



# Messenger

## Uniondale United Methodist Church October 2015

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

Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer  
260-543-2256

Website: [www.uniondaleumc.com](http://www.uniondaleumc.com)

E-mail: [troy.drayer@inumc.org](mailto:troy.drayer@inumc.org)

 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



### *October*

#### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

8<sup>th</sup> – Bernie and Lura Burke  
18<sup>th</sup> – Linda Houtz  
28<sup>th</sup> – Jean Bartel

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, Oct. 4 – Communion Sunday

Choir Practice with McNatt 6:00 pm @ UUMC

Sunday, Oct. 11- 10:15 Church Council Meeting

Sunday, Oct. 18 – Food Bank Collection – Bring Donations

Sunday, Oct. 25 – Kids “Changing the World” – Bring Change

Sat. Oct. 31 – Trunk or Treat @ UUMC Basement

Sunday, Nov. 1 – Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall back 1 hr.)

Communion Sunday

Charge Conference (Ossian UMC)

Sunday, Nov. 8 – 11:30 am Third Annual Chili Cook-off

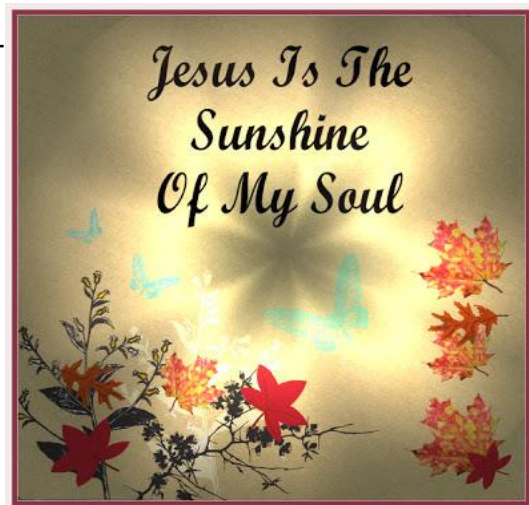
Saturday, Nov. 14 – 1:00 pm Faith Circle

**\*\*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

*Jesus Is The  
Sunshine  
Of My Soul*



## *The Power of Prayer*

*James 5: 13-19*

*16th verse - Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for one another so that you may be healed. **The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.***

*I want to revisit my sermon from last Sunday. Prayer is so important and I want to make sure that we all are putting our time with Christ as a top priority. We all pray at different times: in the car (with eyes open ☺) at the breakfast table, on a walk, before bedtime, etc. God honors our time with Him. In James we learn these points:*

- *Counting on each other for prayer and support*
- *Have faith – God heals*
- *Ask people to forgive us*
- *Confess publicly*
- *Satan will remind you of what God has forgiven*
- *Communion with God with prayer is our greatest resource*

*Don't make prayer intimidating and worry that our words must meet some sort of code. Talk to God from your heart. Tell Him your thanksgivings, worries, doubts and ask Him for guidance and wisdom. He will listen.*

*We appreciate all your prayers for our ministry at UUMC. Your prayers sustain us and keep Satan at bay. They lift us up when we feel ineffective and doubt the vision God has laid on my heart for this church. THANK YOU!!!*

*We are praying for each one of you as well. We see your joys and concerns as we look at in the congregation every week. God is good and He will continue to strengthen this church body to further His kingdom.*

*God Bless, Pastor Troy*





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

### Leviticus 19:9-10 ESV

“When you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge; neither shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. And you shall not strip your vineyard bare; neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God.

August 2015 Budget Summary	August Actual	August Budget	August Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	4,010.34	4,469.58	(459.24)	35,525.95	31,287.06	4,238.89
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,310.25	4,486.26	1,176.01	33,346.39	35,890.08	23.21
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	700.09	(16.68)		2,179.56	(4,603.02)	

## Why Teachers Need Our Prayers

*"Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart." Colossians 4:2 (NLT)*

We sat together at the table, nestled into the tiny chairs made for young students. The students' artwork hung throughout the room ... the pencils ready, sharpened for writing projects ... and my husband and I got a newsy update about our daughter's progress during the school year.

As the principal's voice came over the intercom announcing it was time to wrap up our 15-minute appointment, we realized there was no parent standing in the doorway waiting to come in. We had a rare extra pocket of time with our daughter's teacher. This open window allowed us to continue our conversation ... and we began to chat about real life. Which included some pretty tough stuff.

We were on the same committee for an upcoming event and she apologized for missing some of our meetings. She then shared the hard reason she'd been absent. Her husband had recently learned he had a rare form of cancer and they were in the middle of considering all their options. Talk about real life, indeed.

As a cancer survivor I wanted to offer some hope, but at the same time, felt my personal story or encouraging words weren't enough. So although I'd never asked her before, in that moment I felt the Holy Spirit nudge me to ask if I could pray for her right then, and she agreed. After I finished praying, she thanked me and then relayed how she and her husband had been growing in their own faith lately.

Although this was a teacher I'd known for several years, I'm sad to say it took a conversation about cancer to lead me to discuss matters of faith or pray aloud with her. But I'm oh so thankful that I didn't ignore God's prompting. And at the same time, I was utterly convicted to do more of that.

As today's key verse Colossians 4:2 reminds us, God calls us to devote ourselves to pray "with an alert mind and a thankful heart." Seems simple enough, right? However, I know I have room to grow in this department! I want to have that alert mind and be on the lookout for ways to pray more personal, specific prayers for everyone in my sphere of influence ... especially the teachers in my world.

So as this new school year begins, will you join me in prayer for our teachers? Whether they're public or private teachers, home-schooling parents, college professors, children's church leaders or Bible study teachers, they're all influencing others.

This summer, I began doing weekly prayer walks around my kids' schools. Some specific areas I've prayed for in this upcoming school and ministry year include: safety, leadership transitions, divine wisdom in lesson planning, endurance, health, perseverance to finish strong, encouragement to handle difficult situations and an abundance of grace and patience in solving difficult situations. As our children (and sometimes we ourselves) head back to school, let's remember the vital role teachers play. And why they need our prayers.

*Father God, I come before You and lift up all our teachers. Thank You for the important part they play in our lives. Lord I also ask You help me stay devoted to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart. Empower me to encourage the teachers in my world to keep on pressing on, when it would be so much "easier" to quit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.*

TRUTH FOR TODAY:

**1 Timothy 2:1-2**, "I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity." (NLT)

**James 5:16**, "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results." (NLT)

# ***"Jesus at the Center"***

An E-pistle from Bishop Michael Coyner from August 2015

It was one of those quick interviews that I sometimes face. I had just preached and served communion for the opening worship of the School of Congregational Development – a gathering of United Methodists from all over the country here in Indianapolis who wanted to focus upon starting new faith communities. Right after that service, as others were greeting me, a young man introduced himself as a reporter and politely asked me this question: "Where do we start, what is most important as we seek to obey the Great Commission (which had been the focus of my message)?" Without a great deal of reflection, I said, "With Christology. We need to focus upon Jesus, who he is, and what he means. Our church is weak in Christology today."

I don't know if my answer is the whole prescription for our United Methodist Church, but I truly believe that we have to focus upon Jesus in order to find the renewal and revival that we seek.

Relatedly, we also need to focus upon soteriology – the meaning of salvation. We have to discover in fresh ways what it means to help individuals, our society, all of creation to be a part of the salvation and wholeness that God intends. We have to understand that people can be lost and without meaning if they are apart from God's way. We have to know the ways in which Jesus is the answer to our "lostness" and provides us with salvation/wholeness/new life.

Christology and its partner soteriology are so often missing from our proclamation, our practices, and our polity as a church. We get busy with a myriad of other things, but too easily neglect the basics of our faith. We neglect Jesus.

At our 2015 Session of the Indiana Conference this year, Cheryl Wyatt sang beautifully the song, "Jesus At the Center." The words include: "Nothing else matters... Jesus at the center of my life, Jesus at the center of the church, Jesus at the center of it all."

## ***What would happen if we focused upon Jesus at the center?***

1. We would be more tolerant and less rigid. To know Jesus and to follow Jesus is to discover his model of openness, hospitality and grace. Too much of what passes for "Christianity" today is rigid, judgmental, and harsh. If we place Jesus at the center we will be a more open church.
2. We would have a more vital message to share. People in our culture aren't looking for the church to be another self-help kind of organization, or even a civic club that does good things. They are looking for meaning, purpose, focus for their lives. Only Jesus provides a powerful message which is worth sharing with others. To share Jesus is to put ourselves into the background and to bring forward a message that matters.
3. We would be re-energized in our missions and compassion ministry. I notice that many churches and pastors today are getting "compassion fatigue" which comes from trying to do it all on our own. To put Jesus in the center allows us to be empowered by his Spirit and strength, rather than running out of energy by using only our own strength.
4. We would clarify our worship. Worship is not about us, and when we make it about us we lose power. Too much worship today is about performance and preference. Placing Jesus at the center reminds us of our reason to worship, to confess, to praise, and to go forth to serve.
5. We would streamline our practices and polity. Rather than having lots of meetings like any other organization, we would keep loving, learning, deciding, and doing those things that really matter. How do we know what really matters? We focus upon the things that mattered to Jesus.

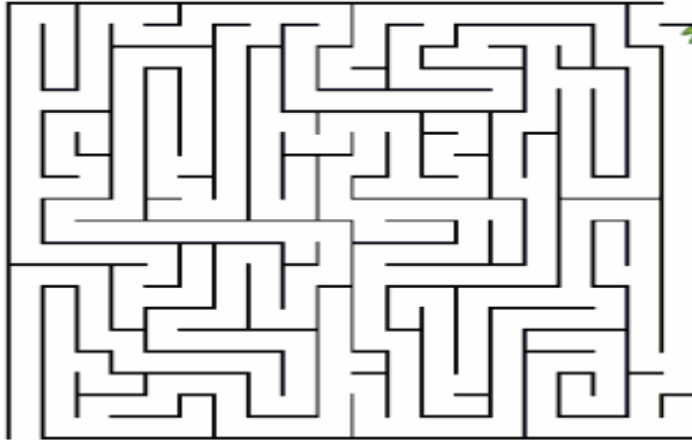
Perhaps putting Jesus at the center sounds too simplistic. In reality it is a life-long pursuit and a growing-in-grace process. I find myself humming that song "Jesus at the Center" as a personal prayer: "Lord, help me to put Jesus at the center of my life, Jesus at the center of our church, and Jesus at the center of it all."

Please join me in that prayer and that quest.

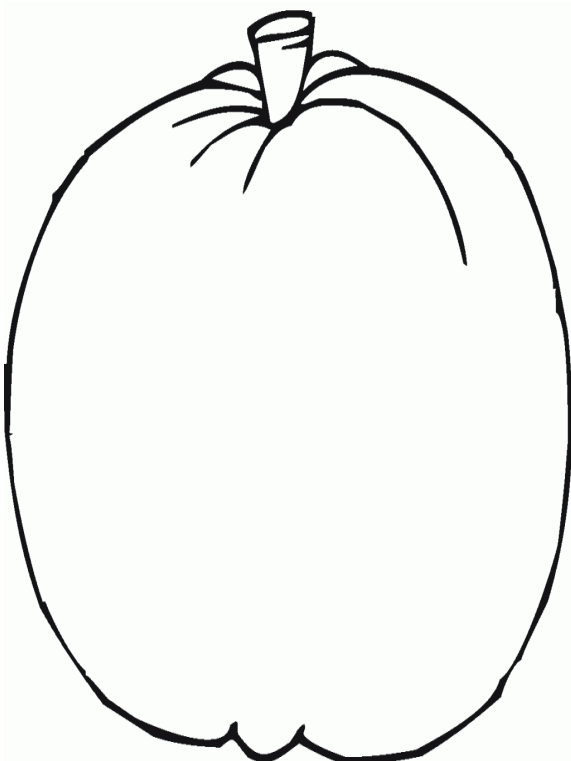
# Children's Page

## Hungry Scarecrow!

Can you help the scarecrow find his way to the pumpkin patch?



[www.ActivityVillage.co.uk](http://www.ActivityVillage.co.uk) - Keeping Kids Busy



Draw your own pumpkin face

## Bible Memory Verse



"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose  
under heaven" Ecclesiastes 3:1