



Messenger

Uniondale United Methodist Church March - April 2016

5857 N. Main St.
P. O. Box 115
Uniondale, IN 46791

Pastor Troy Drayer
260-543-2256

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 UniondaleUnitedMethodistChurch

Sunday Worship Service – 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School – 10:15 a.m.



March/April/May Birthdays and Anniversaries

March

1 – Kim Chaney
19 – Troy Drayer
22 – Amanda Drayer

April

1 – Brent McAfee
3 – Don Weaver
16 – Steve & Martha Hix
19 – Aubree Horne
29 – Doris Emley
30 – Troy & Mindy Drayer

May

2 – Gerry Houtz
2 – Bill & Connie Hix
4 – Coralee Bowley
6 – Ron & Diane Winkler
11 – Connie Andorfer
11 – Erick Kahn
12 – Emily Bennett
15 – Tim Evans
19 – Alexia Evans
19 – Kent & Mindi Herstad
22 – Elda Mae Weaver
23 – Bill Hix
24 – Jennifer Cook
26 – Steve Hix
29 – Ryan & Suzanne Kellam

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 13 – Fellowship Gathering after Sunday School
(Daylight Savings Time Begins)
Sunday, March 20 – Palm Sunday; Food Bank Sunday
Thursday, March 24 – Maundy Thursday Service UUMC 6:30 pm
Friday, March 25 – Good Friday Service UUMC 6:30 pm
Saturday, March 26 – Easter Egg Hunt – UUMC 10 am
Stations of the Cross – 9 am – 3 pm
Sunday, March 27 – Easter; Fellowship Breakfast – 8:15 am
Kids Changing the World – donate your change
Sunday, April 3 – Communion Sunday
Sunday, April 10 – Church Board Meeting 10:15 am
Friday, April 22 – Centennial Planning Meeting 6:30 pm
Sunday, May 2 – Communion



****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
- * Cut out your "Box Tops for Education"
- * To sign up for CHURCH DUTIES on sheets at back table.

It's time to celebrate.....

"Our 100 years"

1916-2016



Past...

Present...

Future...

Schedule of Events:

Saturday, June 11 – Markle Wildcat Festival Parade – UUMC will participate with a float

Saturday, June 11; 5-7 pm – Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social at the Uniondale Fire Station

Saturday, September 10 – Ossian Days Parade – UUMC will participate with a float

Tuesday, September 20 – Bluffton Street Fair – UUMC will participate with a float

Sunday, October 9 – Homecoming Sunday – Special worship service inviting former members and pastors

*more details to come on all events – stay tuned!

An E-pistle from Bishop Michael Joyner

It is time to go “public” with some really good news. Some of you have already heard this news which was shared at the “Our Life Together” Clergy Retreat two weeks ago, and it was also shared with the youth at the Bishop’s Youth Rally last Saturday. Now it is time to share this good news with everyone as we move into what we are calling the “Public Phase” of our capital campaign drive for “Building Discipleship Centers.”

As a reminder: the 2015 Session of the Indiana Conference voted unanimously to approve a campaign to raise \$6 million to build a new Discipleship Center at Epworth Forest, with additional “victory goals” of completing the Buck Lodge at Epworth, building the lake project at Camp Indicoso, and establishing a Scholarship Fund to help youth go to our camps. That total goal then was estimated to be \$9 million – which represents the largest campaign goal ever attempted by the former North or former South or the new Indiana Conference. We have been working through a “quiet phase” to contact lead donors, and now we are able to share this good news. Ready? To date we have \$7.7 million in cash and pledges! That includes gifts of \$6.1 million for the Discipleship Center at Epworth Forest, \$400,000 previously raised for the Buck Lodge, and an additional \$1.4 million in designated gifts to expand the Discipleship Center to include a Young Leaders Center, an outdoor stage, a meditation porch overlooking the lake, and a historical center to honor our past.

Given the success, so far, of our Campaign, we are planning to hold a Ground-Breaking Service of Celebration at Epworth Forest on Sunday afternoon, August 7th, to start the construction of the new Discipleship Center there. If our campaign goes well between now and then, we hope to have a ground-breaking the same day for the Buck Lodge (honoring the memory of Rev. Stan Buck), and we would love to have a ground-breaking on that same weekend at Camp Indicoso for the lake project there.

Now we are ready for the “public phase” of this campaign which will continue to seek lead gifts but which will expand with contacts and communications to a variety of groups seeking gifts from everyone who wants to help support this project. The timeline for this “public phase” is that we want to do as much as possible in the next 13 weeks leading up to this year’s Annual Conference Session (June 9-11). We believe it will be a great celebration!

Why all of this effort to build Discipleship Centers? Let me remind you: we want every local congregation to be a Discipleship Center where people are brought into the Christian faith and encouraged on their discipleship journey. We know that our camps and retreat ministries can partner with our local churches to help this discipleship-making process happen.

Why now? Because the Conference leaders have identified the need, and because they asked me, “What legacy project would be a good way of honoring your leadership as our bishop these past 12 years?” I answered out of my own experience of God’s call at church camp and replied that this kind of campaign would be a wonderful legacy. I am honored and thrilled to think that we will provide additional facilities and scholarships so that many more persons of all ages can experience what I did at camp – namely they will experience the love of God in an atmosphere of Christian community, which will draw them forward into saying “Yes” to God and following Jesus Christ.

That is why I am involved in this campaign. That is why I am excited to “go public” with the good news of our progress to date.

In the next couple of weeks you will hear much more about how you can get involved in helping to finish this campaign and to make a difference in the lives of children, youth, and adults. So – please – share this good news. Go public with the Good News of Christ, and go public with the good news of our campaign to build Discipleship Centers all around Indiana.

Thanks be to God!

Committee News

Faith Circle - Faith Circle met on February 13, at the church. A brief business meeting was held first, during which we discussed the cookbooks we are going to put together as part of the Centennial Celebration. This was our annual craft meeting. Connie Hix led us in a "Praise and Paint" session. Each person painted a lovely flower arrangement in a small round vase with acrylic paints on an 8 x 10 canvas. The results were amazing! Food, fun, and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Our next meeting will be at 1:00 p.m., March 12, at UUMC, with Mindi Herstad hosting. Please come and join us!



Missions and Ministries –

- Fellowship gathering will be on Sunday, March 13, 2016 after Sunday School
- Oubache retreat will be on Sunday, July 17, 2016
- Trunk or Treat will be on Monday, October 31, 2016
- Chili Cook-off will be on Sunday, November 13, 2016 after Sunday School

****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

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

Opal Gilbert
Christian Care Retirement Comm.
720 E. Dustman Rd.
Bluffton, IN 46714

Margaret Hasler
37446 Carson
Farmington Hills, MI 48331



February 2016 Budget Summary	February Actual	February Budget	February Variance	Year to date Actual	Year to date Budget	Year to date Variance
TOTAL INCOME	8,211.72	4,486.25	3,725.47	12,877.27	8,972.50	3,904.77
TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES	3,609.16	4,537.28	928.12	7,387.57	9,074.56	1,686.99
INCOME LESS EXPENSES	4,602.56	(51.03)		5,489.70	(102.06)	

Pastor Troy's Page

Hello Church Family,

It is so refreshing to realize that spring is right around the corner. Even though our winter has been mild; we are ready to be outside and visit with our neighbors again.

As we approach Holy Week, we are so excited to be celebrating these wondrous events with each of you and our Uniondale community. God is so good and we praise Him for His gift, His Son, Jesus Christ.

We would like to share this devotional regarding "JOY" It is a great reminder that we need to keep working for Jesus and sharing His love and joy to everyone.

Love and blessings, Pastor Troy and Mindy

Joy Is A Verb

Scripture: Philippians 4:4-7 (The NIV Study Bible)

4. Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5. Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds, in Jesus Christ.

"REJOICE. REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS, AND AGAIN I SAY REJOICE"

When Paul wrote these words, he was in prison, a small cave 14 feet underground....abused, beaten, falsely arrested. Fifteen times in his letter to the Philippians, Paul uses the word JOY.

But is it possible to rejoice ALWAYS? Even in the midst of fright? Anger? Defeat? Anxiety? Pain? Disappointment? Is it possible to be happy when there is no happiness? According to Paul, the answer is "YES!", but only if you have JOY.

Happiness is affected by circumstances; it depends on our emotions, our experiences, and our anxieties. JOY is PEACE, which circumstances cannot steal.

We need a happiness beyond our happenings. Paul knows the limits of our happiness. And Paul also knows the reality of God's joy. It is a relationship we carry, not a circumstance we face. Joy doesn't come from outward situations, but from inward strength. We don't rely on what we feel, or face, or fear. We rely only on Christ within us.

I believe Paul meant that JOY, as opposed to happiness, means knowing Christ personally, and feeling His presence in our hearts now and forever, and trusting His promise to be with us ALWAYS!

Prayer: Gracious and loving God, thank you that we may feel heart-broken on Good Friday because of the pain and humiliation Christ must have felt as He was dying on the cross, and yet we may feel true JOY as we anticipate celebrating His resurrection on Easter Sunday! Amen.

Encouragement for Today – A Devotion from Amanda Drayer

"Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever."

1 Chronicles 16:34 (NLT)

It'd been one of those weeks. Every time I turned around, my precious little toddler had gotten into something else. The dirty laundry hadn't moved from the hallway in days. And my baby wouldn't go down for his nap.

As quietly as possible, I tried to rock him to sleep for the umpteenth time, but my 3-year-old daughter kept coming in the nursery with markers in her hand. With frustration in my voice, I told her once and for all to go to her room and I would color with her later. She obeyed and marched her tiny feet straight to her bedroom. But she didn't wait for me to color.

After the baby finally fell asleep, I headed to Blaire's room. As I opened the door, I stepped on the masterpiece she had been creating. Her frustrations with me were illustrated all over the carpet in her favorite purple marker. (Yes, this is when I learned to have only washable markers in our home.)

I wish I could say I was as "slow to anger" as Christ is with me. But my voice and words were harsh. Blaire began to cry uncontrollably and I put myself in time-out.

After a little while Blaire found me. Still short of breath from her crying, she asked a very sad question: "Do you still love me?"

Her question caused me to reflect on the magnitude of God's enduring love. I was able to respond to her the same way my heavenly Father responds to me, "There is nothing you can do that would make me stop loving you. I will always love you."

Have you ever thought about the magnitude of God's enduring love? 1 Chronicles 16:34 records this amazing truth: "Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! His faithful love endures forever."

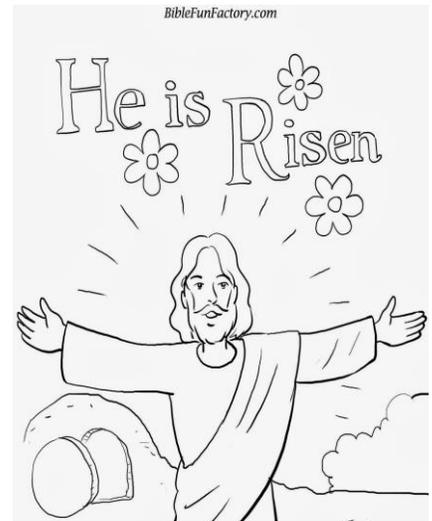
For years, I never really considered what that meant. I knew God loved me, but the fact that His love endures forever was hard to comprehend. Nothing we do will make Him love us more or love us less.

As a mother, I've endured sleepless nights, cranky kids and the daily building of tents. When compared to what God's love endures for me though, I stand amazed!

- His love died for you and me while we were still sinners.
- His love grants us mercy when we stray from His ways.
- His love overcomes our fears and doubts.
- His love never leaves us nor forsakes us.
- His love makes a place for us to spend eternity with Him.

How can He love like that? Because He is God and only God is capable of such love. The first half of 1 Chronicles 16:34 tells us to "give thanks to the LORD, for he is good!" Let's do that today!

Lord, thank You for your steadfast and enduring love. Help me to love others the way You love me. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



Easter Joy

Jesus came to earth,
To show us how to live,
How to put others first,
How to love and how to give.

Then He set about His work,
That God sent Him to do;
He took our punishment on Himself;
He made us clean and new.

He could have saved Himself,
Calling angels from above,
But He chose to pay our price for sin;
He paid it out of love.

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.
We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

By Joanna Fuchs



Color Me

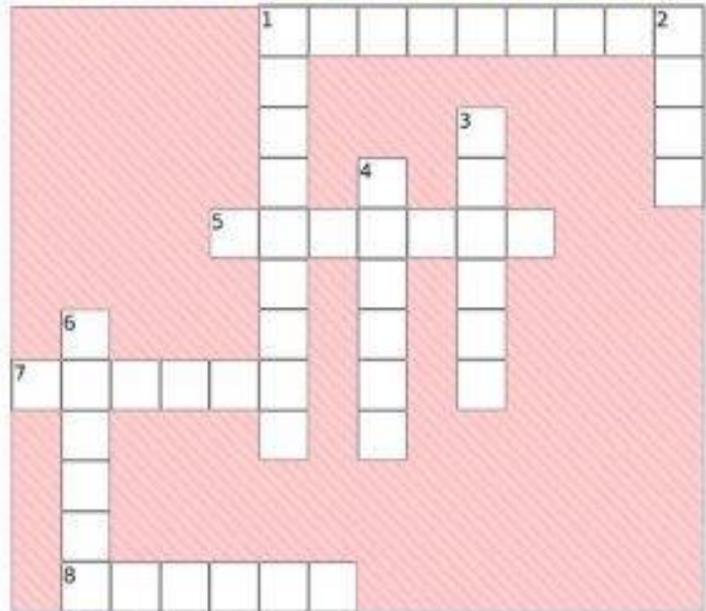


Fill in the Vowels

B _ NN _ _ S _ R _ BR _ WN
 B _ NN _ _ S _ R _ WH _ T _
 B _ NN _ _ S _ R _ _ LW _ YS
 _ N _ _ ST _ R D _ L _ GHT

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 Note: For personal use only

Easter Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 1 WHAT PEOPLE DO ON EASTER
- 5 RHYMES WITH SHOPPING
- 7 A WOVEN CONTAINER TO HOLD OR CARRY THINGS
- 8 A LONG EARED ANIMAL THAT HOPS

DOWN

- 1 A FAVORITE EASTER TREAT
- 2 THESE ARE DECORATED FOR EASTER
- 3 EASTER IS ON THIS DAY OF THE WEEK
- 4 ONE OF THE FOUR SEASONS OF THE YEAR
- 6 A HOLIDAY IN THE SPRING

Easter Word Search Puzzle

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

BASKET BUNNY CANDY CELEBRATION CHICKS CHOCOLATE
 DAFFODIL EASTER EGGS FAITH FAMILY FLOWERS
 HOLIDAY HUNT RABBIT SPRING SUNDAY TULIPS