



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church March - April 2018

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
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E-mail: kottjes@gmail.com

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



March and April Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

1 – Kim Chaney
17 – Martha Hix
19 – Troy Drayer
22 – Amanda Drayer

April

1 – Brent McAfee
10 – Jim & Karen Ottjes
3 – Don Weaver
16 – Steve & Martha Hix
19 – Aubree Horne
29 – Doris Emley
30 – Troy & Mindy Drayer



Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 4 – Communion Sunday
Fellowship Gathering after Sunday School
- Sunday, March 11 – Daylight Savings Time starts-2 AM
- Sunday, March 18 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Sunday, March 25 – Palm Sunday
Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Friday, March 30 – Community Good Friday Service at Prospect UMC at 6:30 PM
- Saturday, March 31 – Easter Egg Hunt-east lawn at 10 AM
- Sunday, April 1 – Easter Fellowship Breakfast-8:15 AM
Easter Service/Communion
- Sunday, April 15 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Board Meeting-10:15 AM-Sunday School will meet
- Sunday, April 29 – 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 the last Sunday of each month.
- * To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

A Word from Our Pastor

This winter has sure had its ups and downs in temperature – a much wider range than most years – and quite a bit of rain lately, instead of the usual snow. Of course if it had been snow, we would have had a lot of snow. But I'm really looking forward to spring.

We are in the season of Lent, a period of 40 days not including Sundays, which began on February 14th, Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time to remember and reflect on Jesus' suffering and death for our salvation. It's also a time to evaluate our own lives taking note of the many ways we fall short of God's glory on a daily basis and to repent of them. Then we will be ready to experience the power of the resurrection on Easter.

Our Lenten sermon series this year is titled "Celebrate Jesus!" We've been focusing on what Jesus did to discover what makes him attractive to so many people, so that we can live our lives following his example. Jesus stayed connected to God, knew his identity yet was humble, spoke God's truth in everyday language, and cast a vision of a better kingdom. He liked people and drew out the best in them, broke down the walls separating groups of people, and courageously completed his mission on earth to be a light overpowering the darkness of sin.

There are many people in our community who do not know God as we do. Lent is a good time to humbly show others God's merciful love for all humankind. We church people don't have it all together any more than those who are not a part of a church. So begin by praying for God to show you who around you needs to know about Jesus and how you can reach out and touch them with "no-strings-attached" love and care. Then put your insights into action by doing something for that person that will show them you care about them.

Join me in praying the "Celebrate Jesus Show Me" prayer every day to help us discover how and where Jesus wants us to spread his love.

Lord, please show me the way today.

Show me some aspect of your greatness I tend to overlook.

Show me what makes you smile and what makes you sad.

Show me people I can touch with your love.

Show me who I need to forgive and from whom I should seek forgiveness.

Right now I especially need you to show me _____.

Thank you for showing yourself by sending your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><

The
Season
of
Lent



****Please remember****

Committee News

EMM Committee (Education, Missions, Ministries)

The EMM Committee met on January 10, 2018. Plans were made for the Fellowship Gathering on March 4, and the Community Easter Egg Hunt to be held on March 31, at 10:00 a.m. Those donating Easter candy should have it at UUMC by March 18, and we thank you for helping. Special missions offerings will be collected in February and March to benefit the Bible Trailer, active in Huntington County schools, and the Adams-Wells Crisis Center in April and May. United Methodist Missions will include six church wide Special Sundays throughout the year. All Sunday School classes are going strong. We could always use more teachers, so please consider offering to help with the children or adult classes. Our next meeting will be held in early August, date to be determined.

Faith Circle

Sandra Imel hosted our Faith Circle meeting on February 17, at her home. Martha Hix led the meeting, and Mindi Herstad gave the devotion. After a delicious breakfast, Martha also instructed a craft session, as the group made a cell phone holder. As always, everyone enjoyed the food, fun, and fellowship. Our next meeting will be held on April 14, at 9:00 AM, at UUMC. Please join us!

Gentlemen...you are also welcome!!! A new addition to Faith Circle has been the creation of a men's fellowship at the same time as the women's group meeting. Come to the Faith Circle meeting location, and then go with the men to a local restaurant for breakfast and fellowship.

SPR Committee (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

SPRC met in January for the first quarter meeting. Claudia Thompson led the meeting in which monthly agendas and dates were reviewed and reset, reflecting all the ministry needs of the SPRC. Claudia and Pastor Karen attended the SPR training session and presented an overview of the SPRC responsibilities. Our next meeting is scheduled for May 7 at 1:00 p.m. The focus will be on congregational unity via what is planned and happening.

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
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



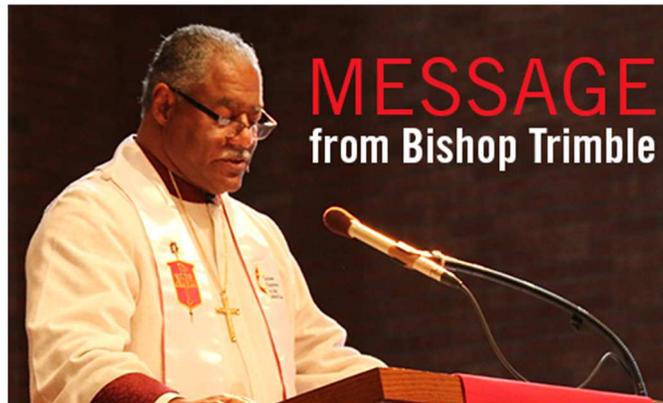
May luck be our companion.
May friends stand by our side.
May history remind us all
Of Ireland's faith and pride.
May God bless us with happiness.
May love and faith abide.
-- Irish Blessing





The Lenten Journey

February 14, 2018



As many of us received ashes to mark Ash Wednesday, February 14 began our season of Lent. A season marked in the Christian Church by 40 days, not counting Sundays, leading up to the celebration of Easter.

Repentance, fasting, and prayer during the season of Lent help to prepare us for Easter. And the 40 days also represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, as well as his time of response to temptation and preparation for his public ministry.

Today, Christians often participate in Lenten Bible studies, book studies, silent retreats, personal sacrifice (choosing to give up something) or daily prayer and devotional emphasis. You may take this time to focus on doing one specific thing to bless others and glorify God.

As we enter into this season, I pray that we will find time to be kind to our minds, bodies, and souls, as well as discover or rediscover the blessing of silence.

Throughout these next 40 days, our lives may include good news announcements, moments of joy, as well as tears of sadness or grief. My personal prayer is that I may be emptied so that I become, as Robert Benson writes in *Living Prayer*, "a space created" that can be filled by God.

Lent is a season in the liturgical calendar that will come and will go. However, we are reminded that our God is with us for "the long haul of our lives." May we draw strength from our closer walk with Jesus
[One day] "He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." – Luke 11:1 (NSRV)

Be encouraged,
Bishop Julius C. Trimble

Repent and Be Born Again

An excerpt of an obituary written by [LAURIE GOODSTEIN](#)

With a warm, courtly manner that was readily apparent both to stadium crowds and to those who met him face to face, Rev. Billy Graham could be a riveting presence. At 6-foot-2, with a handsomely rugged profile fit for Hollywood westerns, he would hold his Bible aloft and declare that Scripture offered “the answer to every human longing.”

Rev. Graham drew his essential message from the mainstream of evangelical Protestant belief. Repent of your sins, he told his listeners, accept Jesus as your Savior and be born again. In a typical exhortation, he declared: “Are you frustrated, bewildered, dejected, breaking under the strains of life? Then listen for a moment to me: Say yes to the Savior tonight, and in a moment you will know such comfort as you have never known. It comes to you quickly, as swiftly as I snap my fingers, just like that.”

Rev. Graham always closed by asking his listeners to “come forward” and commit to a life of Christian faith. When they did so, his well-oiled organization would match new believers with nearby churches. Many thousands of people say they were first brought to church by a Billy Graham crusade.

At the dedication of the [Billy Graham Library](#) in Charlotte, N.C., in June 2007, former President Bill Clinton said of Rev. Graham, “When he prays with you in the Oval Office or upstairs in the White House, you feel like he is praying for you, not the president.”

Rev. Graham was by no means unique in American history as a popular evangelist. [George Whitefield](#) in the mid-18th century, [Charles G. Finney](#) and [Dwight L. Moody](#) in the 19th century, and [Billy Sunday](#) at the turn of the 20th were all capable of drawing vast crowds.

But none of them combined the ambition, the talent for organization and the reach of Rev. Graham, who had the advantages of jet travel and electronic media to convey his message. In 2007, the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association estimated that he had preached the Gospel to more than 215 million people in more than 185 countries and territories since beginning his crusades in October 1947 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He reached hundreds of millions more on television, through video and in film.

“This is not mass evangelism,” Rev. Graham liked to say, “but personal evangelism on a mass scale.”

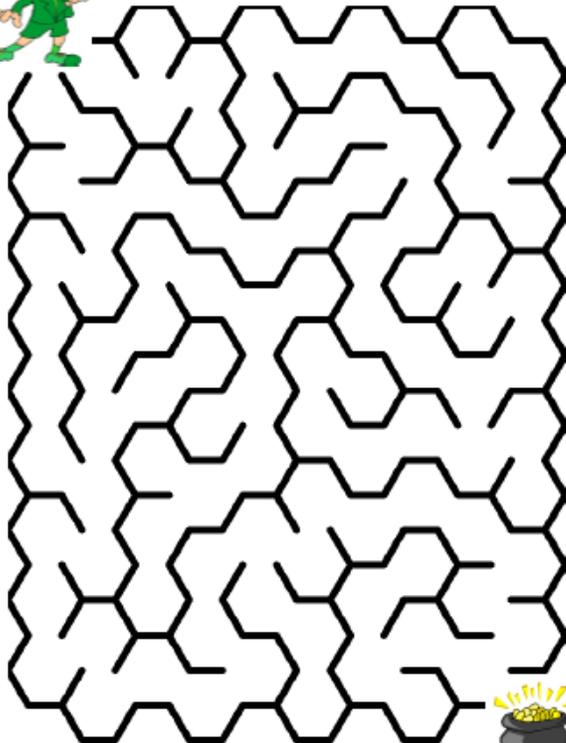


Billy Graham delivered a sermon to more than 100,000 people at the Olympic Stadium in Berlin in 1954. Associated Press

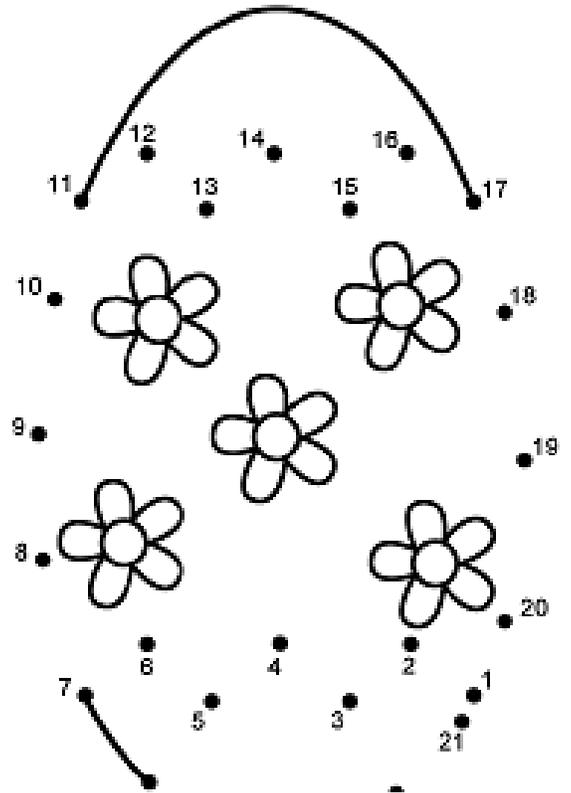


Children's Page

Help the Leprechaun find the Pot of Gold



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Easter Day

by Evaleen Stein

Christ the Lord is risen to-day!
Angels rolled the stone away
From the tomb wherein He lay!

Little children, come and sing,
"Glory, glory to the King,
Christ the Lord of everything!"

