

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ July 2017

### Church Calendar:

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

### Prayer Concerns:

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

## From Pastor Andrew :

### HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY

God's love encompasses all of creation, and the Kingdom Christ calls us to build has no borders. Yet, this month our nation celebrates Independence Day. There will be parades, cook outs, and fireworks to celebrate our national freedom. How can we respond to and participate in this important holiday as a people of faith? In answer to that question I want to share the following article with you:

American Christians rightly pause on Independence Day to thank God for the gift of freedom, and the untold opportunities that we enjoy in this good land.

The daily international news reminds us that political and social freedom is denied to many of the world's peoples. Gratitude for our freedom is not narrow patriotism that worships America. It is instead a challenge to ask how people of faith might recall the origins of our freedom and commit to use its possibilities for the common good. In the Judaeo-Christian heritage, we are stewards of every good gift and "blessed to be a blessing."

Could it be that the people of God might offer this gift to our nation, a recall to our roots of our freedom? Our nation is increasingly diverse, but on this we can agree. The roots of our nation are fundamental values: values like civility, respect for divergent views, unity despite differences, a passion for justice and peace. A willingness to believe that those with whom we disagree just might have part of the truth, too. A responsibility to be good stewards of what we have been given.

The Fourth of July calls us to re-engage as responsible citizens, whatever our political views, to move from being critical spectators to being engaged participants. That's the best of our religious heritage as people of faith. We bring a commitment to the common good, and a respect for every person.

**Remember those words of President Kennedy? They seem designed for our time. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."**

**A French novelist, Houssaye, once wrote, "We must have old memories and young hopes." That's our opportunity as people of faith -- to cherish old memories of what has been and to cradle young, irresistible hope for the future. — The Rev. David L. McDonald (This article originally appeared on the website indystar.com July 3, 2010)**

**I hope and pray that everyone has a safe and wonderful Fourth of July!**

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

### **Worship Schedule**

**July 2nd — 4th Sunday after Pentecost  
Guest Speaker Dr. Roland Kohr**

**July 9th — 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
Celebration of the Lord's Supper  
Sermon: "Whom the Son Wants" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30**

**July 16th — 6th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "Living in the Spirit" By Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Romans 8:1-11**

**July 23rd — 7th Sunday after Pentecost  
Hymn Fest Celebration  
with Ice Cream Social following**

**July 30th — 8th Sunday after Pentecost  
Earth Care Service with a Blessing of Pets**

**Where in the World is Pastor Andrew**

**Pastor Andrew will be on Vacation and out of the office from July 2nd - 8th & July 21st - 29th.**

## **Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry**

Can we rise to the challenge and can we do a little bit more? Last year we did an amazing job as a congregation helping stock the pantries shelves each week. Just one extra item per person per week added to the one item we already bring can make a world of difference. By just adding a few more 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 about 12 families along with several emergency need bags each month and there is an ever increasing need in our community. Imagine the difference Unity could make if it could double the number of families we assist on a regular basis. With some creative thinking and your help in 2017 we might be able to do that. 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

### **NOTE FROM YOUR FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Jan Buffington**

At the end of June, I will send a copy of their financial report to anyone requesting a copy. Either send an email message, [jjjbb65@ma.rr.com](mailto:jjjbb65@ma.rr.com), or text, 812-236-2367, or let me know at church or at a meeting.

**THE FINAL AMOUNT OF DONATIONS GIVEN FOR THE ONE GREAT HOUR OFFERING IS \$567.93.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

July 30 will be a special service for the members of Unity and the four legged members of their families. The Green Committee is continuing their message of the importance of all animals to God by having a service dedicated to the animals in our lives.

We will meet outside to worship that day. By worshipping outside we will be able to connect directly with the beautiful world that God has given us. We also are asking that members bring any four legged members of their family they would like to participate in a Blessing of the Animals that will be a part of the service. All four legged members must be up to date on shots and on a lease or in a carrier. If you don't feel comfortable bringing them you can bring

**a picture or other remembrance of them. It will be a very special service in celebration of the gifts of God!!**

## **Morning Glories**

**Join us on Tuesday, July 11, at Cracker Barrel for lunch at 11:00 am. We will share food and fellowship during our summer break.**

**Greeting Cards: 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.**



### **VIEW FROM THE INSIDE BY CAMILLE CHURCH MOUSE**



**Summer is here!! Enjoy it because it will fly by way too soon.**

**Our fish fry was a big success with a great crowd and great food!! Everything tasted so good and I was stuffed. I am excited to tell you the Jonah Fish Fry cleared after expenses, \$1,354.25! Special thanks to the Unity workers.**

**All of the kids (and adults) enjoyed Vacation Bible School. The kids sang, made books and art with seeds, played outside, enjoyed a delicious lunch, and had other fun things to do while learning about the Bible.**

**Dawn and Vern are helping me with my garden plot. I like to help but I have to watch out for the foxes.**

**There are several upcoming events so watch the bulletin and newsletter. Come join us and be a part of our future.**

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

### **UNITY PRESBYTERIAN GIVING GARDEN**

**The Garden plots are now tilled and available. Please contact Vern and Dawn Chapman 812-917-5341 if you are interested in growing your own vegetables.**

## Green Corner

I read a very sad story this week of a whale that was beached. Several people tried to get it to go back into the water but it would not. The whale had to eventually be shot. When they studied the whale to see why it had beached itself they found that it's stomach was full of plastic to the point it couldn't eat to sustain itself.

Sky Ocean Rescue Campaign works to educate people on the effects of plastic trash. According to National Geographic there is an estimated 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic trash in the oceans and that number continues to grow. From micro beads, to plastic bottles, to plastic bags...plastic is the third item in the list of materials that pollute our oceans.

The oceans may seem far away from us in Indiana but we are affected by this. Any seafood from the oceans has the potential to have plastic in it and the oceans are an important indicator of how well we are taking care of this planet. When they emptied the stomach of this whale the researchers were extremely dismayed to see that some of the plastic was marked with the recycle symbol. If these items had been recycled this whale may not have ended up on the beach.

What can we do? Use a reusable cup and decrease the number of plastic bottles you use. If you do use a plastic bottle be sure that it is recycled. When you go to the store take your own bags so you don't have to use a plastic bag. Or have them use paper to sack your groceries. Again, if you do use the plastic bags from the store be sure to recycle them.

We can all do our part to protect this beautiful gift from God. Let's leave the next generation a beautiful world to enjoy!