



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church May 2015

5857 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer
260-543-2256

Website: www.uniondaleumc.com

E-mail: troy.drayer@inumc.org

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



May

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 2nd – Gerry Houtz
- 2nd – Bill and Connie Hix
- 4th – Coralee Bowley
- 11th – Connie Andorfer
- 11th – Erick Kahn
- 12th – Emily Bennett
- 15th – Tim Evans
- 19th – Alexa Evans
- 19th – Kent and Mindi Herstad
- 22nd – Elda Mae Weaver
- 23rd – Bill Hix
- 24th – Jennifer Cook
- 29th – Ryan and Suzanne Kellam

Upcoming Events

- Wednesday, May 6 – Vision & Evangelism Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
- Sunday, May 10 – Communion
- Sunday, May 10 – Happy Mother's Day!
- Saturday, May 16 – Faith Circle to meet @ church @ 12:30 to carpool to Pasquetti's
- Sunday, May 17 – Fellowship breakfast @ 8:15 a.m. hosted by Bill and Connie Hix
- Sunday, May 31 – Annual Church Outing – more details to follow
- Sunday, June 14 – Church @ Elzey's pond

*"A Mother is like a flower
On a sunny summer day.
You'd pick her in a minute
If you could have your way."*

*A Mother is like the sunshine;
She warms your heart each day
And makes you feel like smiling.
It's just her special way."*

****Don't forget****

- * Save your pop tabs and can tabs. Collection can at the back of the church
- * Save your change for Children Changing the World

State of the Church

Presented to the Church Board on April 25, 2015

“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden, neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5: 14-16

We can be a light for this community. It has been an amazing journey to watch and be a part of this church's impact on lives for Jesus. We have grown in our average attendance, supported a pre-school, sent kids to church camps, participated in community events such as: a hog-roast for the town, Easter egg hunt, Angel Tree support plus other various events. We have an active women's group, Faith Circle, 3 classes for jr. church, 3 Sunday school classes for all ages, people who volunteer to make visits, send cards and phone calls to our patriarchs that can't attend regularly.

But, most important and maybe the hardest, we have encouraged leadership and a stronger foundation of faith to our church members. I admit that I have “stretched” some of you and encouraged more commitment and energy, but that's the role of an engaged pastor. As your pastor I want each of you to develop the desire to see where we can “go” and not just be where we are. Spiritual growth comes from positive change and a sense of unity for this church body.

This church has great history and a positive self-identity for Methodist roots. Wouldn't the faithful who have gone on before us be amazed at where we are today?

For my first church....I am extremely blessed. I have made some mistakes (some bigger than others). You have surrounded me with grace and forgiveness. I THANK YOU!! As I have grown in my spiritual walk and also my pastoral role, God has increased a desire to love, encourage and help people see all God has for them. I am encouraged with Course of Study (my college classes) and how God has inspired leadership to make some positive change. I am still years away from being finished, but it's so much more accommodating. Thanks to the PPR for their support, emails and encouragement as I “put my foot down” and became the squeaky wheel to the District Committee.

Our future is bright. Steve Burris, assistant District Superintendent, mentions to other pastors from our district, “There's something special happening at Uniondale UMC”. He is right!!!!

Our summer activities already planned are church at the pond, our church retreat at the state park, and our church outing in May. I am planning and studying for a wonderful summer sermon series covering the “12 disciples and the first church.” Great stuff!!!

I am excited to be a part of this church body. I thank you for this opportunity to serve and lead you to a relationship with Christ that is like no other.

It's never about us....It's always about HIM.

Blessings and mercy,
Pastor Troy

“Uniondale United Methodist Church is a refuge to the surrounding Community from the bombardments of everyday life, by providing a welcoming, friendly, and Christ centered atmosphere along with a “back to the basics” traditional approach to service, music, fellowship, and community outreach.”

Thank You!!

I would like to start off by giving a huge shout out to the volunteers who helped make the fundraiser a huge success!!!! Tonia, Devin, Alexis, Charlie, Erick, Andrea, Ben, and my Mom, you guys will never know how much I appreciate all your hard work. I could never have done 20 boxes of noodles, 40 cans of sauce, 10 loaves of bread, 8 heads of lettuce and the salad fixings, 108 cupcakes, 10 gallons of drinks, 10 pounds of green beans, and 200 meatballs without your help!!!!!!

We raised a little over \$500

WOW!!!!!! THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!!!!!!

And a thank you to my Mom (Lori) for giving the church a "new to us" gas stove to replace the current one!!!! How awesome is our GOD!!!!!!

Don't forget if you have garage sale items, you are more than welcome to bring them to my house, or we can pick them up. We would like to have all items by the 1st of June!

With much love 

Jennifer Cook

Please remember:

Mary Etta Blessing
3890 W. Oak Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Bernie & Lura Burke
3505 E. 800 N.
Ossian, IN 46777

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

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

Jeanette Gilbert
100 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #115
Bluffton, IN 46714

Opal Gilbert
Christian Care Retirement Comm.
720 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331

ENCOURAGING THE CALLAn Epistle by Bishop Mike Joyner

Sunday, May 24th, has been declared as "Encourage the Call Sunday" in our Indiana Conference. It is also Aldersgate Sunday – the day we remember and celebrate John Wesley's so-called "Aldersgate Experience" when he personally discovered God's grace and found his heart "strangely warmed." The two days belong together, because any heart-warming experience of God's love and forgiveness always leads us to discover God's call to faithful discipleship and service.

Now let's be clear: Not everyone is called into pastoral ministry or into the work of the clergy of our church, so "Encourage the Call Sunday" is bigger than just looking for persons who are being called by God into ordained ministry. As United Methodists we believe that all Christians are called by God into some form(s) of ministry – and our baptism is our certification of being called to serve God. Too often in the past we have focused so much upon God's call to pastors that we have given the wrong impression to laypersons. They have been left thinking of themselves as the "audience" or the "consumers" of the ministry. Not so! Everyone has a calling from God to serve God and God's people and the whole of God's creation. And that calling changes and evolves over a lifetime. Some are called to parent young children, but then later in life they are called to be leaders beyond the home. Some are called to be servants of God in their so-called "secular" careers, bringing the Spirit of Christ into their work. Some are called to be lay leaders inside the church, others are called to be lay leaders outside the church and to help the church become more outwardly-focused.

We have a whole variety of "ministries" for people to serve God: Stephens Ministers, Supply Pastors, Local Pastors, Deacons, Elders, Extension Ministers, etc. In fact our United Methodist Church provides a rather confusing array of ministry options, mostly because anytime people have felt called by God we have tried to create new categories of ministry. One could look at that and see a mess (and sometimes it looks like that to me), or we could look at that variety and see the creativity and diversity of the Spirit at work.

The point is this: Everyone is called by God, and we must encourage one another to listen, to hear, to follow and to fulfill our calling. I hope that on May 24 many of our pastors will share their own sense of calling into ministry, but I hope they do that in a way which is inviting and not limiting or pompous. The calling to ministry as a clergy is indeed "special" and "holy" – but so is the calling of every other person to find God's direction in their life. More and more I see "sacred" and "secular" as a false division in our world. All of creation belongs to God, and every "job" can be a way of fulfilling our Christ-like ministry.

So on Sunday, May 24, Aldersgate Sunday, encourage one another. Ask other persons, "Where is God calling you to make a difference in the world?" And ask that question of yourself. God is calling all of us and each of us. May we discover, discern, and respond to God's call in our lives. And may we encourage one another to do the same.

Committee Reports

March 2015 Budget Summary	March Actual	March Budget	March Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,537.47	4,469.58	(932.11)	15,092.56	8,939.16	6,153.40
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	5,321.54	4,486.26	(835.28)	13,691.38	13,458.78	(232.60)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	(1,784.07)	(16.68)		1,401.18	(4,519.62)	

The Vision & Evangelism Committee met on March 4, 2015. Plans were made for the Fellowship Gathering, which was held on March 21, 2015. We have several upcoming events including church at Elzey's pond on June 14, the church retreat at Oubache State Park on July 11, and of course, the Trunk or Treat on October 31. We also reviewed the vision statement, which is as follows: "Uniondale United Methodist Church is a refuge to the surrounding Community from the bombardments of everyday life, by providing a welcoming, friendly, and Christ centered atmosphere along with a "back to the basics" traditional approach to service, music, fellowship, and community outreach." If anyone has any thoughts or ideas concerning any church activities or the vision statement, please see a member of the V&E committee (Mindi & Kent Herstad, Jennifer Cook, Connie Hix, Pastor Troy & Mindy Drayer). Our next meeting will be May 6, 2015.

Education Committee – I hope everyone is having a good start to Spring!!!! Education has made some changes. Jennifer Cook will now hold the chair seat but Tonia will still remain on the education committee. Now down to business, we have some exciting plans coming up for our kiddos. We are planning a camp out in July, along with some other Leapers Point Youth Group activities that help our kids grow in Faith and become closer friends. I have received the summer junior church packets, and we will be setting up a meeting soon to plan. Thank you to all our teachers. Your help is greatly appreciated. Please don't forget to sign up for teaching opportunities. Also, please check out the bulletin board in the basement for the latest Leapers Point News!

Mother's Day Devotion: A Mother's Love by Martha Noebel

The first Mother's Day was celebrated in West Virginia in 1912. Mothers were to be recognized as an important part of our culture and lives. The heart of a mother is like a rare jewel. They love their children during the worst and best of times.

Yet all mothers are not the same. Author and speaker Patsy Clairmont says, "Normal is just a setting on your clothes dryer." We are all different. She shared that as women we may "struggle, fail, start over, and celebrate." But we are mothers who can love unlike any other person.

God created families and gave mothers a unique place in that unit. We can love, give of ourselves, cook, clean, wash clothes, put Band-Aids on scrapes ... be the first one up in the morning or the last one down at night. We juggle a lot of things including raising children, working at jobs, managing a home, and sometimes finding time for ourselves.

Each day is a new beginning of what lies before us. We have destiny, purpose, and the power to do and be all that we are called to be. Nothing can stop us except ourselves. As mothers, we need to find the strength to face each day knowing that God loves us.

This scripture seems to be written just for mothers.

"If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others."

Pastor Parish Relationship Committee - The PPRC met on April 26th directly after church.

The committee started the meeting with a reading from Romans 12:6-13 which was followed by a devotional lead by Sharon Espich.

The PPRC wants to recognize what is going well in our church:

- Sunday school program of all and for all age groups
- Preschool and making it known Uniondale United Methodist Church is here
- The Angel Tree project and supporting activities around it
- Prayer chain
- Newsletter
- Faith Circle

....a big thank you to each and everyone involved in this work. It makes a difference!

The PPRC went on to discuss its role in the church:

- Pastor Evaluation
- Parish Evaluation
- Pastor/Congregation relationship
- Being an ear to the pastor
- Being an ear to the parishioners

Pastor Troy discussed the new Pastor Evaluation process for 2015 with more details to follow.

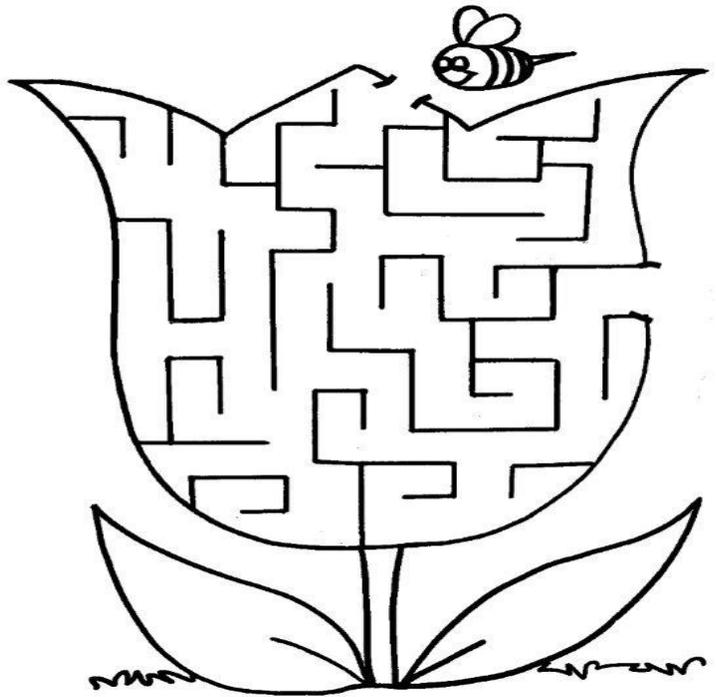
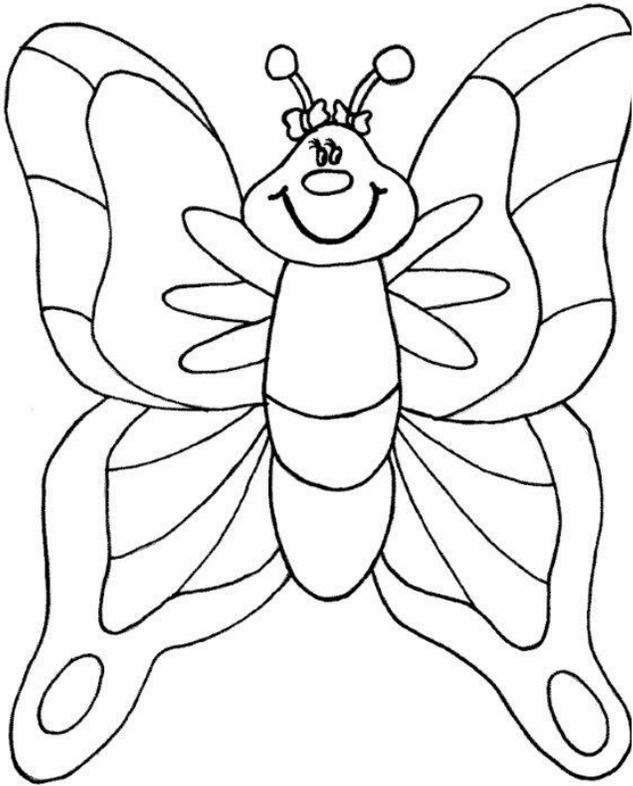
The committee discussed how we could measure the success of the Parish. A couple measures were discussed and will be experimented in pulling together:

- Retention Rate
- Number of activities attended
- Attendance (we believe we will need to factor the attendance as adults), as we do so much want the children while we need to try and measure families.

Kim Chaney committed to sending PPRC Roles and Responsibilities information sheets to each committee member, and Pastor Troy committed to sending the new Evaluation form.

If anyone in the congregation has any comments or thoughts for the committee, please feel free to contact a member. The members of the PPRC are Claudia Thompson, Linda Houtz, Sharon Espich, Bob Imel, Tim Evans and Kim Chaney.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for May 17th.



Spring

<p>BUDS DAFFODILS FLOWERS GRASS RAIN</p>	<p>G F S Q O I I S L S U R E D U R Y G N D M B K V B T A P T I Q E K D I F S K N F A G H E H P B C P T D R F B W S Q P R J I S R E W O L F D T L S L F H Z F G D S A N U M U X U U F R R I D J T Z T H C U Z A J A L U T V U M B R E L L A S S B M B N S M G N I R P S M K R A I N B O W D J A C P</p>	<p>RAINBOW SEEDS SPRING TULIPS UMBRELLA</p>
--	--	---

© Copyright FreeKidsCrafts.com