

Unity Presbyterian Church

Yoke Newsletter ~ May 2018

Church Calendar:

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

Prayer Concerns:

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

MIRACLE

Beloved Church Family,

It is great to be back serving God at Unity, visiting with folks, and preaching on Sunday mornings again. Dawn and I are deeply grateful for all the prayers and support given by Unity and the friends of Unity throughout Terre Haute and around the world during this difficult time. God is good all the time.

On December 27th, 2017 I suffered a near fatal brain bleed that required an extended stay in the Neurological ICU at Methodist hospital in Indianapolis. Doctors told us that only 10% of people who suffer this major brain intrusion survive the first 48 hours and of those survivors most typically do not survive past three months because of complications or other incurred trauma. It is a MIRACLE that I am recovering as well as I am. It is a MIRACLE that I am able to hug and hold my family again. It is a MIRACLE I was able to return to work on Easter Sunday to celebrate God's promise of Grace & New Life with all of you.

I give credit for this MIRACLE to the Holy One's never ending love for us, Jesus Christ's tender healing touch, and the Holy Spirit's binding presence that connects us all together: God and People of God. It is a MIRACLE of God's own doing, and it was made possible in a variety of real and tangible ways. God calmed Gracen, my 9 year old, and gave her a clear head to call 911. Christ's power to heal was worked in the hands of EMTs, nurses, doctors, and other medical professionals who provided expert care and knew exactly what to do to make my recovery possible. The Spirit surrounded me with all of your continued prayers and I clearly remember the sense of comfort and hope I felt as Dawn shared your Facebook and emailed prayers of support with me. I believe in the power of prayer!

I feel blessed, yet I also recognize that this is a traumatic event that didn't just happen to my family. It affects my church family too. Many of you have expressed your own fears because of what has happened, and I know that the past few months have been a time of uncertainty. I am grateful for the session's support by providing me time to recover, and for the many different

people who have shown up to preach, make bulletins, cover Children's moments, and volunteer to care for each other and for my family while I have been away. God has been present in our midst in so many different ways.

We spent the Lenten Season in a time of separation, but we navigated a wilderness of trauma and uncertainty that effected both pastor and congregation. Post Easter we celebrate the New Life that is to come. This is the true MIRACLE that Christ died on the Cross for our brokenness that we might live eternally. In gratitude we live as Christ taught us to. I feel we have been blessed to be reunited and together we can now continue to seek new ways to deepen our Spirituality, increase our Out Reach, and share the Good News in Terre Haute and beyond.

I invite each of you to join me and my family on Pentecost Sunday for a special service of Healing and Wholeness. Together we will acknowledge the brokenness of what we have endured together, praise God that we have been renewed as a congregation, and celebrate the MIRACLE of Christ's never ending love for each of us. This special service will be on Sunday May 20th, following the picnic celebrating our graduates and teachers. Weather permitting we will hold the service in the outdoor sanctuary. Unity is filled with Spirit and called to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world sharing God's abundant love and grace. I am blessed to share in this amazing calling with you.

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

Worship Schedule

May 6th — Sixth Sunday of Easter
Sermon: "Abide in Jesus" Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by John 15:9-17
Welcoming of New Members

May 13th — Seventh Sunday of Easter
Guest Speaker Dr. Roland Kohr
Mother's Day

May 20th — Day of Pentecost
Don't forget to wear Red, Orange, or Yellow
Recognition of Graduates and Teachers
Sermon: "Prophecies, Visions, and Dreams...Oh My!" By Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Acts 2:1-21

May 20th — Fellowship Picnic
Gather to Celebrate our Graduates &
Thank our Teachers immediately following worship.

**May 20th — Service of Wholeness and Healing
Following the Celebration Picnic
Rev. Andrew and Rev. Dawn Black**

**May 27th — Trinity Sunday
Sermon: "Appearances of God" By Rev. Andrew Black
Inspired by Isaiah 6:1-8, Romans 8:12-17, & John 3:1-7
Memorial Day Observation**

Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry

Each week I am amazed at the generosity and passion our community has supporting the Food Pantry. Our children are learning a valuable lesson of caring for one another each week, and we are stocking the shelves with our collection. What a blessing! Remember, 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 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

7th Cents Youth Group - Mission Trip Event

The multi congregation youth group will be holding two fundraisers to support their upcoming mission trip to Nashville TN. These are easy ways you can help Jadelyn, Amaya, and Griffin from our congregation as well as all the kids participating from Central Presbyterian and Centenary Methodist. I hope we can all make time to support one or both of these events to show our support for the 12 youth signed up to participate in this summer's trip. Be sure to share these events with family, friends and co-workers so they too can support our wonderful youth.

Fazoli's May 10th—11am-8pm

Just let them know that you want part of your bill to support the 7th Cents Youth Group when you order a meal(s) at Fazoli's on the 10th. It's very important to let the cashier know you want to support 7th Cents so they mark your order to be counted in the fundraiser. A portion of all the counted orders

will be donated to the youth group and used to fund the Mission Trip to Tennessee this summer.

IHOP May 17th—4pm-8pm

Give the fundraiser flyer to your server when you dine at IHOP on the 17th from 4-8 and a portion of the total will be donated to help fund the summer mission trip. You can get your flyer when you arrive at IHOP from one of the students going on the trip who will be greeting customers and passing out the flyers.

RECENT TOTALS

Since the last Yoke, the following fundraising events have happened:

One Great Hour of Sharing: 320.90

Spaghetti Dinner: 1087.41

In May, we will be collecting the Pentecost Offering. I hope you have been listening to each of the speakers telling us about where the funds will go. Please give generously.

Your Financial Secretary,
Jan Buffington

PENTECOST

This year, Pentecost is early – May 20th! The Worship Committee asks you to wear RED and BRING A FRIEND! If you wish to bring red flowers, please bring either a bouquet or a plant for the landscape. If you bring a bouquet, please take it home or to a shut-in. If you wish to bring a plant for the landscape, PLEASE BE PREPARED TO PLANT IT YOURSELF.

Your Worship Committee

THANK YOU JAN BUFFINGTON FOR COVERING FOR BESS

Unity Presbyterian Church was given a challenge between the Pastor's unexpected health issues and the Office Manager's unforeseen surgery. Prayers far and wide helped Rev. Andrew Black return April 1.

(Andrew explains in his article on the front page.)

Bess, on the other hand, expected to return after a month but was delayed another two weeks. This left Jan Buffington with all the extra Easter bulletins to prepare, which she beautifully managed. Between all the earth angels working together for the good of Unity Presbyterian Church each Sunday's pulpit was filled with excellent preachers/speakers and a bulletin with PowerPoint accompanied the services. Amen to all who helped, especially Jan Buffington, and thank you God for our very talented congregation.

Morning Glories

The Morning Glories will meet May 8, at 10:30 am at the church. We'll study our last lesson from Hebrews. Lesson 9 is "In Community with All the Saints". Join us for Bible Study and fellowship. Bring a sack lunch.

VIEW FROM THE INSIDE BY CAMILLE CHURCH MOUSE



Did you miss me last month?????

It might be Spring but I'm not sure. One look around the church property will remind you that Spring is trying to pop! There are flowers blooming around the church, the rose bushes are starting to fill in and there have been sightings of our little fox family. It's hard to think of bad weather when you see the baby foxes. Let's hope that Spring is here to stay.

In spite of several members having health issues, as always our members have stepped up and filled in to keep things going. Members have filled in for Pastor Andrew and Bess to keep our services going, others have arranged for pulpit supply and planned worship services. It has been a busy time. We are all glad to welcome back Pastor Andrew and Bess. It was so good to see you both at the worship service last week.

Earth Day was last Sunday and we all learned many things about the environment. The Spaghetti Dinner was so delicious my family enjoyed the yummy crumbs and listening to great conversations. Take time to enjoy our church property. Sit on a bench, relax and enjoy the world around you. God's blessings and joy to everyone! Peace and love!

INTRODUCING OUR GRADUATES

Alyssa Kalens graduate from ISU:

My major is Psychology with a minor in Counseling. Was in Gamma Phi Beta Sorority for four years where I served on the Executive Board as Membership VP and Public Relations VP. My next step is to attend Ball State University and earn a Master's in Applied Behavioral Analysis with a focus in Autism Spectrum Disorders to receive my BCBA (Board Certified Behavioral Analyst). I plan on working for Unlocking the Spectrum as an Applied Behavioral Analyst and Registered Behavioral Technician while I'm earning my Masters.

Samantha Lunne Stewart ~ West Vigo High School

Attended: Fuqua Elementary, Honey Creek Middle School, Terre South Vigo and West Vigo High School. (continued on the next page)

At Terre Haute South Vigo I lettered in choir and attended there from 2014-2016 (Freshmen-Sophomore) I now attend West Vigo High School where I have lettered in Girls Basketball and Football by being a manager. I have also lettered in Academics. (2016-2018) Junior and Senior). I am a member of the Girls Varsity Track Team where I throw shot put and discus. In the fall I will be attending Indiana State University majoring in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

Cody Kistler and Clayton Maxwell, who sing in our choir are from T.H. South. Lauren White from college and Journey Warner from T.H. South.

UNITY WILL NO LONGER SAVE CAPS FOR BENCHES

We now have stopped saving caps for benches because we have 5 lovely heavy duty ones for special gatherings at Unity. There are still schools collecting them so check with Kathy Modesitt about where they can be dropped off if you can't stop saving them. It is hard to break even good recycling habits.

THANKS FOR YOUR THOUGHTFULNESS ~ from Kathy Hackleman

Thank you so much for the kind words, food, cards, books, phone calls and prayers from you all during my recent operation and recuperation. The notes from the Morning Glories kept me smiling and the one from Colby was a special surprise. It is taking longer than I anticipated but every day there is another miracle to celebrate. God Bless You.

Earth Sunday

A big thank-you to everyone who had a part in our Earth Sunday service led by the Green Committee. Jan Buffington did a great job of writing and leading our service. She was assisted by Candi Hamilton, Dawn Chapman, Karen Walker, Luann Modesitt, and Kathy Modesitt in leading the service.

The young people of the church did a wonderful job as part of Luann Modesitt's "classroom". Young people participating were Alison, Colby, Faith, Curtis, Roland, Warren, McKayla, and Ethan. They took part in the classroom skit as students and several of them presented reports about the environment. They made it an educational experience for everyone.

Thank you to everyone who wore green and participated in the service. By working and learning together we can do our part in caring for the Earth which was created by God.

Green Corner

During our Earth Day service we celebrated the Earth as a gift from God. We also learned many facts about what man is doing to the environment and what we can do to make it better. Everyone at the service received a Lifestyle Inventory which listed several things we could do to help the earth as homework. The assignment was to mark on the paper everything that we are doing now to help the environment. The challenge is to look at our lifestyle to see what more we can do to help. The inventory is printed below. The challenge to all of us is to include as many of these as we can in our daily living. We will be helping to save the Earth which is a gift from God for future generations.

Lifestyle Inventory

Take an inventory of your lifestyle and find ways that you can make a difference for God's world! Check the appropriate column for each item below. Work toward all checks in the "We already do this" column!

We already do this	We will try harder	
		1. Recycle newspaper
		2. Turn off faucet water while brushing teeth, showering, washing dishes, etc.
		3. Take short showers, 5 minutes or less
		4. Use rechargeable batteries
		5. Use a compost pile for food scraps, yard clippings, etc.
		6. Ride a bike or walk instead of using a car (consider one car-free day each week!)
		7. Car pool to school or work
		8. Put litter in its proper place.
		9. Recycle aluminum, cans, glass, and plastic
		10. Avoid pesticides (insect sprays) in home and garden
		11. Use public transportation instead of driving your car
		12. Turn the thermostat down in the winter and up in the summer
		13. Turn off lights when not needed
		14. Hang clothes out to dry rather than using the electric or gas dryer
		15. Plant a garden or buy locally-grown organic food
		16. Use the blank back sides of waste paper for scratch pads
		17. Donate used clothing and furniture to worthy organizations
		18. Grow indoor plants to purify the air
		19. Cut down on the use of plastic and foil by storing food in reusable containers
		20. Take your own reusable bags to the grocery store
		21. Use cold water to wash clothes rather than using energy to heat water
		22. Buy recycled products (paper towels and tp, for example)
		23. Use cloth rags and napkins rather than paper towels and paper napkins
		24. Consume less: live simply that all may simply live!