

Unity Presbyterian Church

Yoke Newsletter ~ May 2016

Church Calendar:

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

Prayer Concerns:

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

From Pastor Andrew :

Get On Fire

**“Light yourself on fire with passion and people will come to watch you burn”
— John Wesley**

I think John Wesley had it right, if you are truly passionate about something the people around you can't help but notice. When we find someone who is truly passionate about politics, sports, or religion, we are drawn to observe and see what all the fuss is about. Perhaps we are struck with awe and wonder, or maybe we are left thinking, “What the Heck?” Regardless of how we react to the flame we see in someone else, the fact is we saw it, took time to consider it, and reacted.

Fire has always been symbolic of the presence of God. On the mountain Moses was drawn to the burning bush and answered God's Call to lead the Hebrews out of bondage. At Pentecost the fire spread among the first believers and they answered God's Call to follow Jesus and the church was born. It is not by chance that the seal of PC(U.S.A.) has two flames as part of its design. The flames convey the double meaning of when God spoke to Moses and of the beginning of the Christian church when Christ manifested himself to his apostles at Pentecost and charged them to be messengers of the good news of God's love.

This is the fire of Faith that has burned in our hearts for over 2000 years, it is the Holy fire that burns in our souls and in the lives at Unity and all Presbyterian Churches. It is the fire of the Spirit that reveals the activity of God in our lives showing us what God does for us in Christ and what God does in us as followers of Jesus.

Sunday, May 15th, is Pentecost Sunday and we will celebrate the birth of the Church and the gift of the Holy Spirit. I hope everyone will attend and wear RED to show the world we are On Fire for Jesus and that our faith is passionate. Passionate about the Good News of Easter when Christ conquered sin and death for us. Passionate about sharing this Good News with everyone we meet. Passionate about following Jesus' command to love God and each other. Passionate about serving others and being a people that are on fire to build the Kingdom of God.

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

Worship Schedule

May 1st — Sixth Sunday of Easter
Service of Word and Table
Ascension of the Lord
Sermon: “Looking Up” Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Acts 1:1-11 & Ephesians 1:15-23

May 8th — Seventh Sunday of Easter
Sermon: “That They All May Be One” Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by John 17:20-26

May 15th — Day of Pentecost
Sermon: “The Spirit Within” Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Romans 8:14-17 & John 14:8-17

May 22nd — Trinity Sunday
Service of Word and Table
Sermon: “Justification By Faith” Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Romans 5:1-5

May 29th — Second Sunday After Pentecost
Sermon: “Worthy or Not, Here I Come” Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Luke 7:1-10

Where in the World is Pastor Andrew?

May 9th-11th
Pastor Andrew will be attending
The Synod of Lincoln Trails New Pastor Support Group

Thanks for all you do for the Potts Food Pantry

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 about 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. How is the Spirit calling you to aid in the efforts of this vital mission?

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

Our Newest Member

Lorna White comes to us from World Gospel Church and is our latest church member. This fall she will become the newest addition to the Brett family, also. Lorna has 3 children: Andrew, 22 is a Purdue graduate and a meteorologist in the weather service; Lauren, 20, is a psychology major at ISU; and Brandon, 17, is a junior at North High. He wants to be a Conservation Officer. Lorna has a cat named Bonzai.

She has been a bank teller and a telephone operator in the Registrar's office at ISU. She currently is Records Manager and Privacy Officer at Hamilton Center, where she worked with Judy Brett.

If she is not watching Antiques Road Show you might see her out looking for antiques at yard sales. She has her own booth up at the Covered Bridge Festival in the fall.

She played volley ball in high school and loves to fish. She also likes to travel and has been on several cruises. She likes to knit and make cakes. She grew up on a farm in Clay County so likes all kinds of animals. Planning parties, holiday decorating and fixing up her house are other hobbies. She says, "I am a crafty person."

We are so happy to welcome you and your smile, Lorna. We trust you will feel at home here.

BREAD FOR THE WORLD LETTERS TO BE BROUGHT TO CHURCH BY MAY 1

Unity is doing a wonderful job of supporting 13 families with our food program and it is so heartening to see the canned goods and money that the children collect every Sunday. But the Unity family cannot fill the great need we have in our country. It takes a much bigger "family" to do that job. As Jesus said, "Feed my sheep."

To encourage the leaders of our global "family" several churches in the Terre Haute area have committed to sending letters to their congressmen about important legislation that is coming up in Congress that will help ease the burden on families who are struggling to make ends meet. Unity is one of them.

All you have to do is bring 3 letters (1 to Senator Donnelly, 1 to Senator Coats, 1 to Representative Bucshon) to the church by May 1. We are including a sample letter. (on page 4 of this newsletter) If your heart moves you to write your own that is great. Our church will join with the other churches to bless them and send them to our 3 representatives in Congress.

Letters should be enclosed in UNSEALED envelopes and returned to church by Sunday, May 1st. They will then be hand-delivered to United Campus Ministries for a special dedication, and then personally carried to the local offices of the congressman and senators, along with letters from dozens of local churches and organizations.

Thank you for your commitment to the children of the world!

Senator Joe Donnelly

Senator Dan Coats

Representative Larry Bucshon

Hart Senate Office bldg.

493 Russell Building

1005 Longworth HOB

Washington DC 20510

Washington DC 20510

Washington DC 20515

Sample Letter (3 separate letters needed)

(Date)

Dear Senator [Donnelly] [Coats]; or [Dear Representative Bucshon],

[Your personal thoughts here about your concern for hunger, as you witness it in our community.]

As a Christian, I am participating in Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. I am concerned when people go hungry. We must do our part on the local level, but I know too that our government plays an important role in alleviating hunger. I have three requests:

- 1) Please make sure that Congress funds programs that promote adequate nutrition for America's children. Specifically, these programs must include adequate funding for the school lunch program, school breakfasts, and an extension of the summer lunch program to all children who need it. Hunger and malnourishment translate directly into costly health care needs.
- 2) Like our children, the children in developing countries must not only survive but thrive. I ask you to support at least \$230 million for the nutrition programs of the global health account in the State Department foreign operations appropriation bill.
- 3) Twice as many people could be fed with American aid if two measures were taken: Please support legislation to repeal the rules that require food to travel in American ships, and allow the purchase of food near where it is required.

Thank you for your work in addressing hunger.

Sincerely yours,

[Your name]

[Your Address]

(optional: your email and phone number)

I am a member of _____ Church, Terre Haute, Indiana

Place your letter in an envelope addressed to the intended recipient. Tuck the flap into the envelope, but do not seal it. (Congressional offices must reject sealed letters until they have been inspected, a process that may take up to five weeks).

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Don't forget to sign up for the Progressive Dinner, May 21st. The sign-up sheet is in the Fellowship Center please add your name to the list by May 7th. We will start the evening with appetizers, than move to the next location for dinner. Everyone will meet back at the church for dessert. We could use a couple more desserts, please let me know if you could bring one. Once you have signed up you will get a letter explaining where to be and at what time. This is a great evening of food fun and fellowship. For more information call Nancy Buck, 812-234-7620.

We were saddened to hear that **Libby Hillegonds health is failing**. If you would like to send a card her address is: Freedom Village, 145 Columbia Ave, Holland, MI. 49423. Libby and her husband, Bill, was Washington Avenues interim pastor several years ago.

Morning Glories

The Morning Glories will meet on Tuesday, May 10, at 10:30 am at the church. We will study our last lesson, "River of Life-Hope". Remember to bring a sack lunch. Join us for Bible Study and fellowship.



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.

Greeting Cards: Remember to save your greeting cards. We only send the front of the card!



View from the Inside - by Camille Church Mouse

82 degrees, tada!!!! Spring is here and activities are going forward!

A clean up day was held to tidy our grounds. The Earth Day worship service followed with music from our young people.

The Spaghetti Dinner is April 30. I can almost smell the spaghetti and garlic bread. On May 6th we will have a canvas event. This will be a great evening of painting and fellowship.

Mother's Day and graduation are coming. Yes, May is coming fast! Our Progressive Dinner is near and that is always a fun evening of fellowship and food.

This year we will have our first community garden. Get a plot in our organic garden or help someone else.

Join us in worship and fellowship. God's blessings and joy to all of you!!

GREEN CORNER

In our Earth Sunday service we shared some of the issues we are facing with water and ways we can all help. For those of you who missed the service they are listed below.

Issues with water

Over 3 million people die each year from preventable water-borne diseases; and most of them are children.

780 million people worldwide do not have access to clean water.

Every 15 seconds, a child dies from a preventable, water-related disease

40 billion hours are lost annually to hauling water, a chore primarily undertaken by women and girls.

80% of disease in 2/3 of the world is related to poor drinking water and sanitation.

One toilet flush uses as much water as the average person in a developing country uses for a whole day's drinking, cooking, washing and cleaning.

In this century, wars will more likely be fought over water than over oil.

Ways we can all help

- Whenever you wash your hands, don't leave the water running. Wet your hands and turn the water off. Use soap and lather your hands well, then turn the water on to rinse. Turn off the water and make sure it is off completely. Then dry your hands.
- Do the same when you brush your teeth. Turn the faucet on to get your toothbrush and toothpaste wet, and then again to rinse your mouth and toothbrush. Don't leave the water running while you're brushing.
- Tell your friends what you're doing and why and encourage them to do the same.
- Fix faucets that are dripping.
- Since baths use a lot of water (about 37 gallons on average), take short showers instead and use only about 20 gallons of water, instead.
- Use a wastebasket for used tissues, or things like gum wrappers, paper towels, or even dead bugs or goldfish. Don't flush them – the average flush uses as much as 5 gallons of water! Even if the toilets in your house are "low-flow" toilets, using them for trash still uses 1.5 gallons of water unnecessarily.
- Put a barrel outdoors to catch rain water, then use that water for things like watering plants or flushing toilets and save hundreds of gallons of water a year!
- Is there a garbage disposal in your kitchen sink? Then, you know the water has to run into it when you turn on the switch. Instead of doing that and wasting water, why not start composting food waste instead? Collect things like fruit skins and peels, vegetable leaves and stems, and even dead plants and flowers. In a ceramic container, keep them moist and toss them for air once a week. The compost can then be added to a garden like a vitamin for your outdoor plants!
- If you water the lawn, water in the cooler parts of the day (early morning, or at or after sunset), and never on windy days. This keeps in the soil all the water being sprayed instead of most of the water being lost to evaporation.

Even if you do just one thing each day to contribute to your home's water conservation, you're doing the right thing! At the end of the sermon Water, played by Jan Buffington, reminded the congregation of the following.

Water: My friends at Unity, you are working to help protect the water in this world. You donate to the Marion Medical Mission which helps to build wells to provide water for those who do not have access to clean water. You have worked to become a Presbyterian Earth Care congregation and you continue to work to save the resources given to us by God. It makes me so happy to see Christians working to save the water of the world. And that is the only way that we are going to be able to save our Earth to pass on to future generations. By working together we can make a difference!