

2026

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church

Our Church is to Be Sold!

Our church is to be sold! That statement may sound alarming at first, but rest assured, we are not facing foreclosure or financial trouble. Instead, our church has been planted with a purpose that reaches far beyond its walls and membership. It exists to serve the wider community and to share the hope of Christ with those who may not yet know him. That calling presents us with an exciting challenge.



Our church must be “sold” to the unchurched. There are many people in our community who would gladly worship, serve and grow alongside us if they simply knew what our church offers. Often, the greatest barrier is not resistance, but lack of invitation.

Each of us represents our church every day through our words, attitudes and actions. How much do we value its ministry? How much do we treasure the message of Christ it proclaims? If our church has encouraged us, supported us and helped shape our faith, that story is worth sharing.

Being enthusiastic does not require polished speeches or sales tactics. It simply means speaking honestly about what our church means to us and inviting others to experience it for themselves. When we take our church seriously and talk openly about its mission, we help open doors for others to discover faith, community and hope they did not know they were missing.

Quotes to Ponder (and Pass Along)

"[Christ] wants a child's heart, but a grown-up's head. He wants us to be simple, single-minded, affectionate and teachable, as good children are; but he also wants every bit of intelligence we have to be alert at its job, and in first-class fighting trim."

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

* * *

“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap but by the seeds that you plant.”

—Robert Louis Stevenson

* * *

“When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry.”

—William Shakespeare

I love a story that Shane Claiborne tells about his work with an intentional community in Philadelphia. Shane and his wife once met a woman on their way to the grocery store. She was obviously distressed, cold and on crutches. At one point in their conversation, they invited her to their home to rest and get warm. Once inside, she said, “I can tell you are people of faith. I used to shine like you, but it’s a cold dark world, and I lost my shine on those streets.” She asked them to pray for her, that she would find her shine again. They did not see her for weeks, but one day, there was a knock at the door. Standing there was a lovely woman with a contagious ear to ear smile. Shane and his wife did not recognize her, so she said, “Of course you don’t know who I am, because I’m shining again.” She told them that she had fallen in love with God once more.



During the month of June, we will be continuing our move through the season of Pentecost. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples with the sound of a rushing wind, and with the images of flames dancing over their heads. They were shining, and their witness grew throughout the Mediterranean world.

For almost a year, I have had the privilege of serving at Ellettsville First. In these months, I’ve been witness to remarkable acts of loving ministry, playful and generous mission, and of deep sharing with those dealing with illness, injury, broken hearts and grief. In a word, you shine. I look forward to the graces that the Spirit of Christ will continue to unfold among us.

Take good care.

Jimmy

Safe Haven in the Storm

Prolific hymn writer Charles Wesley penned the beloved hymn “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” in 1739. According to tradition, Wesley wrote the words after surviving a violent storm at sea.

During the chaos, a frightened bird is said to have flown through a window and sought shelter in the folds of Wesley’s coat, a small but powerful image of refuge in the midst of danger.

The opening stanza of the hymn echoes that sense of protection and trust:

*Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide;
O receive my soul at last.*

These words call to mind the frightened disciples in Matthew 8:23–27. Tossed by wind and waves, they feared for their lives and cried out to Jesus for rescue. With a word, he calmed the storm and reminded them of his power and presence.

We, too, face seasons when life feels overwhelming. In those moments, we can take refuge in our Savior, trusting that he is our safe haven and that, no matter the storm, our destination is secure.



JUNE 2026



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Tech Recycling Drive Report

From Jake with Binary Heart

The April 18th donation drive was a massive success! Thank you so much to everyone who came out and brought something to donate. The support from the Ellettsville community was incredible. We're especially grateful to Ellettsville First United Methodist for hosting us and spreading the word.

We collected over 60 laptops, desktops, and smart devices. These devices will be wiped, refurbished, and placed into the hands of someone who otherwise couldn't afford a digital device of their own. They will help students complete their coursework and the jobless build digital skills to gain employment. It's amazing to see how one person's old electronics can unlock another person's potential.

Thank you again to everyone who joined us. We 'll see you at the next one!



Church Financial Report

Gold Can Contributions

March - Hannah House \$397
April - UMCOR \$628.25
May - Backpack Blessings
June - Houses to Homes

Star of David through April 30, 2026
\$19,452

Finances through April 30, 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
Income:	\$46,192.00	\$51,547.33
Expenses:	\$48,580.71	\$51,547.33

Bible Quiz



King David wanted to build a glorious temple for worshipping God and for housing the ark of the covenant. God, however, did not permit him to build it. Instead, God chose Solomon, David's son, to head up the building program. Why wasn't David allowed the honor of building the temple?

- A. David was getting too old to supervise such an undertaking.
- B. David had been a warrior and had shed blood.
- C. David had stopped taking God seriously.
- D. David's attention was required elsewhere.

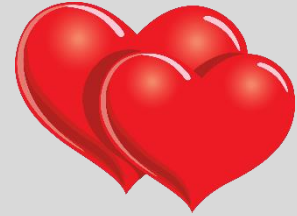
Answer: B (1 Chronicles 28:3)

Special Dates

- Flag Day, *June 14, 2026*
- Juneteenth, *June 19, 2026*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2026*
- First Day of Summer, *June 21, 2026*

Hearts in Action Auction

Why? To help fund the Star of David Window repairs and also the women's missions projects.



When? June 19th starting at 6:00pm.

Where? Rogers Hall at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, 803 W. Temperance St, Ellettsville, IN

Who? Open to the public, all are welcome.

What? Homemade sweets and desserts, crafts, household goods, holiday décor and much, much more!

Come join the fun and bid on your favorite new or gently used items, all for a wonderful cause!

Called Friends by Christ



According to John's Gospel, Jesus said to those who knew him best, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends. ... You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit" (John 15:15–16, ESV).

The depth of Christ's friendship is seen in his willingness to give his life for his friends — and for us as well. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you" (John 15:13–14, ESV).

By obeying our Lord and showing love to others, we demonstrate our friendship with Christ. Friendship with Christ and with one another is, according to the Christian layman and president Woodrow Wilson, "the only cement that will hold the world together."

Missions News – From Houses to Homes

The Missions Committee has chosen **From Houses to Homes** as our Gold Can offering for June. As many of you are aware, several members of our congregation had the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Antigua, Guatemala, about two years ago, to participate in this project. Pastor Bob Ostermeier organized the entire trip (thank you, Bob), and it was one of the most rewarding and humbling experiences of our lives. The trip was rewarding for obvious reasons and humbling to see how blessed and rich we are compared to so many people in the country.

From Houses to Homes is a grassroots organization in Guatemala and was developed in 2004. It aims to create pathways out of poverty by providing safe housing, education and health care. Their vision is that every family has a safe roof over their heads, in a country in which everyone can read and write and has the ability to thrive.

The need for housing is dire. In the poorest areas of highland Guatemala, many indigenous families live in makeshift homes that are constructed of cornstalk, corrugated metal, or cardboard, with nothing but dirt for the floor. Living in these unsafe conditions strips families of both dignity and hope. Further compounding the situation, this type of house fuels chronic health problems.

The program is structured so that volunteers can build an entire house, from start to finish, in just 5 days. Volunteers work with a loyal team of construction workers and alongside the recipient family. All ages of volunteers can take part in this hands-on work experience. A special key presentation ceremony is held on the final day of home construction. During this poignant occasion, volunteers formally present the keys to the family, symbolizing the transition into their new residence and the start of a new chapter in their lives. The houses are made of concrete blocks, cement, and painted in bright colors chosen by the homeowner. Each home has a metal locking door, a skylight, and a working window.

Besides building homes, **From Houses to Homes** believes education is the key to a pathway out of poverty. Just \$70/month can open doors of opportunity for a child in Guatemala, providing access to school, supplies, and hope for a brighter future. Most adults are uneducated. Educating their children is one of the pathways out of poverty.

From Houses to Homes also partners with a local health clinic which serves the indigenous population with free medical care. Every family who has received a home has free access to the clinic, as do the students and their families.

If you would like more information about this wonderful project, you can either go online and check it out or talk to one of us volunteers: Jo Anne Bowen, Penny Caudill, Laurie and Rich Samuelson.

From Houses to Homes statement:

Our simple 13 x 19-ft block homes are life-changing to our community members. More profoundly than simply providing a safe & secure place to sleep at night, the home gives our families the dignity needed to face the future with hope.

In March of 2024, we proudly reached the milestone of completing our 2000th home.

TOGETHER, WE HAVE BUILT 2210 HOMES!!



Above is an example of a typical house for families in Guatemala.

The home to the right is what is built by volunteers to replace the shacks of these needy people.



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE
JUNE 3-6
ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

Each year an equal number of clergy members and lay members attend the Indiana Annual Conference Session to worship, fellowship, and to conduct the business of the Conference on behalf of the local church. This year Annual Conference will be held on June 3-6, at St. Lukes UMC in Indianapolis. Annual Conference will be presided by our resident bishop, Tracy S. Malone.

Anyone is invited to attend sessions of Annual Conference. Those attending from our congregation who will have voting privileges are Jimmy Moore and Mary Beth Morgan, both clergy members in the conference, and Penny Caudill, the elected Lay Member from Ellettsville First United Methodist Church. Be in prayer for all attending as they consider the vision for the conference, ordain and commission clergy, honor those who are retiring, and mourn those lost in the past year.

For more information about the Annual Conference, visit the Annual Conference website at www.inumc.org and follow the links to the Annual Conference.



The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.

803 W. Temperance St.
P.O. Box 548
Ellettsville, IN 47429

Worship	9:30am
Fellowship	10:30am
Adult/Children's Sunday School	10:45am
Office Hours:	M, W, F 9am-12pm
Church Phone:	812-876-4792
Email:	efumchurch@bluemarble.net
Webpage:	http://www.efumchurch.org

June 2026

