

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ April 2016

### Church Calendar:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/page/calendar>

### Prayer Concerns:

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/prayer.php>

## From Pastor Andrew :

### All Things Bright and Beautiful

On a cool January Saturday our organist passed a tragic scene on her way to practice at the church. Unable to let the image of the accident go from her mind she later drove back to the spot on Houseman Road where she had passed a deer that had been killed. Moved by the experience she wrote down what happened:

“I rolled down the window and said to them ‘Was she shot or hit?’ The older man said ‘Uh—both.’ I wasn’t sure I had heard him right. I could see a spray of buckshot along her neck, but the wounds looked old—the dark spots had dried and were not red. I asked again, ‘Was she hit by a car?’ He lifted his arm and his hand motioned down the hill, ‘The truck is down there in the ditch.’ he said.”

Hearing Andrea’s story brings to mind a Bible passage:

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:19-23 NRSV)

This is the season of Easter and we are living abundantly in the new life of Christ. On Sunday April 24th we will be celebrating Earth Day, led by the Green Committee in worship, to remind ourselves that the new life we have in Jesus calls us to care for all of God’s good creation. The places where humanity and creation entwine are many. Deer are hunted for sustenance, yet when does sport become a more important focus? The territory that deer roam is dwindling as humanity expands its roadways, neighborhoods, and shopping centers. Where do we draw the boundaries that allow creation to be our neighbors too? In Christ, we have a responsibility to set creation free of bondage creating a new heaven and a new earth. A world where all people, plants, and animals live abundantly, fulfilling their role in creation as God intended. We are called to build a world where we can joyfully sing:

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful: The Lord God made them all.  
(Hymn #269 All Things Bright and Beautiful - Cecil Frances Alexander)

May the Peace of Christ be with you, Rev. Andrew Black

## **Worship Schedule**

**April 3rd — Second Sunday of Easter  
Service of Word and Table  
Rev. David Rosen**

**April 10th — Third Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: “Meeting the Risen Christ: Charity” Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by John 21:1-19**

**April 17th — Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: “Meeting the Risen Christ: Justice” Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Acts 9:1-20**

**April 24th — Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Service Celebrating Earth Day  
Unity Green Committee**

**Where in the World is Pastor Andrew?  
March 28th — April 4th  
Pastor Andrew will be on a  
family vacation over Spring Break**

**April 7th  
Pastor Andrew will be attending the  
Presbytery of Ohio Valley Meeting in Jeffersonville, IN**

**April 18th — 24th  
Pastor Andrew will be on Study Leave  
attending the Trent Conference at Montreat**

**Thanks for all you do for the Potts Food Pantry**

**I am so grateful for the congregations continued excitement and involvement in our weekly collection for the Potts Food Pantry. It is making a difference in the lives of the families we support, as well as easing the burden of our volunteers who stock and supply the pantry each month. Jan Buffington mentioned she has not had to purchase Peanut Butter for a while because of the regular and generous giving each week. It is my hope and prayer that the spiritual practice we began in Lent will become a constant expression of our new life in Christ through Easter.**

**Thank you, by bringing just one item per person per week you have greatly impacted the ministry of our food pantry. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.**

**Remember, we don't need to offer just tangible gifts, but also gifts of time and service. The pantry needs YOU. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into operating the food pantry each month. There is food to purchase, stock, pack, and distribute. Our current dedicated group of volunteers are amazing, but they need YOUR help. There are many creative**

ways that you can offer your time to assist in this important work of the church. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing something to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors.  
~Pastor Andrew

The CPR Guru will be teaching a CPR class on Saturday, April 30 from 9:00 am to noon at Central Presbyterian Church (125 N 7th St, Terre Haute). There is a \$25 fee for participants that want to be tested for certification. Observers that want to learn the techniques, but don't require certification are free. Please contact Cheryl Moles ([cheryl@thcpc.org](mailto:cheryl@thcpc.org)) if you will be attending. Thanks, Cheryl



**PIPE ORGAN DONATION** ~ Glorious news, Unity has received donations totaling \$7027.00 of the \$7900 needed. Please prayerfully consider if you would be able to contribute to the final amount of the new organ installation which is now only, \$873.00. Hip, Hip Hurray!!! Let Jan Buffington, Financial Secretary, know of your wishes.

### ***MEMBERS AND FRIENDS***

#### **Grandson's Part of School Green Team who won \$20,000.00 toward solar panels**

**Jan Buffington's youngest grandson, Logan Seward**, was part of a Green Team at his **middle school in Loveland, Colorado**. The middle schools in the area were challenged to find a way to trim at least 10% from their school's electric usage.

Walt Clark Middle School was at a disadvantage as they already had solar panels. The Green team started by surveying their building and grounds, doing some research, and holding brainstorming sessions. They came up with several ideas to put before the administration. Once the administration approved their ideas, they then had to convince the faculty, staff and students to put the ideas in practice. Two of the most effective ideas were using natural lighting instead of electric lights when the sun was shining brightly and the staff and faculty not turn on every bank of lights when entering a room. They then had to put their ideas to work at home.

Results showed that not only did they save 10%, they averaged from 17 to 25 percent daily. The final project facing the Green Team was to produce a video starring the team members and sponsors along with the head of staff. This video was submitted to the energy challenge judges resulting in the win!

**(Unity received this thank you)**

**Words can't even begin to describe how grateful we are for your church family! In our time of need**, not only did you bless us with monetary donations, but you truly have blessed us with all of the prayers you have prayed for us! We love you and can't thank you enough for what you've done for our family! May God richly bless you from above! "The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing." ~Zaphaniah 3:17.  
Love, The Hutchinson Family.

## Morning Glories

The Morning Glories will meet Tuesday, April 12, at 10:30 am at the church. We will study lesson eight, "The Hospitality of Living Water - Compassion", Join us for Bible Study and fellowship. Remember to bring your sack lunch.



Remember to save the front of your greeting cards. We can't send American, Hallmark or Disney cards. There is a bag for them on the table in the back of the sanctuary.



### View from the Inside - by Camille Church Mouse

*Our weather has been everywhere But Spring is here! There is green everywhere - trees, flowers and weeds!!*

*Our Easter celebration was great this year. Our members worked hard and it was a very meaningful time for all from the Pancake Supper to the cantata.*

*We continue with many activities in April. The Spaghetti Dinner is coming next month along with Earth Day. The Progressive Dinner is planned for May. I'm sure there will be more activities so read your Sunday Bulletin and the newsletter.*

*Enjoy the spring weather and let the sunshine brighten your days!*

*God's blessings and joy to all of you!*

### Green Corner

Congratulations are in order for Unity! We received our certificate recognizing Unity as an Earth Care Congregation for the third year. The congregation will also be recognized at the April 7th presbytery meeting as one of three green congregations in the presbytery. This is a result of the efforts of many at Unity!! Great job!

The Green Committee has some events planned for April. We plan to have a work day this month to work on the grounds. We will be working with the trustees to add more earth friendly elements to our grounds. Then on April 24 there will be an Earth Sunday worship service which will focus on the gift of water. Please join us for these events.

As an Earth Care congregation we complete activities in four areas: worship, education, facility and advocacy. Unity's commitment to being a Green Congregation recognizes our recognition that the Earth is a gift from God to each of us. As a gift from God we have the responsibility to take care of it and to leave it in better shape for the generations to follow. Please join us as we work to make the Earth a better place for all!