

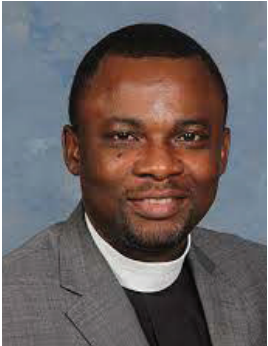
# The Messenger

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



## “HOW CAN I BELIEVE IN... THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN I HAVE NEVER SEEN HIM?”



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

This month we will commemorate special days, including the festival of the Christian home (Mother's Day), Ascension Sunday, Pentecost Sunday, and the Holy Trinity Sunday. In addition, here at Main Street UMC,

we will observe our Music Sunday, celebrate our graduating high school seniors: Kamon Blong and Anastasia Spahr, and enjoy the fun of roasting and selling delicious roasted chicken during the Nelson's Port-a-Pit chicken sale. What an exciting month ahead of us! Congratulations to all our mothers, leaders/members of the music ministry, Kamon and Anastasia and their families, the missions committee, and all warm-hearted family members and friends. These celebrative occasions are made possible by the Holy Spirit, who *made us, gives us life, inspiration and understanding* (Job 33:4; 32:8) as both the Church and individual members. So let's talk about the Holy Spirit—the One we celebrate on Pentecost Sunday.

One of the distinguishing marks of the Church is the first Christian Pentecost. The Church was born, empowered, and *added to* at Pentecost when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit occurred. Since the day of Pentecost, a new age of living—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believers—began and continues today. Here's how it all started: God revealed to the Prophet Joel that in the far distant future, *He will pour out His Spirit on all flesh* (Joel 2:28 cf. Acts 2:16-21). Later, during Jesus' earthly ministry, Jesus explained the work of the Holy Spirit to His disciples. John captures the explanation clearly: *“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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...”* <sup>15</sup> *All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why*

*I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you”* (John 16:13-15). These words of Jesus show that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Yes, He is a Person. You can, in fact, you should relate with Him as you would a friend, brother, or sister. In case you are asking, How? Let me tell you a short story I learned from a professor years ago.

A 12-year-old boy walked up to his father and asked, “Dad, how can I believe in the person you called the Holy Spirit when I have never seen Him?” His father, an electrician, promised to show him. One day he took his son to the power plant and he saw the generators working. His father then explained to him, “My son, this is where the power that produces light in our house comes from. We cannot physically see the power, but it is in that machine and in the power lines.” His father continued, “I am quite sure you believe in electricity, but you don't believe in it because you can see it. When you reach to switch on the light, you simply believe in it because you see what it can do. It is the same way with the Holy Spirit. We believe in Him because we see what He does in people's lives and creation.

Did you get the point from the above story? The Holy Spirit is real and He is working in our time. If you are born again, I invite you to begin to sense the leading of the Spirit of Jesus intentionally in your day-to-day activities. I am not inviting you to get into a relationship with someone who is not there in your life. Rather, I am inviting you to get into a relationship with someone who is already there in your life, but whom you may hardly recognize. If you are not born again, the good news is, if you surrender your life to Jesus today and ask Him to come into your life as your Savior and Lord, He won't come alone. He will come with the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit will come with spiritual gifts and fruit and use them to nurture, transform, and sustain you in order to fulfill God's good purpose.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,  
Reverend Samuel

**Since the day of Pentecost, a new age of living—the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the believers—began and continues today.**



## 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.

## CELEBRATING *our grads*



Anastasia Spahr  
Maconaquah High School



How fortunate our church has been to watch a sweet little girl grow into a gifted and lovely young woman. Each time she has generously shared her talent on the piano with us, we have felt both delighted and blessed. Anastasia loves music but her favorites are the romantic classics such as Rachmaninov, Debussy, and Chopin, many of which she plays from memory. Anastasia will be attending

IU Bloomington this fall and majoring in English, French, and Psychology. (Yes, that's a triple major.) She has earned so many college credits during high school that she has almost a full year's worth tucked away which she hopes will help her towards achieving her goal of a triple major. Anastasia, we wish you much success and joy in your college career and eagerly look forward to seeing you on your visits home.



Kamon Blong  
Peru High School



Do you remember that little boy who each Sunday took his little brother down to the front of the church for Focus on the Children? You know, that little guy who suddenly went from someone who was in the children's Christmas play to the young man who led the Worship Service. Kamon Blong, son of Alexandra and Bob Blong and grandson of Peggy and Miles Straly, is graduating from high school and will be a student at Purdue University this fall, majoring in Aerospace Engineering. Kamon said that his choice of a major was based on several things, but

particularly on his love of problem solving and exploration. He loves to create things and his love of nature all led to his choice of study at Purdue.

We wish for Kamon an exciting and successful college experience and for us, well for us, we look forward having him back in church so that we can continue to enjoy the company of this fine young man.

# Youth @MAIN STREET



We'd love to see our youth group grow. There is always room for more. If you know someone who would like to join us, please extend an invitation.

## May Youth Group meeting at church

May 2, 4-6 p.m.

May 23, 4-6 p.m.

May 30, 4-6 p.m.

Main Street Youth Group participated in the Walk A Mile activity to benefit Helping Hands. They got sponsors for the walk and collected a total of \$120. The group walked from the church to Riverwalk, did one lap and walked back to the church to complete the mile. They also spent some time at Miami's Fort Park. They had a great time playing and pushing younger kids on the swings. More fun to come!



Chloe and Abby Jordan both earned a place on Maconaquah's Academic Honor Roll. Additionally, Chloe won a Scholastic Scope writing contest. Her paper was about the USS Indianapolis. Congrats, ladies!



# PRESCHOOL *at Main Street*



Matthew 19:13-15

<sup>13</sup> Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them.

<sup>14</sup> Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." <sup>15</sup> When he had placed his hands on them, he went on from there.



We would like to thank all of the preschool families and friends that helped make our Preschool Sunday such a delightful event. We were overwhelmed with love and support from the congregation and Reverend Sam. We feel truly blessed to have such a great support system.

Thank you.

Cami Walters, Rhonda Butzin and Koleen Murphy



## MUSIC *ministry*

Music Sunday will be May 23. We are planning for a group of female voices to sing with the hand bells and piano. Please join us for rehearsals Sunday, May 2 and May 9 at 5:30 p.m. See page 7 for the Music Ministry practice schedules.

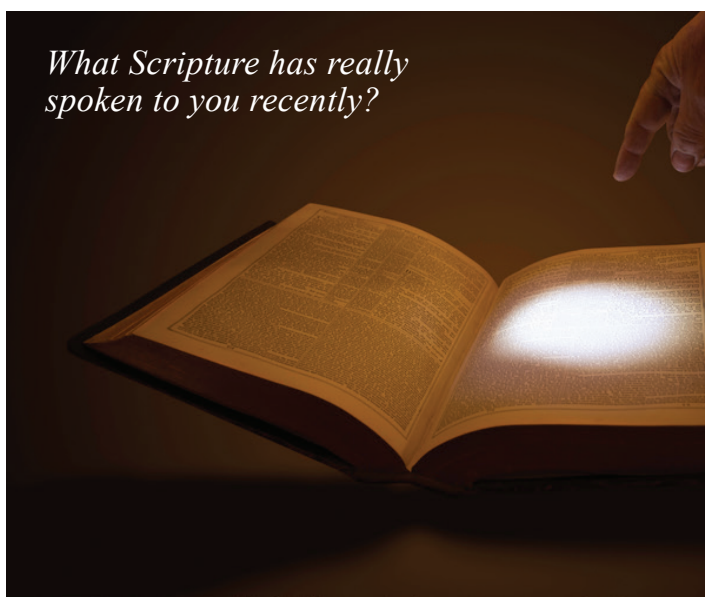
After May 16, and through summer, we will not have rehearsals, but there will be special music each Sunday by individuals or groups.

Questions? Email, call, or text to nbspahr01@comcast.net or 765-438-6435.

## 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 or contact Laura Hochstedler at 765-244-7031.

**Revive  
Indiana**

*Join us!*

MIAMI COUNTY

**OUTREACH** MAY 7-15, 2021

### KICK OFF

Friday, May 7

6:30 pm Evening Service

**First Christian Church**

53 W Main St | Peru, IN 46970

### DAILY SCHEDULE

**MORNING**

7:30 am Worship and Prayer  
8:30 am Breakfast  
9:00 am Equipping/ Outreach  
**First Christian Church**  
53 W Main St | Peru, IN 46970

12:00 pm Testimonies  
1:00 pm Lunch  
2:00 pm Equipping/ Outreach

**NOONTIME**

**DAILY NOON LOCATIONS**

Sat. **May 8** Denver Baptist Church  
111 N Yorick | Denver, IN 46926

Mon. **May 10** Peru Church of the Brethren  
134 E 5<sup>th</sup> St | Peru, IN 46970

Tue. **May 11** First Church of the Nazarene  
331 W 6<sup>th</sup> St | Peru, IN 46970

Wed. **May 12** Bunker Hill Free Will Baptist  
279 W Broadway | Bunker Hill, IN 46914

Thu. **May 13** Oakdale Baptist Church  
348 Chili Ave | Peru, IN 46970

Fri. **May 14** Chapel of Praise  
2430 S Business 31 | Peru, IN 46970

Sat. **May 15** McGrawsville Community Church  
9377 S 300 E | Amboy, IN 46911

**NIGHT**

5:00 pm Dinner  
6:30 pm Evening Service  
reviveKIDS (Ages 0-5<sup>th</sup> grade)  
**First Christian Church**  
53 W Main St | Peru, IN 46970

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

May 9

6:30 pm Evening Service

reviveKIDS (Ages 0 - Preschool)

**First Christian Church**

53 W Main St | Peru, IN 46970

[www.reviveINDIANA.org](http://www.reviveINDIANA.org)

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



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

We lift up our praise for those who are in assisted living and health care facilities who are now able to have visitors and socialize. We lift up praise for our dedicated teachers. We lift up praise for our dedicated workers in the vaccination clinic. We give praise for 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*

This month's featured mission is "Our Father's Library." This non-profit, non-denominational Christian lending library is located at 36 W. 2nd Street in Peru. Open to the public, this ministry was established in 1983. The library consists of over 20,000 items, including books, audio books, movies,

*"Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation."*

Mark 16:15

and teaching sets. It offers Christian books and movies for all ages. The ministry is operated solely by donations and is kept open by volunteer help. Its current hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Main Street UMC is proud to partner with this Christian mission that follows Jesus' command in Mark 16:15: "Go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation."

Thank you to the youth of our church for "Walking a Mile for Hunger" on April 11. Eleven Main Street youth raised \$120 for Helping Hands in this effort. Thanks also to those church members who donated food and other items for the annual Helping Hands April Food Drive.

Help is still needed for the Nelson's Port-a-Pit chicken sale on Saturday, May 15. Please call Miles at 472-2273 and volunteer to help set up at 8 a.m. or work a shift from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. or 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pre-sale tickets are still available in the church office. Please purchase several for yourself and to sell or give to others.



### Support Main Street UMC Missions and Youth Group

Saturday, May 15  
11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Main St. UMC Back Lot  
Carry-out only

\$7 per half chicken  
(pit potatoes extra)

Call for tickets.  
472-3323 or 472-2273

## MAY at a glance

### May 2

Holy Communion Sunday 9 am  
 Adult Sunday School following Service  
 Youth Sunday school following Service  
 441 Quartet 5 pm  
 Female Vocal group Practice 5:30 pm  
 Jubilation Bells 6 pm  
 Carillon Quartet 7 pm

### May 3

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm  
 Strat Team Meeting 7 pm

### May 4

Bible Study 6 pm

### May 5

UMW Coffee 9 pm

### May 7

Revive Indiana 6:30 pm at First Christian Church

### May 9

Worship Service 9 am (Mother's Day)  
 Adult Sunday School following Service  
 Youth Sunday school following Service  
 Female Singers 5:30 pm  
 Jubilation Bells 6 pm  
 Carillon Quartet 7 pm

### May 10

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm

### May 11

Bible Study 6 pm

### May 12

UMW Coffee 9 pm  
 UMW Meeting 10:30 am

### May 13

Delta Kappa Gamma Meeting 6 pm

### May 15

Nelson's Port- to Pit 11 am – 4 pm

### May 16

Carillon Quarter 7:30 am  
 Jubilation Bells and Female Singers 8 am  
 Worship Sunday Service 9 am  
 Adult Sunday School following Service  
 Youth Sunday school following Service

### May 17

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm

### May 18

Bible Study 6 pm

### May 19

UMW Coffee 9 pm  
 Coordinating Team Meeting 10:30 am

### May 21

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

### May 23

Music Sunday Service 9 am  
 Adult Sunday School following Service  
 Youth Sunday school following Service

### May 24

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm

### May 25

Bible Study 6 pm

### May 26

UMW Coffee 9 pm  
 Missions Meeting 7 pm

### May 27

Preschool Graduation

### May 30

Trinity Sunday/Anointing Service 9 am  
 Adult Sunday School following Service  
 Youth Sunday school following Service

### May 31

Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm  
 Office Closed for Memorial Day



## MAY birthdays

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

## JUNE birthdays

Diana Krug	06/03
Lydia Kerns	06/06
Emma Bond	06/07
Jack Young	06/08
Deborah Swihart	06/08
Jessica Rhode	06/08
Kimberly Fisher	06/08
Helen Kerns	06/09
Janet Staller	06/10
Jaelyn Bonifant	06/10
Linda Cawood	06/11
Jason Gornto	06/12
Larry Yoder	06/23
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.*



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



*You are always welcome.*

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

**Join us as we celebrate Mother's Day**

She is clothed with strength and dignity

Sunday, May 9, 2021. 9:00 a.m.

**Music Sunday**

Praise God with the sounding of the trumpet, timbrel,  
dancing, strings, pipe, cymbals, bells, piano, organ, violin,  
guitar, cello

Sunday, May 23, 2021. 9:00 a.m.

**Trinity Sunday//Anointing Service**

Come and experience the power of the Holy Spirit

Sunday, May 30 2021. 9:00 a.m.

CUT AND SHARE