



June Newsletter



June 2022: It's Annual Conference Time!

Did you know that June is annual conference time for the churches of The Methodist Church in Indiana? Next week clergy and laity from around the state will be gathering at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion for a time of worship, reconnecting, and conducting the “business” of the conference. This is the first in-person annual conference we have had since 2020; it’s hard for me to believe that the last time the Indiana Annual Conference was held, I was the interim pastor at New Pal.

Annual Conference reminds us that as Methodists we are part of a larger, connectional system. Sometimes, when bureaucracy is at its worst, we might prefer to be more autonomous, but when annual conference is at its best it reminds us that we there are times we are better together. I have, in my office, a book from the late 1800s, which contains excerpts of John Wesley’s Journal. Wesley was born in 1703 and died in 1791; the first journal entry is dated October 14, 1735, and the last is dated October 24, 1790. The journal has some fascinating entries:

- The name “Methodist” was first used in September 1739 – and the term was not used in any positive sense (as Wesley wrote on September 16, “The new name of Methodism ... is now everywhere spoken against.”).

Continued on next page...

- Also in 1739, the first Methodist chapel was constructed in Bristol. While Wesley was preaching on occasion in Anglican churches and outside in fields, he wanted a gathering place where he could preach as he felt led in a more intimate setting.
- January 1742: While preaching in London a mob broke in and began throwing stones at the congregation. That would tend to liven up the church service!
- June 25, 1744: The first Methodist “conference.” As described by Wesley, it was a meeting of preachers “who desire nothing but to save their own souls, and those who hear them.”
- July 3, 1745: Wesley was seized by soldiers to be pressed into military service. As the men walked him the mile or so to their destination, he preached at them such that they ended up getting him a horse and taking him home.
- In November 1753, Wesley fell ill (diagnosed as the consumption) and was concerned he was going to die. Not knowing he had 38 years left, he wrote his own epitaph: “Here lieth the body of John Wesley, a brand plucked out of the burning ... Not leaving, after his debts are paid, ten pounds behind him: praying, God be merciful to me, an unprofitable servant!”
- June 10, 1762: Wesley described an incident where a man, trying to stop him from preaching, grabbed his hat off his head (“which he beat and kicked most valiantly”).
- March 8, 1764: Wesley preached at 8 pm in Misterton and then set out for his next city. He fell off his horse. Neither were hurt, I’m glad to say.
- March 5, 1767: Wesley wrote “The Character of a Methodist.”
- May 1, 1768: While preaching in Scotland, Wesley was assaulted by a potato-throwing “brute.”
- November 25, 1775: Wesley published a letter called the “Calm Address” encouraging the American colonies to remain loyal to the King. To his credit, Wesley didn’t believe it was possible to “put out the flame” – but he was concerned about loss of life and at the same time was a monarchist.
- Conference 1777: The focus was on the future of Methodism. It ended “as it began, in much love.”
- November 1, 1778: City Road Chapel (also called Wesley’s Chapel) opened in London.
- March 24, 1785: Wesley reflected on 50 years of growth of Methodism, including the church in America.

Continued on next page...

- Conference 1788: Wesley, now 85 years of age, preached every evening of the conference. The discussion centered on Methodism leaving the Church of England and becoming an independent denomination (Wesley had authorized this for America, but not in Britain). John and Charles Wesley, both ordained Anglican priests, were opposed to the idea of separation. There was increasing concern about Wesley's successor.
- December 25, 1789: Wesley, at 86, preached twice on Christmas.
- January 1, 1790: "I am now an old man ... my motion is weak and slow. However, blessed be God, I do not slack my labour: I can preach and write still."
- Wesley's last entries showed that in the last year of his life he continued to preach throughout England, riding on horseback and lamenting the fact that after walking "only" 5-6 miles he now tired. His journal entries ended on October 24, 1790. His last field preaching took place on October 6, 1790, but he continued to preach until February 23, 1791. On February 24th, one week before his death, Wesley wrote a now-published letter to William Wilberforce, a member of the British Parliament. Wesley wrote: "Unless the divine power has raised you up to be as 'Athanasius against the world,' I see not how you can go through your glorious enterprise in opposing that execrable villainy, which is the scandal of religion, of England, and of human nature. Unless God has raised you up for this very thing, you will be worn out by the opposition of men and devils. But if God be for you, who can be against you? Are all of them stronger than God? O be not weary of well-doing! Go on, in the name of God and in the power of His might, till even American slavery (the vilest that ever saw the sun) shall vanish away before it."

When Wesley died in 1791, there were about 70,000 Methodists in England, and just over 300 clergy. American and Canadian Methodists added another 50,000. At the Ecumenical Methodist Conference held in London in 1901, world-wide, there were over 48,000 ordained clergy and over 104,000 local pastors serving over 7.6 million Methodist members.

Strawberry Festival



Irvington United Methodist Church

30 North Audubon Road

Sunday, June 26th

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

- **Strawberry Shortcake - \$5.00 each**
- **Children's Activities out on the lawn**
- **Live Music by the RoundUps**

(If you want to stay and enjoy the music, bring a lawn chair.)



Make it an Irvington Day!

2022 Irvington Garden Tour

1-5 PM

Tickets available at IUMC

Breaking News ... Coming Soon!

Perhaps you have heard of the series, The Chosen. If not, it's a privately funded internet ("television") series based on the life of Christ and the disciples. Seasons 1 and 2 have been filmed and released, and season 3 is being filmed as I type these words. I have found The Chosen to be an excellent resource for biblical study and discussion and so would like to offer it as an evening study throughout the summer. The plan is to meet in the parlor, watch all or part of an episode, and then review the Scripture and/or history on which it is based.

When: Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. (this is proposed; want to come but find this time slot problematic – talk to me!)

Where: IUMC Parlor

Why: Because faith matters!

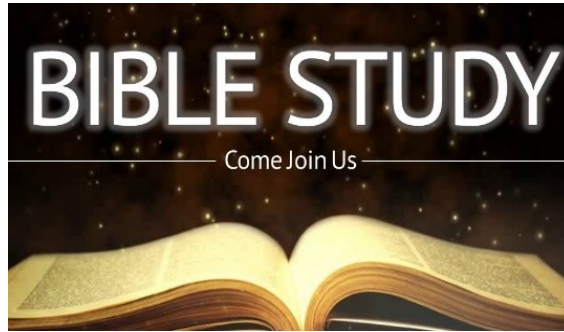
Unable to come every week? No worries ... come when you can!



ATTENTION ALL BOOK ENTHUSIASTS!

I'd like to invite anyone interested in participating in an upcoming book discussion group to join me, Jeff Petry, in the library on Thursdays at 1:00 PM. If you enjoy delving into a book that sparks an opportunity to enlighten, challenge, & provide thoughtful conversation, please see this as a time to do all these things. Our selected title is *Humankind, a Hopeful History*, by Rutger Bregman. In it, the author gives examples in history of incidents throughout time, populations, and cultures where we as a global society have displayed signs of compassion & support towards our fellow human being.

We have copies of the book available to buy, you can join anytime!



Sundays at 9:15 am in the Parlor

We are studying questions from the book "Faith Questions in a Skeptical Age" written by UMC Bishop Scott Jones. Come join the conversation.

When: Sunday morning at 9:15 a.m.

Where: our Parlor

Coffee, Cookies, questions are welcome!

Mondays at 1:00 pm in the Parlor & on Zoom

We are studying the Book of Genesis. Bring your Bible and join us. Handouts are available each week and you can join in any time. It doesn't matter if you've studied the Book of Genesis before or struggle finding it in your Bible. All are welcome!

Meeting ID: 813 7695 8874 Passcode: 216949

**WE WANT YOU (to join us
in a small group, that is)
where you can learn, ask,
laugh, share....**

The IUMC Patriotic Concert is Back!



Join us Sunday, July 10th, at 3:00 pm for an All-American Patriotic Concert featuring:

Musical selections by American composers Irving Berlin and George Gershwin

The Armed Forces Medley

An audience “sing-along” featuring patriotic standards

And more!

Sponsored by the IUMC Music program and directed by Dr. Gregory Baranovsky, who will be playing the piano and organ.

Want to be a part of the program? We have invited choir members from other churches and the local community to join with our choir and others from our congregation. The first rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 pm.

SUNDAYS

9:15 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

Irvington United Methodist Church

30 N Audubon Road

Indianapolis IN 46219

Our Staff

Denise Robinson, **Pastor**

Gregory Baranovsky, **Music Director/Organist**

Melissa Olson-Nickerson, **Youth Director**

Kim Fulton, **Office Manager/Financial Secretary**

Lori Steuer, **Preschool Director**

Jim Rang, **Custodian**

We are on the Web at:

www.irvingtonumc.org

Our email address and telephone number are:

info@irvingtonumc.org

(317) 356-7231

Visit us on Facebook

***Newsletter deadline for**

July will be June 25th.

Redefined Hope Thrift Boutique

The Redefined Hope Boutique Shop as of June 1st has moved to 5610 E Washington Street. They are located at the west end of the plaza parking lot.



ICAN FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

While the ICAN Food Pantry gladly accepts all donations, they are extremely low on the listed below items.

-Peanut Butter

-Jelly

-Mac & Cheese

-Canned Soup

All donations can be placed in the container outside the chapel in the main hallway.