

Unity Presbyterian Church

Yoke Newsletter ~ January 2016

Church Calendar:

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

Prayer Concerns:

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

From Pastor Andrew :

Into Something New

Friends in Christ,

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day. — Genesis 1:1-5 NRSV

Christmas has come and gone, the packages are opened and the wrapping paper recycled. Perhaps the tree and decorations are already taken down and stowed away for next year. The New Years parties are over with resolutions made, and possibly already broken. The hectic chaos that was the holidays is quickly becoming a memory as the tediousness of another year begins.

The new year offers hope for a fresh start in our lives, an opportunity to create something new. You might make a change at work, hopeful for a more satisfying and fruitful year. You might make a personal lifestyle change to improve your health and happiness. Maybe you have been hearing God calling you to a ministry and this will be the year you get involved with or create a new way to serve our community or the world.

During the recent pledge campaign we asked the congregation to share their Dreams for the future of Unity Presbyterian Church and the most common response was "Growth." Seeing this response warms my heart, and I look forward to the coming year as we see this dream become a reality and the changes that come with it. Growth in Membership, Mission, and Spirituality will come as we live into the new life God calls us to as faithful disciples of Jesus. As we grow our Spirituality and Mission we are changed as individuals seeing the world in a new way. A growth in Membership transforms our community, opening the door to new ideas, new mission, and new ways of sharing the good news. EXCITING!

The New Year offers opportunity for change, but change is scary. It is difficult to start new things; complacency and self-doubt rear their ugly heads and stall our efforts. We tend to be our own worst enemy when it comes to making changes in our lives that will lead to greater fulfillment. Sometimes the changes that come are unexpected; the things life sends our way sometimes make the new year difficult. The good news is we do not face the new year, or any changes alone.

Unto us a savior was born, a light for the world that guides us to Faith, Hope, and Love. A light of Grace that creates new things for us redeems us when we falter, and sustains us

through the chaos of change and uncertainty. As God created everything from the chaos of a formless void, so to Christ guides us too something better even out of the chaos of our daily lives.

As we face the new year, the changes we choose to make and the ones we unexpectedly will face, I hope and pray that you will let the Light of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ lead all of us to something new and something better in 2016. With God's help we can.

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

Worship Schedule

January 3rd — Epiphany of the Lord
Service of Word and Table
Sermon: "Eureka!" by Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Ephesians 3:1-12 and Matthew 2:1-12

January 10th — Baptism of the Lord
Ordination and Installation of Elders and Deacons
A Remembrance of Baptism
Sermon: "Water & Fire" by Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Luke 3:15-17,21-22

January 17th — Second Sunday after Epiphany
Sermon: "Firsts!" by Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by John 2:1-11

January 24th — Third Sunday after Epiphany
Sermon: "Rejection of Jesus?" by Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Luke 4:14-30

January 31st — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
Sermon: "An End to Childish Ways" by Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Jeremiah 1:4-10 and 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Congregational Meeting

Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry

We did an amazing job collecting items for the food pantry during advent, but can we make that last all year. Can we rise to the challenge, not just during the holidays? What would it mean for our food pantry if each week during the year we all continued to bring something to stock the shelves. Just one item per person per week. By just adding a few items to your weekly shopping list and dropping them off on Sunday morning we can greatly increase the efforts to feed those of our community in need. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.

The Food Pantry currently serves 12 families and there is an ever increasing need in our community. The pantry not only needs donations, it 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. I hope each of us can spend some time discerning how they might be called to help support the Food Pantry with our time and talents. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing more to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors. ~Pastor Andrew

Dear Unity Family,

Dawn, the kids, and I want to express our deep gratitude for your wonderful generosity this holiday season. I was overwhelmed to find a stocking full of gift cards on my desk this week to accompany an already generous cash present we were given from the church on Sunday. These gifts of your heart will be put to good use in the coming year! Mostly we are so thankful for your welcome and inclusion here in Terre Haute, it has been only short time and we feel so at home because of your hospitality, your care, and your genuine love. It is a joy to serve God with you each week. May God bless and keep each of you this coming year.

Peace of Christ be with you all,

Andrew, Dawn, Griffin, Gracen, & Zachary

**UNITY'S ANNUAL FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
FEBRAURY 9
5:30 TO 7 PM**

MENU: Pancakes, butter, syrup, sausage, bacon, iced tea, coffee and juice.

Before Lent begins, pancake flippers, Sadie, Albert and Jan, invite you to enjoy their delicious pancakes.

A free will donation will be accepted to cover expenses (any donations over expenses will go to the Potts Pantry).



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 7th



Bring a can of soup for the pantry and stay after worship to taste great soups!

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE BOWL OF SOUP WITH YOUR DOLLARS.

(Proceeds benefit Potts Pantry!)

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

The Staff appreciates the **generous gift** from the congregation. God's gift from all of you is precious and fills our hearts with joy and happiness. Best wishes to the congregation in this season of hope and love.

The Mission Committee would like to thank Bill Brett for his demonstration about large hands and smallest hands reaching in a change bowl; showing the children and congregation that all have change to give. The Christmas Joy Offering reached \$412.63. Thank you Unity family and friends for growing this amount.

MORNING GLORIES The Morning Glories will meet Tuesday, January 12, at 10:30 am at the church. We will continue our Bible Study. Come join us for fellowship, and remember to bring a sack lunch.



View from the Inside - by Camille Church Mouse

Happy 2016! Winter is here and hopefully spring will be following soon.

The choir's cantata was great and our Advent services prepared us for Christmas.

I hope you are ready for 2016! We are collecting blankets, and Souper Bowl Sunday is also coming, February 7. Ash Wednesday is February 10, the Pancake Supper is on February 9, and Easter is on March 27. The year just keeps rolling on. Remember time flies when we are having fun!

All that activity has worn me out and now I need a nap!

Join us this year and be a part of our fellowship. Be safe and remember God loves you!

God's blessings and joy to all of you!

Mitten Tree

Bless our congregation for all of your gifts for the 14th and Chestnut center. The final count was two ear muffs, three head wraps, four scarfs, seven hat and glove sets, nine hats, and eighteen pairs of gloves. As we know, the weather is getting colder so these gifts will help the children. Again...thank you!

BLANKET SUNDAY A reminder...

Our second blanket Sunday will be on January 31. We will collect twin sizes of blankets, sheets (flat and fitted), pillows, and mattress pads. Please bring your slightly used or new items for that day. Remember the white sales in January. Thank you!

Green Corner Happy 2016!!!!

The reporting period for the Earth Care information has been changed to follow the calendar year so our report now goes in January. I am very happy to say that we have once again (year number three!!) met the criteria to be a Presbyterian Earth Care Congregation. This is a designation that takes commitment on the part of the congregation to spend the time and money to be good stewards of God's gifts to us. I want to thank all of you for your efforts. I especially want to thank the committee for their efforts. The members are Jan Buffington, Dawn Chapman, Bill and Judy Brett, Griffin Black, Jadelyn Johnson, Peggy Brown, Karen Walker, and Shirley Huber. Their dedication and efforts have helped make this possible. We have many plans for 2016 as we grow in our efforts to protect the world around us!

Luann and I were at the Indianapolis Zoo on Sunday night for Christmas at the Zoo. The lights were beautiful (they have switched to all LED lights to save energy) and it was a great chance to see more of the animals as they were enjoying the cool weather. There are reminders everywhere at the Zoo to take care of the Earth to help preserve the animals that live there. We also have reminders at Unity that we are an Earth Care congregation and that we recycle. In the future we hope to have more reminders posted to help us remember this important mission.

There was one sign that I would like to share with you. It reminds us all that by working together we can make this a better world for all of us and protect this wonderful gift from God.

Your opinion matters, but your ACTIONS matter even more!!

Help keep the oceans healthy:

Over 400,000 families, who all care about animals, visit the Indianapolis Zoo each year. If each family did just one thing, we could change the world in a single year. If each family were to:

* switch one light bulb from incandescent to fluorescent we could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the air by 120 million pounds,* make sure their air conditioner or furnace always had a clean filter, we could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide going into the air by 140 million pounds,* plant a tree, we could remove 400,000 tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere,* find out if "green energy" is available, purchasing green energy from your local power company could reduce the amount of carbon dioxide by as much as 816 million pounds.