



*Wesley
United Methodist
Church,
Union City IN*



April 2013

The Messenger

Wesley Schedule

Sundays

Sunday school for all
ages 9:00 am

Traditional Worship

9:00am

Contemporary Worship

10:30am

Wednesdays

Meal 5:30

6:05 Worship

Wesley UMC's Community Easter Egg Hunt a big Success!

The weather was beautiful this year for our Easter Egg Hunt held at the Union City Schools. We changed things up this year and had three separate hunts, one for the kiddies, one for the teens, and one for the adults. Fifty children hunted for 498 Easter eggs that were hidden throughout the school grounds. Eighteen teens hunted for 200 Easter eggs. Twenty moms and dads hunted for 150 eggs. It was a great time, and hopefully everyone will look forward to next year's hunt!

Each hunt had a "grand prize egg". Erik Parson's found the winning egg during the kiddie hunt. He won a \$50 shopping spree at Wal-Mart and lunch out for his family with some of the Wesley gang. Michael Rush the grand prize for the teen hunt. He won a \$75 fun package which included dinner at El Carreton in Winchester, tickets to the theatre, and gift certificates for ice cream at the House of Flavors. Fred Elliott won the adult grand

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March Attendance & Finance

Date	Traditional Worship	Contemporary Worship	Total of Both Services
3-3-13	88	88	176
3-10-13	64	67	131
3-17-13	58	87	145
3-24-13	70	61	131
3-31-13	41 Sunrise/88	89	218

Finance Quick Look
Budget Needs YTD: \$54,736.20
Received YTD: \$41,302.35
Missions Offerings Received YTD: \$5,436.50

W.O.W. Attendance
3-6-13: Snow Day
3-13-13: 66
3-20-13: 72
3-27-13: Spring Break

Jan 01-Feb 28 2013 Budget Report

Jan-Feb Offering & Tithes	\$27,317.01
Parsonage Maintenance/Utilities	-\$1,009.41
Church Building Maintenance/Janitorial Supply	-\$1,005.62
Church Building Utilities	-\$2,227.25
Church Property Expenses/Insurance	-\$2,192.68
Wesley Staff Salaries	-\$9,443.71
Pastor Salary	-\$10,791.21
Outreach Ministries	-\$937.99
Fellowship/Communion/Leadership	-\$967.99
Tithe to INUMC	-\$2,619.00
Office Operations	-\$1,039.37



April Servers

Traditional Greeters

Jim & Hope VanSkyock
Steve & Judy Spence

Traditional Ushers

Rick & Connie Gettinger
Darrell Drew

Traditional Children's Sunday School Volunteer

April 7: Scott Rush
April 14: Kathy Moore
April 21: Angie Cross
April 28: Darla Orians

Donut Fellowship

April 7: Francis & Sharon Hoggatt
April 14: **Available**
April 21: **Available**
April 28: Bill & Joyce Husmann

Contemporary Children's Worship

April 7: Joyce Husmann
April 14: Kathy Moore
April 21: Danielle Downey
April 28: Jamie Kerns

W.O.W. Cooks

April 3: Team Holt
April 10: **Available**
April 17: Team Webster/Spence
April 24: **Available**

Altar Flowers

April 7: Richard Funk
April 14: **Available**
April 21: **Available**
April 28: **Available**

April Celebrations

	Birthdays
1	Stephenie Fett
3	Junellen Bradburn
4	Alex Brooks; Elizabeth Prinkey
6	Bob Gentry
7	Ron Galway; Rachel Kreider
8	Janice Fisher
9	Gene Zimmers
10	Harold Warren
11	Bill Hickey; Dick Wilcox
12	Rick Gettinger
13	Monna Hummel
14	Doug Archey
15	Cheryl Williams
17	Braden Wisner
18	Barbara Huddleston
19	Ruth Rohr
22	Judy Gilbert; Richard Webster; Anthony Wyant
23	Anna Kidd; Eric Moore
27	Delma Gullett; Harry Prescott
29	Jeff Baron; Jeff Spence
30	Ryan Fields

	Anniversaries
2	John & Carol Smith
7	Gene & Mary Zimmers
10	Richard & Donna Webster
15	Janey & Bud Carrico
17	Steve & Sharon Price
24	Robert & Carolyn Gard



*Clap your hands, all
peoples! Shout to God
with loud songs of joy!*

Psalms 47:1

"Liar, Lunatic, or Lord?"

C. S. Lewis is credited with first raising the question, "Do you believe Jesus was a liar, a lunatic, or The Lord?" He raised the issue as a way of sharpening the question: "Who is Jesus?" Even a casual reading of the teachings and proclamations of Jesus demands that we consider whether Jesus was telling the truth. In the various "I am" sayings of Jesus, along with a myriad of other statements, Jesus claims to be the chosen one of God, even claims to be "at one" with the Father. Jesus teaches with authority unlike other leaders and teachers of his day. He heals as a sign that God's kingdom is at hand. And he proclaims that the promises of God in the prophets of what we call the Old Testament are fulfilled in him.

So, what do we believe about Jesus? Was he a liar when he said and did all of those things? Or was he a deranged lunatic who was mistaken in his teachings and proclamations? Or, was Jesus telling the truth, which means he is the Christ, the Messiah, The Lord? Those seem to be our only

choices. Is Jesus a Liar, a Lunatic, or The Lord? Which is it for you? What do you believe about Jesus?

As we approach the Palm Sunday and Holy Week, we all must answer that question. Don't answer too quickly, even if you consider yourself a Christian. There is a big difference between believing in Jesus as Savior and also following Jesus as Lord. My "Bishop's Operational Team" (a group to advise me and help me lead) has just read the book "The Great Omission" by Dallas Willard in which he makes the point (these are my words): too much of what we call "evangelism" has simply invited people to be "saved" by accepting Jesus as Savior, but has neglected teaching people to be disciples who follow Jesus as Lord.

Following Jesus as Lord involves spiritual formation, discipline, growth in grace (that is our emphasis as United Methodists in the Wesleyan tradition), and moving on toward Christian Perfection (another Wesley term). The book makes the point that many Christians have committed the great "omission" even in the midst of following the

"great commission" of Matthew 28; namely, we have invited people to accept Jesus as Savior but we have not invited them to live as disciples of Jesus as Lord. In fact, we have not ourselves modeled for the world what it means to follow Jesus as both Savior and Lord. Thus the "great omission."

So, don't answer too quickly the question about "liar, lunatic, or lord".

Consider what it means to allow Jesus to be Lord of your life before you answer.

I know my answer. It is summed up in the earliest of all Christian affirmations: Jesus is Lord. And I am striving to improve my own discipleship by allowing Jesus to lead me as Lord. I hope he is Lord for you, too.

From Bishop Mike
The Indiana
Conference of the
United Methodist
Church



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United Methodism 101 is designed for new church members and anyone else wanting to know more about our:

- ✓ History
- ✓ Beliefs
- ✓ Ministries
- ✓ Challenges

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The Web course includes for web-based lessons, each with many interactive features. Lessons take about 30 minutes to complete. Cost is \$9.99 / Dates are April 17-May 29

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Visit www.shop.umc.org search for United Methodism 101 online. Registration deadline is April 11.

KITCHEN

The Wesley kitchen is in need of some new staples. For the month of April we'd like to ask for donations of new **dishtowels, washcloths, and hot pads**. Ours are looking pretty shabby. If you'd like to donate any of these items for our kitchen please drop them off in the church office. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!



Wesley Gals!

The Wesley Gals! visited the Kitchen Aid Experience for a cooking class last month. We learned how to make homemade noodles, one pot pasta with peppers and sausage and blender drinks.

We relaxed and visited over lunch at the Montage Café. Before heading home, we picked out desserts to take home from The Coffee Pot. A few of the ladies even took home Maid Rites for an easy meal later in the day!

Thanks for the wonderful day, Connie Gettinger, Angie Cross, Melissa Gettinger, Reagan & Sharon Hoggatt, Mary Wise, Shirley Linn, Julie Holden, Phyllis Threewits, Nancy Ayers, Doris Grow, Joanie Paschal, Nikki Grow, Cheryl Williams, and Rachel Kreider!

Our next Wesley Gals! Field Trip will be to the Vera Bradley Outlet Sale at the Ft. Wayne Coliseum on April 14. We will leave following church on that day. Reserve your van seat today by calling or emailing Nikki Grow!





Elevate 2013

By Elizabeth Sowinski

Elevate is a Christian event for local youth groups. It is a place for teens to converge together and praise the One True King. With multiple worship services and an outreach program, it is an excellent way to renew your faith while having fun at the same time!

This year, it was held in Columbus, Ohio. The all-youth band was awesome! The theme was “Be Revolutionary!!” The speaker told the story of Jehu, the Israelite king who defeated the pagan queen Jezebel and brought Israel back to the ways of the Lord. Following the service, the whole group went to an indoor waterpark that the youth pastors rented out for us. We were there from 12:30am until 2:30am. It was fun!! We got a little sleep at the hotel and the next day, we traveled around Columbus delivering food for the “Meals on Wheels” program. Some of the groups got lost (my Mom’s group got lost twice!) but not mine. It was a good experience delivering meals to people who were elderly or handicapped. Pastor Geoff encouraged us to offer to pray with each person as we delivered his or her meal. It was a great experience!

Manna Ministry

Spring is coming! I think we are all excited for the warm air and sunshine. Manna is doing well. Thank you to everyone who has contributed or helped in any way.

The pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned pasta, any boxed meal, canned soup and cereal. If you are able to donate any of these items please drop them off in the Manna office. Thank you!



Wesley



The children are learning a lot and having so much fun doing it. We just completed the Easter story and next week we will be learning about the power of Jesus.

Several adults have contributed to the children's offering project; thank you! The children are saving their offering to buy two chickens, a goat, and medicine for people who live in an under privileged country. We have a graph posted on our wall where we color in the offering amount every week so we can see how close we are to reaching our goal. The two chickens and goat cost \$100 and the medicine costs \$100. We have raised almost \$75 for each item; so we are close! Thank you to anyone who has helped us with this offering! The children get very excited when we are able to color in the graph.



A very big THANK YOU to the Walker Family for the



delicious Easter breakfast that was prepared for the congregation on Easter Sunday between services. A thanks goes out to the Coats family for helping and cleaning up

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Easter Egg Hunt

a hotel stay, dinner, and fuel for his family to have a fun weekend away of his choice. Congratulations to all of our winners!



Nikki Grow is always such a great help!



Anxiously waiting.



Pastor Darren joined in the festivities.



Co-organizer Rhonda Fields had so much fun planning the event.

Maleia & Debbie Kemp enjoyed their morning.

Zack Holt stretches his back out before the adult hunt.



Brad Hoggatt was the leader of the Adult Hunt.



Easter: A Time of Hope

As I think about Easter this year one moment stands out from the others. It was a moment in the life of the disciples when everything appeared to go wrong. It is the third day following his crucifixion; the disciples are no doubt spiritually and emotionally drained. After being scattered at Jesus arrest they have now managed to gather themselves together in one place trying to make sense of what has just happened and certainly mourning the loss of their master and teacher.

Then, an amazing thing happens. First Jesus appears to the women, then to his followers on the road to Emmaus, and then to the disciples who have locked themselves in a room. It takes a bit of time as each person comes to the realization that Jesus is alive and right there with them. However, doubt still lingered in the one called Thomas.

He had heard the testimonies but wasn't able to make that leap of faith so he declares he will only believe when he can actually touch the wounds in the flesh of Jesus. I can only imagine the look on his face when Jesus appeared

in the room for the second time, without using any doors, and looks right at Thomas and says: *"Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."* It is only in this moment that Thomas is able to believe it is all true.

But Jesus had more to say to Thomas and those words carry great implications for us today. Jesus said to him, *"Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."*

Just like Thomas we all have our moments of doubt. But we can't let those moments of weakness keep us from the hope Jesus promises and we can't let it keep us from declaring and living our faith in Christ. You see, Jesus understands our weaknesses and wants to encourage us. Notice that Jesus didn't yell at Thomas or rebuke him. Jesus didn't come back to call him a failure. Instead, Jesus reassured Thomas that what he was experiencing was actually real thereby reigniting his hope and faith.

This Easter season allow Jesus to speak to your heart. He wants to reassure us that we are forgiven and that he indeed is alive. Because all authority in

heaven and earth has been given to him, there is nothing, which can come against us that he has not already conquered.

So let us each live in hope and victory, setting aside all doubts and fears and move steadily forward in the reassurance of Christ's holy presence. Let us walk boldly and faithfully each day proclaiming and living the love of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ.

God Bless You in your journey,

Pastor Darren

April Sermons

4-7-13 *Of Brothers, Behavior, & Blessings: Favored Son / Hated Brother*
Genesis 37:1-11

4-14-13 *Of Brothers, Behavior, & Blessings: Conspiracy to Kill*
Genesis 37:12-36

4-21-13 *Of Brothers, Behavior, & Blessings: Endurance and Favor*
Genesis 39:1-23

Sweet April Showers

Do *Spring*

May Flowers!



Wesley UMC

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