



# Knox United Methodist Church

June 1, 2021

Volume 21 Issue 6



## *Pastor's Ponderings*

*Pastor Sheri  
LoCasio*

Hello, Summer! This year, the official first day of Summer happens to land on Father's Day- June 20<sup>th</sup>. (Guys- be sure to join us for Worship as the Women's Group *may* have a sweet treat planned.) I'm so happy Summer has arrived and we're once again able to emerge from our homes to spend time outdoors. The trees are full of green leaves and life, the birds are nesting in the branches, flowers are in

bloom, grass is growing... God is good!

And, speaking of spending time outdoors (and because it'll be here before we know it), the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend will be full of fun and festivities... The city will be holding their annual parade and fireworks display on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and we will be hosting a special 4<sup>th</sup> of July Worship Service! We've invited our sister-church Hamlet UMC to join us in Worship and after Service we'll light up the grill and feast outdoors at the shelter! We're Methodist, we like to eat! Hot dogs will be provided. Please bring a side dish, dessert, and/or drinks to share (and table service for yourself, too). We're planning on games, fellowship, and lots of fun with our faith families celebrating. Afterwards, you and yours can visit the Starke County Historical Society... They will be hosting their annual Ice Cream Social at the museum in the afternoon. Everyone is invited to all these festivities as we celebrate the 245<sup>th</sup> birthday of America!

Plan to join us on the 4<sup>th</sup>, and if you have family in town, bring them with you! On a side note, if you have a grill we can borrow for the 4<sup>th</sup>, please contact the office. Thank you!

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> ~ Pentecost Sunday, Linda Lewandowski joined us to share how the Holy Spirit has moved her heart and how she was *Blessed Into Ministry*. We were engaged as she talked about founding her passion with Kid's Closet and then further blessed us with liturgical dancing... I felt the Spirit moving in our worship space. After Worship, many of you commented to me in how she motivated your heart to help further God's Kingdom, either through serving with Linda at Kid's Closet or through another ministry. There were also many comments as hearts were touched during Marilyn Hays' sharing of *A Job Or A Ministry?* (See page 2.)

As we consider how our hearts and our spirits are led into



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### Church Office Hours

Mon: 8:30 am - 11:00 am

Tue: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Wed: 8:30 am - 11:30 pm  
& 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Thu: 8:30 am - 11:00 am

servanthood for God, let us always remember the great blessings we've already received and consider how we can use them to bless others. We've each been gifted to serve in the Kingdom, here and now!

Peace & joy be yours,  
in Christ's love and mine,

*pastor sheri*



### **A Job Or A Ministry?**

There's a difference!

*If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job.*

*If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.*

*If you are doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job.*

*If you are doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.*

*If you will do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job.*

*If you are committed to staying with it, even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.*

*If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it was a job.*

*If you stay with it even when no one seems to notice, it's a ministry.*

*If you do it because someone else said it needs to be done, it's a job.*

*If you do it because you're convinced it needs to be done, it's a ministry.*

*It is hard to be excited about a job.*

*It is almost impossible NOT to get excited about a ministry.*

*If your concern is success, it's a job.*

*If your concern is faithfulness, it's a ministry.*

*People may say "Well done" when you do your job.*

*The Lord will say "Well done" when you complete your ministry.*

*An average church is filled with people doing jobs.*

*A great church is filled with people involved in ministry.*

*If God call you to a ministry, for heaven's sake (literally) don't treat it like a job.*

*If you have a job in church, give it up and find a ministry!*

*God doesn't want us feeling stuck in a job, but excited, fulfilled, and faithful in a specific ministry.*

~Author Unknown

## **Knox United Methodist Church - Church Council 2021**

**Senior Pastor** - Rev. Sheri LoCascio

**Church Council Chair** - Jack Miller

**Church Council Vice-Chair** - vacant

**Lay Member to Annual Conference** -

Debbie Mix

**Reserve Lay Member to AC** - vacant

**Lay Leader** - Georgia Pope

**Staff/Parish Chair** - Mitch Martinkus

**Finance Chair** - Shirley Fosler

**Treasurer** - Lisa Nichols

**Trustee Chair** - Lee McIntire

**Trustee Treasurer** - Sally Oliverius

**Lay Leadership Vice Chair** - Lyn Allen

**Education Chair** - Debbie Mix

**Recording Secretary** - Shirley Fosler

**At-Large Member** - Melba Shilling

*Ex Officio Members with vote:*

**Historian** - Dan Miller

**Men's Group** - Jack Miller, Mitch Martinkus

**Missions & Outreach Chair** - Sandy Miller

**Prayer Coordinator** - Sandy Miller

**Women's Group** - Shirley Fosler, Lisa Nichols

**Youth Representative** - vacant

*Ex Officio Members with no vote:*

**Financial Secretary** - Cheryl Tellman



## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES ~ APRIL 12, 2021

**Members Present:** Jack Miller    Pastor Sheri    Shirley Fosler    Mitch Martinkus  
Sandy Miller    Lisa Nichols    Georgia Pope

**Virtually Present:** Debbie Mix    Melba Shilling

### MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Church Council Chair Jack, and was opened with a devotion and prayer by Pastor Sheri.

Last month's Meeting Minutes were read. Motion made to approve by Lisa, and seconded by Georgia. Motion carried.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Lisa shared financial reports as of April 30, 2021. All bills are paid to date. Money coming in is less than what is spent. We are on a Budget Plan with NIPSCo; there will be a credit for May. Annual Financial Audits are due at the end of May; Lisa is working on these reports, Church Council is the Auditing Committee.

### FINANCE REPORT

Shirley had nothing new/additional to report.

### TRUSTEE REPORT

Nothing to report.

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Pastor is interested in beginning a mid-week study group. Anyone interested is welcome to join. After talking with those interested, a time and day will be set. Suggestions were 5-6pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. If Wednesdays are chosen, there may be need to schedule for another day once the Choir resumes.

On behalf of Debbie, Shirley shared that they talked about this Summer's VBS. Possibilities include holding VBS on one day, or over 2-3 days. Perhaps a movie night could be offered at the end of VBS. The city will be contacted to gather more information.

### WORSHIP REPORT

Singing has resumed in In-Person Worship Services; hymnals and Bibles are back in the pews.

Pastor Sheri reported that, after tabulating the Website Worship viewer's opinion poll on online worship, it was decided to end the service. Since resuming In-Person Worship Services, online attendance has significantly dropped, averaging ten or less viewers each week, with 1-3 from our congregation.

Plans are in the works for a July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration! After Worship Service, there will be a hot dog roast and carry-in at the shelter. Everyone is invited and welcome to bring a side dish, dessert, and/or drinks to share along with their table service. Games are being planned, too. If you have a grill we can borrow for the 4<sup>th</sup>, please contact the office. Thank you!

The Starke County Historical Society will be hosting their annual Ice Cream Social at the museum later in the afternoon (1-3pm?). All are welcome to attend.

### LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT (f/k/a Nominations)

Pastor had nothing new to report.

## CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES, CONTINUED...

### MISSIONS & OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

Sandy reported that the Food Pantry will be here on Wednesday, May 26 from 10am-12pm. Volunteers are needed and should arrive by 9:15am.

Pastor was able to contract with a company to have postcards with the church's information mailed to Knox residents. We received 500 free postcard mailings; they should go out the end of May/beginning of June.

### METHODIST MEN REPORT

Mitch reported that they will be meeting May 16<sup>th</sup> as Mother's Day fell on their usual meeting date. For Mother's Day, they honored all ladies in attendance with carnations.

### WOMEN'S GROUP REPORT

The Women's Group met on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00am in the dining room for breakfast and devotion; eight ladies were present. All ladies are welcome to join, the next meeting will be on June 6<sup>th</sup>.

Plans are being made to recognize high school and college graduates. We ask everyone to turn in graduates' names to the church office.

Plans are also being made for Father's Day recognition on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Allison Martinkus' Dance Studio recital will be on June 6<sup>th</sup> at Knox Middle School.

### STAFF-PASTOR/PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mitch discussed a summary of how the Council responded to the Clergy Assessment required to be completed and submitted by the Conference. He will submit the report by the deadline- May 15<sup>th</sup>. He also posed the question asking what we can do to be a better church and to help Pastor.

It is important to remember that Pastor Sheri is available to everyone. You are urged to reach out to her. People often talk amongst themselves about their needs and concerns; when you want to talk with Pastor, let her know. If you're unable to reach her on her cell phone, contact Mitch who will share your message with her. People are also encouraged to reach out to the Prayer Team and prayer list as needs arise. If you know of someone who is hurting, after getting their consent, contact Pastor to let her of the person in need.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor reported that the Kids Closet volunteers will provide sorting training for Kid's Closet donations sorting at North Judson UMC on Wednesdays 10-2 and Saturday's 10-1. All volunteers are welcome. Linda Lewandowski will be at church on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to share about this ministry.

### GOOD OF ORDER

We all need to grow in Christ's love as brothers and sisters as we care for one another.

The next Church Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 14, 2021 at 6:00pm.

**With no other business coming before the Board**, the meeting was adjourned by Jack with Pastor Sheri closing in prayer.

~ Respectively submitted by Shirley Fosler



**FLAG DAY – JUNE 14**

**Do you know the history of the Christian flag?  
It has Methodist roots.**



**I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag,  
and to the Savior for whose kingdom it  
stands; one Savior, crucified, risen, and  
coming again with life and liberty to all  
who believe.**

**I pledge allegiance to the flag of the  
United States of America, and to the  
Republic for which it stands. One nation  
under God, indivisible, with liberty and  
justice for all.**

The Christian flag dates back to an impromptu speech given by Charles C. Overton, a Sunday school superintendent in New York, on September 26, 1897. The guest speaker for the Sunday school kick-off didn't show up, so Overton had to wing it. Spying an American flag near the podium, he started talking about flags and their symbolism. Along the way he proposed that Christians should have their own flag—an idea that stayed on his mind long after the speech. In 1907 Overton teamed up with Ralph Diffendorfer, secretary to the Methodist Young People's Missionary Movement, to produce and promote the flag.

The colors on the flag, not surprisingly, match those on the American flag. White represents purity and peace, blue indicates fidelity, and red stands for Christ's blood sacrifice.

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/history/2008/august/do-you-know-history-of-christian-flag.html>

## BORDER CRISIS: A FAITHFUL RESPONSE

***"I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..." (Matthew 25:35)***

The Rev. Juan Guerrero, a United Methodist leader in Honduras, knows well the conditions that are driving families in his country to send their children through perilous channels to the U.S.

"[A] fellow United Methodist in Ciudad España had to sell his house to pay a network of smugglers who kidnapped one of his children," Guerrero says. "When the boy was released, he described how another boy was killed in his presence while his parents were on the phone, to intimidate them and force them to sell their properties in Honduras to pay the ransom."

Threats of kidnapping and death by criminal gangs, combined with poverty, have led to thousands of unaccompanied minors fleeing to the United States from Central America.

The United Methodist Church is responding in ways few organizations can. Through its network of churches and conferences, it is providing care to children far from home. Through expertly run programs, it is offering relief and legal counsel. And through general agencies, it is providing advocacy and resources.

What does the church say?

"As Christians and United Methodists, we are called to love the stranger in our midst and to treat that stranger as we would our own family," The United Methodist Church states in "Call for Comprehensive Immigration Reform," contained in the 2012 Book of Resolutions.

This care for immigrants is rooted in the Bible. "In the New Testament, Jesus' life begins as a refugee to Africa when he and his family flee to Egypt to escape Herod's infanticide," the church states in "Welcoming the Migrant to the U.S."

Immigration is addressed in several other statements adopted by General Conference, the only entity that speaks for the entire church.

Four ways you can act  
The Council of Bishops' executive committee is asking all United Methodists to "pray, reflect and engage in acts of compassion."



*Bishop Minerva Carcaño, Bishop Gregory Palmer and others pray with a young man, Angelo Mondragon, on the Mexico Bridge. Photo by Kathleen Barry, UMNS*

Every person of faith can:

- **Pray:** Pray for the children and their families, their countries and those responding to their needs.

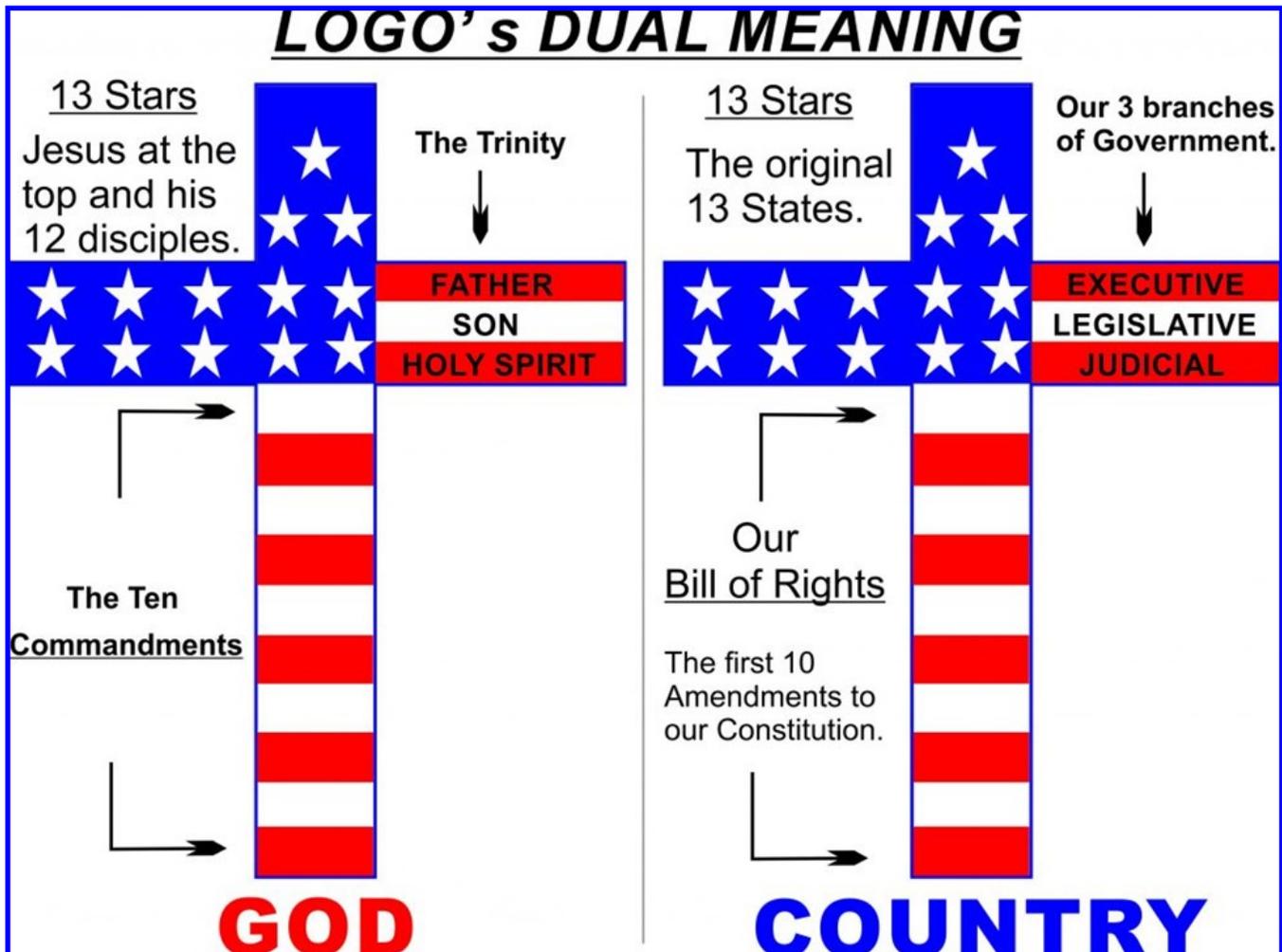
**Learn:** Understand the underlying issues and the personal stories of the children. Information on the United Methodist response can be found on UMC.org/immigration.

**Support the humanitarian response:** The United Methodist Committee on Relief, Justice For Our Neighbors, United Methodist Women, Church World Service and other organizations are responding. Individual congregations can seek to work with border churches and ministries.

**Advocate:** Urge lawmakers not to repeal provisions of human trafficking laws that protect minors or to expedite the deporting of children. The General Board of Church and Society provides information on advocacy, and a General Board of Discipleship resource also offers action steps.

A United Methodist-operated Mexican Border Ministry Network, with more than 16 service locations, is helping immigrants who have been processed and released, without resources, to appear at a later date, says Greg Forrester, a staff executive with the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Donations to UMCOR for Advance #901670, "Immigration Crisis," will support the agency's work with responding faith groups in the area.

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/border-crisis-resources-for-a-faithful-response>



## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

### OUR DAD

God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle's flight,  
The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew his masterpiece was complete,  
And so, he called it Dad

*-Anonymous-*

Psalm 103:13: "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."

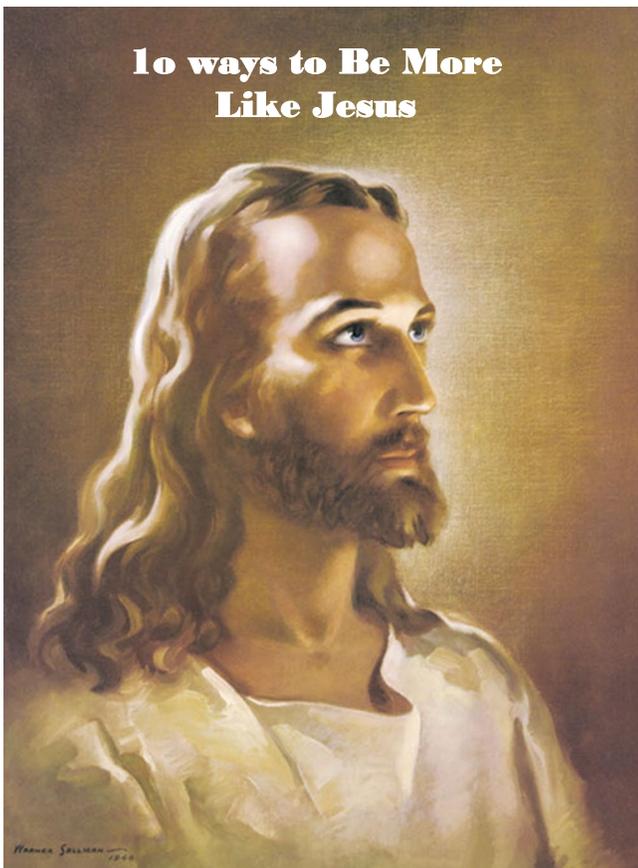
Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

2 Samuel 7:14-15: "I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me."

Luke 15:20: "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

Malachi 4:6: "He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

### 10 ways to Be More Like Jesus



1. HANG OUT WITH SINNERS
2. AFFLICT THE COMFORTABLE
3. COMFORT THE AFFLICTED
4. PROMOTE THE DIGNITY AND WORTH OF WOMEN
5. PROTECT CHILDREN
6. CARE MORE ABOUT REACHING THE LOST THAN CATERING TO THE FOUND
7. CARE NOTHING ABOUT POWER, PROMINENCE, POSITION OR PRESTIGE.

"In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant." Philippians 2:5-7

#### 8. LIVE SIMPLY.

"Don't take any money in your money belts- no gold, silver or even copper coins. Don't carry a traveler's bag with a change of clothes and sandals or even a walking stick."  
Matthew 10:9-10

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## APRIL 30, 2021

### Knox United Methodist Church - Knox IN Treasurer's Report as of April 2021 for General Fund

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

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Account #	Account Name	YTD Balance	Budget YTD	Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>				
4.10.140	Tithing by Envelope & Checks	23,348.33	33,624.00	100,870.00
4.10.142	Use of Building	540.00		
4.10.143	Misc. Other Offering	490.00		
4.10.144	PPP Loan Forgiveness Income	11,200.00		
	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,578.33*</b>	<b>\$33,624.00</b>	<b>\$100,870.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				
5.10.150	Conference Tithes	2,320.84	2,500.00	7,500.00
5.10.151	District Tithes	232.09	252.00	750.00
5.10.152	Annual Conference Expense	0.00	116.00	350.00
5.10.155	Pastor Salary	11,444.58*	11,444.00	34,334.00
5.10.156	Custodial Salary	491.25	1,880.00	5,640.00
5.10.157	Musician Salary	800.00	1,732.00	5,200.00
5.10.158	Travel Reimbursement/Prof. Expense	416.74	668.00	2,000.00
5.10.159	Administrative Assistant	3,547.50*	3,332.00	10,000.00
5.10.160	Pastor Pension Expense	1,502.08	1,504.00	4,508.00
5.10.170	Supplies (Alter & Communion)	68.99*	32.00	100.00
5.10.171	Pulpit Supplies	0.00	32.00	100.00
5.10.172	Music (Copyright License, etc)	0.00	100.00	300.00
5.10.173	Advent/Lent Expense	0.00	32.00	100.00
5.10.180	Church Utilities - Gas/Electric	2,072.00	2,072.00	6,220.00
5.10.181	Church Utilities - Water/Trash	938.52	1,000.00	3,000.00
5.10.182	Church Utilities - Telephone	444.66	452.00	1,350.00
5.10.185	Parsonage Utilities - Telephone	579.96	740.00	2,215.00
5.10.186	Parsonage Utilities - Water/Trash	332.84*	332.00	1,000.00
5.10.187	Parsonage Utilities - Gas/Electric	755.68*	752.00	2,253.00
5.10.188	Insurance Church/Parsonage	290.00	2,568.00	7,700.00
5.10.190	Office Supplies	245.29*	152.00	450.00
5.10.191	Postage	165.00*	100.00	300.00
5.10.193	Cleaning Supplies	0.00	168.00	500.00
5.10.200	Computer Programs/Updates	0.00	132.00	400.00
5.10.205	Equipment Maintenance	1,686.41*	668.00	2,000.00
5.10.207	Office Equipment Purchases	0.00	168.00	500.00
5.10.210	WKVI	520.00	700.00	2,100.00
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$28,854.43</b>	<b>\$33,628.00</b>	<b>\$100,870.00</b>
	<b>Difference</b>	<b><u>\$6,723.90</u></b>	<b><u>(\$4.00)</u></b>	<b><u>\$0.00</u></b>

\* = Income/Expense exceeds amount budgeted to date



2	Doloras Dan
11	Melba Shilling
11	Daniel Darda
14	Marcia Hayes
15	Kim Miller
18	Paul Brust
21	Paul Boender

22	Hannah Folkers
22	Cynthia Sellers
26	Ted Hayes
30	Deborah Bean

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



7	Jeff & Shirley Fosler
10	Dave & Marilyn Hayes

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**





## Knox United Methodist Church

201 South Shield Street, Knox IN

phone 574-772-4228

web [www.KnoxUMC.org](http://www.KnoxUMC.org)

email [knoxmethodist@gmail.com](mailto:knoxmethodist@gmail.com)

facebook @knoxumc

radio Sundays @ 7:30am on  
99.3fm WKVI

### Mission Statement of The United Methodist Church:

*"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*



# KNOX KNEWS

JUNE 2021

**Next month's submission deadline: June 20th**



*Knox United Methodist Church*

*201 South Shield Street*

*Knox, IN 46534*

