



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church March 2015

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 [UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch)

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m. Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



March

Birthdays and Anniversaries

1 – Kim Chaney
19 – Troy Drayer
22 – Amanda Drayer



*"May your thoughts be as glad as shamrocks,
May your heart be as light as song,
May each day bring you bright, happy hours,
That stay with you all the year long."*

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 1 – Communion

Sunday, March 15 – Fellowship Breakfast 8:15 am

Education Committee meeting following S.S

Food Pantry Collection

Saturday, March 21 – Faith Circle 1:00 pm @ UUMC

Saturday, March 21 – Evening Fellowship Gathering @ UUMC

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday Service

Kids Changing the World (bring your change)

Thursday, April 2 – Maundy Thursday Service 6:30 pm

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday Service @ Prospect UMC 6:30 pm

Saturday, April 4 – Stations of the Cross 9 am – 3 pm UUMC

10:00 am - Easter egg hunt – east lawn

Sunday, April 5 – Easter Service 9:00 am

Sunday April 26 – Church Board Meeting 11:15 am

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

* Save your pop tabs and can tabs. Collection can at the back of the church.

* Save your change for Children Changing the World

How are you Preparing?

By Reverend Billy Graham

For Christians in the early centuries, this sacred season before Easter was usually a time of training for new disciples. However, the Bible tells us that whether someone is a new believer or a seasoned one, intense spiritual training is always in season.

2 Timothy 2:20-22 gives us a healthy example of what spiritual preparation looks like: Now in a large house there are not only gold and silver vessels, but also vessels of wood and of earthenware, and some to honor and some to dishonor.

Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

This passage is part of Paul's warning to Timothy about false teachers. In our culture's bent toward what many call a "prosperity gospel," (the claim that if we commit ourselves to God and live in a way that pleases Him, we will have little or no troubles in life) it is particularly important to heed Paul's warning ourselves.

For spiritual preparation, it is important to get under sound, biblical teaching. How will we know the difference between sounds doctrine and words spoken to make us "feel" better? By studying and knowing the Bible and praying from wisdom and discernment.

In verse 20, Paul uses the example of the vessels. The gold and silver vessels to which he refers are those used for noble purposes. Those represent the things in our lives that are agents to make us more holy and which can be used to glorify God.

The latter vessels he mentioned, "wood and earthenware," were more than likely examples of vessels used for garbage or excrement. These vessels are representative of the things we need to get rid of in our lives...anything that prevents us from growing closer to Christ and becoming more like him.

What are these vessels-both examples-in your life? It's time to take inventory and become "useful to the Master."

Let's look at one other principle of spiritual preparation in verse 22: Now flee from youthful lusts and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart.

Paul was reminding Timothy of his responsibilities as a young leader, in light of the false teaching that was around them. When we give way to the corruption around us ("youthful lusts"), we make ourselves more susceptible to believe lies, whether directly from the enemy or from false teaching.

Furthermore, we should strive for a pure heart through the pursuit of righteousness (adherence to God's moral law), faith (trust in God and faithfulness to Him), love (attitude and action of commitment to God and others) and peace (harmonious relationship with God and others).

The best way to grow as Disciples of Christ is to not limit our spiritual preparation to the Lenten season, but to pursue these things daily throughout the rest of our time here on earth.

As we prepare for Easter and the beginning of spring, let us ourselves become renewed in the spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Troy

Thoughts from the past

by Mary Etta Blessing

“A Church Camp Caper”

An exciting time looked forward to for the UMC youth was summer camp. The district the church was in would go for a week of study and activities to Epworth Forest at Lake Webster. Some churches had their own cottages there, but the Foundation also had built some housing that was available. This is where our group stayed, in one of their buildings and included were pastors and cooks.

Marjorie McAfee and I filled in as the cooks. I think Pastor Joe Wagoner and his wife were there then.

There was also some fun as well as much learning and this little episode happened one afternoon when the youth had some free time.

Marjorie and I went to the grocery and Tim Crum, Ed Hasler and Larry McAfee went into North Webster to ride the bumper cars that were available there then. When Marjorie and I got back, there on the table was a white shirt all covered with a red substance that looked like blood! Of course we panicked, but then discovered it was catsup! The boys had their little planned joke on us!

This week was really a special one, even for us cooks. Communion was held in the amphitheater down by the lake. There was a hill leading down to it. In the evening little lights led the way to the Communion Table making it a very touching service for all, going down the hill to receive the Communion.

I'm sure we all felt very close to Jesus that very wonderful week, even us two cooks!

Please remember:

Mary Etta Blessing
3890 W. Oak Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Bernie & Lura Burke
3505 E. 800 N.
Ossian, IN 46777

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

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

Jeanette Gilbert
100 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #115
Bluffton, IN 46714

Opal Gilbert
Christian Care Retirement Comm.
720 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

*God takes us as we are and
makes us what we can become.*

The promise to pray for someone going through hard times rolls easily off our tongues. But do we really mean it? Our sisters, brother, and children in the faith need our committed involvement in their lives.

Prayer is not a last resort but a first-rate privilege. We don't know how to pray as we ought, but we ought to pray anyway. We never know why some things happen as they do but we stand upon the rocky shores of life and keep on praying because prayer changes the one who prays as much as it changes those for whom we pray.

Some people think their prayers have fallen on deaf ears but they have not. It takes faith to know that. Faith is the ability to let your light shine even after your fuse is blown. Faith is seeing light with the eyes of your heart when the eyes of your body see only darkness ahead.

God is changing things through our willingness to pray and keep at it. While sorrow looks back and worry looks around, faith looks up. As we pray, we may face finite disappointment but we must never lose infinite hope and faith.

Committee Reports

Faith Circle Update - Faith Circle met on February 7 at the home of Mindi Herstad. Items discussed included new Prayer Squares, children's Bibles to be placed at church, and a garage sale to be held during the Uniondale Town-wide Sales. Following the business meeting, Mindi guided us in making beautiful bead ornaments called "Jesus' Tears".

The next meeting will be hosted by Sharon Espich on March 21, at the church. All women are welcome to join in this special fellowship time. Please RSVP to Sharon or Connie.

Education Committee Update – Leapers Point Youth Group would like to thank everyone for their support with the baked potato bar. We raised \$314. We took the kids to Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline center. Our kids had such a great time. This group of kids are excited to spend time together and grow as a group. This trip allowed all of the kids to do an activity that everyone could participate in. Our kids age range from 2 years to 14 years. The adults also had a great time hanging out together. Some of us even jumped with the kids, played dodge ball while bouncing on a trampoline. There was also a large FOAM pit to jump into! Very fun if I do say so myself. After Sky Zone we all went to the McDonalds at Village of Coventry and had lunch together.

Uniondale United Methodist Church is growing "Leapers" and bounds. The first Sunday in March we are looking forward to starting the spring material. With the Easter Season approaching, we will be talking a lot about Jesus' love, and God's love for all of us. We are looking forward to up and coming events we have been discussing; a swim party, a church lock in with parents. We also discussed doing something with just the older kids in the next few months.



January Budget Summary	January Actual	January Budget	January Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,244.00	4,469.58	(1,225.58)	3,244.00	4,469.58	(1,225.58)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,161.37	4,486.26	324.89	4,161.37	4,486.26	324.89
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(917.37)	(16.68)		(917.37)	(16.68)	

“Giving Jesus a Bad Name”

an E-Pistle by Bishop Mike Coyner

To me the name Jesus is not just a good name, it is the “name above every other name” (Philippians 2:9-11). But too many Christians (or at least people who call themselves Christians) are giving Jesus a bad name. That is the conclusion of several recent studies and surveys. People in general are drawn to Jesus, but many of them are put off by the things some Christians do in the name of Jesus.

Jesus himself is a model of love, acceptance, forgiveness, peace and hope. Yet some people like to use/misuse the name of Jesus to promote an agenda which is narrow, judgmental and off-putting to so many who might be attracted to a more fair expression of Jesus.

What I am describing is not about any particular theological perspective. I have seen narrow-minded, harsh, judgmental persons operate from both the “right” and the “left.” No, what I am describing is not really theological at all; it is about power and control. Some persons misuse the name of Jesus to support their own personal biases and agendas. Jesus is given a bad name by some people who abuse his good name for their own purposes.

I am reminded of a saying attributed to Gandhi who was asked, “Why are you not a Christian?” Supposedly he said (I have not been able to verify the actual quote), “I would be a Christian if more Christians would act like Jesus.”

We who claim the name of Jesus need to act like Jesus in these important ways:

- Within our church arguments and disputes, we need to model a spirit of humility and caring – rather than making our church arguments look like the typical political debates of our secular culture.
- In dealing with persons of other faiths, we need to listen to the faith lessons of others and then to share our Christian perspective with a gracious attitude.
- As we approach the political and societal issues of our day, we need to bring our Christian perspective in a way which attracts support and welcomes differing views.
- In all of our concerns and discussions, we need to have the mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5) who did not grasp equality with God, but who humbled himself.
- In our efforts to share the Good News, we need first to BE the Good News that we proclaim. John 3:17 reminds us that God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved. Our message must never be one of condemnation, but of Good News and hope.

A few years ago I was home sick and had the TV on without any volume – just kind of mindlessly watching whatever showed up on the screen while I recovered from the flu. I fell asleep and then awoke to realize the TV was still on and the program was a TV evangelist. With the volume off, I just watched his face – and it was full of anger! His gestures were defiant, flailing against some perceived enemy, and he looked like a boxer more than an evangelist. I don’t know what he was saying, but it certainly did not look like Good News – and it was certainly not very inviting. In a similar way, I have watched some pastors and people lead worship with a body language of apathy and depression – also not an inviting approach.

We who name the name of Jesus need to be careful that our life and our message reflects the true spirit of Jesus. Otherwise, we might give Jesus a bad name.



About St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland and the Irish. He was born about 389 A.D. in Northern Wales, which at that time may have been part of England or Scotland.

Saint Patrick had an adventurous life. He was captured by pirates at the age of 16. The Irish pirates brought him to Ireland to tend the flocks of a chieftain in Ulster. Six years of slavery made him a devoted Christian. He escaped to France and became a monk. In 432, a vision led him to return to Ireland as a missionary bishop. He brought Christianity to Ireland and taught there for 29 years. He used the shamrock, a 3 leaf clover, (Ireland's national flower) to explain the Blessed Trinity. St. Patrick founded 365 churches, baptized over 120,000 people and consecrated 450 bishops.

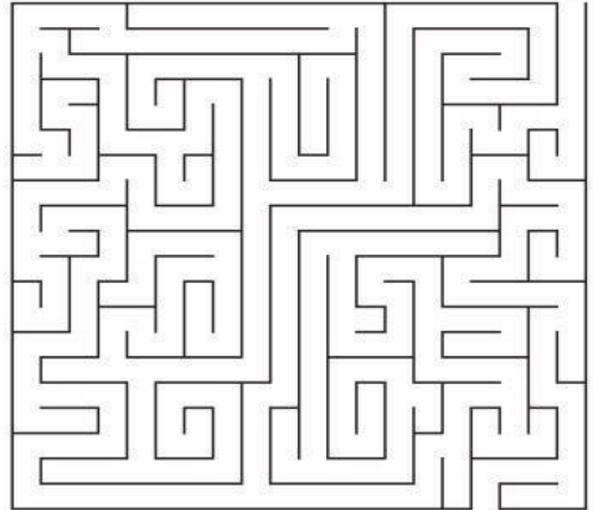
Many tales sprung up about this popular saint. One of the most popular legends was how he charmed all the snakes of Ireland down to the seashore to be drowned by the water. The only certain writings of St. Patrick's are his Confessions and a letter written to a man named Coroticus (See Tripartite Life of St. Patrick by Stokes and Lives by Todd, Healy, Bury and Lusack.). His Confessions are written in crude Latin.

According to some Irish writings, St. Patrick died on March 17, 461 A.D. The anniversary of his death is celebrated as St. Patrick's Day. It's interesting to note that the shamrock clover flowers around that time of year.

The first official celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the United States occurred in Morristown, New Jersey in 1780. It was authorized by George Washington. Today St. Patrick's Day is celebrated by the Irish as well as many Americans with parades, parties, wearing of green, Irish songs and jigs. People wear green on this day to represent the lushness of Ireland - The Emerald Isle.

St Patrick's Day Maze

Can you help the leprechaun find his way to the pot of gold?



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Some Irish Riddles

*What type of bow cannot be tied?
(A rain-bow!)



Why do frogs like St. Patrick's Day?
(Because they're already wearing green!)

What happens when a leprechaun falls into a river?
(He gets wet!)

When is an Irish potato not an Irish potato?
(When it's a French fry!)

Where can you always find gold?
(In the dictionary!)

What does Ireland have a lot of?
(Irishmen!)