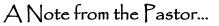
First United Methodist Church of Hammond

6635 Hohman Avenue Hammond, IN 46324 Phone: (219) 932-5915 www.hammondfumc.org

Pastor: Jim Denton, cell: (219) 281-1054

"For I resolved to know nothing...except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2





The un-Comfortable Zone

Comfort is one of the basic human needs and we place a high value on feeling comfortable in any situation. Often, when we are in unfamiliar situations we will be motivated to act in ways that will increase our sense of comfort. Yet, sometimes the Gospel can call for us to set aside our personal comfort for the sake of others. In Matthew 16:24 we read, "Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me." (CEB)

At my previous church we had a young man, let's call him Ted, begin attending. Ted was struggling to recover from drug addiction and he fit the stereotype with his many tattoos, piercings, long hair, and broken teeth. Ted began attending this church because this was his girlfriend's church, even though she rarely attended and he lived in a town 20 miles away. Almost immediately, Ted volunteered to be one of our worship leaders and to usher. He knew that getting involved was the best way for him to plant his roots in a community of faith and he knew that those roots would be essential for him to maintain his sobriety.

Ted's struggle with addiction was, as it usually is, not perfect and he suffered frequent relapses. But he persevered and would return, hat-in-hand, from every relapse. In one of these relapses, he wrapped his car around a tree and was arrested. Ted lost his license and became unable to attend this church where he had grown roots and developed relationships with the congregation and myself. Ted asked if anyone could give him a ride to church, at least occasionally. We had several members who also lived in his town, just minutes from his home but no one was willing to give Ted a ride to church. They said that they "didn't feel comfortable" doing that. I gave him a ride a few times, but I lived 20 miles the other direction and that was just too inconvenient for Sunday mornings.

I did recommend the United Methodist Church in the town where he lived and urged him to connect with any church he could get to. But Ted did not go to a local church. Instead, a couple of months later, Ted committed suicide.

Those who would not give Ted a ride to church, including myself, are not responsible for his death. His addiction and the struggle to recover were the causes of his death. But I cannot help but wonder what a difference it might have made if a few of us had chosen to be uncomfortable, awkward, inconvenienced, and perhaps even a bit frightened for the sake of one who was lost and desiring to be found. We will never know, but I know that I have become much more sensitive to Jesus' call to say no to myself, my sense of discomfort, inconvenience, and awkwardness.

We find comfort in the familiar, in those well-known to us, and in our familiar routines. How many lives might be changed if we risk, even a little, to show the love of Christ to others? What impact might a sacrifice on our part have on others? We may not be called to risk our lives

(continue on Page 2)

(continued from page 1, The un-Comfortable Zone...)

(although, some are), but Jesus clearly tells us that following him involves sacrifice. Such as when Jesus called Simon Peter, James, and John, who left the familiar to follow him (Matthew 4:18-22). Or when Jesus said not to fear those who can kill the body, but to fear the one who can kill body and soul. (Matthew 10:28) But Jesus immediately follows this with the reassurance that we need not fear **because God values us so highly**. (Matthew 10:29-31)

Yes, we are given a true treasure in the Good News, but it is in clay jars – we can be broken. In fact, we are broken!

"7 But we have this treasure in clay jars so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. 8 We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. 9 We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

10 We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies. 11 We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying. 12 So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you." (2 Corinthians 4:7-12 CEB)

As we live into a new, and still unknown, reality we will feel discomfort, anxiety, uncertainty, and our cherished routines will feel threatened. Some of our clay jars will get a few more cracks, but the jar is not the treasure! The treasure is what God is doing in and through us. Let's give that treasure a ride to wherever it need to go that we all may find new life!

Peace,
Pastor Jim



Breakthrough Prayer for 2024

saíah 43:19

Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.

Breakthrough Prayer

O holy and mighty redeemer, you act powerfully on behalf of your people. Our old ways no longer serve us, and we feel stuck. Breakthrough our complacency and reluctance as you reveal to us the new thing that you are doing with us. Help us to trust you. Equip us as we make our way down unfamiliar paths into the future that you are calling us to journey toward. Relieve our anxieties about our own future so that we may freely bring your loving grace to others.

2024 INUMC North District Leadership University

The North District is offering two FREE identical training events via ZOOM on January 27 and February 10 to which everyone is invited and all church leaders are expected to participate.

Conference Superintendent Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy stresses the importance of making sure that local church leadership has the training needed to succeed. She writes that she has lined up "a team of individuals that have put together a great event that you don't want to miss! We can only be a vital church if we are trained as leaders." She expects every church leader and pastor to participate in at least one of the 10 different workshops.

These workshops are open to all laity, clergy, supply and certified lay ministers in the District. The two <u>free</u> identical training events will be presented as follows:

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00am to Noon Central Time, via ZOOM

Saturday, February 10, 2024, 8:00am to 11:00am Central Time, via ZOOM

Workshops to be offered are (you may only register for ONE per session, however you may register for both weekend sessions to attend two different workshops):

- Staff Parish Relations Committee, led by Rev. Dr. Marti Lundy
- Finance and Trustees, led by Rev. Paul Arnold
- Church Council/Single Board Governance, led by Rev. David Schrader
- Children's Ministries, led by Rev. Lori Grasty
- Growing Young/Youth Ministries, led by Emily Krach
- Lay Leadership, led by North District Lay Leader, Denise Parker and others
- Digital Church, led by a team from South Bend Clay UMC
- Messy Church; led by Assoc. Pastor Trish Johnsen, Michigan City UMC
- Outreach: Food Pantries and Beyond, led by Pastor Carl Hetler
- Planned Giving and Endowments; led by Manet Shettle, INUMC Foundation

Online Registration is required for all attendees. A Zoom link will only be sent to those who register through the registration link below.

https://inumc.swoogo.com/ndlu12724

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport, Church Council chair



Disciples Daily News

A Note From the Mission Team...



Happy 2023! Hoping this update finds you having experienced a joyful and safe holiday! January's Second Mile Giving is Love, INC, a national 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to, "help churches help people with material, emotional, or relational poverty in their local communities to transform lives In the Name of Christ." The local branch is headquartered in Griffith and serves Griffith, Highland, Hammond and Munster.

They are most well known in this area for their furniture ministry to funnel donations and purchases of refrigerators, couches, to the homes of families who need them. They also partner with various local churches to house GAP Ministries (ministries that fulfill specific voids identified within the community) such as "Cradle'N'All," and "Scrub-a-Dove." They have volunteer opportunities available. If you are unable to donate financially you can always pray. Pray for the volunteers and the families that they are helping. There is always something that we can do. The address of Love INC of Greater Hammond, P.O. Box 557, Griffith, IN 46319. The mission team would also like to thank everyone who donated financially to the *Bishop's Christmas fund*. The mission will also serving the neighborhood meal this month.



~Submitted by Richard Miller, one of your co-chairs of the Mission team

reach out to Richard Miller at (219)588-4232 or Katy Province-Garza at (708)707-0773

Support for The Vine Food Pantry: Brown Bag Sundays

Brown bags will be distributed to the congregation on a monthly basis to support The Vine, the church's vital mission ministry for community members who seek food assistance. Each bag will include a "wish list" of suggested food items to help replenish the food pantry. Please pick up your bag from a volunteer as you leave worship and return it the following week with your selected groceries, placing your donations in the Mission corner outside the southwest corner of FUMC sanctuary, across from the office. Questions: Please

Volunteer to Usher

Are you a regular attendee at Sunday worship? Would you help out by sharing hospitality to brighten a worshipper's morning? Our usher teams model the church's commitment to stewardship as well as hospitality, and additional volunteers are needed. Responsibilities include ushering for Sunday morning worship every other month OR serving as back-up for regular ushers. Please consider volunteering, even if you can serve only occasionally. Our welcoming ushers are ready to include YOU!

Please contact Roseanne Watson (773-852-5306) or the church office.

SERVING THE COMMUN

THE VINE FOOD PANTRY AT-A-GLANCE December, 2023

New Clients	26
Return Clients	_
Total Clients Served	404
New Households	13
Return Households	189
Total Households Served	202



Total Pounds Distributed: 6,032



Supporting the Food Pantry...

The Vine Food Pantry is always in need of food donations, listed below is their wish list:

Soups - 15oz

Pancake mix - 32 oz. or less

Pancake syrup – 24 oz. or less Peanut butter – 16 oz.

Jelly 20 oz. or smaller

Hamburger Helper

Tuna Helper

Tuna

Manwich

Macaroni & cheese boxed

Cereal

Chili 15oz

Canned baked beans 28 oz. or smaller

Chef Boyardee canned products

Pasta

Rice

Instant Potatoes

Clean Plastic and Paper Bags with Handles

Donations can be dropped off at the Mission Corner across from the Office



A Note from Finance...

Finance News for January

As one year closes and a new year begins, we are deeply thankful for the financial contributions of faithful members and our Foundation that supported First Church ministries throughout 2023, allowing the church to end the year with a Current Expense Fund balance of \$9,926.17. We begin 2024 with great hope and commitment to dedicated fiscal stewardship that will provide a solid foundation as we journey forward on a path that will involve change, require adaptability, and may yield a decision to come together with Woodmar to form a new church.

All 2024 envelope packets have been distributed to members who use the envelope system for their tithes and offerings. If you desire a packet of offering envelopes and have not already received one, please contact Treasurer Larry Alport (219-730-1798).

Finance balances as of December 31, 2023

		December 31, 2023	<u>2023 YTD</u>
•	Contributions and Other Income	\$ 23,513	\$ 253,066*
•	Operational Expenses	<u>\$ 14,999</u>	\$ 246,430
	Giving Surplus or (Shortfall)	\$ 8,514	\$ 6,636**

^{*}Includes \$39,000 transferred from Foundation, initially posted in May.

Finance Committee Notes and Comments

- Income from tithes and offerings in December exceeded contributions received in December 2022 by more than \$5,000, and year-to-date giving as of December 31, 2023, surpassed YTD income as of December 31, 2022, by \$18,725.96. We hope this upward trend will continue throughout 2024.
- The Fran-Lin parsonage is off the market temporarily while additional repairs are completed. Hopefully, the For Sale sign can be put in place again before March. All renovation costs will be reported after repair work is finished.
- Finance reports for the month and year ending December 31, to be discussed at the joint meeting of the Finance Committee and Church Council on January 9, are available to the congregation by contacting Finance Chair Ralph Smith (219-741-8219), Past Interim Chair Jane Harper-Alport (219-718-8328), or Treasurer Larry Alport.
- Interim Finance Chair Jane Harper-Alport and Treasurer Larry Alport continue transition meetings with the
 incoming new chair of the Finance Committee, Ralph Smith, who assumed his new role on January 1. The
 committee seeks additional members, so please prayerfully consider this request and contact Pastor Jim or
 Ralph if you can help the church by serving in this way!

~Submitted by Jane Harper-Alport (Past Interim Chair)

^{**}Reflects effect of Foundation assistance: Absent \$39,000 from the Foundation, the church's YTD net income would reflect a deficit of -\$32,364.

Giving Electronically

Some of you have asked how can I donate online to the church. You have two options for using Tithe.ly. The first option—download the app on your Apple or Android phone. You can easily set up reoccurring payments or a one-time payment using the app and select First United Methodist Church. The second option—go to our website (www.hammondfumc.org) and click on Donate and complete the form.

With either option - you can select to give your tithe to your offering, the second-mile giving, or memorials (it will default to Offering).

If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah Ward at smw1213@gmail.com or 630-624-1318. Please note that Sarah is working Monday— Friday and may be delayed getting back to you. Sending a text message is sometimes the best way to get a hold of her.

~Submitted by Sarah Ward

Support FUMC Using TITHE.LY





Download "TITHE.LY" from Apple App store.



Download "TITHE.LY" from Google Play store.



Go to www.hammondfumc.org





A Marvelous Gift

It's dangerous to sum up grand truths in one statement, but I am going to try. If a sentence or two could capture God's desire for us, it might read like this:

God loves us just the way we are, but He refuses to leave us that way. He wants to be involved in every aspect of life.



God loves us just the way we are. If we think His love for us would be stronger if our faith were stronger, we are wrong. If we think His love for us would be deeper if our thoughts were deeper, then we are wrong yet again. Do not confuse God's love with the love of people. The love of people will increase when we meet their desires and expectations, but beware, if we miss the mark, our rating sinks. Not so with God's love. He who rules the universe accepts us just as we are. He loves every blemish and flaw. We could spend our lives dodging Him at every impasse only to find that He is still by our side.

Paul gives us these words in **Ephesians 1:5** "God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure." So, what message do we receive in Paul's declaration? Grasp this thought: God's love takes us to a divine level of being His. To be with us, He enters into an ironclad agreement in all that we endeavor to do. An agreement that goes beyond a mere promise or contract. It is the ultimate promise.

Scripture tells us that "Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own... so, Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him." **Hebrews 9: 24-28**

(continue on Page 10)

(continued from Page 9, A Marvelous Gift...)

Reflecting on the grandeur of this marvelous gift, think on this: If we have ever had a person in our lives that we wanted to be with forever, we know just how passionately God clings to us. He does not want to only be in relationship with us. God desires to be present in every aspect of our lives through the good and most definitely through the bad. Know this- we may move away from Him, but he will never leave us. Just like the father in the story of the Prodigal Son, He will be waiting, and He will not be empty handed. God has a robe made to special specifications (not here on Earth but in the heavens) and places a ring on our finger that will never lose its luster. And yes- there will be a celebration.

Why? God loves us just the way we are, but He refuses to leave us that way. And He wants to be involved in every aspect of life.

~Submitted by Patricia Mosley, Lay Leader



Announcements & Community News ...

Reminder: 2024 INUMC North District Leadership University

The North District is offering two FREE identical training events via ZOOM on January 27 and February 10 to which everyone is invited and all church leaders are expected to participate.

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 9:00am to Noon Central Time, via ZOOM Saturday, February 10, 2024, 8:00am to 11:00am Central Time, via ZOOM

For More Detailed Information, please read Page 4 of the January Newsletter.

<u>Joint Worship Service with Woodmar UMC</u>— Please remember that we will be worshiping at 10:15 a.m. at Woodmar UMC through the Entire Month of January. We will be alternating months.

If you feel that you cannot come for in-person worship at Woodmar UMC 10:15 AM, here is the link to the YouTube channel and the video. If you click on it at 10:15 AM you will be able to watch the service live. You will find it under the "live" tab. If you desire to watch it later, please click on it at noon or after.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2T32BcidM19EE6FyKWc 9Q/videos



Ongoing Weekly Events at Woodmar UMC

Mondays

- Crochet for Phil's Friends at 10:00 a.m. at Woodmar UMC in the Narthex/Lobby.
- Woodmar Book Club at 1:00 p.m., *via zoom*
- Dart Ball at 11:30 a.m. at Woodmar UMC

Tuesdays

- Sonrise Seniors at 10:00 am at Woodmar UMC
- Bible Study with Woodmar UMC, via Zoom at 10:00 a.m.

Wednesdays

• Brianna's Hope meets on Wednesdays at 6PM at Woodmar UMC. Each meeting starts with a light meal. Various churches and groups prepare the meals. If you would like to help out, please contact Yvonne Jackson, 219-844-7815.

For questions about Weekly Events at Woodmar UMC, please contact Nancy at (219) 844-3030.

For Ongoing Weekly Events being held at First United Methodist Church, please see page 15 of your newsletter.

Questions: Please contact Brenda in the church office at (219) 932-5915



Indiana North District Lay Servant Academy The Kingdom of God Needs You – Now more than ever!

First United Methodist Church

333 N Main St, South Bend, IN 46601

February 3, 10, 17, 24, & March 2, 2024 Saturdays – 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. ET* *Note – Classes on Feb 10th only will be held in the afternoon from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to not conflict with North District workshops.

NEW! Online Registration

Follow the link below to register for the SB First UMC Academy

https://inumc

You will then be able to enter your information, choose your class, and pay the \$15 registration fee. For this academy you will not need to buy a book. We will be providing books at the first class.

Basic Course

This course is required for first time attendees. Discover and employ your personal spiritual gifts as God intended. Learn the worth of servant leadership. Be rooted in good spiritual practices. Led by Mike Grib

Leading Worship

Learn about the ministry of helping to lead a congregation in worship (not music). Focus on the parts, purpose, and traditions of a service in the UMC. Requires Basic Course first. Led by Pastor Tim Ahlemeyer

Preaching I - Called to Preach

Begin to learn tools to create faithful, engaging sermons and learn skills to gain comfort in public speaking in all settings. Requires Basic Course first. Led by Pastor Vickie VanNevel

Heritage - Living Our United Methodist Beliefs

Explore the special gifts of theology, witness, and organization of the UMC. Learn how we got where we are today, and how the UMC is still needed in the 12st century church. Requires Basic Course first. Led by Pastor Tom Clark

Heritage class by Zoom

The Heritage class above is also being offered by Zoom. This is the only class offered by Zoom.

Led by Pastor Mike Settles

4 Zoom classes

Feb 3 – 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. Feb 10 – 2:00 to 4:45 p.m. Feb 17 – 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. Feb 24 – 9:00 to 11:45 a.m. Optional attendance at the inperson Consecration Service Mar 2 – 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts

Understand your gifts and how the church can use them to fulfill its mission and ministry. Learn what it means to be a spiritual leader.

Requires Basic Course first. Led by Peg Tenhave, CLS

Soul Reset

Relearn the rhythms of grace through daily life with God. Find rest in the healing nearness of Jesus Christ in the midst of anxiety, busyness, and life. Requires Basic Course first. Led by Pastor Tracy Rose-Love

Develop your knowledge and skills to be a confident disciple of Christ. The church needs you now more than ever!

Please contact Sandy Atkinson with any questions at sandy.atkinson@inumc.org.

NOTE: Walk-up registration for \$20 accepted if room in the class is available. Preaching I has a maximum class size of 8 students. **No refunds** after Academy starts.

HI Kids!

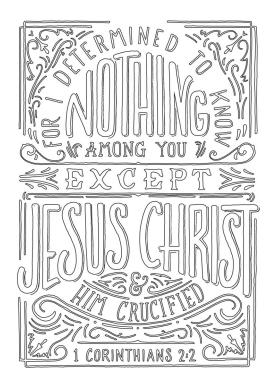


Your memory verse for January.

"For I resolved to know nothing...except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

1 Corinthians 2:2





Scripture TYPE www.scripturetype.com

Happy New Year

D A Y Z V J T J E C A L M W O

X D H Z T M A S Y P O Y E L I

U N L E W Y O N P R W L N P S

Z E H P T L P Y U O D R C T E

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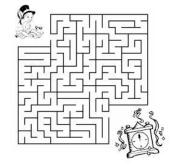
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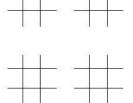
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CALENDAR FIREWORKS
CELEBRATE FIRST
CLOCK JANUARY
CONFETTI MIDNIGHT
HAPPY NOISEMAKER
NEW PARADES
YEAR





TIC-TAC-TOE

On the back of the paper, see how many words you can make from

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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This activity is for personal use only and may not be sold or duplicated for sale or reposted on another website,

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Scrip Cards



Start your gift shopping with SCRIP Cards for the person who has everything and is hard to shop for. We have plenty of cards and if you don't see one that we have available, we can special order for you.

If you are interested, you may visit the SCRIP table after 10:15 service or you may text **Kathy Smith** at **1-708-935-9807**. Kathy will be happy to answer any question possible. Thank you for your interest.

~Kathy Smith



Are you interested in donating items for our **Blessing Box?**



Items needed include: non-perishable food items, diapers, hygiene products, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products.

Items may be placed inside the *Blessing Box* located at First United Methodist Church 6635 Hohman Avenue



Joint Worship Service with Woodmar UMC-We will be worshiping at 10:15 a.m. at Woodmar UMC, 7320 Northcote Ave., Hammond, IN for the Entire Month of January. We will then be alternating months at each church.

Questions, please reach out to our church office at 219-932-5915 or Pastor Jim (219) 281-1054

Altar Flowers



If you are interested in providing altar flowers for Sunday worship in honor or memory of someone, the signup sheet is located in the church office.

The price for two arrangements each week is \$40.00.

Following 10:15 worship, you may take the flowers home or gift them to a special someone! We ask the vases be returned to the church.

We respectfully request that the flower arrangements be paid for prior to the date you have requested, in the same month.

Questions, please do not hesitate to contact the church office at (219) 932-5915 or via email at admin@hammondfumc.org

Thank you.

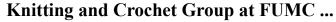






First United Methodist Church of Hammond is always interested in hearing and keeping in touch with you.

Please contact the church office at (219) 932-5915, ext. 222 or via email admin@hammondfumc.org to update your contact information.





The Knitting and Crochet group meets in the parlor each Thursday from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM. Everyone is welcome to join us whether you are an expert or a beginner. Anyone who wants to learn to knit or crochet should give Sonia a call to find out what you need to bring. Everyone else bring what you are working on or what you need help with. There is always lots of fellowship happening in addition to needles flying.

Call Sonia for additional information 708/946-6489 home - cell 708/224-6744

Wednesday Morning Bible Study at FUMC

As a Reminder Wednesday Morning Bible Study is in Room 1 on **Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.**

If you have any questions about the class, you may contact **Donna Beifuss**.

All Are Welcome!!!



Quilters...

The Quilters meet on Wednesday Mornings at 10:00 a.m. in Rooms 4,5,6

If you or someone you know is interested in Quilting, contact Lora Ward for more detail.





La Leche League Meeting for Mothers and Babies

"LLL meetings are all about mother to mother/parent to parent support, sharing experiences and getting support."

Meetings are held on the **Third Tuesday of the Month** at **10:00 a.m.** in the Church Parlor

For more information, please reach out to Pam Ahearn at (219) 932-5300



Womens Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.)

Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., in Room 1

For Information you may contact Central Service Office/A.A (219) 844-6695 or office@aanwi.org

God, grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change...



2024

- 1/1 Lorraine Renfroe
- 1/2 Jerry Vestal
- 1/5 Judy Williams
- 1/7 Karen Dodd
- 1/7 Kathy Smith
- 1/10 John Hawkins
- 1/11 Armando Castro
- 1/13 James Koester
- 1/13 Mark Kruse
- 1/13 Asher Lewis
- 1/14 Lauren Wicklund
- 1/16 Maggie Gutierrez
- 1/17 Jacob Hornak
- 1/17 Sonia Vincent
- 1/19 Tony Hawkins
- 1/20 Jennifer Garza
- 1/20 James Rummel
- 1/22 Maureen Dodd
- 1/26 Claude Baker
- 1/28 Sarah Ashcraft
- 1/29 Katy Province-Garza



We want to celebrate your birthday by including you on this list. If your special day is during this month, and your name is not listed *please let us know*.

Please pass along information about others in your household, as well.



Prayer Concerns

Mario Bravo
Susan Bravo
Shirley Farmer
Rosalie Harrington
Angela Hawkins
Logan Polich
Phyllis Preda
Breanna Quarles
Dean Seehausen
Mary Seljan
Amanda Serna
Larry Smith
Nancy Steele
Jerry Vestal
Sheryl Walters

Our homebound and those living in a residential facility:

Wayne Barnes, Adele Gawrys, Don Harris, Dave Hinshaw, Mary Hinshaw, Sandy Koester, Fran Miklos





Deadline For Newsletter Articles

If you are interested in submitting an article for the **February Newsletter**, please bear in mind you must turn in your submissions to the church office or Via email at *admin@hammondfumc.org* by **January 20.**Thank for your cooperation!