



Contact us!!

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Church Office Email: uhumc@uhumc.com

Pastor's Email: pastor@uhumc.com

Associate Pastor's Email: associatepastor@uhumc.com

Director of Music: music@uhumc.com

Phone: (317) 787-5347

Address: 4002 Otterbein Ave , Indianapolis, IN 46227

Our office hours are **Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday** from **9am-3pm**.

Directory Updates

If any of your information has changed (**phone, email, address**), please let the church office know. If you are interested in a printed copy, call or email the church office. Thank you!



THE VIEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS

A WEEKLY NEWSLETTER:
FROM UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS UMC



August 2026 Views!



New Director of Music at UHUMC!

Michael Costa is the new **Director of Music at University Heights UMC**. He brings with him many years of experience as a church musician, music director, accompanist, and teacher. Mike began studying piano at the age of 12 in his hometown of Tampa, Florida, and attended Blake High School for the Performing Arts before earning a full music scholarship to study at Florida State University.



He was raised in a community rich with musical influences and became involved with numerous churches and local venues where he had the opportunity to perform, serve in worship, and connect with people through the universal language of music.

Later, Mike relocated to Indianapolis, where a new chapter of his journey began. It was here he met his wife, Elisha. They are proud parents to their son, Mikey, who is now 10 years old and continues to be one of Mike's greatest sources of joy and motivation. Throughout his musical career, Michael has served churches from several Christian traditions, including Christian, Episcopal, United Church of Christ, Lutheran, and Baptist congregations.

Michael Costa Continued...



Most recently, Mike served as Music Director and Pianist at Northwood Christian Church in Indianapolis. Before that, he spent more than a decade as Music Director at St. Philip's Episcopal Church, where he led worship, accompanied choirs, and helped shape the music ministry. His experience also includes directing choirs, working with handbells and children's music, arranging and composing music, and accompanying vocalists and instrumentalists.

Mike has also dedicated himself to protecting and serving his community by working in the public safety and security field for several years. His experience includes serving with the Indiana Department of Correction. Today, he continues in private security, protecting multiple properties throughout the Indy area.

Mike has a passion not only for excellence in music but also for helping people encounter God through worship. He believes that music is an essential part of the life of the church and is committed to preserving the richness of live music in worship.

Church Updates

WHY Planned Giving and Special Giving

As we continue learning about the vision and future of University Heights United Methodist Church over the coming weeks, we invite you to join us for two special opportunities to learn more about how you can help support the church's mission for generations to come.

Sunday, August 9

Join us at **10:15 a.m.** in the **Balcony Level Conference Room** for an informative presentation on **planned giving**. You'll learn how thoughtful estate and legacy planning can help sustain the ministries and mission of UHUMC well into the future. Rev. Glenn Howell from the Heartland Methodist Foundation will be the facilitator for the August 9 event.

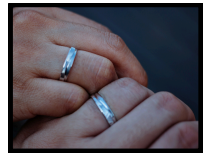
August Birthdays

5 Mike Hilgert
Logan Purcell
11 Clark Wilson
John Kelly
Susan McKnight
13 Karen Caughey
14 Tracy Garrabrant
22 Kay Wiley
Jane Mayhew
23 Thomas Nieman
24 Steve Richwine
28 Dick Duvall
29 ashleigh Prifogle
31 Phyllis Webster



August Anniversaries

8/6/1966 - Steve & Linda Richards
8/6/1977 - Thomas & Linda Hickman
8/14/1966 - Steve & Peggy Richwine
8/15/1987 - Chris & Barb Wilson
8/23/1964 - Bob & Bev Elrod
8/31/1992 - Britt & Tracey Leslie



Donations for UHUMCC!!

During the month of **August**, the Children's Center is taking donations for **Non-scented/sensitive baby wipes & plastic utensils**. This helps offset the cost of supplies needed!

Thank you in advance! - *The Children's Center*

Monthly Prayers For UINDY Faculty:

Throughout the month of **August**, our UINDY prayers will be for **Dr. Leah Courtland**, Associate Professor & Chair Physics & Earth-Sapce Science.

Loose Coins:

August's Loose Coins will benefit
Community Lunch Program



Community Engagement Update



Teenworks Update:

Teenworks was a great success! We had 13 students help out weekly at the church. On the **first Tuesday**, students painted the first coat of the youth group and planted flowers/pulled weeds.

The **second Tuesday**, the students washed/scrubbed ALL of the community lunch chairs, deep cleaned the Children Center's big toys, polished brass and wood items, and power-washed the awnings facing the church parking lot.

The **third Tuesday**, the students mulched the Children Center's playground, painted the women's stall, and cleaned toys and deep cleaned their windows!

On the **last Tuesday**, the students put the second coat of paint on the youth room and then did some vision board making as a reflection of their time with University Heights UMC community.

These projects wouldn't have been possible without these people: Mike & Starla Hilgert, Mike Hart, Nancy Stenger, Cindy Wesner, and Maylynne Winslow. If you want to know more, feel free to ask one of these church members or Abi Clear!

Delta Theta Tau Sorority Awards

The National Convention of the Delta Theta Tau Philanthropic Sorority was held in Newport News Virginia July 8-July 12. Nu Tau Chapter was represented by Marylynne Winslow as our delegate with Robin Randolph-DeClue, Amie Walls and Shirley Green in attendance. We are thrilled that Marylynne Winslow was chosen as the recipient of the 2026 Theresa McAllister Outstanding Service Award. This award is one of the highest honors given in Delta Theta Tau. It recognizes a sister whose dedication, compassion, and quiet strength reflect the very best of the sorority.

Marylynne was surprised to be the recipient of this honor but perhaps even more surprised that her sorority sisters had known about it in advance and not spilled the beans! Shirley Green was recognized for having been an active member of Delta Theta Tau for 70 years! She is still actively participating in Nu Tau Chapter and is a roll model to the entire sorority.



Planned/Special Giving Continued...



Saturday, August 29

Please join us for a **luncheon at 12:00 noon** in the **Balcony Level Conference Room**. During this gathering, we'll explore:

- The vision and future direction of UHUMC
- The church's current financial picture
- How our existing endowments support the church's ministries and operating budget
- The purpose and benefits of planned giving, and how it can make a lasting impact
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If you plan to attend the luncheon, please **RSVP** by contacting the church office at uhumc@uhumc.com or **(317)-787-5347**.

We hope you'll join us for these important conversations as we look ahead with faith and prepare to strengthen the ministry of UHUMC for future generations.

Mike Hilgert, Governing Board Chair

Heidi Jensen, Finance

Get Involved!

Fused Glass Workshop

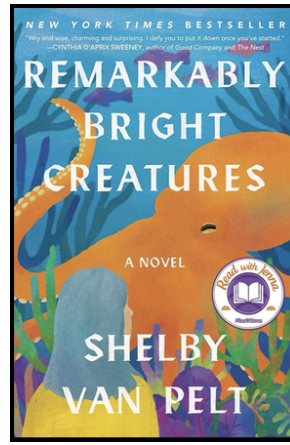
There will be a Fused Glass Workshop on **Sunday, August 16th from 1-3p.m.** This will be held at **University Heights UMC** in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to attend this wonderful workshop led by Sandy Condon, **RSVP no later than August 9th**. You can RSVP at dttnutau@gmail.com or contact Marylynne Winslow at **317-626-8782**.



Get Involved Continued...

UHUMC Book Club

The next meeting of the UHUMC book club will be on **Thursday, August 20th at 11:30 in the conference room.** The group will discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. See Amie Walls if you would like to be part of the discussion. She has a few library book club copies of the book. If interested in attending, contact Amie Walls at bibspantry4002@gmail.com. All are welcome!! Please plan to join us!!



August Community Luncheon!

Join us for the August Community Lunch on **Saturday, August 15th, from 11:30 – 12:30.** If you would like to help at community lunch, contact **Marylynne Winslow** at southportmarylynne@gmail.com.

Drive-thru meals are available, but we hope you will join us and other good folks in Fellowship Hall. The lunch feeds the body, but the community feeds the soul. **All are welcome!!**

Volunteers are needed! Please prayerfully consider helping with the Community lunch. Volunteers may provide an entrée, side dish, or dessert; help in the kitchen or the carryout line; or serve as a dining room host or hostess.

Here is August's Menu:

- Turkey Sandwich
- Potato Salad
- Ice Cream
- Lemonade
- Coffee
- Tea
- Milk



Threshold Weekend!

Threshold weekend is from **August 21st -23rd!** University Heights church community will be providing a breakfast for the students on **Saturday, August 22nd at 10 a.m.** After breakfast, there will be a time of telling stories through ice breaker games! UHUMC is being intentional in how we extend our hospitality to the incoming Freshmen.



If you would like to help in providing breakfast, contact Marylynne at southportmarylynne@gmail.com. If you would like to help out in telling stories through ice breaker games, contact Mike & Starla Hilgert at mikeandstarlahilgert@gmail.com, or Cindy Sturgeon at cindysturgeon2012@yahoo.com.

This Fall at University Heights UMC Fall Festival

On **Thursday, September 10th, from 5-7pm**, we'll gather in our church parking lot for food, music and fun with our UIndy and UH communities. More details will be forthcoming but, if you'd like to help with food or some games, please contact the church office. Mike Costa, our new music director, will have his keyboard in the parking lot for entertainment.

Music & Ministry With Mike C.

Beginning **Monday, Sept. 14th at 4:30 p.m.**, we'll be launching a new ministry to connect church and community on Mondays located in The Gathering Place. The meal will be followed by a brief time of **"soul connection"** (informal worship) from **5:15-5:30**. From **5:30-6:15**, there will be Community Choir rehearsal and the evening will conclude with bell choir rehearsal in the choir room from 6:15-7pm.

Do you like to cook? Do you know a caterer or a local restaurant owner? If so, please talk with Pastor Tracey or contact the church office. To give church folks time to visit with our neighbors, we want to keep meal prep as simple as possible.