



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church March - April 2023

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



March and April Birthdays and Anniversaries March

- 1 – Kim Chaney
- 17 – Martha Hix
- 19 – Troy Drayer
- 31 – Jan & Michael Roberson

April

- 10 – Jim & Karen Ottjes
- 16 – Steve & Martha Hix

- Saturday, March 4 – Faith Circle - 9 AM
- Sunday, March 5 – Second Sunday in Lent, Communion Sun
- Wednesday, March 8 – Church Conf.-Disaffiliation Vote-6:30 PM
- Sunday, March 12 – Daylight Savings Time starts-2 AM
- Sunday, March 19 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
UMCOR Sunday offering
- Sunday, March 26 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Sunday, April 2 – Communion Sunday, Palm/Passion Sunday
- Thursday, April 6 – Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 7 – Good Friday
- Sunday, April 9 – Easter Fellowship Breakfast-8:15 AM
Easter Service/Communion-9 AM
No Sunday School
- Sunday, April 16 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Guest speaker (Pastor Karen out)
- Sunday, April 30 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Saturday, May 6 – 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

A Word from Our Pastor

We have been discerning prayerfully for some time now and preparing for our Church Conference on March 8th as the official vote of our members to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Our Associate Superintendent Kathie Jones will be with us to officiate over our vote. I'm sure that an affirmative vote of more than 2/3 of those present and voting will feel like a relief to have this big step done. After that there are still many tasks to complete before May 11th. I'm pleased that most of you are helping with the tasks of gathering the required information for the last steps.

We are in the season of Lent in the Christian year. It is a time of introspection and examination of the way we are living our Christian lives. It's been asked of people that are members of a church or who claim to be Christians, "If you were arrested for being a disciple of Jesus Christ, would there be enough evidence to convict you"? That's a good question for us to ask ourselves during Lent. Are you following the example of Jesus in the way you live your life? Are you showing your neighbors the unconditional love and care that Christ shows you? Have you prayed for God to open their hearts and prepare an opportunity for you to share with them the benefits of being a Christian?

Prayer is the most important work of the Christian disciple. We need to pray for God's wisdom and guidance. We need to remember that without prayer we can't do anything of lasting value. Prayer keeps us connected to God and growing more in love with him each day. Prayer is the key that unlocks the door to God's power and unleashes it so that we can do mighty things in his name and for his glory.

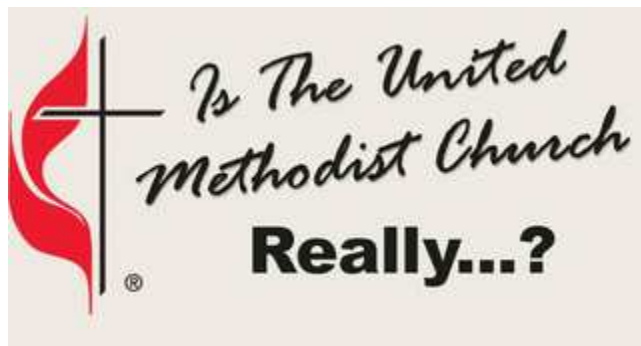
We Christians are to be disciples of Jesus Christ, learners of God's will and ways through daily reading and studying the Bible and doing what it says. What pleases God is for his people to show their care and concern for the weak, the sick, the hungry, the homeless, those without jobs, and the oppressed people around them.

A few weeks ago I started my sermon with the following prayer that I pray everyday. It helps me to remember who I am (a child of God, a disciple of Jesus) and how I am supposed to live my life (doing the things that Jesus would do). I suggest that you pin this prayer to a place where you will see it often or tuck it inside the Bible you use for your daily time of devotions and prayer. If it's more comfortable for you, change the "thy" to your and the "thine" to yours.

Dear Jesus, Flood my soul with thy spirit and life. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may be only a radiance of Thine. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul [every person] I come in contact with may feel thy presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus Amen.

Cardinal John Henry Newman

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><



****Please remember****

Committee News

Faith Circle

Faith Circle and the Men's Group met on March 4. The ladies enjoyed a "Paint and Praise" session led by Connie Hix, as each person completed a sunset painting. Everyone brought a snack to share. The Men's Group enjoyed a fellowship breakfast at a local restaurant.

Trustees

The roof leak at the back of the sanctuary has been repaired. Along with the roof repair, the missing fascia at the front roof peak was replaced.

Wells County Cluster

The Cluster group met at Uniondale UMC on February 13. Much of the group discussion centered around each church possibly assisting each other in projects/fund raisers. The next Cluster meeting will be May 8 at Epworth UMC.



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

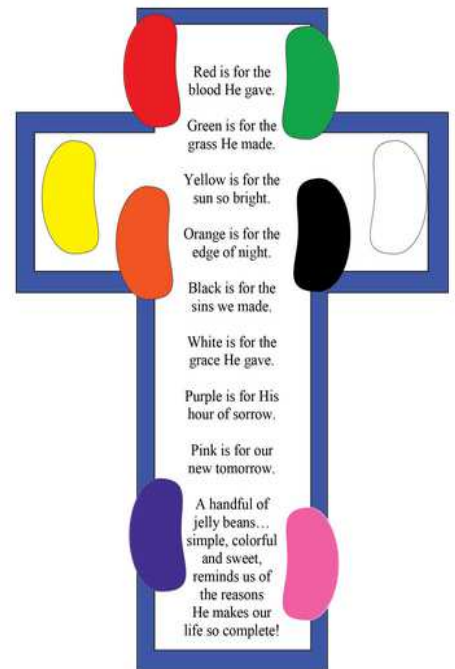
Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

If Jesus Had Died

If Jesus had died and simply remained in his grave, he would be remembered (if he was remembered at all) as a noble idealist, tragically crushed by the forces of history. There could have been, in the first century, no surer sign that someone was not the Messiah than his death at the hands of the enemies of Israel, for one of the central marks of messiahship was precisely victory over those enemies.

That Peter, James, John, Paul, Thomas, and the rest could announce throughout the Mediterranean world that Jesus was in fact the long-awaited Israelite Messiah, and that they could go to their deaths defending this claim, are the surest indications that something monumentally significant happened to Jesus after his death.

That something was the RESURRECTION!



Treasurer's Report

February 2023 Budget Summary	February Actual	February Budget	February Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	2,785.72	5,651.25	(2,865.53)	13,523.91	11,302.50	2,221.41
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	4,480.30	3,951.22	(529.08)	8,724.22	7,902.44	(821.78)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,694.58)	1,700.03		4,799.69	3,400.06	

Prop Us Up On Our Leaning Side



"A pastor of a small church would occasionally call on one gentleman to pray, and every time this one particular guy would pray, he would end with the strangest statement, "And, oh Lord, prop us up on our leaning side."

Finally, the pastor pulled him aside, and he said, "I love the way you pray, but I don't understand your little closing phrase. What are you talking about - prop us up on our leaning side?" He responded, "Well, Pastor, I'm a farmer. I live out on the farm and, you know, I live in the country. I've got an old barn, and it's been there a long time. It's been through a lot of weather, and a lot of storms, and a lot of bugs have eaten at it."

He said, "I got to looking at it one day when I was riding on my tractor, and I noticed that it was leaning to one side. So I thought to myself, oh my goodness! The barn is leaning, and it's a matter of time before the whole thing falls.

He continued, "So, you know what I did? I went and got some pine beams, and I propped it up on its leaning side." He said, "It still leans, and probably always will. But I propped it up on its leaning side. And it's not going to fall down because I propped it up on its leaning side. And I got to thinking about it.

When I was on the tractor, Pastor, and I was riding in the field, I thought about the kind of year I've had, and some of the storms I've been through, and some of the people that are bugging me, and eating away at my joy and eating away at my spirit. And I just got to thinking, you know, I'm still here! I'm still standing after all that stuff I've been through. The storms, and the howling winds - they couldn't topple me. I'm still standing by the grace of God."

He concluded, "From time to time, I find myself leaning. Leaning toward my old desires, leaning toward anger, leaning toward becoming bitter or hateful at the people who are bugging me, or leaning toward going back to the old habits and the old life I used to have. And when I feel myself start to lean toward that tendency, I just remember that old barn, and I pray out loud - "Lord, thank you for propping me up on the leaning side."

- Jentezen Franklin

Advice From An Old Farmer

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.

Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered... not yelled.

Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Every path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life... Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with, watches you from the mirror every mornin'.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.

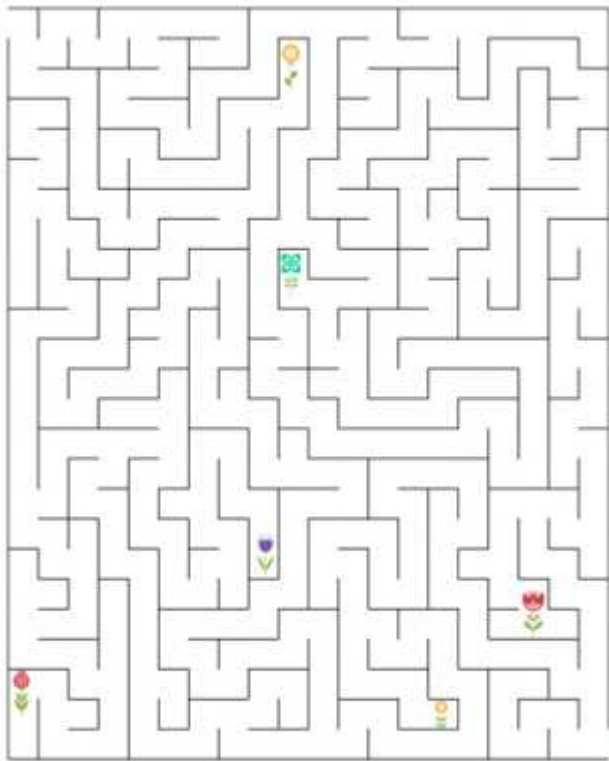
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.

Most times, it just gets down to common sense!

Children's Page

Help Buzzy Reach His Friends!



E	Y	K	M	M	R	M	K	S	P	K	N	F	V	L	X	K
I	G	B	U	M	B	L	E	B	E	E	J	C	N	J	U	Y
J	S	U	N	S	H	I	N	E	P	U	Y	O	S	O	C	M
E	F	T	H	U	K	V	M	M	H	G	L	T	Y	R	Q	R
Q	Y	T	N	E	B	P	L	L	A	D	Y	B	U	G	G	C
E	S	E	H	J	D	F	B	M	A	P	R	I	L	L	V	T
L	B	R	A	I	N	C	O	A	T	G	X	P	Y	E	I	Y
E	L	F	Q	X	S	B	U	M	B	R	E	L	L	A	R	P
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U	C	A	G	M	V	E	T	A	R	F	U	P	E	R	B	B
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T	M	V	H	C	Z	W	X	S	B	H	S	M	D	B	W	U
F	P	A	T	R	H	J	S	O	I	O	Z	O	W	L	A	N
F	I	X	Y	N	M	Z	R	Q	N	C	Y	I	M	X	E	N
A	O	R	V	H	O	S	B	U	N	N	Y	X	G	B	F	A



BLOOM	FLOWERS	PUDDLE	BUMBLEBEE
BUNNY	MARCH	TULIP	UMBRELLA
SPRING	APRIL	ROBIN	SUNSHINE
BUTTERFLY	MAY	LADYBUG	SHOWERS
EASTER	RAINBOW	RAINCOAT	EGGHUNT

