



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church

March - April 2021

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

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

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E-mail: kottjes@gmail.com
 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

Upcoming Events

- Saturday, March 6 – Faith Circle-9 AM
- Sunday, March 7 – Communion Sunday
- Sunday, March 14 – Daylight Savings Time starts-2 AM
UMCOR Sunday Offering
- Sunday, March 21 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Sunday, March 28 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
Palm/Passion Sunday
- Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday
- Saturday, April 3 – Easter Egg Hunt-east lawn at 10 AM -TBD
- Sunday, April 4 – Easter Fellowship Breakfast-8:15 AM
Easter Service/Communion-9 AM
No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 18 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Native American Ministries Sunday Offering
- Sunday, April 25 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Saturday, May 1 – Faith Circle Breakfast out-9 AM



March and April Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

- 1 – Kim Chaney
- 17 – Martha Hix
- 19 – Troy Drayer

April

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



****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

I'm very thankful for the sunshine and warmer weather we're having this week. I've been out walking around our neighborhood almost every day. It feels so refreshing to be able to be outside, feeling the sun on my face and seeing some of my neighbors I haven't seen for a while. It perks up my spirit too. I hope you've been able to get outside for at least a little while this week.

We're in the season of Lent now. It's a season for soul-searching and repentance. It's also a season for more intentional practice of the spiritual disciplines of fasting, self-denial, simplicity and giving to the poor. Rather than giving up something for Lent, some people start a new habit of sending cards or making phone calls to people who don't get out to see others very often. The purpose of these practices is to transform us and help us become more like Christ.

From February 28th through April 11th (the week after Easter), I'll be preaching a series of 7 messages focused on *The Story of Jesus*. It begins with Jesus' birth and goes through his resurrection, ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit to empower the apostles to carry on the mission of telling others about God's love and care as shown by his Son, Jesus Christ. The book we're using is *The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People*. It contains Scripture texts put together chronologically with transitions to help the storyline read smoothly.

The uniqueness of this study is that it points out that we need to look at the Bible from two perspectives. The Upper Story is God's story, the tale of his master plan that unfolds through the Bible's characters. The Lower Story, our story, is about many ordinary people like us interacting with God in their daily lives. Then God joins the Upper and Lower stories together like panels in one great unified mural.

This series also has companion videos to use in our Sunday School time which I will be leading. Invite your friends and family who are not actively participating in a Christian church to join us to learn who Jesus is and what his ministry was all about.

Here's an inspiring and uplifting old hymn about our need to know "More about Jesus." Spend some time this week meditating on these words.

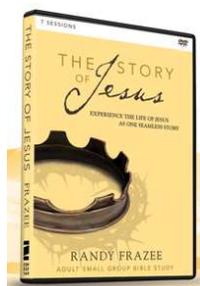
1. More about Jesus would I know, More of His grace to others show;
More of his saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.
2. More about Jesus let me learn, More of his holy will discern;
Spirit of God, my teacher be, Showing the things of Christ to me.
3. More about Jesus in His Word, Holding communion with my Lord;
Hearing his voice in ev'ry line, Making each faithful saying mine.

Refrain: More, more about Jesus, More, more about Jesus;
More of His saving fullness see, More of His love who died for me.

-- Eliza E. Hewitt, written in 1887, #141 *Living Praise Hymnal*

Shalom,

Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

Education

Pastor Karen will be leading the adult Sunday School class in The Story of Jesus Series from February 28 thru April 11. The children's Sunday School class has started new literature with great lessons and neat activities to make the learning fun. Join us at 10:15 on Sundays!

Faith Circle

Faith Circle will be held at 9:00 a.m., on March 6, at Uniondale UMC. Elaine McAfee will host the morning, while her sister, Donna Geisman, will teach us basket weaving. Donna has been involved in basket weaving for many years and is an accomplished weaver. We are excited for her to share her expertise with our group. Our men's group will gather for breakfast and fellowship at the same time.

Mark your calendar for May 1, for our annual Faith Circle breakfast out. Details to be announced later. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Trustees

Thanks to those who have helped keep the snow cleared off of the sidewalks and front steps. Also, thanks to Mike Freeman for plowing our parking lot and the sidewalk on the north side of the church building.

Wells County Cluster

The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 10, 2021, at Uniondale UMC at 6:30 PM. The cluster is in need of a leader or co-leader.



The Council of Bishops announced today that they are calling another Special Session of the General Conference of UMC to be convened online on May 8, 2021. The purpose of the 2021 Special Session of the General Conference will be limited to gaining a quorum in order to suspend the rules for the sole purpose of allowing the use of paper ballots to act upon 12 pieces of legislation that would enable the church to effectively continue its work until the postponed 2020 General Conference is held in 2022. While other potential amendments were considered, it was agreed that these 12 pieces of legislation would enable the church to continue its administrative functions appropriately.

The General Conference is now scheduled to take place August 29 to September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

<https://www.unitedmethodistbishops.org/newsdetail/bishops-call-special-session-2021-15074669>

Please remember

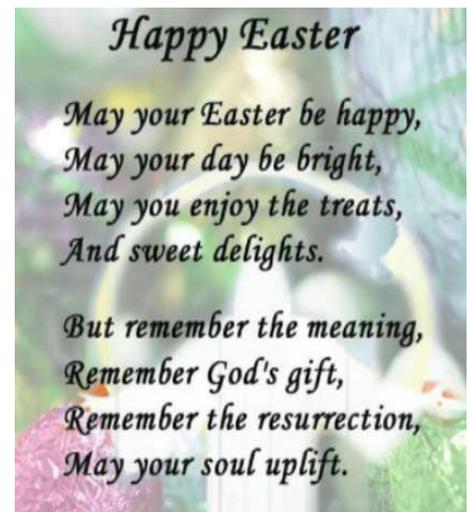
Betty Cary
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #120HC
Bluffton, IN 46714

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



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)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	1,341.32	0.03		2,048.01	0.36	

The Parable of the Butterfly

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things."

Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively begins to form a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and you'd think for all the world that the caterpillar is dead.



But one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis begins to writhe, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down, up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms.

Somehow, the miracle of the butterfly never loses its fascination for us. Perhaps because the butterfly is a living parable of the promise of resurrection.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' graveclothes lying on the cold slab still wrapped round and round the corpse. Only the corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who has left to soar free. "He is risen as He said," an angel told the incredulous disciples. Later that day he appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Even "Doubting Thomas" didn't doubt for long that Jesus was really risen from the dead.

A few weeks ago I lost a friend who had become dear to me. Where she had been so full of life, now her body lay still, composed ever-so-carefully by the morticians. I looked at her and thought about my own mortality. One day I too, like her, may fight a losing battle with pain, and die.

What do we Christians say in the face of death? There are many mysteries. But two things we know for sure. First, death is an enemy. Away with the sentimentality that vainly seeks to disguise death's insult! But second, and more important, Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof to us that death is not the end. The empty tomb and Jesus' Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead us who believe in His Son.

Why do Christians gather on Easter morning? To show off their fine clothes or give a ritual tip of the hat to religion? God forbid! Rather we gather to celebrate Jesus' victory over death itself. For since He is our Lord and our Savior, His victory is our victory. In celebrating His resurrection we celebrate our own assurance of ultimate triumph over death.

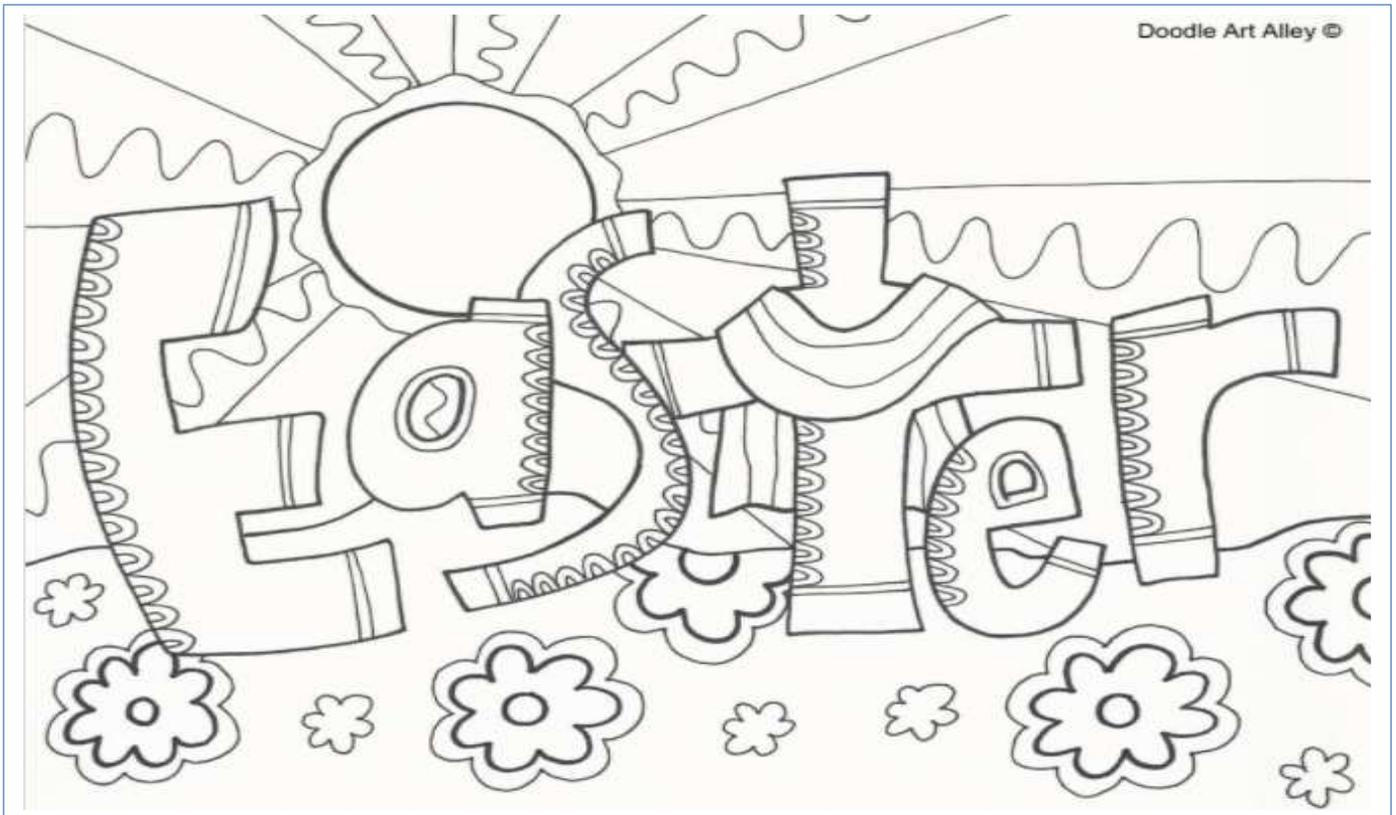
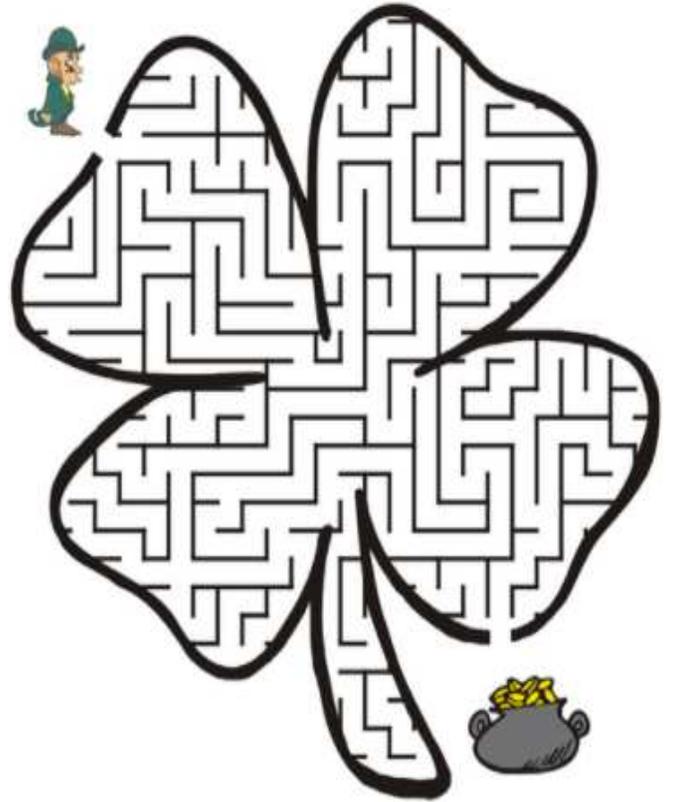
Join us this Easter as we celebrate Life! And if you look closely Easter morning, you might even see a butterfly alight on the lilies.

Spring Word Search

s	n	a	i	l	m	b	f	r
e	f	f	l	o	w	e	r	a
b	r	n	g	b	i	e	o	i
e	o	a	s	d	t	s	e	n
t	g	i	u	r	u	e	d	b
i	w	o	n	k	n	e	m	o
k	l	p	b	i	r	d	a	w
c	j	f	a	e	l	s	t	h

Word Bank

- | | | | |
|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| flower | rainbow | kite | bird |
| sun | frog | nest | seeds |
| cloud | bee | snail | leaf |



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