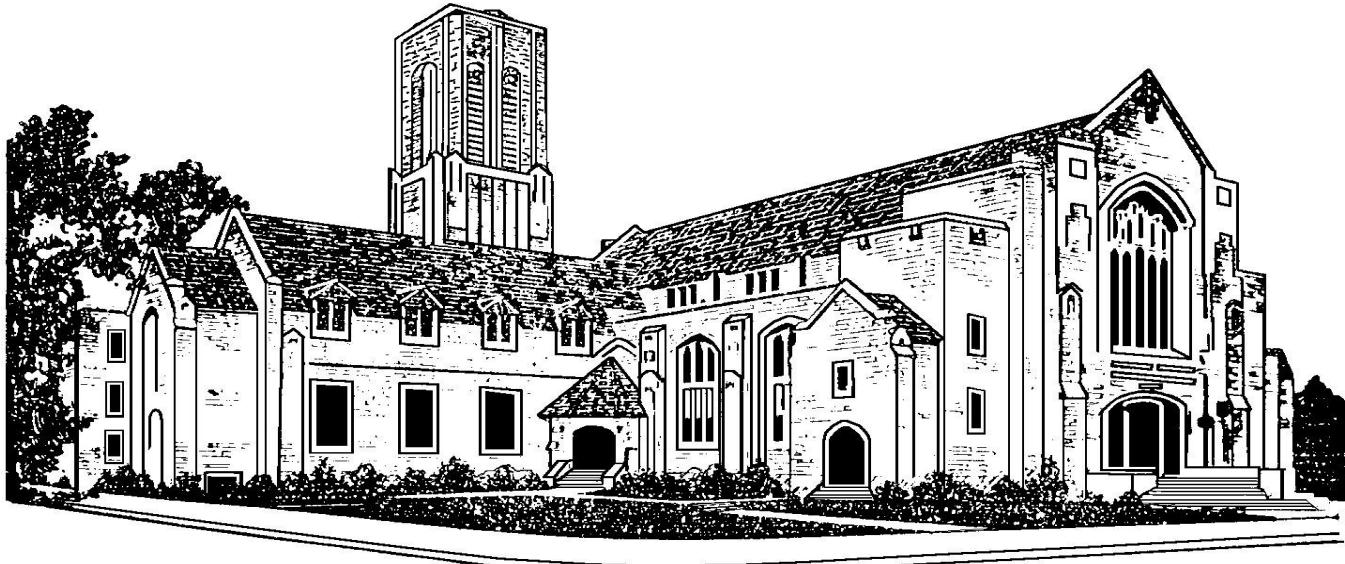




Tower Topics

High Street UMC



Inside Tower Topics

December, 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/HighStreetUMChurch>
YouTube: [bitly.videohighstreet](https://www.youtube.com/user/bitly.videohighstreet)

From Pastor Teri

Advent Wreaths: What & Why?

Every year, our Advent wreath – with its four purple candles encircling a larger white candle – makes its appearance on our chancel. Have you ever wondered how the custom of the Advent wreath and candles started, or why we even light Advent candles?

The concept of the Advent wreath originated among German Lutherans in the 16th century. However, it wasn't until three centuries later that the modern Advent wreath took shape. In medieval times, Advent was a period of fasting during which people's thoughts were directed to the expected second coming of Christ; but in modern times many have forgotten this meaning; and instead, it has been seen primarily as the lead up to Christmas.

Advent wreaths are circular, representing God's infinite love, and are usually made of ever-green leaves, which represent the hope of eternal life brought by Jesus Christ. Within the Advent wreath are candles that generally represent the four weeks of the Advent season as well as the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ although each of the candles can be attributed its own significance as well. The four candles of the Advent wreath specifically symbolize the Christian concepts of hope, peace, joy and love, with these candles being lit subsequently throughout each week of the Advent season. Many Advent wreaths also have a white candle in the center, known as the "Christ candle," to symbolize the arrival of Christmastide. It is first lit on Christmas Eve, the beginning of Christmastide, and may be lit throughout the rest of the Christmas season, and Epiphany – if desired. The Christ candle is white because this is the traditional festal color in the Western Church.

In many Catholic and Protestant churches, the most popular colors for the four surrounding Advent candles are violet (or blue) and rose, corresponding with the colors of the liturgical colors for the Sundays of Advent. For denominations of the Western Christian Church, violet is the historic liturgical color for three of the four Sundays of Advent as it is the traditional color of penitential seasons. Blue has been historically used too, as it represents hopefulness, reflective of the theme of Advent surrounding the First and Second Coming of Jesus, and as the color associated with Mary. Rose is the liturgical color for the Third Sunday of Advent, known as Gaudete Sunday (from the Latin word meaning rejoice. As such, the third candle, representing joy, is often a different color from the other three. The four "Advent" candles are not lit following Christmas Eve/Day, once the Christ candle has been lit.

This year, we're recognizing those who provide service to our church and community through who will be our Advent candle lighters. Since we have only four weeks (plus Christmas Eve) for Advent candle lighters, we can't recognize every group that provides service, but we're hoping to draw attention to those amazing folks who provide their time and talent to our faith community and keep things running here at High Street. Be sure to say, "Thanks!" to them.

October Financial Update

Unfortunately, we must report that our giving for October was again down fairly significantly. In October, our giving was \$29,200 which was \$8951 less than October expenses, and \$5383 less than we budgeted for. We did receive a generous gift from the United Women of Faith in October, which is included in the giving total and for which we give thanks. Our total giving year-to-date (YTD), excluding the Ethel Gantz gift in May, was \$372,352, which we celebrate; but our expenses YTD totaled \$400,472. This means our expenses exceeded our Year-to-Date (YTD) giving by \$28,120; and our YTD budget of \$345,830 by \$51,071. With the May Ethel Gantz gift and Gladys Hendricks Trust income for 2024 figured in, our income was \$397,770, which was \$2702 less 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.

We encourage you to remember to keep up your support as 2024 is coming to an end. 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.

October and YTD Financial Snapshot:

Oct. budgeted giving: \$34,583

Oct. actual giving: \$29,200

Oct. expenses: \$38,151

Cash balance (Oct.): --\$8951

YTD budgeted giving: \$345,830

YTD actual giving: \$372,352

YTD income (with Gantz & trust income): \$397,770

YTD expenses: \$400,472

Net Operating Income: --\$2702

Final Stewardship Update

Although there may be some more Estimate of Giving (Pledge) Cards returned, this will be what our SPRC & Finance Committee will be working with to make recommendations to the Church Council:

Needed to keep things "As Is" - \$484,260

Received in pledges to date (as of 11/21) - \$336,484

Deficit - \$147,776

Farewell and Best Wishes to Pastor Daryl

It's with sadness we announce that, for reasons related to his personal health, Pastor Daryl has submitted his resignation as our part-time Associate Pastor. He rightly notes that he cannot care for others until he takes care of himself. We fully support his decision to prioritize his health, and wish him all the best as he "re-retires."

Pastor Daryl will remain in ministry with us through the end of December so he can bid all farewell, and so all of us have a chance to say goodbye as well. He'll also be with us through the holidays. This is certainly not what we anticipated, and will be a change for all of us. However, I know we can adapt, and be supportive of the needs of others and Pastor Daryl.

Our Finance and SPRC committees have recommended, and the Church Council has approved, a budget for 2025 for things to remain "as is," including personnel. That would include a half-time associate pastor. Our district superintendent knows of our need, and we are brainstorming on creative possibilities. In the meantime, we'll all need to step in and be the church together.

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**

Pantry Talk

Good morning, my name is Joanie Ross and I want to talk about our High Street Food Pantry ministry. As a part of the Pantry Team, Jerall and I are truly amazed by the generosity of our congregation. You are giving and sharing beyond belief and since it is Thanksgiving Sunday, we want to say thank you! You are a blessing all year long.

Let me give you a brief summary about our food pantry outreach. The core pantry team is made up of more than 20 volunteers. Those who shop for food items that aren't donated, those who pack the food for distribution, and those who distribute the food.

An extension of the core team is the church office volunteers that take the calls from families requesting food pantry assistance. And the outer circle of volunteers is you...the church members through your food and financial donations.

A typical week involves approximately 15-20 volunteer hours. Each week on Tuesdays we distribute food for up to 15 families. Each family receives around \$65.00 worth of groceries. We also include a flier with information about other local food pantries and resources. We are on track to help out almost 800 families this year.

Doing the math, if the pantry fund purchased all the food needed for distribution, the yearly pantry expenditures would total..... Approximately \$50,000.00. Think about it... that is an amazing gift to the needy in our community. More amazing is that of the estimated \$50,000 dollars, the pantry fund has only paid \$20,000 dollars.

You, the congregation, have made food or monetary donations of approximately \$30,000 dollars this year. Wow, this congregation has been very faithful in support of our food pantry ministry. This should make us all feel extremely proud....but...financially, through the end of October, our expenses totaled 7,000 dollars more than our income.

The need for food assistance in our community is great. The pantry team has made some changes as to what we are distributing and we will continue to monitor and weigh our finances in our balance to feed the hungry.

The bucket offering this month and next will be designated to our food pantry ministry. I hope that you will prayerfully consider what you are able to give to help feed the hungry in our community.

Pantry Food Distributed to Each Family: Peanut butter, 1 Can of frozen OJ, Jelly, 1 Loaf of bread, Pudding, 1 lb of margarine, Jello, 1 lb Frozen meat, Crackers, 1 Dozen eggs, Applesauce, 1 8oz pkg of shredded cheese, Can of fruit, Box of Cereal, 1 lb bag rice, Box of instant potatoes, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 1 can of kidney beans, 1 can of diced tomatoes, 1 box of baking mix, 1 lb of spaghetti, 1 lg can of spaghetti sauce, 3 cans of assorted vegetables, 3 cans of soup, 1 can of tuna, 2 cans of pork n beans, 1 bar of soap, 1 toilet paper roll, 1 recipe list, and 1 resource info sheet

HIGH STREET STUDENT MINISTRIES

DECEMBER 2024

CHILDREN - TWEENS - YOUTH



• Project 219 • Christmas

PIZZA PARTY & GIFT EXCHANGE

December 8 @ 4:30pm
@ Dick & Liz Marshall's Home
Please see Ms. Joy for the address!

* Bring a unisex gift for exchange - \$5 value
Wear your favorite Christmas attire!
(pj's or fun sweaters)

Project 219 • Friends-Giving 2024



Our tweens enjoyed a meal of Thankfulness as we gathered together to fellowship and reflect on our many blessings!
We welcomed 16 friends - some brand new - to our table.

We are so grateful for these wonderful young people!

Join us for Christmas Caroling

December 15th @ 3pm

MEET AT THE CHURCH AND WE WILL TRAVEL TOGETHER
TO VISIT OUR HOME BOUND HIGH STREET MEMBERS!

WE WILL ENJOY HOT COCOA WHEN WE RETURN TO THE CHURCH!
PLEASE LET JOY KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING!



DECEMBER CALENDAR PROJECT • 219 • TWEENS

DEC 1: THANKSGIVING WEEKEND • NO TWEENS
DEC 8: CHRISTMAS PARTY AND GIFT EXCHANGE
DEC 15: CAROLING TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS
DEC 22: NO TWEENS • MERRY CHRISTMAS
DEC 29: NO TWEENS • HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

TWEENS WILL RETURN TO REGULAR SCHEDULE ON JAN. 12TH!!

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

GOSPEL
PROJECT

DEC 1: PROPHETS TOLD ABOUT JESUS' BIRTH
DEC 8: ANGELS SPOKE TO MARY AND JOSEPH
DEC 15: JESUS WAS BORN
DEC 22: JESUS WAS DEDICATED
DEC 29: WISE MEN VISITED JESUS

Sunday Morning:

Sunday School @ 9am in G1

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

Need to contact Joy?

jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

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

Christmas Eve Reception Support

A wonderful part of High Street's Advent celebration is our Christmas Eve reception.

In addition to your attendance, we need help in the following areas to make our reception a success. This year the reception will be immediately follow our 7:30 pm evening service.

First, we need baked goods to be served at the reception. If you would like to provide some treats, you can drop them off at the church kitchen on Sunday, Dec 22 through Tuesday, Dec 24 at noon.

Secondly, we need individuals to help set out the treats prior to the event. If you are interested please contact Cynthia Dale at 729-729-7287.

Third, we need servers during the event. If you are interested please contact Cynthia Dale at 729-729-7287. You need not commit to cover the entire reception time. A 30 min period would be most appreciated!

Thursday Luncheon

Please join us for the last 3 Thursday Luncheons of the year. Dec. 19th will be our Christmas celebration, and then we will take a break until March 13th.

December 5th we will have Sandra Hardcastle join us to talk about her book *JFK: Here's My Contribution to our Country*. We will also have a surprise presentation from a few of our ladies.

December 21st we will do a Christmas Sing-a-Long, with Sandra Hardcastle leading us.

Waffle Palooza





More fun at
Waffle
Palooza.
Plan to
join us for the
next one on
January 26th.

ANGELS ON HIGH PRESCHOOL

A SPECIAL MINISTRY OF HIGH STREET CHURCH



Elisha Lynn, Director

Angels on High
Preschool & PDO
765.216.7919

aohpreschool@munciehighstreet.com

Donations Needed:

- Dixie Cups
- Kleenex
- Double AA Batteries
- Plastic Forks
- Old Fashioned Oats
- Monetary Donation

Angels on High will be collecting warm socks to help the UMF reach their goal of 1,000 socks. Our goal this year is 200! AOH will be participating in the Hat & Mitten Drive too! The PDO & Preschool classrooms will be collecting Food Pantry Items. The class with the most donated items will win a pizza party! AOH sold 393 Cheeseballs for Thanksgiving! We are now taking orders for Christmas. Orders & payment are due by December 13. Pick-up will be December 18, 19, & 20. Thank you for your support with our fundraiser! AOH is collecting monetary donations to help provide a Christmas staff lunch for our wonderful teachers. All monetary donations can be placed in the AOH mailbox located in the Church Office or at the front desk at the preschool. Thanks!

December 13

Cheeseball Orders Due

December 20: AOH Staff Lunch

December 23-27

Christmas Break

Dec. 30-January 3:

Christmas Break

January 6: Teacher Work Day

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!



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

Ruth Circle

December 3, 2024

The Gathering Place

Christmas Salad Luncheon Carry In

Devotions: Donna McNary

Hostess: Connie Crabtree

UWF General Meeting

Take a break from all the Christmas busyness! Join us December 10 at 10 am for our Christmas UWF Meeting In the Gathering Place.

We will have cookies and a visit from AOH.

Food Pantry Needs

Apple Sauce

Peanut Butter

Instant Potatoes

Canned Vegetables

Diced Tomatoes

Canned Fruit

Canned Soup

Jelly

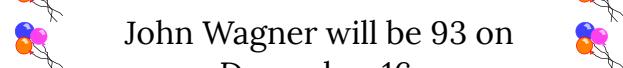
Rice

Boxed Macaroni and Cheese



Wisdom People

Anna Louise Jurt will be 100 on December 12.



John Wagner will be 93 on December 16.

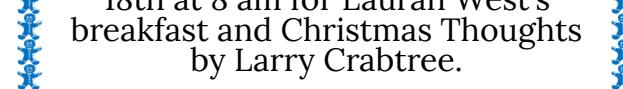
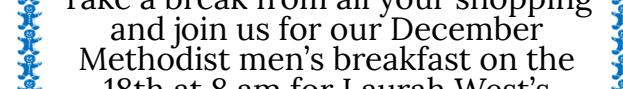
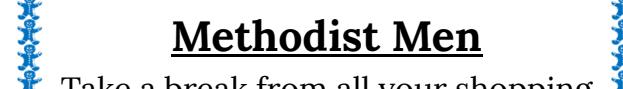


Christine Greenman will be 96 on December 18.



Methodist Men

Take a break from all your shopping and join us for our December Methodist men's breakfast on the 18th at 8 am for Laurah West's breakfast and Christmas Thoughts by Larry Crabtree.



Worship Schedule

December Worship

December 1st

Sermon:

Scripture:

Holy Communion
Looking for the Fig Tree
John 18:33-37

December 8th

Sermon:

Scripture:

Repent and Follow
Luke 21:25-38

December 10th

Sermon:

Scripture

Blue Christmas
various

December 15th

Sermon:

Scripture:

What Then Shall We Do?
Luke 3:7-18

December 22nd

Sermon:

Scripture:

Leaning into the "Almost"
Luke 1:39-45

December 24th (Noon & 7:30)

Sermon

Salvation from the Margins

December 29th

Sermon:

Scripture:

The Sounds of Silence
Luke 2:41-52



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

We never are at a loss for things needing fixed. We will soon be having repairs on the masonry located on the east balcony.

It has been a privilege to serve as chairman these past three years. Now it is time for new leadership. I am grateful to all the Trustees. Their commitment and dedication to caring for our beautiful building is unsurpassed.

Many things have been accomplished. Tuckpointing, The Gathering Place, Water fountains, sealing of the parking lot, AED's, Emergency lighting, Painting the 3rd floor and The Gathering Place kitchen, Sale of the University parsonage, Security cameras, entry steps, repairing the north entry when damaged by a U haul truck, and the list continues.

Again, thank you Trustees! You made my job easy. As you enter a new year, may God bless you with insight and discernment to maintain this place we love and cherish called High Street.

Most sincerely,
Larry Crabtree, Chairman