



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church November - December 2019

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

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 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



November and December Birthdays and Anniversaries

November

4 – Mallory Horne
8 – Jeff Espich
17 – Alison Herstad
23 – Karen Ottjes

December

4 – Lane Horne
8 – Jim Ottjes
17 – Bob & Sandra Imel
19 – Ed Bowley
19 – Jeff & Sharon Espich
25 – Jesus Christ our Savior
26 – Cooper Ford



Upcoming Events

- Saturday, November 2 – Charge Conference-1 PM, Training- 9 AM at Auburn UMC
- Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Sunday and Communion Sunday
Daylight Savings ends – fall back 1 hour
- Sunday, November 10 – Angel Tree Angels available
- Monday, November 11 – Veterans Day
Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Bluffton First UMC
- Sunday, November 17 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Sunday, November 24 – Kids Changing the World-bring your change-last collection this year!
Community Thanksgiving service at Prospect UMC at 6:30 PM
- Thursday, November 28 – Thanksgiving Day**
- Sunday, December 1 – Pastor Karen on vacation, David Rabadueux, Lay Servant speaking
Last day to bring Angel Tree gifts
- Saturday, December 7 – Faith Circle at 9 AM
- Sunday, December 8 – Communion Sunday
Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Friday, December 13 – Karing 4 Kids wrapping- Markle CC– 6 PM
- Sunday, December 22 – No Sunday School
- Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service–7 PM
- Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day!**
- Sunday, December 29 – No Sunday School
- Wednesday, January 1 – Happy New Year!

****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 autumn this year. The trees' leaves have been wonderfully colored the past few weeks. Now they're falling from the trees to carpet the yard with color. The weather has allowed the farmers to get most of the beans harvested, and now they're working on the corn. The days are growing shorter and cooler.

Now we're in the days leading up to the two biggest holidays of the year – Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanksgiving is a time when many families gather with the extended family members that they don't see so often to renew relationships and feast around the table. When Jim's family gathers in Minnesota, his sister roasts turkey and makes dressing, and everybody else brings some food to share – salads, vegetables, or desserts. We always say a prayer giving thanks for all the blessings we've received and the food before us. Then we all eat too much, but it's sooo good. Then we sit around and talk about what's been happening in our lives, and the guys watch a football game. We're thankful that we have family to share the holiday with.

During Advent, the weeks leading up to Christmas, Jim and I use some seasonal devotional materials to focus on the prophecies and other scriptures that tell about the coming of God in the flesh to live on earth as one of us. We also use a hanging advent calendar that has 25 pieces with one animal or person to turn over each day of December. When all the pieces are revealed, they make a complete nativity scene with Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the center.

I encourage you all to be sure that you keep God in the midst of all your holiday celebrations. Here's a hymn of thanks to meditate on in the coming weeks. It reminds us to *"give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

1. Thanks to God for my Redeemer, Thanks for all Thou dost provide! Thanks for times now but a mem'ry, Thanks for Jesus by my side! Thanks for pleasant, balmy springtime, Thanks for dark and dreary fall! Thanks for tears by now forgotten, Thanks for peace within my soul!

2. Thanks for prayers that Thou hast answered, Thanks for what Thou dost deny! Thanks for storms that I have weathered, Thanks for all Thou dost supply! Thanks for pain and thanks for pleasure, Thanks for comfort in despair! Thanks for grace that none can measure, Thanks for love beyond compare!

3. Thanks for roses by the wayside, Thanks for thorns their stems contain! Thanks for homes and thanks for fireside, Thanks for hope, that sweet refrain! Thanks for joy and thanks for sorrow, thanks for heav'nly peace with Thee! Thanks for hope in the tomorrow, Thanks thro' all eternity!

-- Words by August L. Storm, translated by Carl E. Backstrom.

Shalom,
Pastor Karen <<<



Committee News

SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee)

The SPRC met on September 26. The committee discussed Pastor Karen and Melanie Vitatoe's salaries as well as how things are going. The committee was pleased to hear that Samuel Narath will be playing the piano during many of the church services.

Trustees Committee

An inspection of the parsonage was conducted and everything was found in good order. Per Charge Conference requirements we are in the process of performing a mold inspection at the parsonage and will have reports later. The wind has again pulled some siding and sheet metal off the church and we are investigating how to repair. The cook stove and all the top burners have been cleaned and now work with no gas leaks. The oven shows a leak when the oven is on and is still being investigated.

Wells County Cluster

The Cluster churches distributed popsicles at the Street Fair on Saturday, September 21. The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday November 11, 2019 at Bluffton First UMC.

Please remember

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

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

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

Some Christmas Reminders

- * May the Christmas GIFTS remind us of God's greatest gift, His only Son.
- * May the Christmas CANDLES remind us of Him who is the "Light of the world."
- * May the Christmas TREES remind us of another tree upon which he died.
- * May the Christmas CHEER remind us of Him who said, "Be of good cheer."
- * May the Christmas FEAST remind us of Him who is "the Bread of Life."
- * May the Christmas BELLS remind us of the glorious proclamation of His birth.
- * May the Christmas CAROLS remind us of the son the angels sang,
"Glory to God in the Highest!"
- * May the Christmas SEASON remind us in every way of Jesus Christ our King!



Give thanks
TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD,
HIS LOVE endures forever
PSALM 136:1

NEW CHRISTMAS TRADITION

Beginning December 1st,
Read one chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible
each evening.
There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve you will have read
an entire account of Jesus's Life
and wake up Christmas Morning
Knowing WHO and WHY
We Celebrate!!

Treasure's Report

September 2019 Budget Summary	September Actual	September Budget	September Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,621.34	3,967.25	654.09	36,795.55	35,705.25	1,090.30
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,926.59	3,967.21	40.62	30,196.11	35,704.89	(274.80)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	694.75	0.04		6,599.44	0.36	

DEATH - WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You're, a God fearing person, and don't know what's on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Test Your Advent Knowledge Quiz

1. What does the word Advent (from the Latin *adventus*) mean? a. Before Christmas
b. Arrival or coming c. To go on an adventure d. A website for online Christmas coupons
e. All of the above
2. True or False: Like the 40 days of Lent, Advent is a fixed number of days before Christmas. a. True b. False
3. Which of these Advent hymns was written by Charles Wesley? a. Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" b. "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" c. "Come, O Come, Emmanuel"
d. "Hail to the Lord's Anointed"
4. Who originated Watch Night services? a. Martin Luther b. John Wesley c. John the Baptist
d. Henry VIII e. President William McKinley
5. According to tradition, approximately how far did Mary travel to visit Elizabeth?
a. 10 miles b. 50 miles c. 100 miles d. 500 miles
6. Why are the Advent candles arranged in the shape of a circle? a. They make a wreath,
and wreaths are Christmassy b. It is the easiest way to see all four candles c. It takes up
the least space d. Circles symbolize eternity e. None of the above.
7. What is a Jesse Tree? a. Another name for a Christmas tree b. The tree decorated with
Chrismons c. A tree that blossoms at Christmastime d. A representation of Jesus' family
tree
8. On the third Sunday in Advent, some churches light a pink candle in the Advent
wreath. Why? a. Pink (or rose) is a color of joy b. Pink signifies Mary c. It represents the
positive outlook we have in Christ d. The rose color symbolizes Jesus' childhood e. The
rosebud is a sign of new birth
9. Do you know how the Advent calendar began? a. Chalk lines were drawn on the door
to mark the days b. Religious families hung pictures on the wall, one for each day c. A
candle was lit for each of the 24 days in December d. A mother fixed candies on a
cardboard calendar for her son e. All of the above
10. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word "Emmanuel"? a. Mighty king b. Christ
child c. God with us d. All of the above e. None of the above

Answers to the above quiz are found at the bottom of page 5

Bishop Carter: Unity can't be at someone's expense



Oct 29, 2019

Bishop Kenneth H. Carter of the Florida Conference is president of the Council of Bishops and served as one of three moderators of the Commission on a Way Forward, the panel charged with finding ways through the denomination's deep divide on homosexuality.

In a conversation with UM News, Carter reflected on his time on the commission, reaction to the special 2019 General Conference and expectations for General Conference 2020.

[What does the Commission on a Way Forward mean to the church now?](#)

"I think they did good work," Carter said, but feels that it serves as a foundation for further work.

[What do you wish the commission had done differently?](#)

Carter expresses his wish that the commission had been able to agree on one plan, rather than three, to submit to General Conference 2019.

[Reflecting on responses to the outcome of General Conference 2019](#)

Carter notes that the close voting margins reveal a divide that isn't aided by the denomination's "winner take all" voting system.

[Not "just a U.S. church or just an African church."](#)

In the wake of the passage of the Traditional Plan at General Conference 2019, many African United Methodists felt they were blamed. Carter addresses the challenges of being a global church.

[On the role of a bishop in the current church climate](#)

Carter said the need for bishops to promote unity is more important than ever in a denomination where deep divisions exist.

[Will the Council of Bishops recommend further proposals?](#)

Carter talks about the council's desire to accompany, rather than control, conversations about the church's future.

["General Conference is broken, but annual conferences are not."](#)

Carter suggests that it's not possible to see the church as a clean split between traditionalist, centrist and progressive, since each annual conference, or regional body of the church, contains a variety of theological views.

[On the U.S. annual conference elections](#)

Carter observed what he calls a "generational shift in leadership" where an increasing number of young delegates were elected.

Videos of the Bishop's entire response to each question above is available at:

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/bishop-carter-unity-cant-be-at-someones-expense>

Answers to the Advent Quiz

1. b. Arrival / coming
2. b. False
3. b. "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"
4. b. John Wesley
5. c. 100 miles
6. d. Circles symbolize eternity
7. d. A representation of Jesus' family tree
8. a. Pink (or rose) is a color of joy
9. e. All of the above
10. c. God with us

A Savior is Born!

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

manger
Jesus
wise men
Mary

Joseph
angels
shepherds
gloria

peace
Savior
inn
stable



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Thanksgiving Maze

Can you help the Pilgrim find his way through the maze to the Mayflower?



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Merry Christmas!

