project is underway. However, we are required to have a "fire watch" in place ANY time people (any number) are in the sanctuary. This means a dedicated person must walk around both floors along the perimeters every 30 minutes, and sign a log (date/time/signature/notes of findings) attesting to the "watch" – every 30 minutes. The person cannot have another role in what's going on in the sanctuary at the time (*i.e.*, the plasterers cannot do the watch while they're in there; our tech team cannot do the watch on Sunday mornings, etc). By the way, there ARE other fire detecting mechanisms in place in the sanctuary that continue to be online.

WE NEED YOUR HELP. First, we need assistance with the fire watches – especially on Sundays. If you're willing to take a turn as the person doing the watch on a Sunday (walking the perimeters every 30 minutes until the service is over and everyone is out of the sanctuary), please see Pastor Teri, Diana Smiley, or Lance Brand. It's essential we have this done and documented. While we start the watch at 8am and go through 11:30am (usually), we can probably cover the 8 and 8:30am watches, if you can't be at the church that early.

Second, if you're going to be in the sanctuary, make sure we know. The fire marshal can ask to inspect the log at any time, and we must show we're doing the watch any time someone is in there. Thank you for your help during this temporary time of repair and restoration of our plaster. This won't be forever!

God on the Move

Have you found any of the "Tiny Jesus" figures that the children hid following the first Sunday in Lent? They had 100 of them to hide then, and there are another 100 to hide now that Lent is about half-way done. While I've not picked up any of the ones I've discovered, the ones I've seen have definitely brought a smile to my face. Remember, Jesus is "on the move" during this Lenten season!

Easter: a Moveable Feast

If you're like me, you've noticed (possibly more than once) how late Easter is this year. Fun liturgical fact: the very latest date Easter can be is April 25. With Easter falling on April 20 this year, we're not very far from that latest possible date.

As a reminder, Easter is what's called a "moveable feast." It's set based partially on the lunar calendar: Easter is the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. The earliest Easter can be is March 22. And as you'll recall from last year, there is a tie for the most common date: March 31 and April 16.

Next year, Easter will be celebrated on April 5 – a little closer to what we tend to think of as "normal" for Easter. But for this year, we'll just have a late Easter, and a late Pentecost – since the date of Pentecost is set from the date of Easter. Just fyi, Pentecost this year is June 8.

Our Lenten Mission

This is a reminder story about our Lent mission challenge.

At our joint charge conference, our District Superintendent, Rev. Russ Abel, challenged every church in the district to undertake a new mission during the next year, preferably outwardly-focused on our community. At the February 2025 Church Council meeting, the Council voted to engage in a Lenten mission of collecting feminine hygiene products and urinary incontinence products for Covenant Partners Ministries.

Covenant Partners Ministries is a United Methodist ministry, currently under the direction of Rev. Colin & Rev. Heather Cress, who also co-pastor Community of Hope UMC (formed by the merger of Riverside and College Avenue UMCs). When several of the United Methodist Churches in the Muncie area that used to support Covenant Partners disaffiliated from the UMC, they also stopped supporting Covenant Partners. Covenant Partners, located in our own neighborhood (down Jackson Street), serves those in need through both their spiritual and material needs. They provide a once-a-month worship service along with a dinner, and offer food and cleaning supplies until they run out. The number one requested item is feminine hygiene products, along with urinary incontinence products – largely because these items are not SNAP eligible.

During Lent, we're asking you to bring in these items, which we will donate to Covenant Partners just after Easter in celebration of the Risen Christ. If you don't have the opportunity to shop for these items, you may donate toward them by marking your donation "Lenten Mission Project."

To be specific, by "feminine hygiene products" we mean menstrual pads and tampons (any brand or size); and by "urinary incontinence products" we mean products for both men and women (any brand, size, or strength – briefs or pads). We are not collecting shampoo, soap, or other similar products.

Thank you for your support of this much needed ministry for our siblings in need, and for our sister UMC ministry. You're doing an amazing job so far with your contributions.

A Message from the Trustees Committee – March 2025

As we reflect on the past month, we have both sadness and gratitude in our hearts. The Trustees Committee is deeply saddened by the recent loss of Denby Turner, who served as our building manager for many years. Denby's dedication and service to our church were invaluable, and he will be greatly missed. We ask for your prayers for his family during this difficult time and express our heartfelt appreciation for the many years of service he gave to High Street.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to Joel Dale and Diana Smiley for stepping up during this challenging time. Their willingness to assist with the recent flood of issues around the church has been incredibly helpful. Their dedication to filling in where needed has been a great blessing.

Lance Brand, our Trustees Chair, and Jason Bricker, our Trustees Assistant Chair, continue to work diligently to keep projects moving forward. They are committed to obtaining quotes for needed work, staying on top of ongoing projects, and ensuring that everything is progressing as planned.

Building and Maintenance Updates:

- Kitchen Ventilation Hood Cleaning: We are in the process of obtaining estimates to clean the kitchen ventilation hood in the Parish Hall, as required by our recent fire inspection. This work will help ensure the safety of our church's facilities.
- Plaster Repairs: Plaster repairs have been successfully completed on the south side of the balcony. These areas will be primed and painted in the coming weeks once the plaster has fully cured and dried.
- Roof Leak Discovery: During the plaster work in the northeast balcony, we discovered a new roof leak. Architectural Restorations has identified that the leak is coming from a valley area on the slate roof above this area. The roof repair is scheduled for the last week of March. Once the leak is fixed and we verify that no additional leaks are present, the plaster work will be completed, with everything hopefully restored by late April.
- Stained Glass Restoration: After obtaining a more cost-effective quote from Camden Stained Glass of Indianapolis, we have decided to move forward with them to restore and preserve the stained glass in 8 window groups within the church. Work is expected to begin in April.
- Parking Lot Light Pole: In the recent windstorm, a light pole in the parking lot was blown down. KaRo Electrical will be pouring a new concrete pad and reinstalling the light within the next week, bringing the lighting back to normal.
- Carpet Replacement and Cleaning: The church office carpet is scheduled for replacement, and the Gathering Place and hallway carpets will be cleaned between April 3rd-6th. Please note that the church will be closed on the afternoon of April 3rd for these updates.

We are grateful for your continued support and patience as we work to maintain and improve the spaces that serve our church community. As always, the Trustees are committed to ensuring that High Street remains a safe, welcoming, and functional place for all who visit.



Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday (with Palm Parade)

**Thursday, April 17 – Maundy Thursday (at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church)
Pastor Teri preaching**

**Friday, April 18 – Good Friday (at High Street UMC)
Pastor Jerry O'Neal preaching**

Sunday, April 20 – Easter! with Orchestra Sunday



"A HUGE THANK YOU to all the bakers, sellers, and buyers who helped with the Bake Sale on March 16th. Your generosity resulted in over \$450 for the Samaritan Fund!"

Angels on High Preschool & PDO

A special ministry of High Street UMC



Contact Information

If you have any question or concerns please contact the Director, Elisha Lynn by email aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com or by phone 765-216-7919.

Donations Needed:

- Coffee Filters
- Plastic Spoons/Forks
- Paper Plates
- Bubbles
- Sidewalk Chalk

Preschool Registration

is now open to the community. Angels on High is excited to welcome new & returning AOH preschoolers for the 2025-2026 school year. Please feel free to share our information! The greatest compliment you can give us is the referral of your family & friends. Thank you for loving & supporting Angels on High. We look forward to another great year!

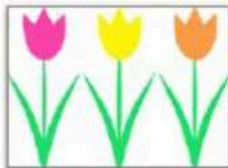
Preschool Graduation

The date for Preschool Graduation has been moved to Thursday, May 22 at 10AM. AOH will be selling \$15 Discount Cards to help cover the



cost of Bibles for all Pre-K graduates. More information will be in the HSUMC weekly email. Thank you!

THANK YOU to all of the High Street volunteers who have worked on the landscaping around our



school building. We plan to apply a fresh coat of paint to all of the planter boxes & plant flowers.

HIGH STREET STUDENT MINISTRIES

APRIL 2025

FAMILY - CHILDREN - TWEENS - YOUTH

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

GOSPEL
PROJECT

APRIL 6: JESUS' TRIUMPHANT ENTRY

APRIL 13: THE LAST SUPPER

APRIL 20: JESUS' CRUCIFIXION

APRIL 27: THE DISCIPLES

APRIL 2025

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

APRIL 6: POPCORN • MOVIE & DISCUSSION

APRIL 13: EASTER SERVICE PROJECT

APRIL 20: NO TWEENS • EASTER SUNDAY!

APRIL 27: TWEENS - TBA - WE WILL MEET!

HIGH STREET MOVIE NIGHT

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
**THE SOUND
OF MUSIC**
75TH ANNIVERSARY



FRIDAY APRIL 25TH @ 6PM

\$5 PER PERSON/\$20 MAX PER FAMILY

PIZZA - POPCORN - POP - TREAT

RSVP TO MS. JOY



Elementary - Middle School - High School
The TIME is NOW!!

**Sign Up for
CAMP!**

**Epworth Forrest • Camp Adventure •
Camp Lakewood • and More!**

See Ms. Joy for more Information!!

**Sunday Morning:
Sunday School @ 9am in G1**

Children's Church - during Traditional Service - @10am in G1

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

APRIL 2025

HEY!! High Street

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

Important Info!

HIGH STREET MOVIE NIGHT

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
THE SOUND OF MUSIC
75TH ANNIVERSARY



FRIDAY APRIL 25TH @ 6PM
\$5 PER PERSON / \$20 MAX PER FAMILY
PIZZA - POPCORN - POP - TREAT
RSVP TO MS. JOY

High Street Trivia Night

Friday • April 4
High Street Parish Hall • 7pm-8:30pm

Register By:
March 30th

Sign up your team (max: 6 participants) ... Join us for 5 rounds of trivia with top 3 teams recognized!

Snacks provided. Event is for ages 12 and Up!

TRUE NORTH VBS 2025



VOLUNTEER CALL OUT MEETING APRIL 1ST @ 6PM

Worship Schedule

April Worship

April 6 God on the Move/ Holy Communion
Sermon: God Moves Us ...to Empty Ourselves
Scripture: John 12:1-8

April 13 Palm Sunday
Sermon: Rejoicing Together
Scripture: Luke 19:1-8

April 17 Maundy Thursday
At Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Sermon: Maundy Thursday Reflection
Scripture: John 13:1-17, 31b-35;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26

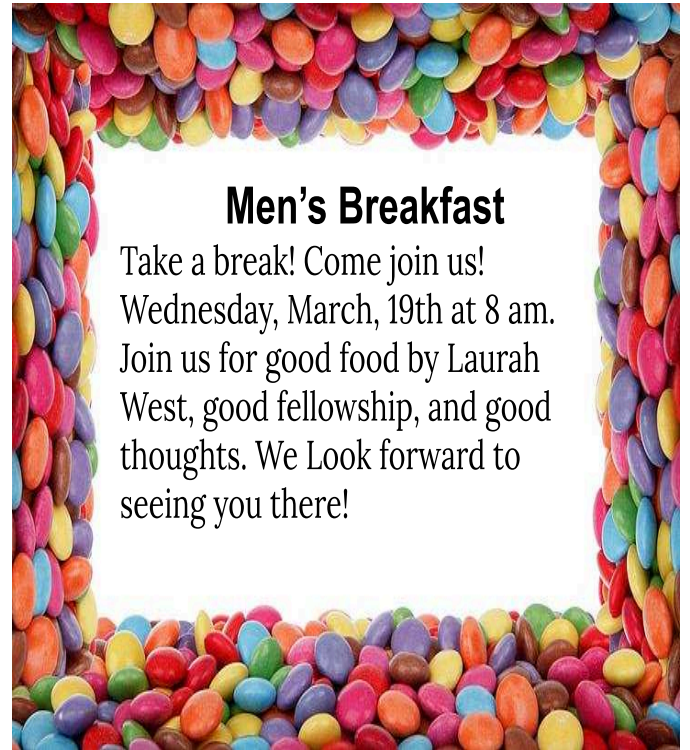
April 18 Good Friday
Sermon: Good Friday Reflection

April 20 Easter/God on the Move
Sermon: God Moves...Out of the Tomb
Scripture: Luke 24:1-2

April 27 Surprise! The Unexpected Acts of God
Sermon: A Surprising Turnaround
Scripture: Acts 5:27-32

Lenten Study

A Lenten Series will be taught in Bethany Sunday School beginning on March 16 at 8:45 am, EVERYONE is welcome to attend. The lessons are from the book of Luke. They will focus on: Lifting Up the Lowly, Simon, Do you see this Woman, Parables from the underside, On the Journey to Jerusalem, The Final week, and Crucified with the Outlaws.



Men's Breakfast

Take a break! Come join us!
Wednesday, March, 19th at 8 am.
Join us for good food by Laurah West, good fellowship, and good thoughts. We Look forward to seeing you there!

You Brightened the Night !

Thank you for donating night lights for foster kids through the Isaiah 1:17 House ! Our speaker was so surprised and pleased to have a whole box of night lights to take with her and replenish their supply ! A little 'glow' at night will help make a scary situation for a frightened child more comforting! Thanks again!

High Street's United Women of Faith.

P.S. The pajamas were welcome surprises