



# Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church

January - February 2021

5867 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.

## Upcoming Events



January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

January and February Birthdays and Anniversaries

### January

13 – Barb Cook

27 – Melanie Vitatoe

### February

Friday, January 1 –  
Sunday, January 3 –  
Sunday, January 10 –

Sunday, January 17 –  
Monday, January 18 –  
Sunday, January 31 –  
Sunday, February 7 –  
Monday, February 8 –

Sunday February 14 –

Monday, February 15 –  
Wednesday, February 17 –  
Sunday, February 21 –  
Sunday, February 28 –  
Saturday, March 6 –

Happy New Year!  
Communion Sunday and Epiphany Sunday  
Reaffirmation of Baptism, and  
Sunday School resumes  
Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items.  
Martin Luther King Jr Day 🇺🇸  
Kids Changing the World-bring your change  
Communion Sunday  
Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Lancaster  
Chapel UMC

Valentine's Day ❤️

President's Day 🇺🇸 🇺🇸

Ash Wednesday  
Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items  
Kids Changing the World-bring your change  
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

The year 2020 has been so different from any I've ever experienced that I'm ready for the new year to begin. There have been many family celebrations that have been missed or were done very differently from previous years. We all know that nothing beats being together in the same place indoors or out – even if we're not touching or hugging. Conversations when we're all together so that we can see facial expressions and body language and hear vocal inflection are much more satisfying than video calls. We were created as social beings and the separations of 2020 have greatly increased feelings of discouragement, loneliness, depression, and hopelessness among people in our nation.

I'm hopeful that 2021 will allow us to get back to more normal life patterns. I'm thankful for the heroic efforts that went into developing the vaccine against the Covid-19 virus that most of us should be able to get by the middle of the year. I'm thankful that many churches have been able to worship remotely by YouTube or Facebook Live or other streaming media. In doing this many congregations have been able to reach people that would never enter the doors of our church buildings. I'm thankful that our building is large enough for us to have ongoing worship services with all of us spread out more than 6-feet apart.

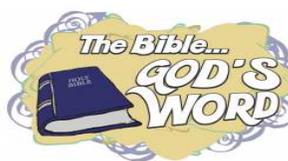
The beginning of a new year is always a good time to start a new Bible reading, prayer or devotional routine. I will have several Bible reading plans on the back table if you would like to have one this year. Each morning after breakfast Jim and I use 365-day devotional book to focus our thoughts on growing in our faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ and then we pray together for a list of people and concerns. In 2020 we used *Unto the Hills* by Billy Graham. In previous years we have used *Daily in His Presence* by Andrew Murray, *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers, and *Wisdom for Each Day* by Billy Graham. If you are interested in suggestions of a devotional book to use, let me know.

I encourage you to set aside a daily quiet time to intentionally draw closer to God. The old hymn below, written over 200 years ago, reminds us what reading the Bible can do for us.

1. Holy Bible, Book divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine;  
Mine to tell me whence I came; Mine to teach me what I am.
2. Mine to chide me when I rove; Mine to show a Savior's love;  
Mine thou art to guide and guard; Mine to punish or reward.
3. Mine to comfort in distress; Suffering in this wilderness;  
Mine to show, by living faith, Man can triumph over death.
4. Mine to tell of joys to come, And the rebel sinner's doom;  
O thou holy Book divine, Precious treasure, thou art mine.

-- Words by John Burton, Sr, #107 in the *Living Praise Hymnal*.

Shalom,  
Pastor Karen <><



## Committee News

### Faith Circle

Faith Circle met on December 5, at UUMC, hosted by Sharon Espich. Pastor Karen read devotions. Sharon served a delicious breakfast and led us in an assortment of holiday games. The men's group met at Rich's Cafe for breakfast and fellowship.

Our next meeting will be on March 6, at UUMC, hosted by Elaine McAfee. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

### Trustees

The switch for the south door/foyer lights had to be changed. Please see Jim for instructions in operating the new switch. Weather stripping has been added to the front doors to better insulate the church.

### Wells County Cluster

The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 8 at 6:30 PM, at Lancaster Chapel UMC.

### Thank You

Thanks to all who contributed to the Pastor's Christmas Gift. It is greatly appreciated. We love you all. Blessings, Pastor Karen and Jim.



\*\*Please remember\*\*

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

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

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

Jeanette Gilbert  
Golden Apple Unit  
Christian Care  
720 East Dustman Rd.  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Or Mail to: c/o Jill Martin  
2172 E US 224  
Ossian, IN 46777

Margaret Hasler  
37446 Carson  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



**SCIENCE SAYS THAT WE NEED AT LEAST 4 BASIC ELEMENTS TO SURVIVE.**

1. Water
2. Air
3. Food
4. Light

**AND LOOK WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US ABOUT JESUS.**

1. I am the Living Water
2. I am the Breath of Life
3. I am the Bread of Life
4. I am the Light of the World

**SCIENCE WAS RIGHT, WE NEED JESUS TO LIVE.**

### Treasure's Report

December 2020 Budget Summary	December Actual	December Budget	December Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,419.71	3,991.83	427.88	47,024.34	47,901.96	(877.62)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,078.39	3,991.80	913.41	44,976.33	47,901.60	(2,167.45)
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>1,341.32</b>	<b>0.03</b>		<b>2,048.01</b>	<b>0.36</b>	

# That's Not My Job!

This is a story about four people named: **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody**. There was an important job to be done and **Everybody** was sure that **Somebody** would do it. **Anybody** could have done it, but **Nobody** did it. **Somebody** got angry about that, because it was **Everybody's** job. **Everybody** thought **Anybody** could do it, but **Nobody** realized that **Everybody** wouldn't do it. It ended up that **Everybody** blamed **Somebody** when **Nobody** did what **Anybody** could have done.

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*Glory to God in highest Heaven, who unto man His Son hath given;  
While angels sing with tender mirth, a glad New Year to all the earth.*

~ Martin Luther

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## **UMC Bishops Call for Optimism and Hope in 2021**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Despite the trials and tribulations of 2020 brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, bishops in The United Methodist Church are calling on United Methodists and other people of faith to be optimistic about 2021 and to trust that God will make things better in the coming year.

In the 2020 Advent letter released today, the bishops urged people of faith to continue to have love, joy, hope and peace, especially during the season of Advent, which is a time of anticipation and longing in the Christian year.

“We bask in the hope that something new is coming and in the promise that we can face the future unafraid. As people of faith, we stand in the confidence that God, who began a good thing in us, will see it to fruition,” said the letter signed by COB President Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey on behalf of the more than 120 bishops in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas.

The letter also pointed out that apart from the pandemic, those in the United States – where more than 60 percent of United Methodists reside – had witnessed a season of discontent as the call for racial justice and an end to racism resounded loud and clear.

“We recognize that uncertainty will accompany us into 2021,” the letter said, adding: “As the Council of Bishops, we must remain on our knees in prayer, asking God to open our minds, thoughts, and hearts to discern what God would want us to do and who God would want us to be as we lead this global denomination.”



**Council of Bishops**  
The United Methodist Church



December 15, 2020

Dear Fellow United Methodists:

It is the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and longing. We bask in the hope that something new is coming and in the promise that we can face the future unafraid. As people of faith, we stand in the confidence that God, who began a good thing in us, will see it to fruition.

As United Methodists we, along with siblings across faith communions, acknowledge that 2020 has been a time of trial for not only our churches but the world as we have faced the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been few instances in our lifetime when the whole world has faced a crisis at the same time. COVID-19 has stretched our health systems, our economies and even our faith. For those of us in the United States, we have also witnessed a season of discontent as the call for racial justice and an end to racism has resounded loud and clear.

Most of our local churches have been on the front lines and at the center of this liminal time. As we yearn to come together to praise God, to hear the Word, to pray, to mourn, and to bear witness to God's promises together in our own buildings, we have come to learn that we can approach the throne of grace anywhere we are. Indeed, the church is not a building.

We recognize that uncertainty will accompany us into 2021. As the Council of Bishops, we must remain on our knees in prayer, asking God to open our minds, thoughts, and hearts to discern what God would want us to do and who God would want us to be as we lead this global denomination.

So, let us look to God who began a good thing in us and let us continue to be people of love, joy, hope and peace.

Come, thou long expected Jesus  
Born to set Thy people free;  
From our fears and sins release us,  
Let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

In Christ's love,

**Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey**  
President  
Council of Bishops  
The United Methodist Church

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Washington, DC 20002  
202-547-6270

## Winter Word Search

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

Mark 10:14- But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

- |               |         |           |
|---------------|---------|-----------|
| WINTER        | COLD    | ICE       |
| SNOW          | FROSTY  | HIBERNATE |
| SLED          | FROZEN  | COAT      |
| ICICLE        | SLED    | HAT       |
| BLIZZARD      | JANUARY | GLOVES    |
| HOT CHOCOLATE |         |           |



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