

Unity Presbyterian Church

Yoke Newsletter ~ September 2016

Church Calendar:

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

Prayer Concerns:

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

From Pastor Andrew :

AGAPE LOVE

This month Unity is celebrating the union of Lorna White and Ed Brett. It is a joy to share in their holy and special day. Like many others compels they have chosen to have 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 read at the service:

13 If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant **5** or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; **6** it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. **7** It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

8 Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. **9** For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; **10** but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. **11** When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. **12** For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known.

13 And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. (NRSV)

Interestingly enough, Paul was not writing this with weddings in mind. Paul is actually describing the love that characterizes the Body of Christ that has many members with many gifts. A community not unlike our own, with many different views and opinions. The vision of community that Paul describes for

his Corinthian brothers and sisters is a discourse on the meaning, purpose, and necessity of love within the community. Paul tells us unity and difference can be acknowledged, respected, and celebrated, but only when love is at the center of what we do and who we are. Paul encourages us to imagine life in a community where unity and difference can co-exist.

The Greek word Paul uses here for love is AGAPE, sounding like Ah-Gah-Pay, which means unconditional love. The Greek's had several words we translate as love. Eros is the romantic love shared between couples and philia is the brotherly or sisterly love shared between close friends. In this scripture, agape refers to the covenantal love God has for all of humanity and our reciprocal love for God and for Christ Jesus. This is the radical love that Paul wants us to demonstrate to our community. Paul celebrates our diversity and our many different God given gifts, and Paul calls us to a singular purpose — be a community that shines with Agape love.

It seems so simple, yet too often we are angry with each other. When things aren't going our way, or on our time table we lash out. Sometimes without warning we are thinking and saying unkind things. We are hard wired "to keep up with the Jones's" desiring to have what others have. Likewise, when we are successful, we are driven by the social conventions of our world to show off our wealth, success, and importance seeking the validation of the community around us. We seek to demonstrate our individuality sometimes at the expense of the community. It's not easy to live this radical love that Paul is writing about, to love everyone unconditionally. Lucky for us this love is also the love that Christ shows us, forgiving us and guiding us to show greater love for others.

Faith, hope and love. The greatest of these is love. It is love that allows us to build a community that reflects the kingdom of God. This love which endures all things, even though we sometimes fail to demonstrate it, always believes in us. This is the love in which we are completed, in Christ, and it inspires us to be complete in each other. May we live as a community, filled with this love, showing this love, sharing this love, and exemplifying this radical agape love.

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

Worship Schedule

September 4th — Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Word and Table
Sermon: "Voluntary Good Deeds" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Philemon 1-21

September 11th — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Day!
Sermon: "From Desolation to Fullness" Rev. Andrew Black

Inspired by Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 & 1 Timothy 1:12-17

**September 18th — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Sermon: "Weeping With God" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Jeremiah 8:18-9:1**

**September 25th — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Guest Preacher TBA**

Thanks for all you do for the Potts Food Pantry

Our community is in need and many of us dream that our food pantry could do more. If we want to reach more people we will need more volunteers to help with the shopping, packing, and distribution. Our current dedicated group of volunteers is 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.

I continue to be amazed at the extravagant generosity of our congregation that helps keep the shelves of our food pantry full. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions of the items the Food Pantry needs most. During the summer the demand for help often increases while donations often decrease. If we work together we can share the love of Christ without letting this happen in our community. ~Pastor Andrew

Where is Pastor Andrew?

**September 19-20 - Synod New Pastors Group Meeting
September 25th - Vacation Day**

**RALLY DAY
Sunday, September 11th**

Meet at South Vigo High School with cars decorated 9:15 a.m., for a parade to our church 9:30 a.m. Also, following the worship service there will be a Carry-in luncheon.



For our first time participating, the Downtown Block Party was a great success! Our location near the Children's Museum meant we saw lots of families and were able to hand out hundreds of invitations to Trunk or Treat and Song & Slice. We answered questions about our garden and pantry, and also received contact information from several folks who are interested in more information about Unity! We have some ideas for making our display and outreach even better next year.

Thanks especially to Albert and Sadie for the tent, and thanks to all those who helped in any way. The list is too long to name everyone here, but see some of the photos here and on Facebook. And thanks to Valentine for plenty of chilled water to keep us hydrated!

We are a small Church with a HUGE Heart that is active & busy. Here are some of the benefits of our Congregation and Building! Unity Presbyterian Church members are empathetic to others. We are also Handicap Accessible and extremely active in the Community! Examples are our Interaction with Boy Scouts, Song and a Slice and all our Dinners; Souper Bowl Sunday, Spaghetti, Bean and Chicken & Noodles. Pott's Food Pantry also assists individuals from the area as well as families referred from Salvation Army. Don't forget our beautiful organ that used to be at St. Mary's. 😊 We met many interesting people that would be great for our Congregation they were unaware how 'Green' we are. Dawn Chapman pointed out our recycled cap bench and mentioned that we have acreage for the 'Giving Garden'. Encouraged others to come visit us at Unity - This allows us to share the good news and to meet other mortal angels. Gave out cards to remind families about our Trunk or Treat activities in October. The Block Party was a huge Success 😊

NEW ADDRESS FOR COLEEN GILBERT

1503 So 17th, Terre Haute IN 47803 ~ Phone # 812-223-9296

**Our annual Song and a Slice will be Friday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m.
(Please see attachment)**

The Moment with the Children on August 28th was about EMPATHY. It was based on this article (below) from TIME magazine titled,

“Why kids need more empathy” by Mishcele Borba

“WHAT TRAIT DO KIDS REALLY NEED TO BE happy or successful?” Over the years, hundreds of parents have asked me that question. My answer surprised most: empathy. More than acing tests or earning fancy degrees, kids—and adults—who understand and appreciate the people around them are better able to collaborate, innovate and problem solve. Studies show they’re happier too.

Unfortunately, in America, we have a serious empathy deficit. I call it the “Selfie Syndrome.” Thanks in part to the rise of social media, as well as changes in our culture and parenting styles, today’s kids are more self-absorbed than ever; one study estimates narcissism rates among college students are up 58% versus three decades ago. And this has given rise to a culture of bullying, cheating and unhappiness. One in five middle-school students contemplates suicide as a solution to peer cruelty, 70% of college kids admit to cheating in class, and one-third of all college students report having felt so depressed that they had trouble functioning.

Cultivating empathy has traditionally been low on child-rearing to-do lists. (After all, when’s the last time you saw a bumper sticker that said PROUD PARENT OF A KIND KID?) But we need to make it a priority, both at home and in schools. At stake if we don’t? Everything we hope for in our children’s future—and our own.

Borba is an educational psychologist and author of *Unselfie: Why Empathetic Kids Succeed in Our All-About-Me World*.

Morning Glories

We are continuing our Bible study, “Who is Jesus?” Our study will continue Tuesday, September 13th, at 10:30 am at the church. We will study lesson 2. Bring a brown bag lunch and join us.



Save the front of your greeting cards as a mission/recycling project. There is a box in the back of the church where you can leave your cards.

OUTDOOR BENCHES

We picked up two 4-foot benches made from re-cycled plastic. The benches were made possible by our collection of hard plastic bottle caps and other items, along with some cash contributions. Thanks to all who contributed and thanks to Amie Ellison for supervising the collection and sorting!

At this point, we are still collecting the caps, for future projects. Please check with a member of the Green Committee if you are unsure what kinds of caps and lids to collect, and please make sure the items are clean – thanks!

View from the Inside - by Camille Church Mouse



When will it end? I feel like I am drying up!! Thank heavens for air conditioning. Don't worry, fall and winter are coming!

Activities are continuing from this summer. The work on the bell tower continues. Our first year at the Downtown Block Party was a success. Big thanks to all who helped.

Rally Day is coming. Join the parade at 9:30 with your decorated vehicles. Stay for the picnic after church. The choir will start singing in September and the annual music fundraiser, "A Song and a Slice" will be on September 23rd. I can already feel the calories.

Keep checking your newsletter and bulletin for upcoming activities. Come and grow with us!

God's blessings and joy to all of you! Peace and love!

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CHICKEN NOODLE DINNER

The Trustees will be sponsoring the sixth annual chicken noodle dinner on Saturday, November 5th, 4P.M. to 7P.M. Tickets will be nine dollars for adults and four dollars for children.

We will need your help to make it a success. The following is a list of some of the things we will need:

- 12 large cans of green beans
- 8 large cans of cranberry sauce
- 3 containers of Cole slaw
- 12 46oz cans of chicken broth
- Tea and lemonade

If shopping is not convenient monetary donations are always welcome.

Unity participates in the GFS rewards program. So we would like you to shop there. You just have to tell them the items are for Unity Presbyterian Church, and they will put it on our rewards account.

If you have any questions please talk to Barb Potter

Green Corner

I hope you have noticed the two new benches at the side of the church. By collecting several hundred pounds of caps we were able to purchase them to add to the one we had already purchased. It's amazing what collecting the caps can create. We now have three benches for our outdoors area and we have kept hundreds of pounds of caps out of our landfill. I would say that is a "win-win" situation for everyone! Thanks so much to Karen Walker for heading this effort and making the trip to take the caps and bring back the benches.

Summer is winding down and soon we will be looking at fall. Here are some ideas from Reducefootprints.blogspot.com to help get ready for the change in seasons!

Check the air pressure in your tires. Cooler temperatures lower tire pressure and that, in turn, lowers fuel efficiency. So check your tires and make sure that they are properly inflated.

Clean and test the furnace. Did you know that your furnace needs cleaning? Yep ... it collects all kinds of dust and debris which not only affects its performance but could cause a fire. Before you really need the heat, get out your owner's manual for instructions on how to clean it. No manual? Check here or call a furnace maintenance company. If you have a gas furnace, have it professionally inspected once a year.

Move furniture or any obstructions from vents, baseboard heaters, registers on the floor or radiators so that air moves freely. This is also a good time to vacuum these areas to remove any dust or debris. And here's a tip if you have a radiator ... place a reflecting panel behind it ... you can purchase one at a home center or make one yourself with a plywood panel and aluminum foil.

Remove window air conditioners for the winter. If they can't be removed, seal them with caulking or tape and cover them with an airtight, insulated jacket.

Vacuum the refrigerator coils to keep the compressor running efficiently. It's also a good time to check that the refrigerator is level ... the door should automatically swing shut instead of staying open. Check the seal on the door ... try closing it on a dollar bill. If you can pull the bill out easily, it's time to replace the gaskets. Here's another tip for running the refrigerator efficiently ... don't over fill it. Allowing room for cool air to circulate will keep everything at the right temperature.

Clean the ducts and area behind the dryer. And don't forget, clean the filter after every use and every once in awhile, give it a good wash.

Check windows for proper caulking. If you have single-pane windows, add storm windows. Even a plastic film over windows will reduce heat loss.

Check doors for weather stripping and replace as necessary. If drafts sneak in under exterior doors, replace the threshold or block the drafts with a rolled-up towel or blanket.

Check your roof for any missing or damaged tiles or shingles.

Clean the roof gutters and make sure downspouts are pointed away from the house. Now would also be a good time to install a rain barrel ... rather than allow water to drain into one spot, a rain barrel would allow you to direct the water to where it's most needed.

Install foam covers over outside water spigots to prevent freezing.

Check for water leaks both inside and outside.

If your home has no sidewall insulation, place heavy furniture like bookshelves, armoires and sofas along exterior walls, and use decorative quilts as wall hangings. This will help block cold air.

Bring in any houseplants that have spent the summer outdoors. They'll help clean the air.

As the autumn leaves begin to fall, consider raking them up rather than using a "blower". Once raked up, use them as mulch to protect plants throughout the winter or add them to a compost pile.

Before packing away those summer clothes, go through them and determine which items to keep, which items to repurpose into something else (cleaning rags, craft projects, etc.) and which to donate.

A little effort in the fall will ensure that the chilly months ahead are warm and "green". Enjoy getting ready for fall!