

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

Pastor Life: Behind the Curtain – pt. 4 (Pastoral Care)

After a couple of months where we had to cover some other important topics, we're back to our "series" on what a pastor's life includes (well, sort of – every day is different, to be honest). Besides preaching, pastoral care is probably the other duty or task or responsibility of a pastor with which people think they are most familiar.

Pastoral care covers a wide range of responsibilities, including meeting 1:1 with people when they have questions, concerns, issues, problems, or just need someone to listen to them. It's the middle of the night phone call when there's been an emergency (all types), and the pastor has to rush to the hospital. That happens at all hours of the day, but it can be more dramatic in the middle of the night. It's sitting with someone during the final weeks, days, hours, and minutes of their life. And it's being available to and for those persons' families before, during, and after that time as well. It includes visiting – by phone, letter, and in person – with those who are homebound or in assisted living, as well as those who are in the hospital with sickness or for surgery. It's a sympathetic ear, a shoulder to cry on, and a hand to hold. And so much more.

Part of pastoral care includes preparing memorial/celebration of life services, as well as weddings and baptisms, although all of those fall under planning and leading worship as well.

I tell congregations at the beginning of an appointment that my seminary forgot to issue me a crystal ball when they handed me my diploma. It's a lighthearted way to remind everyone that I can't read anyone's mind. Different people have different preferences on visitation – both at home and in the hospital. Additionally, since the passage of HIPAA (the Healthcare Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), healthcare providers and facilities are legally not allowed to provide any information with patient identifiable data to outside organizations or persons, including pastors or churches. And that means neither the church office nor I can know if anyone in particular is in the hospital or any other healthcare facility, or if they want a visit, unless they tell us.

Pastoral care is an area particularly good for congregation members to help the pastoral staff with. That's because these are your friends, the people you worship with on a regular basis. They want and need to know that you – as the congregation, their faith family – care. Visiting with our homebound members, and those in assisted living, is mostly about going to see people you already know, sitting with them, and talking with them. It's extending the love of God to

your fellow members of the Body of Christ. Not everyone can prepare or preach a sermon (nor do they want to!), but everyone can visit with another person.

Pastoral care requires a servant's heart, as well as caring and compassion for one another. It can be one of the most rewarding, grace-filled parts of ministry (for ANYONE) – filled with spiritual, holy moments. I hope you'll consider being a part of it.

July 2026 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.

Also 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. Our beginning of the year giving has come to an end. Our income for July was \$64,455, which included a one-time (unpledged) extravagant gift. This means our total July income was \$19,075 more than the \$45,380 that's 1/12 of our \$544,554 budget. Our expenses were \$48,540, which was \$15,915 less than our total income.

Our YTD income (including the two one-time extravagant gifts in February and July) is \$341,092, which is \$23,432 more than the \$317,660 we have budgeted YTD. Expenses YTD are \$309,792, which is \$31,300 less than our total YTD income, and \$7868 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.

July 2026 Financial Snapshot:

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

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

Actual income: \$64,455*

Expenses: \$48,540

Net Income (July): \$15,915

YTD 2026 Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted YTD: \$317,660 (7/12 of \$544,554)

Pledged YTD: \$192,577 (7/12 of \$330,134)

Income YTD: \$341,092**

Expenses YTD: \$309,792

Net Income YTD: \$23,432 (Budget v. Income**)

*Includes one-time (unpledged) extravagant gift

**Includes two one-time (unpledged) extravagant gifts in February & July

An Apron, Not a Bib

Bishop Mike (Coyner) used to say that too many Christians came to church wearing a bib, rather than putting on an apron. His point was that we are all called to “hands on” ministry, not simply to an attitude of consumerism (i.e., what do I want, what do I prefer, how can I be served).

I think that for the most part, High Street has an approach that is more apron-oriented than bib-oriented. And I’m grateful for this. Period. Full stop.

But there have been times when I’ve heard rumblings from the sidelines of “Why aren’t we doing more?” Or, “We could do better.” Or, “Why aren’t we doing [X]?”

Friends, each and every one of us is empowered by our baptisms to tie those aprons on, and take on a ministry if we believe something needs to be accomplished. If there is anything I have very little tolerance for, it’s people complaining about something with no willingness to do the work that’s being complained about. If you see something that needs to be done, do it. The United Methodist Church is run by clergy and laity equally.

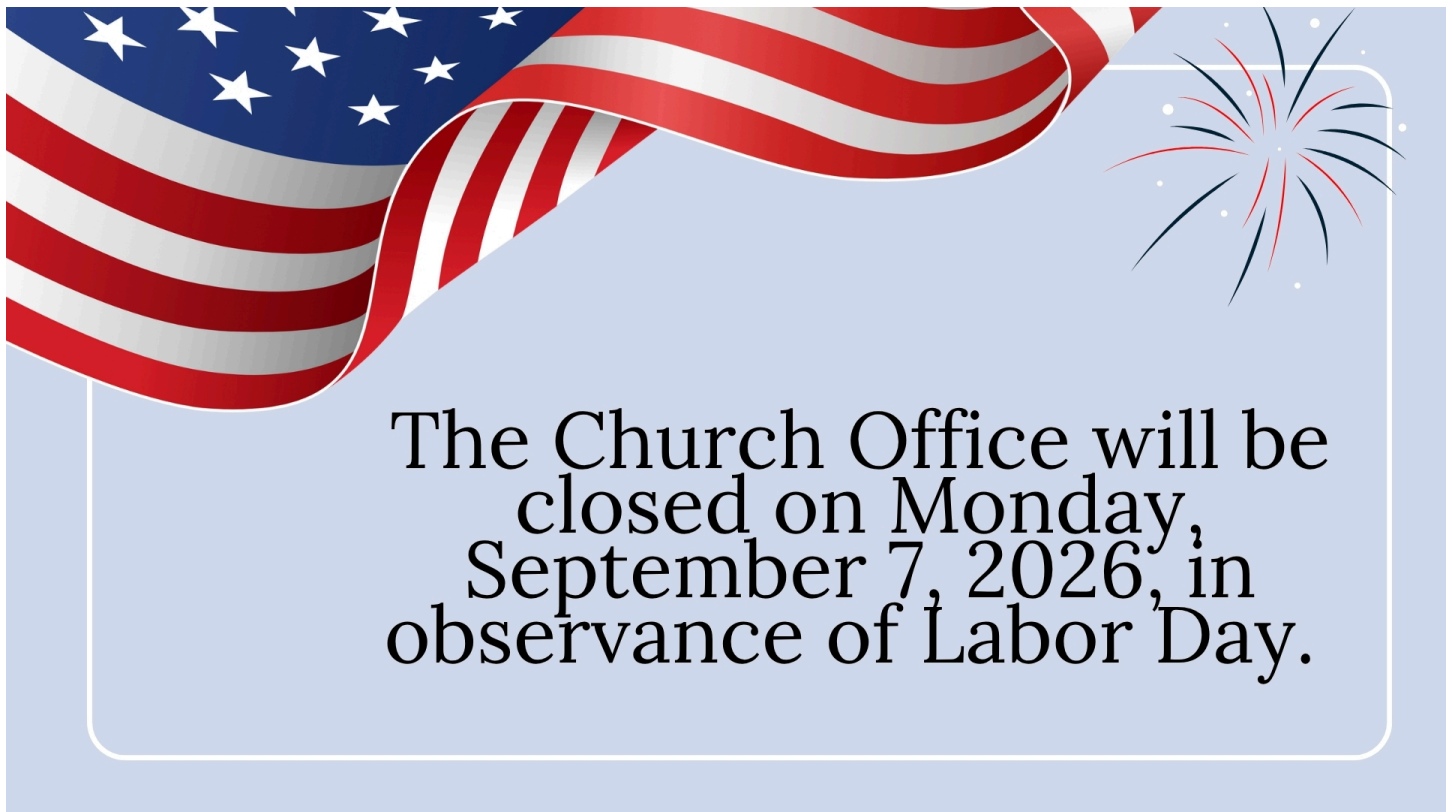
Before we complain about something, be sure we ask ourselves what WE have done to make that thing better. Let’s pick up those aprons and get rid of the bibs.

Meet Our New Custodian

After an exhaustive search (seriously: hundreds of resumes, many interviews and too many no-shows, and nearly giving up), God provided. As God always does.

Our new part-time custodian is Richard Phillips, a grandfather who recently retired from Magna Power Train intending to spend some time just enjoying his time off. However, he and his wife received custody of their three grandchildren, and decided that a little extra money would come in handy. With his background experience in maintenance and custodial services, and his desire for a part-time flexible schedule, our needs and Richard's needs fit together nearly perfectly.

When you see him around, please introduce yourself and say hello. Richard is very friendly and eager to get to know the church and its congregation. Give him some grace as he learns the space and the job – although we can attest he's a very fast learner! But as you know, there are a lot of "first times" in a church schedule (first communion Sunday, first time the bells play, first All Saints Sunday, etc.) – so there's a lot to learn.



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 September

September 6 Holy Communion
Sermon: Lessons in Leadership: Conflict
Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14, Matthew 18:15-20

September 13 Lessons in Leadership
Sermon: Grace
Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 Grace Notes
Sermon: Not Fair
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Applepalooza
Sermon: Grace Notes: Crumbs of Grace
Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

September 13 Lessons in Leadership
Sermon: Grace
Scripture: Exodus 14:19-31, Matthew 18:21-35

September 20 Grace Notes
Sermon: Not Fair
Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

September 27 Applepalooza
Sermon: Grace Notes: Crumbs of Grace
Scripture: Matthew 15:21-28

Men's Breakfast

The September Methodist Men's Breakfast will be on the 16th at 8:00 AM. Join us for good food, good friends, and inspiring thoughts from Larry Crabtree. Everyone is welcome!

Ruth Circle

The September meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th, at 9:30 AM in The Gathering Place. Donna McNary will lead devotions; Barrie Robinson and Linda Swanger will serve as the hostesses.

UWF General Meeting

The general meeting of the UWF will be September 15th in The Gathering Place.

Organ Concert at High Street Church

Sunday, September 20, 4:00 pm

Invite friends to this free event

Hear our magnificent organ featured in a concert by an internationally known artist who is traveling through Indiana. Dr. Jan Bokszczanin is a Polish organist, professor of music arts, and educator of the Fryderyk Chopin University of Music in Warsaw and in Białystok (organ). He has performed organ recitals in such prestigious venues as the Notre Dame de Paris Cathedral, the Lausanne Cathedral, the Freiberg Cathedral, the Bruges Cathedral, the University of Chappell in Glasgow, the Catholic Cathedral in Moscow, the Meyerson Symphony Hall in Dallas (USA) and the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles. He has also performed more than 50 solo organ recitals presented in concert halls, including Belarus, China, Latvia, Moldova, Russia, Romania and the USA. In 2019, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage awarded him the honorary badge “Merit for Polish Culture,” and in 2024 the bronze medal “Gloria Artis.”

Thursday Luncheon Wants You!

Thursday Luncheon began 53 years ago as a way for seniors who eat alone to enjoy some fellowship. Despite a drop in attendance during COVID, we have continued to thrive. We want to remind you that everyone is welcome every Thursday at 11:30 am.

We start with some (usually) very bad jokes, followed by a meal cooked by our own Laurah West. Occasionally, we have a short program after lunch. We wrap up by 1:00 pm at the latest. We kindly ask for a \$7 donation to help cover costs.

We would love for you to join this fun and lively group any Thursday. Please call the church office by noon on Tuesday so Laurah can have an accurate count for food supplies. Come and share a meal with us!

OFFICE VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Thursdays 8:00 am – 12:30 pm

This is an
URGENT NEED
Please see Pastor Teri or
Diana for complete details.



Upcoming Dates for Children, Youth, and Family Ministries

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| September 6, 2026 | Choir starts/ Labor Day Weekend |
| September 7, 2026 | Church and Church Office Closed |
| September 13, 2026 | Acolytes start/ Project 219 Youth starts |
| September 18, 2026 | Movie Night “The Sheep Detectives” |
| September 27, 2026 | “Bon Apple-tite” after Service |

BON APPLE-TITE!!

Join us for a celebration of all things apple after worship on September 27!

We will provide apple-themed entrées and drinks, and we invite everyone else to bring apple-themed sides and desserts to share.

There will be games, activities, door prizes, and trivia, ensuring that everyone has an “apple”solutely fun time.

Please feel free to invite friends and family to join in this exciting new tradition at High Street United Methodist Church!



Angels on High Preschool & PDO
A special ministry of High Street UMC



Preschool is in full swing at Angels on High! We're so excited for a fun year of learning, exploring, and making memories!

Our 3-4's preschool class will be visiting Jacobs' Family Orchard, and our 4/5 Pre-K class will be visiting Whitetail Tree Farm!

Our students will also be walking over to the church to visit Ms. Joy for Preschool Chapel!

Important Dates:

September 7:
Labor Day
CLOSED

September 18:
Teacher Work Day
CLOSED

September Donations:

- Apples (red, green, and yellow)
- Apple Cider
- Oats
- Plastic spoons & forks
- Small paper plates

AOH welcomed 45 preschool families into our building for Meet the Teacher Night! It was a great evening spent with both new and returning preschool families! Unfortunately, Papa John's Pizza Truck wasn't able to make our rescheduled date.