

# The Calvary Focus

JULY 2026

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Indiana Annual Conference took place earlier in June. It was a joy-filled time of connecting with clergy and laity across the conference, worship, and doing the business of the Annual Conference. Here are some highlights from our time at Annual Conference.

The 2026 Indiana Annual Conference gathered under the theme "Multiplying Love", based on John 15:9–17. During opening worship, Bishop Tracy S. Malone reminded us that there is a vital connection between abiding in Christ and bearing lasting fruit. She encouraged Indiana United Methodists to remain deeply rooted in Christ so that God's love might multiply through our churches, communities, and daily lives.

Conference worship celebrated the diversity of the Church through music, dance, multiple languages, and Holy Communion. A special offering supported the Cabinet Emergency Fund and UMCOR immigrant family relief efforts in Indiana.

Reports from across the conference offered encouraging signs of growth and discipleship. In 2025, the Indiana Conference recorded 743 professions of faith, a 3% increase over the previous year. More churches reported growth through professions of faith and confirmation ministries, online worship participation increased by 10%, and participation in Lay Servant Academy nearly doubled. Indiana's Camping and Outdoor Ministries also reported a strong year, serving more than 1,500 campers, nearly 2,000 additional participants through custom camps, and over 8,500 retreat guests.

Guest teacher Rev. Dr. Michael Beck challenged us to consider new ways of sharing the gospel in a changing world. Drawing from both early Methodist practices and contemporary ministry experiences, he encouraged churches to meet people where they are—in parks, restaurants, community spaces, and other gathering places. He reminded us that discipleship often begins by building relationships and walking alongside others in faith.

We approved several resolutions addressing ministry and public witness, including support for people with disabilities, support for associate members and local pastors, opposition to online sports gambling, rejection of Christian nationalism, support for fair and safe immigration reform, support for immigrant neighbors, and protections for unaccompanied immigrant children. We also approved a statement affirming all families in response to the designation of June as "Nuclear Families Month" in Indiana.

Finally, we approved the 2027 conference budget and celebrated God's ongoing work throughout Indiana. The conference concluded with worship, the fixing of appointments, and Bishop Malone's blessing. I am also excited to share that the Indiana Clergy Session approved my conference membership transfer, so I will be a clergy member of the Indiana Conference effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

In Christ,  
Pastor Amanda 



- 7 Mardel Banter  
Aaron Housh
- 12 John Martin
- 18 Mary Lou Huss
- 22 Victoria Dale
- 29 Phil Davis  
Danny De La Virgen



**Ren Town Restaurant  
July 18, 2026**

The Ladies Go to Lunch group will be meeting on Saturday, July 18, to go to Ren Town Restaurant. We will leave the church at 12:30 p.m. for a 1:00 p.m. lunch. All ladies are invited to attend. Please call the church office, 574-293-0783, if you are planning to attend. Come and bring a friend or relative.



**CHURCH LOCK UP**  
Jennifer Martin

**Worship Time is Changing**  
Starting July 5th  
Worship will begin at 9:00 a.m.



**Pastor Amanda's Updated  
Address:**

1622 Hoover Ave  
South Bend, IN 46615

**DEADLINE**

**Do not forget to mark your calendars. The August Focus deadline is Monday, July 20!!!**

# SUMMER COMMUNITY PICNICS

Thursday, July 2 at 6:00 pm

Come join us for a time of fellowship, grilled chicken, hot dogs, and ice cream. There will be indoor and outdoor seating.

This is a free meal for everyone.



“Consider what God has done: Who can straighten what he has made crooked? When times are good, be happy; what when times are bad, consider God has made the one as well as the other.”

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14

Ecclesiastes tells us that life has different circumstances, how it is meaningless to search and look for a perfect life that always satisfies. But we walk through dark times in our lives.

Through those dark times, if we walk towards the light of Jesus Christ, He will guide our path, His rod and staff will comfort us.

## Scripture Reader Schedule:

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07/05/2026	Janet Dennison	1 Samuel 3:1-10
07/12/2026	Mona Gorsuch	1 Peter 2:4-10
07/19/2026	Deb Bledsoe	Psalms 100
07/26/2026	Kristen Williams	Philippians 1:3-6



### Mina's Mini Sermon

Mina prepared a mini sermon, which she shared in church on June 14. For those who were not able to hear her words, this is what she said:

*Thank you for being here with us. Now we may begin our sermon. God is here with us forever and ever and ever and ever. So even when we are in heaven we are going to be with God. We will also be with Jesus. Amen.*

## To celebrate the USA's 250th birthday, here are some fun facts to enjoy:

- The USA was founded on July 4, 1776, with the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- The first Independence Day celebration took place in 1777, just one year after the declaration.
- The USA is home to over 330 million people, making it the third most populous country in the world.
- The national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," was written during the War of 1812.
- The USA has 50 states, with Alaska being the largest and Rhode Island the smallest.
- The country spans six time zones, from Hawaii-Aleutian to Atlantic Standard Time.
- The bald eagle, chosen as the national bird in 1782, symbolizes freedom and strength.
- The USA has hosted the Summer Olympics four times: in 1904, 1932, 1984, and 1996.
- The Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, with over 170 million items.
- The USA is known for its diverse culture, influenced by immigrants from around the globe.

**Elkhart Calvary United Methodist Church**  
2222 West Indiana Ave.  
Elkhart, IN 46516

**Return Service Requested**



**Sharing the love of God through words and actions**

**PLEASE KEEP OUR WORLD, OUR NATION, OUR CHURCH AND  
THE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING OUR COUNTRY IN YOUR PRAYERS**



- Calvary's Website: **[www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org](http://www.elkhartcalvaryumc.org)**
- Calvary's Facebook Page: **Elkhart Calvary UMC**
- Prayer Request: **[elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com](mailto:elkhartcalvary.prayer@gmail.com)**

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