

Valparaiso First United Methodist Church

November 13, 2024

This Sunday



Sunday, November 17, 2024

SERMON: *Champagne Wishes*
PREACHING: Pastor Jared Kendall
SCRIPTURE: Proverbs 2:1-6 and Psalm 23

Please monitor your email for the links for on-line worship Sunday morning, around 8:00 a.m. Full recording of the **9:15 a.m. worship service** will be available by 1 p.m. on our Vimeo page: www.vimeo.com/Valpofumc.



ATTENDANCE FOR

NOVEMBER 10, 2024

In-Person: 217
On-Line: 378
595



Take a moment to chuckle...

What's a tree's favorite song in autumn? *"Don't Stope Be-Leafin'"*

How do you fix a broken jack-o'-lantern? *Use a pumpkin patch.*

What do you call someone who imitates your fall centerpiece? *A cornucopier.*

What do you call a bear in the autumn rain? *A drizzly bear.*

What is a jack-o'-lantern's favorite book? *Are You there, Gourd? It's Me, Margaret.*

Why did the oak tree giggle? *It heard acorn-y joke.*

I love all the fall beverages: spiced cider, hot cocoa and Theraflu.

Fall is the time I want to stay home curled up with a good cook.

Corn is like a teenager: Both have ears, but neither listen.

SAVE THE DATE:

November 19: Church Council Meeting 7 p.m.

November 22: *Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Spy, Assassin (movie)* see page 5

November 28: **Thanksgiving Day. Church office Closed**

November 29: **Church office closed for Thanksgiving Holiday.**

December 1: First Sunday of Advent/Communion

December 15: Lessons and Carols Christmas Celebration at **4 p.m.** in the Sanctuary

December 19: Blue Christmas Service 6:30 p.m.

December 24: Christmas Eve- Services at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

NEWS SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK

1 PETER 2:15-16

New Revised Standard Version, Anglicised

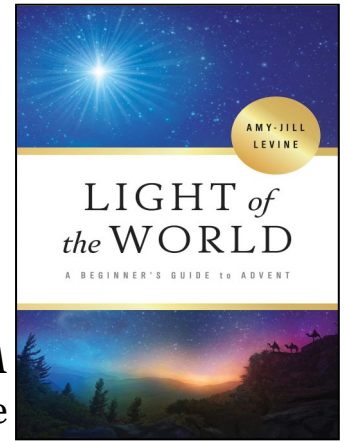
For it is God's will that by doing right you should silence the ignorance of the foolish. As servants of God, live as free people, yet do not use your freedom as a pretext for evil.

Advent Study (beginning December 1st)

Sundays at 10:30 am - December 1, 8, 15, and 22

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

A Beginner's Guide to Advent



How long does the class last? 4 weeks

Where will it meet? Tower Chapel

Is there a book involved? Yes, it's called *Light of The World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*. It's written by Amy-Jill Levine. We will have copies available for purchase for \$10.

Who's leading this class? Pastor Jared Kendall and Pastor Cathy Allison will be leading the class.

In *Light of the World: A Beginner's Guide to Advent*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the story of the birth of Jesus. Join her as she traces the Christmas narrative through the stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary, the journey to Bethlehem, and the visit from the Magi. These stories open conversations around connections of the Gospel stories to the Old Testament, the role of women in first-century Jewish culture, the importance of Mary's visitation and the revolutionary implications of Mary's Magnificat, the census and the stable, and the star of Bethlehem and the flight to Egypt. The book provides a rich and challenging learning experience for small groups and individual readers alike. Sign up today to be part of this excellent Advent study!

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS (presented by DivorceCare)

Post-breakup Holidays look different!

After separation or divorce, your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays won't look the same as they used to. Traditions change. Some family members won't be there. Social gatherings can feel stressful. But DivorceCare Surviving the Holidays can help!

What is DivorceCare "Surviving the Holidays?"

It's a 2-hour seminar that's offered anytime from October through December. This short event includes a video, sharing time, and a "Survival Guide" filled with tips and encouragement for managing the holidays after separation and divorce.

How will it help me?

By attending "Surviving the Holidays," you will learn how to:

Manage difficult emotions, Survive social events, Give your kids a good holiday experience, and Find hope for your future

"Surviving the Holidays" will be offered at Valpo FUMC on Thursday, November 21st from 6:00-8:00 PM. To register, go to divorcecare.org/events/252764.

Surviving the Holidays

Divorced? Separated?

Know someone who is?

When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants face challenges and discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- Helpful tips to surviving social events
- Ways to help children through the holidays
- Hope for the future

Join us for this encouraging seminar

First United Methodist Church
103 Franklin Street, Valpraiso, Indiana

Thursday, November 21st, 6:00-8:00 PM

For more information visit divorcecare.org/events/252764
or call 219.465.1661

DIVORCE *Care*
divorcecare.org/holidays



We have been seeing an increase in neighbors in need at our church on Sunday mornings. We welcome all to join us for worship, whether it is in the Sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall with a donut and coffee. If anyone approaches you and asks for cash, please direct them to come to the church during office hours (M-Th 9a.m.—3 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to noon) to ask for assistance. Often these folks have already been helped by the church during the week through the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, the Christian Food Pantry, or the Shop-or all three. We also provide referrals to community resources which are there to provide comprehensive assistance to those who need it. Offering a listening ear, and kind word, and a prayer are ways to shine the light of Christ instead of giving cash.



“CNW” Prayer

Thursdays at 1p.m.



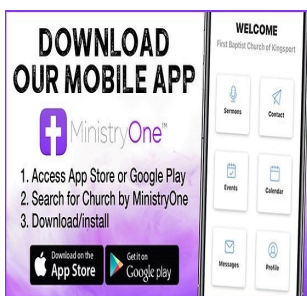
Blessing Our Community, Nation, & World through Prayer

30 Minutes Every Thursday Afternoon at 1:00p.m.

Do you believe in the power of prayer? Are you concerned about our community, our nation, and the world? Join us Thursday afternoons in the Chapel for 30 minutes of prayer as we pray together for our community, our nation, and the world.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Cathy 219-465-1661 or callison@valpofumc.org.

DO YOU HAVE OUR CHURCH APP?



1) To get the app: go to the App Store for iPhones or Google Play Store for Androids, and search for Church by Ministry One. The icon is a white cross with a purple background.

2) Once you install it, open it and find our church by searching with the zip code (46383). Valparaiso First United Methodist Church is normally the only choice that shows up.

3) Select our church. You will now see our app features.

4) Go to Profile and log in. If you never logged in to the online directory in the past, you need to create a Ministry ID login & password. This login will also allow you to get into our website.

5) Once you have logged in, and you “x” out of Profile, You now have access to our church directory through the “People” box.

6) Check out the features of the app, like “Giving” where you can easily give online, “Videos” to view all of the recent church videos, including worship, and your “Profile”, where you can make changes to your contact information.

The movie, *Bonhoeffer: Pastor. Spy. Assassin*, is arriving November 21!



The movie will be showing at Emagine Portage theater, 6550 American Way, Portage. It is also showing at other theaters in Northwest Indiana, but not in Valparaiso. Go to <https://www.angel.com/tickets/bonhoeffer> to purchase tickets. You can get 19% off the ticket price by using the Code: BON24. I'm not sure how long the code will work.

An overview of Bonhoeffer's life and times in 1930s and 1940s Germany will be offered two different times at the church before the movie opens. The overview will be held on Wednesday, November 20, in Tower Chapel at 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. and again at 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets for the overview will be available in Fellowship Hall after the church service starting November 3. Questions? Contact Ruth Vance.

YOUTH NEWS

Advent

For Advent, the Youth Sunday School class will be studying the book *The Greatest Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Park. Then on December 15th we will be going to the movie theater to see the movie with a discussion afterwards. More information will be coming in the next month or two.

Camp

Missing camp already? Join us for a fall Senior High mini-camp, November 8-10, that will reignite your passion for God! Experience God's love through devotions, worship, and community at beautiful Epworth Forest Conference Center while participating in team-building and leadership-building activities.

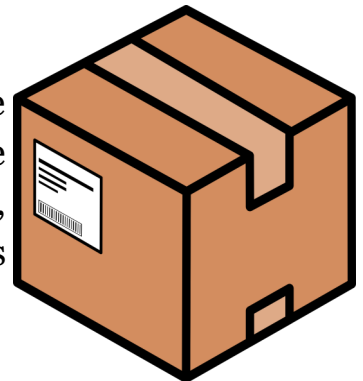
Cost: \$95, includes all meals and activities

Check-In/Check-Out: Friday, 7:00 p.m./Sunday, 12:00 p.m.

Registration: You will register on your own, but roommates can be requested, so be sure to invite your friends. <https://impact2818.org/event/wildfires-epworth-forest/>

CARE PACKAGES FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Do you have a college age student? If so, Miss Sarah would like to send care packages again this year before the end of the semester. If you have a student who would like a care package, could you please email (mt112930@gmail.com) or text Miss Sarah (Sarah Black) his or her name and his or her address.



MISSIONS



The Mission of the Month for November is Family and Youth Services Bureau. The Mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau is to assist youth and families through supportive services that create a positive change for Porter County. Established in 1972, today the agency has expanded its reach and now has 16 different programs that annually serve approximately 4,000 infants, toddlers, youth, and their families. Through programs such as CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) children are advocated for and given the support they need to resolve issues of childhood neglect and abuse. Healthy Families provided 829 home visits in 2022 for new mothers and infants needing support. These are just a few examples. There is The Tot Shop, Clinical Services providing counseling, mentoring groups, Summer Day Camp and more. Please prayerfully consider supporting this agency that provides a much needed service in our county.

A wonderful serving opportunity has opened up in Valparaiso!

Hilltop Mission Kitchen is open on Monday nights to provide free hot meals to members of the Valparaiso community. The Mission Kitchen has been serving upwards of 60 people each Monday.

Hilltop provides the ingredients and recipes! It takes about 12 volunteers each Monday to greet, prepare, serve, and clean up after the meal.

Our local mission team is forming a list of people from our church who would like to participate in this ministry. The local mission team will create an email group that can be notified of the next day we will serve and congregants in the email group can respond if they are able to help. Depending on the number of people who want to be part of the Hilltop Mission Kitchen ministry, we may help once a quarter, once a month, or more often. Many other groups and individuals in the community will be participating in this community effort.

If you are interested in participating in the Hilltop Mission Kitchen ministry, please sign up in Fellowship Hall!

We look forward to serving with you!

Have you heard of FIRST FRUITS FARMS? It is a non-profit ministry which supplements the needs for approximately 70 families in Porter County. They pack fresh, healthy, and fun meals and snacks to fill the gaps. Volunteers work 20 acres of farmland to grow fruits and vegetables, as well as raise free range and hormone free animals. Want to know more? Go to www.firstfruitsgives.com or check them out on Facebook under FirstFruitsGives.



THANK YOU!

You are the best!

The Mission Offering for October was \$940 plus the \$2,900 generous offering that was taken for student projects. Your support for Operation Classroom and the students at the Taiama Enterprise Academy are much appreciated. About 24 Leones per dollar translates to many “bills” being taken to the shops. Here is the summary of how the \$2,900 was distributed in rounded amounts:

- \$300 Sport jerseys for girls and guys
- \$600 8 Sets of 30 Literature books for the English Department
- \$300 A sound set up for the English Department (and it was used for Chapel as well)
- \$1,000 toward oil, transmission fluid and rings the Garage in the Engine Mechanics department...if you want to know more about this, please ask.
- \$200 for sporting equipment
- \$300 for the Student Union Fund
- \$200 technology

Thanks again. Don't forget, if you want to have an impactful experience, ask Bonnie Albert about becoming a Pen-Pal.

You won't regret it.

~Bonnie



Local Missions small group Faith in Action has restarted. We meet in the library at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. We will be making mats for the homeless. These will go to both New Creations and Midwest Missions. It takes approximately 700 plastic bags for 1 mat so we would like the congregation to start saving their plastic bags. They can bring them in on Sunday morning and put them in the Library. It would be very helpful if you straighten out the bags flat and bring them in that way. There will be a collection basket available on Sunday mornings as well.

We hope to have people coming in through the week to work on them as well once they know how to cut the bags and weave them. There is a flash drive that the church has that shows the steps.

Finance

OFFERINGS TO THE GENERAL FUND

Weekly offerings needed **\$14,346**

Total received last week: \$9,063

Year to Date offerings needed **\$645,570**

Total received Year to Date: \$586,911

Donate Via Web or Text

Easily support our ministries by visiting valpofumc.org/giving and scroll down to the big green "GIVE NOW" button. Or, text "Give" to 219-946-5955. You will receive a response back with how to complete your gift. With either option, if you have given online to the church before, you can "sign in," otherwise you can just stay on the "give now" tab without having to sign into our system.

ROOF UPDATE

Late last month the roof over our Sanctuary was replaced. THANK YOU for your contributions to this effort, which totaled 59% of the expense! Another 21% was covered by our Trustees Property Fund. This left us with a balance of \$36,259, which came from our Unity & Diversity Fund, but is an "internal loan" to our Trustees Property Fund, to be paid back monthly. We continue to ask for your donations to help pay down this roof loan and we will be periodically reporting on that success. Thank you for generosity that helps "provide a roof over our heads."



ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP

We are in the midst of our campaign called “Spoons, Cups, Platters and the Power of Choice.” This coming week you will be receiving a letter from Pastor Jared, along with a pledge card. We ask you to prayerfully consider your financial support of our ministries as your church prayerfully prepares to steward God’s resources in the coming year. This coming Sunday, November 24, is Pledge Card Sunday, when we will bring our pledge cards forward as an act of worship. Or, you can securely submit online [here](#) (scroll down to “Online Pledge Card”), if you prefer that option. Next Sunday we are also bringing back the collection of offerings during worship. You will be receiving an email from Pastor Jared with more on that. And last, but not least, our United Methodist Men will be serving breakfast next Sunday morning with a free-will offering to help the Appalachia Service Project repair homes after Hurricane Helene. It’s going to be an exciting Sunday and we hope you will make every effort to join us!

FOOD PANTRY REPORT



October at the pantry ended up having served 218 families which provided food for 592 people. Various kits were offered that used food items that are often not taken by clients because they don't know how to use them. Pumpkin is not often picked up by clients since most seem to think the only use is for pie. Kits and instructions were given for Pumpkin Soup, Pumpkin Bread and Pumpkin Peanut Butter Squares. Kits went well. Requests are now aimed at gathering supplies for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner item menus. Things like stuffing, turkey gravy, Jell-O, canned fruit, mashed potatoes, French fried onions, and mushroom soup are on the holiday request list. At the pantry we are planning on preparing for 72 families and suggestions for other Thanksgiving offerings beyond that will be given. Those include signing up at St. Paul's Catholic Church for dinner items, signing up at 500 turkeys.com, coming to the pantry on our last serving day to see if there are any unclaimed items or going to First Christian Church on Thanksgiving Day for a free meal. Distribution days at the Christian Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving food will be November 20 and 25. Several of the holiday items requested can also be used for our Christmas giving.

And as always - any donations are greatly appreciated.

Nan and Sharon

COMMUNITY EVENTS

If you know of any community events that you think our readership would be interested in, email the information to Dr. Christopher Ebert at communications@valpofumc.org. or choirs@valpofumc.org

SUPPORT OUR YOUTH IN THEIR ENDEAVORS!

Several of our Youth here at ValpoFUMC are doing exciting things in the community. You have a chance to see them in action.

ALL REGION BAND CONCERT

The Indiana Bandmasters Association All-Region Band Concert will be at Portage HS at 3:00pm on Sunday, November 17th. Collin Fisher-baritone saxophone of Ben Franklin Middle School and Reed Smith-trombone of Morgan Township, both ValpoFUMC Youth are part of this group.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL:

The Little Mermaid

December 6th and 7th at 7:00 p.m.



VALPARAISO HIGH SCHOOL:



This Is Our Story Concert at VHS

December 9th and 10th at 7:00 p.m.

WILL YOU BE THE VOICE FOR A CHILD IN NEED?

There are children in Porter County who need your help!

Porter County CASA will be holding a **Virtual Information Meeting** for members of the community who are interested in learning more about becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate.

The CASA program trains volunteers to advocate for the needs and best interests of abused and neglected children in the court system. The need for CASAs speaking up for children in the court process has never been more vital than in these times.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, November 13 at 5:30 PM on Zoom.

Interested potential volunteers can RSVP by emailing casainfo@fysb.org to receive a Zoom link to the Information Meeting.

Learn more at portercountycasa.org.



DO YOU HAVE ANY 'HOME GOODS' YOU ARE NOT USING?

Family Promise recently obtained a mobile home but it needs some remodeling. If you can help with a refrigerator, stove, washer, dryer, dishes, furniture, lamps, towels, sheets, pillows, or blankets please contact executive director, Jason Kegebein at 219-973-6658 or email Jason.Kegebein@outlook.com

DEADLINES FOR ENEWS AND SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an article or announcement for the eNews or Sunday morning screens, please be aware that the information must be received by the following date/time:

- ◆ **ENEWS AND SUNDAY MORNING SCREEN ANNOUNCEMENT** deadline is Tuesday by 12 noon. Please submit the “who, what, when, where” details to Dr. Ebert at choirs@valpofumc.org or communications@valpofumc.org. **LIMITATIONS AND APPROVAL DOES APPLY.**
- ◆ For **SUNDAY MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS (from the pulpit)**, they must be submitted with all pertinent information no later than Wednesday by 12 noon to Lani at lfisher@valpofumc.org. **SUBJECT TO APPROVAL, LIMITATIONS APPLY.**

Christmas at Valpo University~ A Vespers Concert
How Great Our Joy!

Friday, December 6, 7:30 p.m. and
Saturday, December 7, 5:00 p.m.

Chapel of the Resurrection

To purchase individual tickets, [shop online](#) or
purchase in person at the Center for the Arts.

The Saturday evening performance will be streamed at youtube.com/ValpoArts