



# Messenger

## Uniondale United Methodist Church September 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.

### Upcoming Events

Date/Time	Event
September 6	Light breakfast – 8:30 am
September 7	Labor Day
September 13	Communion Sunday Teacher commissioning Sunday School Kickoff
September 20	Food Bank Sunday Gideon speaker
September 27	Kids Changing the World-bring your change
October 11	Church Board meeting-after church
November 1	Cluster Charge Conference



## September

### *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

6th- Mindi Herstad  
10th- Opal Gilbert  
12th- Suzanne Kellam  
14th- Elaine McAfee  
15th-Devin Miller  
16th- Mary Cook  
24th- Kim & Sue Chaney  
30th- Gerry & Linda Houtz

**\*\*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



**"By all these lovely tokens  
September days are here,  
With summer's best of weather  
And autumn's best of cheer."**

- Helen Hunt Jackson, *September*, 1830-1885

## Thoughts from Pastor Troy

The summer has flown by with vacations, parades, 4-H projects, ball games (when it wasn't raining), lazy days at the lakes, swimming, and many other fun activities. Praise the Lord for great family and fun times!!! I finished our "Disciples" sermon series on August 30. It was a great series this summer. We learned so much about the leaders of our "first church." They were simple men, with real life strengths and weaknesses, who loved Jesus and answered His call when He asked..."Follow Me." I pray that we will do the same!!

We are super excited about our fall line-up for our Uniondale UMC. Our new Sunday School format will start on September 13. The Education Committee has met and created a better way to meet the needs of our children, while helping the teachers remain in the worship service more often. Please sign up for our new nursery opportunity and create some new relationships with our children. They are precious and God commands it! 😊

Our Trunk or Treat for the community is always exciting in October. Let's pray for better weather than we have had in the past.

In November, our children will be in charge of a worship service followed by our annual "Chili Cook-off."

We have a wonderful church family and everybody's participation and excitement is so important. Everybody can add their time and talent to our desire to "show Christ's love to our community and the world."

### Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

*"Two are better than one because they have a good return for their labor. For if either of them falls, the one will lift up his companion. But woe to the one who falls when there is not another to lift him up."*

**Prayer and blessings,**

**Pastor Troy**

## Treasurer's Report

July 2015 Budget Summary	July Actual	July Budget	July Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	3,560.00	4,469.58	(909.58)	31,515.61	26,817.48	4,698.13
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	2,819.28	4,486.26	1,666.98	30,036.14	31,403.82	1,367.68
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</b>	<b>740.72</b>	<b>(16.68)</b>		<b>1,479.47</b>	<b>(4,586.34)</b>	

### Adult Education News

The UUMC Adult Sunday School Class will begin meeting again on Kick-Off Sunday, September 13. We will continue using Penelope Wilcock's *100 Stand-Alone Bible Studies* for our lessons. We have 7 adults who have offered to take turns leading our group. They are Coralee Bowley, Claudia Legge Thompson, Sue and Kim Chaney, Larry McAfee, Mindi Herstad, and Connie Hix. Our class is open to adults of all ages. Please join us each Sunday at 10:15 a.m., after the Worship Service, for a variety of studies and interesting discussions.

### Box Tops for Education

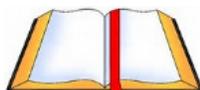
Anyone who would like to help our local schools may donate the Box Tops for Education to our church, and we will divide them among the schools that are represented by the students who attend Uniondale United Methodist Church.

### Faith Circle

Faith Circle will meet on Saturday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m., at UUMC. Sharon Espich will host this first meeting, and devotions will be led by Connie Hix. We are adding a new feature this year, with the study of a woman from the Bible at each meeting. We will be extending an invitation to the women of Prospect UMC to join us in fellowship through Faith Circle. As always, Faith Circle welcomes all women to our meetings. They are guaranteed to be a time of good food, fun times, and great fellowship in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ! Please join us!

### Vision/Evangelism Report

The next events to watch for are the Trunk or Treat and the Annual Chili Cook-off!



#### 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**  
100 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

**Doris Emley**  
300 Caylor Blvd. Apt. #214  
Bluffton, IN 46714

#### A Prayer for Labor Day

Lord on this Labor Day,  
we thank You for the blessing of work.  
We ask for strength to complete each day.  
We ask for rest when we are weary.  
We ask Your guidance  
for everyone seeking employment,  
and we ask that  
You be with those whose faces  
we might never see  
but who work tirelessly each day  
for the good of us all.  
Amen.

## Education Committee News

The Education Team met on August 25. We are very excited for the changes that are happening in our children's Sunday School program. Starting on September 13, our 4 year old and younger children will go to the nursery at the back of the sanctuary to play. They will remain there from the end of Children's Time through Pastor Troy's sermon. Children 5 and older will stay in the sanctuary with their parents.

After church, all the children will go to the basement for Sunday School. After they all sing and dance with Mindy and Barry, they will break into their four classes. The Tweens class, Devin, Kolson, and Madison, will meet in the new fenced area. The Sharks, Hudson, Harper, Alexis and Bella, will meet in the third classroom. The Dolphins, Keeghan, Daisy and Kamdyn, will meet in the middle classroom. The Minnows, Abby, Kasetyn, Emily, Alison, and Alexandra, will meet in the first class room. September begins our new Deep Blue series, and we are looking forward to growing in Christ.

After church on Kickoff Sunday, we will have fellowship, games and a carry-in lunch in the parking lot. Please mark your calendars for September 13. Plan to stay, have lunch and enjoy fellowship as a church family.

### **NOW WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP:**

- PARENTS PLEASE REFILL YOUR CHILDREN'S BAGS AS NECESSARY AND INCLUDE A SNACK.
- WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED FOR TEACHERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AND NURSERY DUTY VOLUNTEERS DURING CHURCH. Anyone can sign up for nursery duty which consists of taking the youngest children to the nursery and watching them play. All of the supplies for Sunday School teachers will be on the classroom tables ready to go each Sunday.
- PLEASE SIGN-UP TO TEACH A CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS AND FOR KICKOFF CARRY-IN FOOD ITEMS! Sign-up sheets will be available Sunday.
- WE ARE IN NEED OF DONATIONS OF CLASSROOM SUPPLIES: PAPER PLATES, CONSTRUCTION PAPER, GLUE STICKS, STICKERS, AND TAPE.

**Thank you! Jennifer & the Education Team** 

# Football: America's National Religion

America is a Christian nation. You hear that a lot from pastors, pundits, and politicians, and of course whenever someone tries to build a Mosque. And maybe we are. Wikipedia, which is on the Internet and therefore infallible, puts the percentage of Christians in America at 76 percent. Over two-thirds of those are Protestant, half of those are Baptist, and the largest denomination of Baptists are the Southern Baptists, who count me among 16.3 million adherents.

And 16.3 million is certainly a lot of people. In fact it's almost as many as 17.3 million, which is the number of people who attended an NFL game in 2009. You see the reason so many people in America check 'Christian' on these Religious Identification Surveys is because football is usually not one of the choices. Because if we are being honest here, and who isn't honest on the Internet, America is really a football nation.

If you don't believe me all you have to do is take a look around you next Sunday as you sit in your pew. Halfway through the sermon men, women, and children will begin nervously glancing at their watches. If the alter call goes long, some will become visibly agitated, while others will just get up and leave. God is eternal, but kickoff is at noon.

There but for the grace of Tebow go I. You see, I adhere to the collegiate sect of the football cult in America. Our services are held on Saturdays, leaving Sundays free for us to worship our God without fear of missing the first quarter. Of course it's hard for me to worship on Sundays following a tough loss, because I'm either too busy sulking, or because I skipped church altogether to avoid the knowing smirk of rivals fans. And it's also hard for me to worship on Sundays following a big win too, because instead of meditating on God's Word I keep reliving the big plays over and over in my mind. And forget singing, my voice was lost by half time the day before. But prayer and song aren't all there is to a service, I can still worship through giving, but sometimes that's even hard for me because ticket scalpers are usually not concerned if I'll have enough money left over to tithe.

I talk about these things half-jokingly, but I do realize it's a problem for me and countless others. Last fall I took a pilgrimage to all 12 Southeastern Conference venues, talking to fans of various faiths, trying to learn how they balance their passion for pigskin with their devotion to God. But fanatics are generally not known for their ability to keep things in proper perspective. In fact, most of us identify more strongly with our team than we do our religion, and for churches, this is a problem they'll need to address sooner than later.

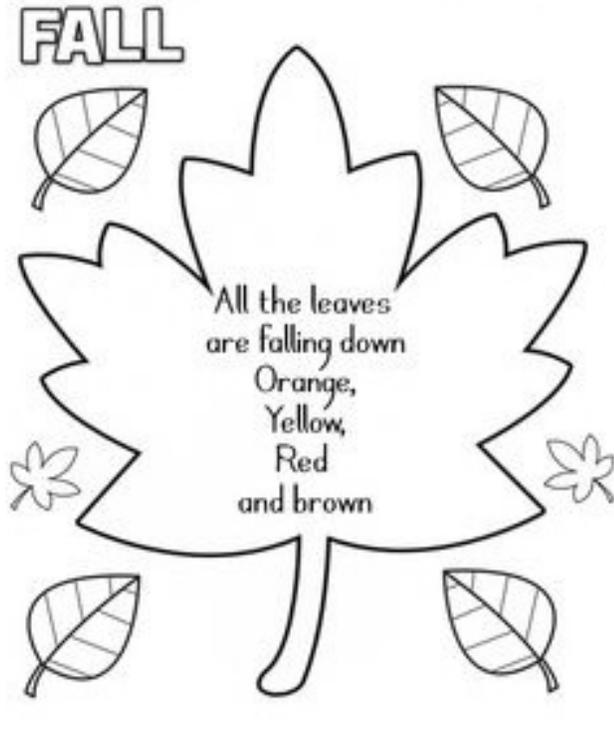
It's something I'm working on, because football, as great as it is, is only a game. And if I truly believe the things I profess, then I should never let the outcome of a game hinder me from serving my God. I'm working on it, but it's difficult. America is a football nation. Maybe the next time we take a religion survey we'll be honest enough to admit it.



Written by [Chad Gibbs](#)



**S**chool,  
**E**ffort, and  
**P**lay.  
**T**rying your best  
**E**ach hour of the day,  
**M**aking new friends,  
**B**eing good as you can  
**E**xciting discoveries,  
**R**eading books with a friend."  
- Boni Fulgham



## A Poem About the Flag

Choose a word from the Word Box to complete each rhyme.  
Then write the word on the line. Use each word once.

### Word Box

blue stop tall bright white



### The Flag

By Samuel A. Southworth

Waving at the pole's tip top  
Is a flag to make you \_\_\_\_\_.

Running across, left to right,  
Stripes of red and of \_\_\_\_\_.

In the corner, clear to view,  
Stands a field of darkest \_\_\_\_\_.

In that field, as in the night,  
Stars stand out, pure and \_\_\_\_\_.

Taken together, for one and all,  
It's the American flag, standing \_\_\_\_\_.

