

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

JULY 2020



“My desire is to live more to God today than yesterday, and to be more holy this hour than the last.”

– Francis Asbury

SUMMER *baptisms*

Kristi Jordan

Michael McMinn, III

Phin Gornto

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

GOD HAS LAUNCHED US AS A CONGREGATION!

Greetings to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and only Savior!!

It is a well-known fact the pandemic has changed our world. It has changed from normal to new-normal. The new-normal is now evident in every sphere of human life. These truly are strange times we are living in. Our world has shifted and changed so much such that the level of uncertainties is palpable. However, as true as the current situation may appear, and as strong as the pandemic might be, there is a people of God who have changed the community around them with the love of Christ. You are the one! Yes, Main Street UMC, before the surge of covid-19 you were committed to God’s mission and even now amidst covid-19 you have remained committed to God’s mission—reaching Peru community and Miami county through backpack program, Manna on Main Street, Preschool, Youth ministry, Operation Christmas Child, Women’s ministry, Lifecycle, organizational partnership, and worship, just to mention a few. As a congregation, you are a catalyst—this act is a sign of your faith in Christ and commitment to God’s mission.

When I heard and saw your passion about community outreach before and during my family’s visit to Peru, I was reminded of apostle Paul’s epistle to the Ephesians in chapter 1 verses 15-17:15 *...ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, 16 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. 17 I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.”*

Like the Ephesians, your faith and love are tokens of the grace of God. Like Paul, I assure you of my family’s unceasing appreciation to God for the good reports I received about you; and I assure you of our continual intercession for you. My family and I are praying that, together with us, you will be filled with the Holy Spirit to do more exploits for and with the Lord in Peru and beyond.

I am convinced that covid-19 is not a setback for us in Main Street UMC. It is rather a setup and a comeback. God has launched us to know him better—to better be his mouthpiece, his hands, his feet and arms, and his hearts in Peru community and Miami county. Francis Asbury said, “My desire is to live more to God today than yesterday, and to be more holy this hour than the last.” God has launched us as a congregation. I am looking forward to our move to Peru...can’t wait to see you all in worship. Shalom!

Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Odubena

CONNECTED *by technology*



Until you are comfortable joining us for in-person services, you can worship online with Main Street in the following ways:

Facebook: Search for Main Street United Methodist Church, Peru

You Tube: Search for Main Street Calendar

Website: <http://www.perumainstreet.com>

As a reminder, there is on one service during the month of July and it begins at 9 a.m. Sunday School follows immediately.



STAFF @ Main Street UMC

DR. SAMUEL A. ODUBENA
Reverend

MILES STRALY
Lay Leader

NANCY HUSKEY
Director, Music Ministry

DON KRUG
Organist

KAY WEIDEMAN
Pianist, Worship Leader

MALLORIE ANDERSON
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



MUSIC *ministry*

Come, let us sing to the Lord! Let us shout
joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

Psalms 95:1-2 (NLT)



Dear Church Members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to send a note of thanks and appreciation to you as I move on to my next appointment. Every person at Main Street deserves a huge "thank you" for the support and love Rowynn and I have received while serving in Peru. I will miss each one of you tremendously as I reflect on the impact you have had on our lives.

You will continually be in my thoughts and prayers as we move on from here. Although I wasn't expecting to move this year, I have adjusted to the reality of it and am at peace as I realize that I am leaving you in good hands – not only under the leadership of Rev. Sam, but also in my confidence that you will continue the ministries that matter most and you will continue to have a greater impact in our community of Peru. There is a great amount of talent and leadership in this congregation, and that combined with Christ's love equals our vision: Reaching out with a warm heart and making a difference. Our lives find completion and satisfaction when we are in the center of God's will, which is exactly where I want to be. I know you desire the same.

Keep loving and serving people and you will be amazed at how God will grow this church in the days, weeks, and months ahead. While our growth may seem slow statistically, the growth that matters occurs one family at a time. Keep reaching out, keep inviting new people, and remember to share the gospel both in your words and your actions. And most importantly, be present, whenever and wherever possible. Everything about our lives should reflect the love of God for others.

As you welcome Rev. Sam and his family into our community, I'd like to end my letter with these words from Philemon 1:3-6 (NRSV): 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God 5 because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. 6 I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Lauren Hall

Youth @MAIN STREET

Congratulations to these kids who were confirmed and received into membership through Profession of Faith:

Row 1: Samantha Gornto, Kamon Blong, Tobin Blong, Rowynn Hall-Davis

Row 2: Cassandra Blong, Phin Gornto, Benjamin Hochstedler, Abby Jordan and Chloe Jordan.

Michael McMinn, not pictured.



GUEST contributor Sarah Howey Glore

Sarah is the daughter of Marylou and the late Jack Howey. Sarah and grew up in Main Street United Methodist Church. This was a Facebook post she gave permission to share. Her son had requested they attend the peaceful protest in Indianapolis where they reside. She shared these thoughts after she considered her son's request.

I have tried multiple times to articulate my feelings about George Floyd. I didn't like that Colin Kaepernick knelt during our National Anthem. I appreciated his message, I just was discouraged that he chose the outlet of our National Anthem. This in itself is a lengthy conversation with those who disagree and why.

I've been angry and discouraged that a few members of our policing community are racist and violent, using their "badge" as a means to perpetuate their hate. However, I will never believe that these people make up the majority of our nations protectors. I do think that when they show themselves, they need swift and sure action.

I've literally been sick to my stomach to see the repeated pictures and postings of George Floyd, and this is just one incident in a torrid history of unjust judgment.

This afternoon, Josh asked if he could go to today's protest. My immediate response was "No, these have turned violent and I'm not comfortable."

However, almost as soon as the words came out of my mouth, I thought, "It was violent for George Floyd."

Josh wanted to go and make this stand. I've wanted to as well, but marching and formal protest isn't my thing. (Mainly, because I'm claustrophobic in crowds.) But I couldn't get it out of my head, that I NEEDED to come out of my backyard, get outside of my comfort zone, and do SOMETHING.

Side note: I remembered when Dad got out of his comfort zone and met with the FBI, and hid outside with agents at a KKK organizing meeting in Miami County. Dad took down license

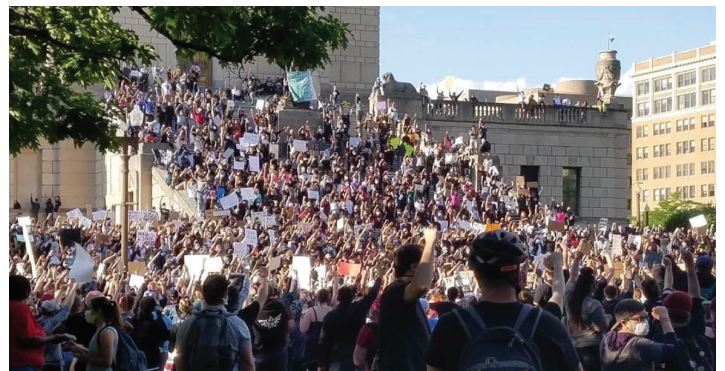


plate numbers of those who attended and published them in the paper the following day. The KKK had no other meetings in Miami County. He told Mom, "Not in my town!"

So we went.

When we reached the Circle, I was overcome by emotion. I literally had a lump in my throat and tears filled my eyes. "How can it be this long after that day in Miami County, all of the civil rights laws, MLK, as well as the teachings of the church, that this IS STILL A THING.

I had an eagle eye out the whole time, looking for signs of trouble. There wasn't any. People wore black. They carried signs, they marched, they chanted, they even wore masks. There were all ages, races, nationalities, genders there.

This picture I've posted was an amazing site to see. The crowd was silent, yet arms were raised and fists were clenched in solidarity.

The only time I felt uncomfortable was right before we left. The protest was supposed to last until around 7. At 7:40, the crowd was still there and took off marching back toward the Circle from the War Memorial. Since it was dusk, it seemed like the best time to exit.

It was different being there vs. watching on TV. It certainly wasn't much, but I feel like I did "something" today.

I hope Dad would be proud of us.



GRADUATION *announcements*

ELSIE WALTERS, the daughter of Cami Walters has recently been named the recipient of this year's Elaine Cultice Bright Memorial Scholarship. Elaine was in 7th grade when our family became a part of this church. She died of multiple sclerosis in 2004 at age 50. Erin Smith (daughter of Todd and Claire) was the recipient in 2009.

Elsie Rose Walters is the daughter of Mike and Cami Walters and the 2020 Valedictorian for Peru High School. Elsie has been involved in FBLA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, Sources of Strength, Student Council Vice President, 10 year 4-H member and played soccer.

Elsie recently received several scholarships from The Community Foundation. They include The Sam Waltz Health and Science Scholarship, The Emilie Hobbs Memorial Scholarship, The Leonora E. Kolb Scholarship, The Elaine Cultice Bright Memorial Scholarship, and The Eugene K. and Martha E. Fike Memorial Scholarship.

Elsie was baptized at Main Street UMC on October 20, 2002 and was confirmed on April 14, 2013.

Elsie will be attending IUPUI in the fall to pursue a degree in Biology.



JULY PRAYER LIST

Julie Carroll	Terry Smith	Mike Dailey
Jack Butts	Vance Cole	Steve & Tina Corn
Valerie Ann	Sophia Bendes	Aaron Logsdon
Norma DeWald	Ashley Wright	Pyllis Jeffers
Doug Overmeyer	Bob Dillman	Michele Swihart
Lynn Frick	Rev. Mark Beeson	Rosalyn Anderson (Mallorie's daughter)
Rhoda Ellers	Avery Spahr	Barb Keyes
Erin Savage	Will Pierce	Deborah Barker
Roger Powers	Kaitlin Frick	Sara Dailey
Steve Butler	Bernita Goble	Gavin Hochstedler
DJ Smith	Julie Bunnell	

MARK *your calendar*

Community Concert with Jonathan White, Gospel Singer

Maconaquah Park amphitheater
Saturday, July 25 @ 7:00 pm

A love offering will be accepted.

Community Prayer Walk September 27

More details coming next month.



JULY *birthdays*

George Gehring	07/05
Brad Hochstedler	07/05
Ron Koenes	07/09
Tobin Blong	07/10
Robert Blong	07/13
Charles Cox	07/16
Betsy Guthrie	07/20
Bonnie Bond	07/25
Marcet Spahr	07/27
Anna Jo McKaig	07/30