

FEBRUARY 2026

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Monthly newsletter of Brown St. & Congress St.

February Favorites: A Love Letter to Our Community

by Maia Gibson

What better way to celebrate February, the month of love, than with a list of some of the things that I love about our community? Here they are, in no particular order:

- In my Time with Young Disciples on 1/25, I asked our kids to draw a self-portrait using bold, bright colors. **Juniper** sent hers in. It is beautiful! I have also loved seeing all of the art our kids are creating with Miss Avery during children's church. A huge thank you to **Avery** and all of our volunteers who are helping our kids learn and create! Make sure you ask to see their masterpieces after worship each week!
- Family Dinner at Brown Street is always one of my favorite parts of the week. There's just something about sitting and talking with people for the sake of connecting, getting your hands dirty (or clean, if you're in the dish line!) in the kitchen, and laughing at America's favorite game (and game host, **Phoenix's**, jokes) or singing the doxology acapella. Nothing else is quite like it. If you haven't made it down to join us, consider this your personal invitation. I'll sit with you!
- Some of the coolest youth in town called BINGO and made lunch at Congress Street a few weeks ago. How blessed we are to be able to support and encourage them as they lead, try new things, and use their gifts to serve. Spending time together is always a blessing, too. Thank you to **Liz** for making this happen! (Psst...make sure you join us for lunch, games, dancing, and more on 2/15!! Our youth are serving and there will be plenty of togetherness.)
- I'm looking forward to our series for Lent, learning from the people Jesus met on the way to the cross, to a summer full of helping to feed our neighbors from our garden, and to all the other opportunities we will have to love, serve, and be in community with one another this year.
- But of course, the best part of this community is **all of you**. It's a blessing and a joy to be one of your pastors. Thank you for your faithfulness, love, and encouragement.

What do you love about our community? What are you looking forward to this year?

I'd love to know! Email me at maia.gibson@inumc.org.



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Share your Story in the Newsletter!

Want to share your thoughts in the newsletter? We'd love to give you a place to do it! Reach out to Sarah either at info@brownstreetumc.org or info@cosumc.org to brainstorm!

Heartfelt Harmony Celebration February 15

Join us for a Heartfelt Harmony Celebration on Sunday, February 15, 2026, immediately following worship at Congress Street! Bring your family and friends for a fun afternoon featuring a spaghetti dinner, dancing, and a fun photo opportunity.

We'd love to make the playlist meaningful, so be on the lookout on how to share your song requests! If you are interested in helping us prepare the meal beforehand, or are available to make sure the day runs smoothly, please contact Liz Peters at lpeters@cosumc.org.

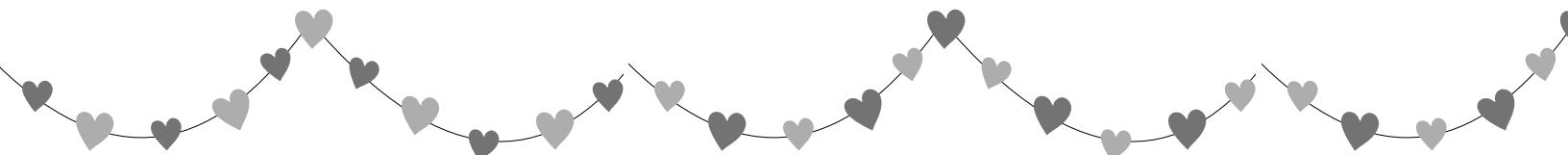
We hope to see you there!

Laity Manuscript Contest

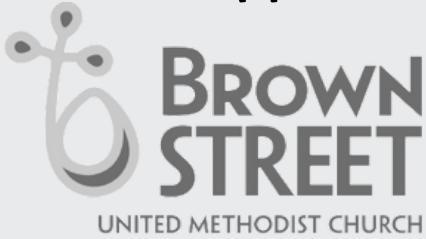
The Indiana Conference Board of Laity is sponsoring the **2026 Laity Sermon Manuscript Contest**, open to all laypersons in the Indiana Conference. This year's theme, **“All In! Multiplying Love,”** is based on John 15:9–17, with a focus on John 15:12: “Love each other as I have loved you.”

The winning manuscript will be presented at the 2026 Indiana Annual Conference, **June 3–6 at St. Luke’s UMC in Indianapolis.** Manuscripts must be original, no more than 10 minutes in length, and **submitted by Sunday, April 26.** The winner will be notified by May 8.

Entries should be sent to Kim Arnott at kimarnott@mac.com



What's Happening at



Join the B&C Chancel Choir

If you have a love for music, now is the time to get connected with our choir! They are actively rehearsing for the Lent/Easter Season and we would love more voices to join us! All are welcome, and no experience necessary. Practices are

**Wednesday at Congress St. UMC at
7pm.**

Contact Amanze Egere at
amanzeegere@gmail.com

Family Dinner

Tuesdays

Doors @ 5:00pm & Dinner @ 5:30pm

If you are interested in helping prepare the meal, set up, or clean up, we could always use your help! We also could use help in the dining room to welcome any guests, and engage in loving conversation with neighbors. All welcome!

Monthly Mission: Care Fund

Our Care Fund (also known as a Pastor's Discretionary Fund) is used to provide financial assistance to our neighbors in need at the Pastor's discretion. To donate to our Care Fund, mark your envelope "mission" and place it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or when giving virtually.

Happy Birthday

Jim Hartwick - Feb. 7

What's Happening at



CONGRESS ST.
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Circle of Joy Meeting

Monday, February 9th at 6:30 Rm 201

Our hostesses for the evening are usan Greer and Kim Kirts. We will receive our books for 2026 and will review them so that everyone will understand what we are going to be doing this year.

Hope to see all of you on February 9th.

United Women of Faith – February Gathering

The United Women of Faith will meet on **Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m.** in the church parlor. Our guest speaker will be **Wes Tillett, Executive Director of Lafayette Urban Ministry (LUM)**, who will share an overview of LUM and the many services the organization provides in our community.

Coffee, hot tea, juice, and donuts will be available. A basket will also be provided for free-will donations to support LUM's work in Tippecanoe County.

Please join us for a meaningful morning of fellowship and community outreach!

Donations Requests

We are in need of magazines to use for collages in children's church!

If you have any you'd like to donate, please drop them off to the church office by the end of the day on **Wednesday, Feb. 11.**

Thank you!

Church Women United Food Pantry is collecting donations of food items and monetary donations **in February**. Place items in thehampers by the ramp door. Please make check payable to Congress Street U.M.C. and note that it's for the CWU food pantry.

Happy Birthday

Cree Nelson - Feb. 1

Howard Lumley - Feb. 5

Jane Sulanke - Feb. 7

Del Grater - Feb. 13

Skye Chitwood - Feb. 16

Tudy Lipp - Feb. 16

Bob Barker - Feb. 18

Rick Puckett - Feb. 26

Brown Street Staff

Ryan Traeger

Sr. Pastor

Maia Gibson

Associate Pastor

Amanze Egere

Minister of Music

Sarah McCann

Administrative Assistant

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Sr. Pastor

Maia Gibson

Associate Pastor

Rick Puckett

Pastor of Visitation

Amanze Egere

Minister of Music

Sarah McCann

Administrative Assistant

Shane & Teri Lynch

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Office Hours

Pastor Ryan Traeger

Brown St: Tues, 10a - 1p & 2p - 6p

Congress St: Thurs, 10a - 12p & 1p - 3p

Contact Info: [rwtraeger@gmail.com](mailto:rwttraeger@gmail.com)

Pastor Maia Gibson

Brown St: Tues, 10a - 1p

Congress St: Weds, 9a - 12p

Contact Info: maia.gibson@inumc.org

Worship With Us

Sundays at 9am - Brown Street

www.facebook.com/BrownStreetUnitedMethodistChurch

Sundays at 10:30am - Congress Street

www.facebook.com/evolvingfollowers

If you are able and interested in receiving this newsletter via email, reach out to us at info@brownstreetumc.org or info@cosumc.org.