




Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church November - December 2020

5867 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115
Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Karen Ottjes
260-228-3634

Website: www.uniondaleumc.com
E-mail: kottjes@gmail.com
 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

- Sunday, November 1 – All Saints Sunday and Communion Sunday
Daylight Savings ends – fall back 1 hour
- Sunday, November 8 – Blessing Tree Angels available
Charge Conference at church-5 PM
- Monday, November 9 – Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Epworth UMC
- Wednesday, November 11 – Veterans Day
- Sunday, November 15 – Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Thursday, November 26 – Thanksgiving Day**
- Friday, November 27 – Decorate Church for Christmas–6 PM**
- Sunday, November 29 – First Sunday of Advent
Kids Changing the World-bring your change-
last collection this year!
Pastor Karen on vacation, David Rabaduex,
Lay Servant speaking
Last day to bring Blessing Tree gifts
- Saturday, December 5 – Faith Circle at 9 AM
- Sunday, December 6 – Communion Sunday
Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
- Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight service–7 PM
- Friday, December 25 – Christmas Day!**
- Sunday, December 27 – No Sunday School
- Friday, 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 the colorful autumn leaves in the woods and around our neighborhood. The hilly lands around the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri where Jim and I spent the last week of October were beautiful too. Many fields around our NE Indiana homes are bare as the farmers have harvested their soybeans and most of their corn crops. The weather has been warm some days and cool others, and frosty cold many nights.

Although this year has been one for the record books, not so much in the weather but in the shut down of so many jobs and activities due to the spread of the covid virus, we still have much to be thankful for. We remember family and friends who are now in heaven and have taught us about God's unconditional love and how to live on earth. While we think that we have had troubling times this year, we need to remember those who live in poverty in our country and in many less developed countries and that don't have access to the level of health care that we enjoy.

I'm looking forward to the holiday celebrations coming in these two months: Thanksgiving and Christmas. While we may not have as many people at our family celebrations as we usually have, we still have to remember to praise God as the psalmist did in Psalm 145. "2 Everyday I will bless you and praise your name forever and ever. ... 9 The Lord is good to all, and his mercy is over all that he has made. ... 18 The Lord is near to all who call on him, ... 19 he also hears their cry and saves them."

Before your Thanksgiving meal say a prayer of thanks for God's presence with you always and for the many blessings he has bestowed on you and your family this past year. Use the words of this hymn to help you remember them.

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed, When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost, Count your many blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

2. Are you ever burdened with a load of care? Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear? Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly, And you will keep singing as the days go by.

Refrain: Count your blessings, name them one by one, Count your blessings, see what God hath done! Count your blessings, name them one by one, And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

Shalom, Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

Faith Circle

Faith Circle met on October 3, at Uniondale UMC, hosted by Connie Hix. A devotion from Proverbs 31 Ministries, entitled "I Really Should Have More Fun," was read and enjoyed. A lively and heartfelt discussion followed. An assortment of breakfast goodies were served. The men's group met for fellowship at the same time at Rich's Cafe.

Our next meeting will be on December 5, hosted by Sharon Espich. All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Trustees

Thanks to all who are keeping the grass cut and leaves cleaned up. The modification and repair of the front doors is now complete. The front sign had some electrical issues, but those have been repaired and the sign was power washed. The outside outlet which was in need of replacement was replaced as well. The parking lot and drive needed to be resealed before winter, and that was completed in October. A fall "clean-up" day will be scheduled in early November.

Wells County Cluster

The next Cluster meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 9, at 6:30 PM, at Epworth UMC. Most events for 2020 were or have been cancelled. At this time, we are hopeful that things will return to normal in 2021, so stay tuned as plans for those events are announced.

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
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

Thanksgiving Prayer

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude to God, our Creator and Provider, whose guidance and care go before us, and whose love is with us forever. Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on the changes, to remember that we, too, grow and change from one season of life to another. Thanksgiving is a time of changing seasons, when leaves turn golden in autumn's wake and apples are crisp in the first chill breezes of fall. Let us remember the true meaning of Thanksgiving. As we see the beauty of autumn, let us acknowledge the many blessings which are ours, let us think of our families and friends, and let us give thanks in our hearts.

— *Author Unknown*

Treasure's Report

September 2020 Budget Summary	September Actual	September Budget	September Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	2,752.37	3,991.83	(1,239.46)	35,232.67	35,926.47	(693.80)
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	2,214.83	3,991.80	1,776.97	28,363.17	35,926.20	3,905.75
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	537.54	0.03		6,869.50	0.27	

A Sure Place for Our Thinking:

A Coronavirus Devotional

God's Word vs. Corona-Chaos

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted individuals and families in various ways and to varying degrees. Some have only been inconvenienced; others have been devastated. But there's one element to this pandemic that I believe everyone has felt equally—frustration at not knowing what to believe, whom to trust, and which set of “facts” is the right set.

If there's one word that encapsulates this pandemic and global crisis, it's possibly *uncertainty*, or maybe *confusion*. One expert says one thing, but click over to the next article and an equally qualified researcher in a white lab coat will tell you the exact opposite. Who do we believe? Which model is correct? Were shutdowns necessary? Should we wear masks? Yes, we should. Wait, maybe, no, we don't need to? (At least we can all agree that everyone should wash their hands!) It's a confusing mess! As AiG staff member Dr. David Menton put it, “for every expert, there's an equal and opposite expert.”

As I was reflecting on this and praying that [God](#) would grant our leaders wisdom to see through the fog to make prudent decisions that would promote the well-being of as many people as possible, I was struck by how different my frustrations with all the “experts” were, compared to how I felt when I came to God's Word.

Your Word Is Truth

When I come to God's Word, I come with simple faith, acknowledging that God is the one who knows all things, who never lies, who is never wrong, and who never changes. The [Bible](#) is his written Word, so I expect it to reflect his character—to be truthful in everything it says and to never change. I don't have to read his Word and wonder if it's true or not. I don't have to wrestle with passages wondering “Is this really accurate? Did the writer have all the facts?” I know it's true; every word of it.

Now that's not to say I understand every single thing in Scripture or don't wrestle with portions of it. It's been said that the Bible is simple enough for a child to understand and deep enough that multitudes of scholars, past and present, have spent their lifetimes studying it, and they still find new things every time they open it. The Bible is written by the God whose ways are above our ways and whose thoughts are above our thoughts. But the overall message of the Bible is one of simplicity and clarity; it's understandable without the help of experts, who don't always agree. (This doctrine is known as the “perspicuity of Scripture.”)

This is particularly true in Genesis. I don't come to Genesis and wonder, “does *day* really mean *day*?” “Did God really create ‘male and female’—maybe that's not what that really means.” Or does “all the high mountains under the whole heaven were covered” ([Genesis 7:19](#)) really mean *all* the mountains under the *whole* heaven?

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We Have an Anchor

Instead of being tossed around by the ever-changing, and often contradictory, opinions and beliefs of man, I have a solid foundation on which to base my thinking—the unchanging, infallible, inerrant Word of God, taken naturally (as it was meant to be read).

Right now, we're in confusing times, with experts disagreeing and public policy makers rarely on the same page. This is frustrating (to put it mildly). But if you're a believer, stop and take a moment to thank God for his clear, unchanging Word. Thank him that we don't have the same frustrations when it comes to the basic doctrines of Scripture. Instead we have an anchor for the soul, a hope that never changes, a [gospel](#) that is always true and is so for every person, in every culture, and in every time. The Bible's great and precious promises are as true during the coronavirus pandemic as they were before it and will be when this pandemic and quarantine is just a chapter in a history book.

by [Avery Foley](#) on May 27, 2020 *Answers in Genesis*



WHY PRAY?

Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me, and I will answer you. Jeremiah 29:12

People ask, “Should we pray when God already knows our needs? Why tell Him what He already knows? Or ask Him to do what He already wants to do?” We don't pray to impress God or to inform Him. You can't tell God anything He doesn't already know. So why are we praying?

For fellowship. We invite God into our lives when we pray. We experience fellowship with Him, becoming “...workers together with Him...” ([2 Corinthians 6:1](#)). When we pray, God gives us the privilege of administrating His affairs. Of course, He could do it without us. But what joy that God allows us the privilege of doing it *with* Him.

For our growth. When we pray, God is growing us. Have you ever prayed and didn't immediately receive what you asked for? What did you do? You kept on praying, but you also began searching your heart to see if something was hindering God's answer. Many times there is. God uses prayer to grow us.

For dependence. Our Father never wants us to live independently from Him. If God just did everything for us and we never had to pray, soon we would begin to take things for granted. We would cease to depend upon God.

He knows what we need before we ask, but we're told to pray and to ask—so we would have fellowship with Him, so we would grow, and learn to depend upon Him. You don't have to understand everything about prayer in order to pray. You may have valid questions about prayer, but don't let your questions keep you from praying.



Thanksgiving Word Search



Challenging

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

CELEBRATION
 FALL
 GOBBLE
 HOME
 NOVEMBER
 PILGRIM
 STUFFING
 TRADITION
 WISHBONE

CORN
 FAMILY
 GRATITUDE
 LEAVES
 PECAN
 PLYMOUTH
 THANKFULNESS
 TURKEY

CRANBERRIES
 FEAST
 HOLIDAY
 MAYFLOWER
 PIE
 PUMPKIN
 THANKSGIVING
 VOYAGE

