



The Ambassador

August 2025

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From the Pastor

*'By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, and self-control.
There is no law against such things.'
Galatians 5:22-23*

Dear Friends,

It seems like only a few days ago we were just beginning summer and the Fruit of the Spirit worship series.

At the beginning of this series, there was a school memory of mine on my mind from my days in seminary. And now that we are approaching the end of the series, I find that the memory has returned.

I had signed up to take a class on the book of Galatians. It was a semester long class, and I was wondering how a book that was only 6 chapters long was going to occupy four months of class time. I needn't have worried. My professor, Dr. Larry Welborn, was so passionate and animated, that halfway through the semester, I began to worry: will we ever get out of chapter one?

When we began the Fruit of the Spirit series, I was a little worried about making a nine-week worship series out of two verses of scripture. Now with only a few Sundays left, I can say with confidence: I needn't have worried. While throughout the summer I have been pointing out that it is fruit, singular, not fruits, of the Spirit, the work of the Spirit is never ending in us or in the world. Since this is the nature of the Holy Spirit, the work of the Spirit is beyond being contained in nine weeks or any unit of measurement.

Early on in my study for the series, I came across this quote from scholar Richard Hayes. He noted, "There may be no fool-proof method of documenting the Spirit's presence in human life, but we can follow the Spirit's tracks by seeing evidence of the fruit." As this series comes to an end, may we know that the work of the Spirit continues to happen in our lives. May others see the evidence of that fruit.

Peace,
Pastor Kim
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Worship With Us

Online & In Person
Worship @10:30 am
Sunday School @ 9

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 **first
church**
M I D D L E T O W N
a united methodist community



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 10th during worship

School? Really? Soon school buses will be out, kids with backpacks will be headed to school, and fall will be following quickly. Here at First UMC we are honoring this passage of time with a Blessing of the Backpacks.

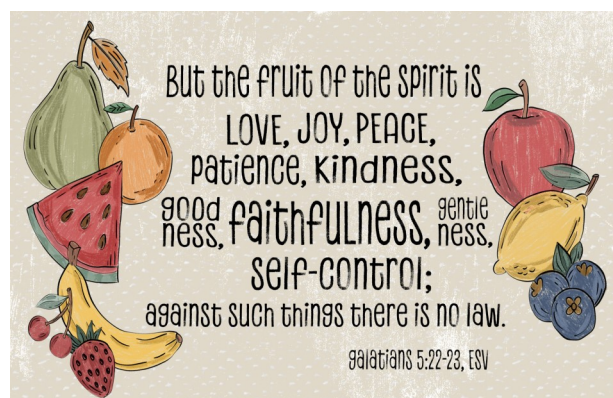
Students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 10th for a special blessing. Backpack tags will be given to each student and if students forget their backpack or do not use one – no need to worry as blessings and tags, are still available!

Let's send our students and their families back to school knowing that we are praying for them and our schools.

Summer Series---“GROW”

As we continue our series, remember to collect your sticker, Bible verse & recipe each week!

8.3.25	Faithfulness	Luke 10:38-42
8.10.24	Gentleness	Luke 12:13-31
8.17.24	Self-Control	Luke 12:32-40



Worship Planning



Pastor Kim will be taking almost two weeks to plan worship series for the upcoming year. Beginning August 20th she will be praying, working creatively with Mary Ellen, and working to create engaging worship for First UMC. During these two weeks Pastor Kim will be leading us in worship but we will have guest preachers (Aug. 24th—Rev. Deb Stevens, Aug. 31st—Rev. Joel Harbarger) filling in the pulpit. If you have any questions about this time or about worship planning in general, please do not hesitate to ask Pastor Kim or contact the church office. Please keep Pastor Kim in your prayers during this time of reflection and planning. Thank you!

Pantry Item for August

The pantry item for August is dish washing liquid. We usually buy it at Dollar Tree. Pick your favorite type. Thanks for your generosity in helping to keep our Pantry stocked!



CHOIR SEASON BEGINS SEPT. 3

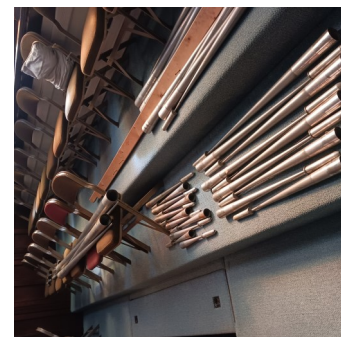
Although the choir sings every Sunday, we consider our 'season' to be September-May. Here are some things you may not know about being in the choir--

1. We have a wide range of singing skills and experience. Everything from music degrees to not reading music at all!
2. Some of our members have been singing for well over 50 years in the choir. Some are just completing their first couple of years.
3. We rehearse at 3pm and 7pm on Wednesday during the winter months to help with busy schedules and those who have trouble driving at night. The remainder of the season we meet at 7pm on Wednesday.
4. It's OK if you miss a few Sundays. We understand people have vacations and family events or even split their time between two different home locations! We are always happy to see you!
5. We plan our music 6-8 weeks in advance and recordings are sent to all singers for each individuals part as well as all parts together so singers can still practice if they are out of town or just need some extra practice at home.
6. It's actually a small group ministry! We pray together and care deeply about the lives of our members.
7. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun. Sometimes there's refreshments, but always, there's laughter!

September 3 is our potluck dinner at 6pm and our rehearsal starts at 7 pm. Try us out and see if it's something you might enjoy! If you have questions, contact Mary Ellen at music@myfumc.net or call the church during office hours.

THE ORGAN IS BACK!!

Except for one trumpet pipe, the organ is now playable and back in service! To prepare for the reinstallation of the removed pipes, (due to the new air conditioning system that is situated over the organ chamber under the bell tower, it was in the best interest of our pipe organ to remove the pipes during the HVAC project), the organ technicians dismantled and cleaned some very small parts of the pipes. Because they are metal, they had corroded over time due to moisture and dirt. Each small part was sanded to remove the corrosion and reassembled, then retuned to the rest of the organ. Also a section called a "winker" (funny name!!) was replaced. A winker is a small, hinged bellows often mounted on the wall of a windchest. It acts as a shock absorber to regulate wind pressure fluctuations and prevent unsteady airflow to the pipes. Our old "winker" had a hole in it and it was losing air. This should also help keep the organ in tune longer. It took a couple of days of detail work to get this done!





MAD Camp Is In The (Watering) Can

When you read this, Mad Camp will be a very recent memory. We will have more pictures coming in the next newsletter, but here's a sneak peek at some of the fun we had this week! With our theme being GROW!, we talked about the Parable of the Sower and performed it on the last night of the camp. We practiced and memorized new songs, learned how to rehearse lines for a play, and how to sing and move on stage. In art we decorated containers to plant seeds in "good" soil, and did various thematic crafts about plants and flowers.

We had many return "campers" from last year which was a good sign that the kids wanted to come back again.

Special thanks to all the volunteers, from those who donated art supplies, to those who created the sets and helped teach the songs and crafts.

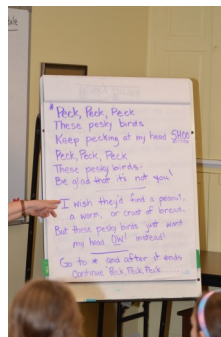


MAD Camp Coordinator Is Needed For 2026!

Our 2nd year of Music, Art, and Drama Camp has finished and is considered to be a success! The basic outline and structure of the week-long camp was created by Pastor Kim at her former church in Englewood. For the last 2 years here, not only has Pastor Kim led the camp by writing the play they performed at the end of the week, she handled the administrative details of volunteer coordinating, schedule creating, and working with Office Manager Pam on keeping up with registration, publicity, and more. Other members of the team designed art projects, creating a curriculum for the Pre-school group, and wrote songs for the performance.



Next year, Pastor Kim would love to have someone to take over the administrative duties for MAD Camp and work alongside her, the Office Manager, and other team members. If you love details and organization, this is a perfect opportunity for you! It's a lot of fun and would be a way to share your "organizational gifts" with your church. If you think you might want to consider doing this for 2026 and want to chat about more details, give Pastor Kim a call.



An update from Dr. Les and Debbie Dornon, missionaries to Nepal working in the Tansen Hospital

It was so good to see so many of you both at church in Middletown, and at my Dad's 90th birthday celebration in Indiana. Thank you so much to all of you who sent cards and came to be part of the party. Dad really appreciated it - and so did all of the rest of the family. Having a church family is such a blessing - and we are so thankful that you are such a loving and caring family for us.

I am thankful I could take the time to be in the U.S. for the party - and to get to catch up with some of you, as well. It was good to see Hannah and family in U.K on the way back to Nepal, too. I arrived in Tansen quite exhausted after 29 hours of travel (from Hannah's door to mine). I am so thankful for smooth flights and connections. From Manchester to Dubai, I flew on the Airbus A380 - what a huge airplane! They told me 650 people were on that flight.

The hospital has been getting busier, and 4 new junior doctors (basically like residents) were just hired and started a week ago. Les did most of their orientation. 4 new nurses will also be hired soon, so we are thankful that the financial situation seems to be easing a bit! The fiscal year ended on July 16 here - so we will see what the final numbers look like after everything is tallied.

I was fortunate to arrive back between rains - it is hot and humid here, and the monsoon continues on. We are thankful for the beauty of this season when everything is so green and lush. It is also the season of rice planting - a busy time for farmers (especially the ladies!) in Nepal.

Thanks again for your wonderful love and support. Les and Debbie



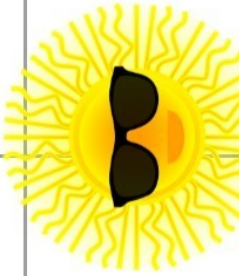
Monsoon Season

Planting rice



August 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 COMMUNION 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4 8:00 Breakfast Club	5 10 Staff Mtg 1:00 Cong. Care 2:00 Pantry	6 7:00 Choir Rhrl	7	1 MAD Camp 9-11:30 12:00 First Friday Concert 6:30 MAD Camp Art Show & Drama	2
10 BLESSING OF BACKPACKS 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	11 8:00 Breakfast Club 6:00 Legal Clinic	12 10 Staff Mtg 1:00 SPRC 2:00 Pantry	13 No Choir Rhrl	14	15	16
17 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	18 8:00 Breakfast Club	19 10:00 Staff Mtg 11:00 Memorials 2:00 Pantry 5:30 Finance Mtg 6:00 Council Mtg	20 7:00 Choir Rhrl	21	22 AMBASSADOR ARTICLES DUE	23
24 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	25 8:00 Breakfast Club	26 10:00 Staff Mtg 2:00 Pantry	27 No Choir Rhrl	28	29	31
31 9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship					Dates to Remember in September 1 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED 3 Choir Carry-in 5 First Friday Concert	

2 Imogene Orts

4 Debbie Hazelbaker

5 Karen Cooper

12 Linda Snyder

13 Bev Urso

15 Ted Wilson

19 Charles Orth

21 Robert Mucha

Joyce Parella

23 Nick Murphy

25 Rachel Hurley

26 Kathleen Darling

Cheryl Irwin

28 Bill Schaefer

29 Linda Fillnow

Happy Birthday!



2025 First Friday Concert & Artist Series

**August 1, 2025
Bacchanal Steel Drum Band**

**A First Friday favorite returns
to relax and transport you to
the land of sand, sea, and fun!**

**First UMC - Middletown
@ noon
Free Admission**