

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.

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bitly.videohighstreet)

From Pastor Teri

New Vision / New Year / New Goals

Last October, the Church Council adopted a new Vision Statement for High Street UMC. It is “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.” This is a slight variation of the new Vision Statement for the overall United Methodist Church.

We'll be asking the Church Council – and all committees and teams within the church, as well as all of you – to evaluate every program, mission, and ministry in which High Street is involved, as well as any they propose, to make certain they are aligned with our new Vision Statement. If it's not aligned, we probably shouldn't be doing it.

The UMC has provided some good guiding questions* for us to use for action and implementation of the new Vision:

1. Growing and Forming Disciples

- What discipleship programs or initiatives can we develop to deepen spiritual growth in our church?
- How can we encourage every member to take steps in their personal journeys of discipleship?
- What are creative ways we can engage people of all ages in forming disciples?

2. Developing Christ-like leaders

- How can we identify and nurture emerging leaders within our congregation?
- What training or resources do leaders need to effectively embody this vision?
- How can leadership practices in our church align more closely with the example set by Jesus?

3. Standing in solidarity with the poor and vulnerable

- What specific needs exist among the poor and vulnerable in our community, and how can we address them?
- How can we amplify their voices and advocate for their well-being?
- What long-term initiatives can we pursue to ensure ongoing support?

4. Seeking health and wholeness for all

- How can our church contribute to physical, emotional, and spiritual wholeness in our community?
- What role can we play in caring for creation and the promotion of environmental health?
- How can we integrate health and wholeness into our worship, education, and outreach programs?

These are questions for all of us – not just the leadership of the church – to address as we begin to live into our new Vision, and **Love Boldly**, **Serve Joyfully**, and **Lead Courageously**.

* https://www.resourceumc.org/-/media/umc-media/2025/04/28/2012/umcnewvision_localchurchguide.pdf

December 2025 Financial Update

Reminder: As previously announced, the Church Council approved a 2025 budget of \$485,000, which was a “meet-the-needs as is” budget. The HSUMC Foundation voted to grant \$125,000 to the church to cover the gap and meet unexpected costs. We're reporting income, which includes 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.

We finished 2025 off with a bang! Our giving trends are unusual, since so many give through RMDs, QCDs, and other annual tax-minimizing means – usually at the beginning or end of the year.

Our giving for December reflected that trend, and was \$52,187. This means our December giving was \$20,104 more than the \$32,083 that's 1/12 of \$385,000. Our expenses were down in December, and were \$37,574. This meant our expenses were \$14,613 less than our giving. We are grateful.

Our total annual income was \$462,198 (including two separate one-time extravagant gifts in March & July), which was \$77,198 more than budgeted for. Our YTD expenses were \$447,471, which was \$14,727 less than we received in income, and \$37,529 less than our approved 2025 budget of \$485,000. Between your generosity and the substantial assistance of the Trustees, we covered our expenses without using the grant from the Foundation. It is still invested at White River, and we will need it in 2026 (more on that next month). But a huge congratulations to all who made this possible.

We encourage you to keep up your support as 2026 begins. 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.

December Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted giving: \$32,083 (1/12 of \$385,000)

Actual income: \$52,187

Expenses: \$37,574

Budget for month: \$40,417 (1/12 of \$485,000)

Cash balance (Dec): \$14,613

YTD Financial Snapshot:

2025 Budgeted giving: \$385,000

Actual income: \$462,198*

Expenses: \$447,471

2025 Budget: \$485,000

YTD Cash balance: \$14,727 (YTD income – expenses)

*includes two separate one-time extravagant gifts (March & July)

Reporting our Finances

Last year, we reported our income/giving numbers in relation to our overall budget (which included funds granted to the church by the HS Foundation) and to the amount pledged. We don't have an additional grant from the Foundation this year, although we still have the amount from last year. This year, we'll report our income/giving in relation to our pledged amount, and to the budget approved by the Church Council. We recognize there is a significant gap between what has been pledged and what was approved for our "meet-the-needs" budget. But we also want to be as transparent as we can about the financial situation of the church.

Update on Trial Proceedings (Rowls Trust)

We received information from the Court that it was behind – perhaps because of the holidays. So, the decision we expected in mid-January was pushed back to mid- to late February. We continue to hope for the best, and will keep you apprised. As we know, you will know.

Thank You!

We can all agree it's more fun to put up Christmas decorations than to take them down. Many thanks to all those who helped with the "de-hanging of the greens" (or more prosaically, taking down the Advent and Christmas decorations). Many hands make light work – and more importantly, you ARE the church!

Getting Involved

Our congregation has gone through many changes and losses in the past year, especially during the last quarter. Additional support is needed for a number of our missions and ministries. Please see Pastor Colin to help with Hospital/Flower deliveries, the coffee bar hospitality team, Thursday Luncheon, and/or calling for the Samaritan Fund. We're delighted with those who have already stepped forward. For the rest of you, we'll get you connected with the right people. Make a difference in the church and community!

High Street Scholarship Applications

The link to the 2026-27 scholarship application is now live on the church website. We'll also post it on Facebook. College students, and those who will be college students during the 2026-27 school year, who are members of High Street, are eligible to apply. Please note this is a new form; do not use prior years' forms. Applications are online only. Do not wait until the last minute. It is an extensive application.

From Pastor Colin

Some people like to sort and label and categorize things. We even make games about it, like Scattergories or Set. We may have unique or strong feelings about where something belongs in relation to other things. We may draw lines, which may be bold or thin. There are ways and means by which people have categorized the Christian life. Sometimes, it's even helpful.

One helpful framework I've found for balancing my faith is to think of two intersecting lines, making four quadrants - a cross, even. One line, let's say left-to-right, is the line of involvement. Who does the thing - just yourself, or everyone? How many people does it take? Then the perpendicular direction, let's say up-and-down, is the line about purpose. Is it done most for our connection to God, or to others? A balanced faith has something in each quadrant.

The first quadrant (upper left) in this framework is things that are done on our own that connect us most to God. For example, we read scripture and pray without needing anyone else to see. We do such acts of devotion because we need a personal faith, worked out through personal practices. Acts of devotion work inwardly, personally, to bring us close to God.

A good example from the second quadrant (upper right) is worship - something that is public, and designed overall to draw us closer to God. We have excellent worship at High Street. Worship involves a lot of people, whose primary goal in that hour is to glorify God. We're glad others are with us in worship - it's a communal experience. But each and all of us are there to connect to God.

Most of us do pretty well on that half of the quadrant. Connecting to God is lovely. Where it may get tricky is when we build our faith through our connection to others.

The third quadrant (lower left) could be called works of compassion - private things we do for others' sake. Helping folks is compassionate. The day-to-day things you do for your neighbor bless both you and them, and draw you together. High Street is good at compassion! We support a good handful of mission and ministry

endeavors that benefit our neighbors. Incidentally, Walk-a-Mile is coming very soon, as is the return of Thursday lunch. Think of how you can get involved. And, thank you for your support!

The last, maybe hardest part of a balanced faith quadrant (lower right) could be called “justice.” What do we do with other people that makes a difference for everyone? There are some root causes and difficult, systemic issues that people struggle with. It usually takes an organized effort by lots of folks to make positive changes in such things. Through works of justice, we connect with our neighbors in faithful, public witness for the common good.

So are you feeling balanced? What do you do to love God and love your neighbor? Who is with you in that work? High Street is at its best when we equip and encourage folks for a well-balanced faith. No matter where we draw our lines, there is something for everyone. Thank you for all that you do, and the good reasons behind it. This is all the work of disciples of Jesus Christ. Praise God for the good outcomes from it!



Phyllis Green turns 100 on February 9.

Please join her family on Sunday, February 8, immediately following the morning service in Parish Hall, for a reception in her honor. Light refreshments will be served.

Bake Sale

Ruth Circle will be holding a Bake Sale on Sunday morning, February 15, from 8:30 a.m. until 11:15 a.m. in the main floor hallway. Proceeds will go to the High Street Pantry.

WafflePalooza is Rescheduled!

Be sure to join us on February 22, immediately following the 10 am church service, for delicious waffles and sausages, with all the fixings. WafflePalooza is always a fun fellowship time, and all donations help to support High Street's 2026 Walk-a-Mile Team. We look forward to seeing you there!

Men's Breakfast

Join us to celebrate the upcoming arrival of spring! We invite you to our February Men's Breakfast on February 18 at 8 am in Parish Hall. Enjoy delicious food, great company, and inspiring thoughts from Bob Myers to kickstart your week. We look forward to seeing you there!

WARM TOES all over Muncie

Thank you for all the socks you donated to our collection basket. Big toes and little toes all over Muncie are warmer because of you.





ANGELS ON HIGH PRESCHOOL



A SPECIAL MINISTRY OF HIGH STREET CHURCH

February 2026

Soapy Joe's Laundry Fundraiser

Angels on High will be selling 5-gallon laundry soap buckets for \$49 each. Each bucket sold will earn our preschool \$14! All orders and payments are due by Friday, February 6. Please make checks payable to Angels on High Preschool. Thank you for your support!

Presidents' Day

Angels on High will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day.

Preschool Registration

Preschool registration for the 2026-2027 school year will open to all Angels on High and HSUMC members on Tuesday, February 17. The greatest compliment you can give us is referring your family and friends!

Giving Back

Last month, Angels on High collected 161 pairs of warm socks to add to the UWF group's goal of 1,000 pairs!

This month, Angels on High will be collecting donations for Walk A Mile in My Shoes to contribute to High Street's total!

Important Dates

- Fundraiser: February 6
- No School: February 16
- Preschool Registration: February 17

Contact Info

aohpreschool@
munciehighstreet.com
765.216.7919



High Street Church Staff

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

Associate Pastor: Rev. Colin Cress
ccress@munciehighstreet.com

Church Administrator: 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 February Worship

February 1 Vision Quest
Holy Communion
Sermon: Love Boldy
Scripture: Matthew 22:37-39;
John 13:37-39

February 8 Vision Quest
Sermon: Serve Joyfully
Scripture: Psalm 100:1; Nehemiah 8:10;
John 13:14-15; 1 Peter 4:10

February 15 Vision Quest
Sermon: Lead Courageously
Scripture: Joshua 1:9; Ephesians 6:10

February 18 ASH WEDNESDAY: 7pm
Scripture: Psalm 51; Joel 2:1-2, 12-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10;
Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21

February 22 Heart-to-Heart Talks
Sermon: Not Today, Satan
Scripture: Matthew 4:1-11

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on Tuesday,
February 10 at 9:30 a.m. in the
Gathering Place. Lynn Ryan and Jana
Brighton are sharing hostess duties and
Linda Needham is give devotions.

HIGH STREET UMC

CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

219 : YOUTH @ 5PM!

•FEBRUARY 1:

Youth Lounge: Games and Dinner

•FEBRUARY 8:

Service Project

•FEBRUARY 15:

Trivia Night with Snacks

•FEBRUARY 22:

NERF & NACHOS (invite FRIENDS!)

**FEBRUARY
2026**

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Every Sunday @ 9 am in Room 61

Feb. 1 - People Welcomed Jesus as King

Feb. 8- Leaders Wanted to Trick Jesus

Feb. 15 - Jesus Warned about Not Loving

Feb. 22 - Jesus Warned about Not Acting

ACOLYTES: FEB. 2026

FEB. 1 •
JOSHUA BRICKER
JOSEPH BRICKER

FEB. 8 •
LEO FURLONG
DEAN WERNER

FEB. 15 •
SAM ATKINSON
JOSHUA BRICKER

FEB. 22 •
SOPHIA TAPY-HARRISON
ESTHER FURLONG

IT'S TIME!!

TO SIGN UP FOR

CHURCH CAMP!!



SEE MS. JOY FOR
INFORMATION!!



**WALK-A-MILE
FEB. 21, 2026**

ALL CHURCH

• **FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT •**
FEBRUARY 27TH @ 6PM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON



SIGN UP TODAY!

JBRICKER@MUNCIEHIGHSTREET.COM

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

February 2026

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

High Street Movie Night

Friday February 27th @ 6pm

\$5 per person • \$20 max per family
RSVP to Ms. Joy by Feb. 25th!

Pizza
Popcorn
Pop
Treat

DREAMWORKS
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR
DRAGON

Thursday Luncheon to Resume

We are excited to announce another year of Thursday Luncheons here at High Street. This event has been a cherished ministry of High Street for nearly 52 years! While it has evolved over the years, it continues to be a wonderful opportunity for older adults to enjoy fun and fellowship together. Our first luncheon of the year will be on March 19th. We will meet at 11:30 am, with a brief introduction before lunch is served at 11:45 am. At least once a month, we will feature a 20-minute program after lunch has been cleared away.

One key to the longevity of the Thursday Luncheon has been the dedication of our volunteers. We are currently fortunate to have Laurah West as our wonderful cook. There are three other women (Barb Ballard, Ann Briggs, and Kris Lewis), who assist with setting the tables, helping Laurah, and managing serving and cleanup. Additionally, two fantastic gentlemen, Dave Kistler and Dick Williams, take care of the dishwasher and clean the pots and pans. We've also had 3-4 additional volunteers when possible to give Dave and Dick a much-needed break.

At this time, we are seeking new volunteers to join our team and support those of us who are still actively working. If you can help out on a Thursday between 9:00 am and about 1:00 pm, or even for part of that time, we would love to have you on board. You can volunteer just once a month, for two Thursdays, or for the whole month — any help is greatly appreciated! Please consider joining this fun and worthwhile ministry. For more information, contact Barb Ballard or Pastor Colin.



Muncie Mission Walk A Mile 2026



February 21, 2026

*For questions and or sign ups see
Adam Atkinson (Team Lead) in
the main hallway after service*