

Uniondale United Methodist Church

Messenger

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

May 2014

Website: www.uniondaleumc.com



MAY

*Birthdays and
Anniversaries*

- 2nd – Gerry Houtz
- 2nd – Bill and Connie Hix
- 4th – Coralee Bowley
- 6th – Ron and Diane Winkler
- 11th – Connie Andorfer
- 11th – Erick Kahn
- 15th – Tim Evans
- 19th – Alexia Evans
- 19th – Kent and Mindi Herstad
- 22nd – Elda Mae Weaver
- 23rd – Bill Hix
- 24th – Jennifer Cook
- 29th – Ryan and Suzanne Kellam

Upcoming May Events

Sunday, May 4th – Communion / Bring a Friend Sunday

Sunday, May 11th – Happy Mother's Day!

Saturday, May 17th – Faith Circle (12:30 PM meet @ church to carpool)

Friday, May 23rd – Pre-School Graduation 6:30 pm

Saturday, May 24th – Tin Caps Game (food @ 6pm)

Sunday, June 1st – Board Meeting after church

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Ladies Faith Circle Report

For our April meeting we met at Mindi Herstad's home with Madison Herstad as co-hostess. We listened to Easter devotions regarding the women's role during Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection; played games and enjoyed refreshments.

For our business portion of the meeting we continued discussing creating a cook book with recipes from our church members past and present along with any favorite stories or memories of the church. It was also decided that for our May 17th gathering we will go to Grounds and Grains in Bluffton before we adjourn for the summer. Anyone interested in going please contact Connie Hix or Sharon Espich. We will meet at the church at 12:30 p.m. to allow for carpooling. All women are invited to attend.

"While we were still sinning, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8 By: Amy Cornell

I had just come into the house from the gym. Sweaty, I sighed as I surveyed the laundry that needed folding, the toys askew on the floor and the morning's dishes.

Suddenly, there was a knock on the door. It was my father. He had stopped over to say hello.

I was ashamed at the sad state of affairs. I threw my arms up in surrender.

"Dad," I sputtered as he went to hug me, "I am sweaty and gross and the place is a disaster."

"That's okay, Amy," he said, hugging me anyway, "You are still mine."

You are still mine.

You are still mine.

You are still mine.

These are the words I hear my Heavenly Father say as I come to Him with all my sin and shame. These are the words that ring in my ear when I try and fail, again and again. These are the words that beckon me when I pour my heart out in vulnerability and get a blank stare.

You are still mine.

When we know whose we are, we can come to the throne of Grace with courage and boldness. When we know whose we are, we know that the road to recovery is not hopeless. When we know whose we are, the opinions or criticisms of others pale in comparison to the fact that the God of the Universe is on our side.

Romans chapter five says that while we were still blowing it out in the world, Jesus came and died for us. Why? Wouldn't it make more sense for Christ to die for cleaned up, drama-free people? No.

Christ died while we were still sinning so that we would know that our adoption into the family of God has absolutely nothing to do with our goodness or righteousness. It was Christ, the Hound of Heaven, who sought us out and died in our place so that we can be part of the family of God and have what He calls the "abundant life." It was Christ who first loved, Christ who pursued, Christ who died.

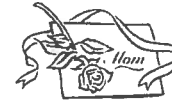
We have as much part in saving ourselves as a dead man has in his own resuscitation.

Today and every day, Jesus speaks one word over you: "Mine."

May you live into that joy and freedom. Amen.

Submitted by Amanda Drayer

The Origin of Mother's Day



The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers made for their children. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a *Methodist* church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honoring motherhood. By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies. Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.



Reminder from the Missions Team:

Please don't forget to save the tabs from your cans of pop, fruit, veggies, soup etc.

We are collecting them for Riley's Children's Hospital. There is a collection can at the back of the church.

Thank you!



Why God Made Moms

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Moms have magic; they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



Pre-School News



As the year is winding down, we are gearing up for the end of the year festivities. The students have worked very hard this year on their ABC's, 123's, shapes, writing, and life skills. We have also learned through field trips; one being to the Uniondale Volunteer Fire Department where Chief Fireman Erick Kahn taught us all about safety. We also learned about farming when we visited Drennen's Pumpkin Kingdom! Within the next week they will finish y and z and start our final evaluations! We have had a great group of 14 students (7 rambunctious boys; Keeghan, Kamdyn, Kaidyn, Seth, Matthew, Clayton, and Tripp and 7 girly girls, Hadley, Rinoa, Reagan, Grace, Alyssa, Kaylee, and Cassidy!) this year and we have had a blast teaching them all. We will be sending 8 of our students to Kindergarten next year (please pray with us as they all adjust to school life). We have overcome the challenges of teaching such a diverse group of students! In our final month (May) of the year before summer break we will be practicing for graduation and we will also be taking a field trip to East of Chicago where they will learn how pizza is made and get to make their very own personal pan to take home!!!

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported us this year during our E.O.C. fundraiser. We would also like to thank all the volunteers (Tim and Tonia Evans, Erick Kahn, and Dorothy Cummins) who helped make our fundraiser possible, and to the wonderful staff of East of Chicago and to our wonderful Pastor/friends Troy and Mindy!

We would like to THANK, THANK, THANK YOU all from the bottom of our hearts for your prayers and support this year, we could not have done this without you all!!! We would LOVE for YOU to join us Friday May 23rd at 6:30pm in the sanctuary for our graduation so the students can show off what they have learned!

☺ Thoughts From the Parsonage ☺

Phillipians 4:12....."I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need."

"What is the key to joy? A relationship with Jesus Christ.
What is the key to happiness? Wanting what you already have."

Someone once asked the artist Georgia O'Keefe why her paintings focused on small objects – like flower petals – and made them appear larger than life, and reduced the size of large objects – like mountains – making them smaller than life. Everyone sees the big things," she said. "But these smaller things are so beautiful and people might not notice them if I don't emphasize them." It's easy to see the problems in our lives – the mountains. But do we truly identify how beautiful the small things are?

It is a joy to be sharing with you again through our newsletter!!!!!!.

The above scripture was shared with me in a devotional this week at work. I have struggled with commitment in my life. I look at RV's (campers) from year to year and always think that the newest model is the best. Is a 42 inch TV as good as a 50 inch?? It is easy to always want more. God always provides our need. Our true joy and happiness is knowing Him and being happy with all the things in life that He has blessed us with. This was a good reminder for me and I hope...good for you as well.

Have a blessed day!!!

~~ Pastor Troy and Mindy

What Heroes Gave



Each donned their uniform to be
Defenders of our liberty

Their mission sure, their spirits bright
Guard freedom's home, be brave to fight

One final day each faced their call
Each gave their best enduring all

We'll never know what they went through
But know they loved this country true

Deep down inside we should all feel
What heroes gave, their cost so real

We must stay thankful, grateful of
The gift of freedom through their love

Their loved ones bore the gravest pain
What we can't know, some now sustain

To God I pray their pain will cease
And each will find long-lasting peace

Remember this from year to year
What heroes gave – shan't disappear

We'll never let their special day
Their time for honor slip away

These brave fought for a nation free
If not for them, where would we be?

Roger J. Robicheau

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. There are many stories as to its actual beginnings, with over two dozen cities and towns laying claim to being the birthplace of Memorial Day. There is also evidence that organized women's groups in the South were decorating graves before the end of the Civil War. While Waterloo N.Y. was officially declared the birthplace of Memorial Day by President Lyndon Johnson in May 1966, it's difficult to prove conclusively the origins of the day. It is more likely that it had many separate beginnings. Many planned or spontaneous gatherings of people to honor the war dead in the 1860's tapped into the general human need to honor our dead. Each contributed honorably to the growing movement that culminated in General John Logan, National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, giving his official proclamation on May 5, 1868, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. It is not important who was the very first, what is important is that Memorial Day was established. Memorial Day is not about division. It is about reconciliation; it is about coming together to honor those who gave their all.

The first state to officially recognize the holiday was New York in 1873. By 1890 it was recognized by all of the northern states. The South refused to acknowledge the day, honoring their dead on separate days until after World War I (when the holiday changed from honoring just those who died fighting in the Civil War to honoring Americans who died fighting in any war). It is now celebrated in almost every State on the last Monday in May (passed by Congress with the National Holiday Act of 1971 (P.L. 90 - 363) to ensure a three day weekend for Federal holidays), though several southern states have an additional separate day for honoring the Confederate war dead

Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1,200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the more than 260,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to ensure that each flag remains standing.

Vision/Evangelism Committee Report January – April 2014

The Vision/Evangelism Committee last met on January 30, March 27 and April 29. At the January 30th meeting we primarily discussed and scheduled anticipated events for 2014. Some of those events have already taken place, those being:

- Church-wide fellowship gathering – March 1st
- Community Easter Egg hunt – April 19th

The remaining events currently scheduled for 2014 are:

- Bring a friend Sunday – May 4th
- Mother's Day recognition – May 11th
- Preschool graduation – May 23rd at 6:30 PM
- Tin Caps game – May 24th – food at 6:00 PM
- Board meeting – June 1st after church service
- Father's Day recognition – June 15th
- Family Retreat at Ouabache State Park – July 12th
- Church at the Elzey's pond – July 20th
- Family movie night – September 13th
- Chili Cook-off – October 12th
- Trunk or Treat – October 31st

The remaining time has been spent primarily discussing the state of the church and the direction the church is headed. We have been reading from the book, "The Small Healthy Church." The good news is that Uniondale UMC displays some healthy traits. The bad news is that Uniondale UMC displays several unhealthy traits. At our last meeting, we decided to obtain copies of this book for all Church Board members. It's exciting to see the possibilities for our church. With God's help we can make our church a healthy and vibrant church in the Uniondale community!

Your Vision/Evangelism Team



As the snow subsides the grass grows green
We like to garden and to clean
The scent of Spring is in the air
We look for friends with which to share
Our joy, as all around us God's wonders we do see
And once again we are assured
He cares for you and me

~Mary Etta Blessing