



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church November - December 2017

5857 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 – Ernie Barclay
4 – Mallory Horne
8 – Jeff Espich
8 – Dave Bennett
17 – Alison Herstad
22 – Don & Elda Mae Weaver
23 – Karen Ottjes
24 – Roger McAfee
30 – Lura Burke



December

4 – Lane Horne
8 – Jim Ottjes
17 – Bob & Sandra Imel
19 – Ed Bowley
19 – Jeff & Sharon Espich
22 – Kim Bennett
23 – Daisy Swineford
25 – Jesus Christ our Savior
26 – Cooper Ford
26 – Natalie Swineford
27 – Bryan Swineford

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| Sunday, Nov 5 – | Daylight Savings ends
Communion Sunday
All Saints Sunday
Charge Conference-St. Marks Decatur 6 PM |
| Sunday, Nov 12 – | Chili Cook-off after Sunday School |
| Monday, Nov 13 – | Nine Companion Cluster meeting 6:30 PM at Lancaster Chapel UMC |
| Sunday, Nov 19 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items
Community Thanksgiving Service 7 PM at UUMC |
| Sunday, Nov 26 – | Kids Changing the World-bring your change
No Sunday School |
| Sunday, Dec 3 – | Communion Sunday
Angel Tree gifts due at church |
| Wednesday, Dec 6 – | EMM meeting 6:30 PM |
| Friday, Dec 15 – | Karing for Kids wrapping gifts 6-8 PM at Markle Church of Christ |
| Sunday, Dec 17 – | Food Bank Sunday-bring your food items |
| Sunday, Dec 24 – | No Sunday School
Christmas Eve Candlelighting Service 10 PM |
| Sunday, Dec 31 – | No Sunday School |

****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 third Sunday of each month.
- * To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.



A Word from Our Pastor

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever." Ps 136:1

It's November and the harvest is nearing completion. The leaves are changing their colors. Some leaves are bright colors and others are more subdued. Soon we'll have lots of leaves to rake. The sunny days have turned cool and crisp. We're back on standard time making the evening come earlier.

In worship we begin the month with All Saints Day, a time of remembering our friends and family members who have joined the heavenly throng. We give thanks for their lives and the influence they have had on us. Though their days on earth are done, they live on in our hearts and minds as memories that can never be taken away.

The Thanksgiving celebration is coming soon. It's a time to look back and remember how God has been with you through the past year's activities. Then say a prayer of thanksgiving for God's blessings. Psalm 136 is a song of thanksgiving recalling God's mighty acts. The refrain repeats at the end of every line, *"His love endures forever."*

God loves us unconditionally and desires a relationship with us. God does not promise that everything will go the way we want it to. But God has promised to be with us in all of the daily activities of our lives. Paul gave us these instructions: *"Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Whatever happens, give thanks, because it is God's will in Christ Jesus that you do this."* 1 Thes 5:16-18 GW

I am thankful for the relationships I am developing with all of you. I am thankful for the times of worship we have shared. I am thankful for the ministries that people in our congregation support with their prayers, their gifts and their service. I am thankful that God's Spirit is alive and active in our midst in many ways.

Take some time this month to reflect on the ways that God has blessed you and your family over the past year. Meditate on the words of this song. Don't forget to share your blessings with those who are at your table for the Thanksgiving meal and say a prayer of thanks together before you dig in to the food.

*We are so blessed by the gifts from your hand,
we just can't understand why you've loved us so much.
We are so blessed we just can't find a way or the words that can say,
"Thank you, Lord, for your touch."
When we're empty you fill us till we overflow,
when we're hungry you feed us and cause us to know we are so blessed.
Take what we have to bring; take it all, everything,
Lord, we love you so much.*

– William. J. & Gloria Gaither

Shalom!
Pastor Karen <><



Committee News

STAFF /PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee is continuing to look for a piano player. During November each member will complete a clergy assessment that the committee will compile and submit.

TRUSTEES

Thanks to Dave Bennett for mowing in September. Bill is finishing up October. Work will be starting in the parsonage soon so that we can rent it out at least for the winter. We are working on plans to complete some outside work before winter. Many thanks for everyone's selfless sacrifice of personal time to serve the needs of the church!

EMM COMMITTEE

The Education/Missions/Ministries Committee has been busy making sure all Sunday School classes are fully up and running. We recently held our 7th Annual Trick or Treat night with many children and adults in attendance. Preparations are being made for our 5th Annual Chili Cook Off to be held on November 12. UUMC is involved in numerous missions, including Bashor Children's Home, Brickhouse Family Ministries, First We Care, Forgotten Children, Karing for Kids, and Youth for Christ. Thank you to our many volunteers who help to make all of these activities possible.

FAITH CIRCLE

A Christmas Breakfast will be held on December 2, at 9:00 a.m., at the home of Connie Hix. Holiday fellowship and a 'White Elephant' gift exchange will be enjoyed. Please join us.

Reminder: We still have UUMC Centennial Cookbooks for sale! They are now reduced to \$5 each. They make great Christmas gifts!



Please remember

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

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

Betty Cary
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt.#200
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
100 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #115
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



September 2017 Budget Summary	September Actual	September Budget	September Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,290.84	4,209.92	(919.08)	40,745.96	37,889.28	2,856.68
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	2,395.57	4,209.92	1,814.35	32,528.43	37,889.28	(1,576.39)
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	895.27	0.00		8,217.53	0.00	

Christmas Story: For the Man Who Hated Christmas



By Nancy W. Gavin

It's just a small, white envelope stuck among the branches of our Christmas tree. No name, no identification, no inscription. It has peeked through the branches of our tree for the past ten years.

It all began because my husband Mike hated Christmas. Oh, not the true meaning of Christmas, but the commercial aspects of it – overspending and the frantic running around at the last minute to get a tie for Uncle Harry and the dusting powder for Grandma – the gifts given in desperation because you couldn't think of anything else.

Knowing he felt this way, I decided one year to bypass the usual shirts, sweaters, ties and so forth. I reached for something special just for Mike. The inspiration came in an unusual way.

Our son Kevin, who was 12 that year, was on the wrestling team at the school he attended. Shortly before Christmas, there was a non-league match against a team sponsored by an inner-city church. These youngsters, dressed in sneakers so ragged that shoestrings seemed to be the only thing holding them together, presented a sharp contrast to our boys in their spiffy blue and gold uniforms and sparkling new wrestling shoes.

As the match began, I was alarmed to see that the other team was wrestling without headgear, a kind of light helmet designed to protect a wrestler's ears. It was a luxury the ragtag team obviously could not afford.

Well, we ended up walloping them. We took every weight class. Mike, seated beside me, shook his head sadly, "I wish just one of them could have won," he said. "They have a lot of potential, but losing like this could take the heart right out of them." Mike loved kids – all kids. He so enjoyed coaching little league football, baseball and lacrosse. That's when the idea for his present came.

That afternoon, I went to a local sporting goods store and bought an assortment of wrestling headgear and shoes, and sent them anonymously to the inner-city church. On Christmas Eve, I placed a small, white envelope on the tree, the note inside telling Mike what I had done, and that this was his gift from me.

Mike's smile was the brightest thing about Christmas that year. And that same bright smile lit up succeeding years. For each Christmas, I followed the tradition – one year sending a group of mentally handicapped youngsters to a hockey game, another year a check to a pair of elderly brothers whose home had burned to the ground the week before Christmas, and on and on.

The white envelope became the highlight of our Christmas. It was always the last thing opened on Christmas morning, and our children – ignoring their new toys – would stand with wide-eyed anticipation as their dad lifted the envelope from the tree to reveal its contents. As the children grew, the toys gave way to more practical presents, but the small, white envelope never lost its allure.

The story doesn't end there. You see, we lost Mike last year due to dreaded cancer. When Christmas rolled around, I was still so wrapped in grief that I barely got the tree up. But Christmas Eve found me placing an envelope on the tree. And the next morning, I found it was magically joined by three more. Unbeknownst to the others, each of our three children had for the first time placed a white envelope on the tree for their dad. The tradition has grown and someday will expand even further with our grandchildren standing to take down that special envelope.

Mike's spirit, like the Christmas spirit will always be with us.

Thanksgiving

**For each new morning with its light,
For rest and shelter of the night,
For health and food,
For love and friends,
For everything Thy goodness sends. *Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)***



A Thanksgiving Prayer

O heavenly Father:

We thank thee for food and remember the hungry.

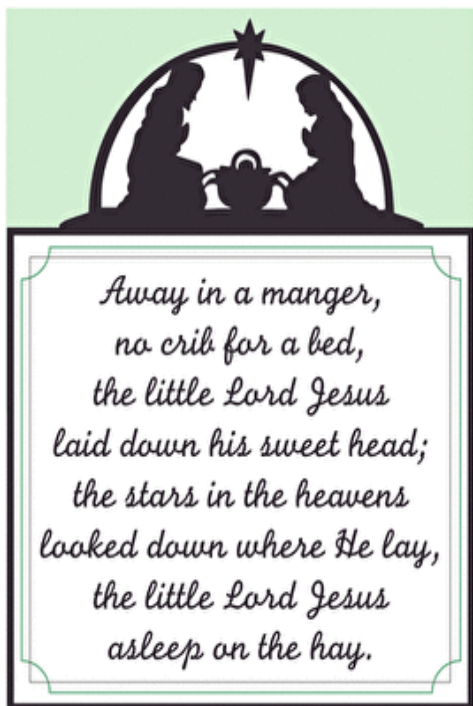
We thank thee for health and remember the sick.

We thank thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service that thy gifts to us may be used for others.
Amen.

Dear Abby, columnist



*“And the angel said unto them, Fear not:
for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great
joy, which shall be to all people.*

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. “*

Luke 2: 10-11

Thanksgiving Word Search

GATHER 'ROUND THE TABLE!

Find and circle all of the words in the list below.

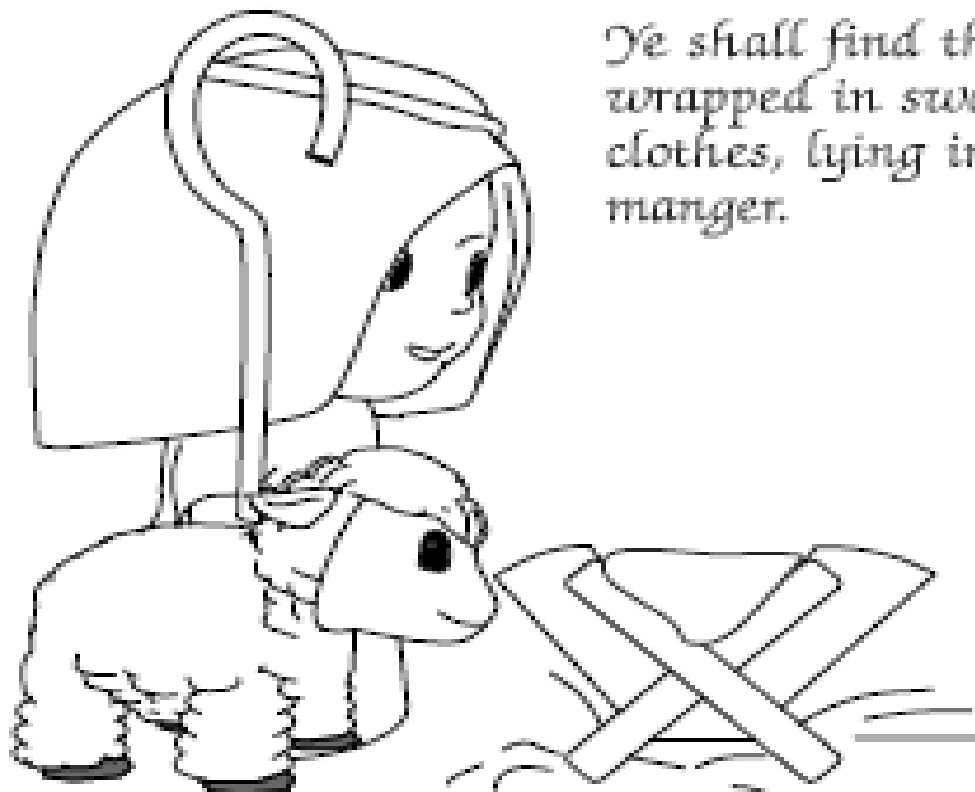


P	I	E	Z	K	C	Q	N	D	Y
I	A	S	T	E	O	P	L	J	H
L	G	B	H	A	R	V	E	S	T
G	R	D	A	T	N	M	G	F	U
R	A	I	N	D	I	A	N	S	R
I	V	W	K	F	E	A	S	T	K
M	Y	K	S	W	S	M	C	L	E
S	A	H	F	C	O	L	O	N	Y

FEAST
TURKEY
GRAVY
CORN
PIE



PILGRIMS
INDIANS
COLONY
THANKS
HARVEST



We shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.