

# The Messenger

Greg Davis, Pastor

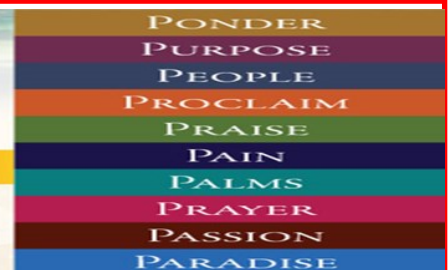
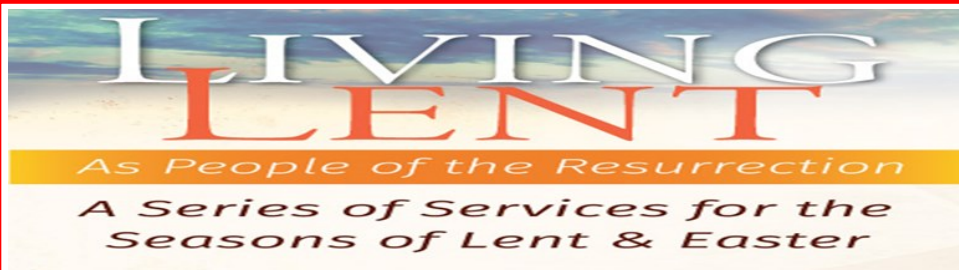
March 2022



9505 Petersburg Road • Evansville, IN 47725  
(812) 867-5735 •

## Mission Statement

McCutchanville Community Church's mission is to connect our community with  
God's  
power and hope through the love of Christ.



Greetings to the church as we begin Lent,

As we begin Lent, I think it best to give a brief description of what this time of year that we call Lent actually means:

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

**Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter.** It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Our special theme for Lent this year is entitled "**Living Lent.**" Each Sunday we will encounter one of the themes shown above, beginning with Ponder (our call to repentance) on Ash Wednesday, proceeding to "Paradise" on Easter Sunday.

We are providing a daily devotional, "**In View of God's Mercy**" to add to your Lenten journey. In these daily devotions for Lent, we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross.

Jesus helps us to see and experience the richness of God's mercy in his life, death and resurrection. We, in turn, are called by God to be living sacrifices for Him, displaying our commitment to Him in word and deed. Rich reflections by David Boyd help us to set our sights on what is meaningful and holy in our faith walk with God. Please pick one up off the table outside the sanctuary.

As a vow of membership in the United Methodist Church we are to **live out our faith** by our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.** Why not refresh your journey this year by being intentional about "**Living**" your faith during Lent by exercising these disciplines. Begin by **praying** for someone who is unchurched to have a vital relationship with Jesus. Be **present** yourself to encourage that person and **give of your time**, not just your financial resources. Read any one of the Gospels and you will find how Jesus always encourages us to **humbly serve one another.** And lastly, be a **sound witness** – sharing what Christ has done and is doing in your life and invite them to worship – Easter celebration is a Sunday when the prevenient grace of God seems to be most attractive to those who are searching.

Live Lent this year in the presence of Christ,

*Pastor Greg*



### **From Crosswalk.com: Prayer for Ukraine**

As the eyes of the world turn towards Ukraine and the Russian aggression at their border, the first and best thing we can do is fall to our knees in prayer.

**Lord, We thank you** that in every situation, every dark moment, you are active and working among us. Even when things seem at their bleakest, we trust in your sovereignty and strength. In John 16:33 you said, "in this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." We embrace the fact that this world and the troubles we face in it have been overcome, and rest in the knowledge that you have the power to move in any and every situation.

As we watch war unfold in Ukraine, we ask for your grace and peace to rule in the hearts and minds of all involved.

### **We Pray for the People of Ukraine**

God, we pray fervently for the people of Ukraine. The situation they now face is not a new one. The name Ukraine translates to "borderland," and this nation has been viewed for centuries as just that - a bordering land waiting to be conquered. This nation and its people have seen struggles with Russia for a century, and over 13,000 have already died in the small-scale war that has been raging in the southwestern area of Ukraine since 2014. They are a resilient people who live in a volatile area of the world that has seen regular war and upheaval. Yet Jesus walked the earth in a similar part of the world, plagued by oppression and a ruthless empire. Your word promises in Isaiah 26:3 that, "you keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you." We ask that the people of Ukraine may be safe, secure, and that they would know not only peace of earth but your true and unwavering peace.

### **We Pray for World Leaders**

Proverbs 21:1 says, "The king's heart is a stream of water in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will." We pray this now, that you would work in the hearts of world leaders and diplomats, and incline them toward peace. We pray for these who are making decisions that affect so many, as they work through diplomacy, and prepare for the possibility of a large-scale war. We ask, God, that you would move their hearts to peace; that an alternative to war could be found and that you would be honored in it.

### **We Pray for Our Military**

We lift up the members of our military who have been called up in preparation for this possible coming battle. God, they have committed to give their all to defend others, and we pray that you would protect them as your word promises in Psalm 91:1-2, "Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.'" May their hearts be calm and may you bring them safely home.

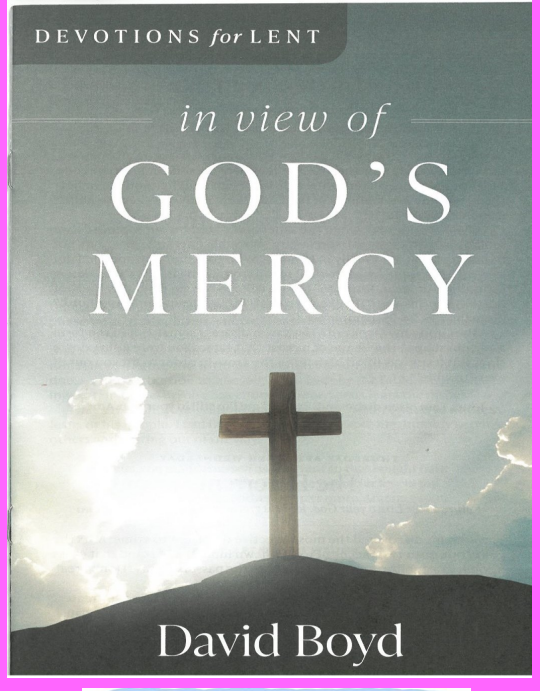
Happy Fat Tuesday!



March 1 is FAT Tuesday and the Tuesday Evening Group will be preparing a meal of Pancakes & Sausage. Dinner will be available in the Fellowship Hall from 4:00-6:00 PM. Come and enjoy a meal with friends and family.

A short Ash Wednesday Service will begin at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary.

Our Lenten Devotional Booklets are available on the table in the foyer. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Pick up your copy soon !



**MENU TUESDAY**

- March 1: Pancakes & Sausage**
- March 8: Chicken Casserole**
- March 15: Pulled Pork**
- March 22: Chicken Noodle Soup**
- March 29: BBQ Chicken**



Easter Lilies and Tulips will be available to purchase "in memory of" or "In Honor of" for our Eater Service. Each will be \$10.00. Order forms are available in the foyer.



EVSC and God's Kids will be on Spring Break March 21-25. Enjoy the warm weather (hopefully) and a small break from school!



March is Peanut Butter and Jelly for the local food bank at Patchwork Central.

Please bring your donations and put in the basket.



**Prayer Requests:** Our World, Mary Moore, Jim Smith, Sara Dixon, David Elkins (friend of Pastor Greg), Harriett (Friend of Helen) Sials (Jerry and Jane



Bennet's great grandson,, Barbara Seigert's mother, Barbara Harwood, Jenny Taylor, Debby Phares, Norm Koehler, Josette Higgins, Mary Lou Ellis, Ed Schiffer (cancer treatments), all area schools and universities, God's Kids, Amy Dubber, Our Haitian children: Daphnica Noel and Richecarde Charitable Louissant, MCCutchanville Firefighters, *Do you have a prayer request you would like listed in the Messenger?*

*Call the church office at 812-867-5735*



# Church Directory

**UPDATE**



It is time to update the MCC directory! Our last directory was published in 2017 . . . And there have been several changes!

Keith Kinney has volunteered to take pictures again of our church family so we will have a visual recognition as well as all updated telephone, address, and email addresses.

Keith will be available to snap your picture before worship on Sunday mornings in March. There will be an information sheet provided that should be completed with all updated information as well as the names of those who are in the photograph.

Many have talked about the need for an updated Directory. Please help by submitting your updated picture and information as soon as possible.

McCutchanville  
Community Church



Directory  
2017

9505 Petersburg Road Evansville, IN 47725  
(812) 867-5735



Thank you for the Get Well cards, prayers, visits and delicious food, and the visits as I am continue to recuperate from my 'first' broken bones!

Having this broken ankle hasn't been fun but knowing I have church family who care and continue to support me is simply priceless.

Much Love,

*Gabe*

## Unto the Least of These - Ministry to the Homeless in Evansville

February 2, 2022

Good morning to all!

I wanted all of you to have some followup on the man that our nurse practitioner, Jane Kratochvil, and John Rich, the director of Patchwork Central, had this past week. Some of you have asked about this situation. So, I am hoping you are receiving it AND will read it. My heart goes out to this dear man and his wife. What this gives you is a very good idea as to why Patchwork Central (a local mission) AND our ministry, "Unto the Least of These", were established in the first place. There are other organizations around town that do similar work. I could make a long list of them. Because the needs of our people are SO GREAT AND because Jesus asked us to serve the underserved and unloved in His Name, we are ALL working together TO DO just that! AND I want to THANK each one of you individually and the churches/organizations you represent for ALL of the many contributions you make to this ministry. We have been OVERWHELMED with your generosity! God is definitely directing this ministry as He is directing you regarding your participation. Thank You, Dear Jesus!

We encourage you to stay in contact with us and be OPEN to how God wants you to work with us and other ministries to serve people/families here locally. There are many more individuals, situations, etc. that I could tell you about that we experienced out on the streets this past week, but the main thing I want us to do is to pray for Divine Guidance as to how each one of us can participate in the care of God's people here in Evansville. Thank You, Dear God of the Universe, that we KNOW You are with us. We love You!!

Jennie Hiam 1-812-204-1190

(please see the update from John Rich and the other February weekly "Street Talks" attached at the end of the *Messenger*. )



Issac Bultitude	3
Adam Sponseller	8
Isaac Meador	9
Barbara Doty	13
Annelle Mills	15
Helen Finke	20
Michael Barnett	23
Mardee Rea	28
Lauren Burris	29

Don't forget to....



Be sure to set your clocks UP before you go to bed on March 12th! It is time to "spring" forward to longer days!

Spring Forward!



While details are still be worked out, we plan to return to our annual Easter Egg Hunt, which has not been held since 2019! **The date will be Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday weekend), at 10 AM.**

At this time to better control assembling in a large crowd, we are not planning providing food in the Fellowship Hall as in the past. However, we still plan to offer various stations with activities that will offer the Easter story in the gymnasium before commencing to the lawn to chase down those candy filled eggs.

We will need from you the following:

- Pre-wrapped small pieces of candy that will fit inside a plastic egg turned in at the church no later than April 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Lots of HELP! To stuff eggs prior to the egg hunt.
- Lots of HELP! On the day of the Hunt to be at stations in the gym to tell Easter Story.
- Lots of HELP! On the lawn to assist in hiding and guiding.
- Lots of HELP! Will likely need some parking lot assistance due to the Kansas road project.
- Lots of SMILES & HOSPITALITY! To show the love of Christ and an inviting welcome to our church



**March. In like a lamb?**



**February 2022 Attendance and Giving**

	Att	Building Fund	General Fund	Internet Giving	Special Projects	Missions	Tue Meals	Memorials/ Margie Smith	Total Checking Deposit
February 6	43	\$1,310.00	\$2,810.00	\$310.00		\$1.00	\$150.00	\$225.00	\$4,806.00
February 13	52	\$145.00	\$1009.00			\$2.00	\$175.00	\$35.00	\$1,366.00
February 20	40	\$55.00	\$823.00					\$25.00	\$903.00
February 27	72	\$870.00	\$1,832.00	\$75.00	\$3,000.00	\$1.00		\$615.00	\$6,393.00

# MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 27	February 28 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	<b>March</b> 11:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved 4:00—Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner & 6:00 Ash Wed Service 6:00 Gym Reserved	March 2 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00  <b>Lent Begins</b>	March 3  Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	March 4	March 5 8-10 Gym Reserved Fellowship Hall 9:00-12:00
6  Communion Sunday Gym reserved 5:00-8:00 pm 5	7 1:30 Gym Reserved Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	8 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved Girl Scouts	9 1:30 Gym Reserved  6:00 Gym Reserved	10 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	11 6:00 Gym Reserved BG	12 8-10 Gym Reserved  
13	14 Valentine Day Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	15 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved	16 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00	17Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00  	18	19 8-10 Gym Reserved
20	21 God's Kids Closed Gym reserved 1:30-3:00 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	22God's Kids Closed  1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00 Gym Reserved	23God's Kids Closed  1:00 Woman's Meeting Gym reserved 1:30-3:00	24God's Kids Closed	25God's Kids Closed  Church Reserved -Burress Wedding	26 Church Reserved-Burress Wedding
27	28 Gym reserved 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	29 10:00 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa 1:30 Gym Reserved	30 Gym reserved 1:30-3:00  6:00 Gym Reserved	31  Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	April 1	April 2 8-10 Gym Reserved
April 3	4 Gym reserved 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	5 God's Kids Chapel with Pastor Greg and Teresa :30 Gym Reserved	6 Gym reserved 1:30	7 Gym reserved 1:30 Gym Reserved 6:00-8:00	8	9  Church Reserved Easter Egg Hunt

# .STREE TALK

## Unto the Least of These Ministry to Homeless in Evansville

Hi, Jane & Jennie:

I thought I'd give you an update on Jason. ECHO called and gave me his results. His labs came back mostly normal. Medication levels in his bloodstream were good. However, his blood glucose was elevated, so his PCP wants to see him back to get more labs to see if he is diabetic.

When I went to check on him last Thursday, there was no answer when I knocked on the "door." That was not unusual. I went to check again today. Because the weather was nicer, I decided to go around back to see if anyone was outside. His wife Trish was there and I talked to her for a bit. Jason is currently in the Vanderburgh County Jail. He had too many "Failure to Appear" charges ... and never appeared. His bail is set at \$250, but Trish doesn't have that kind of money.

I called the jail to see if I go in as a member of the clergy for a pastoral visit. They said they have stopped allowing pastoral visits due to Covid, and are unlikely to re-start them anytime soon. There is a system for video visitation for inmates. It costs some money, but I set up an account and bought 30 minutes (lowest number offered) of visitation time. I tried to connect with him for a video chat, but it seems he is either unavailable or doesn't want to talk to me (or maybe anyone?) right now. I will keep trying.

Trish says his court date is February 23rd, so he will probably be in jail at least until then.

Sorry I didn't have better news. I hope you're both doing well. Looking at the forecast, I don't think Patchwork (or much of anything) will be open on Thursday (3rd), so you probably shouldn't plan on being here that day.

Stay safe and warm!!!

Thanks for all you do,  
John

John Rich  
Co-Executive Director  
Patchwork Central  
100 Washington Ave.  
Evansville, IN 47713  
(812) 424-2735  
[www.patchwork.org](http://www.patchwork.org)



# STREE TALK

## Unto the Least of These Ministry to Homeless in Evansville

February 12, 2022

Hello everyone!

I have been keeping a diary regarding our homeless ministry for many months now so I thought I would just use that today and relay to you some info regarding the people and events that we encountered this past week.

First of all, I would like to thank CHIEF Pat Marienau who is in charge of the organization of our mission room at church. She has two helpers, Linda Burkhardt and Karen Frazer, as well as NOW having a Chief Carpenter, Dave Marienau. As you know, Dave is a former family MD (now retired) who is using his carpentry skills at home AND in our mission room. We SO VERY MUCH appreciate all of the above individuals who are helping us with this ministry by keeping our mission room in a super organized shape. If you would like, please stop by there and check out their artistry and skill. The room number is #210 at the church on 1st floor. Thank You, Jesus, for all of these great artisans!!

Regarding our ministry-we take the van loaded up with items out on the streets and to the Salvation Army, the United Caring Shelter, and the Mets Bus Stop twice weekly (providing the homeless at that site box lunches from the Salvation Army), and then to Patchwork Central every other week on a Thursday. Three other times during the week, I will load some vital items up in my car and Jesus and I will head out to the streets. I will relay some of our experiences to you shortly.

Our nurse practitioner, Jane Kratochvil, goes with us on Thursdays. She has been doing some health evaluations on interested individuals at Patchwork Central, particularly in relation to the condition of their feet. These are people who are constantly out on the street walking so you can imagine the problems some may have with their feet. And then, bring in other health related problems such as diabetes, heart, and other vascular disease which can affect the feet negatively so this is an area of health care that is very much needed by our people. By the way, Jane and I had a meeting just yesterday with some of the staff at the Salvation Army to see if she could start doing some health evaluations at their site once or twice each week. For further health care, she would refer people to ECHO and other sites as needed. We don't have any further details regarding this at the moment but we will keep you informed. All of this looks VERY promising. Thank You, Jesus! We have two other sites that we would like to start taking needed items to out of our donations at church. I believe I have mentioned them to you before-the Work Release Program at our local jail (there are approximately 220 people there now-formerly called the Safe House). They need warm items to wear when they go out on their work assignments. The other one is Hope Hall, on East Franklin St. The latter is a facility run by the Volunteers of America. Presently, they have 86 individuals housed there who have been released from prisons in Southern Indiana. I have made arrangements with the director of this facility to supply them with some needed clothing items for these individuals to wear when they are out on their work release assignments in this area. I plan to take them some winter clothing supplies this week.

This last Sunday afternoon, I made a trip downtown to Ruth's House on Walnut St. and provided them with some needed clothing and women's supplies which they needed. There were 22 homeless women housed there at this time (a large number). On Saturdays and Sundays, they are permitted to stay at that facility 24 hours each day. On Mondays through Fridays, they can only be inside that residence from 7 p.m.-7 a.m. each day. Then, they are out on the streets AND/OR over at the United Caring Shelter during the day for meals and for inclement weather. I can't help but say that this arrangement bothers me! I know for a fact of one young woman who got pregnant in the alley behind the men's shelter. The child is now with other family members-has NO clue who his father is). One can't help but wonder if this happened during the day when the women were not permitted to be in their own shelter.....



(cont. from p 8)

All of the women at Ruth's House were VERY glad to see me and to receive the hygiene supplies and clothing items we provided for them. (Be with them, Dear Father).

Likewise last Sunday afternoon, I stopped by the United Caring Shelter and distributed several items to the individuals there. I saw Kiely again that I think I have mentioned to you before. She is 21 y.o., and is now 6 months pregnant. She is sleeping out on the street EXCEPT on very cold nights when anybody can come into the shelter and sleep on the floor. (This is known among the homeless as a "white flag night"). Kiely was originally seen by ECHO for this pregnancy. Because of several psychosocial problems she obviously has, along with this being an unplanned pregnancy and related health issues, she was referred to a high-risk OB physician for further care. She was advised to be on bedrest for the rest of her pregnancy. I don't know what else to say here-this young woman is pregnant by a young man from Illinois she hardly knows, is a smoker, is homeless, is supposed to be on bedrest for the remainder of her pregnancy, and is out walking the streets. Kiely several times has asked me to pray with her which I most certainly have done. I'm at a loss for words here otherwise.....I think I will check with ECHO to see if they could see her again.....Please continue to pray for this young woman with me. Also, if you recall from my "Street Talk" of January last year (2021), Kiely was pregnant with twins by "somebody". The "male" in that situation beat her up one evening downtown near the library, caused her to miscarry her two babies, and she had to be hospitalized because of this.

This week, we were told about one of the men at the shelter who had 22 children, each one by a different woman. I think I can safely say that the majority of these children will be growing up with problems of drug abuse, alcohol, mental health issues, homelessness, history of jail time, etc.

We are seeing more veterans now, it seems. One man this week was in a "Special Ops" unit back in 1984 (? date for sure) in Beirut, Lebanon when the barracks housing MANY of our troops were blown up and all were killed. Do some of you remember that? I certainly do! No wonder this poor soul has psycho-social problems.

Over the past month or so, I have been made aware of the fact that several of our street people are living in rooms at some of those cheesy motels on Fares Ave. As many of you probably know, that area of town is known as the "red light district" of Evansville. I have been told that the rooms cost about \$25 per night (which they can get by "panhandling" out on the streets). I can't help but think there is a lot of prostitution and other evil activity going on in that area. I could list some other areas of town which are likewise notorious for evil. We are no different from any other metropolitan area of our country.

I would like to ask everyone to re-read the Words of Jesus in Matthew 25:31-40. With the help of ALL of you AND with the help of the Master of the Universe, I REALLY believe we are having a positive effect on the poor and the homeless here in our area. I am ALWAYS thrilled AND very thankful when people ask for Bibles, Christian literature, AND prayer right up front, even before they request hygiene supplies AND toilet paper! This happens VERY often! Thank You, Dear Jesus for being the Leader in this Ministry. We NEED YOU like never before! We love You, Dear Father! AND we love ALL of you who are on our team! THANK YOU!

Jennie Hiam

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February 19, 2022

Hello to everyone!

I just want to start out by giving accolades to our crew of team members who are keeping our mission room at the church in tip-top shape! They are as follows-Pat Marienau, Dave Marienau, Karen Frazer, Linda Burkhardt, Ron Burkhardt, Elbert, Nancy and Diane at church, and probably more that I can't recall at the moment. We are VERY grateful for all of the work, transportation, supervision, and encouragement they are providing for us and this ministry. THANK YOU HEAPS!!

(Cont on P. 10)

(Cont from P. 9)

There are several things I wanted to report on to you-I'll be as brief as possible.

The drivers of our van are superlative in ALL they do in the van and out on the streets. This ministry could not be done without them. Terri, Elzie, and Bill are our regular van drivers for the moment. Pat Roberts is in Florida and won't be home until the end of April. Will be SO VERY glad to see him! Joyce Gully and Pastor George have helped, as has Pastor Jim. And then we have DWayne and Bert Deutsch from Oakland City who are starting to help with driving the van and then working on the streets with us. MANY of you from around town and from other churches are helping us right and left in many ways with your donations, encouragement, and continued prayers.THANK YOU EVERYONE!! Thank You, Dear Jesus, for our great number of team members!!

Now, I would like to report to you briefly on some of the individuals we have been seeing out on the streets as of late. We continue to see Michelle (remember her?) at different locations around town. We never know what frame of mind she is going to be in at any given moment. Terri and I saw her just this last Monday right across from the old Courthouse downtown. She was very upset and teary, more so than usual. Upon talking with her, we found out that her 25 y.o. son had been killed in an auto accident over in Illinois the week before. The last time she had seen this young man was when he was 7 years of age. I have no idea what had happened in all of those intervening years. BUT, she did want to go to his funeral. We gave her suggestions as to whom she should contact for assistance in this matter. We are asking for continued prayers for this dear, but VERY MENTALLY troubled woman. I am sure we will see her again shortly, so we will update you on what has happened.

We saw a young man at the Mets Bus Station whose girlfriend was 4 months pregnant. I asked him where she was at the moment and if she was mentally and physically o.k. He told me she was in one of those "hotels" over on Fares Ave. (Local red light district). He hadn't seen her lately and didn't know if she had received any prenatal health care as of yet. I referred him over to ECHO to see if they could give him some assistance. Oh, Dear Jesus! Help this young man, his "girlfriend", and their unborn child. I hope to see him again. I really think social workers are needed at select locations all around town AND in particular at the Mets Bus Station. Maybe wishful thinking on my part.....

I spoke with one young woman at the United Caring Shelter on Thursday. She is sleeping on the streets other than if it's a "white flag night". Then, she can sleep at the shelter. She has no idea where her children are (She has FIVE!) This is so typical of many of the homeless we see out on the streets.

On Wednesday, I stopped independently at the Ozanam Family Shelter downtown to see if they needed any help. They were currently housing 52 individuals! This is the largest number I have known to be there at that particular location. I did visit with one man who came up to me because he recognized me and wanted to show me the new shoes we had given him. He had them on! Pastor Darrell Rice of the "man's son. All involved were delighted! Thank You, Jesus!

Connection Church" here in town had provided those for us. This man asked me if we had a pair that would fit his 15 y.o. son who was a student out at Castle H.S. This boy had apparently been released from an EVSC school because of behavior problems but Castle was able to take him in and even provided personal transportation for him every day to and from the school. I contacted Pastor Darrell and he was able to get us a pair of shoes that would fit this man's son. All involved were delighted! Thank You, Jesus!

On Monday, Terri and I were able to take a large container of new men's clothing that had been provided for us by the Salvation Army over to Hope Hall, which is a facility located on East Franklin St. for recently incarcerated men and women. It is operated by the Volunteers of America. There are currently 86 individuals there, the majority of which are men. Only 3 women. Management was VERY excited to receive these items. All of the individuals housed there are employed around town under the auspices of the V.O.A. We will continue to help them all we can. Will keep you posted.....

(Continued from P. 10)

We stopped at Safe Haven on West Franklin St. and were able to provide clothing to the 8 recently incarcerated women who are living at that site. They are on a work-release program similar to the above mentioned group at the V.O.A. These women were MOST appreciative of all we were able to give them via our ministry of which all of you are a BIG part. Thank you!!

Our ministry was able to provide some needed clothing items during the week to a couple of other housing facilities very much in need. One of them was the YWCA downtown on Vine St. They house women who are homeless and/or in recovery for addiction problems. Several of these women have children staying there with them.

Any time we receive baby blankets, bibs, hats, or booties, we always get them over to one of the local residential facilities for distribution to the Moms and babies in need at those sites. That happened this week. One of our team members (Monie) provided us with some blankets and bibs she had made, so we got those to the right locations on the double. (Thank you, dear Monie!) The Stepping Forward program operated by Stepping Stones (a local drug addiction Rx. program) which also houses Moms and newborns was one of these sites, as well as the YWCA which provides a similar service.

Today, I had the opportunity of taking a large container of new clothing over to the Vanderburgh County Jail, specifically the Work Release Program they have there. At this time, there are 220 individuals in this unit. They are permitted to be out in the community working at various sites. I saw two of these individuals in the waiting area. They were VERY appreciative of all of the new clothing provided for them. We will continue to take items to them as they are made available. Many of these individuals have a hx. of homelessness, addiction problems, etc. so we most certainly want to cont. to help them.

Just this week I heard a pastor on T.V. who made this statement: "If you want to love people like Jesus did, you must love the unlovable as well as those we think are undeserving". In my way of thinking, this summarizes the philosophy of what this ministry is all about. Thank you EVERYONE for your care and your help for those in need in our area. Please contact me if any questions.  
Thank You! AND thank You, Jesus for walking along with us in this ministry!

Jennie Hiam

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February 26, 2022

Hello everyone!

There's a lot going on in the world today that is obviously not good. We all need to pray for Divine Intervention for all of those involved in those conflicts as well as those on our own streets who need help. I will take this opportunity to tell you about some of the good and bad we have seen here locally just this week.

I saw a young woman at the United Caring Shelter who needed a few items for personal use. A young man was standing behind her. I asked her if they were together and she replied "yes". Something about that situation didn't sit well with me so I ask her to come closer for just a moment. "Are you safe in this situation?" She replied to me that she was. I nodded my head and gave her a hug, which she wanted. I asked her to seek help OR let me know otherwise if she saw me on the streets and needed help. She assured me that she would. I will keep you posted on that situation.

We saw Willard over at the Salvation Army-a young homeless man who is an alcoholic. We have known him for some time. Sometimes, I think Terri and I both are like mothers to him. He does feel comfortable with us so I am trusting that he will let us know if he needs help.

When Terri and I were at the Salvation Army last Monday, we saw a young woman with horrible skin lesions on her face, neck, and arms. Possibly on other parts of her body. We don't know. She has not sought medical help at any point for this problem. She has had these lesions for MONTHS, she said. Honestly, my first thought was "leprosy" (which is very rare in the US). I have seen that before (one time only) in my healthcare practice years ago. Obviously this is not a disease common in inland areas. It is found more in port cities such as New Orleans, New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago (people arriving there directly from other countries). etc. I referred her to ECHO for immediate followup care and evaluation. I am trusting that she followed up on this.

(cont. from p. 11)

We were VERY busy at the United Caring Shelter. We had SEVERAL people tell us that there have been several fights AND stabbings threatened not only at that site but also out on the streets. The cops know about these situations. I saw a young man at the bus station showing off his knife to another guy. Of course, I reported this to the cops. Also, just this past week, a young woman needed a bar of soap so I brought out a large package of 6-8 to get her one. I couldn't get it opened so she got in her bag and pulled out a knife to cut the package open. I asked her what she used that for and she told me she carries it with her "just in case" she "ever has to use it". Honestly, the lives of our people are so very precarious, everything about them is totally unpredictable. This is exactly why we carry out this ministry during the day between the hours of 11 a.m.-2 p.m. I wouldn't think of doing this at any other time of day. Oh, dear Father, we continue to pray for safety and protection for everyone involved in this ministry and for the people we see out on the streets.

While at the United Caring Shelter on Monday, I saw Kiely, the young woman we have been following who is almost 7 months pregnant. She is sleeping inside the building on "white flag nights" and otherwise just out on the streets when needed. She is being followed by ECHO and also by an OB specialist at Deaconess and is supposed to be on "bedrest" for the remainder of her pregnancy. She smokes like a chimney and her eating is quite erratic. You can surmise from above what her sleeping pattern is. What I have described above is very typical of a pregnant woman who is homeless. When I asked her what arrangements she has made for lodging with her baby after birth, she told me she has a small apartment lined up. I am sure ECHO will follow up with her regarding this.

On the bright side of things, our Cincinnati Connection team made 10 beautiful quilts and 4 hats to give to some of our Moms and their babies/children. I made my rounds one afternoon to some of our family shelters to carry out the above activity. ALL of these items were MOST appreciated!

Another friend of mine, along with some of her friends, made 15 large blankets out of material for sale at JoAnn's Fabrics. They have some left to make in this project, so they should have those ready later in the year. Thank you to Trish and her friends.

Another situation I wanted to report to you is that regarding a young man who came up to me at the shelter and asked for some hygiene items. Terri had already given him some clothing items from the rear of the van. He didn't appear that lucid to me so I asked him if he was using drugs of any kind right then. He nodded his head slightly. After further questioning, I discovered that he had just "shot up" some meth while there at the shelter. My heart goes out to individuals who reach a point in their lives, many while very young, where they feel they need "something" to relieve their personal pain that they have endured for years.

I need to tell you something at this point-you might be wondering where our people on the streets are coming from at this point in their lives. What IN THE WORLD caused them to arrive in the situation where they are now. Well, of course, many simply come from poor homes financially speaking or perhaps they have a physical disability which precludes their working. HOWEVER, I have done a survey while out in our ministry and have asked people SPECIFICALLY what their homelife and growing up was like. Virtually, 90% AND greater have told me the following:



They had NO positive father role model in their life while growing up-eg. one man told me one time when I was asking about his family health history that his mother was a prostitute so "how should I know? I never knew who my father was." (Or the parent may be in prison for years)

The vast majority have been abused by a parent or another person-sexually, physically, emotionally

Drug, alcohol abuse

Mental illness in them and/or in an adult role model or caretaker

Poverty

There are some definitely positive things in the lives of our people. Community efforts to help them, church activities-"The Gathering"-a church downtown on 2nd Street which provides spiritual guidance for anyone in need, the "Back Pack" (at the church)-provides personal items for the homeless, other church groups (including our AUMC ministry), Patchwork Central, Aurora, shelters, soup kitchens, the Salvation Army, and many more.

As Jesus says in Matthew 25:40, we are to do all we can to help His people on the streets who are OUR brothers and sisters here on earth. Please contact the church (AUMC) for more information.

Thank you,

Jennie Hiam