



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church

January - February 2020

5867 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

Website: www.uniondaleumc.com
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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

13 – Barb Cook
27 – Melanie Vitatoe

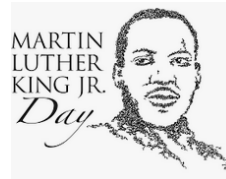
February

14 – Jason Horne



Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Wednesday, January 1 – | Happy New Year! |
| Sunday, January 5 – | Communion Sunday and Epiphany Sunday, Sunday School resumes |
| Sunday, January 12 – | Reaffirmation of Baptism |
| Sunday, January 19 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items. Human Relations Sunday Offering |
| Monday, January 20 – | Martin Luther King Jr Day |
| Sunday, January 26 – | Kids Changing the World-bring your change |
| Sunday, February 2 – | Communion Sunday |
| Monday, February 10 – | Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Markle UMC |
| Friday, February 14 – | Valentine's Day |
| Sunday, February 16 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items |
| Monday, February 17 – | President's Day |
| Sunday, February 23 – | Kids Changing the World-bring your change |
| Wednesday, February 26 – | Ash Wednesday |
| Saturday, March 7 – | Faith Circle - 9 AM |



****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 on the last Sunday of each month.
- * To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

A Word from Our Pastor

Happy New Year! I already wished the children – and all who were in worship on December 1st – a Happy New Year, because the beginning of the church year is the first Sunday of Advent, the time of preparation for the celebration of God taking on human form and living on earth as Jesus, his son. But the secular world recognizes January 1st as the beginning of the new year. It just makes sense because that is the day we begin to use new calendars, date books and organizers to keep track of appointments, meetings, birthdays and anniversaries, and other important events.

I also see it as an opportunity for a fresh start, to begin again with a clean slate. Whatever happened in the past is over and done. We cannot go back and change it. But we are not tied to continuing in the same old patterns of action and behavior either. We have the opportunity to learn from our past experiences and use them to help us make wise choices as we move into the future. God does not want who we've been or what we've done in the past to prevent us from becoming the persons he wants us to be now and into the future.

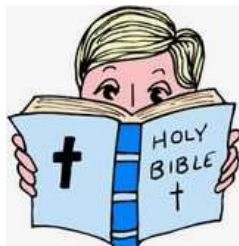
I have a few suggestions for your spiritual growth. **1)** Follow a **daily Bible reading** plan that will get you through whole books of the Bible in continuous reading or follow a 365-day devotional book written by a single author. You might check out Billy Graham's *Hope for Each Day*, or Sarah Young's *Jesus Calling* or Max Lucado's *Grace for the Moment*. **2)** **Increase your prayer time** by 5 minutes or more per day. Keep a list of prayer concerns and pray for the people and situations daily. **3)** Ask God to show you the person(s) he wants you to get to know on a more personal level this year. Then begin praying **Blessings** for the person(s): for their **Body**, their **Labors**, and their **Emotional, Social, and Spiritual (b-l-e-s-s) health**, wholeness and well-being. As you pray for the person(s), God will soften your heart and enable you to see things about them that you didn't see before. Then ask God for opportunities to begin little conversations that will help develop your relationship. This is the start of something that God wants to do through you to draw someone into a new or deeper commitment to Jesus Christ.

As you begin the new year, meditate on these words from the hymn, "Jesus Calls Us."

3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world's golden store, from each idol that would keep us, saying, "Christian, love me more!"
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these!"
5. Jesus calls us! By thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thine obedience, serve and love thee best of all.

– by Cecil Frances Alexander, #398 *UMHymnal*

Shalom,
Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

Faith Circle

Faith Circle met at the home of Connie Hix on December 7, for our annual Christmas party. After a delicious breakfast and devotions, a brief business meeting was held. We exchanged "white elephant" gifts. Our morning was completed by a beautiful, touching Christmas story, read by Pastor Karen. During this time the men fellowshiped with breakfast at Rick's Café. Thanks to all who attended! Our next meeting will be on March 7, location to be determined later.

Wells County Cluster

The Cluster churches met on November 18, where the upcoming Henderson Mission Trip scheduled for March 22-28, and the fund raiser, Hotcakes for Henderson (Feb 22, at Liberty Center UMC), were discussed. A Cluster Tin Caps Game is scheduled for Monday, June 8, 2020. The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 10, 2020, at Markle UMC.



Just One Request

Dear Master for this coming year
Just one request I bring:
I do not pray for happiness,
Or any earthly thing—
I do not ask to understand
The way Thou leadest me,
But this I ask: Teach me to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
I want to know Thy guiding voice.

To walk with Thee each day.
Dear Master make me swift to hear
And ready to obey.
And thus the year I now begin
A happy year will be—
If I am seeking just to do
The thing that pleaseth Thee.
—Unknown Author

Please remember

Betty Cary
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #120HC
Bluffton, IN 46714

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

Gary Cook-Room 106
Markle Health & Rehabilitation
170 N. Tracy Street
Markle, IN 46770

Jeanette Gilbert
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #105B-HC
Mail to: c/o Jill Martin
2172 E US 224
Ossian, IN 46777

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



Treasure's Report

November 2019 Budget Summary	November Actual	November Budget	November Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,220.94	3,967.25	253.69	45,217.10	43,639.75	1,577.35
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,541.30	3,967.21	(574.09)	37,144.20	43,639.31	(1,150.61)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(320.36)	0.04		8,072.90	0.44	

Billy Graham's Prayer for a New Year

By [Billy Graham](#)

This prayer from Billy Graham, written for The Saturday Evening Post in 2008, is just as relevant more than a decade later.

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.

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Church future under negotiation before GC2020

By Heather Hahn and Sam Hodges

Dec. 18, 2019 | UM News

A small group of United Methodist bishops and U.S. traditionalists, centrists and progressives met this week as part of negotiations about the denomination's future.

The Dec. 16-17 meeting in Washington was an outgrowth of discussions that [Sierra Leone Bishop John K. Yambasu initiated in July](#) to find consensus on any potential church separation ahead of the 2020 General Conference. Participants, who represent varied perspectives on LGBTQ inclusion, agreed to confidentiality while their delicate conversations proceeded.

Although they offered few details on the closed-door session, group members struck an optimistic note at the meeting's conclusion.

"We have completed two days of additional meetings which have been very productive," the group said in a joint statement. "We are hopeful and prayerful about the direction of these conversations."

Anything the group recommends will need the approval of General Conference, the denomination's top lawmaking body.

However, the hope is that these meetings will help lead to a less rancorous gathering than the church experienced [at the special General Conference in February](#). By about a 53% vote, the multinational delegates approved legislation that strengthens church prohibitions against same-sex weddings and "self-avowed practicing" gay clergy.

In the months since, some United Methodists have supported the outcome while others have launched plans to resist. Meanwhile, the drumbeat [to divide the church along theological lines has only grown louder](#). The next General Conference will meet May 5-15 in Minneapolis.

The discussions initiated by Yambasu have brought together United Methodist leaders who represent advocacy groups across the theological spectrum.

Many of the participants were involved in the development of [different plans for church separation heading to the 2020 General Conference](#). Specifically, group discussions have included backers of the New Denominations of United Methodism, better known as the Indianapolis Plan; and the Next Generation UMC, better known as the UMCNext Plan.

[Those in attendance at the first meeting on July 19](#) included: The Revs. Tom Berlin, Keith Boyette, Junius Dotson, Maxie Dunnam, Ginger Gaines-Cirelli, Adam Hamilton, Mark Holland, Rob Renfroe, Kimberly Scott and Jasmine Smothers as well as lay members Jan Lawrence, Patricia L. Miller, Randall Miller, Karen Prudente and Mark Tooley. Guiding the July conversation were Bishops Christian Alsted, Mande Muyombo and Yambasu.

Other bishops also have been involved in the ongoing conversation including Bishops Kenneth Carter, the Council of Bishops president; Cynthia Harvey, the president-elect; Thomas Bickerton; LaTrelle Easterling; Rodolfo "Rudy" Juan and Gregory Palmer.

A smaller group was involved in this most recent meeting, and the identity of all those present was not released.

Yambasu is upbeat about the discussions.

"Our mediation meeting concluded today in a very friendly and peaceful atmosphere," he told UM News on Dec. 17.

Hahn and Hodges are writers for UM News.

Valentines Day Word Search

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



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|-------|-------|-------|
| ARROW | CUPID | LOVE |
| BOW | HEART | PINK |
| CANDY | HUGS | RED |
| CARD | KISS | ROSES |



HAPPY NEW YEAR!