

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ May 2017

### Church Calendar:

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

### Prayer Concerns:

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

## From Pastor Andrew :

### Hinneni

When I was in middle school our mornings began with the roll call. The homeroom teacher would read off each student's name in alphabetical order and we would respond, "Here." I remember one student, who needing to be different, would respond, "Present." If we think about it, these similar responses actually invoke very different ideas of attentiveness. The first one defines locality, being here in this place, while the second one emphasizes our connectedness. Being present means you are fully engaged; not just at a physical location, but with the other people there.

Throughout the Old Testament the Hebrew word Hinneni is translated as, "Here I Am." It's an emphatic word meaning, Behold! It expresses the speaker is fully engaged using all their senses, fully engaged with their mind and heart. It is the way Moses responds to God on Mount Horeb:

1 Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. 2 There the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. 3 Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up." 4 When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." (Exodus 3:1-4 NRSV)

Moses exclaims, "Here I am" in the sacred presence of God. He is fully present not letting fear deter him, or his worldly responsibilities distract him. Moses did not run away, he did not ignore the burning bush because he needed to take care of the flock. Instead he turns towards God, eager to see what God is going to do next. On Mount Horeb God calls upon Moses to free the people from oppression.

The hymn "Here I Am, Lord" is a song pledging ourselves to answering the call to God's mission. In the verses we hear God's voice asking us "Who will I send to the those who dwell in the darkness of sin?" "Who will I send to tend the poor and lame?" In the chorus we respond "Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I will go, Lord." God calls us to seek justice and love kindness.

God calls to us, but it is not easy. Being among the sick, the poor, the hungry, the addicted, the abusers, and all the broken people in the world is something we wish we could avoid. Yet, Jesus taught us to love our neighbor as ourselves, even the neighbor that is hard to love. God calls upon us to free the people from oppression and we cannot run away or let worldly responsibilities distract us. Like Moses we must to put our faith into action, and go to where God's people need us most. It is easy to do acts of charity, but harder to bring justice to the oppressed children of God. God calls us to strive against the systems of power that keep many people in bondage, even when we are intertwined with those systems.

The tomb is empty, Christ our savior lives and is with us always. He is calling us to share the Good News that death has been conquered and all sin has been forgiven. Jesus' message was clear: love God, love each other, take care of everyone you encounter...share the Grace. We turn towards God eager to see what God is going to do next and we respond Hinneni!

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

### Worship Schedule

May 7th — 4th Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: "Shepherd & Gate" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Psalm 23 & John 10:1-10

May 14th — 5th Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: "Living Stones" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by 1 Peter 2:2-10

May 21st — 6th Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: "L.O.V.E." by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by John 14:15-21

May 28th — 7th Sunday of Easter  
Sermon: "In AND Out" by Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by Acts 1:6-14 & John 17:1-11

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE SATURDAY, JUNE 10, OUR THEME WILL BE SEEDS OF FAITH**

## **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

**Wednesday Bible Study will resume on Wednesday May 10th at 10:00am continuing the discussion about the Gospel of Luke led by Pastor Andrew. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to read ahead we will be looking at:**

**May 10th -- Luke 8:1-21  
May 24th -- Luke 9:1-27**

**May 17th -- Luke 8:22-56  
May 31st -- Luke 9:28-50**

## **GRADUATION SUNDAY, MAY 21**

**If you know of someone who will be graduating from High School or College in 2017, please let the Deacons or Pastor Andrew know.**

**Mackenzie Hastings, granddaughter of Albert and Sadie Higginbotham  
Adam Buck, son of Gary and Nancy Buck  
Emily Barsch  
Amid(?)**

**At this moment the only college bio we have is from Carl Wassink. His grandson, John Jacob Evanich, who graduated on April 28, 2017 from the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL., with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He will not be able to attend the recognition at Unity as he is employed at a rehabilitation clinic in Jacksonville, FL. Some of you may also remember he attended ISU on the Presidential Scholarship.**

Congratulations to Griffin Black and the Woodrow Wilson Middle School B.O.B Team. They took first place at Vigo County School Corporation's 2017 Battle of the Books competition. Also on the team were Central Presbyterian Church youth -- Maxine Bough and Isabelle Conner. All of them, along with their teammates, did an excellent job answering questions about 20 different books that they read in preparation for the Middle School event.

## Morning Glories

The Morning Glories will meet on Tuesday, May 9th, at 10:30 am at the church. We will study our last lesson, "According to Contemporary Cultural Interpretations". Join us for Bible study and fellowship. Remember to bring a sack lunch. Next year we will study the book of Hebrews. We will meet each month for lunch and fellowship.



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.

*ACCEPTABLE CAPS FOR BENCH PROGRAM  
SEE THE LINK BELOW*

<http://www.greentreeplastics.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Acceptable-Caps-List-1.pdf>

## *The Farrington Grove Chorale*

*The Farrington Grove Chorale will present their annual spring concert at Unity, hosted by Sigma Alpha Iota music sorority, on Tuesday, May 9 at 7 p.m. The group of 23 singers will present a program of sacred and secular choral music under the direction of Dr. Mark Carlisle. The public is cordially invited, at no charge, and a reception will follow the program.*

*For those who may be interested, the program will also be presented at an earlier date, Friday, May 5, at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods College in the Church of the Immaculate Conception.*

## *Earth Day Service*

*Thanks to all who participated in the service. A special thank you to Mother Earth (Jan Buffington), the narrator (Luann Modesitt), and all of the special creatures that joined them to discuss the many species that are endangered. The choir's anthem was beautiful and had a special message for all of us. We also had the joy of displaying for the first time the beautiful "Recycling" banner created by Jane Kohr and designed by Emily Cruz, granddaughter of Bill and Judy Brett. What a blessing it was to recognize the other creatures that have been created by God and share this world with us.*



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



**I think Spring is finally here! Rain and storms are also coming. Along with mowing grass, weeds, and planting flowers and gardens!**

**The Progressive Dinner was great! Easter started off rainy and cloudy, but the Sunrise Service and Easter Egg Hunt went on in the fellowship hall. There were at least 20 young people running around and it was great! Our breakfast that morning was also great! The choir filled the room with music and great joy!**

**Earth Day will be soon and the Spaghetti Dinner. Join us in worship and fellowship.**

**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.

## UCM Terre Haute

Hello!

Thank you for being a friend of United Campus Ministries! As you may already know, we offer various programs, activities, and a food pantry for ISU, Ivy Tech, Harrison College, St. Mary of the Woods College, and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology.

The spring semester is about ready to come to an end. Every year we have a big picnic on our front lawn (or inside if it rains) to celebrate all the hard work these students have put into their studies. We also recognize the seniors who will graduate and start their new and exciting lives.

We would love to invite any high school seniors to come and get a feel for college life and connect with United Campus Ministries.

1). Let us know if you have graduating high school seniors who will be attending area colleges next year and share their contact info with us.

2). Personally invite those graduating seniors to our year end picnic next Wednesday, May 3 from 5-7 and let them know they are welcome to join us through the summer for Table Talks every Wednesday at 5:00 as a way to meet other college students to ease their transition next fall.

## Green Corner

During the Moments with the Adults in the Earth Sunday service we had a quiz on recycling. These points were the questions covered in the quiz. Our service that day highlighted the endangered species on our planet and what we can do to help them survive. Keeping these points in mind, and using them in our daily lives, can help make the Earth a better place for all of us!!!

- Aluminum – the aluminum beverage can returns to the grocer's shelf as a new, filled can in as little as 90 days after being sent to recycling. Aluminum cans are the most recycled and most recyclable beverage container in the world.
- Paper – Americans use more than 67 million tons of paper each year, or 600 pounds per person. Manufacturing paper from recycled paper uses about 70 percent less energy than creating paper from raw materials.
- Glass – Most bottles and jars that are used in households contain at least 25 percent recycled glass. Glass can be recycled forever, it never wears out.
- Plastic – Producing new plastic from recycled material uses only two-thirds of the energy required to manufacture plastic from raw materials. Each year the U.S. makes enough plastic film to shrink-wrap the state of Texas.
- Steel – The automobile is the most recycled consumer product in the world. Steel cans contain 25% recycled content and are completely recyclable.

The average person throws away four pounds of trash per day. The most common item found in our trash is paper. Packaging accounts for one-third of trash in the U.S. Let's all work together to decrease the amount of trash that goes in our landfills. By doing this we will be serving as good stewards of this precious gift from God.

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