



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church January-February 2017

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.



January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

3 – Tina Barclay
4 – Ryan Kellam
13 – Barb Cook
24 – Isabella Swineford

February

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



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 14 – Faith Circle at Drayers at 9 a.m.

Monday, January 16 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Sunday, January 29 – Kids changing the world– collecting change

Sunday, February 5 – Communion Sunday

– Church Council Meeting after church

Sunday, February 12 – Nine Companion Cluster meeting at
Bluffton First at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 14 – Valentine’s Day

Monday, February 20 – President’s Day

Sunday, February 26 – Kids changing the world– collecting change

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

* Save your pop tabs and can tabs for Riley's Children's Hospital. Collection can at the back of the church.

* 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.

Hello to all,

Here we are, beginning another new year. They are coming and going really fast for me as I mature in life. My grandfather always told me they would. He was a very wise individual and faithful follower of Christ. I hope this article finds you all doing well and excited about 2017.

As a faith community, we continue to work and strive to serve an amazing God, but this doesn't come without obstacles. Our world is ever changing and Christianity seems to be pushed further and further out of our society. This is when we can be effective and hopeful in our community. The biggest question for many congregations is how? The next few months I will be sharing a 10-week sermon series called "Building God's Church." In this series we will be learning to be open to God's calling in our church services, community involvement, and personal spiritual growth. These are ways in which we can grow the kingdom of God. We need to look at plans, programs and activities that will fit our size. Look outside the box when it comes to what God wants us to accomplish in our community.

Sermon Series – "Building God's Church"

January 15th – Evangelism

January 22nd – Worship

January 29th – Fellowship

February 5th – Harmony

February 12th – Guest Speaker

February 19th – Stewardship

February 26th – Service

This prayer from Billy Graham, written for The Saturday Evening Post in 2008, is just as relevant this year.

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

[Bring our divided nation together](#), and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come. *Amen*

Blessings, *Pastor Troy*

Committee News

Committees need to meet and elect committee chairs for 2017!

Missions and Ministries –

The M & M Committee has been combined with the Education Committee. We are in need of more teachers for our children's classes. Please let us know if you would be willing to serve. The Adult Sunday School class is using the *Upper Room* for our lessons. Please join this dynamic group at 10:15 a.m. every Sunday!

Faith Circle –

Faith Circle will be meeting on January 14 at 9 a.m., at Mindy Drayer's home. Note that our time has changed to 9 a.m., in hopes that more women will be able to join us.

Please remember that our UUMC Centennial Cookbooks are still available for purchase at \$6.00 each. 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!

Trustees –

The last part of 2016 and early 2017 saw the Trustees dealing with boiler issues at the church and parsonage. Hopefully those issues are all resolved soon,

Trustees met on Sunday, January 8, and re-elected Bryan as Trustee Chair for 2017. Some of the issues discussed included boiler issues, snow removal, plans for painting, window repairs and summer mowing.

****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



December 2016 Budget Summary	December Actual	December Budget	December Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,167.85	4,486.25	(318.40)	59,093.16	53,835.00	5,258.16
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,482.47	4,793.11	310.64	63,420.72	57,517.32	(9,095.92)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(314.62)	(306.86)		(4,327.56)	(3,682.32)	



Happy New Year!

May 2017 bring you joy during the journey. In conversation with a sister of mine, I was reminded of the important work I have to do in 2017. She reminded me that OUR MOST IMPORTANT WORK is the work we do on and with ourselves, "inside work."

In the winter months Tim, the handyman, doing work at our home spends most of his time on inside jobs. While there is still some outside work to be done, the majority of his time is devoted to projects that can be completed by spending quality time inside.

I believe Jesus is clear that he wants his followers to reach outward, share outwardly, and pursue holiness. However, Jesus gives us clear instructions that our piety and purpose are best shaped from the inside work we do.

"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray."

-Matthew 6:1,6 (I suggest reading all of Matthew 6)

I am really looking forward to my year in Indiana as I travel and get to know the stories of our churches and communities throughout the state. I am expecting a great year of prayer and passion for the people and ministries that make up the United Methodist movement.

What is the inside work you need to do that will free you to be happy with yourself and available to God? As my sister would say it's an "inside job."

Before you rush to save the world, pursue your favorite cause, criticize others, complain about external limitations, thank God for a New Year, and the opportunity to work on self.

In the words of author Terri Tempest Williams, "the eyes of the future are looking back at us, and they are praying for us to see beyond our own time."

Have a love-filled New Year in 2017!

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble

- See more at: <http://www.inumc.org/beencourageddetail/happy-new-year-7170440#sthash.EMRi5Hcz.dpuf>

An anonymous blog, just to get you thinking.....

What does the Bible say about OMG?

I was sitting at a sporting event, when the lovely, Christian lady beside me shouted, “Oh, my God!” as her child made a mistake. I cringed inside. And then I wondered, “does she know?” Does she know that the Bible tells us not to use God’s name in vain?

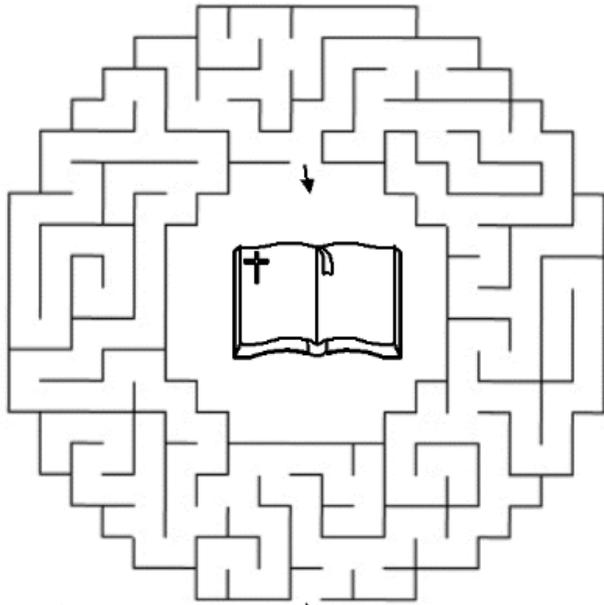
And honestly, this is not unusual. I hear Christians do this all of the time. Many are wonderful people who obviously love the Lord. Is it because we just don’t hear this called sin anymore? Are we so hardened to the use of His name due to the company we keep and the entertainment that we fill our minds with, that we just didn’t notice when we started doing it, too?

Exodus 20 is where we find the ten commandments. The third commandment is *“You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.”*

We are not to use God’s name as a curse word. We are not to use His name lightly. If we study who God is, we understand a bit more why this is such a grave sin. God is holy, sovereign, unchangeable, omnipotent, omniscient, faithful, patient, and merciful. This is just a short list of the adjectives that could be used to describe God, the One who made a way for us to be reconciled to Him through His son, Jesus Christ. If He is so awesome and so wonderful (and He is!), then we can understand why it is so important for us not to use His name when we are angry or surprised.

I am not writing this to point a finger or to make you feel guilty. Quite honestly, I have personally believed for a long time, that I probably shouldn’t even say “Oh, my gosh!” It is obviously a sadly disguised copy of the original. And yet, I still struggle with it. You will still hear that come out of my mouth on occasion. Language is a hard thing to change. When we grow angry or are surprised, we tend to forget our speech in the heat of the moment.

My desire in writing, as always, is to make us think. We need to think about the words that come out of our mouths. If we are a redeemed soul saved by grace, then all of life should be lived intentionally to please our heavenly Father. May we recognize that taking God’s name in vain in any form is offensive to the Holy God who saved us. And let’s start today anew using our tongues to glorify God’s name instead of curse it!



Valentines in the Bible
Solve the puzzle by writing the "Valentine's" name for each person given in the clues.

Across	Down
5. Joseph	1. Aquila
6. Zechariah	2. Ahasuerus
8. Abraham	3. David
9. Eve	4. Ruth
10. Isaac	7. Jacob
11. Samson	

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These things I
command you,
that you love
one another

~John 15:17

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