



JUNE 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**

## Fellowship of the Holy Spirit



Warm greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Last month we explained how Pentecost became one of the distinguishing marks of the Church. We focused on the person of the Holy Spirit and the invitation to enter into a relationship with Him. Now, I want us to take one step further: What is the importance of the Holy Spirit in

a Christian's life? And how can a Christian begin to sense the Spirit's leading intentionally in their day-to-day activities?

When we think about the Holy Spirit, most of us think about a white dove, a still-small voice, and tongues of fire. We even remember with nostalgia the Acts chapter 2 event. It is important to be able to have these symbols used for the Holy Spirit at our fingertips and tell the Pentecost story—but it is also important to let the Holy Spirit be in control of our lives. A Spirit-controlled life is the most meaningful evidence of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church. Apostle Paul in Romans 8:9 (NLT) put it this way: *"But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)"* This means that when God in Christ, through the power of God's Spirit, breaks the power of sin from someone's life, he or she simultaneously receives freedom from the control of sin and is brought under the control of the Holy Spirit who now lives in them.

Actually, the Holy Spirit plays a significant role in our salvation and discipleship journey. He hovers over our heart before we are saved, convicts us of sin and assures us of salvation at justification and new birth, purifies us through the process of sanctification, and sustains us in the will of God until we attain Christian perfection. The aim of this ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives is not to simply prepare us for heaven, but to also help us discover and maximize the spiritual gifts and fruit and use them to nurture, transform, and sustain us in order to fulfill God's good purpose.

However, you will be able to begin to sense the Spirit's leading intentionally in your day-to-day activities when you fellowship with Him as you would a friend, brother, or sister. In 2 Corinthians 13:14, the Apostle Paul prayed the prayer that is now otherwise known as the Benediction or Grace: *"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."* The phrase, "the fellowship of the Holy Spirit" implies relationship. *If you have the Spirit of Christ living in you, you are called into fellowship with the Holy Spirit.* It must be done on a daily basis. You ought to invite Him into your daily activities; you ought to ask Him to lead you into the truth of God's word anytime you are studying the scriptures. You ought to ask Him to guide you and your family in all your endeavors. Hear what Jesus Himself said: *"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come"* (John 16:12-13). Did you understand *he will tell you what is yet to come*? You miss a lot of divine information when you don't listen or expect the Lord to speak to you.

In the Lord's economy, if you make yourself available for fellowship, He will fellowship with you. If you draw near, He will draw near. Ministry, stewardship, marriage, parenting, and spiritual disciplines such as, fasting, prayer, listening, meditation, journaling, fellowship, and the entire Christian life become tasking, cumbersome, and boring without the help of the Holy Spirit. The Christian life becomes easier and smoother when the Spirit governs it. The Holy Spirit is to the believer what an internal combustion engine or electric motor is to an automobile. By God's grace, I have been fellowshipping with the Holy Spirit for more than thirty years. Therefore, I invite you to consider the difference it will make to fellowship with the Holy Spirit. He will be in charge of your life, He will guide you into all truth, He will reveal secret things to you. In fact, He intercedes for you already. What a beautiful fellowship of the Spirit!

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.

## COMMENCEMENT *celebrations*

Provided by Linda Ferries, Ivy Tech Community College

*Ivy Tech Community College Kokomo Campus awarded three honorary degrees this year to recognize a trio of community leaders who have been instrumental in the growth of Ivy Tech in Kokomo and throughout our service area. Among them is Dr. Thomas McKaig.*

*The honorary Associate of Science in College and Community Service is bestowed on individuals in recognition of their many contributions to the College and their communities.*



Dr. Thomas McKaig served on our Kokomo Campus Board of Trustees for more than a decade, including lengthy terms of service as board chair before his retirement from the board in 2020. But his service to the College was deeply rooted in his 17 years as superintendent of Peru Community Schools and his work as a consultant to many of our service area's school corporations. Dr. McKaig has always been a champion for the importance of higher education in our communities and he has been instrumental in helping Ivy Tech build career pathways with our K-12 partners.

Dr. McKaig retired from Peru Schools in 2007. In 2008, he was honored with Ivy Tech's Changing Lives Award presented annually to a person or organization outside the College who have provided exceptional service to the College. It was Dr. McKaig's idea and initiative that helped Ivy Tech acquire and establish an instructional site in Peru, Indiana. As superintendent of Peru Schools, he had contacted the College with the idea of a possible gift of the school corporation's no-longer-needed Holman Elementary School. He publicly spoke about the value of an Ivy Tech location in Peru and helped to generate local public and private funding for the project. Ivy Tech Peru continues to offer higher education in an outstanding public-private partnership that serves the people of Miami County.

Dr. McKaig always led our board by his example; he was a regular attendee at nearly all College and campus events and fundraisers, and made direct contributions to fundraising efforts for students and facilities projects. His wife, Anna Jo, is a member of the Ivy Tech Circle of Ivy women's philanthropic organization and the McKaigs have supported the Kokomo Campus Transformation.

### SENIOR SUNDAY

We will be honoring our high school graduates, Kamon Blong and Anastasia Spahr. The Adult Sunday School class will be hosting a senior breakfast for Kamon and Anastasia on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall, immediately after service. The entire congregation is invited.



Kamon Blong  
Peru High School



Anastasia Spahr  
Maconaquah High School



*Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.*



After countless hours of study, Reverend Samuel Odubena and his wife, Christianah Odubena recently earned advanced academic degrees. Reverend Samuel received his Doctor of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies (Ph.D I.S.) from Asbury Theological Seminary. Christianah earned a Master's Degree in Public Financial Management (MPFM) from the University of Kentucky.



What a wonderful lesson Dr. Odubena and Christianah have instilled in their children of perseverance and commitment to setting and reaching goals. As Dr. Odubena recently said in a Sunday sermon, "Don't ever let anyone tell you education is not important. It is important!" Education opens doors of opportunity. Jeremiah 29:11 says this: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



*Congratulations!*



**This is Jim Thorpe** by Carol Klotz

Look closely at the photo, you can see that he's wearing different socks and shoes. This wasn't a fashion statement. It was the 1912 Olympics, and Jim, an American Indian from Oklahoma represented the U.S. in track and field.

On the morning of his competitions, his shoes were stolen. Luckily, Jim ended up finding two shoes in a garbage can. That's the pair that he's wearing in the photo. But one of the shoes was too big, so he had to wear an extra sock. Wearing these shoes, Jim won two gold medals that day. This is a perfect reminder that you don't have to resign to the excuses that have held you back. So what if life hasn't been fair? What are you going to do about it today?

Whatever you woke up with this morning; stolen shoes, ill health, failed relationships, failed business, don't let it stop you from running your race. You can experience more in life if you'll get over the excuses and get on with living. You can have reasons or you can have results...but you can't have both.

Isaiah 41:10

*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*



The Youth Group will be collecting plastic caps and lids that will be donated to Elmwood School. The plastic will be recycled and used for a table for the schools campus. The box will be located at the back of the sanctuary.

Questions? Contact Melanie Giek at [melvis.giek@gmail.com](mailto:melvis.giek@gmail.com)

Acceptable caps include:

- milk jug
- detergent caps
- hairspray caps
- toothpaste caps
- deodorant caps
- applesauce pouch caps
- drink bottle caps
- flip-top caps (ex: ketchup)
- baby food caps
- shampoo/conditioner caps

Acceptable lids include:

- cottage cheese and yogurt lids
- mayonnaise jar lids
- peanut butter lids
- cool whip container lids
- Pringle chip lids
- coffee can lids
- butter lids
- cream cheese lids
- spice lids

## PRESCHOOL *at Main Street*

We are so blessed and grateful that we were able to have a normal school year. The preschoolers had a great year and we are looking forward to another exciting school year in August.

Thirty-one of our preschoolers will move on to kindergarten next year. They are all well-prepared for the next step in their education. Congratulations to these children and their families. A special thanks to the teaching staff who have been a positive influence on these children!

Interested in your child attending Main Street Preschool in the fall? We are still taking names. Email questions and your contact information to [cwalters@perumainstreet.com](mailto:cwalters@perumainstreet.com) or call her at 260-609-1228.



Pictured left to to right: Kaylee Rasmussen, Landon Green, Legend Rose, Max Maller, Payton Hulsey, Penelope Smith and Riley Echterling





## MUSIC *ministry*

Music Sunday is a favorite of many members of Main Street United Methodist Church. We are blessed with a plethora of musical talent within the congregation. In Dr. Odubena's Music Sunday sermon, he spoke of the countless times the Bible mentions praising the Lord in song and musical instruments. "Loudly or softly, praise the Lord in song. He does not know if you are in or off key, he only knows you are praising Him. Sing in your car, sing in the shower, sing wherever you may be," said Dr. Odubena. Here are a few passages that support his message:

Colossians 3:15-17

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Jeremiah 20:13

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord!  
For He has delivered the soul  
of the needy one  
From the hand of evildoers.

Psalms 96:2

Sing to the Lord, bless His name;  
Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from  
day to day.

Psalms 33:2

Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;  
Sing praises to Him with a harp of ten strings.

Psalms 105:2

Sing to Him, sing praises to Him;  
Speak of all His wonders.

A special thanks to all of the musicians who share their talents on Music Sunday and every Sunday at Main Street United Methodist Church. If you have the desire to minister through our Music programs, please contact Nancy Spahr by email or phone at [nbspahr01@comcast.net](mailto:nbspahr01@comcast.net) or 765-438-6435. If you know of a group or individual who would like to share the joy of Christian music with the congregation, please contact Nancy or Reverend Samuel.



## PRAYER *list*

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

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



We offer prayers for the families of those who are victims of violence both in our own country and throughout the world.

Praise for our dedicated teachers, dedicated workers, and our Main Street Preschoolers. .

***We need your help to keep the prayer list updated.*** Please contact office at 765-472-3323, to inform us of additions to the list, or names that can now be removed.

## MISSIONS *update*



Main Street's featured mission this month is Cross America. Headquartered in Kokomo, Cross America's main goal is simple – "They want everyone to go to heaven!" The Great Commission is the driving

force behind Cross America's mission statement – "Sending a cross and path to salvation to every home in America." As of this date, they have sent a package with a small aluminum pocket cross and a plan of salvation to 2,271,901 homes all across the United States. Our church is going to help in that effort as we have picked zip code 46794 (Noble County and the towns of Wawaka, Brimfield, and Cosperville, IN) to both pay for and pack mission packages for every household in that zip code. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 1 and drive the church van (and other vehicles as needed) to Kokomo. We will have time to grab a snack in their snack bar, see an informative film about their mission, then get to

work preparing the packages for mailing. We should finish and return to Peru by 9:20 p.m. All adults and youth are invited to participate in this "hands on" mission.

We want to thank all our wonderful volunteers who helped with the Nelson Port-a-Pit sale on May 15. Thanks to your efforts we made a profit of \$1,400 which will be given to the church's general budget.

Main Street will be the host for a **Food Finders** event on Wednesday, June 30. This will be a "drive by" event. Several volunteers will be needed to direct traffic and distribute food. Help will be needed between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Please continue to collect items for this year's **Operation Christmas Child** shoe boxes. June's featured items are:

- glue sticks
- bars of soap
- wash clothes
- pencil sharpeners
- scissors.



## JUNE *at a glance*

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
Bible Study, 6 p.m.

June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30  
UMW Coffee, 9 a.m.

June 4  
Peru High School  
graduation, 7 p.m.

June 5  
Maconaquah High Scholl graduation,  
11 a.m.

June 6  
Holy Communion Service, 9 a.m.  
Senior/graduate breakfast  
immediately following service

June 7, 14, 21, 28  
Prayer Meeting 5:30 p.m.

June 7  
Strat Team Meeting, 7 p.m.

June 11  
Church Conference Meeting,  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
VBS Kick-off and Open House, First  
Christian Church. 4 - 7 p.m. Pre-  
register at [https://vbspro.events/p/  
events/77ff44](https://vbspro.events/p/events/77ff44)

June 12  
Church Conference Meeting,  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

June 13  
Worship Service 9 a.m.  
Youth Group 4 - 6 p.m.

June 14-18  
Vacation Bible School at First Christian  
Church, 5:30-8 p.m.

June 20  
Father's Day Service, 9 a.m.  
Worship at 4-H Fairgrounds

June 22  
Newsletter deadline

June 24  
Pastor Lore Summer conversation with  
clergy, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Pastor Lore Summer conversation with  
laity, 6:30 p.m.

June 27  
Worship Service 9 a.m.  
Youth Nerf Fun, 4 - 6 p.m.

June 28-30  
Reverend Samuel on vacation



Diana Krug	06/03	George Gehring	07/05
Lydia Kerns	06/06	Brad Hochstedler	07/05
Jack Young	06/08	Ron Koenes	07/09
Deborah Swihart	06/08	Evelyn Powell	07/09
Jessica Rhode	06/08	Tobin Blong	07/10
Kimberley Fisher	06/08	Allison Rice	07/11
Helen Kerns	06/09	Robert Blong	07/13
Janet Staller	06/10	Charles Cox	07/16
Jaclyn Bonifant	06/10	Michelle Swihart	07/18
Linda Cawood	06/11	Betsy Guthrie	07/20
Jason Gornto	06/12	Bonnie Bond	07/25
Larry Yoder	06/23	Marcet Spahr	07/27
Stacia Bonifant	06/28		

*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.*

## BIBLE *study*

Bible Study meets in-person and online every Tuesday, from 6 -7:15 p.m.. We welcome you to join us as we dig deeply into Scripture. Have your Bible and your questions ready. We are currently studying Acts of the Apostles.

A ZOOM link will be sent via email. Please be sure to join us. Guests are welcome and encouraged! If you are not a member of our congregation, please contact the office at 765-473-3323 so we can send the link to you.

## PRAYER *ministry*

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.

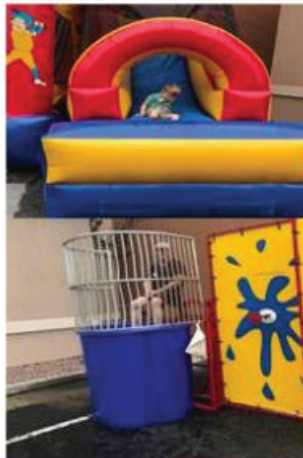
Please send your prayer requests to [mainstprayers@gmail.com](mailto:mainstprayers@gmail.com) or contact Laura Hochstedler at 765-244-7031.



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

# Save the Date



June 11, 2021

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The McNeills: 7:00 p.m.

## Vacation Bible School Kick-off & Open House

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

You may pre-register for Vacation Bible School using this link: [vbspro.events/p/77ff44](https://vbspro.events/p/77ff44)