Newsletter 10.22.26

I love October. The trees are changing to their vibrant fall colors. I no longer sweat when I walk outside. Pre-schoolers are back in class providing me all sorts of hilarious stories as they grow and learn around me. Plus, it's Halloween season! The spookiest time of the year!

The Bible doesn't have much in the way of spooky tales. Sure, the Bible is chock full of stories about hope and resilience. We can all name verses that teach us to "be not afraid." Scripture is jam packed with teachings on love. Yet, spooky is rather hard to come by.

Spooky in the way of "we're gathered around a campfire telling stories and eating marshmallows." Spooking that's fun and little creepy, but not overly scary. There's only a handful. My favorite example of biblical spooky story comes from Daniel 5.

We don't often look at the back half of the Book of Daniel. We know the story of Lion's Den and of course the three guys with the funny names that are thrown into a furnace. If we really strain our memories, some of us can probably relate the story of the miraculous vegan diet. Yet, those are only the first few chapters. The rest of Daniel's book is fascinating and worth a look. Plus, you can totally retell it like a spooky campfire story.

One night, the King of Babylon gathered all the rich and wealthy for a party. Everyone was having a wonderful time as they celebrated. The king ordered that the vessels that were pillaged from the Holy Temple in Jerusalem be brought forth. These cups and plates that once were used in God's holy house were now being used as drinkware!

Suddenly, a strange ghostly hand appeared! It wrote on the wall MENE, MENE, TEKEL, PARSIN. No one at the party knew what it means! The king called forth the wisest of his advisors, but none of them could tell the king what the ghostly hands mysterious message meant.

Then a servant by the name of Daniel, who once lived in Jerusalem, came before the king. He told the monarch that the message meant certain DOOOOOOM!!! God was angry at Babylon and soon Babylon would meet a terrible fate. And it did! DUN-DUN-DUUUNNN!!!

While this story is spooky, I can't help to find this story as another lesson in the importance of teamwork. No one could read the message, except for Daniel. Only Daniel had the gift to interpret what was happening. If it wasn't for him and his willingness to serve, then something important was going to be lost.

I think that is something we sometimes forget about the church. We are all gifted in different ways. Some of us are great teachers. Some of us are wonderful listeners. Some of us are gifted at organizing, while others are gifted at making people feel welcome. Some of us are great at fixing things, while others are great at fixing a bad day with a kind word and a smile. And some of us are really good at telling spooky Bible stories! The point is that God has given each of us something unique to bring to the table. We all have different strengths, different experiences, and different ways of seeing the world. And that is a good thing! Imagine how boring the church would be if we were all exactly alike. Imagine how much we would miss if everyone had the same ideas, the same talents, and the same answers to every problem.

The truth is, we need each other. The gifts God has given you might be exactly what someone else needs. And the gifts God has given someone else might be exactly what you need. None of us can do everything, and none of us is expected to. God never intended for us to go it alone. God calls us to be the body of Christ, working together, supporting one another, and using our gifts to do things that none of us could accomplish on our own.

So, as we make our way through this spooky season, I encourage you to think about the gifts God has given you. What do you bring to our church family? What is something you can do that makes this place a little more loving, a little more welcoming, or a little more faithful? And just as

importantly, take a moment to notice the gifts in the people around you. Celebrate them. Encourage them. Make room for them to share what God has given them.

After all, Daniel could interpret the writing on the wall, but he needed to be willing to share that gift with others. His gift would have meant very little if he had kept it to himself. The same is true for us. Our gifts are meant to be shared, and when we share them, the whole church is strengthened.

We may not always have a mysterious handwriting on the wall to remind us that God is at work. We may not always know exactly what God is up to or how our individual gifts fit into the bigger picture. But we can trust that God has brought us together for a reason. Each of us has something to offer, and each of us has something to receive. That is what makes us a church family.

So let us keep showing up for one another. Let us keep sharing our gifts, learning from one another, and reminding each other that we are never alone in this journey of faith. Because when we bring all our different gifts together, God can do wonderful things through us.

God Bless, Pastor Ed

Wednesday, Oct 28, 2026 Ida Mission Circle - Meet at the Studebaker Museum at 11:00 AM, admission $ 11. Terry Rensberger will be your guide. We welcome others to join us, if interested. Address: 201 Chapin St South Bend, IN

TOPS Club meets at LUMC on Mondays, 4:00 PM, Room 206, use north east door.

Online giving is available for your convenience
Scan the QR code for the direct link. Also, at lakevilleumc.org

Food Pantry Needs: pasta sauce, elbow macaroni, jam & jelly, canned pasta-ravioli, boxed stuffing, taco kits, Knorr Sides, pudding & jello, syrup, canned soup with meat, canned fruit Thank you.

The Food Pantry is open to anyone in the Union North school district as well as to our church family on the 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 3 – 6 PM

Sunday Fellowship Time Refreshments Schedule
Oct. 25 Denny **Nov. 1** Carolyn **Nov. 8** Yes
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Sunday Kids Church Schedule
Oct. 25 _____ **Nov. 1** Communion
Nov. 8 Patty
Sign up at the bulletin board outside the kitchen door.

Looking Ahead

Trunk or Treat – Saturday, Oct. 24, 4 – 6 PM
Hot Dogs at the pavilion – Saturday, Oct. 24, 6 PM
Food Pantry – Tuesday, Oct. 27, 3-6 PM
Turkey Supper Meeting – Tuesday, Oct. 27, 6:30 PM
Ida Mission Circle – Wednesday, Oct. 28, 11 AM
Meet at the Studebaker Museum - $11.
Finance Committee Meeting – Wednesday, Oct. 28, 10 AM
All Saints Sunday – Sunday, Nov. 1
Flood Buckets – Sunday, Nov. 1, 1 PM at Grace UMC, SB
Disciples & Dragons Youth Group–Sunday, Nov. 1, 6-8 PM
Ad Council Meeting – Monday, Nov. 2, 6:30 PM
Pre-K Grandparent's Day – Tuesday, Nov. 3
M/W Preschool Grandparent's Day – Wednesday, Nov. 4
T/TH Preschool Grandparent's Day – Thursday, Nov. 5
Missions/Evangelism Meeting – Thursday, Nov. 5, 6:30 PM
Blood Drive – Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2:30–6:30 PM at Palmer's
Food Pantry – Tuesday, Nov. 10, 3-6 PM
Mary Magdalene Mission Circle – Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 PM
Disciples & Dragons –Sunday, Nov.15, 6-8 PM
Country Shoppe & Bake Sale – Thursday, Nov. 19, 2-7 PM
Turkey Supper – Thursday, Nov. 19, 4-6:30 PM
Food Pantry – Tuesday, Nov. 24, 3-6 PM
KFC Class Spaghetti Lunch – Sunday, Nov. 29 after church
Disciples & Dragons – Sunday, Nov. 29 6-8 PM





Country Shoppe & Bake Sale

Thursday, November 19, 2026
2 PM – 7 PM
In conjunction with the Turkey Supper*
***Turkey Supper tickets must be purchased in advance**
574-784-8215

Crafts, baked goods, cookies, candy, snacks, breads, and pies

Proceeds to the Lakeville United Methodist Church Sewing Group