

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

ENDLESS MERCY AND EXCEEDING GLORY



Warm Epiphany greetings to you in the name of our Lord and soon coming King, Jesus Christ.

The year 2020, as we have seen, was challenging and tough. Countless of projections and goals that were set by government and non-government organizations, individuals and families were

interrupted by a pandemic. Many people lost their jobs. The number of lives claimed by the corona virus was heartbreaking. It was largely a year of lament! Friend, if you lost anyone or anything last year, I want to assure you that your loss is my loss. I deeply share in your sorrows and fervently pray that God will heal the wounds and restore our fortunes like streams renew the desert. Amen!

The story of last year will be one-sided if I fail to acknowledge the invaluable and undeserved mercies of God that attended us in many ways. You'll agree with me that if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, the pandemic and other ills would have overwhelmed us: the proud covid-19 would have wiped all of us away. But blessed be God who has given us glory sightings in the midst of our laments. In 2020, the Church was stretched but not stressed. In many ways, God enabled the Body of Christ and turned what the enemy meant for evil to good. In particular, here at Main Street UMC, you all trusted God and refused to melt down before the virus and other problems of life. Thank you all for making a difference.

On this note, I welcome you all to year 2021. It's to you and all yours a year of Endless Mercy and Exceeding Glory. This declaration for the year 2021 is coined from Romans 9:23. Before we read the text, think with me briefly about God's sovereign power. God exercises the right to create and preserve His creatures. It pleases Him to bring us into this year—not because of what we did or what we'll do—it is by God's mercy and for God's glory. So, in Romans 9:23 (NLT), St. Paul the Apostle said, "*He (God) does this to make*

the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory." An awesome truth cries out here: Mercy is not pointless (cf. Matt. 18:32,33). It's geared toward the manifestation of God's glory.

So, what might God teach us from Romans 9:23 as we begin the year 2021? I believe for us at Main Street United Methodist Church, God is teaching us two things: First, we receive mercy so that God might display His glory *even brighter* through us. This will mean prayerfully thinking about how we may improve on our previous public witness to our community and exercising faith for *greater things*. Second, as instruments of mercy, God has invested in us—you and me—We were "*prepared in advance for glory.*" Not our own glory, but God's. What a joy to know that our yesterday was not after all a waste! The Creator God uses it to prepare us for today. I pray that you will faithfully ask God to show you what He prepared you for. I equally pray that your life will bring more glory to God this year.

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The bottom line is that those who are objects of endless mercy should seek to live each day in such a way that brings glory to God who specializes in preparing people to reflect His exceeding glory so that more people may come to the light. So, let the glory shine even brighter this year. Place a high priority on spiritual disciplines and the spread of the gospel of Christ. As the saying goes, "walk your talk" because you're one of the vessels through which your neighbors and nations will come to the light. Therefore, "*arise and shine for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you*" (Isa. 60:1). It is our year of Endless Mercy and Exceeding Glory in Jesus' name. Amen!

As I conclude this letter, my heart grieves over the recent violent attacks on the U.S. Capital in Washington, DC. Please pray for peace and unity of our dear country. Pray for the families of those who died in the course of the attacks; and pray for the Biden administration.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,
Rev. 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

DEBBIE DAILEY
Interim Administrative Assistant

MELANIE GIEK
Youth Director

MICHAEL MCMINN
Custodian

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 you call easier to access.

MISSIONS *update*

Main Street church members, do your generous gifts and love really make a difference in people's lives? Listen to what a few of the recipients of your generosity throughout 2020 have said:

"Your support of our Recovery Ministry is greatly appreciated. Through your donation women from this area will have an opportunity to break free from the chains of Substance Use Disorder."

– All Things Are Possible Recovery

"Your generous gift is a meaningful investment in a better future for the children we serve."

– Indiana United Methodist Children's Home

"The dear people you just helped with your gift to UMCOR may never have the opportunity to meet you, but if they did, I am certain their response would be – Thank you!"

– Global Ministries UMC

"Thank you for the bike, helmet, and lock – much appreciated!"

– Jeffrey Durbin

"Thank you all ever so much for your generous donation to CC's Closet. We are so very grateful!"

– CC's Close

"We are humbled by your gift. Please know we will use the funds to care for mothers and their babies. Thank you!"

- Birthright of Peru

"Your generosity and caring spirit help us provide a more vibrant future for children and families who are being smothered by poverty."

– Miami County Helping Hands

These are just a few of the many thank you notes we have received. People really do appreciate what we are doing. Your Missions Committee will be meeting very soon to draw up a budget for 2021. Are there agencies or missions that you believe we should be supporting that we have not in the past? Please let Miles or any of the Missions team know so that it can be considered in the new budget.

BIBLE *study*

Bible Study meets 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.



Janet Staller submitted this photo from 2001. Pictured are members of the Bible Study at Main Street when Jean Fisher led the group. Pictured from L to R, back row Janet Staller, Barbara Smith, Martha Daniels, Margaret Kreag, Betty Smith, Trudy Mattox. Seated are Anna Fay Wimmer and Jean Fisher

PASSING of Dan Conner

It is with much sadness that we share with you the news that our dear friend, Dan Conner, passed away early Wednesday morning, January 20. This church meant a great deal to Dan and he did so many things for our church that most of us didn't even realize needed to be done. The lighting over the cross - Dan (and son Robbie;) the working light switch in the Library - Dan and Robbie. Someday, take a minute to count the number of light bulbs in this building because Dan was the one who changed them. There were countless ways Dan just quietly went about taking care of this church as one way of caring for us.

Our love and sympathies are extended to Barb and her family. Someone else will come along to change the light bulbs, but remembering Dan will brighten our church.



Daniel O. Conner, 81, of Peru, passed away at 5:18 A.M., Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at IU Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis. He was born in Pulaski County on June 28, 1939, the son of Oliver and Mary Sims Conner. Dan married Barbara Ferris in Denver, IN on February 18, 1961, and she survives.

A man of great faith and integrity, Dan was an active member of the Main Street

United Methodist Church. Every week, Dan could be found at the church performing various tasks that needed to be accomplished. Family was above all else, the most important thing in his life. He loved being a part of

whatever activities his family was involved in. Dan showed us how to live beautifully, truthfully, and with faith-filled simplicity.

He and his wife Barbara have owned and operated the East End Double Dip since 1973. Surviving in addition to his wife, Barbara are sons Robbie Conner and his wife Kathy of Peru and Bradley Conner and his wife Christy of South Bend; grandchildren Adam Brower and his wife Julie and Riley Conner and his wife Lindsay and great-grandchildren Bryce Brower, Cameron Brower, Lynlee Brower, Adalynn Conner, and Ryland Conner. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters.

A service celebrating the life of Daniel O. Conner was held at 10:30 A.M., Saturday, January 23, 2021, at Main Street United Methodist Church, 81 W. Main St., Peru, IN with Rev. Samuel Odubena officiating. Burial was at the Mt. Hope Cemetery. In place of flowers, memorial donations may be made through the funeral home to the Main Street UMC.

Dan showed us how to live beautifully, truthfully, and with faith-filled simplicity.

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	The Family of	Glenn Householder	Anna Marie Slone,	We pray for our nation and that all our leaders might be granted wisdom as they govern. We pray for all those suffering from COVID and its effects. We lift up our praise for those who are recovering. We lift up praise for all caregivers and first responders. We lift up praise for the life of Dan Conner.
Jack Butts	Rev. Mark Beeson	Beth Wright	Joe Slone,	
Valerie Ann	Dana Harp	Alan Burkhardt,	Belinda Slone	
Doug Overmeyer,	Will Pierce,	John Powell	Del Fawcett,	
Rhoda Ellers and family	Dale Heltzel	Gary Loe	Scotty Fisher	
Erin Savage	Kaitlin Frick	Judy Cain	Sandra Dugan	
Roger Powers,	Bernita Goble	Melissa Dillman,	Gene Daniele	
Steve Butler	Julie Bunnell	Larry Yoder	Betsy Guthrie	
Terry Smith	Aaron Logsdon	Kirk Thomas	Kelly Trevithick	
Gabby	Phyllis Jeffers	Angela Dean	Marjorie Sciscoe (sister of Miles Straly.)	
Ashley Wright,	Barb Keyes	Keaton Worland,	Nelson Owens	
Bob Dillman,	DJ Smith,	Jessica Shutter	Owen Townsend	
	Diana Perry	Mary Courtney		

Youth @MAIN STREET



YOUTH GROUP will meet 4 -6 P.M., Feb. 7 and Feb. 21, and the third Sunday of every month beginning in February. We are hoping to resume our Fun Friday events in March.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

YOUTH SUNDAY, APRIL 25

NOTE: THESE ARE ALL TENTATIVE DATES. PLEASE WATCH EMAIL AND MAIN STREET UMC FACEBOOK FOR THE LATEST UPDATES



Jesus loves the children.

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17



My favorite Bible verse is;

FOCUS *on the children*

Call-out for Volunteers for 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.



"Let the Children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belong to such as these."

Matthew 19:14



FEBRUARY *birthdays*

Baylie Giek	2/1
Kelly Trevithick	2/2
Tresha Rice	2/3
Steven Hoover	2/7
Abigail Gornto	2/11
Janet Vincent	2/11
Connie Cutler	2/15
Julie Worland	2/15
Rod Daniels	2/17
Cami Walters	2/17
Kent Worland	2/18
Jared Giek	2/19
Travis Smith	2/24
Michael Walters	2/28

MARCH *birthdays*

Abby Jordan	3/1	Cameron Smith	3/24
Corinne Cutler	3/4	Terry B. Smith	3/24
Nancy McMinn	3/4	Don DeWald	3/26
Christopher McGuire	3/5	Gina Friend	3/28
Alicia Garber	3/9		
A.J. Jordan	3/9		
Kari Whann	3/10		
Pat Young	3/10		
Benjamin Hochstedler	3/11		
Robert Doran	3/12		
Kris Galvin	3/14		
Frances Lease	3/15		
Don Krug	3/19		
Ray Parrish	3/20		

MUSIC *ministry*

Music Ministry practices are Sunday evenings as follows:

5:00: 441 Quartet

6:00: Jubilation Bells

7:00: Carillon Quartet



OPEN HEARTS.
OPEN MINDS.
OPEN DOORS.
The people of
The United
Methodist Church®

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