



United Methodist Men

will be hosting a trip to an Indianapolis Indians baseball game

on August 14th.



The game begins at 7:00 p.m.

Meet at the church at 3:00 p.m.

We will take the church van or convoy in our cars.

Tickets will be purchased at the game at \$8.00 or above depending on seats.

There is a sign up sheet in the back of the sanctuary.

Day Away With P.J.

"Come Get Pickled With Your Pastor"



Thursday August 26th we will leave the church parking lot at 8:00 am for a day in DeKalb county Indiana. Our first stop will be the WWII Victory Museum. This 192,000 square foot National Military History Center houses over 140 military vehicles, including General Eisenhower's staff car, 50 motorcycles, and 279 uniforms from 11 different countries. We will eat at one of Auburn's best local restaurants, and then we'll take a short ride to the Sechler's Pickle Factory. This is a family owned business that still uses large cypress vats to age pickles in brine. We will get to see how they prepare and pack the pickles as well as sample some of the many varies of pickled products. There is also an outlet store where you can purchase a peck of pickles if you prefer. We should arrive back in Peru by 5:00 pm.

Staff

Pastor

Jim MacDonald

Office Manager

Karen March

Director of Music Ministries

Jason Gornto

Organist

Don Krug

Accompanist

Kay Weideman

Nancy Spahr

Preschool Director

Leslie Scott

Connie Jones,
Asst.

Computer Consultant

Brad Hochstedler

Newsletter Editor

Bonnie Bond

The Inside Story

Always Say A Prayer (ASAP)

Following is an illustration from a sermon by Leonard Sweet. I share it with you as a reminder that we live better spiritually and physically by addressing life's stresses with a prayerful response, rather than a fearful reaction. The ability to respond rather than react can be learned.

“Ever wonder about the acronym ASAP? Generally we think of it in terms of even more hurry and stress in our lives: ‘As soon as Possible’. Maybe if we think of this abbreviation in a different manner, we’ll begin to find a new way to deal with those rough days along the way.

There’s work to do, deadlines to meet, you’ve got no time to spare. But, as you hurry and scurry, ASAP: Always Say a Prayer. In the midst of family chaos, quality time is dear. Do your best; let God do the rest, ASAP: Always Say a Prayer. It may seem like your worries are more than you can bear. Slow down and take a breather, ASAP: Always Say a Prayer. God knows how stressful life is; he wants to ease our cares, and he’ll respond to all your needs, ASAP: Always Say a Prayer.”

*Read: Matthew 6:25-34 “Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?”
Matt. 6:27*

Develop the spiritual discipline of praying in all matters. It will add years to your life and life to your years.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jim*



Sunday, August 1

Text Luke 12:13-21

Message: "True Prosperity"

We live in a culture that trains us to accumulate, and hoard, in an attempt to secure our lives through possessions. Jesus teaches us a very different way to live. Jesus says we cannot secure our lives through our accumulations. He promises us that, in his service, we will prosper-though we may not prosper as the world judges prosperity.

Sunday, August 8,

Text: Luke 12:32-40

Message: "Living Gracefully"

God has created each of us to be creative, generous, and to give from what God has given us. In our stewardship of creation, in our giving to those in need, we are participating in some of the creativity and graciousness that lives at the heart of God's character. As we mirror God's character in our lives we are preparing to live eternally.

Sunday, August 15

Text: Luke 12:49-56

Message: "Security Alert"

We are living in insecure times. We yearn for security. Sometimes we see religion as a means of security. Yet, Jesus says that he has come to bring fire upon the earth, to provoke a crisis in our security.

Sunday, August 22

Text: Luke 13:10-17

Message: "Unconventional Compassion"

Jesus was not afraid to defy convention when human suffering could be relieved, and neither should we.

Sunday, August 29

Text: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Message "Radical Hospitality"

Hospitality, the gracious receiving of the stranger, is what Jesus does, in receiving each of us. Offering radical hospitality is what Jesus commands each of us to do. We are to receive one another, particularly those in need, as Jesus has received us.

Thank you for the support everyone showed after our financial report to the congregation. Remember we still need your pledges, financial support and prayers. Our church is still struggling to pay our bills. We currently have \$5,138.38 available and \$25,399.37 of bills to pay.

The finance committee has been working hard to monitor the church's spending and reduce the church's expenses where we can. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

This fall we will be kicking off our pledge drive for 2011. Please be in prayer for our church and your commitment to our church.

Finance Committee

HEALTH KITS

The UMW are filling health kits again this year. Please help with this great project. We currently have 90 kits completed toward our goal of 200 kits this year. Donations are accepted and I'm glad to purchase the items. Make checks payable to United Methodist Women. If you wish to purchase the items yourself, a full list is available in the back of the sanctuary.

Thank you.
Margaret Kreag

PRAYER CONCERNS

Sonja Myers	Christine Ebert	George Hollarman	Ruth Hubbard
Vicki Utterback	Jean Ann Lautzenheiser	Paul Bullick	Margaret Burkhardt
Louise Hentgen	Ginny Kelley	Jim Daily	Judy Rice
Heather Carswell	Bob Kreag	Glenn Hill	Rex Lease
Christy Conner	Ramona Summers	Mary Clark	Kathryn Sholty
Dale Cook	Aundrya Black	Mardell Wayne	Helen Tucker
Joe Williams	Frances Lease	Smedley Graham	Nick Kersh
Rebecca Straley	Kim Edward Bowman	Steven Corn	Jack Jumper
Judy Satrom	Ralph Clymer	Tina Corn	Ann & Joel Hanley
Ashley (Brown) Clock & infant son, Joseph Adam Clock			

JOYS

We had 4 children/youth attend church camp this year.

Answered prayers.

Graveside Service for Rosemary Hammond

Friends are invited to gather at Mount Hope Cemetery in Peru on **Saturday, July 31, at 4:30 p.m.** to celebrate the life of Rosemary Hammond. Memorial donations may be made to Helping Hands of Peru, 65 N. Miami St.

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

From May 28th through August 27th
Monday thru Thursday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Friday: 8 a.m. to Noon

Working Together as the Body of Christ in Challenging Times:

I Corinthians 12:25-31

.....so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But eagerly desire the greater gifts.

The past 18 months or so have brought some serious challenges to our Missions Committee in regard to our Church's budget issues. As in any congregation, "bad news" always travels faster than good news and rumors spread much more quickly than facts. I feel blessed to be able to present this report of "good news" to the members and friends of Main Street UMC.

Many factors were involved in the previous budgetary decisions and practices that have resulted in our current financial struggles. The Finance Committee is working diligently to name those factors and address the challenges we now face so that our Church can rise above and move forward to do God's work. As many of you know, Missions dollars were previously being used as a "temporary fix". However, a few months turned into several months without any resolution to our budget deficit.

Once the pattern was noted, Missions addressed the Administrative Council and met with Finance. The members involved immediately took action to not only end the practice of "robbing Peter to pay Paul" but also to establish policy and procedure that insures Mission offerings will not be diverted to the General Fund in the future. Mission dollars are now a segregated fund and being deposited into the Missions Account as received by the church. Finance also took immediate action to begin repayment of the monies that had been diverted from Missions offerings.

Throughout this, Missions has been able to meet all budgeted givings and we will continue to meet our obligations in the future. The budget process for Missions includes time to discuss, pray about, and discern the proposed spending for the next year. Realizing the General Fund was struggling, membership was not growing, and the economy had negatively impacted a number in our congregation, our committee recognized the likelihood of Mission dollars being needed to help support our church's operating expenses in 2010.

I would like to thank all involved in this process for truly working as the Body of Christ to resolve this issue. As lay leader in a previous church experiencing a similar financial crisis, I saw firsthand how negativism, blame, and anger could so easily destroy a congregation.

God IS alive and well in our church -----

"In God, ALL Things are Possible".

In His Service,
Cindy Woloshuk, Missions Chair

MISSIONS UPDATE

Henderson Settlement Mission Trip sign-up deadline is August 10.

A huge thank you to all who worked at the Main Street Preschool and Church tent during Circus Week. We handed out over 200 treat bags with pencils, erasers, and sharpeners for the kids and church information for the adults. This was our first year to partner up with the Preschool and a rather last minute idea for outreach. Whether or not we show success, we surely proved we can successfully take on such a project with little notice and have a lot of fun doing so.

Preschool Projects

Needed for the Preschool Parents' Meeting on August 24th:

Cookies or Bars

Volunteers to host the refreshments

We are also asking for Preschool Reading Friends to volunteer once or twice during the school year and visit the Preschool to do special reading or story telling.

Please sign-up in church or call Karen in the office.

Supporting our Mission Project Collections:

Collection Bins will be set-up in the Sanctuary for the following:

Troop Support Care Packages - on-going (we will also be sending to 3 or 4 at VA Hospital)

Healthkits

Operation Christmas Child shoebox items - collection ends about November 20

Birthright of Peru Baby Shower - October
Non-perishable food items for Salvation Army and Helping Hands.

Lists of items needed will be posted near the collection boxes.

YOUTH EVENTS

- Sunday, August 1st** UMYF Deep River Water Park - leave after 2nd service.
- Saturday, August 21st** UMYF Miami County Beautification Day - 8 am—2 pm Bunker Hill Community Bldg.
This is one of our fund raisers and we need additional help from any adults who are available!
- Sunday, August 29th** UMYF Fall Youth Rally at Epworth Forest - leave after 2nd service

Friends are welcome at all our youth activities!

Kaitlin Bonifant is raising funds for Impact, an Evansville-based ministry for which she and a few of her college-friends volunteer. Impact serves the community in various capacities, but Kaitlin assists with the children's ministry, which offers a free daycare service, homework assistance, arts-and-crafts, athletic activities, snack foods and Bible lessons. Any donations you would be willing to make would be much appreciated and will be used to buy craft supplies, games, books and new sports equipment for the kids. If you have any questions, feel free to email (watermel34@aol.com), call (765-473-1158) or simply speak with Kaitlin at any time.

LOOKING
AHEAD

FALL RUMMAGE SALE: The tentative date is September 18th. Your good used items can be donated for our sale. Furniture, toys, books, clothing and other household items can be used.

An Invitation to Hands-On Mission



We are a strong mission church. We support missions generously. We are looking for ways to grow in number, grow in strength, and grow up into Christ. One of the best ways to bring new life to a congregation is to get involved in new ministries. Our mission work trip to Henderson Settlement in Kentucky is just such a venture. This mission trip is for adults who want to roll up their sleeves and do some hands on work. You do not have to be handy with a hammer, or skilled with a skillet to be of use. This United Methodist mission has a thrift store that always needs volunteers to help sort and stock items for the shelves, a craft center, education unit etc.

We will leave on Monday, September 13th and return on Saturday the 18th. The cost will be \$180.00 which includes food and lodging for the week. **Sign up no later than August 10th** at the ministry center. If you have questions see Pastor Jim or a member of the missions committee.

Encouraging Signs

We had 4 children/youth attend our conference church camps this summer on scholarships. We had a great spirit of cooperation between volunteers from the congregation and staff from our preschool in passing out gifts and literature promoting the ministries of Main Street at a Circus Days tent last week on Broadway. These may be small steps, but they are steps in a direction that can make a profound difference.

From the Church Growth Task Force:

How to Make a New Start

By Norman Vincent Peale

Rediscover Your Genius

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13)

- Know what you want
- Find yourself
- Get Motivated

Understand Success

"Thou wilt show me the path of life." (Psalm 16:11)

- Do your best
- Create positive images
- Commit yourself to God

Seek Opportunities

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
(Matthew 6:33)

- Open your mind
- Develop your personality
- Discipline yourself

Forget, Forgive, & Live

"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark....." (Philippians 3:13,14)

- Forget the past
- Forgive yourself & others
- Live today

Cultivate Optimism

"Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good." (Psalm 136:1)

- Don't limit yourself
- Get outside yourself
- Think health

Tap into Power of Prayer

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."
(Mark 11:24)

- Talk, visualize, then listen
- Remove all barriers
- Believe in miracles

More From the Church Growth Task Force:

Draft Proposal for a Plan of Action

1. Task Force Mandate
2. Task Force Goals
3. New Mission Statement to reflect the heart of this congregation - a statement that we can build our ministries around.
4. Regular updates to the congregation through use of bulletin, newsletter, Sunday school, and announcements in worship.
5. Concurrent Phases:
 - a. Assess external factors of community (age, economics, actual needs of the neighborhood around us as well as the entire community) and internal factors of the church (theology, tradition, facility, age of building, age of congregation)
 - i. Determine ministries that are specifically internal and which are specifically external
 - ii. What are we doing well and what ministries are in need of revitalizing
 - iii. Recommend new programming and ministries that will better meet the needs of this congregation as well as stimulate Church Growth.
 - b. Evaluate ministries currently in place for:
 - i. Purpose - do these ministries live out our mission statement?
 - ii. Functionality - does the ministry truly meet the needs of those it serves?
 - iii. Recommendations to improve upon the ministries or encourage a "hands off" approach.
 - c. Short-term "immediate action" to keep the momentum going
 - i. Involve Sunday School classes and other groups within the church to spearhead a project or ministry event recommended by the TF.
 - ii. Sunday morning worship services (all resources recommend revitalizing).
 - iii. Bring life to the Church hallways and entries.
 - d. Long-term planning for new programming
 - i. Solicit ideas from each Sunday School class and existing ministry
 - ii. Prioritize programming based upon perceived needs of congregation/community and cost of the program
 - iii. Establish review and evaluation process

Suggestions for "immediate action":

Preschool - getting church to take more ownership through involvement (already in-process by Missions Committee).

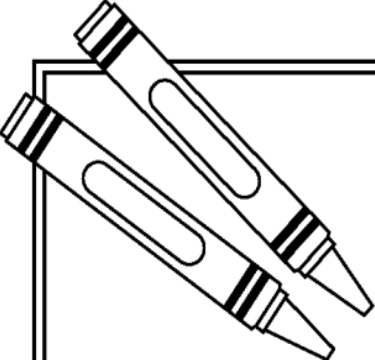
Sunday mornings - more greeters, welcome center in sanctuary, welcome gift for visitors, brochure for visitors with card to fill out and place in offering, visitor follow-up program.

Liven up the hallways with pictures of church life

Coming Events calendar that is visible to anyone who enters the doors

Start small group get-togethers

Once-a-month church event



Just for KIDS

GOD'S INSTRUCTION

The Bible is a guide for how we should live. In Sunday school and at home, we learn how God loves and saves us. Solve this puzzle to find Proverbs 4:13 (NIV), which tells about the importance of God's Word.

First, write the word that means the opposite of the one given. Then write the correct letters on the number-coded lines below.

young death cold come
1 2 3 2 6 7 8 4 1 5 9 1

sweet can't no later
10 1 11 12 13 14 15 16 8 10 15 1 17

"H
4 1 2 3 1 15 5 1

6 15 10 5 12 11 13 5 6 1 15 ' 3 1

15 1 5 2 8 5 6 5 9 1 ;

9 11 14 12 3 6 5 17 8 2 2 ' 7 1 12

6 5 6 10 16 1 11 12 2 6 7 8 "



Make a Postcard Puzzle



What adventures did you have this summer? Share your travels with your friends and family.

Here's what you need:

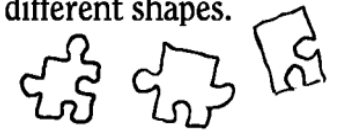
A postcard or picture from your summer adventures

- pencil or pen
- scissors
- envelope
- pieces of paper



Here's how to make it:

1. Cut your postcard or picture into 8 or 10 pieces of different shapes.



2. On a piece of paper, write a note telling about your trip or draw a picture of your favorite part of your summer.

3. Put the puzzle pieces and the note into an envelope.

4. Mail or give the envelope to a friend or family member. If you need to mail it, make sure you have the right address and the correct postage stamp. (A grownup can help.)

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13, NIV)

Answers: old, life, hot, go, sour, can, yes, now