



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church March - April 2020

5867 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115
Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
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 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

April

- 1 – Brent McAfee
- 10 – Jim & Karen Ottjes
- 16 – Steve & Martha Hix
- 19 – Aubree Horne

Upcoming Events

- Sunday, March 1 – Communion Sunday
- Saturday, March 7 – Faith Circle-9 AM
- Sunday, March 8 – Daylight Savings Time starts-2 AM
- Sunday, March 15 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Sunday, March 22 – UMCOR Sunday Offering
- Sunday, March 29 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Sunday, April 5 – Palm/Passion Sunday
- Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 10 – Community Good Friday Service at Uniondale UMC at 6:30 PM
- Saturday, April 11 – Easter Egg Hunt-east lawn at 10 AM
- Sunday, April 12 – Easter Fellowship Breakfast-8:15 AM
Easter Service/Communion-9 AM
No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 19 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Sunday, April 26 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
Church Board meeting-11 AM
- Saturday, May 2 – Faith Circle Breakfast out-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

We're nearing the official end of winter (March 20th) and I'm ready for it to be over and for spring to be here. This winter's had its days of ice and snow and bitter cold, and also its days of highs in the 40s-50s. Sometimes I get frustrated because the weather has prevented me from doing what I had planned to do. But it won't change the weather, so I just have to accept whatever comes and deal with it.

Lent began last week, February 26th, and continues for 6 ½ weeks, through April 11th. Lent is a season of reflection and repentance, a season of remembering what God did for us when he sent Jesus to die for our sins. It is a time to examine ourselves and confess our human failure to truly live following the example of Jesus Christ. It's a time to ask God for mercy, forgiveness, and guidance.

During Lent my sermon series will focus on various persons' "Encounters with Christ" as told by the gospel writer Matthew. Jesus' encounters with these individuals will reveal who Jesus is and his divine powers. I pray that these messages will help you to draw closer to Christ. I also pray that his spirit will fill you so that your faith will grow stronger and that you will be empowered for greater discipleship in our community.

After Easter (through May) I'm planning to do a 7-week series of messages focused on *The Story of Jesus*. The book titled, *The Story*, contains selected portions of Scripture compiled in chronological order to retain the overall flow of the narrative thus allowing the reader to get a sense of the "big picture" of the Bible. I'm ordering a copy of this book for each family in our congregation so that you can read each week's chapter in the book at home.

In our busy lives, it is easy to get caught up in earthly things so that eternal values become blurred and almost forgotten. We need to be reminded that we must continue to make Christ the central core of our lives if we are to be victorious believers.

The hymn, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus," talks about our unworthiness and the wonder of the cross. Meditate on these words as you focus on what Jesus did for us.

2. Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess: the wonder of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place, I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross. -- Elizabeth C. Clephane, # 297 *UM Hymnal*

Shalom,
Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

Easter Fellowship Breakfast

The men of the church will provide an Easter morning fellowship breakfast at 8:15 AM. Please sign up for items to provide to help make this a special time.

Faith Circle

Faith Circle will meet will on March 7, at the church with a breakfast carry-in. Mark your calendar for May 2, for breakfast out, location to be determined later. As always, men's fellowship will take place at these same times.

Wells County Cluster

The Cluster churches met on February 10, where we discussed our annual group trip to a Tin Caps game that is scheduled for Monday, June 8, a \$1.00 food night. On Saturday, September 26, the Cluster will again hand out popsicles (goal of 3,000) at the Bluffton Street Fair.

At the Hotcakes for Henderson fundraiser a total of \$1,133 was raised for projects and travel money for the Henderson Settlement mission trip. Thanks to all who helped out with this important fundraiser. This brings funds raised to a total of \$3,453. There are 21 people confirmed for the trip leaving on Sunday, March 22. The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 11 at 6:30 PM at Petroleum UMC.



The State of the Church: A Conversation with Bishop Trimble

Please plan to join Bishop Trimble at Huntington Evangelical UMC, Saturday, April 4th at 10:00 AM for a discussion on the State of the Church. He will share details about the proposed "Protocol," offer perspective, and clarify priorities of the church in Indiana, but he also wants to hear from you. Come ready to share in this dialogue about the state of The United Methodist Church.

Please remember

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

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

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



Treasure's Report

February 2020 Budget Summary	February Actual	February Budget	February Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,627.93	3,991.83	(363.90)	10,548.20	7,983.66	2,564.54
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	5,012.86	3,991.80	(1,021.06)	8,886.33	7,983.60	(902.73)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,384.93)	0.03		1,661.87	0.06	

A Message from Bishop Trimble

Together Our Methodist Witness



The Indiana United Methodist Conference is the largest conference in the North Central Jurisdiction of The United Methodist Church. With over 1,000 congregations connected through our missions, we have local churches and related ministries in every county in Indiana.

What does it mean for 174,000 people who belong to the denomination identified by the Cross and Flame to be in ministry together as one Church in many places and many churches in one state?

It means that hundreds of daycare centers that provide before-and-after-school programs are housed in or adjacent to local churches. It means that dozens of Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops have United Methodist sponsors. It means that children in poverty have school supplies and winter coats thanks to United Methodist Women groups.

The network of free meals and groceries for the most vulnerable in our state is dependent on the connection of United Methodist Churches to supply volunteers, food, and space to do ministry. Opioid recovery ministries and prison ministries and school partnerships are in place where United Methodists have joined others in saying, "We will not turn our backs on families and neighbors for we must go and do what Jesus would have us do!"

People need Jesus. They need hope in Jesus Christ. Salvation in Jesus Christ. Direction in Jesus Christ. Joy in Jesus Christ. As United Methodists, we take this charge seriously. We are not part of a meaningless movement or lackadaisical denomination. No, we go into the dark places bringing the light and hope and peace of Jesus Christ.

A Christian is a person who believes that the living God is revealed in and through Jesus Christ, who accepts Jesus as Lord and Savior and chooses to take his/her place in the community of the Church as a follower of Jesus Christ.

We have a public mission as the Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church that is a direct response to Jesus' Commission in Matthew 28. Our mission is to "Make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

With a statewide mission field of six million residents, our work is not done. There are people in areas of Indiana who still need Jesus, and we have a Gospel worth sharing. We profess that the world would be better if the imprint of the love and transforming power of Jesus was upon *all* of our communities.

As we prepare to begin the Lenten journey, I say to you, "Be not afraid." Make room this season for prayer in the spaces we usually reserve for worry. Make space for both laughter and lament.

One of my favorite songs is a Jazz rendition by saxophonist Kirk Whalum. The lyrics say, "Falling in love with Jesus is the best thing I've ever done..."

Rather than fuss and fight, I believe the season is before us to fall deeper in love with the One who died for us and showed us the way to love. It *will be* the best thing we've ever done.

Be encouraged,

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

An Interview with Mary Magdalene

A little over a month had elapsed since the day – Easter Day – that forever changed the world. A reporter for the *Jerusalem Journal*, a distant cousin of Mary Magdalene, sat down with Mary Magdalene, privately, in an interview that lasted about an hour. This is the unofficial version of that interview, which up to this time, has never been published.

Reporter: Mary, I've been told that you were the first to arrive at the empty tomb. What was the experience like?

Mary: Yes, I was the first to arrive at the tomb, but I wasn't alone. It was very early, in fact it was still dark when I set foot to the tomb. I was too afraid to go by myself, so I asked several women in our group to come with me. When we got there, all of us became more afraid, at first, mostly because we didn't expect, nor understand, what was going on. We all thought they stole Jesus' body. And then we were alarmed by what appeared to be a spiritual being who actually spoke to us. We ran like hell! You would too! We ran to tell the disciples, but something happened on the way. I remembered how Jesus said that he would be crucified and raised on the third day. Then my fear turned to joy because I have always known Jesus to keep his promises. We were still confused, but underneath we all thought to ourselves "something wonderful was going on." "Oh my God," I thought to myself. "This is Big, Real Big."

We ran to tell Jesus' friends, especially Peter, the ringleader. But we had to be careful to contain our joy because the whole group was still hiding out. They were also afraid of being caught. And then our joy was tempered when no one believed us! I mean how could you make something up like this? It was stranger than fiction. Someone said we were hysterical and I might have been. But they didn't believe me – like I was crazy! I mean think about it. If it weren't for us women no one would have ever heard the story! And then to be told "you're crazy?!" There wasn't so much as a "thank you", even when they found out that the story was true.

And yet, I don't worry about the need to receive the credit. Jesus taught me that. He taught me to do the right thing without calling attention to myself. He's taught me a lot about life and about myself.

Reporter: After that Sunday morning experience, most of the stories I've heard are about the disciples, the men.

Mary: That's not news. We've never had a voice, especially in religious circles. It goes deeper than that. It's a rare exception when women are treated with respect. We're actually considered "dirty" when we menstruate and shunned if we're not Jewish. Someone started a rumor about me that I was a prostitute. What I've encountered since then by the "holier than thou" I won't even mention. Sometimes I wish I were dead. I'm not proud of my history, but I've never been a prostitute. I'm not saying I'm an angel, I have a dark past and Jesus is the only rabbi I've encountered who not only listened to me, he forgave me too. Everyone else has been judgmental. Actually, Jesus taught me how to be loving – it is to be intentional about the well-being of someone else, not attached to their behavior. That's how Jesus loved me.

Reporter: That's quite remarkable.

Mary: And it's not only me. There's a whole group of us that have followed Jesus everywhere because of the ways he has created our dignity, forgiven our past, and offered us a new future. We travel together, just like the disciples, but we're never mentioned.

My best friend, Salome, was ridiculed for washing Jesus' feet with her tears and drying them with her hair. Jesus was the only one to acknowledge her generosity. There was a woman in our group from Syro-Phoenicia, who had her daughter healed and her own life restored as the result of an encounter with Jesus. No one else would even speak to her! I could go on and on about how many of us women have had our dignity restored, or self-esteem renewed, our hopelessness altered as the result of our encounter with Jesus. We follow him to learn more but what bonds us together is our gratitude.

We don't make the headlines because we're women. Just like the Easter Story. But we don't let that get in the way of our mission. We follow Jesus because we want to be there for people who have suffered the indignities we have suffered. Jesus went out of his way for us. Now it's our turn to do it for others.

Children's Page

Easter Word Search



JHEDHSNSPG
ZEOPNIAEZG
NRSRYPINYO
JHOUAULOAG
XHCLSMSTRZ
TPMEVOLSPQ
BSSINJGESB
RMZCROSSMH
RFAFFPOOXD
ZDJLOLTPW



CROSS	JESUS	LAMB
LOVE	NAILS	PALMS
PRAY	SIN	STONES
THORNS	TOMB	



Mandy Groce '10

ministry-to-children.com