



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church December 2016

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer
260-543-2256

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E-mail: troy.drayer@inumc.org

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

December

4 – Lane Horne
17 – Bob & Sandra Imel
19 – Ed Bowley
19 – Jeff & Sharon Espich
22 – Kim Bennett
23 – Daisy Swineford
25 – Jesus Christ our Savior
26 – Cooper Ford
26 – Natalie Swineford
27 – Bryan Swineford

Upcoming Events

Sunday, Dec. 4 – Communion

Angel Tree gifts due

Sunday, Dec. 11 – Church Council meeting – No Sunday School

Friday, Dec. 16 – Wrapping Karing for Kids gifts at

Markle Church of Christ 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 18 – Food Bank Collection

Sunday, Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas! – Children's Special

Sunday, Jan. 1 – Happy New Year!

Saturday, Jan. 14 – Faith Circle 9:00 a.m. at Mindy Drayer's home

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

* Save your change for Children Changing the World every 3rd Sunday

* Cut out your "Box Tops for Education"

* To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

We need ushers, greeters and acolytes.





A Message from Bishop Trimble

Dear Brothers and Sisters, As I reflect upon my first several months as the resident bishop of the Indiana Area, I can't help but feel a deep gratitude towards the warm welcome that you have offered my family and me, as well as the Kingdom work we have witnessed thus far during our time in Indiana.

One of the many attributes of the Indiana Conference that I have come to admire is the rich history and commitment to mobilizing God's generosity and grace through missions, one of those being the Indiana Conference Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children. This offering was created to help meet the unique needs of children through ministries geared towards transforming communities. Ministries like Newburgh UMW's Summer Food Program providing nourishing, nutrient-dense meals for children and families during the summer months when school is not in session and a quality meal for many children can be hard to come by.

As we've seen in recent months, children are one of our most vulnerable demographics. Turning on any television screen, we see daily acts of domestic violence, Amber Alerts, malnourishment, bombings in the Middle East, refugees fleeing areas under siege while uncertain of what the next day may unfold. In these moments of chaos, we have been called to be beacons of hope and light, as well as providers of peace for the next generation.

Recently, I shared a story about a glory sighting I witnessed. During worship one Sunday morning, I was amazed at the joyful response of a crowd of children as they excitedly made their way to the front of the church sanctuary for the children's sermon. That morning, God opened my eyes to a new view of this familiar scene. I saw children who were loved and being loved by their church and families. Children with untainted views about the goodness of the world and the love of God expressed in Christian community. Children too young and too innocent to be burdened or confused about politics, prejudice, and misjudgment. Children who like to smile, play, sing, and just be part of a family where love is not in short ration and children are obviously important.

My wife and I believe that children were not born to sit still but point us to the glory of God who echoes love throughout the ages as Jesus Christ invites the children to come near and not be hindered. Each child is a person of worth and should be offered the opportunity to come near to Jesus.

This year I would like to thank you for your continued support to this ministry offering and invite you, your family, and your community of faith to join me in praying for the children of our world, both near and far.

Also, please join with me in giving to the Indiana Conference Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children. The Conference Mission Team has prayed for and chooses ministries to improve and provide hope to the lives of children. Many of these ministries have direct ties to Indiana, making their outreach even more special to us.

As in the past, Christmas offering funds received this year will be allocated by percentages. The offering will be divided to help meet the needs of these children's ministries:

- The Indiana Conference Camping program will receive 20 percent to go to first-time campers and children in need.
- The three Indiana United Methodist-related children and youth homes will receive 20 percent.
- Local outreach projects will receive 20 percent.
- United Methodist Advance Projects (national and global) will receive 20 percent.
- Bishop's fund for emergency children's projects and the promotion of this offering will receive 20 percent.

Programs supported by this offering are selected by the Conference Mission Team and approved by the Conference Special Offering Committee. These ministries are among those endorsed by our United Methodist General Board of Global Ministries or on the Conference Advance Specials list.

My hope is that we will continue to build on our generosity towards ministries that focus on the health and well-being of children throughout the world. On behalf of the countless children whose lives will be changed as a result of this offering, I thank you.

“but Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’” - Matthew 19:14

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

Please send your Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children, payable to Indiana Conference UMC, and mail to INUMC, Dept. 6089, Carol Stream, IL 60122-6089. Mark the memo: Christmas Offering. Thank you.

Committee News

Missions and Ministries –

The 4th annual Uniondale United Methodist Church chili cook-off was held on November 13, 2016.

Attendees were able to sample six delicious chili recipes along with several other specially made goodies.

After all the votes were counted, there was a three way tie for 2nd place between Linda Houtz, Ed Bowley, and Kent Herstad. The winner was Steve Hix! Thank you to all who participated. Start working on those recipes for next year 😊



Faith Circle –

Faith Circle met on November 12th at UUMC. Connie Hix shared devotions and an activity about using our talents. Centennial Cookbook sales are moving along, but we still have more to sell. We will continue managing the Food Bank with donations being collected on the third Sunday of every month. Our recent donations to the Wells County Food Bank were gratefully received.

We have made changes in our upcoming schedule. We will be meeting every other month. And we have changed the time to 9:00 A.M. Our next meeting will be on January 14th at the home of Mindy Drayer. This will be our Winter Party, so please bring a “white elephant” gift to exchange.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

**Please remember:

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

Lura Burke
Ossian Health & Rehabilitation
215 Davis Rd.
Ossian, IN 46777

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

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

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

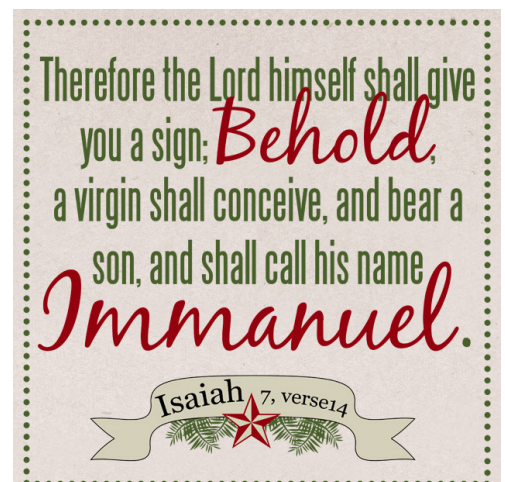
Mrs. Doris Emley
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #214
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

**Our service men and women

Loving God, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson



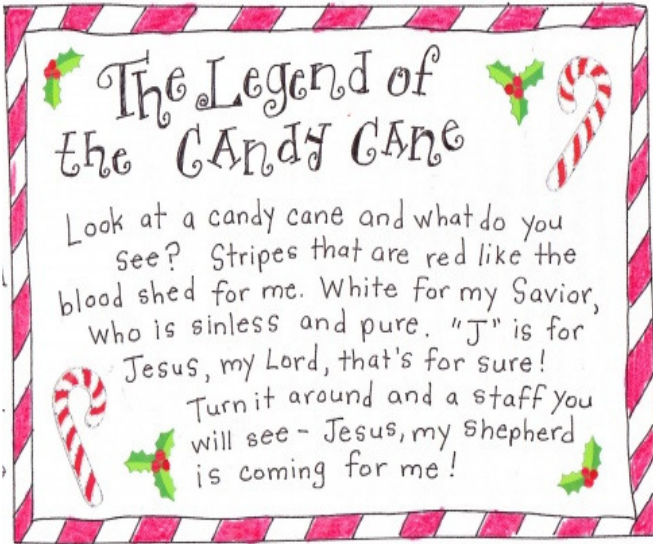
Please remember that our UUMC Centennial Cookbooks are still available for purchase at \$6.00 each and make great Christmas gifts. Please call Mindi at 260-758-2303, or Connie at 260-750-0745 to order and arrange to pick up your cookbooks. They make wonderful gifts for family and friends! They are beautiful, soft cover, spiral-bound books with 150 recipes, church history with photo, and many cooking tips. Faith Circle collected recipes, both old and new, from former and current church members and their families. If you would like one shipped to your home, please send \$6.00, plus \$3.50 for shipping costs, to Uniondale United Methodist Church, Cookbooks, P. O. Box 115, Uniondale, IN 46791. Please include your name and return address.

What do the candles on the Advent wreath mean?

The Advent wreath, four candles on a wreath of evergreen, is shaped in a perfect circle to symbolize the eternity of God. In some churches, four purple candles, one for each week in Advent, are used with one larger white candle in the middle as the Christ candle. Other churches prefer three purple or blue candles with one candle being rose or pink, to represent joy.

While the Advent wreath with its four candles did bring light to churches, it was not to illuminate the interior as much as to symbolize the coming of Christ. The Advent wreath began in the time of the Protestant reformer Martin Luther.

During each Sunday of the Advent season, we focus on one of the four virtues Jesus brings us: Hope, Love, Joy and Peace. Others consider the lighting of the first candle to symbolize expectation, while the second symbolizes hope, the third joy and the fourth purity. The Christ candle is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day reminding Christians that Jesus is the light of the world. The order and exact wording vary among churches, but the wreath continually reminds us of whom we are called to be as followers of Jesus.



October 2016 Budget Summary	October Actual	October Budget	October Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	5,741.49	4,486.25	1,255.24	50,825.79	40,376.25	10,449.54
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	11,076.57	4,793.11	(6,283.46)	55,923.08	47,931.10	(10,087.92)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(5,335.08)	(306.86)		(5,097.29)	(7,554.85)	

The Christmas Story

by Leanne Guenther

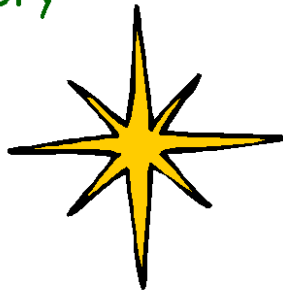
Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!



~ The True Meaning Of Christmas ~

Jesus Christ was born this day
So many years before
He came a servant to the lost,
Though He was Lord of Lords.

We celebrate this joyous time,
Reflecting on His birth
Not born in a mansion, but a stable
As if He had no worth.

He came so He could identify
With the human heart of man
And gave His life as a sacrifice,
Offering a better plan.

A plan that reconciles us back
To our loving Father God,
Bringing hope and redemption from
Sins ruling, iron rod.

For this is the only reason that we
Should celebrate this day,
To become focused on anything else,
Would take the meaning away.

So let's arise with joy in our hearts
And share it with everyone

**The meaning of Christmas will always be
The birth of Jesus – God's son!**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was filled with sorrow at the tragic death of his wife in a fire in 1861. The Civil War broke out the same year, and it seemed this was an additional punishment. Two years later, Longfellow was again saddened to learn that his own son had been seriously wounded in the Army of the Potomac.

Sitting down to his desk, one Christmas Day, he heard the church bells ringing. It was in this setting that Longfellow wrote these lines:

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

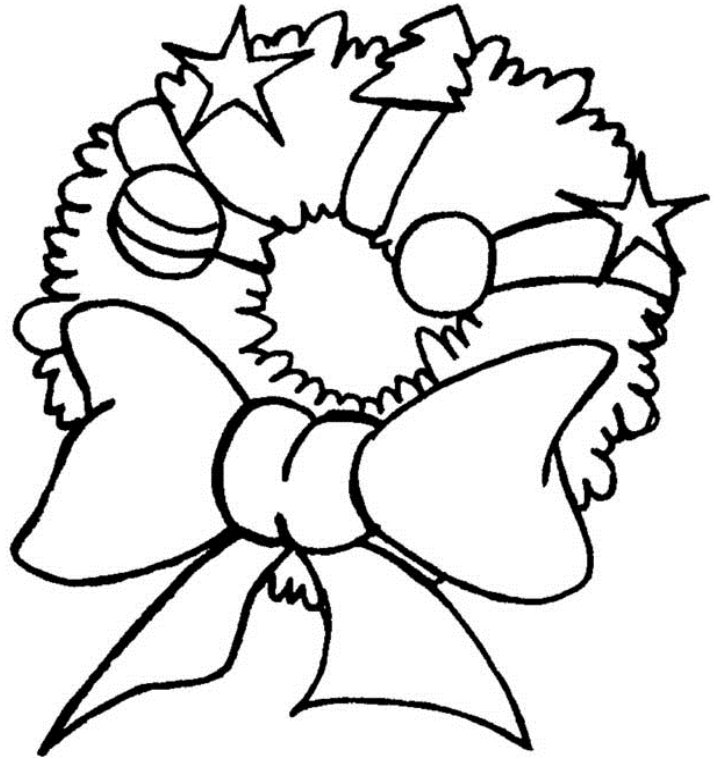
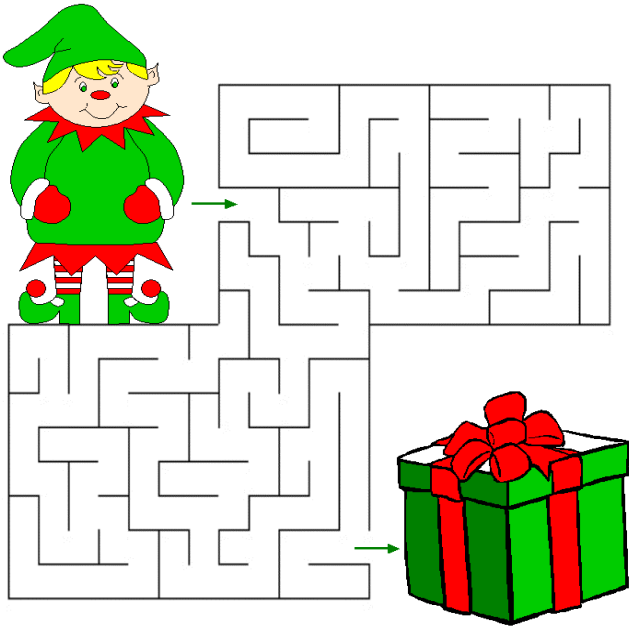
It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep.
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail,
The right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"

Christmas Maze

Help Jo Jo the elf find the missing Christmas present!



Nativity Word Search

- NATIVITY
- CHRISTMAS
- MANGER
- DONKEY
- STABLE
- DECEMBER
- ANGEL
- SHEPHERD
- BABY
- STAR
- NIGHT
- SHEEP
- MOTHER
- GIFT



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

