



# Messenger

## Uniondale United Methodist Church January/February 2016

5857 N. Main St.  
P. O. Box 115  
Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer  
260-543-2256

Website: [www.uniondaleumc.com](http://www.uniondaleumc.com)

E-mail: [troy.drayer@inumc.org](mailto:troy.drayer@inumc.org)

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



### *January/February/March*

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

#### **January**

3 – Tina Barclay  
4 – Ryan Kellam  
12 – Scott Elzey  
13 – Barb cook  
24 – Isabella Swineford

#### **February**

14 – Jason Horne  
17 – Hannah Kellam  
17 – Clarence McAfee

#### **March**

1 – Kim Chaney  
19 – Troy Drayer  
22 – Amanda Drayer

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, Jan. 31 – Kids Changing the World Collection

Friday, Feb. 5 – Centennial Meeting 6:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 7 - Communion

Mon, Feb. 8 – Nine Companion Cluster Meeting 6:30 pm @  
Nine Mile Methodist Church

Saturday, Feb. 13 – 1:00 pm Faith Circle at UUMC

Sunday, March 6 – Communion

Sunday, March 13 – Fellowship Gathering after Sunday School

### **\*\*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

\* Cut out your "Box Tops for Education"

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

It's time to celebrate.....

"Our 100 years"

1916-2016



Past...

Present...

Future...

We are inviting our congregation members to be a part of our centennial support team. This team will come together to plan, organize and support our year of celebration.

Please let us know if you will help!!

Our first time together is Friday, February 5 at the Parsonage at 6:30 p.m. – Snacks provided!

Pastor Troy and Mindy



*Hello church family.....*

*Below is a great devotional that we found on legacy. As we start to reflect on our church centennial this year, we realize that a church's heritage is built on members of it's body; individuals trying to make a difference and be a Christ-like example. Enjoy!!!*

Every so often someone comes along who so inspires others that he or she is remembered years later – perhaps a preacher, a songwriter, or president. However, this story is not about a creating a legend, but leaving a legacy for the Kingdom of God. I have a friend who has been quietly partnering with God to leave a legacy for His Kingdom few outside of Heaven would recognize. She has a divine gift of “spotting” someone in need—seeing right through his or her mask and into his or her heart. She ministers to people quietly, without much fanfare, but makes a world of difference in each of their lives. I know because 10 years ago, she “spotted” me.

I was reminded of her heart for the hurting when one day she called me from her hospital bed. She'd been there over a month, hundreds of miles from home with-of all things-a stubborn broken leg that refused to heal. After seven surgeries, torn veins, and a collapsed lung, no one, most especially my friend, was prepared for all of the frightening complications.

Still, one morning she found the strength to call me to ask my help in locating a God-honoring pregnancy center to help a young nurse she befriended. The woman was a single mom, pregnant, and frightened. I was truly inspired to see my friend's heart, despite all she was going through, still reaching out to others.

All too often, we think that partnering with God to build a great, impacting ministry only occurs at a pulpit, piano, or podium. My dear friend reminded me that there is only one place we need to be to partner with God: in His Presence.

Where would you say you are right now? Do you want to leave a legacy for the Kingdom of God but feel hindered or inadequate? Are you waiting for something to fall neatly into place, thinking only then God can use you? Too often, we are tempted to think we must be in the right place and right time based on our limited view of what that looks like; however, our omniscient God sees things differently. The apostle Paul penned many of his New Testament letters while he was in prison; Jesus announced His resurrection to a woman crying by an empty tomb (John 20); God gave the Revelation to John while John was exiled on the isolated island of Patmos. When you are tempted to think that you cannot be used by God to impact His Kingdom, remember my dear friend: while laying immobile on a hospital bed hundreds of miles from home, she stood in the very Presence of God; and God, seeing that her heart for His Kingdom was exactly in the right place at the right time.

Love and blessings,  
Pastor Troy and Mindy

## “First, Do No Harm”

An E-pistle by Bishop Michael Joyner

January 26, 2016

I have been observing the Indiana state legislature and the surrounding turmoil over the twin issues of “religious freedom” and “equal rights for all.” In spite of the best efforts of many people, including religious leaders, to help the process move toward a meaningful solution, we appear to be in another turmoil like last spring. I continue to hope for a fair-minded compromise which will protect the civil rights of everyone (including LGBT persons) while also allowing for the religious freedom which is powerfully protected in our Indiana state constitution. I am not a lawyer or legislative expert, but it appears that none of the bills put forth at this time are receiving full support from all sides. Rather, we are seeing the same kinds of polarization which rocked our state last year. That is sad.

As I survey the situation, I find myself wanting to remind everyone of the first of the “Three Simple Rules” of our Methodist heritage, namely, “First, do no harm.” Whatever laws eventually get passed, the first consideration must be to do no harm to everyone involved. I am sure there are gay and lesbian and transgendered persons who feel harmed by the current status. I am also aware that many religious people who are fair-minded are worried that some of the proposed new laws may do harm to them. Fears are rampant on all sides, and so are those who are fear-mongering in their efforts to get their way.

Perhaps we all need to stop, take a deep breath, and ask ourselves, “How can we avoid making a tough situation even worse? How can we at least do no harm?”

Unless better solutions and compromises are found which provide fairness for all, maybe it would be best for the Indiana legislature to do nothing. Religious freedom is well-protected in our state constitution. Issues of discrimination can be handled through our legal system (even though that is slow). And certainly the public perceptions are changing in such a way that any business which truly discriminates is likely to be out of business soon. Hoosiers are by nature fair-minded and hospitable people. Hoosiers know that most religious people are not bigots. Hoosiers know that most persons with differing sexual orientation or gender identity are not dangerous perverts. Maybe if the legislature can’t find a legal solution we should give ourselves time to allow “Hoosier Hospitality” and common sense to prevail.

I don’t know the answers, especially the right legislative answers, but I do know that we must stop short of making things worse. All sides need to dial down the rhetoric. All sides need to listen to one another. All sides need to seek the best for everyone.

“Do no harm” is a pretty good place to start.

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  
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

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

Margaret Hasler  
37446 Carson  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



## Committee News

**Faith Circle** - Faith Circle met for our Winter Party on Saturday, January 23, at 1:00 p.m., at the home of Tonia Evans. We had a brief study of Jochebed, as our monthly woman from the Bible. Tonia provided a delightful assortment of delicious party snacks and led us in a fun gift exchange of interesting 'white elephant' gifts.

During our business meeting, we discussed the role Faith Circle will play as we plan our 2016 Centennial Celebration. We will be putting together a centennial themed UUMC cookbook, and we will be asking for help from the members of our current and past congregations. As the leader of the Centennial Committee, Mindy Drayer will be encouraging everyone to participate by contributing recipes and photos that we may put in our cookbook. Please start looking for items to share with us. Make sure your name is on your items (so we can return them to you), and give them to Mindy Drayer, Tonia Evans, or Connie Hix. Thank you!!

Our next meeting will be held at UUMC, on February 13, at 1:00 p.m., hosted by Connie Hix. You've heard of 'Wine & Canvas'. We will be doing our own version of this fun painting class, 'Praise & Paint'! Mark your calendars and plan for an afternoon of fun, food, fellowship, and painting!!

**Missions and Ministries** - The new Missions & Ministries committee met on January 14, 2016. This committee is a combination of the Missions committee and the Vision & Evangelism committee. Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Fellowship gathering will be on Sunday, March 13, 2016 after Sunday School
- Oubache retreat will be on Sunday, July 17, 2016
- Trunk or Treat will be on Monday, October 31, 2016
- Chili Cook-off will be on Sunday, November 13, 2016 after Sunday School

Contributions are being sent to Bashor Children's Home, Youth for Christ, House of Hope, and Forgotten Children Worldwide. We are also looking into a couple new missions projects to become involved in. There will be more information coming soon. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions for new activities or missions, please see one of the committee members: Kim Bennett, Susan Chaney, Jennifer Cook, Mindy Drayer, Troy Drayer, Kent Herstad, Mindi Herstad, and Connie Hix. We are looking forward to a very exciting year!

*\*\* Don't pray for a lighter load; pray for a stronger back. \*\**

December 2015 Budget Summary	December Actual	December Budget	December Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	6,797.62	4,469.58	2,328.04	55,301.96	49,165.38	6,136.58
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,768.49	4,486.26	(282.23)	52,202.75	53,643.88	(1,366.09)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	2,029.13	(16.68)		3,099.21	(4,478.50)	

## Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

These are the practices outlined by Bishop Robert Schnase of Missouri in the book “Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations” published by Abingdon Press in 2007.

### **Those practices are:**

- \*Radical Hospitality
- \*Passionate Worship
- \*Intentional Faith Development
- \*Risk-Taking Mission and Service
- \*Extravagant Generosity

These become part of the core values that drive and inspire the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church to “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” the goal of The United Methodist Church at all levels.

In Schnase’s own words, here are the five practices which the Indiana Conference will use as it ministers to the needs of all people with whom the church touches making a difference here in Indiana and around the world.

**Radical Hospitality** - Christian hospitality refers to the active desire to invite, welcome, receive, and care for those who are strangers so that they find a spiritual home and discover for themselves the unending richness of life in Christ.

It describes a genuine love for others who are not yet a part of the faith community; an outward focus, a reaching out to those not yet known, a love that motivates church members to openness and adaptability, willingness to change behaviors in order to accommodate the needs and receive the talents of newcomers. Beyond intention, hospitality practices the gracious love of Christ, respects the dignity of others, and expresses God’s invitation to others, not our own. (p. 11-12)

Radical means “drastically different from the ordinary practice, outside the normal,” and so it provokes practices that exceed expectations, that go the second mile, that take welcoming the stranger to the max. It means people offering the absolute utmost of themselves, their creativity, their abilities, and their energy to offer the gracious invitation and reception of Christ to others. (p. 21)

**Passionate Worship** - Worship describes those times we gather deliberately seeking an encounter with God in Christ. We cultivate our relationship with God and with one another as the people of God. God uses worship to transform lives, heal wounded souls, renew hope, shape decisions, provoke change, inspire compassion, and bind people to one another. Through worship, God actively seeks a relationship with us, pardons sins, restores relationships, and changes lives. (p. 33-34)

Passionate describes an intense desire, an ardent spirit, strong feelings, and the sense of heightened importance. Passionate speaks of a connection that goes beyond intellectual consent. It connotes eagerness, anticipation, expectancy, deep commitment, and belief. (p. 37)

Passionate Worship means worship that connects people to God, worship that people enter into with expectancy, and with the anticipation that God desires to speak to them and connect to them. Whether traditional, blended, or contemporary, Passionate Worship is authentic, connecting, and sustaining.

**Intentional Faith Development** - Intentional Faith Development refers to the purposeful learning in community that helps the followers of Jesus mature in faith, such a Bible studies, Sunday school classes, short-term topical studies, and support groups that apply the faith to particular life challenges.

Learning in community replicates the way Jesus deliberately taught his disciples. People cannot learn grace, forgiveness, patience, kindness, gentleness, or joy, simply by reading about it in a book. These are aspects of spiritual formation that one learns in community, through intentional engagement. The sanctifying presence of God’s spirit works through these practices to help us grow in grace and in the knowledge and love of God. (p. 62)

**Risk-Taking Mission and Service** - Risk-Taking Mission and Service includes the projects, the efforts, and the work people do to make a positive difference in the lives of others for the purposes of Christ, whether or not they will ever be part of the community of faith. Some churches have after-school programs for at-risk children, some send work teams across the state or across the world, some offer regular ministries to the incarcerated.

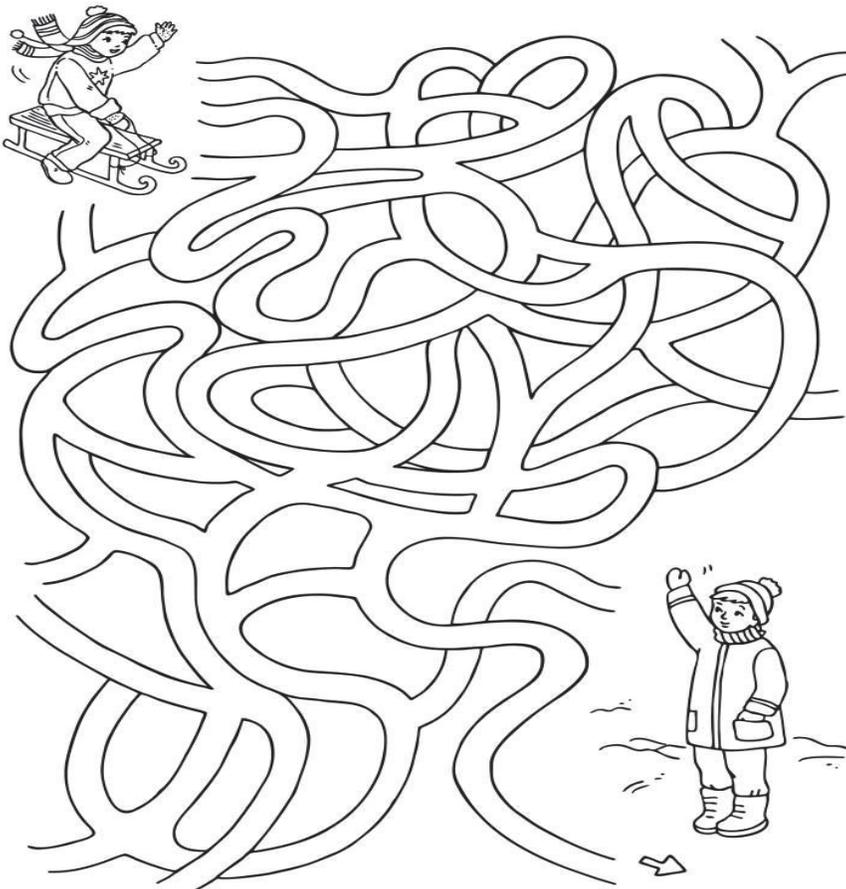
Risk-Taking refers to the service we offer that stretches us out of our comfort zone and has us engaging people and offering ourselves to ministries that we would never have done if not for our desire to follow Christ. Risk-taking steps into great uncertainty, a higher possibility of discomfort, resistance, or sacrifice. It pushes us beyond the circle of relationships that routinely define our church commitments. It changes the lives of the people who are served as well as the lives of those who serve. (p. 83, 78)

**Extravagant Generosity** - Extravagant Generosity describes practices of sharing and giving that exceed all expectations and extend to unexpected measures. It describes lavish sharing, sacrifice, and giving in service to God and neighbor. Every scriptural example of giving is extravagant, and churches that practice Extravagant Generosity teach, preach and practice the tithe. The focus is on the Christian’s need to give because of the giving nature of God whom we worship.

# Children's Page



Trace on another sheet of paper, color, cut out and give to your favorite Valentine!



## Bible Memory Verse

These things I command you,  
That you love one another.

John 15:17