

Albany United Methodist Church

P.O. Box 277
125 N. Broadway
Albany, IN 47320

Pastor Jake Ohlemiller



We are:

***Acting as God's Ambassadors
United by God's Love
Motivated by God's Word, to
Care for Our Community***

Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:45 a.m.

A Better Life: Brianna's Hope – Fridays @ 6:30 p.m.

Project Friend Food Pantry – 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 4-7:00 p.m.



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CHURCH NEWS

February 2018



ABLBH Meal Request

Our chapter was blessed in 2017 with a delicious meal every Friday night! It is time to humbly ask for the continued support of our community, so we can continue to provide meals each week. Please talk to your friends, small group, church or club and become part of the ABLBH family. We provide tableware, salty snacks and drinks. Contact Linda Greene if you can help. Thanks for your continuing support!



Fellowship Meal

Extra Sechler Pickles



There are extras available for anyone who would like to purchase some. Please contact Donna Stephenson 789-6188 or the office 789-4571.

What's left:

5 – 1 Pt. Sweet Pickle Relish, \$3.00 ea.

Sunday Night @ the Movies (S.N.A.M.)

Feb. 11th – Part II of "Amazing Grace" & Feb. 25th – "Ragamuffin"
AUMC @ 6:00 p.m. in the lounge. Bring a drink, popcorn will be served!

Operation Christmas Child 2018

Items to purchase in the month of February:



February

Stuffed, cuddly toys

Musical instruments

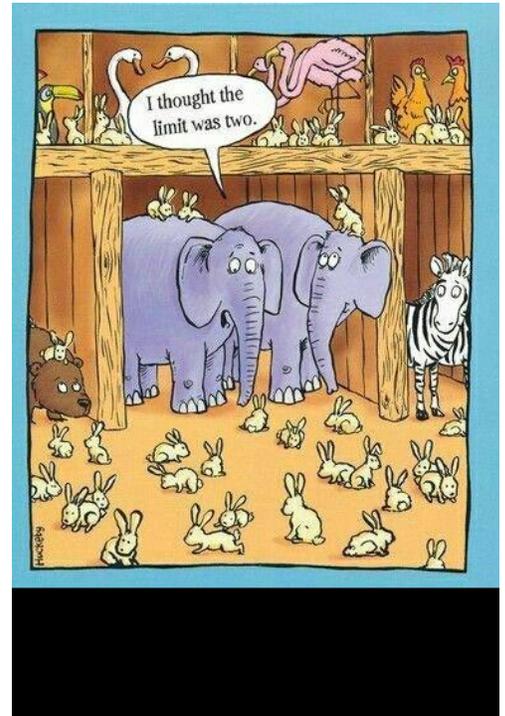
Deflated balls with pumps (these are impossible to find so I'd say any type of ball)



Birthdays

February

- 2~1 John Littler
- 2~6 Abi Wright
- 2~8 Mary Pyle
- 2~11 Bob Edwards
- 2~14 Karen Reum
- 2~21 Jake Ohlemiller
- 2~21 Paula Moulton
- 2~22 Earl Clark



Muncie Mission's Walk a Mile in My Shoes

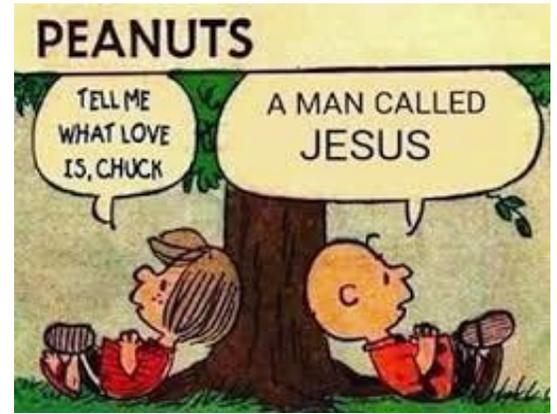
We can make an impact in the lives of men, women and children by participating in the Walk a Mile event. As a fundraising group we can help build hope with each step for the homeless, poor and needy of East Central Indiana. Event will take place Saturday, February 10th at 8:00 a.m. at the Muncie Horizon Convention Center on S. High Street. We will walk from the Horizon Center to the Mission building at 1725 S. Liberty Street, approximately a 20-minute walk. Inclement weather date will be

February 17th.



Lay Servant Academy

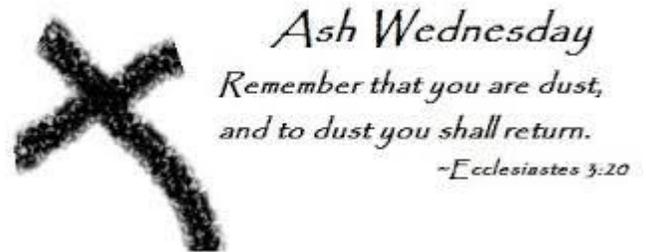
If you are a lifelong learner, our district Lay Servant Academy, is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the Christian life. It is being held at Riverside United Methodist Church on Sunday's, February 4, 11 and 18. See Jim Moore or Pastor Jake Ohlemiller for more information.



Ash Wednesday

DeSoto UMC will be hosting the Ash Wednesday Experience on February 14th from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A time when the DeSoto sanctuary will be open for people to come and spend time in prayer and meditation at the prayer stations and receive the ashes as we prepare for Lent. This will be a combined service with the Albany UMC, Muncie Morningside UMC, Albany Bethel UMC and DeSoto UMC. I hope you will plan to join us.

The pastors of these churches will be Offering Ashes on Feb. 14th in the a.m. and noon at McDonald's and Milton's in Albany. They will be handing out a card to share the meaning and importance of Ash Wednesday for those unfamiliar with the practice. You are invited to join us.



S.N.A.M., Sunday, Feb. 11th
“Amazing Grace” part II @ 6:00
p.m.

Adult Ministries, Tuesday, Feb. 13th
@ 9:00 a.m.

Church Council Mtg., Monday, Feb.
19th@ 7:00 p.m.

S.N.A.M., Sunday, Feb. 25th
“Ragamuffin” part I @ 6:00 p.m.

Finance Report

2017 ended with a good balance in checking and money market accounts. 2018 has started a little lower than January 2017. Hopefully 2018 will see as good a year as 2017. All improvements made in 2017 have been paid in full, thanks to your giving and the Endowment Fund.

Thank You's

The year end gift is greatly appreciated!
Thank you,

We would like to take this opportunity to let each and every person in this congregation know how grateful we are for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Thank you so much for the beautiful cards, the thoughtful gifts, the kind wishes, and words of appreciation for the music we brought to you during the Christmas season. An extra thank you to the dedicated members of the choir and hand chimes for your extra work and commitment during December, and for your gifts. Thank you to all who generously contributed to the special offering for the staff. The congregation of AUMC is truly family to us, and we love all of you.

Cheryl and Dennis Wasson

*Thank you to the congregation for the Christmas gift. It was very much appreciated.
Thank you,
Linda and Jack Janney*

*Thank you to the congregation for the much-appreciated Christmas gift. It means a lot to know that you are recognized for the work you do.
Thanks again,
Norma Yates*

From Pastor Jake

Dear AUMC family and friends,

I pray that this this February edition of our newsletter will find you in good health, in high spirits, and in a thriving, growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. After almost three years in ministry, I am still grateful every day for the privilege of serving as your pastor. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran minister, wrote at the beginning of his 1938 devotional classic *Life Together*, "It is not simply to be taken for granted that the Christian has the privilege of living among other Christians." How richly blessed Janelle and I are to have your fellowship! I'm thankful for all the ways you have helped us, encouraged us, challenged us, and prayed for us as we have grown, one day at a time, into this sacred responsibility.

Our United Methodist episcopal leader in Indiana, Bishop Julius C. Trimble, wrote a beautiful reflection last week, based on a long chat with his grown son, on how to begin the new year in a way

that glorifies God. I'd like to share it with you below:

“What We Need In 2018”

Wisdom is intergenerational. When I take time to stop, listen, and ponder the wisdom that comes from those younger than me, as well as those who have traveled the road of life for many years, I am always blessed. The diversity of humanity lends itself to deep wells of encouragement that can be found in every person we encounter. As the psalmist wrote in Psalm 139, “I will praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”

Recently, I spent some time with our oldest son, Cameron. In a moment of intention, Cameron insisted we get out of the house and spend time together in a quiet space so that we may plan for the year ahead. The day began with breakfast at Metro Diner in Indianapolis followed by several hours of prayer-bathed honest conversation with a son coaching his father. This moment convinced me of the power of giving our dreams and goals a voice. As we continue into the first month of 2018, we cannot rely solely on hope, though it is a healthy characteristic of the Christian life. In addition to our hope, we must also act with purpose.

Throughout our time together I learned and was reminded of many things, a few I will share with you here —

1. Our thoughts need space

We need time to think and be. For me, it's time spent in solitude, giving myself the space necessary to breathe and just be with my thoughts. I often speak first to my Fitbit wristband, saying there will be no steps earned for a period as I allow my thoughts and dreams to marinate or simply relax in the presence of God.

2. Making resolutions is worth the effort in 2018

This year, I am only making a few personal resolutions and encourage you to as well. As we resolve to do something new, or return to a practice of years before, it is essential to share our intentions and goals with others, which invites an individual or accountability group to cheer you on and encourage your faithfulness when you feel weary. Change takes time, but it is worth the investment. Rather than feeling obligated to do something, look toward the benefit of self-renewal and a more profound commitment to caring for family, friends, and self.

3. Relationships matter because people matter

I have a colleague from Iowa whose mantra is always consistent, “It's all about relationships,” and I cannot agree more! Jesus modeled intentional relationships through discipleship, evangelism, effective leadership, and at the end of the day, Jesus was all about relationships. Calling us to join him, in Matthew 4:19 he said, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” (NRSV), a reminder that people matter. In Galatians 6:2, the Apostle Paul encourages us to “bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Healthy relationships involve prayer and work. Damaged relationships require honesty and forgiveness, as well as a heart of peace. Neglected relationships require confession, attentiveness, and help from the Holy Spirit. May 2018 be the year that we are all about relationships.

4. Live your truth, seek God's truth

On more than one occasion, I have heard our three “30-something” or millennial children say that “people have to live their truth.” We each must be authentic in who we are while living with respect for others. I believe Jesus is speaking truth to me when he shares the “I am” statements in the Gospel of John. We are invited to seek God’s truth and live our truth as Christians who are United Methodist, and to embrace Jesus as Lord and Savior, as well as John Wesley’s general rules for Methodism. As we live into this new year may we; *Do No Harm, Do Good, and Stay In Love with God.*

5. Keep our eyes on the prize: being in Beloved Community

I believe we in the Church have some challenging and exciting work to do. The bar of respect for diversity, civility, global compassion, and hospitality has lowered in some corners of our society. Though I am reminded of our victory in Christ Jesus as we, Christians, press towards our goal to love our neighbors. Recent language and policies promoted by our elected leaders continue to build bridges of hatred instead of bridges of peace. These acts contradict the vision of Beloved Community espoused by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. As we took time to be together in community and reflect this past Monday, it was a reminder that the King Holiday was never meant to be a day off but a time to focus on the pursuit of Beloved Community. A commitment to service and common good, where the world is not divided into camps of victors and victims. A commitment to building bridges where there is a celebration of diversity and consistent equality - *for all*, and where the only supremacy we speak of in the vision of Beloved Community is the “Reign of God.”

So, as we continue forward in 2018, may we be steadfast in our pursuit of becoming a more missional-minded Indiana. Let us choose to be stepping stones to foster connection and not stumbling blocks to delay or separate. And while it is evident that our value and commitment to the mission, mission work, and missionaries is strong here; we know that being missional will demand more from each of us. As we approach differences with respect, seek to enhance our cultural intelligence (or better our cultural fluency), and lean in to engage in critical conversations on race, human sexuality, unity, and the mission we will find ourselves inching closer as we answer all that God is calling us to do and be in Indiana and throughout the world.

I believe God is always doing a new thing. And I am praying that you would experience a tremendous new year and I look forward to hearing the ways God is using you to further the Kingdom by encouraging life-giving changes for Jesus Christ through the love of our neighbors - down the street and across the world.

Be encouraged,



Bishop Julius C. Trimble

“Expect great things from God; Attempt great things for God.”

1792 –
William Carey

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Piano/Voice Lessons 2:30 – 6:45 p.m.	2 ABLBH 6:30 pm (Lounge)	3
4 Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	5	6 Game Day 12pm (YCC) Food Pantry 4-7pm (YCC) Piano/Voice Lessons 1-7pm	7 Bible Study 10:30 am Piano/Voice Lessons 2-6:30 pm Open Youth Play 4- 7:00 pm (YCC)	8 Piano/Voice Lessons 2:30 – 6:45 p.m.	9 ABLBH 6:30 pm (Lounge)	10 <u>Walk A Mile In My Shoes</u> 8:00 a.m. Muncie Horizon Center
11 Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Sunday Night Movie 6pm	12	13 Adult Ministries 9:00 a.m.(Lounge) Game Day 12pm (YCC) Piano/Voice Lessons 1-7pm	14 Bible Study 10:30 am Piano/Voice Lessons 2-6:30 pm Ash Wed. Service 7:00 p.m. Open Youth Play 4- 7:00 pm (YCC)	15 Piano/Voice Lessons 2:30 – 6:45 p.m.	16 ABLBH 6:30 pm (Lounge)	17
18 Pastor's Prayer Partners 9:15 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m.	19 Church Council Meeting 7:00 p.m. (Lounge)	20 Game Day 12pm (YCC) Food Pantry 4-7pm (YCC) Piano/Voice Lessons 1-7pm	21 Bible Study 10:30 am Piano/Voice Lessons 2-6:30 pm Open Youth Play 4- 7:00 pm (YCC)	22 Piano/Voice Lessons 2:30 – 6:45 p.m.	23 ABLBH 6:30 pm (Lounge)	24
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