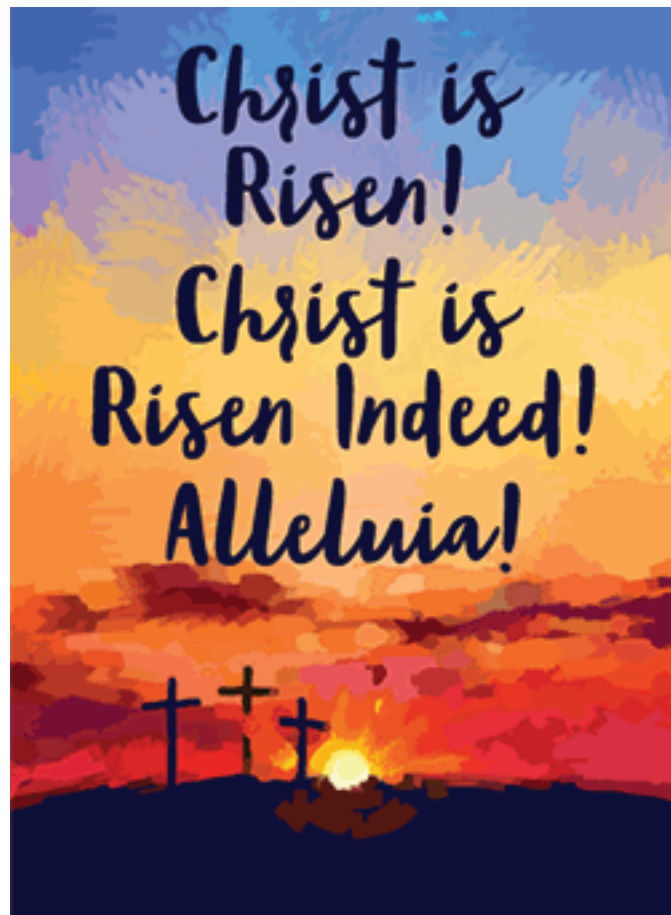




MAIN ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
81 W. MAIN ST., PERU, IN 46970



Join us Sunday, April 4

The Empty Tomb

a Victorious Service of Christ's Resurrection

Main Street United Methodist Church
81 W. Main St., Peru
Sunday, April 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.

Main Street United Methodist Church follows CDC guidelines. Social distancing is practiced in the sanctuary. Hand sanitizer and masks are available at the entrances. We ask that you wear a mask while in the church.

APRIL 2021

The Messenger

Main Street United Methodist Church

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD
by reaching out with a warm heart and making a difference

THE JOY OF THE CROSS



Alleluia! Christ is risen! / The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia! These words are more than liturgical greetings. They are joyful Easter acclamations to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. The empty tomb and the miraculous story of our eternal hope. So Happy Easter to all Main Street United Methodist Church members and friends!



Jesus had the power to reject the pain and shame of the cross. But He chose endurance rather than resistance. Why? Think with me again about the passion week according to Hebrews. Perhaps there is yet something we can learn from Jesus' journey to Easter. The writer of Hebrews recounts Jesus' experience: *"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart"* (Heb. 12:2,3). The question is: What is the perspective of the Hebrews author regarding Jesus' experience from the passion week to the resurrection morning?

The cross is God's medium of transformation, bringing many children to glory, bringing us to glory.

These crucial verses affirm that the cross is part of God's plan, not an intrusion into God's salvation agenda for humanity. Yes, it was a cruel medium of capital punishment, but it was a required part of the redemptive package that preceded our glorious Easter. Jesus saw beyond the cross. He saw *the joy that was set before him*. This means He saw the joy of much fruit that His death on the cross will produce (John 12:24). He saw the joy of the power that the 120 disciples would receive on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). He saw the joy of about 3,000 multi-ethnic baptized believers that would be added to the Church (Acts 2:41). He saw the joy of Paul's Damascus experience (Acts 9). He saw the joy of *"bringing many children to glory"* (Heb. 2:10). Jesus saw the joy of being able to victoriously *"declare God's name to his brothers and sisters, ... and declare 'Here am I, and the children God has given me'"* (Heb. 2:13). He saw the joy of disarming *"the powers and authorities,"* making *"a public spectacle of*

them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Col. 2:15). And He saw the joy of *sitting at the right hand of the throne of God* (Heb. 2:3). Indeed, Jesus knew that a resurrection morning was coming and things would never be the same again.

Truly, since that resurrection morning, a whole new perspective has opened for us. Salvation continues to bring many sons and daughters of Abraham to glory. People from all walks of life are being drawn into the embrace of the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. The cross is God's medium of transformation, bringing many children to glory, bringing us to glory. The good news is this: this personal and intimate relationship with the risen Christ can be yours today. Repent of your sin and ask Jesus to come into your heart. Or rededicate your life to Him. He loves you more than you can imagine. It is His joy to embrace you.

How then can we celebrate Easter and help other people experience Jesus' love, especially in this uncertain time? This question brings me to the final important points in Hebrews 12:2,3. We need to *fix our eyes on Jesus*. Do not be distracted by the flaws within the Body of Christ and the trials from outside the Church. Jesus is our perfect example. Keep your eyes on Him. And when you *consider* how He *endured the cross* and rose from the dead, *you will not grow weary and lose heart*. Celebrate Jesus: the cross is empty, the tomb is empty, the earth is filled with Jesus' brothers and sisters, He sits on the throne, He watches over you, and He is coming back in glory. Alleluia!

Your fellow disciple in Christ,
Reverend Samuel



STAFF @ Main Street UMC

DR. SAMUEL A. ODUBENA
Pastor

MILES STRALY
Lay Leader

NANCY HUSKEY
Director, Music Ministry

DON KRUG
Organist

KAY WEIDEMAN
Pianist, Worship Leader

LYDIA KERNS
Administrative Assistant

MELANIE GIEK
Youth Director

MICHAEL MCMINN
Custodian

MARCIA MINARD
Financial Secretary

SARAH JAMES
Nursery Attendant

PRESCHOOL STAFF
CAMI WALTERS
Director

RHONDA BUTZIN
KOLEEN MURPHY



Follow us on social media at:
Main Street United Methodist
Church, Peru

Office Hours

9 am. – 3 pm., Mon.-Fri.

Phone: 765-472-3323

Our phone and Internet system has been revamped and missed calls (those made outside of office hours or when we are already on a call) go straight to our email, making your call easier to access.



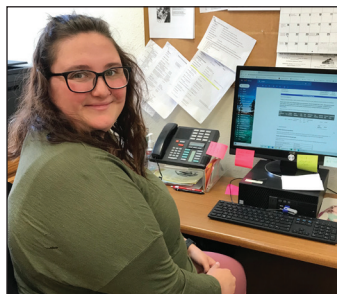
Maundy Thursday *Holy Communion Service*

Main Street United Methodist Church
81 W. Main Street, Peru
6:00 p.m.

The Thursday of Holy Week, otherwise known as Maundy Thursday, precedes the Good Friday. Maundy is a shortened form of *mandatum*, a Latin word, which means “mandate,” or “commandment.” What was the commandment? On the night before Jesus’ arrest, trial, suffering, and crucifixion, He ate the Last Supper with His disciples and washed their feet. It was on this occasion He said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another” (John 13:34). Jesus instituted the Sacrament of His Body and Blood and

commanded all His followers to do it in remembrance of Him. He said, “*This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me*” (Luke 22:19). So, on Maundy Thursday, we gather to commemorate Christ’s institution of the Lord’s Supper. And every time we partake of His Body and Blood during Holy Communion service, we do it in remembrance of His death until He comes again in glory. It is important to note that Christ has “*poured out Himself for many [not a few] for the forgiveness of sins*” (Matthew 26:28). As we remember this holy day and holy mystery, let us love one another.

MEET your new office manager



If you haven’t already met her, please drop by the church or call to introduce yourself to Lydia Kerns, our new Office Manager. Lydia understands that our congregation is also our family because she comes from a very closely-knit and large family. She is one of 20 cousins! A life-long resident of Peru, she has many contacts in the community which will be helpful. Lydia is a graduate of PHS and a

former student of our own Jason Gornto. Lydia is a member of the Chapel of Praise where she served as an assistant to the Youth Minister and performed many administrative office duties. Currently enrolled at Purdue as a distance student, (yes, Tom – Purdue!) Lydia is excited that work she loves doing here at Main Street dovetails so well with continuing her education. Welcome to Main Street, Lydia!

BIBLE *study*

Bible Study meets in-person and virtually on Tuesdays, from 6 pm-7:15 every Tuesday. We eagerly welcome you to join us as we dig deeply into Scripture. Have your Bible and your questions ready. A ZOOM link will be sent. Please be sure to join us. Guests are welcome and encouraged! If you are not a member of our congregation, please contact the office so we can send the link to you. Phone 765-472-3323.

MUSIC *ministry*

Music Sunday will be May 16. I am wondering if some of you might be interested in reviving the Chancel Choir. We will have several Sunday evening rehearsals at 5:00. Please let me know if you would like to participate: Email, call, or text to nbspahr01@comcast.net or 765-438-6435.

Nancy Huskey

Music Ministry practices are Sunday evenings as follows:

5:00: 441 Quartet

6:00: Jubilation Bells

7:00: Carillon Quartet

MISSIONS *update*

“*Whatever you did for the least of my people, that you did unto me.*” Matthew 25. This is the motto of Miami County Helping Hands, this month’s featured mission. Helping Hands runs a Food Pantry that provides emergency food assistance to hungry and hurting Miami County residents. Supported by private citizens, churches, and service organizations this agency provides clients with a two-week supplemental supply of food. During the month of April helping Hands will host its annual “Walk for Hunger.” You can pick up a form from Miles or in the church office and walk a mile (or more) to support this worthy organization. Or you may wish to donate items to the pantry. Items currently needed include toilet paper, deodorant, toothpaste/toothbrushes, bar soap, shampoo, canned potatoes, baked beans, macaroni products, noodles, and soups. Bring your items to church and place them in the box at the back of the sanctuary.



Mental Health First Aid Join the movement.

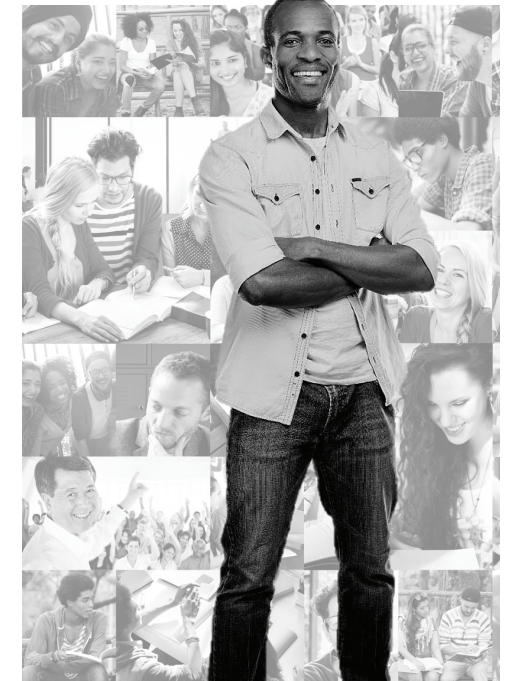
This course is being offered at NO COST. Thanks to UW of Miami County

Sometimes first aid isn't a bandage, or CPR or calling 911. Sometimes, first aid is **YOU.**

Date/Time	4/24/2021 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Venue Name	EastPointe Bible Church
Street Address	1540 E. Paw Paw Pike, Peru, IN

A person you know could be experiencing a mental health or substance use problem. **Learn an action plan to help.**

You are more likely to encounter someone in an emotional or mental crisis than someone having a heart attack. Learn how to help a friend, family member, coworker or neighbor in need. Get trained in Mental Health First Aid.



Take a course. Save a life.
Strengthen your community.



Registration is Required:
www.mhanci.org
Call 765-459-0309



Remember to pick up your Nelson’s Port-a-Pit Chicken tickets! Sell or give them to neighbors and friends. 100% of the proceeds will be given to the General Budget of our church. The Chicken and Pit Potatoes sale will take place in our church parking lot from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 15. We need two or three volunteers to help set up between 8 and 10 a.m., and six or eight helpers for two shifts from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Let Miles know what time you can help. Please mark your calendars and come out to support this fund-raising event. Pre-sale tickets are available in the church office during the week and you may also get them on Sunday mornings. Make sure you purchase several for yourself and more to sell to friends. And finally, the Noisy Bucket Collection for April will benefit Harvesting Possibilities.

Thank you for your continued support of missions.
Miles Straly



PRAYER *list*

The Scripture admonishes us to pray and intercede for one another. Please remember the following member and friends in your prayers:

Julie Carroll	Kaitlin Frick	Angela Dean
Jack Butts	DJ Smith	Jessica Shutter
Dale Heltzel	Deb Smith	Mary Courtney
Doug Overmeyer	Bernita Goble	Anna Marie Slone
Phyllis Jeffers	Barb Keyes	Belinda
Rhoda Ellers and family	Glenn Householder	Scotty Fisher
Will Pierce	Beth Wright	Ron Lamb
Erin Savage	Alen Burkhardt	Lynette Combs
Steve Butler	Betsy Guthrie	Sandra Dugan
Gary Loe	Theo Massaro	Roger Jr. Powers
Terry Smith	John Powell	Mike Dailey
Diana Perry	Joe Slone	Kathy Conner
Gabby	Jackie Cox	Owen Townsend
Larry Yode	Melissa Dillman	The family of Aimee Romero.
Ashley Wright	Gene Daniele	
Bob Dillman	Keaton Worland	
Dana Harp	Bradley Conner	

We need your help to keep the prayer list updated.

Please contact office at 765-472-3323, to inform her of additions to the list, or names that can now be removed.

PRAYER *ministry team*

Prayer is the breath of the Christian life. We are committed to frequently practice the presence of Jesus and stand in the gap for others in prayer.

Please send your prayer requests to mainstprayers@gmail.com or contact Laura Hochstedler at 765-244-7031.



APRIL *birthdays*

Kenneth Carwood	04/02
Alayne Cook	04/02
Sue Carswell	04/04
Beverly DeWald	04/04
Janice Williams	04/08
Lauren Conner	04/10
Claire Powell	04/11
Todd Smith	04/12
Denise Gornto	04/15
Christopher Smith	04/15
Kaitlin Bonifant	04/17
Nancy Huskey	04/18
Kamon Blong	04/19
Melanie Giek	04/24
Peace Odubena	04/29

MAY *birthdays*

Debbie Plothow	05/01
Michael McMinn III	05/03
Tobi Odubena	05/10
Jacquelynn Cox	05/13
Mike Neher	05/15
Peter Gorka	05/21
Chloe Jordan	05/23
Peggy Straly	05/23
Veda Sutton	05/28

If your name is not on this list, please call the office as our list is very much out-of-date and we need everyone's help to correct it.

UMW *ministry*



2021 Jewel of a Woman Award

Each year the United Methodist Women's Ministry presents the Jewel of a Woman Award. This award recognizes one of its members for outstanding service to the church. This year Kay Weideman, our Worship Leader, was the recipient of this award. The award was presented by Bev Dewald.

Kay has attended Main Street United Methodist Church since 1965 when she and her late husband Jack were married. She and Jack raised their three daughters, Melissa, Tanya, and Stacia, in this church.

Kay has served the church in many ways over the years, including as a trustee, Worship Committee Chair, Education Committee, Worship Leader, and Liturgist Coordinator. She also has volunteered at every UMC Bazaar/chicken noodle fundraiser, led music for Vacation Bible School, and sold tickets for every fundraising event. She has decorated, cooked, and served for countless church events and activities. The list goes on, and so does her commitment. Congratulations, Kay! May God continue blessing us with

1 PETER 4:10-11

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things

God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever.

Amen.

your many talents that you generously share. Your giving spirit and genuine love for life are an inspiration.

UMW Monthly Meeting

The United Methodist Women are back on track with monthly meetings! The first one is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the basement of the church, followed by one on May 12. These meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month. However, there are no meetings scheduled for the summer months. Meetings will resume in September.

UMW Coffee Hour

Join UMW in the library of the church each Wednesday at 9 a.m. for fellowship and fun. The women bring laughs and their favorite coffee to this social hour. Join this group of women for a refreshing, uplifting, hour. Hopefully soon meetings will return to a local coffee shop as had been the routine pre-COVID.

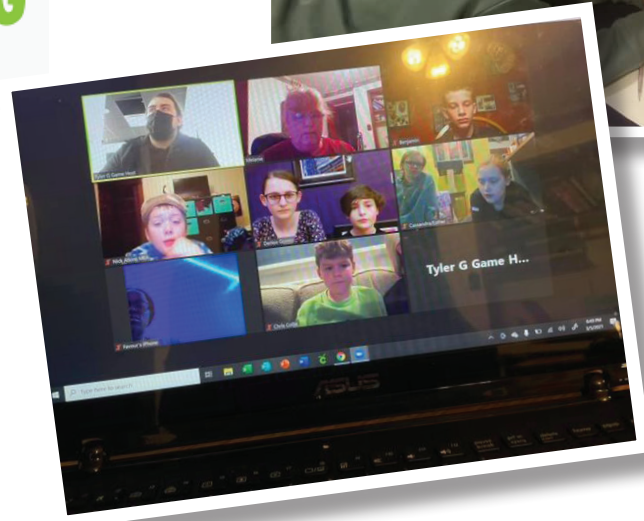
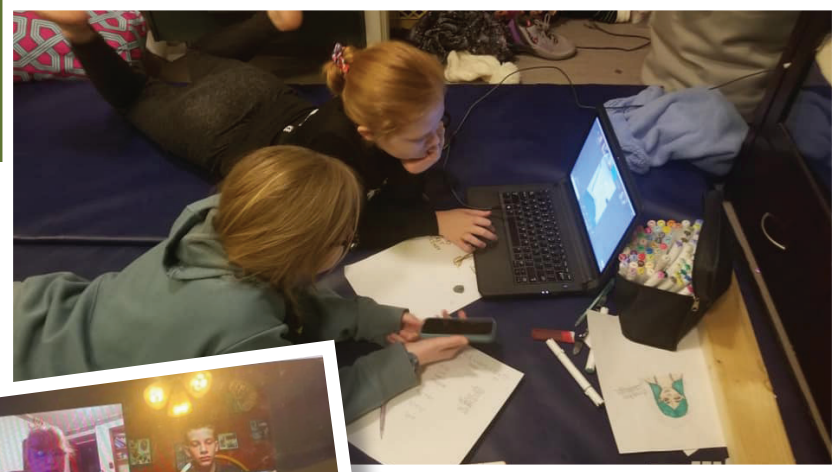
FOCUS *on the children*

When a child is baptized in our church, we, the congregation, make a solemn promise to provide for the Christian nurture of the child.

We have the perfect opportunity for you to fulfill this promise by giving a short lesson during Focus on the Children. Have you ever thought, "What a great lesson she gave!" Those great lessons are already prepared and ready to go. The information in the prepared lesson even tells what props might be helpful. These are simple props such as a dollar bill or a piece of clothing.

The lessons are short, simple, and you'll enjoy the responses made by the children. We only need to fill slots for just half of the Sundays in 2021. If we have 26 volunteers, each volunteer only has to do one, but you may find you enjoy it so much, you'll want to do three or four.

There is a calendar posted outside the door of the Sanctuary so that you can even choose the date that's best for you. Looking forward to both new faces and veterans of fulfilling this important promise we made to the children of our church.



Youth Group meeting
at church
April 11, 4 pm-6 pm
April 25, 4 pm-6 pm
Youth Sunday
April 25
Church service(s)

Virtual Escape Room

The youth group did an online escape room. We all played from our own homes and had a blast. Unfortunately, we didn't escape but it was close. The important thing is they were able to work together and had fun!

PRESCHOOL at Main Street



April is an exciting time in Preschool especially since we were unable to be here last April. We will be learning how plants grow, seeds and visiting Garden Gate Greenhouses. We will also be taking our Spring/Cap and Gown pictures. We look forward to **Preschool Sunday on April 18.**

We invite all of our preschool families to the Easter Sunday services.

EASTER lilies

Easter Lilies and Christianity

Easter Lilies are linked to Christianity as a symbol of the resurrection of Christ. They are also referenced in the Bible. In the book of Luke, Jesus himself says, "Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." This tradition is carried on in Christian churches around Easter when they adorn their altars with crosses and beautiful white lilies.

Planting your Easter Lily outside

Wait until flowers have finished blooming: To successfully transplant a lily to your garden, wait until all flowers have faded and all danger of

frost has passed.

Prune your plant: Be sure to remove any dead or dying blooms. Once you have pruned all blossoms, select an area with bright, indirect light.

Plant the bulb: Plant the bulb to the same depth it was in the pot and then add a few inches of mulch around the roots. Avoid placing much near the stem because it could cause rotting.

Water well while the plant is blooming and continue to prune: Once the original leaves start to brown, trim back to the green leaves. You will begin to see new growth soon! Be sure to water thoroughly at the beginning



and during periods of growth.

Be patient and fertilize ahead of the colder months: For some plants, you may have to wait until the next summer to see a second bloom. Cut the stem when it begins to turn brown in the fall and apply a generous amount of mulch to insulate the roots through winter.

Source: proflowers.com

APRIL at a glance

Thursday April 1

Maundy Thursday Service, 6 pm
Lilies Delivered

Friday April 2

Good Friday Service, 6 pm at Parkview Methodist church
Preschool spring break ends

Sunday April 4

Jubilation Bells, 8 am
Easter Service, 9 am
Carillon Quartet 7 pm

Monday April 5

Preschool returns
Strat team meeting 7 pm
Prayer meeting, 5:30 pm
Office Closed

Tuesday April 6

Bible Study 6 pm

Wednesday April 7

UMW Coffee 9 am

Friday April 9

Preschool Tuition due

Sunday April 11

Worship Service 9 am
Adult Sunday school-After service
Youth Group 4-6 pm for Walk of Hunger
441 Quartet 5 pm

Jubilation Bells 6 pm
Carillon Quartet 7 pm

Monday April 12

Prayer Group 5:30 pm

Tuesday April 13

Bible study 6 pm

Wednesday April 14

UMW coffee 9 am
UMW meeting 10:30

Sunday April 18

Preschool Sunday 9 am
Adult Sunday school- After service
Youth/Children Sunday school- After Service

441 Quartet 5 pm

Jubilation bells 6 pm

Carillon Quartet 7 pm

Monday April 19

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm

Tuesday April 20

Bible Study 6 pm

Wednesday April 21

UMW coffee 9 am

Preschool Pictures

Missions 7 pm

Thursday April 22

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Preschool Pictures
Earth day Preschool

Saturday April 24

Mental Health First Aid Movement 9 am to 1 pm at Eastpointe Bible church

Sunday April 25

Youth Sunday 9 am
Adult Sunday school – after service
Youth/ children Sunday school- after service

441 Quartet 5 pm

Jubilation bells 6 pm

Carillon Quartet 7 pm

Monday April 26

Preschool Fieldtrip Garden Gate 10:30 am

Prayer group 5:30 pm

Tuesday April 27

Preschool Garden Gate 10:30 am and 2 pm

Bible Study 6 pm

Wednesday April 28

Yellow and oval day Preschool

UMW Coffee 9 am

Thursday April 29

Preschool Yellow and Oval day

Friday April 30

Preschool Scholastics due