



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church April 2015

5857 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer
260-543-2256

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 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



April

*Birthdays and
Anniversaries*

- 1 – Brent McAfee
- 3 – Don Weaver
- 3 – Jeff Cummins
- 7 – Roger & Cindy McAfee
- 19 – Aubree Horne
- 29 – Doris Emley
- 30 – Troy & Mindy Drayer

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday Service

Kids Changing the World (bring your change)

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Service @ Prospect UMC 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 4 – Stations of the Cross 9 am – 3 pm UUMC

10:00 am - Easter egg hunt – east lawn

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Service 9:00 am

Sunday April 26 – Church Board Meeting 11:15 am

Sunday, May 3 - Communion

****Don't forget****

* Save your pop tabs and can tabs.
Collection can at the back of the
church.

* Save your change for Children
Changing the World



Thoughts from Pastor Troy and Mindy

The Thief on the Other Cross: A Good Friday Monologue

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

I don't belong here. I really don't. Paradise is the last place I expected to end up after all I've done. Let me tell you my story.

I am — I was — an armed robber, I guess you'd call it. Me and Jake and the others would live in caves in the Judean hills near the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. We made our living by violence. We wouldn't take on people in the big groups that passed. They traveled together for safety. But a family alone would be an easy mark, as well as anyone fool enough to travel by himself.

Brandishing a strong staff would usually do the trick. Threaten them with a beating and they'd give up without much of a fight. But I've been known to break a few bones in my day, God forgive me. I don't think I actually killed anyone, but then I never stayed around long enough to find out.

The first time I meet Jesus is when I am invited to a party in his honor in Jericho at the home of a rich tax collector named Zacchaeus. I am introduced, we shake hands, and Jesus looks me in the eye for a long moment. He can see right into me, who I am, every crime I have ever committed. Then he smiles this big friendly smile. "You know," he says, "there's forgiveness for you in my Kingdom. How about it?"

I drop my eyes, say something non-committal, and shuffle away. The next day I'm in the crowd, hanging on every word he says. Jesus is talking about his Kingdom, comparing it to a mustard seed, calling it the Kingdom of Heaven. I want so much to go up to him after he has finished and take him up on that forgiveness thing, but I just can't bring myself to do it.

I wish I had. It isn't much later when me and my friend Jake — the guy on the third cross — get caught by a Roman patrol. The others run off, but they catch us, beat us silly, drag us into Jerusalem, and throw us in prison. No mercy for the likes of us.

And so it happens that on the same day that they crucify Jesus, they crucify me and Jake -- one of us on his left, the other on his right. This ain't no normal crucifixion. Mobs of people are there just because of Jesus. Self-righteous Pharisees are swaggering and mocking. "If you're some kind of messiah," one sneers, "come on down from that cross. If you're a savior, save yourself — if you can!"

Jake begins cat-calling, too, if you can imagine that. I yell over at him, "You miserable thug, don't you have any fear of God? Can't you see that we're going to die just like he is? Show a little decency! We're getting exactly what we deserve, but he ain't done nothing wrong."

Jake quiets down and the Pharisees lose interest. But I can't get Jericho out of my mind. I can't forget Jesus' eyes, his words, his invitation. And so I call over to him, though it's getting hard to breathe and talking makes it that much harder.

"Jesus!" I say. He turns his head towards me. "Jesus, I was there in Jericho. I met you at a party at Zacchaeus' house. Remember?"

He looks at me for a moment and then nods his head just a little. He does remember.

(Cont'd. on pg. 3)

(Cont'd. from pg. 2)

"I never forgot what you said. I wanted to say yes, but just couldn't. And now look at me — look at us!"

He is in bad shape — exhausted, in excruciating pain, back oozing, breath labored. He isn't going to last long. I can see that. But somehow I can see beyond all that. He was the Messiah, is the Messiah, no matter what those priests and Romans and Pharisees have done to him. And when he dies, he will be with God. In a few hours, maybe less, he will be vindicated. He will reign in that Kingdom he told us about.

"Jesus," I call again, quieter now.

He opens his eyes. They are the same eyes, the same piercing, loving, honest eyes.

"Jesus," I say, "when you come into your Kingdom, would you remember me?"

His words are labored, his lips parched, but I can still hear him pretty well. "Truly, I say to you...." His voice cracks, then is stronger for a moment. "Truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise."

His eyes droop. He is fading quickly now. But I believe him. I do! That's what gets me through those next few hours until they break my legs to kill me. I do believe him! And then I find myself here in heaven, in Paradise. I sure don't deserve to be here, but here I am anyway. I guess that's what a man like me gets when the King himself grants a pardon. Full forgiveness. Pretty amazing, don't you think?

The grace and mercy that God gives us is His free gift to us. We don't deserve it but He gives it to us anyway. What an amazing heavenly Father we have. It is my prayer, this Lenten season, that we all truly surrender our whole selves to our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

God's blessings to you and your family this Holy Week.

Pastor Troy

Please remember:

Mary Etta Blessing
3890 W. Oak Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Bernie & Lura Burke
3505 E. 800 N.
Ossian, IN 46777

Betty Cary
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt.#200
Bluffton, IN 46714

Barb Cook
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #100
Bluffton, IN 46714

Jeanette Gilbert
100 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #115
Bluffton, IN 46714

Opal Gilbert
Christian Care Retirement Comm.
720 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



Christ has Risen! Matt. 28:1-9 (NIV)

1. After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.
2. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it.
3. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow.
4. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.
5. The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified.
6. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.
7. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."
8. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.
9. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him.

Committee Reports

Faith Circle Update - The women of Faith Circle met on Saturday, March 21, at the church, with Sharon Espich as hostess. Our theme was "Happy Birthday," as we discussed the terms birthday and birth that are found in the Bible, and celebrated everyone's birthday. Sharon set up a beautiful table with balloons, cupcakes and ice cream, and birthday gifts. Prizes were given for games won, and everyone had a lovely time. Our next meeting will be at 1:00 p.m., on April 18, at the home of Connie Hix. All women are welcome. Please come and join in this special fellowship.

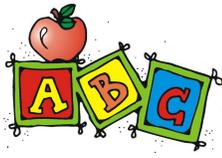
Education Committee Update – LEAPERS POINT NEWS - "Let's Get Our Worship On"

I am so excited to update everyone on the Education Committee and what we have been up to. We are in the Spring Session and learning all about Lent and the true meaning of Easter. The "Sharks" class (the big kids) have really grown in the last few months. We have started something new with them. They are doing a Memory Verse Tree on the door to our classroom. Every week they learn a new memory verse and add it to the tree. At the end of the session we will have a full tree of Bible knowledge which they have learned. When the Spring Session ends the kids are going to stand up front during church and each recite a memory verse that they like so everyone can see how much they are growing and learning. The "Dolphins" is such an exciting class. They are full of spirit, and they are growing up in an amazing church family. The "Minnows" (the baby class) have begun doing crafts as they grow as well. This week they learned about Jesus and the donkey he rode on. Last week they made trees out of their hand prints.

I feel like God has blessed this church with this group of kids. If we really pay attention for the next few years, I think everyone will be amazed at how much these kids have grown and how much they want to learn about Jesus. I encourage everyone to participate in all of these small lives. This group is ON FIRE for the Lord and learning about Jesus and the sacrifice he has made for us!!!



February 2015 Budget Summary	February Actual	February Budget	February Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	8,205.09	4,469.58	3,735.51	11,449.09	8,939.16	2,509.93
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,146.44	4,486.26	339.82	8,307.81	8,972.52	664.71
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	4,058.65	(16.68)		3,141.28	(33.36)	



Preschool News

Preschool has had a good month (when we were in school). This past month (February) had been full of fun hands-on learning. We learned all about love and kindness. We are still pushing through the alphabet. We are starting to think WARM and Spring, so be on the lookout for some colorful artwork! In March we went on a field trip to Pizza Hut to see how things worked and made our own pizza. We had a nice Spring Break and are sooooo glad that spring is finally here!!! As we look ahead toward the end of the school year, IBEP students will be very busy. We have a Police/Dispatch and Fire Department field trip in April, and we are going bowling in May. Also in April we will have our annual Fundraiser. We will be bringing our family and friends to church for a Spaghetti Dinner. I challenge all of the UUMC congregation to attend! Again, I would like to THANK each and every one of you for the prayers and support you have shown over the last four years.

Blessings,

Miss Jen, Miss Charlie

& IBEP Students



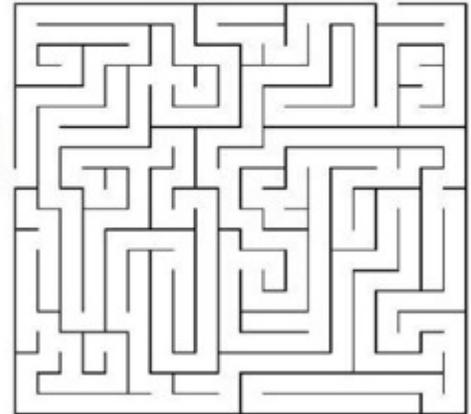
Love Overcame

Love overcame
Emerging from a cold tomb
All the truth, majesty and creativity of a living God
Transforming a broken heart
Making a quiet return, in a still and sorrowful garden
The grave stone rolled away, to release redemptive love
Jesus resurrected and restored
Comforts a weeping woman
Speaks with travelers on a journey
Meets with his faithful friends
And they bow down before Christ alive
And acknowledged that the Savior has arrived
That the word of God has come alive
And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth
Is complete

Children's Page



Can you help the Easter Bunny find the eggs?



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Easter Egg Word Search

T S B
 A N P U H
 C H U R C H F
 C W H I D E Q
 C S Y N N U B H C
 A T P B G G W J K
 S N A E B Y L L E J F
 E D C K K Y Z V S O A
 Q Y R E T S A E U B O
 I L O G F F A X S M P
 Q I S G T O A B C N S
 G L S S K T I X M C K
 L S E D C D H L F J B
 Z R L T Z R T N G
 Q D H O W F N W W
 D O B C G X E
 G F Y N H Y U
 H L C V H
 P E X

Basket
 Bunny
 Candy
 Church

Cross
 Dress
 Easter
 Eggs

Hide
 Hunt
 Jelly Beans
 Jesus

Lily
 Spring

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Easter Silliness

~ Where does the Easter bunny get his breakfast?

I-Hop!

~ What is the Easter bunny's favorite game?

Hopscotch!

~ What do you get when you cross an insect and the Easter bunny?

Bugs Bunny!

~ Why did the Easter egg refuse to tell jokes?

He was afraid he would crack up!