

The Pylon

Woodmar United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

Pastor Esta Rosario

February 2023

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Families & Friends of Woodmar,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ!

³ "I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philippians 1:3-6

Friends, we have been through many beautiful adventures together over the past 5 ½ years! The Lord has stretched us out of our comfort zones in many ways and will continue to do so as we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. It has truly been an honor and a joy to be your pastor! Serving with you as my first appointment has been a beautiful gift. I have learned much from you and will always be grateful for the time we had together.

While we were not expecting that I would be appointed to another church at this time of the year, what we can know is that God is making a way for all of us! I'm excited to see what the Holy Spirit will do through YOU in Hammond as you continue to step out in faithful obedience to God's call to be the hands and feet of Christ!

Soon, you will be meeting Pastor Deb Rousselle; she will be in ministry with you in the month of February. I have known Pastor Deb for over two decades...you will love her! If the new pastor isn't appointed by March, Pastor Pete Ward will be in ministry with you in March...most of you already know Pastor Pete...he will bless you as you will bless him!

"I thank my God every time I remember you." (Phil. 1:3) I will always thank my God every time I remember you...no matter where I am! And, I pray that you will continue growing in your discipleship...that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...that you will know WITH ALL CONFIDENCE that God has called you...has called Woodmar United Methodist Church for a holy purpose in this city...that God has called you to pour truth, light, love, and hope into the lives of our neighbors....all for the glory of God!

Woodmar, you've got this! And God's got you! Thank you for loving me and my family so well and for being faithful partners in ministry. What a blessing you will be to your new pastor!

As of February 1st, I will no longer be your pastor, but I will always be your friend and sister-in-Christ and I will continue to pray for your journey. However, please don't invite me back to officiate pastoral functions such as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. Your new pastor will walk alongside you and he/she will love you before, during, and after these events.



For this Valentine's day
Jesus asks you.

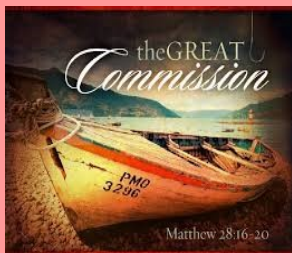


**PLEASE PRAY THIS
PRAYER EVERY DAY:**

Holy Spirit, fill me
and empower me for
the work to which you
have called me. Holy
Spirit, fill Woodmar
United Methodist
Church and empower
us for the work to
which you have called
us through Jesus
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

**PEOPLE OF
WOODMAR, WHO
ARE YOU?**

I am a beloved child
of God, called and
sent to make a
difference in the
world.



Our Mission:
To make disciples of
Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the
world.
Our Vision:
Go. Teach. Love.



Friends, please...always remember who you are. Who are you? I am a beloved child of God, called and sent to make a difference in the world. Yes, that IS who we are! Thanks be to God!

Living in the Grip of God's Grace,

♡ Pastor Esta

Dear Family & Friends of Woodmar,

I am overwhelmed by the love, thoughtfulness, care, and time you put into our farewell luncheon. The theme, "Adventure is Out There," brought our shared ministry full-circle and pointed us all to the future...a future replete with ministry opportunities for all of us! Our futures hold God's blessings in ways we cannot even begin to imagine! I am so thankful my pastoral ministry began at Woodmar UMC...you are a welcoming, loving congregation, and I thank my God every time I remember you! I learned a lot from you, and will carry those lessons in my heart for the rest of my life.

Thank you for loving me and our family so well! Thank you for the amazing feast at our farewell luncheon! Thank you for the cards, the kind words, and the extravagantly generous love gift! Thank you for the meaningful gifts that speak of the life and ministry we shared over the past 5 1/2 years...I will treasure them for the memories they hold. Thank you for presence, our shared faith in Christ, and our friendship. I will continue to pray for you and the work the Holy Spirit is doing through you. Your new pastor will be blessed by you! And, you will be blessed by your new pastor!

O...one more thing! Thank you for laughing with Miguel and his crazy shenanigans! Please know that you are always welcome to travel to our new parsonage by helicopter to swim in our 25 meter pool. LOL! Don't forget your roller skates! LOL!

Until we meet again, my precious friends...adventure is out there!

With Joyful Gratitude,

♡ Pastor Esta



Please note: The food for our delicious catered Farewell Meal for Pastor Esta was made and delivered by Rob's Meat, Chop, and Deli in Dyer, IN. They gave us an outstanding price for the meal and helped us plan the whole gathering. We ask that you please consider them for your meat, deli, and/or catering needs.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

Racial Equity continues on Tuesday mornings at 10AM via ZOOM.

Woodmar church is beginning a new discussion on racial equity which will meet every Tuesday on Zoom at 10:00AM. Podcasts from the United Methodist Church entitled *Expanding the Table* will initiate our conversation and can be accessed at <https://www.r2hub.org/library/podcast>. On January 31, we will begin discussion on session 1, episode 1 – *Racism, Police Reform and Faith*.

All church members and friends are invited to join us for some exciting and inspiring discussions.

To access the Zoom gathering just call/email the church office or email Mary Jo Shea at marjoshea@gmail.com. If the scheduled time is not good for you, please let us know when you can meet, and we may be able to schedule other sessions.

The Bible for Grown-Ups: a 4-week study by Andy Stanley

Are you interested in this as a study after Lent? Let the church office know!

Description from RightNowMedia:

"As children, many of us received a leather-bound book full of long words and difficult names we couldn't pronounce. We were told everything in it was true and we should do our best to abide by its teachings.

Then we grew up.

What was oh-so-simple then is . . . well, it's not simple. Perhaps that's because we were taught Bible stories but not the story of the Bible. Big difference. In this 4-part series, Andy Stanley gives us a way to approach the Bible that begins with something other than "in the beginning . . ."

ASH WEDNESDAY FEB 22, 2023

Plans for Ash Wednesday are underway.
We will let you know as soon as they are
finalized.



BIRTHDAYS



02/01	Sheila Kayes
02/03	Betty Barnhart
02/05	Ellen Johnson
02/16	Ervin Zailkis
02/21	Pam Salyers

A MESSAGE FROM OUR STAFF PARISH COMMITTEE

Keep On Keepin' On! That was the message from Pastor Esta to us on her last Sunday at Woodmar. We know how to do that; we have been doing it for over 70 years!

We've had new ministries started and old ministries discontinued. We have had way more successes than failures. This is because we have always been a strong church family. We have worked, struggled and prayed as a congregation to make sure that Woodmar is a church that is responding willingly to God's call. Former Woodmar pastor James Hook put it like this over 40 years ago:

"Woodmar Church has distinguished itself as a church willing to take risks, to be daring in the midst of social upheavals, to be a church that challenges the head as well as the heart, to be a church that respects the past but is open to the future, and to be a church willing to blend the various traditions represented by our membership into a fresh and vital witness to Jesus Christ."

Pastor Esta distinguished herself in all of those respects while she was with us. Now she has been called to Chesterton, Indiana to help that church achieve some of the same triumphs we have experienced with her here in our church community. There is no doubt and plenty of evidence that shows how she has re-kindled our spirits to embrace our community and its needs in new and exciting ways. There is also no doubt that she and her family will be missed. Refreshed with the passion shared by Pastor Esta while she was with us, we as a church family will continue to dream big dreams, be daring and take on new challenges, as we fulfill our destiny as "beloved children of God, called and sent to make a difference in the world!" Let there be no doubt that we will;

Keep On Keepin' On! Adventure Is Out There!



COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

Chapel Time meets once a month at Community Preschool and Childcare. Chapel Time with Pastor Esta was elevated to a very developmentally appropriate experience of faith development for our 3-5 year olds. Pastor Esta combines her love of music and knowledge of how young children learn to provide foundations of our faith for our children. Each Chapel Time followed a routine that children looked forward to participating in. Here is a Chapel Time plan, please imagine the joy and love that Pastor Esta included in the experience.

- Children are met at the door of the sanctuary. The Light of Christ is lit and children discuss the meaning of the Light of Christ and the room called Sanctuary.
- Children follow the Light of Christ to the Chancel area and stand on a taped oval.
- "Say Hello, Hello" song begins and each child is greeted by name, eye contact and their choice of action, e.g. jump hello, twirl hello, etc.
- Stay on your feet to sing and move to, "This is the Day That the Lord Has Made," from Psalm 118:24.
- Have a seat and gently sing and move to "Be still and know that I am God."
- Good morning God prayer. Prayers of families may also be included.
- Holding the bible, children are asked what name is given this book. They go on to discuss the two parts of the bible, Old and New Testaments.
- They discuss the New Testament as the Gospel which means Good News. A call and repeat begins, "Gospel, Good News!"
- In January, Pastor Esta opened the bible to Matthew 5:16, Let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and glorify God. After a discussion of what it means to let your light shine, children sang, "This Little Light of Mine."
- Children were asked, "Who are you?", "I am a beloved child of God, called and sent to make a difference in the world."
- As Chapel Time nears the end, children are on their feet and listen for the Talking Drum. Pastor Esta beats a changing rhythm for them to follow.
- At the close, children stop and wave to the tune, "Say Good-bye, Good-bye, God Loves You."
- Children follow Pastor Esta and the Light of Christ, out of the sanctuary.

Thanks be to God for Pastor Esta and for her example of carrying and reflecting the Light of Christ into our corner of the world.



We received a note: "Thank you for being such an amazing family to our father, Carl Moore. We all know how much he loved serving & ministering to others. You also blessed us with the service along with the luncheon. Dad will now never grow tired of dancing & singing *Oh, Happy Day!* Carl Moore Children"

A card from Dr. Washington: "Thank you so much WUMC. Your outpouring of generosity, prayers, and encouragement are an inspiration. I was overwhelmed by your kindness and contribution for the Mission for the students in Puerto Rico. May God continue to bless you all and keep you safe."

Nancy Jarmula would like to thank everyone for their prayers and phone calls. She is still in rehab so please keep up the good work.

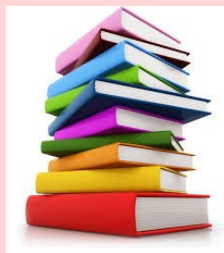


Remember Scrip for Your Valentine!

When you purchase Scrip cards through the church, you are donating to the church's current expenses! It does not cost you anything additional to purchase one. It is as simple to use as a credit card. There is a wide variety of cards that we can order for you and we have many on hand. Please Contact Nancy Tatum in the church office (219)844-3030 or on Sunday mornings.

WOODMAR BOOK CLUB

Woodmar Book Club



Book club will meet via Zoom on Monday, February 20, at 1PM

The book club choice for February is *The Last Train to London* by Meg Waite Clayton.

In 1936, the Nazi are little more than loud, brutish bores to fifteen-year old Stephan Neuman, the son of a wealthy and influential Jewish family and budding playwright whose playground extends from Vienna's streets to its intricate underground tunnels. Stephan's best friend and companion is the brilliant Žofie-Helene, a Christian girl whose mother edits a progressive, anti-Nazi newspaper. But the two adolescents' carefree innocence is shattered when the Nazis' take control.

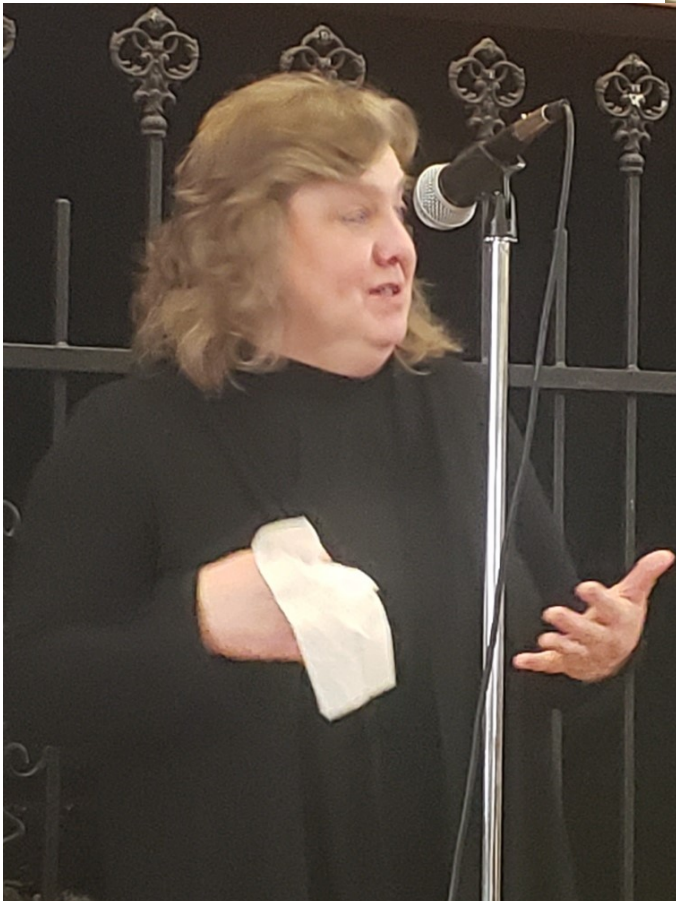
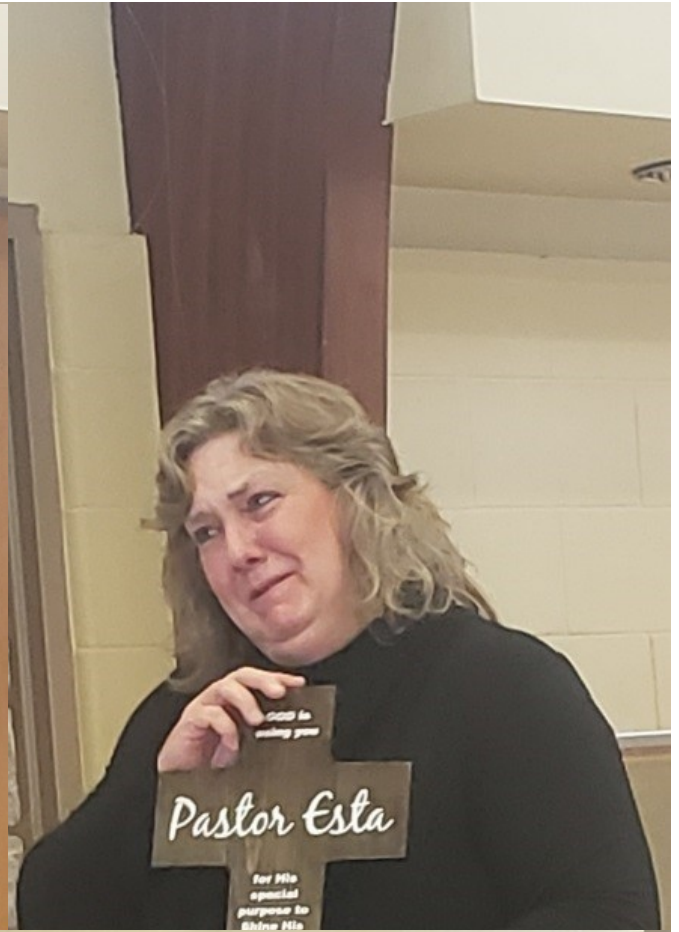
There is hope in the darkness, though. Truus Wijsmuller, a member of the Dutch resistance, risks her life smuggling Jewish children out of Nazi Germany to the nations that will take them. It is a mission that becomes even more dangerous after the Anschluss—Hitler's annexation of Austria—as, across Europe, countries close their borders to the growing number of refugees desperate to escape.

Tante Truus, as she is known, is determined to save as many children as she can. After Britain passes a measure to take in at-risk child refugees from the German Reich, she dares to approach Adolf Eichmann, the man who would later help devise the "Final Solution to the Jewish Question," in a race against time to bring children like Stephan, his young brother Walter, and Žofie-Helene on a perilous journey to an uncertain future abroad. ~ review from Amazon.com

Pastor Esta's Farewell Party







RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



February mission is UMCOR. United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community's ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts. While UMCOR is not a first-response organization, it stands ready to accompany communities in need over the long haul of their recovery until a "new normal" is established after a crisis. "Early in and last out" is a guiding principle of UMCOR. Join UMCOR in giving our neighbors relief and helping them recover.

Crochet and Knit

For those who might be interest, we are hoping to start a class to learn how to crochet or knit. (And to just work together and visit!) We will supply crochet hooks, knitting needles, and yarn. Those who knitted and crocheted here before the pandemic are especially invited to be here.

We recently gave yarn to Dr. Washington's mission, but still have some yummy yarns available for your creations.

If you are interested, please call Yvonne Jackson at (219) 844-7815 or the church office (219) 844-3030. We will meet at the church. We would love your thoughts and participation.

Congregational Care Corps will be meeting the second Sunday of the month, right after church in the lounge, please join us with your ideas to plan some fun family events.



Our Caregivers will continue to meet at the Wheel at noon on the 3rd Tuesday each month. We welcome any additional people who would like to share, or just attend, and hear what others have to say. It is an hour of relaxation in Christian fellowship.

A Caregiver can be a grandparent raising grandchildren or someone caring for an ill relative or friend. It is important to learn to take time for yourself. Please feel free to join in.

WHAT'S UP, WOODMAR?

Sonrise Seniors, darts, and pool are meeting in the church and welcome everyone to join in the fun! Call the church office for days and times.



Brianna's Hope meets on Wednesdays at 6PM. Each meeting starts with a light meal. Various churches and groups prepare the meals.

Publication's title	The Pylon (Tax ID 35-0988814)
Issue date/frequency/number	January 31, 2023 published monthly, Issue No. 141
Authorized organization's address	Woodmar United Methodist Church 7320 Northcote Ave., Hammond, IN 46324
Contact information	Office email: office@woodmarumc.org Pastor's email: esta.rosario@inumc.org Web: www.woodmarumc.org Phone 219-844-3030
Normal Sunday Schedule	Children's Sunday School-9AM Worship-10AM, Children's Church-10:15 Coffee fellowship following



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith met in January and discussed our plans for the year. The meeting of Mary's Circle was chaired by Donna Benirschke. We began planning for the **Agape Meal which we will hold on Tuesday, April 4th**. Also, to support Briana's Hope circle members volunteered to bring food once a month for the next three months to those meetings.

We are still collecting items for Phil's Friends, an organization which provides church-centered support and hope to those affected by cancer. These items will go into the cancer-care packages that Phil's Friends distribute. We ask all church members and friends to aid this worthwhile cause by bringing new, unused items to the labeled box in the narthex. Items which they need are:

- Hats, Knitted, crocheted, baseball etc.
- Fuzzy socks, women's only
- Biotene, 6 oz or smaller
- Lotion, fragrance-free 5 oz or smaller
- Decks of playing cards, Puzzle books, Journals, size 5X7 (not spiral bound)
- Single toothbrushes & toothpaste, 5 oz or less
- Blankets, rolled throw blankets, crocheted or fleece tied. (If you are interested in making a fleece blanket let us know and we will send the pattern)
- Gift cards which will be used to purchase needed items

Our United Women in Faith circles have combined. Mary's Circle, will meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00PM. The February meeting will be held via Zoom. Meetings after that will be held in person, if the weather cooperates, and possibly also by Zoom.

FINANCES

For the year of 2022, our financials ended on a negative note of \$4,538. Which at first glance doesn't sound too bad **except** for the fact that during the year, **we borrowed** another \$20,000 from the Special Funds account; Preschool donated \$20,000 and we transferred \$18,000 from the Memorial Fund to Current Expense to cover the bills! **The Capital Campaign** will be ending on March 31, 2023, so there is still time to catch up on those pledges! There is a balance of \$88,650 which will be used for new chillers and maintenance on the boiler system. We have spent \$109,185 during the campaign for the new roof.

2022 FINANCIALS

<u>Income for budgeted expenses</u>		<u>Budgeted expenses</u>		<u>Unbudgeted Income, Special Funds</u>	
Donations	162,642	Program expenses	8,131	Missions	4,788
Rental income	15,517	Building related	86,473	Special	
Initial offering	90	Office related	10,549	Memorial Fund	4,175
Foundation	3,948	Staff expenses	141,535	Property Maintenance	10,530
Scrip	1,404	Apportionments	7,627	Capital Campaign	13,015
Preschool-church exp	41,180	Finance & Fees	<u>1,201</u>	Altar Flowers /Communion	58
Preschool-custodian	<u>9,000</u>	Total Expenses	255,517	Other spec. donations	1,104
Income for budgeted	233,781	operating income to		Brianna’s Hope/Rehab	209
		expenses +/-	(4,538)	Camp	224
2022 income to				<u>Unbudgeted</u>	<u>1,433</u>
expense	(4,538)			Total	35,478

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

News to share?
The deadline for the
March Pylon
is February 20.