

The Pylon

Woodmar United Methodist Church

Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.



Pastor Pete Ward

April 2023

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

First, I want to say thank you for the way that you have embraced my wife and I as we begin our new ministry at Woodmar United Methodist Church. I am truly looking forward to the many opportunities of ministry and service that together we can accomplish at Woodmar UMC.

I have gotten to spend some time talking with some of you already. I look forward to meeting with all of you to discuss your vision for the ministry of Woodmar UMC. Until then, let me answer the question that many of you are probably thinking. What does this talk of merger between Hammond First and Woodmar actually mean?

Let me begin with there is no proposal for a merger on the table at this time. The Conference has appointed me as your Pastor on a part time basis while you, the Congregation, discern how God is calling you to be the church in this community going forward and what could that look like if Woodmar and Hammond First were to merge as one congregation.

To that end both churches have agreed to establish a joint committee to try to answer that question and then to make recommendations to each individual congregation. There is nothing, at this time, that has been decided. Hammond First is selling their parsonage located in Munster as the pastor that is now appointed at Hammond First will commute from his house in Winfield. That is the only decision they have made at this time.

You have appointed Cyndi Slaboski, Mary Zaikis, and Nancy Craig, to represent you in the discussions that will take place over the rest few months. Recommendations will be made to you but you as the congregation will have final approval over any proposal.

Over the next few weeks I am looking to hold a town hall meeting for the Congregation in order to answer whatever questions you may have. Until then, I look forward to working with all of you to bring new growth to this congregation.

My cell phone number is 708-269-3877. Please do not hesitate to call me at any time if you need to discuss something.



Grace and Peace to You from God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ,

As we come towards the end of the Lenten Season, I wanted you to be aware of our plans for Holy Week.

Woodmar UMC and FUMC Hammond will join together in a **Maundy Thursday** service at 7 PM with FUMC Hammond hosting.

Then on **Good Friday**, Woodmar UMC will host a joint service with Hammond Hyde Park, Ridge UMC, Whiting UMC, and FUMC of Hammond. Both services will begin at 7PM. The Good Friday service will also provide an opportunity for a joint choir with all the churches.

Looking forward to celebrating Holy Week with everyone,
Pete

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Please save your old newspapers and bring them to the church Narthex/Lobby. We will use the newspapers to cover the ground for weed control rather than purchasing the black fabric. The newspaper works for weed control and helps improve the soil.

We have received a grant from the Master Gardeners of Lake County for \$500. We will use the funds to purchase cow manure to enrich the soil.

Clean-up and tilling of the garden will begin on Saturday, April 1. At 9:30AM. All are welcome!

Tom Slaboski from
past years!



This could be you!
You KNOW you want
to help!

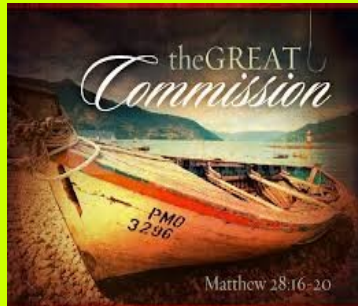
JUST DO IT!

**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.

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE



COMMUNITY
Preschool & Childcare

We welcome Annette Dimos back to Community Preschool and Childcare. Annette was furloughed during the downturn of COVID. Annette has her Associate's degree in early childhood education and will lead a class for 3 year old's. We are thrilled to be able to open our last empty room and fill it with 3 year old's. The class will begin in April or early May and continue throughout the summer.

We also welcome Ashley Verta who brings experience and enthusiasm as an assistant teacher to our program. Shayla Deering is an Area Career Center intern in a morning Pre-K class. Shayla actually attended Community Preschool when she was preschool-age! Shayla is assisting as a floater with late afternoon classes and picking up valuable experiences.

The first week of April will be celebrated in our program as the Week of the Young Child. Each day will have a special emphasis and reminder of the important role we have in a child's development. We begin with Music Monday and exploration of our many instruments. Then, Tasty Tuesday for cooking and nutrition activities. Work Together Wednesday for group cooperation and Artsy Thursday for creative, child-centered art experiences. The week ends with Family Friday, which is also Good Friday. Since we will be closed on Good Friday, Take Home materials will be sent home so that families may experience a meaningful Good Friday and are invited to celebrate Easter at Woodmar UMC.

New life in Spring will be throughout our education wing as children plant seeds for the Community Garden. What a wonderful way to reinforce the Easter message of resurrection!



BRIANNA'S HOPE

Here at Woodmar, we know that on Wednesday evenings, the Narthex/Lobby and the Lounge is in use by "Brianna's Hope." You may have even been asked to help cook or serve a meal. But, what is it?

A Better Life-Brianna's Hope is a faith-based addiction support group that is centered on helping recovering addicts through their hard times and moments of need.

The nonprofit was formed in honor of Brianna DiBattiste, a young woman who, despite living a seemingly normal life, developed a severe heroin addiction. One night in June 2014, she left home to meet a "friend" and never came home. Three months later, her body was found. Her mother had found a note that Brianna had written, in which she cried out to God for a better life for herself and her family. These words inspired the formation of this support group.

WOODMAR BOOK CLUB

The April book is *The Guest List* by Lucy Folely.

A wedding celebration turns dark and deadly in this deliciously wicked and atmospheric thriller reminiscent of Agatha Christie from the New York Times bestselling author of *The Hunting Party*.

The bride – The plus one – The best man – The wedding planner – The bridesmaid – The body

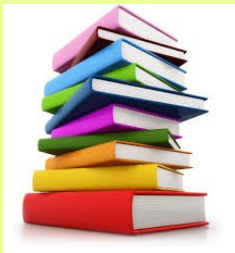
On an island off the coast of Ireland, guests gather to celebrate two people joining their lives together as one. The groom: handsome and charming, a rising television star. The bride: smart and ambitious, a magazine publisher. It's a wedding for a magazine, or for a celebrity: the designer dress, the remote location, the luxe party favors, the boutique whiskey. The cell phone service may be spotty and the waves may be rough, but every detail has been expertly planned and will be expertly executed.

But perfection is for plans, and people are all too human. As the champagne is popped and the festivities begin, resentments and petty jealousies begin to mingle with the reminiscences and well wishes. The groomsmen begin the drinking game from their school days. The bridesmaid not-so-accidentally ruins her dress. The bride's oldest (male) friend gives an uncomfortably caring toast.

And then someone turns up dead. Who didn't wish the happy couple well? And perhaps more important, why?

Review from Goodreads.com

Woodmar Book Club



Book club will
meet via
Zoom on
Monday,
April 17,
at 1PM.

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

The Woodmar Methodist Racial Equity group continues to meet Tuesday mornings at 10:00AM via Zoom. We are finishing a Lenten study sent by the United Methodist church entitled Imago Dei (diversity, equity, inclusion). The study uses the Lectio Divina method of reacting to Bible passages and emphasizes each person's unique perspective of the image of God. We will begin a new session on racial equity on Tuesday, April 11th at 10:00AM via Zoom. If you are interested in having some informative and stimulating discussions about racism and our roles in present-day society, just let us know. Contact Nancy Tatum (office@woodmarumc.org) or email Mary Jo Shea at marjoshea@gmail.com and we will send you a link to the meetings.

INFO FOR EVENING PRAYERS

Monday thru Thursday evening, many of our members get together for a short time of prayer. Please feel to join them any time, even if you never have before.
The following Zoom link goes out each morning.

Woodmar is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Evening Prayers

Time: 08:00 PM Central Time Every week on Wed, Mon, Tue, Thu, until May 2, 2023,

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86501693653?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86501693653?pwd=U3prS0FHOURPZi95Sjk4R1V3NWZsUT09)
[pwd=U3prS0FHOURPZi95Sjk4R1V3NWZsUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86501693653?pwd=U3prS0FHOURPZi95Sjk4R1V3NWZsUT09)

Meeting ID: 865 0169 3653 Passcode: 028855

One tap mobile

+19294362866,,86501693653#,,,,*028855# US (New York)

+13017158592,,86501693653#,,,,*028855# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 865 0169 3653 Passcode: 028855

BIRTHDAYS

4/01 Dave Wilkinson
4/03 Ed Echlin
4/05 Ivan Lewis
Phyllis Sovola
4/10 Tracie Geurts



4/24 Chuck Anderson
James Brill
4/25 Suzanne Wasmund
Trish Tucker
4/26 Pyhllis Ferrini
4/29 Josephine Kim

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

The April Mission is Heifer International.

The best way to describe it is through their Mission: "We work to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities we serve. Our programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up.

It begins with a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets.

These families are able to earn a living income and continuously lift up their communities as they train the next generation of leaders. By supporting and training the world's farmers, ranchers, and female business owners, we're investing in a new breed of success."

Greetings once again from the Congregational Care Corp.



Spring is in the air and we are excited to beginning some family outings. We will be meeting on the 3rd Sunday in April to brainstorm some ideas. Please feel free to share any that you may have. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please remember to bring a dessert to share on Easter Sunday as we celebrate our risen Lord!

Please and blessings to you all.

Nancy Craig

CCC Chair



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 (219)844-3030.

Paws for Peace hopes to resume visiting folks Hartsfield Village. If you have a well behaved furry family member that would like to go to uplift the residents at Hartsfield, please contact Sue Wasmund at wazzysport@att.net.



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

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Contact information	Office email: office@woodmarumc.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 March to finish plans for the Agape meal which is being held on Tuesday, April 4th at the church. All church members and friends are invited to attend. This meal is held annually during Holy week and includes food that would have been eaten during the time of Jesus. It also includes the serving of Holy Communion and a short program.

We are still collecting items for Phil's Friends, the organization that distributes care packages to local cancer patients. The collection box is in the Narthex, along with a list of the items which are needed. The council of United Women in Faith continues to meet monthly, and the next meeting of Mary's Circle will be on Wednesday, May 17th at 2:00 p.m. both in person and on Zoom.

Classes in knitting and crochet are being held at the church every Monday morning at 10AM by Yvonne Jackson. Anyone interested is welcome!



What is Scrip?

We are all familiar with gift cards. Scrip is a "gift card" that you purchase at the church rather than at a store. When you purchase a card, you pay the same amount as the value of the card. The church makes a percentage of that value. You can find lists of what cards are available on the counter by the church office. We don't carry everything in stock, but can have it for you in a week. Cyndi Slaboski or Nancy Tatum can sell you cards on Sunday; Debbie and Nancy can any weekday the office is open (10AM to 1PM).

FINANCES

February ended on a positive note. We had income over expenses of \$1,042. This is mainly due to the fact that we no longer have Pastor's full salary, pension or insurance costs. We have approximately \$34,000 in cash. Nothing unusual for the month! Community Preschool also had a good month with income over expenses of \$9,490. They have \$145,000 cash in bank, \$47,216 is the balance of the Stabilization Grant. March will end our Capital Campaign of 2020!

FEBRUARY 2023 FINANCIALS

Income for budgeted expenses

Donations	15,859
Rental income	2,085
Initial offering	42
Foundation	2,000
Scrip	7
Preschool-church exp	1,765
Preschool-office exp	350
Income for budgeted	22,108
income to expense	1,042

Budgeted expenses

Program expenses	237
Building related	12,458
Office related	584
Staff expenses	6,898
Apportionments	679
Finance & Fees	66
Total Expenses	20,922

Unbudgeted Income, Special Funds

Missions	171
Memorial Fund	
Property Maintenance	980
Capital Campaign	510
Altar Flowers /Communion	36
Other spec. donations	
Brianna's Hope/Rehab	53
Camp	
<u>Unbudgeted</u>	
Total	1,750

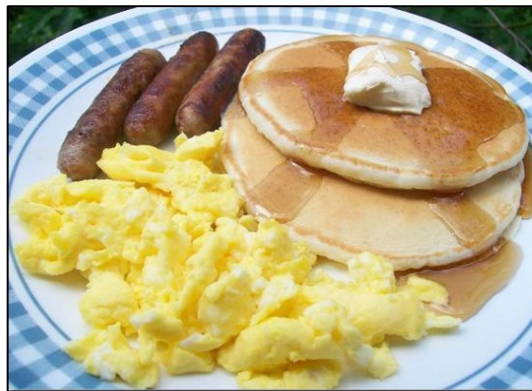
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

News to share?
The deadline for the
May Pylon
is April 17.



**Invite Family and Friends to the Trustee's
FREE Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale!
Palm Sunday, April 2nd from 8:00 - 1:00**



Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Milk, Juice and Coffee

Baked Goods will also be Available for Purchase
Profits from the Bake Sale will support the Choir

WOODMAR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

7320 NORTHCOTE AVE • HAMMOND, IN 46324 • (219) 844-3030 • WOODMARUMC.ORG