



# Messenger

## Uniondale United Methodist Church

May - June 2020

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes  
260-228-3634

Website: [www.uniondaleumc.com](http://www.uniondaleumc.com)  
E-mail: [kottjes@gmail.com](mailto:kottjes@gmail.com)

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.

### Upcoming Events



#### Birthdays and Anniversaries

##### May

- 2 – Gerry Houtz
- 2 – Bill & Connie Hix
- 4 – Coralee Bowley
- 11 – Connie Andorfer
- 19 – Kent & Mindi Herstad
- 23 – Bill Hix
- 26 – Steve Hix

##### June

- 4 – Madison Herstad
- 4 – Ed & Coralee Bowley
- 7 – Larry & Elaine McAfee
- 16 – Connie Hix
- 18 – Larry McAfee
- 19 – Kent Herstad

- Thursday, May 7 – National Day of Prayer
- Sunday, May 10 – Mother's Day – No Church Service
- Sunday, May 17 – First Sunday back
- Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day
- Sunday, May 31 – **Pentecost Sunday – wear red**  
Kids Changing the World-bring your change
- Tuesday, June 2 – Indiana Primary Election Day
- Sunday, June 7 – Communion Sunday?  
UMCOR Sunday Offering
- Sunday, June 21 – Father's Day
- Sunday, June 28 – 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

The past nine weeks have not been like anything I – and probably most of you – have ever experienced in your lives. We missed worshipping on Palm Sunday waving palm branches and Good Friday remembering Jesus' suffering and death. But most of all we missed the joyous celebration of His resurrection on Easter morning! And next Sunday we'll miss celebrating Mother's Day together. Spring sports, the prom and other year-end school celebrations have been cancelled. Kolson Herstad and Dallas Topp are graduating from high school in the next few weeks, but the celebrations are being delayed or will be done very differently from what the graduates expected.

Although a few of our members are still working away from home, most of us have spent almost all of our waking hours at home during the past few weeks with only a weekly trip to the grocery store, the doctor's office or drug store, and possibly one or two other places and right back home. Spending this much time at home gets old after a couple weeks. I'm happy to see the spring flowers and the green grass and the small birds back around outside. And I'm especially grateful for the warmer sunny days when I can get outside for some fresh air and a walk around the neighborhood. There's nothing like a walk outside to help you change your perspective on life.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all face-to-face again in a couple weeks. But we won't be able to greet each other with a handshake or a hug, since we still need to practice social distancing. But we'll be able to see and hear each other live and in person. That will be a great reunion! (See article about how worship will be different when we return on May 17<sup>th</sup>, page 4.)

Though we find ourselves troubled by this coronavirus pandemic, we can find comfort in these words in the Bible. Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." (John 14:1) Paul reminds us, "This small and temporary trouble we suffer will bring us a tremendous and eternal glory, much greater than the trouble. <sup>18</sup> For we fix our attention, not on things that are seen, but on things that are unseen. What can be seen lasts only for a time, but what cannot be seen lasts forever." (2 Cor 4:17-18)

Here is a verse and the familiar chorus of an old Gospel song to meditate on as we continue on this unfamiliar journey.

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's a light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. -- Helen H. Lemmel, ©1922, renewed 1950, Singspiration Music

Shalom,

Pastor Karen <><



## Committee News

### Trustees

The inside termite inspection was completed and everything looks good. The lawn tractor was serviced including an oil change and sharpening and balancing the blades. The self-propelled mower was also serviced, so both are ready to go. The locks have been changed on both west doors as well as the door leading to the basement. If you have a need for a key, please contact Jim.

### Wells County Cluster

The Cluster meeting scheduled for May 11 has been cancelled due to the current coronavirus situation. The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 10 at 6:30 PM at Petroleum UMC. The Cluster Tin Caps game scheduled in June has been cancelled as well. The plans for the Henderson Mission trip and the Bluffton Street Fair Popsicle outreach will be determined at a later date.



### A PRAYER FOR OUR TIMES

God, we trust that You are good and do good. Teach us to be Your faithful people in this time of global crisis. Help us to follow in the footsteps of our faithful shepherd, Jesus, who laid down His life for the sake of love. Glorify His name as You equip us with everything needed for doing Your will. We ask this in Jesus Holy Name. Amen.

\*\*Please remember\*\*

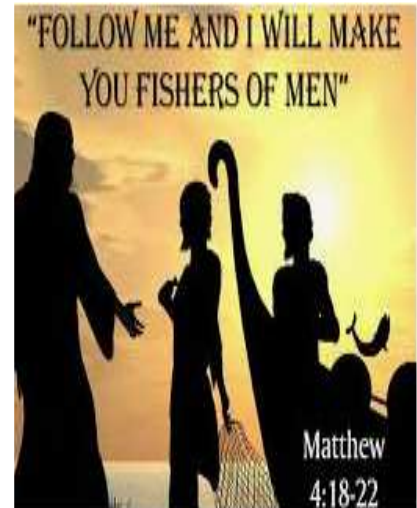
Betty Cary  
200 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #120HC  
Bluffton, IN 46714

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

Gary Cook  
Markle Health & Rehabilitation  
170 N. Tracy Street  
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Jeanette Gilbert  
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2172 E US 224  
Ossian, IN 46777

Margaret Hasler  
37446 Carson  
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



### Treasure's Report

<b>March 2020 Budget Summary</b>	<b>March Actual</b>	<b>March Budget</b>	<b>March Variance</b>	<b>Year to date Actual</b>	<b>Year to date Budget</b>	<b>Year to date Variance</b>
TOTAL INCOME	3,691.25	3,991.83	(300.58)	14,239.45	11,975.49	2,263.96
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,107.41	3,991.80	884.39	11,993.74	11,975.40	(18.34)
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>583.84</b>	<b>0.03</b>		<b>2,245.71</b>	<b>0.09</b>	

## Returning to Worship Procedures

1. We will have no greeters or ushers.
2. Please bring your own hand sanitizer and use it after you sit down.
3. There will be no passing of the offering plates. The plates will be placed on the stands in the back where the bulletins were previously placed and only handled by finance personnel.
4. During the times of sharing announcements, joys and prayer concerns, we will not pass the microphone around. Please speak as loudly as you can.
5. Hymnals and Bibles will be removed from pews. There will be no printed bulletin. Announcements and service information will be displayed on the monitor.
6. There will be no communion, coffee or cookies until they can be shared safely.
7. We have people who have compromised immune systems so we must be careful about touching one another for any reason. We will maintain the six-foot social distance limit. When sitting in the pews, we should try to place ourselves so that we are not sitting immediately behind or in front of one another in addition to keeping safe distance between ourselves.
8. You are encouraged, but not required, to wear a mask.
9. If you use the bathroom, please use a sanitizing wipe (provided) to wipe the toilet seat & handle, faucet handles and door knob before you leave and toss the used wipe in the wastebasket just outside the bathroom door.

# It's Okay To Fear Coronavirus

Written by Dr. Paul Tripp

We find ourselves in a time of unprecedented trouble. Faced with a global pandemic, we need to take a moment to think biblically about our response to COVID-19.

I only have one thought that I will repeat in today's devotional: **Be afraid, but don't give way to fear.**

That statement may seem contradictory, so let me explain.

Fear is one of God's good gifts to us. I think there are three types of spiritually healthy fear:

- 1. Fear of God.** This is a holy reverence of the Almighty, living in awe of, and submitting to, the King of the universe.
- 2. Rapid Response Fear.** This is our instinctual ability to react in a moment of danger. Think of a parent who spontaneously leaps into action to protect their child right before they hurt themselves.
- 3. Appropriate Concern:** This allows us to be sobered by what we are facing, and with our God-given ability to analyze, we make wise and planned choices to protect ourselves and those we love.

God designed us with the ability to be afraid because he loves us and wants to protect us.

## **Be afraid, but don't give way to fear.**

Giving way to fear is characterized by meditating on the trouble we are facing and forgetting God in the process. This fear reveals itself when we allow our minds and hearts to be controlled by what was initially appropriate concern.

Is the pandemic (or anything that makes you afraid, for that matter) all you think about, all you read about, and all you talk about? If any type of trouble consumes your meditation, the larger it will loom, the more impossible a solution will seem, and the more frightened you will become.

In this world, you will face danger, so ignoring that reality is not wise. God has given you the ability to be concerned, so acting as if there is no reason for concern is not the solution.

The problem is that your meditation has been consumed by the trouble you are facing.

Whenever trouble consumes our meditation, it's because we have ultimately forgotten God. We have forgotten that there is a Lord of glory, wisdom, goodness, power, and grace who sits on the throne of his universe. No difficulty of any kind - no person, place, or pandemic - can negate his good and glorious promises to his children.

As you -look horizontally, things may seem entirely out of control. But when you look vertically, this world is under careful supervision.

Do I claim to understand the pandemic? Not at all. Until we're on the other side, we may never fully understand why God would allow this trouble to enter our lives.

But we know who he is. We know what he can do. We know what he has promised. We know that he is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

In this moment of global pandemic, don't let your meditation be dominated by fear so that you become God-forgetful. Don't ignore the reality of the situation, don't be embarrassed by your instinctual ability to respond rapidly when needed, and make wise plans out of appropriate concern.

Most of all, never stop fearing God.

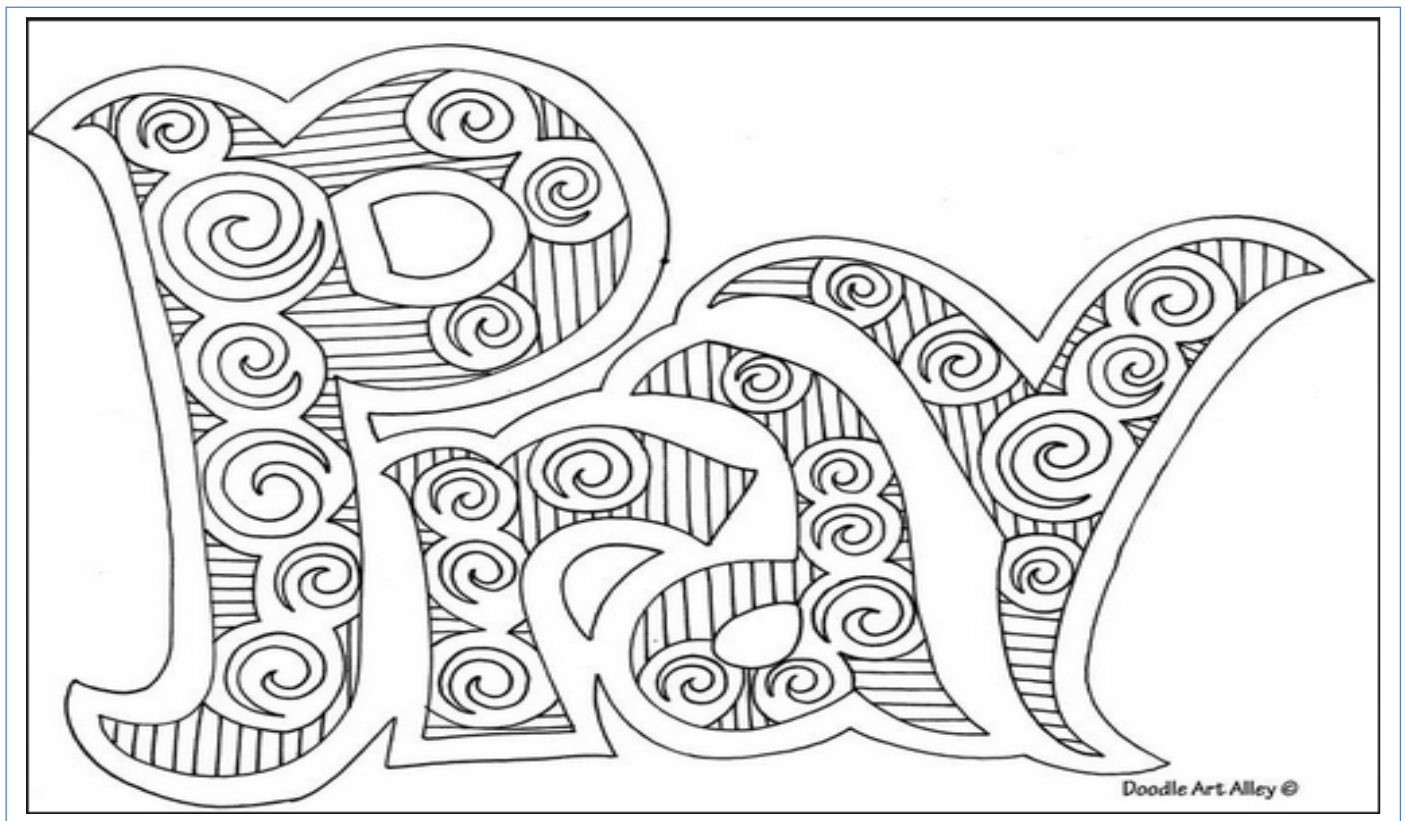
## **Be afraid, but don't give way to fear.**

This content was originally posted by Paul Tripp on [www.paultripp.com](http://www.paultripp.com) at <https://www.paultripp.com/wednesdays-word/posts/its-okay-to-fear-coronavirus>

## Summer Word Search

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

SUMMER	BEACH	JUNE
SUNNY	SWIMSUIT	JULY
SUNSCREEN	BUGS	HOT
POOL	VACATION	AUGUST
LEMONADE	BASEBALL	SUNGLASSES



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