

JULY 2013

The Messenger

Wesley United Methodist Church, Union City, Indiana

VBS to be family event this year

Plans for VBS are in process now. We are going to try something a little different this year. We are going to throw a "Family Bible School" which would incorporate not just the kids but the entire family. We hope to show people who do not have a home church of their own how much fun Wesley can be. Who said church is boring? If you are interested in helping contact the church office.



Wesley Kids are learning about the Armor of God

The Wesley Kids' Sunday School class has been busy as always. We just finished a unit on the Fruit of the Spirit where we learned how to act more like Jesus every day. We have begun a new unit and are learning about the Armor of God; "Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." Ephesians 6:13-18

June Attendance & Finance

| Date | Traditional Worship | Contemporary Worship | Total of Both Services |
|----------|---------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 06-02-13 | 77 | 83 | 160 |
| 06-09-13 | 79 | 83 | 162 |
| 06-16-13 | 87 | 61 | 148 |
| 06-23-13 | 72 | 73 | 145 |
| 06-30-13 | 73 | 62 | 135 |

Finance Quick Look

Budget Needs YTD:
\$103,089.48

Received YTD:
\$97,036.01

Manna Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has supported or contributed to Manna. You are helping the lives of many people. Thank you for making the people who are attending church or coming to small groups before receiving help from Manna so welcome. It's our hope that we don't just change their lives for a short time but for a lifetime.

Currently Manna could use toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, any household cleaning items, canned soup, canned fruit, macaroni and cheese, or canned pasta.

"He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor."

Proverbs 22:9

Budget Report through May 2013

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Jan-May Offering & Tithes | \$85,386.94 |
| Parsonage Maintenance/Utilities | -2,456.76 |
| Church Building Maintenance/Janitorial Supply | -1,667.58 |
| Church Building Utilities | -5,355.01 |
| Church Property Expenses/Insurance | -11,170.95 |
| Wesley Staff Salaries | -25,167.78 |
| Pastor Salary | -28,395.40 |
| Outreach Ministries | -1,743.87 |
| Fellowship/Communion/Leadership | -2,188.40 |
| Tithe to INUMC | -4,796.00 |
| Office Operations | -3,845.29 |

July Servers

Traditional Greeters

Chad & Gina Spence;
Lois Templeton; Merna Brenner

Traditional Ushers

Jay Linn; Jim Davis
Flip Hoover

Children's Sunday School

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

Altar Flowers

July 7: John & Evelyn Ford
July 14: Jay & Shirley Linn
July 21: Ken & Teri Sowinski
July 28: available

Contemporary Greeters

July 7: Holts/Websters
July 14: Websters/Knoxes
July 21: Knoxes/Orians'
July 28: Orians'/Hardwicks

Children's Worship

July 7: Kathy Moore
July 14: Danielle Downey
July 21: Jamie Kerns
July 28: Donna Webster

Donut Fellowship

July 7: available
July 14: Kemp Family
July 21: Dick & Donna Webster
July 28: Gene & Mary Zimmers



P.A.W.S.

The Wesley KIDS are collecting their offering to donate to P.A.W.S. which is a no-kill animal shelter located in Union City. P.A.W.S. shelters dogs, feeds them, and even takes them to the vet until they can find them a forever family who will love them. The children decided to collect \$150.00 to donate to this organization and we have raised almost \$50.00 already. Please help by sending a quarter or two with your child to Sunday School; they get so excited when they have something to add to the basket when it is passed. Thank you!

July Celebrations

| | <i>Birthdays</i> |
|----|--|
| 2 | Alyssa Clevenger |
| 4 | Dorothy Horine |
| 5 | Brandon Grow; Sharlyn Hickey; Isabella Phillips |
| 6 | Nancy Ayers |
| 7 | Justin Fields; Noah Gates |
| 8 | John Michael Butch; Kelsey Cross; Peyton Doughty |
| 9 | Cari Prinkey; Joe Wyant |
| 10 | Bill Baker |
| 11 | Dean Coats |
| 13 | Carolyn Gard; Nicholas Suerdieck; Linda Wilcox |
| 14 | Debi Wymer |
| 15 | Ray Griffin; Krista Hershey |
| 16 | Lyle Gilbert |
| 19 | Jean English |
| 20 | Sherry Prescott; Evan Sowinski |
| 21 | Kristie Coats; Zack Holt; Alex Butch |
| 22 | Jay Linn; Jean Winans |
| 23 | Clayton Downey; Steve Spence; Reece Wymer |
| 24 | Megan Schweigert |
| 25 | Bradlee Schaupp; Ken Sowinski |
| 26 | Barbara DeHaven |
| 27 | Kyle Cross |
| 28 | Kenzie Schaupp |
| 30 | Richard Funk; Maia Wisner |



| | <i>Anniversaries</i> |
|----|---------------------------|
| 5 | Harry & Diane Prescott |
| 7 | Tim & Melissa Adelsperger |
| 14 | John & Evelyn Ford |
| 15 | Bill & Sharlyn Hickey |
| 17 | Dean & Kristie Coats |
| 18 | Brad & Amy Hoggatt |
| 21 | Jerry & Ruth Warren |
| 24 | Rodney & Julie Holden |
| 29 | Charles & Judy Smith |

Discovering Happiness



Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night.

Psalm 1:1-2

When we read this passage a simple question comes to mind; Am I happy? Happiness, as described here, comes when we take delight in the laws of God, that is the Word of God.

On the other hand to heed bad or wicked advice, to follow the path of sin, or become a scoffer leads one into a unsatisfying life. Of these three temptations I wonder if being a scoffer is the easiest to fall into?

Take a moment and consider the numerous conversations we have had in just the past week. Can we find those moments when we were complaining, putting down, or mocking someone or a group because of their words, actions, or inactions?

It's easy enough to fall into such conversations without even realizing it. After all we live in a land where free speech is valued. But have we become, at least on occasions, so used to the idea of saying what's on our mind that we forget to temper our thoughts and words with God's Word?

Like the arm chair quarterback it's easy to second-guess what our favorite team or player is doing on the field. But if we were actually in their shoes would others agree with each choice and action we made? So too, it is easy to second guess what others

are saying or doing and expounding on all the reasons we believe they did something wrong or inadequately-we become the scoffer.

Yet, when we meditate and pray over the Word of God we can find new insight on how to handle and respond to the things we hear, see, and experience. So rather than ridiculing, mocking, or complain we can respond in love. We can come along side folks in support or even lend a hand with whatever they may be facing. Through the love of God we can become an encourager rather than the discourager.

Happiness then is a choice. It's a choice in how we view and experience the world around us. It's a choice in how we respond to the world around us. Even with the best of intentions it's easy enough to slip into the role of scoffer but the good news is we don't have to stay there.

When we seek The Lord with our whole heart, studying, meditating, and praying through the scriptures we will find the strength, resolve, and desire to be all God has created us to be. And we will discover all the happiness that goes along with being a child of the King.

Have a blessed and happy day,

Pastor Darren



Youth attend Brookville, OH Mission Trip

On June 17, 2013 when we left the church I wasn't the most excited person aboard, I mean, I was looking forward to the mission trip, but I had some thoughts. *Will I be left out because of my age? I don't know if I can handle being away from my parents that long. And, will I make any new friends?*

These thoughts were holding me back from other people once we got to the Plainview Open Bible Church. I was scared that I would mess things up, but when a girl named Kirstyn came up to me during door to door and asked if we could be partners, I was all in. Worship services were totally amazing and the morning session on how to turn our bedrooms into bedroom bible colleges rocked.

As I made new friends my faith, and spiritual growth in God increased big time. I loved going door to door, even when we (Elizabeth and I) got rejected way more than I could count, and staining decks was a blast with my group (Jordan, Cody, Madison, Hannah, Elizabeth, Mike, and me).

By the time the week was over I knew I had made the right decision on going on the mission trip. I can tell you one thing; I can't wait till next year. Now that I am working on building my relationship with God, there is no going back!

Reagan Hoggatt



As most of you know, last week the Wesley Youth M.A.D. went on the Mission Trip to Brookville, OH. Everyday we would wake up early in the morning to go shower at the school and eat, then at 9:00am we would start the BBC that stands for **Bedroom Bible College**, the BBC is a way to help teenagers and adults do devotional. If you have an Apple product I would suggest that you download the Blue Letter Bible and the Bible Study Tool because these helped me a lot. We also worked for five hours or more each day cleaning, power washing, and painting all different types of things. We also went door to door praying with residents. The days wrapped with amazing worship services each night. We had an amazing week working for our God!

Our next big thing that we will be doing is attending camp at the end of this month. Please continue to pray for the Youth as we prepare to go to camp!

Justin Fields



Trustee's Corner

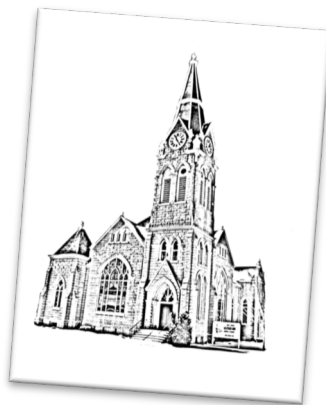
In 1853, Union City Methodist Church was lead by Pastor John Farson. He was also a Trustee Board member, and is credited with starting the first Sunday School Class at UCMC. This first church was located on North Columbia Street just north of Oak Street. Samuel Carter, a member, donated the bricks to build the church. That building was used for ten years before it became inadequate. In 1869, a lot was purchased on the corner of Oak and Plum Streets. The structure was begun, the basement floor and two classrooms were completed. In 1880 the auditorium (sanctuary) was completed. In 1890, the tower and clocks were completed. Rev. J. F. Radcliffe was appointed to Union City Methodist Church in 1906. The church was completed and dedication took place March 21, 1909. In 1966, the west wing was added to the building making our present church.

Thus, our steeple is 104-107 years old. The nails used at the time the steeple was built have held up well considering the Indiana weather. For the past few years many of the slate shingles have begun to fall. The steeple must be repaired.

We will accomplish the challenge to replace the steeple with the backing of God and the strong willed members and friends of Wesley. J.B. Lynch, a member in 1951, wrote this poem. I feel there is a similarity with the challenges we face today.

Thank you and Peace be
with you always,

Steve Spence,
Trustee Chairperson



Our Church-By J.B. Lynch

*One hundred years ago, right now,
The folks around here were wondering how
They could organize a Christian band;
Make it permanent, so it would stand*

*They planned and prayed from day to day;
Things soon began to come their way.
What courage it took for them to begin
To build a church to worship in!*

*They worshipped here for many years,
Amid their pleasures and their tears;
Think of the souls that were saved right here,
To each one of them, this place is most dear.*

*The old brick church had served them
For many live-long years;
But now a fine stone structure,
On this same spot appears.*

*The church with the clock is a familiar name;
Without it, this community would not be the same
So many good people live around here,
I don't think the end can be very near.*

*To live in a country as good as this,
Where crops we plant so seldom miss;
With our cellars filled with things to eat,
And plenty of stock to furnish us meat.*

*Our barns are full of stuff to feed;
In fact we have about all we need.
Since all these luxuries we now share,
To maintain this church should not be a care.*

"Wisdom from Africa"

Following the completion of our Indiana Annual Conference Session, I have been traveling with the Africa University Choir to raise awareness for that wonderful success story of our United Methodist Church and to raise awareness for the Campaign we are launching to raise \$1.6 million for AU in the next three years. That campaign and goal were approved by our Indiana Conference to endow a professor of agriculture and to endow additional student scholarships.

Why Africa University? This is the 20th anniversary of that very successful United Methodist dream to build a university on the continent of Africa which draws young leaders from all of Africa (29 countries among the student body today) to educate them and also to build a spirit of harmony and peace -- for those leaders to go home and lead their villages and countries in peace. AU is one of the great success stories of our denomination, and the Indiana Conferences have been a part of it. In the 1990's under the leadership of Bishop White, we raised funds and built four dormitories on the campus (they have a policy of "no debt" -- so every building on their campus is fully funded). Now, for its 20th anniversary, Africa University has told us that they most need professorships and scholarships - and that is why our Indiana Conference has voted for this campaign. During the fall of this year, we will have AU Rallies in all 10 districts (you can go to whichever one fits your schedule and plans), and we will be receiving pledges from individuals

and congregations. Already we have our first pledge of \$100,000 from the Friends of Africa University (an affinity network of laity who are committed to AU), and some churches have already begun making gifts and pledges. The campaign is being conducted in a partnership of the Conference and the Foundation (the United Methodist Foundation of Indiana, Inc.) so that all funds will be received by the Foundation for distribution for AU through the AU Foundation in Nashville, Tennessee. That allows protection for our gifts against any economic disruptions in Africa. Meanwhile I have enjoyed getting to know the AU Choir members and director, and I have learned a lot of wisdom from my conversations with them. Here are a few examples: (1) when the AU Choir was taken bowling by their hosts at St. Luke's UMC in Indianapolis, it was soon obvious that none of them had ever bowled before, but it was also obvious that the African style was for everyone to celebrate any time anyone scored a strike -- because the African style is all about community and not about competition. (2) Several from the choir asked me good questions about what they observed during our Annual Conference Session, especially they wanted to know what is a "discontinued church" - because such a concept is unheard of in Africa where they focus upon starting new churches and not on closing churches. (3) They were concerned by our discussions about retired clergy, and they were under the impression that our retirees only receive \$150 per month for pension, until I explained that \$150 per month is

only the subsidy for their Medicare supplements. That led to a good conversation about the ways we provide for our retired pastors, spouses, and surviving spouses -- and it made it clear to me that we all need better information and communication about that complex issue. (4) We had several discussions about the JOY of their singing and worship style, along with lots of questions about why we in America are so often joy-less in our worship. Especially we talked about the Offering because in Africa most often the Offering is received with applause and dancing forward to bring gifts to God and the church. The choir wanted to know why we American "just sit there" during our times of worship and praise. I learned a lot of African wisdom in my discussions with the AU Choir.

Bishop Mike
Indiana Conference
The United Methodist Church



Zack goes to Hong Kong



Zack Holt is serving as a missionary in Hong Kong this summer. He has been assigned to work with the severely disabled and is learning and being challenged in new ways. He is thankful for everyone's prayers and support. Please visit his blog at <https://zrholt.wordpress.com/test/>

Thank you, Ron!

This month we'd like to thank Ron Galway. With his quiet demeanor you'd never know he rarely misses a Sunday of running the sound and video booth during first service. If you see Ron this month thank him for his service. Ron, you are appreciated!



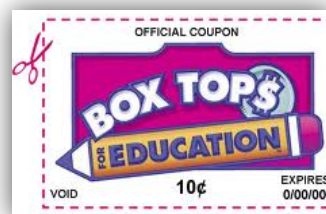
We didn't forget you!



**Congratulations,
Ryan Fields!**

Class of 2013

Box Tops for Education



Ever wondered what these little squares are on food packages, toilet paper, etc.? Each one of these squares is worth 10 cents for our local school system. The elementary students collect these and win prizes for their classrooms. The money earned from this program buys much needed equipment. If you're willing to cut them out, you can give to any elementary student and make their day!

*Best Wishes and God bless you,
Blake & Alyssa Clevenger!
June 8, 2013*



WESLEY UMC

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