



# July

# 2026

*Ellettsville First United Methodist Church*

## **Christian Education Update**

by Connie Frink



*Christian Ed Survey Results:* As many of you remember, a survey was distributed in January with approximately 40 people responding, either in writing or by verbally sharing their interests. The good news is that there appears to be a desire to create new opportunities to learn and grow together. The primary focus thus far has been on establishing programming for our children; however, some discussion is underway as to what new offerings can be designed and implemented in future months for adults and families. Special programs during Advent are currently being explored. Stay tuned for developments!

**Children's Department:** We are blessed to have consistent attendance from a core group of 12 children who seem quite enthusiastic about participating in SCS. As we strive to teach them about Jesus, most kids want to be "caught up in the story" when they have missed attending a Sunday, so we typically do a recap. When learning about Christ's ascension into heaven, this teacher quickly realized that the kids were not nearly as awestruck by the vision of Christ rising into the sky as I was when first learning about this (over 65 years ago)! Today, children see images of all kinds of superheroes floating into space, be it in movies, video games, cartoons, or the like, to the point that a feeling of amazement becomes muted. Nonetheless, our kiddos remained interested, so much so that one of the children asked me the following week, "Can you tell us the part of the story again where Jesus goes up to heaven to be with God?" Guess this is a good indicator we are doing something right, eh?

Classes are also continuing to focus on what life was like during Jesus' time. Currently, the kids are making rhythm instruments from gourds, something very similar to what people may have made for praise and worship in Bible times. Our children will be using them when singing songs before the congregation in the fall. A special thank you to Dan Rarey for donating the gourds!

**Schedule change:** There will not be Children's SCS or Family Worship Sunday during July. Since there are several activities outside of the church that require our children's and/or staff's participation, we have decided to take the month off to address those needs. It also gives leadership some time to explore the curriculum and prepare for future classes. Regular classes and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Family Worship will resume in August.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any suggestions or feedback. I can be reached by calling/texting (812) 662-4575 or email [csf430@gmail.com](mailto:csf430@gmail.com).

As I begin a second year of pastoral ministry at Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, it seems wise to let you know I will admit when I am wrong. In the early part of our worship, we have a time of congregational greeting, of the “passing of the peace.” It is a joyful time, so joyful that in my early months in the church I wondered if this greeting would end so that we could get back to worship. So here is my admission: I failed to see that we did not need to “get back to worship”, for this greeting itself was already a profoundly worshipful moment. During these exchanges, friends in Christ celebrate their connection, guests are warmly welcomed, and those with struggles are embraced in love. Whatever happens in the rest of worship rests on the relational joy that has been established in that early holy hello.



Wise pastoral mentors had already taught me that sacred connecting happens in their pre-service greetings and post service handshakes. Martin Copenhaver would write about the fellow who in the handshake line said almost as a matter of fact, “The doctor has given me three months to live.” A brokenhearted woman said, “I just learned that my son is a drug addict.” And one woman, clearly “great with child”, directed him to place his hands on her belly, and said, “Will you bless my baby.”

While not everyone is going to be told things so baldly, I see sacred connecting happening in our time of greeting. In these moments, our congregation is modeling the graceful engagement that marks our ministry and is leading us into a blessed future. In my second year with you, with God’s help, I’ll work to be alert to the graces that are in and around our congregation. In these, God is surely present.

Take good care.

Jimmy

## Still Worth More Than You Know



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, “Who would like this?”

Nearly every hand went up.

“I’ll give it to one of you,” he said. “But first...” He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. “Who still wants it?”

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. “How about now?”

The hands rose again.

“My friends,” he said, “you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.” Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does not change.

In God’s eyes, you are never less than priceless. Clean or dirty, wrinkled or whole, you remain precious to Him. As Isaiah 43:4 says in the NIV, “You are precious and honored in my sight, and because I love you.”



# JULY 2026



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>June 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	<b>August 2026</b> S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		1	2	3	4
						 <b>INDEPENDENCE</b> <i>Day</i>
<b>5</b> 9:30a Communion Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	<b>6</b>      6p Trustees	7	8	9	10	<b>11</b>      2-4p Calling & Memory Time For Linda Ostermeier
<b>12</b> 9:30a Worship Service/Baptism & Membership 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	13	14	<b>15</b>   Newsletter Deadline	16	17	18
<b>19</b> 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 10:45a Adult Sunday School	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>26</b> 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a Fellowship 11:30a Finance Committee	27	28	29	30	31	

# God's Bonus Days



An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory “God’s bonus days.” LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life’s unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, “Let’s play hooky, hon. It’s one of God’s bonus days.”

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, *Meditations by the Sea*



## Interested in Becoming a Member of our Church?

Church membership is an important facet of Christian practice. In United Methodist tradition, new members reaffirm their baptismal vows, and promise to be faithful to Christ through the church, promising to participate in its ministries through their prayers, their presence, their service, their gifts and their witness.

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

If you are interested in becoming a member our church, or even if you are just curious what it would entail, contact the church office or tell the pastor directly. We look forward to hearing from you.

## Special Dates

- Canada Day, *July 1, 2026*
- Independence Day, *July 4, 2026*

## Bible Quiz

About 450 years before Jesus, Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem still lay in ruins after the Babylonian invasion. The news broke his heart. After days of prayer and mourning, he stepped forward to lead the effort to rebuild the city wall. Despite opposition, the people pressed on.



A well-known verse describes their progress: “So we built the wall. And all the wall was joined together to half its height, for the people had a mind to \_\_\_\_\_.”

Choose the correct ending:

- A. be protected
- B. work
- C. serve
- D. live

Answer: B (Nehemiah 4:6, ESV)

# HONOR FLIGHT

*God Bless America*

Our July Gold Can offering is Honor Flight. Honor Flight is a national nonprofit organization that celebrates America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Honor Flight provides a chance to show our nation's veterans the appreciation and honor they deserve. Honor Flight trip gives veterans the opportunity to share a momentous occasion with other comrades, remember the fallen, and share their stories and experiences with other veterans. Donations allow the honored veterans to travel free of charge.



While initially focused solely on America's World War II era veterans, Honor Flight has expanded its mission to include those who served during the Korean War and the Vietnam War eras.

Please consider supporting this mission as we honor our veterans.

## *The Sacred Pace of Rest*

Jesus, who often withdrew with his disciples to quiet, deserted places, understood something we easily forget: transformation takes time. The richest, most life-giving compost does not form overnight. As author James Gleick observes, "You can't hurry compost for the same reason you can't hurry love and you can't hurry a soufflé. The biochemistry has its own inherent pace." In much the same way, the most meaningful parts of life unfold slowly. Relationships deepen over years. Wisdom grows through experience. True rest cannot be rushed.

Disciples of Jesus today are invited to rediscover the value of the deserted place. It is not empty or wasted space, but sacred ground. It is where long books can be read, unhurried prayers can be offered and deep thoughts can take root. It is where Sabbath is honored through rest, renewal and quiet attentiveness to God.

In a culture that prizes speed and productivity, stepping away may feel counterintuitive. Yet it is in these still moments that our souls are restored and made fertile for growth. The deserted place becomes a gift, shaping us into people who are grounded, attentive and spiritually mature, ready to reenter the world with renewed strength and purpose.

## Church Financial Report

Gold Can Contributions

Finances through May 31, 2026

	ACTUAL	BUDGETED
April - UMCOR \$628.25		
May - Backpack Blessings \$619.00		
June - Houses to Homes	Income: \$58,958.00	\$64,434.00
July - Honor Flight	Expenses: \$60,997.22	\$64,434.00
Star of David Windows through May 31,2026 \$20,377.00		

**The following article appeared in the October 2017 church newsletter. As a tribute to Anise, it is being reprinted here as a reminder to all what a wonderful person she was. We will miss you Anise. (1920-2026)**



If you are an early riser and want to talk to Anise Osborne you will have to wait a bit. She is not up until about 8:00 or 8:30 in the morning. This is a luxury for some, but for Anise, it is part of her daily routine. Mornings will find her enjoying coffee and working the daily HT crossword puzzle. In fact, she enjoys large print crossword puzzles in books and magazines as well. Life is relaxed and quiet for her, but it was not always that way.

She was born in Bloomfield, IN on October 13, 1920. For those of us who do not do math, that means that she will be 97 next month. During that time she has experienced a full life. Mom, from Stanford, and Dad, from Solesberry, had a grocery in Clear Creek and did some farming while they were having the children; Anise, three brothers, and a little infant girl that died at childbirth.

Life in the mid 1900's was full of historic events; war and depression being the biggest. These events changed many people's lives, and Anise's was no exception. She remembers her brothers going to war. She remembers ration books for gas, sugar, clothing, and many other things. She remembers doing without many things we consider normal in our lives. However, when asked about this, she says she has always "gone with the flow." Everyone was experiencing the same hardships, so no one really felt they were alone in the situation.

During the depression her family lost their home and business. She remembers her parents "sitting all of us kids down and explaining that we have to move." They were going to become tenant farmers in Monroe County. While the parents had other reactions, the kids "thought it was pretty nice. We had a cow, chickens, and plenty to eat. Life in rural areas was not affected the same way as it was in the cities."

Throughout her growing up years Anise's family moved around, but always in this area. Finally, they ended in Bloomington where the kids went to school. The oldest of the kids, Anise graduated from Bloomington High School at age 16. She had planned to go to business college, but the depression changed that. Instead, she entered the work force babysitting for her cousin in Solsberry.

Life was about to change. While at a September school pie supper in Solsberry, Anise met a school bus driver named, (you guessed it) Pete Osborne. He swept her off her feet. A few short months later, in April, they eloped. Eloping meant they got the license and met with the preacher without families knowing. In those days, telephones had party lines and anyone on the line could hear someone else's conversation. The preacher's wife was telling someone about the wedding and was heard on the line. By the time Anise went to tell her parents, they already knew. Maybe that was social media of their day.

Like many newlyweds, Anise and Pete lived with his parents for a while as they started their new life together. Pete later went to work at Crane, and they moved to a place in Stanford. The family grew when Rita and Larry were born. During this time, they moved to Whitehall Pike. About 1950 they moved to Ellettsville and eight years later they built the home she still lives in.

Family life at the Osborne house was busy. Anise stayed home until Larry went to school when she went to work at RCA. The plan was to work two years to buy a sewing machine and a raincoat. Pete bought her a machine at the Fall Festival (how about that?), and she cannot remember anything about the raincoat. However, the two years turned into thirty-two and she finally retired in 1980. The sewing machine helped her do mending and sew some of Rita's clothes, but sewing was never high on Anise's favorite things to do list.

As Rita and Larry became active in school, Anise kept busy with mom things. She said that sometimes she would come home from work and there would be several kids at the house. This means more mouths to cook for. Since they lived in town their house was the go-to place for country kids who could not go home between events.

Both Rita and Larry married. Between them they gave Pete and Anise four grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild. Some of the kids live nearby. Grandchild Jay Taylor can be seen visiting or fixing things as he is handy and helpful (even with some church needs). Anise says all four grandchildren have lived with them at some time in their growing years. Parents were moving, kids were in transition, or other reasons helped to make Pete and Anise's the place to be. Anise says she has always been grateful for those times they spent with the grandkids.

Anise's church life started early in her childhood. Originally, she went to Fairview Methodist, and she and Pete continued there until they moved to Ellettsville. At that time they came to EFUMC when Pastor Alexander was the preacher. They remained because they like the size, the people, and the activities. Over the years she served on trustees and sang in the choir, which she says she still misses. She has fond memories of working with Wilma Thrasher doing the bazaar dinners. Currently, she regrets not going to Rogers Hall for fellowship, but she does not like the lift; she preferred the previous chair. Maybe someone can encourage her to try it again.

Obviously, the subject of age needs to be addressed. Anise says she never thought of herself as old until about the last two years. However, much has happened in her life. She remembers laying on the floor with Pete, Rita, and Larry listening to the radio mystery shows and the soap opera. TV did not enter their lives until the late 1940's. She did not think she would ever see TV. She also did not expect to see a man on the moon. Throughout her lifetime things have happened she also did not think about or expect. She did not expect to have to bury her son, Larry, in 2008. She did not expect to outlive her brothers and girlfriends. She and Pete were married over 75 years as Pete lived to be 99.

These days Anise is content to live a slow lifestyle. You won't find her shopping as it is not an interest. Her life is blessed with what she needs and wants. She enjoys her flowers and the kids have fixed high benches for the flowerpots so Anise can reach them easily. She says her house is convenient and she enjoys her summers here. She enjoys the Hallmark and TLC channels on TV. You can find her watching I.U. basketball, Wheel of Fortune, or Jeopardy. In the winter, we miss her, Rita, and Arly as they spend the cold months in Bradenton, Florida. Anise says she enjoys her time in both places.

Interviewer, Valerie DeWar



# The Communicator

**Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.**

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

<b>Worship</b>	9:30am
<b>Fellowship</b>	10:30am
<b>Adult Sunday School</b>	10:45am
<b>Office Hours:</b>	M, W, F 9am-12pm
<b>Church Phone:</b>	812-876-4792
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:efumchurch@bluemarble.net">efumchurch@bluemarble.net</a>
<b>Webpage:</b>	<a href="http://www.efumchurch.org">http://www.efumchurch.org</a>

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