

JUNE 2023

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The monthly newsletter of Brown St. & Congress St. UMCs

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

By Pastor Ryan

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You have probably heard me say it before, but I'll say it again. We are a unique denomination as United Methodists.

In my polity class last summer, my professor regularly reminded us that we were never meant to be a "doctrinal denomination," meaning United Methodists, from our very beginning, were never meant to be united by our doctrine or our theology. We have never been all about making sure all of us believe in the same things, say the exact same things, and worship in the exact same way. Perhaps you have heard us referred to as a "big tent" in the past.

Rather, we have always been meant to be a connectional denomination. Since the very beginning of the Methodist movement in England in the 1700s, people called Methodists have been connected to one another as they journey in discipleship to Jesus.

It is why we have Charge Conferences and Annual Conferences and General Conferences every year. Because we recognize that to be a United Methodist means to be in partnership (not competition or debate) with other United Methodists, and we are united in our desire to "make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

The thing we agree on (or should) is that we are all on the same team.

Wouldn't that be a dream come true if we lived like that?! What if all United Methodists started seeing the other UMC congregations in their community or county as siblings and partners in ministry, rather than competition to which they compare themselves?

Brown St. UMC and Congress St. UMC have been given a regular chance to lean into that practice of connection over the past few years, as we share staff and learn to help one another in our disciple-making efforts. Now, we have an opportunity to expand even further.

This year, on July 2nd, I have been welcomed back to Lafayette Grace UMC (a church I served for 8 years) to preach at their 10 a.m. worship service, and I'm inviting all of you to come with me. Grace is in a season of transition, as their new senior pastor, Jennifer Lewis, will be starting the following Sunday, and we have the opportunity to tell our UMC siblings that we love them, we are on their team, we are supportive of them, and we are cheering them on!

That Sunday, we will NOT have worship at Brown St. at 9 or Congress St. at 10:30. Rather, I will be encouraging you to come and worship with our siblings at Grace.

The address for Grace UMC is 615 N 22nd St. Lafayette, IN 47904.

If you have any questions about this plan, please let me know. I am so excited to experience the power and presence of God as we worship together!

What's Happening in Our Community

WORSHIP ON JULY 2ND, 2023

Pastor Ryan will be preaching at Grace UMC on Sunday, July 2nd. In lieu of worshiping in our own buildings, and in an effort to show support to our sisters and brothers as they go through another pastoral change, you are invited to join the congregation of Grace UMC at their worship service at 10am. The service will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.

SACRED SILENCE UPDATE

For the remainder of the summer, there will no longer be Sacred Silence at Brown St. on Thursdays. We encourage you to continue to take a moment of pause each afternoon!

JUNE OFFICE HOURS

For the month of June, Maia will be switching her day off to Fridays, so office hours will change starting Monday, June 5th. The offices will be open:
Congress Street - Mondays & Wednesdays from 10am - 4pm.

Brown Street - Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10am - 4pm.

Both offices will be closed from Wednesday, 6/7 - Friday, 6/9 and Monday, 6/26, but Maia will still be available via text/email.

Additionally, Pastor Ryan will be permanently switching his day off to Fridays effective immediately. He will be available via phone and email on Mondays and Tuesdays and in the office on Wednesdays and Thursdays.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

3 - Kathy McClannen (BS)
3 - Katie Anderson (BS)
7 - Maurice Uerkwitz (CS)
3 - Jim Eberle (BS)
13 - Genevieve Traeger
17 - Russell Allee (BS)

18 - Peggy Runck (BS)
23 - Kathie Cochran (CS)
25 - Evan Baumis (BS)
25 - Riley Flemming (BS)
28 - Sherry Coffing (CS)
28 - Sean Lutes

ANNIVERSARIES

15 - Mike & Kristen Bloom (BS)
26 - Roz & Lyle Rupp (BS)

What's Happening at



UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

FAMILY DINNER & KIDS' CAMP

Tuesdays June - August
Kids' Camp - 4:30pm
Family Dinner - 5:30pm

Menu:

6/6 - Cookout (hot dogs & burgers)
6/13 - Sloppy Joes
6/20 - Picnic (sub sandwiches)
6/27 - Walking Tacos

Want to help? Stay tuned for ways you can get involved, including providing desserts, helping cook, set-up, or clean up! Or email Maia at info@brownstreetumc.org

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Congratulations to Jim & Nancy Eberle on the birth of their first great-granddaughter! Charlotte Kay was born on May 26th to Jacob Bloom & Becca Hamady. Mike & Kristen Bloom are the proud grandparents.

BIRTHDAY ANNOUNCEMENT

MONTHLY MISSION

BISHOP TRIMBLE'S AFRICA UNIVERSITY MISSIONAL CHALLENGE

In honor of Bishop Julius C. Trimble and First Lady Racelder Grandberry-Trimble's 40th year of ministry, the INUMC has launched a campaign to raise \$300,000 for scholarships for African students attending Africa University. For the last 30 years, Africa University has been providing educational opportunities to students all over Africa who likely would not have had the chance to get a college education otherwise. For more information about Africa University and the Missional Challenge, visit <https://www.inumc.org/au-missional-challenge/>.

To donate toward the scholarship fund, mark your envelope "mission" and place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or write "mission" in the memo line at brownstumc.org/give.

GARDEN UPDATE

Gathering in the Garden

Wednesdays @ 9am through September

Help us weed, water, plant, harvest, and take care of our garden and outdoor spaces. All are welcome as often as they can attend!

We are also in need of people to help water on the weekends! If you can volunteer some time, reach out to Sandy Leill or Mary Jo Bartolacci.

MONTHLY MISSION TOTALS

January

TCU Food Pantry - \$75
Home with Hope - \$40

February

Brown St. Garden - \$191

March

Home with Hope - \$118

April

Brown St. Garden - \$50
LUM - \$70

May

TCU Food Pantry - \$115+

Total Donated for Missions:
\$659

Peggy Runck will be celebrating her 90th birthday on June 18th. If you'd like to send a card, her address is: 96 E 300 S Lafayette, IN 47909.

What's Happening at



CONGRESS ST.
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

OPEN TABLE MEAL

Our next Open Table Meal Delivery will be on Sunday, June 25th.

Menu: Sloppy Joes, potato salad, chips, veggies, and cookies

Ways to Help:

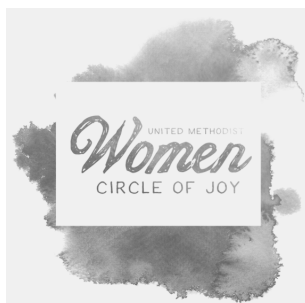
Flyer Distribution - Wed. 6/14 @ 10:30am

Meal Prep - Sat. 6/24

Meal Packaging, Delivery, & Clean-Up - Sun. 6/25

Keep an eye out for sign up sheets in the Parlor or email Maia at info@cosumc.org to sign up to help!

CIRCLE OF JOY MEETING



June 12th at 6:30pm, Room 203. The hostesses for the evening are Pam Detamore and Teri Keener-Lynch. The ramp door will be unlocked for our use. All women of the church are welcome at our meeting.

PIZZA WITH THE PASTOR

Join Congress St. and Brown St UMC for lunch on Wednesdays!

Each week we gather for a casual lunch at Pizza Hut (100 Farabee Dr. N Lafayette) at noon. Everyone is welcome to join us!

CHOIR UPDATE

Both the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir are taking a break for the summer. Keep an eye out for updates about when practices will resume!

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Ready to Harvest: Spinach, Radishes, Collard Greens, Mustard Greens, Turnips, Herbs

Sharing Garden (ramp entrance) – Our raised garden beds allow us to grow produce to share with our community. Be sure to stop by during the summer to pick some veggies! If you're interested in helping weed, water, or harvest, contact Lynn Nelson at nelson@cosumc.org.



Contemplation Garden (parking lot entrance) – This garden is a space to read, pray, mediate, or just enjoy creation. Feel free to stop by and spend some time in peace whenever you need it. To help maintain this space, contact Lynn Johal at 765-543-5238.

BROWN STREET STAFF

Ryan Traeger
Pastor

Charis Vander Plaats
Director of Worship

Maia Gibson
Administrative Assistant &
Family Dinner Coordinator

Sean Lutes
Community Connector

Janelle Pearson
Children's Ministry Intern

CONTACT BROWN STREET

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CONTACT CONGRESS STREET

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CONGRESS STREET STAFF

Ryan Traeger
Pastor

Jake Ohlemiller
Director of Worship Arts

Maia Gibson
Administrative Assistant

Rick Puckett
Pastor of Visitation

Sean Lutes
Community Connector

Shane & Teri Lynch
Custodians

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays at 9am - Brown Street

www.facebook.com/BrownStreetUnitedMethodistChurch

Sundays at 10:30am - Congress Street

www.facebook.com/evolvingfollowers

Family Dinner Tuesdays at 5:30pm - Brown Street

**If you are able and interested in receiving this newsletter via email,
reach out to Maia at info@brownstreetumc.org or info@cosumc.org.**

Brown St. UMC
905 Brown St.
Lafayette, IN 47904