



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church January - February 2018

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

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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
13 – Barb Cook
24 – Isabella Swineford
27 – Melanie Vitatoe



February

14 – Jason Horne
17 – Clarence McAfee

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Sunday, Jan 7 – | Communion Sunday |
| | Reaffirmation Sunday |
| Monday, Jan 15 – | Martin Luther King Jr. Day |
| Sunday, Jan 21 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items |
| Sunday, Jan 28 – | Kids Changing the World-bring your change |
| Sunday, Feb 4 – | Communion Sunday |
| Monday, Feb 12 – | Nine Companion Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Markle UMC |
| Wed, Feb 14 – | Valentine's Day |
| Sunday, Feb 18 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items |
| | Cluster Lent Carry-in Dinner at Markle UMC-4PM |
| Monday, Feb 19 – | Presidents' Day |
| Sunday, Feb 25 – | Kids Changing the World-bring your 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 on third Sunday of each month.
- * To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

A Word from Our Pastor

Happy New Year! The ending of one calendar year and the beginning of another has traditionally been a time for people to pause and reflect. We look back and review the events and activities of the past year to gain perspective on where we've been and how things have changed. Then many people also look into the new year setting directions and goals to guide them.

When I was younger there seemed to be a lot of talk about making New Year's resolutions. I remember in school or in youth group we were encouraged to write some resolutions for changes we wanted to make in our personal lives in the coming year. I don't hear about making New Year's resolutions much any more. I don't know if it has just gotten to be too much to do, because we're so busy now. Or maybe we don't make resolutions any more because we know that we won't be able to keep them and so it seems like a waste of time and energy.

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, required the members of the Methodist Societies to annually renew their covenant of relationship to Christ. Being a disciple of Jesus was not to be taken lightly. Renewing the covenant with Christ was a reminder of the level of commitment necessary: a total yielding of self to God's will and plan.

On Sunday, January 7th we celebrate the baptism of Jesus. We will also have a reaffirmation of our baptismal covenant as a part of that service. During the service we will remember and renew our baptismal vows of faith in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. Then we will come forward to receive the sign of the cross in water on our foreheads. You can prepare yourself for this service by spending some time evaluating your relationship with Jesus Christ. Use these words to guide your meditation.

I am no longer my own, but yours. Put me to what you will, rank me with whom you will. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. ... Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to your pleasure and disposal.

-- from "A Covenant prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition," #607 UM Hymnal

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><

RESOLUTIONS RESOLUTIONS RESOLUTIONS

Committee News

STAFF /PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The SPRC is required to meet quarterly. During the first quarter, January - March, we will review responsibilities and jobs. The responsibility of the SPRC will continue throughout the year, including assessing staff and listening to the congregation to increase the effectiveness of the ministry at UUMC. Any joys or concerns of the congregation should be shared with the committee.

TRUSTEES

As most of you know, we now have renters living in the parsonage. Thanks to the efforts of Jim, Bill, Steve, Melanie, Scott and Deanna we were able to get the parsonage work completed in time for the scheduled move-in date. Many thanks to those that helped complete some pre-winter work outside of the church and parsonage. A Trustees' meeting will be scheduled in early January to elect a new Chair and make plans for the new year. Many thanks for everyone's selfless sacrifice of personal time to serve the needs of the church!

EMM COMMITTEE

The Education/Missions/Ministries Committee will meet January 10, 2018, to begin planning for the new year. Progress in children's and adult Sunday School classes will be examined. New and current missions will be reviewed, and plans will be made for ministry activities for the coming year.

FAITH CIRCLE

Faith Circle enjoyed a Christmas breakfast on December 2, with holiday fellowship and gift exchange. Due to scheduling conflicts, Faith Circle will not meet in February, but a March date will be announced soon.

Reminder: We still have UUMC Centennial Cookbooks for sale! They are now reduced to \$5 each. They make great gifts!



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

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

Mary Cook-Room 109
Gary Cook-Room 106
Markle Health & Rehabilitation
170 N. Tracy Street
Markle, IN 46770

Jeanette Gilbert
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #133
Mail to: c/o Jill Martin
2172 E US 224
Ossian, IN 46777

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



November 2017 Budget Summary	November	November	November	Year to date	Year to date	Year to date
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,931.75	4,209.92	(278.17)	49,260.21	46,309.12	2,951.09
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,335.41	4,209.92	874.51	41,239.75	46,309.12	(4,332.39)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	596.34	0.00		8,020.46	0.00	

New Year's Resolutions

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

"I never make New Year's Resolutions, anymore," the man told me, "I never keep them, anyway." I can remember all too many resolutions I've made and let slip away, too. But I believe New Year's resolutions are worth making. Let me tell you why.

First, we all need changes. Some we find very hard to admit to ourselves. I've heard people who say, "I have no regrets about my life. If I had it to do over, I'd do it the same way again." But that attitude is way too blind and self-serving so far as I'm concerned. There is great power in confession--to ourselves, to God, to others. Owning up to our failures is the first, painful step on the road to something better.

Second, when we change calendars is a good time for reassessment. How did last year go? What do I want to do differently this year? This time of year always reminds me of a passage of scripture, better understood by farmers than suburbanites: "Break up your unplowed ground, and do not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3). It makes sense. The more land you put into production, the more prosperous you'll be. But some of us are stupid enough to try to sow seeds in land overrun by star thistle without breaking up the soil and taking care to root out the thorns as they come up. Call it laziness. Call it stupidity.

Let me ask you a serious question. What percentage of your life is producing something of value to God? How much "unplowed ground" do you have that ought to be broken up in this coming year and made useful? Reassessment. The brink of a new year is a good time for reassessment.

Third, New Year's is an excellent time for mid-course corrections. Sure, we might fail in what we set out to do, but if we fail to plan, the old saying goes, then we plan to fail. If you're so fearful of failure that you never set up your row of tin cans to shoot at, you're not very likely to hit any at all. Failure is not the end. For the person who determines to learn from it, failure is a friend.

One of my heroes in the Bible is the Apostle Paul. Talk about failure! Throughout his life he was opposed, persecuted, shipwrecked, stoned and left for dead, deserted by trusted co-workers, slandered, and scorned. Sometimes it seemed that projects to which he had devoted years were turning to dust before his eyes. But during from one of his stints in prison, we can see from one of his letters an unwillingness to quit. "Forgetting what is behind," he wrote, "and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13-14, NIV) No wonder he made a mark on his world. He stopped looking back, and looked forward instead. He didn't let the fear of failure keep him from trying again.

Fourth, New Year's is a time to learn to rely more heavily on the grace of God. Now I've met a few self-made men and women and so have you, but so often these people seem proud and driven. There is another way: beginning to trust in God's help. One more secret from the Apostle Paul: "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength," he said (Phil 4:13, NIV). And God's strength saw him through a lot--through pain, through joy, and through accomplishment.

If this last year, you didn't practice relying on the Lord as much as you should have, there is no time like the present to make a New Year's resolution. In fact, why don't you say a short prayer right now--use these words if you like: "Dear God, I want the new year to be different for me." Now spell out in prayer some of the changes you'd like to see. And close this way: "Lord Jesus, I know that I'm going to need a lot of help for this. So right now I place myself in your hands. Help me to receive Your strength. Amen." Good. Now you've got a much better chance of a Happy New Year.

THANK
YOU

Thank You from Pastor Karen & Jim

Jim and I want to thank you all for the generous Christmas love gift you gave to us. It is a joy to be back serving you in Uniondale and leading you in this new chapter in your life of faith and service to the community. We love you all. May you be richly blessed in the new year!



Baptisms

As we are remembering our baptismal vows on January 7, I also want to invite any of you who have not yet been baptized to consider publicly professing your faith in Jesus Christ. Also if you have children you want to have baptized or are interested in learning more about the meaning of baptism, please talk to Pastor Karen or call her at 260-228-3634.

"January"

It's January, Lord –
The drab, dreary middle –
And my thoughts are as drab as the miserable month.
Does everybody hit a January slump,
Or am I the only one? ...
The first week wasn't too bad;
There were Christmas thank-yous to write ...
A few resolutions to store away ...
The huddle of year-end sales.
But thank-you notes bring no returns,
And resolutions are quickly broken,
And marked-down trinkets fast lose appeal.
When you said, "Behold, I make all things new,"
Did you forget January, Lord?
Or, in January, do I sometimes forget you?
-Ruth Calkins

*We're all a little weird. And life
is a little weird. And when we
find someone whose weirdness is
compatible with ours, we join up
with them and fall into mutually
satisfying weirdness - and call it
love - true love.*

Happy Valentine's Day!!

HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



www.Reading-With-Kids.com

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Find the Valentine's Day Words

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

CUPID

VALENTINE

CANDY

LOVE

HEART

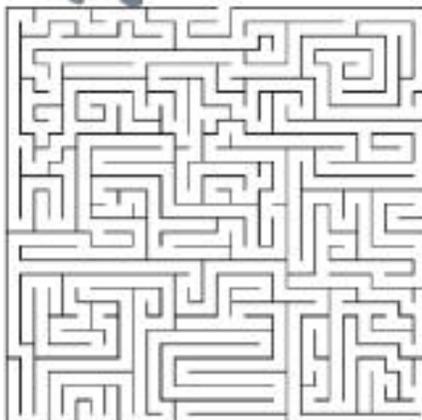
ROSES



Happy New Year!
Can you help the children get together for their New Year party?



Happy
Valentine's
Day







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