

AUGUST 2025

THE COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The monthly newsletter of Brown St. & Congress St. UMCs

GROWING YOUNG: NEXT STEPS

by Pastor Maia Gibson

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As we have previously shared, last fall we were selected to participate in the INUMC's Growing Young cohort this year, working with experts from Fuller Youth Institute on building a church culture where all generations thrive together. Our team (Sherry Coffing, Bill Fielding, Jim Hartwick, Chad Johnson, Sarah McCann, Janelle Pearson, Pastor Ryan, and I) has been focused on listening, learning, and experimenting over the last several months.

There is still more listening to do! As we shared in our June Newsletter, one of the ways we are listening is through a church-wide survey, which we are ready to share with all of you! **This survey will be available until Sunday, August 17th at the end of the day** and should take 5-10 minutes to complete. Please answer the questions honestly with the congregation you participate in the most in mind.

If you are reading this newsletter digitally, the survey can be found at this link: [Growing Young Survey](#). I will also be following up with the survey link via email in the coming days. If you're reading this newsletter in physical form, and want to make sure your voice is heard, I will be available on Sundays before worship at Brown Street and after worship at Congress Street, Tuesdays at Brown Street, and Wednesdays at Congress Street if you need any technical support or have questions! Feel free to drop by the office, send me an email: maia.gibson@inumc.org, or call me at 765-441-2530.

On behalf of our Growing Young team, thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully and honestly share your opinions and observations with us! It is invaluable to us as we continue to learn, experiment, and discern where God is leading.

What's Happening in Our Community

SHARE YOUR STORY IN THE NEWSLETTER!

If you feel compelled to share your story - or a meditation or devotion on scripture - we'd love to give you a place to do it! Reach out to Sarah either at info@brownstreetumc.org or info@cosumc.org to brainstorm ideas to help!

UPDATED OFFICE HOURS

Thank you all for your grace and patience during an incredibly busy summer!

Please note that the hours listed below are subject to change and may shift to accommodate offsite visits or appointments. If you have a specific matter to discuss — or want to ensure a little more privacy — we encourage you to schedule an appointment in advance so we can give you the time and attention you so deserve.

Pastor Ryan Traeger

Brown St: Tues, 10a - 1p & 2p - 6p

Congress St: Thurs, 10a - 12p & 1p - 3p

Contact Info: rwtraeger@gmail.com

Pastor Maia Gibson

Brown St: Tues, 12p - 3p

Congress St: Weds, 9a - 12p

Contact Info: maia.gibson@inumc.org



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

3 - Betty Sage (CS)
6 - Jeff Dexter (CS)
6 - Sharlene Jacobs (BS)
8 - Candy Aldridge (BS)
14 - Kim Kirts (CS)
15 - Roger Swindle (CS)
22 - Dick Krieg (CS)
23 - John Nelson (CS)
25 - Andy Fristoe (CS)
29 - Sandy Leill (BS)

What's Happening at



FAMILY DINNER & GARDENING

Tuesdays

Doors @ 5:00pm

Dinner @ 5:30pm

Gather in the Garden @ 6:15pm

If you are interested in helping prepare the meal, set up, or clean up, we could always use your help!

Not gifted in the kitchen? No worries!

We could always use people to participate in communities around the table, either by hosting tables or just being present and willing to engage with someone new.

After dinner, stick around to go out to help water, weed, and chat in our community gardens. Lots of veggies are getting close to picking season, so keep an eye out!

MONTHLY MISSION: TIPPECANOE COUNTY UNITED FOOD PANTRY

Our mission collection for the month of August is The TCU Food Pantry. They provide food, hygiene items, and other necessities to those in need in our community. To give a monetarily, place it in one of the mission envelopes or an offering envelope marked "mission" to place in the collection plate, or write "mission" in the memo line at

brownstumc.org/give. You can also donate non-perishable food items by leaving them in the boxes in the chapel area. **If you'd like to get involved with the pantry, we need people to volunteer on August 12 from 3:15pm-6:15pm and August 14 from 11:45am-3:00pm.**

Please contact Nancy Eberle or reach out to info@brownstreetumc.org if you'd like to help!

LITURGISTS NEEDED

We are still in need of liturgists to read in worship on the dates listed below. If you have any interest in serving in this way, please reach out to Sarah or Maia for more information!

August 17th

September 7th

September 14th

METHODIST MOUNTAIN MISSION

The Methodist Mountain Mission will be collecting donations from Brown Street the week of September 8, 2025. MMM runs 8 thrift stores across Kentucky as well as employment opportunities in those communities. They accept donations of gently used clothing, furniture, and other home goods, including large appliances, pots and pans, dishes, linens, tools, etc. **If you have items you would like to donate, please make sure they are at the annex by Tuesday, September 2.**

Items can be dropped off on Tuesdays during the day. Please give Maia a heads up before coming and let her know if you have any questions.

What's Happening at



CONGRESS ST.
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CIRCLE OF JOY MEETING

Next Meeting: Monday, Aug. 11th @ 6:30pm, Rm. 201

Hostesses: Jeanna Luck Smith and Betty Henderson

All women are welcome to join us!

The ramp door will be unlocked.

PUMPKIN PATCH SEASON IS COMING!

It's time to start planning and thinking about Patch Season at Congress St! Below are some early awareness dates and considerations to be thinking about but just know there will be **lots** more information and opportunities to get involved communicated in the coming weeks.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **September 19th** - Straw bales arrive, prep entrances, time TBD
- **September 20th** - Clean out barn, get more prep done, time TBD
- **September 21st** - After worship, finalize decorations



- **September 24th** - Pumpkins arrive at 4 p.m.
- **September 25th** - Barn set up, Mums arrive at 5 p.m.

HELP NEEDED: COOKIE VOLUNTEERS

August 10th will be the start of cookie volunteer sign up online. Cookie volunteers will help mix dough, cut and bake cookies, mix icing, and ice cookies. There is no previous experience needed, anyone can help! If you are unable to do the online sign up, please contact Chad Johnson at 765-490-2533 and he will get you signed up!

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE

The barn space has traditionally had space for booths and vendors to sell crafts or other goods. If you, or someone you know, would like to sell something in the barn during the season, please reach out with vendor name and contact info so we can begin planning space.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Ready for Harvest: swiss chard, collards, broccolini, cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, hot peppers, summer squash, and a variety of herbs!

Lynn, our garden aficionado, will be out of commission for much of August. **We're looking for help with weeding** especially as we get closer to pumpkin patch season mid-September.

If you want to help in anyway, contact Lynn Nelson at: 765-491-7865 or nelson@cosumc.org

COMING SOON: IMPROV SHOW

Mark your calendars!

On **Friday, September 5th** we will be hosting the *One Size Fits All Improv Show* in the fellowship hall. Come join us for pizza at 5:30pm and stay for a family-friendly show starting at 6:45pm.

Be on the lookout for more details on RSVPing coming soon. Contact Chad Johnson at 765-490-2533 with any questions.

BROWN STREET STAFF

Ryan Traeger
Sr. Pastor

Maia Gibson
Associate Pastor

Amanze Egere
Minister of Music

Sarah McCann
Administrative Assistant

CONTACT BROWN STREET

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CONGRESS STREET STAFF

Ryan Traeger
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Maia Gibson
Associate Pastor

Rick Puckett
Pastor of Visitation

Amanze Egere
Minister of Music

Sarah McCann
Administrative Assistant

Shane & Teri Lynch
Custodians

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays at 9am - Brown Street

www.facebook.com/BrownStreetUnitedMethodistChurch

Sundays at 10:30am - Congress Street

www.facebook.com/evolvingfollowers

**If you are able and interested in receiving this newsletter via email,
reach out to us at info@brownstreetumc.org or info@cosumc.org.**

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