



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church January - February 2023

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

Website: www.uniondaleumc.com
E-mail: kottjes@gmail.com

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

Upcoming Events



January and February
Birthdays and Anniversaries

January

13 – Barb Cook
28 – Bob Imel

February



Sunday, January 1 –

Sunday, January 8 –

Saturday, January 14 –

Sunday, January 15 –

Monday, January 16 –

Sunday, January 29 –

Sunday, February 5 –

Monday, February 13 –

Sunday, February 19 –

Monday, February 20 –

Wednesday, February 22 –

Saturday, February 25 –

Sunday, February 26 –

Saturday, March 4 –

Happy New Year!

Communion Sunday, Epiphany Sunday
No Sunday School

Reaffirmation of Baptism, and
Sunday School resumes

Hotcakes for Henderson fundraiser, 7-11 AM
at Liberty Center Community Church

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 Uniondale UMC

Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items

President's Day  

Ash Wednesday

Liver & Onions dinner-4-6 PM at Petroleum
Church – fundraiser for missions

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

A Word from Our Pastor

“Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” Ps 90:12

Happy New Year! It is always challenging to approach a new year and to realize that our days on this earth are passing by so rapidly. How important it is for us to pause, as does the psalmist to pray for a “heart of wisdom” that will enable us to live each new day in a way that brings honor and glory to God.

We are in a time of discernment and working through the steps to make a final decision about our denominational affiliation. During the next month or so we will be involved in a time of prayer and fasting to listen to God’s direction about this decision. We’ve never had to make a decision like this before. The last time something this important was being considered was in the 1960s when the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church were considering merging to become one denomination, finalized in 1968.

Since that time there have been many cultural changes in how Christians should live their lives and practice their faith. What was previously expected and acceptable behavior for Christians is no longer what it was then. The *Book of Discipline* (the denomination’s rule book) which defines how our church is to function, is not being followed and the processes for accountability to the rules are being ignored. It’s similar to the time of the Judges in the Old Testament when “all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.” Judges 17:6, 21:25 NLT

John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, required the members of the Methodist Societies to annually renew their covenant 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 8th 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.

Take some time in the coming week to meditate on the words of this hymn.

1. Another year is dawning! Dear Father, let it be, in working or in waiting, another year with thee; another year of leaning upon thy loving breast, another year of trusting, of quiet, happy rest.
2. Another year of mercies, of faithfulness and grace; another year of gladness in the shining of thy face; another year of progress, another year of praise, another year of proving thy presence all the days.

“Another Year Is Dawning” Words, by Frances R. Havergal, 1874, #250 in *Living Praise Hymnal*.

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

Faith Circle

Faith Circle and the Men's Group met on December 3 for the Annual Christmas Breakfast. It was hosted by Sharon Espich and Pastor Karen. A delicious breakfast was served followed by devotions and games. The Men's Group enjoyed a fellowship breakfast at the same time.

Missions

Donations have been sent to the following missions: Karing 4 Kids-\$800, Bashor Children's Home-\$100, BIGJAWS Youth for Christ-\$250, Kafakumba Training Center-\$100, and LSM Brickhouse Family Ministries-\$100.

SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

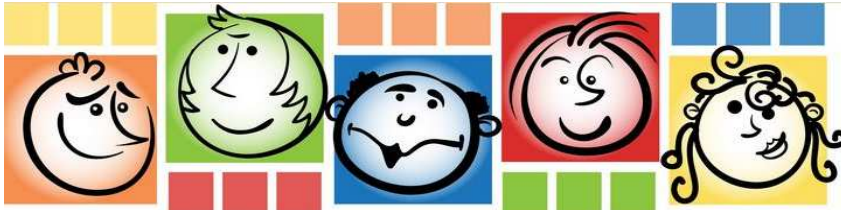
SPRC is happy to report that Samual Narath will return to play the piano for us starting on January 15.

Trustees

Needed repairs at the parsonage have been completed. The big trees on the south side of the parsonage have been trimmed so they cannot reach the roof now. Many thanks to Jim, Steve and Bill for completing this work. A small leak on the boiler has been repaired. New lights have been installed in the outside sign. The roof leak at the back of the sanctuary should be repaired during the first week of January.

Wells County Cluster

The next Cluster meeting will be February 13 at our Uniondale UMC. Please consider helping to host this meeting.



Please remember

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



Treasurer's Report

November 2022 Budget Summary	November Actual	November Budget	November Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	2,756.81	4,667.58	(1,910.77)	42,523.64	51,343.38	(8,819.74)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,954.77	3,834.21	(120.56)	40,228.24	43,009.64	(760.12)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,197.96)	833.37		2,295.40	8,333.74	

Encouragement for a New Year

"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:9](#)

On the first day of a new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to listen to what God told Joshua about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement. A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that takes me or my loved ones? The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always" ([Matthew 28:20](#)). That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of a new year and for your promise to stay with us. We ask for your guidance and wisdom each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Rev. Art Schoonveld is a retired minister in the Christian Reformed Church. Before retiring in 2001, he served churches in California, Illinois, and Michigan. Since his retirement he has worked part-time for the denomination and has served as an interim pastor. Art and his wife, Anita, have four children and nine grandchildren.

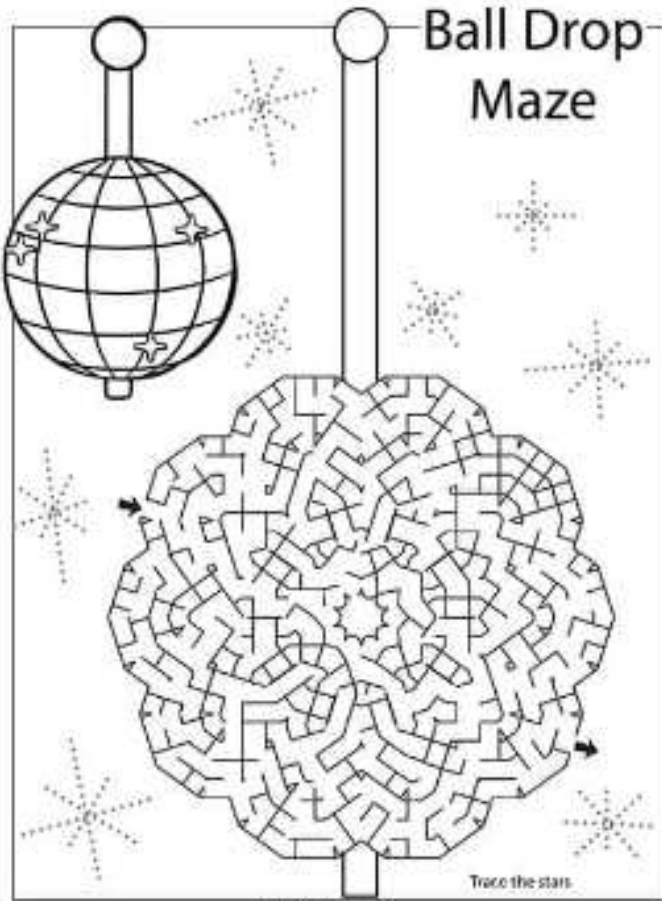


WHEN TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT

DON'T OPEN YOUR MOUTH:

1. In the heat of anger - Proverbs 14:17
2. When you don't have all the facts - Proverbs 18:13
3. When you haven't verified the story - Deuteronomy 17:6
4. If your words will offend a weaker brother - I Corinthians 8:11
5. If your words will be a poor reflection of the Lord or your friends and family - Peter 2:21-23
6. When you are tempted to joke about sin - Proverbs 14:9
7. When you would be ashamed of your words later - Proverbs 8:8
8. When you are tempted to make light of holy things - Ecclesiastes 5:2
9. If your words would convey a wrong impression - Proverbs 17:27
10. If the issue is none of your business - Proverbs 14:10
11. When you are tempted to tell an outright lie - Proverbs 4:24
12. If your words will damage someone's reputation - Proverbs 16:27
13. If your words will destroy a friendship - Proverbs 25:28
14. When you are feeling critical - James 3:9
15. If you can't speak without yelling - Proverbs 25:28
16. When it's time to listen - Proverbs 13:1
17. If you may have to eat your words later - Proverbs 18:21
18. If you have already said it more than one time (Then it becomes nagging) - Proverbs 19:13
19. When you are tempted to flatter a wicked person - Proverbs 24:24
20. When you are supposed to be working instead - Proverbs 14:23

Proverbs 21:23 "WHOSOEVER KEEPETH HIS MOUTH AND HIS TONGUE, KEEPETH HIS SOUL FROM TROUBLE"



Winter

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| COLD | FIRE | FREEZE | FROST |
| GLOVES | HEATER | HIBERNATE | ICE |
| ICICLE | SCARF | SEASON | SKI |
| SNOW | SNOWBOARD | SNOWFLAKE | SNOWMAN |
| SWEATER | | | |

