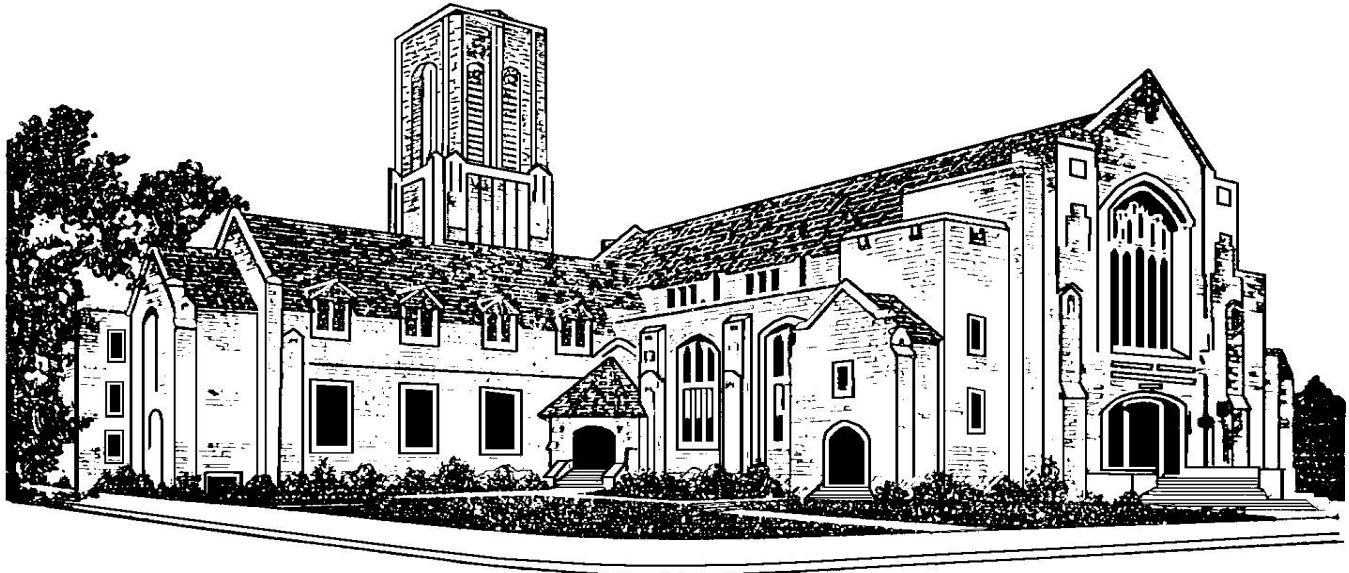




Tower Topics

High Street UMC



Inside Tower Topics

November, 2024

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Our Vision

Creating Space
for the future

Creating Space
in ourselves for
spiritual formation

Creating Space
for others to be
spiritually formed

Office Hours

Effective the week of November 4
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](https://www.facebook.com/HighStreetUMChurch)

HighStreetUMChurch
YouTube: bitly.videohighstreet

From Pastor Teri

Christmas Eve Scheduling

When I was in seminary, a very wise mentor told me, “Never mess with Christmas Eve, Teri. Your folks will be ok with changes in just about any other area of worship, but there’s something about Christmas Eve that’s baked into their souls.” He later qualified his advice to say that the part not to change was about including “Silent Night” and candlelight. That’s because most of Christmas Eve is about a feeling, not what’s actually said.

We’ve been collecting data on our Christmas Eve services and schedules for the past two years, and looking at data for years prior to that. We want to maximize our resources and make certain we are providing the best Christmas Eve worship experience for the most people we can, while making best use of our resources. We polled our Church Council, our choir, and selected other members of the congregation.

Data shows the noon communion service remains popular, and is the service that is growing in popularity and attendance. In contrast, our lowest attended service – by far – is the 11pm service, and very few of our own congregants attend this service. Many do not like being out that late. For the past two years, we’ve designated the 7:30pm service as the family-friendly service, and our children and youth have taken the lead in that service.

This year – after much input, discernment, and prayer – we’ve decided to discontinue the 11pm service. We’ll keep the noon communion service in the Chapel, although if it continues to grow, we may need to re-evaluate its venue in the future. And our 7:30pm service will become our “Lessons & Carols” format with a brief meditation included, as previously used at the 11pm service. We intend to include the youth and children in this service as we can.

This new approach also will allow us to revive a prior High Street tradition: the extended pre-service offering of music. We’ll engage our very talented musicians from within our congregation to provide music from approximately 6:45-7:15pm prior to the 7:30pm service beginning. We’re excited about the possibilities here. There will also still be a time of fellowship and refreshments following the 7:30pm service in Parish Hall.

We did not make this decision lightly, but we’re excited about the possibilities that open up with the new approach. We hope you’ll come to one of the two services, and invite family and friends to come with you. Each of the two services will include “Silent Night” and candlelight. After all, we know better than to change that!

September Financial Update

Our giving for Q3 was down fairly significantly. In September, our giving was \$32,812 which was \$2745 more than September expenses, but \$1771 less than we budgeted for. Fortunately, our staff was heroic in keeping expenses down and we received reimbursement from the Foundation for a couple of grants. Our total giving year-to-date (YTD), excluding the Ethel Gantz gift in May, was \$343,152, which we celebrate; but our expenses YTD totaled \$362,321. This means our expenses exceeded our Year-to-Date (YTD) giving by \$19,169; and our YTD budget of \$311,250 by \$51,071.

With the May Ethel Gantz gift and Gladys Hendricks Trust income for 2024 figured in, our income was \$368,570, which barely kept us afloat. Our budget does not cover our greatest expenses, which are salaries and building expenses. We are nonetheless grateful for your continued generosity and support.

We encourage you to remember to keep up your support as 2024 continues. If you are behind in your pledge, there is still time to catch up. 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.

September and Q3 Financial Summary

Sept. budgeted giving: \$34,583

Sept. actual giving: \$32,812

Sept. expenses: \$30,067

Cash balance (Sept.): \$2745

YTD budgeted giving: \$311,250

YTD actual giving: \$343,152

YTD income (with Gantz & trust income): \$368,570

YTD expenses: \$362,321

Net Operating Income: \$6249

Stewardship Update

I want to personally thank the Stewardship Team; Mary Ann Olinger, our chair of Stewardship; and all of our Stewardship speakers who shared their stories during this year's campaign. Each of these people was truly wonderful and helpful to me and to this congregation as we looked to Earn, Save, and Give in the spirit of John Wesley, as set forth in this year's campaign.

Because our expenses are increasing, we looked to what we will need for 2025, rather than waiting to set a budget based on what we receive in pledges. As we noted in the stewardship letters that we sent out, we'll need at least \$484,260 to simply maintain the building and personnel as they are currently.

We will be providing updates of pledge totals received for the weeks leading up to the Church Council meeting at the end of November. Look for them in the e-newsletter. This is in the spirit of transparency, since we may have to make some important decisions – including personnel decisions – depending on the success of our stewardship campaign. We are optimistic, knowing that you are a generous congregation AND that you are growing in your discipleship. But we do want to keep you updated all along the way so there are no surprises.

The 2024 Election

It seems as if the election has brought out the worst in some people – even some we know and love. There is absolutely nothing wrong with having differing opinions on who might be best for a given office or position. But the vitriol, name-calling, threats, violence, and threats of violence we've all seen and heard are completely unacceptable. It costs nothing – NOTHING – to be kind. If you disagree with someone, I find it's best to ask how they came to their belief or to their position, rather than argue about it. Seldom will anyone's mind be changed either way, but a relationship may be preserved.

John Wesley had advice for those voting in elections. I commend it to you during these tense times:

“October 6, 1774

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.”

- John Wesley, Journal of John Wesley

Stay kind, friends. Always.

Loveseat or Small Sofa Needed

Do you have a loveseat or small (really small) sofa you no longer need? Our church mouse, Marilyn, has nothing to sit on in the church apartment! She hasn't complained about this, but we'd love to help her out. As it's getting colder, sitting on the floor also gets colder. This may be a chance for you to clear out some furniture you no longer need AND help out our mouse. Stop in the church office and let Marilyn or Diana know.

A Heartfelt “Thank You”

Several of you sent or gave me cards and other messages of appreciation in recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month (October). I want to say a huge and heartfelt “thank you” to each of you who took the time to do so. I greatly appreciate being your pastor, and it's lovely to hear back from you that the feeling is mutual. You are all a blessing to me. – Pastor Teri

Advent & Christmastide

We have a busy season ahead of us. As always, there are multiple ways to help others in our community, including: Angel Tree, hat & mitten collection, and sock collection. As always, generous donations to the Food Pantry and Samaritan Fund are appreciated. The need in our community continues to grow.

We'll be caroling for our homebound members on December 15 (and gathering for cocoa afterwards). And we have an Orchestra Sunday (also December 15) to look forward to! If you can, please plan to help with the hanging of the greens during the last week and weekend of November. This is your faith community and your church. Everything functions better when you are part of it.

A stylized illustration of a nativity scene. A bright yellow star with radiating lines is positioned above a dark silhouette of a stable. Inside the stable, the silhouettes of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger are visible. The background is a dark blue gradient.

Come Home to High Street UMC for Christmas

Advent Services: December 1, 8, 15, 22

- 10 am

Blue Christmas Service: Tuesday, December 10

- 7 pm Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services

- Noon Communion – Chapel
- 6:45-7:15pm – Musical offering
- 7:30 pm Lessons & Carols - Sanctuary



2024 Trunk or Treat & Chili Dinner



On behalf of our High Street Children's Ministry and our Fellowship Comminttee, I would like to THANK YOU so much for all the generous donations and support for our 2024 Trunk or Treat! We greeted around 225 children from our community. I love that we are able to be a visible presence and show kindness and friendship to those that live close to High Street. We had 22 trunks with lots of High Street & AOH Friends that came to hand out candy. After we trunk and treated ... we had a fabulous time of fellowship in the parish hall. Chili, cornbread, and cider always hits the spot on fall days! We had a wonderful variety of chili soups to sample! I hope you enjoy these pictures that are only glimpses of the great fun that was had! Thank You!! ~ Joy

ALL CHURCH HIGH STREET FAMILY ACTIVITIES

NOVEMBER 2024



HIGH STREET FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT
WE BOUGHT A ZOO
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15TH @ 6PM

NOTE: This movie is rated PG • please check out common sense media to see if this movie is a good fit for your family.

Pizza, Popcorn, Pop, and Treat Provided!

\$5 person/\$20 Family RSVP with Ms. Joy!
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

WE BOUGHT A ZOO: Based on a True Story:

Following his wife's untimely death, Los Angeles journalist Benjamin Mee (Matt Damon) decides to make a fresh start by quitting his job and moving his children (Colin Ford, Maggie Elizabeth Jones) to an 18-acre property containing the Rosemoor Wildlife Park. Though closed for years, Rosemoor is still home to many animals, cared for by Kelly Foster (Scarlett Johansson) and her small staff. Mee opens his heart and his checkbook as he, Kelly and the others work to renovate and reopen the zoo.

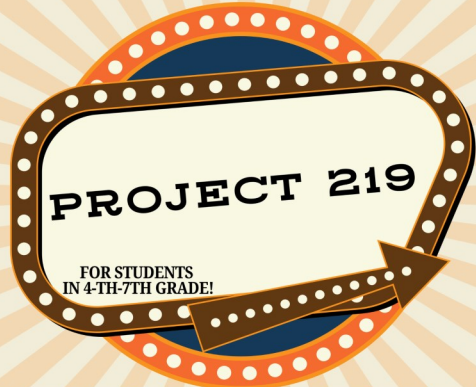
We hope you will join us for this great movie!

HIGH STREET STUDENT MINISTRIES

NOVEMBER 2024

CHILDREN - TWEENS - YOUTH

INTRODUCING HIGH STREET
STUDENT MINISTRIES NEW NAME ...



A PLACE WHERE OUR STUDENTS CAN WORK
TOWARDS BUILDING A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD!

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

NOV 3: ZECHARIAH GAVE HOPE
NOV 10: THE PEOPLE REBUILD THE TEMPLE
NOV 17: GOD CAN ALWAYS BE TRUSTED
NOV 24: ESTHER SAVED HER PEOPLE

GOSPEL
PROJECT

•Tweens: Project 219 •
Especially for students in
4th-7th grades.
Every Sunday afternoon
•unless otherwise noted ...
4:30pm - 6pm

•PROJECT 219• STUDENT MINISTRIES GRADES 4-7

NOV. 3: NO PROJECT 219 MINISTRY TONIGHT!!
NOV. 10: WHAT DOES THANKFULLNESS LOOK LIKE?
NOV. 17: FRIENDS-GIVING! CARRY-IN MEAL
NOV. 24: NO PROJECT 219 MINISTRY TONIGHT!!

Parents: Please see the
Family Ministry page for
more fun EVENTS!!

High School and College Students ...
(especially guys)

Join Jonah & Joshua for a new Book study
by Stephen and Alex Kendrick
DEFINED • Who God Says You Are •

Sunday Mornings @ 9am -
We understand that you might not be available every Sunday!
Come when you can!

See Joy for details!

Older Student Ministries

8TH-12TH GRADES

Youth Group:
See Ms. Joy if you are interested in
Sunday evening ministry
opportunities!

Do you have a student
in college?

We want to stay in touch with
them! Please share their address
with Ms. Joy!

jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

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

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

Angel Tree 2024 is just around the corner!

Angel Tree is a primary mission for High Street during the coming Advent season. Angel Tree, a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of inmates and their families to help provide Christmas gifts for children from their incarcerated family member. This special program is an opportunity for our church to share the love of Christ with the children and families participating in the program throughout our community.

This year we have committed as a church to sponsor gifts for **80 children**. There are several ways you can be involved in Angel Tree this year.

1. Sponsor a child during our gift tag distribution.

We will be distributing gift tags at church **November 24, December 1, and December 8.** Each gift tag will contain the name, age, and gift ideas for the child. Once you pick a tag(s) you are free to shop! We ask that each gift total about 30 dollars. ***All gifts are to be returned to church no later than Sunday December 15.*** If shopping is difficult for you, but you would like to sponsor a child our secret shoppers are more than happy to do the shopping with your gift donation dollars.

2. Help organize gifts for delivery.

Join us on December 15 in Parish Hall from 11:00-1:00 to organize gifts by families for delivery.

3. Help Deliver Gifts to families.

Once all gifts are collected, they will be distributed to families **from December 15 - 23rd.** We will need a few volunteers to help deliver gifts to families who prefer to have gifts delivered rather than picking them up in the church office. We deliver gifts in delivery pairs. If you would like to help organize or deliver gifts, please contact Cynthia Dale at 765.729.7287 or jcldale@gmail.com

We hope you will join us in bringing Christ's love at Christmas to children throughout our community!

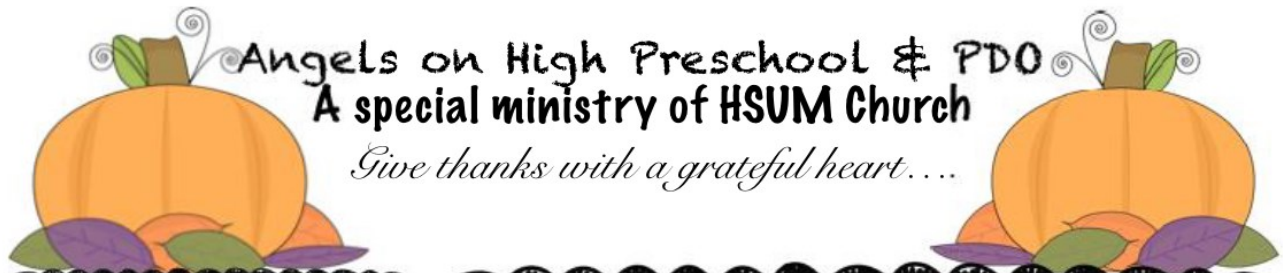
Thursday Luncheon

Come join us for Thursday Luncheon. We meet every week for a delicious lunch and warm fellowship. The price of the meal is \$6 and we meet in Parish Hall.

There will be no Luncheon on Nov. 28th because of Thanksgiving. If you are planning ahead, the Distaff's will be presenting a musical program for us on Dec. 12th.

December 19th will be our last Luncheon for 2024. We will then take a break until March 13th, 2025.

Remember to call the church office by noon the Tuesday before any luncheon to make a reservation.



Angels on High Preschool & PDO A special ministry of HSUM Church

Give thanks with a grateful heart....

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

Phone: 765-216-7919

Email:

aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com

Important Dates

CLOSED: November 27-29

November Fundraiser:

AOH Preschool will be selling cheeseballs with or without nuts and dessert cheeseballs again this year! There will be an order form in the Church Office. All orders are due by **Friday, November 15**. Cheeseball pick up will be on **Monday, November 25** and **Tuesday, November 26**. Just in time for Thanksgiving! This is our biggest fundraiser of the year!

Thank you for your support!



Warm socks will be collected again this year. AOH loves helping the UMW Project collect 1,000 pairs! There will be a crate in our foyer for sock donations. Last year we donated over 100 pairs of socks! Our goal this year is to collect 200 pairs of warm socks!

Angels on High November Donations Needed:

- Angels on High Staff Christmas Lunch (monetary)
- Paper Towel (any brand - Select-A-Size)
- Baking Soda (science experiments)
- Vinegar (science experiments)
- Kleenex (lots of runny noses in the fall/winter)
- Plastic Table Cloth (ALL COLORS - Rectangular)

All donations can be left in the Church office in or by the AOH mailbox or dropped off at the preschool.
We love having visitors from the Church and the boys and girls would love to say Hi!



I would like to wish you ALL a very Happy Thanksgiving! We are so blessed here at Angels on High Preschool and PDO with caring Teachers, delightful Children, wonderful Preschool & PDO Families, and a supportive Church! We have so much for which we are thankful for!

High Street Church Staff

Lead Pastor: Rev. Teri Crouse

tcrouse@munciehighstreet.com

Associate Pastor: Rev. Daryl Gilbert

dgilbert@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

Wisdom People

Donna Bookout will be 91 on

November 5th.

Ruth Circle

November 12, 2024

The Gathering Place

Devotions: Linda Swanger

Hostess: Linda Needham

Methodist Men

Come join us for our Men's Breakfast
on November 20th at 8:00 am

Thank You SO much to
Adam and Keri Howell
for supplying the pumpkins
for our Trunk or Treat!



Please consider Howell Farms for any of your pumpkin
needs yet this year or next year! We are so happy to
recommend and support our local farmers ~ especially
High Street Farmers!

Worship Schedule

November Worship

November 3rd Holy Communion, All Saints

Sermon: *God's Home*

Scripture: John 11:32: Rev. 21:1-6(a)

November 10th

Sermon: *Be Do Not be Alarmed*

Scripture: Mark 13:1-8

November 17th Thanksgiving Service

Sermon: *Attitude of Gratitude*

Scripture: Joel 2:21-27

November 24th Christ the King Sunday

Sermon: *Not of This World*

Scripture: John 18:33-37



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's Things

The Trustees recently held their monthly meeting. We opened our meeting and remembered long time member Steve Swanger. He loved High Street and gave countless hours to making it safe and secure.

We have spent a lot of time a lot of time securing insurance for the coming year. Many companies no longer want to insure churches. At this point, we believe we have secured a well known company and have also reduced our premium.

Your Trustees continue to be vigilant as we seek to maintain this place we love and cherish called High Street.

Larry Crabtree,

Chairman

It's Waffle Time

2025 Walk a Mile team! Don't miss out!

Be sure to join us in Parish Hall (the basement) on Sunday, November 10, for a fall **Waffle Palooza!** All you care to eat waffles, sausage, juice, and coffee. Not to mention you will be supporting a worthy cause and get to enjoy great fellowship. All donations from the event will support our High Street 2025 Walk a Mile team! Don't miss out.