

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

From Pastor Teri

New Year / New Outlook

We've all heard the saying, "New Year, New You." That tends to refer to a push toward greater nutrition, more exercise, and a fresh perspective on all the things we wanted to try or get done the previous year, but for various reasons, maybe didn't.

We've talked about this in years past, but seriously: as we learn and grow into our new Vision Statement, our faith community here at High Street UMC really **will** need to take a new outlook and a fresh perspective on many of the things we were used to and many things we'll need to change. Change can be scary, but it doesn't have to be. We just need to remember that God is with us through it all.

When our stewardship committee reported that everyone responded well to our stewardship campaign, they were right: you all did. Most everyone who pledged last year also pledged this year, and most pledges were the same or higher than last year. But we also lost people this year to the Church Triumphant. And our expenses continue to rise – as most of us know from our personal lives: utility costs are up, service costs are up, and the general costs of maintaining our beautiful building never go down.

We've consolidated some positions on staff. For example, Diana now has the job title of "Church Administrator." This is a recognized position in the church world, but it's a little different in each church. Diana is covering the roles of building supervisor, financial director, and administrative director. We don't have full-time custodial support (Joel is part-time). Pastor Colin is half-time, and we share him with Community of Hope UMC. Each church feels as though it doesn't get enough of his time. This is an adjustment for both faith communities. Other positions also have been eliminated after much prayerful discernment.

The most important take-away from all of this is that we – as a congregation – must adopt a more volunteer-oriented (and less staff-focused) model of doing things. We already have a great start on this. We have amazing leadership capabilities within our congregation, and so many outstanding members who have taken charge of our missions, ministries, and committees. Now we need to remember that when tasks and items need to be done (labels, minutes, copies, forms, binders, and so forth), that we no longer have the staff to do that - especially without plenty of notice. We want to help you, but our very few staff members are juggling a lot of balls now, and need your help in making things happen.

High Street doesn't belong to the staff; it belongs to those who attend it. We all love it. We'd love to see everyone get involved in keeping it vital. Let's all join in.

November 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.

November, like October and September, was a challenging month for giving. Our giving for November was \$24,315. This means our giving was \$7768 less than the \$32,083 that's 1/12 of \$385,000.

Accounting-wise, our expenses came out to \$7888, following a transfer of funds from the trustees to cover some major building expenses we originally covered in both October and November. From an accounting perspective, this meant our expenses were \$16,427 less than our giving. However, building expenses (especially utilities) continue to be high; and we continue at full personnel costs.

Our total year-to-date income was \$407,386 (including two separate one-time extravagant gifts in March & July), which was \$86,556 more than budgeted for. Our YTD expenses were \$409,937, which was \$2551 more than we've received in income, and \$34,650 less than the fully budgeted amount (i.e., including the Foundation grant funds) of \$444,587.

We encourage you to keep up your support as 2025 comes to an end. 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.

November Financial Snapshot:

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

Actual income: \$24,315

Expenses: \$7888*

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

Cash balance (Nov): \$16,427*

*includes income from trustees' accounts

YTD Financial Snapshot:

Budgeted giving: \$352,913 (11/12 of \$385,000)

Actual income: \$407,386**

Expenses: \$409,937

YTD Budget: \$444,587 (11/12 of \$485,000)

YTD Cash balance: -\$2551 (YTD income – expenses)

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

Church Leadership Update

This is the time of year that leaders rotate off committees following the end of their terms, and new members come onto committees. The Nominating Committee met back during the summer to discern these new committee members and Chairs of committees, and the Church Council voted on the slate at their August meeting. It was made official at our October Charge Conference.

First, we thank all those whose terms are coming to an end and are taking a respite from leadership. While ministry never ends for any of us, it's good to give a break from time to time to those who've shouldered the burdens of leadership.

Second, we welcome those who are stepping up and into committees here at High Street. You are the lifeblood that keeps the church alive and vital. We are grateful for your ministry.

Giving Envelopes

The new giving (offering) envelopes for 2026 are available for pick-up in the church office. If you'd like to have a set, please stop by to pick yours up. We will not be mailing any out.

Christmas Eve

Wasn't Christmas Eve beautiful? I want to thank all who made it possible: our musicians, the young people who led the evening service, our staff and office volunteers, our ushers & greeters, those who contributed to and volunteered with the Holiday reception, our communion stewards, and anyone else I've undoubtedly forgotten.

Some of you have asked, so here are the numbers: our noon service was down in attendance compared with last year (63 in 2025; 75 in 2024). Our evening service was up compared with last year (188 in 2025; 174 in 2024). The weather was considerably better in 2025, which can affect attendance. We collected \$867 at noon & \$728 at 7:30pm for our special offering, which means \$782.50 for the Bishop's Christmas Offering, and \$762.50 for the High Street Food Pantry from Christmas Eve. There was \$50 specified for the Samaritan Fund. Additionally, the Foundation has voted to donate funds from certain "Mission" trusts to go to the Bishop's Christmas Offering.



From Pastor Colin

Every other year, I return to a particular book of devotions written for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. The author was an Anglican priest who had a first career as a theoretical physicist. I am, bi-annually, impressed by his deep faith and brilliant thinking. What I am realizing this year is how much the book has shaped my faith beyond the season. This is the sixth or seventh time I've used these devotions. Some of what I read has become what I think about all year-round.

Repetition can be a powerful force. Repetition builds our habits. Repetition shapes our character. It's not complicated or surprising that when we do something over and over, it becomes easier and easier to do. And what we think about again and again roots itself in our thinking.

We have traditions and rhythms that teach us to love God and neighbor, and to hold faith in Christ. Around Christmas, many such lovely and meaningful things are rightfully important to us. We repeat the familiar carols, stories, and habits of the holidays. We're grateful for blessings that continue season after season and year after year.

Along with the regular week-to-week, there's a little extra to do at High Street at the moment. Our food pantry saw an immediate increase in demand when SNAP benefits were delayed. Gratefully, and with praise to God, we received a \$5,000 grant from the Indiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church to extend our food support in the short-term. So, for a few months, we are increasing our distribution and are helping more neighbors. We've always been in the habit of helping, and we are blessed to have connections and opportunities for growing. If you'd like to help in this season of increase, please let me know!

This is also the time of year for Resolutions, when we live into our intentions to change. We can put aside the things that don't work for us anymore, or take up new and better things. Big or small, every change has its significance.

One expected change is the annual hiatus of our Thursday Lunch. It's been another year of great food and great times! We'll start up again in March. Between now and then, we'd like to shore up our volunteer base. If you've got some time on Thursdays, could you resolve to help make lunch happen? But even if Thursdays aren't your day, we have lots of other opportunities to connect with great mission and ministry here! When might you be free? Come and talk with me.

We are blessed to share this season, and every season, together in faith. The hope and peace and joy and love we receive through Christ are not just a once-a-year emphasis. However and whenever you are celebrating, may you be blessed by the one we call Emmanuel, God with us. Thank you for all you do for Christ, for the Church, and for others!

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 January Worship

January 4 Epiphany Sunday
Holy Communion
Sermon Seeing the Light
Scripture Matthew 2:1-12

January 11 Baptism of the Lord
Sermon: Power of Presence
Scripture: Matthew 3:13-17

January 18
Sermon: Our Mission
Scripture: Matthew 28:16-20

January 25
Sermon: Vision Seeking
Scripture: Luke 4:14-21

Ruth Circle

Ruth Circle will meet on
Tuesday, January 13th at 9:30
a.m. in the Gathering Place.
Donna McNary is hostess and
will give devotions

The Christmas Crazies are over! The New Year has begun!

Start 2026 by joining us for our January Methodist Men's
Breakfast on the 21st at 8:00 am. Jim Needham will be
bringing the devotion. We guarantee you will have good food,
good fellowship, and good thoughts to get the New Year off to
a GREAT start !!

January 2026

HEY!! HIGH STREET ALL-CHURCH IMPORTANT INFO!

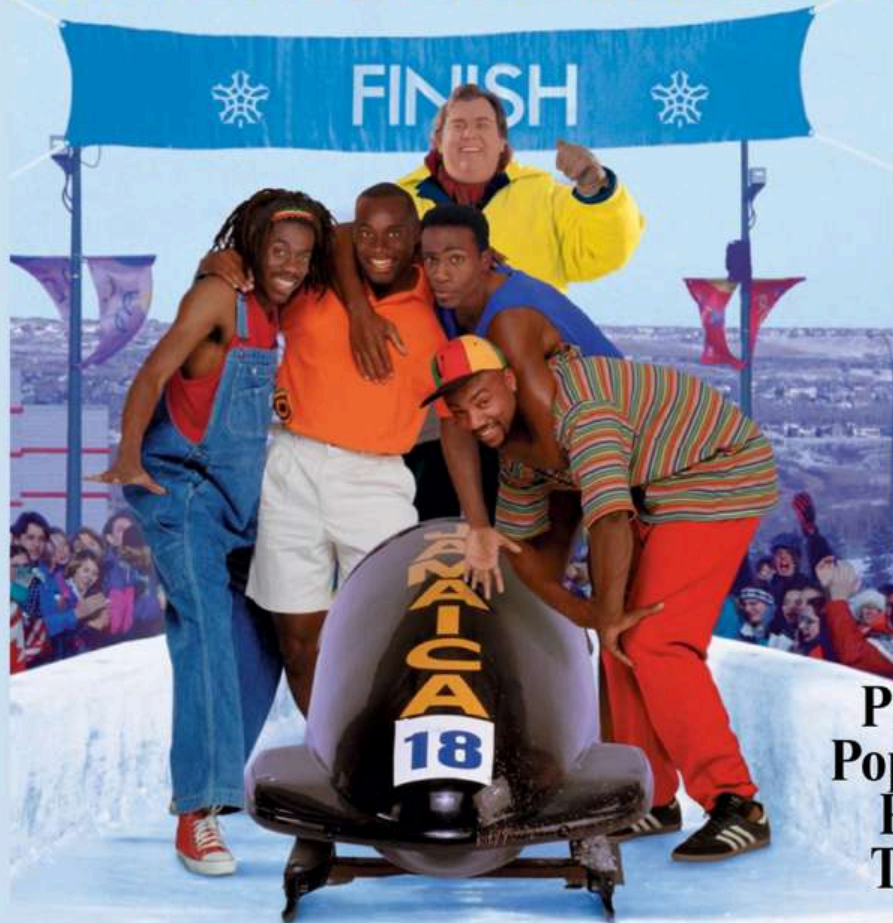
Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com



High Street Movie Night

Friday January 16th @ 6pm

COOL RUNNINGS



Pizza
Popcorn
Pop
Treat

\$5 per person • \$20 max per family
RSVP to Ms. Joy by Jan. 14th!

Note: Rated PG:

Visit Common Sense Media to see if this movie is a good fit for your family!

Wisdom People
Jim Fatzinger will be 92 on January 18.



Angel Tree Program 2025

Thank you to all of you who so willingly bought gifts for the children of incarcerated parents. Through your generosity, 74 children got a little extra joy during the holiday season.

2026 Church Directory

We are updating the Church Directory. If you need to update your information, please ensure the office has the details by January 10, 2026.
Thank you!

Music and Choir Invitation

Make Music with us in the New Year! January is a great time to join our Sanctuary Choir or Handbells, with rehearsals starting January 7 and each Wednesday evening. If you have other musical talents you want to develop or offer here, please contact Dr. Andrew Crow.

andrew.crow.dma@gmail.com

Scholarship Applications due April 1

The Foundation will be accepting scholarship applications between January 15 and April 1, 2026 for the 2026-2027 academic year. To be eligible, candidates must be seeking higher education at an accredited organization and be a member of High Street Church. Scholarship applicants will be able to locate the application on the High Street website at

<https://www.munciehighstreet.com/scholarships> after January 15, 2026.

Repeat applicants: Please note that the application has been updated in a new format. You **must** go on the website, and use this updated version. Do not attempt to revise a previous version of the application that you have submitted in the past as we will not be able to accept it. If you have questions, please contact Cynthia Dale at (765) 729-7287.

WafflePalooza is Coming!

Be sure to join us on January 25 immediately following the church services 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!



JANUARY

Angels on High



A SPECIAL MINISTRY OF HIGH STREET CHURCH

Happy New Year from all of us at Angels on High Preschool!

We are excited to kick off the new year! The 4/5 Pre-K class will be visiting the planetarium at Ball State University—this is always a fun and memorable morning for our students. We are also still collecting socks as we work toward our goal of 200 pairs, helping support the UW of Faith group's goal of 1,000 warm pairs. Additionally, we will be hosting an online fundraiser with Papa John's Pizza on Monday, January 26. When ordering online, please use the code AOHPIZZA. January Donations: paper plates, plastic spoons & forks, Kleenex, and ziploc bags (all sizes). The boys and girls had a wonderful time visiting High Street in December to sing Christmas carols. Please enjoy the picture below of our Turtle & Tiger PDO students from our visit! We are excited to see what 2026 has in store for our preschool! Thank you for your generosity and continued support!



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 1/5 - TEACHER WORK DAY (PDO OPEN)
- 1/19 - MLK JR. DAY (CLOSED)
- 1/26 - PAPA JOHN'S FUNDRAISER (ORDERING CODE: AOHPIZZA)



HEY!! HIGH STREET ALL-CHURCH IMPORTANT INFO!

January 2026

Need to contact Joy?
jbricker@munciehighstreet.com

Thank you to our Christmas Carolers!



We had an amazing group of 20 High Street friends who braved the frigid temperatures to carol to some of our members that are in nursing facilities.

It was lovely getting to visit with friends that are unable to come to our weekly worship services!

We returned to the church for a yummy Hot Cocoa bar with fun toppings!!



High Street UMC CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Every Sunday @ 9 am in Room 61

Jan. 4 - Wise Men Visited Jesus
Jan. 11 - Jesus Knew He Would Be Rejected
Jan. 18 - Jesus Raised Lazarus
Jan. 24 - The World Is Against God

219 : YOUTH @ 5PM!

JAN. 4 - NO YOUTH

JAN. 11 - HOT COCOA & GAME NIGHT

JAN. 18 - MOVIE & SNACKS

JAN. 25 - BOWLING

**ALL CHURCH
• FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT •
JANUARY 16TH @ 6PM
COOL RUNNINGS**



DON'T MISS IT!!

COMING SOON!

**NERF & NACHOS!!!
STAY TUNED FOR
MORE INFO!**



**SAVE THE DATE!
WALK-A-MILE
FEB. 21, 2026**

PROJECT 219 YOUTH • CHRISTMAS PARTY 2025



Our youth celebrated our Christmas at the home of Dick and Liz Marshall. We played games, enjoyed pizza and ice cream sundaes, and a lively gift exchange! We are so grateful for The Marshalls opening their home to us!

JBRICKER@MUNCIEHIGHSTREET.COM