



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church

May - June 2018

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.



May and June Birthdays and Anniversaries

May

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

June

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

Upcoming Events

- Thursday, May 3 – SPRC meeting at church at 1 PM
- Sunday, May 6 – Communion Sunday
- Trustees meeting after church service
- Tuesday, May 8 – Primary Election Day
- Sunday, May 13 – Mother's Day
- Monday, May 14 – Nine Cluster meeting at Ossian UMC at 6:30 PM
- Sunday, May 20 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Kids Changing the World-bring your change
Pentecost Sunday – wear red
Confirmation Day
- Sunday, May 27 – Memorial Day celebration service
Sunday School summer break begins
- Monday, May 28 – Memorial Day
- Sunday, June 3 – Communion Sunday
- Thur-Sat, June 7-9 – Indiana Annual Conference in Indianapolis
- Saturday, June 9 - Faith Circle at Corner Depot at 9 AM
- Sunday, June 17 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Father's Day
- Sunday, June 24 – 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

I've been enjoying the beautiful spring flowers. The grass is lush and green and the trees and shrubs are bursting forth with leaves and buds soon to be blossoms. The little birds are back flying around and singing their morning praises. What a wondrous time is spring!

The warmer weather brings people outside to work in their yards and flowerbeds and begin the mowing ritual. It's a time when people take evening walks and have conversations with neighbors they've hardly seen all winter.

The month of May is filled with times of celebration. Some of the celebrations recognize times of endings that lead to new beginnings, such as confirmations and graduations. On Sunday, May 20th, Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples), Kolson and Madison Herstad will be confirmed and become full members of our congregation. At confirmation youths accept for themselves the vows that were made at their baptisms and begin a new chapter in their journey of faith in Jesus Christ. At graduation a student is recognized for the completion of one level of schooling or training and moving on to a new chapter in his or her life.

Other May celebrations honor people for their sacrifices – Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Everyone has a mother and every mother has given of herself to bring new life into the world. Most of our mothers have made personal sacrifices in order to give their children the things they needed to get a good start in life. I can remember my mother wearing the same clothes a little while longer so that my brother and sister and I could have new shoes or clothes for our growing bodies. Mothers are special people so, if your mother is still alive, be sure to call her and express your appreciation for her loving care.

We usually think of Memorial Day as the beginning of summer and the end of the school year. Originally it was – and still is – set aside as a time to honor the American men and women who died in military service to their country. The United States would not be the country it is today if it were not for those who served and gave up their lives on behalf of their country.

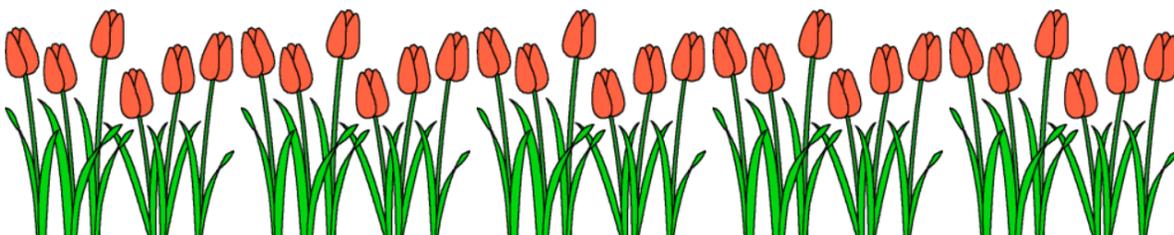
While we're thinking about the privilege and responsibility of living in the United States of America, remember what Paul wrote to the church in Rome (Romans 5:1-2 as expressed in *The Message*) about a citizen's relationship to the government over him or her. *"Be a good citizen. All governments are under God. Insofar as there is peace and order, it's God's order. So live responsibly as a citizen. If you're irresponsible to the state, then you're irresponsible with God, and God will hold you responsible."* Primary elections are coming up on Tuesday, May 8. Please exercise your privilege and responsibility as a citizen to go to the polls and vote.

Take some time in the coming weeks to pray and meditate on this chorus inviting the Holy Spirit into your life to renew and empower you for Christian service.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. (repeat) Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me. – Words & Music by Daniel Iverson, ©1935, 1963 Moody Bible Inst.

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><



****Please remember****

Committee News

EMM Committee (Education, Missions, Ministries)

EMM activities are going strong. The Fellowship Gathering, including a carry-in lunch was enjoyed by many on March 4. The Easter Egg Hunt on March 31 was lightly attended this year, partly due to several surrounding schools being on Spring Break, and very cold, windy conditions. Those who braved the weather had a great time and took home overflowing baskets of candy! Thanks to all who donated candy, stuffed eggs, and helped with the Egg Hunt! During February and March, \$125 was collected to benefit the Bible Trailer ministry. We are currently collecting donations for the Adams Wells Crisis Center. Sunday School will continue each Sunday until May 20, when we will break for the summer to plan for the fall session. More teachers are needed, especially for the children's classes. EMM will meet again in August to prepare for fall activities.

Faith Circle

Sharon Espich hosted our Faith Circle meeting on April 14, at her home. Connie Hix gave the devotion, and Sharon served a delicious breakfast. Plans were made to repair the Good News Bibles, which are available for use in the pews. Many need some minor repairs to keep them in good, usable condition. As is our new custom, the men of the church also met and went to Richard's in Bluffton for their own fellowship and breakfast. Everyone is enjoying this new addition to the Faith Circle gatherings.

Our next meeting, breakfast out for all, will be held at 9:00 a.m., on June 9, at The Corner Depot in Bluffton. All men and women are invited to join us.

Trustees

Now that spring has finally arrived, trustees will take on tasks outdoors such as grass mowing and other outdoor repairs. We will be scheduling a "clean-up" day soon so all will have an opportunity to help spruce up the church buildings and property. Many thanks to Jim and Roger for getting the mower ready for the summer and thanks to Jim for completing some repairs at the parsonage. Regarding the parsonage, the renters are opting to continue renting the parsonage beyond the initial rental agreement.

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

Lura Burke
Ossian Health & Rehabilitation
215 Davis Rd.
Ossian, IN 46777

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

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

Mary Cook-Room 109
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

"Spring being a tough
act to follow, God
created June."
- Al Bernstein

Treasure's Report

March 2018 Budget Summary	March Actual	March Budget	March Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,538.73	4,017.42	521.31	13,678.98	12,052.26	1,626.72
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	2,964.16	4,017.40	1,053.24	9,391.26	12,052.20	2,660.94
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	1,574.57	0.02		4,287.72	0.06	

A Lost Generation

As those of us at Uniondale UMC were recently mourning the loss of Clarence McAfee, another church member from the "Greatest Generation," we discussed who would now be the new "patriarch" of the church. Sadly, our church has reached a point where all members of this generation are gone or unable to attend church regularly if at all. We can all testify, and we do so regularly in Adult Sunday School, that this generation did as commanded in Deuteronomy 6:6-7 and raised their children to know the teachings of God.

That begs the question, has the next generation, the Baby Boomers, done the same? Maybe ...well ...sort of, but have we done enough? The following are excerpts from an article titled "Gone in Only One Generation" by Ken Ham as published in Answers Magazine.

How long does it take to lose a culture, from a Christian perspective?

Actually, it takes only one generation.

The devil knows this, and of course God warns us about it. Adolf Hitler understood this when he said, "He alone, who owns the youth, gains the future!"

Over and over again in Scripture, God instructs His people to make sure they train up the next generation.

For instance, when God miraculously enabled Joshua to lead the people through the Jordan River, the first thing He told Joshua to do was to take twelve stones from the riverbed to build a memorial. But what was the memorial for?

Joshua explained, "When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, 'What are these stones?' then you shall let your children know . . . the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed over . . . that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever" ([Joshua 4:21-24](#)).

The stones were to remind the parents to make sure they taught the next generation about the true God. They were instructed to pass on the knowledge and fear of God to their children.

I think one of the saddest pages in the Bible is in [Judges 2:10-12](#), "When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. Then the children of Israel . . . forsook the Lord God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt; and they followed other gods from among the gods of the people who were all around them."

After Joshua and all the first generation of parents who entered the Promised Land died, the next generation served false gods! It took only one generation to lose the spiritual legacy that should have been passed on.

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What happened? In Deuteronomy 6:6–7 God had given clear instructions to the fathers: “These words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

Obviously the parents in Joshua’s day did not teach their children as they should have—and in one generation, the devil had those kids! While it’s ultimately a matter of God’s grace that anyone is saved, God has given parents an immense responsibility to do their part. Over and over again, the Jewish fathers were told about their crucial role but they shirked it (see Psalm 78).

Sadly, this same situation already has occurred or is happening now in Western nations once influenced by Christianity. Many fathers today are not carrying out their God-given, God-commanded role to be the spiritual head of their house and to take the responsibility for training their children in spiritual matters.

In England, two-thirds of young people now say they don’t believe in God—in a culture where most people once went to church.

*In America, a major poll indicated that two-thirds of young people will leave the church once they live on their own. Answers in Genesis commissioned America’s Research Group to find out why this is happening and published the results in the book *Already Gone* in 2009. It showed clearly these kids were doubting and thus begin to disbelieve the Bible at a very young age.*

We also established that around 90% of those who leave church attended public schools, where by and large God, creation, the Bible, and prayer (in other words Christianity) have been thrown out. Atheistic evolution is taught as fact. The vast majority of these students were not taught apologetics (how to give a reasoned defense of the Christian faith) in their homes or churches, so they don’t believe it themselves and certainly can’t defend it to others.

Again, as we have discussed on numerous occasions in Adult Sunday School, the youth of today face many issues and challenges that most of us could never have imagined having to face. Continuing from the article titled “Gone in Only One Generation” by Ken Ham:

In view of such relentless indoctrination that bombards our young people every day, giving a couple of thirty-minute lessons at church or home isn’t enough. While many parents have already opted to put their kids in Christian schools, weekly church programs, and homeschools, few appear to be doing a very good job filling in the gaps. More is needed.

Teaching young people how God’s Word—rather than the atheistic worldview—makes sense of our world requires intense study, commitment, and fervent prayer on our parts. The church and parents must reevaluate their old assumptions about the way we should be teaching our kids in a hostile culture, and work together to build the next generation by following the directives from God’s Word.

Imagine what would happen if God’s people raised up generations of kids who knew what they believed concerning the Christian faith, why they believe, and how to defend that faith against the secular attacks of the day. They could then proclaim the gospel with authority because they believed the authority upon which it stands. We would change the world!

Children's Page

