

# 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

## FINALLY...A LIFE-TIME DIET THAT REALLY WORKS!



Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Only Savior!

Our 18th century Methodist forefather, Rev. John Wesley, was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of England. Early on, Wesley believed three fundamental pillars guided Christians in their walk with Christ. His guiding principles

for believers were scripture, tradition and reason. Through his later interactions with a group of Moravian Christians, John Wesley added a fourth pillar-principle, experience. For United Methodists, scripture, tradition, reason and experience are often referred to as the Wesley quadrilateral. This month I want us to investigate John Wesley's first pillar, God's revealed Word, the Holy Scriptures. Wesley saw the scriptures as God's primary means of grace in the lives of all Christians, including us.

John Wesley's quest and desire for a deep and personal relationship with God prompted him to search and study scripture throughout his lifetime. He believed the scriptures were the only acceptable and reliable standard truth for Christians. For us who are contemporary United Methodists, The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church clearly states John Wesley's high view of the reliability of the Bible. The 2012 edition of our Discipline states it well: "Scripture is the primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine."

So, what does this mean for us today? Our commitment to the authority of God's Word implies several key factors for believers. It means the testimony and written record of the authors of the books of the Bible are true and reliable. It means that when the scriptures state that the Holy Spirit breathed upon and illuminated the writers, we can believe it. It means that when God disclosed himself to humanity through the life, death and resurrection of His Son Jesus, we can believe it. It means that because God's Spirit inspired each author, the entire Bible is trustworthy

and we can believe it. Because it is God's revelation of truth to humanity, we can believe it. The authority of scripture is unquestionable; the Bible is reliable. It is wholly true and trustworthy in all that it affirms.

How does all this relate to 21st century United Methodists in our own Christian journey? Like John Wesley, we need to faithfully read and search the scriptures. The Apostle Peter said it well: "Like newborn babies, you must crave spiritual milk, so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment" (1 Peter 2:2 NLT). Peter was not writing to young converts only. He was addressing all followers of Christ in their various stages of salvation and discipleship. Young, middle or older, we must all hunger and thirst when we read and search the word of God. Like Wesley, it is a lifetime journey of search-and-grow.

When we approach God's Word, our faith must be a hungry faith. We must search God's Word with a famishing thirst. If we truly desire to grow into a full experience of salvation, our search of the scripture never ends. The search is constant and life-long. The joyful reward is this: Our search will become God's means of grace to us and also to others. Infants never become healthy adults when fed junk food or poison. In the same way, the healthy Christian's spiritual diet must consistently be the pure, undiluted Word of God. Jesus said it clearly: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (Matthew 5:6). Do you truly hunger for spiritual food? Do you truly desire to know the full presence of God? Do you crave to store up God's precious Word in the memory bank of your heart? If your spirit is responding "Yes, Lord! This is what I truly want and desire," I offer you this call to action: Cry out for the spiritual nourishment God graciously offers to you through reading and searching the scriptures, the Spirit-breathed Word of God. Do not wait; begin today.

Your Fellow Disciple of Christ,  
Samuel A. Odubena



## 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

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

## SAVE THESE DATES

**Sunday, Nov. 1**

The beginning of pledge Sundays

**Sunday, Nov. 8**

Youth Sunday

**Tuesday, Nov. 10**

Annual Chicken & Noodle Dinner

**Sunday, Nov. 15**

Commitment Sunday

## COMMUNITY *prayer walk*

On September 27, members of Main Street UMC joined other churches in our area to pray for our community. The Miami County prayer walk was attended by believers who walked from Peru Junior High School to River Walkway Park on Canal Street. The event featured worship and diverse prayers.



As we move into the season of Thanksgiving, let us remember to pray for our community. Pray for our educators, city, county, state and national leaders, health care workers, clergy, our military and our first responders. Give thanks for the service of all of these groups.



## MUSIC *ministry*

Jubilation Bells has a vacancy; one of our members has moved. Would you like to try handbells? It is fun and fulfilling. We'll teach you what you need to know. Just contact Nancy Huskey at 765-438-6435 or [nbspahr01@comcast.net](mailto:nbspahr01@comcast.net).

## Where did the use of acolytes originate?

Acolytes have been part of the church in one form or another from the earliest times.

The word acolyte comes from the Greek word *akolouthos*, meaning follower, helper, or assistant. By the middle ages, acolytes were a clerical order. Acolytes may have any number of helping functions. They may carry the light, processional cross, banners, or Bible. They may also assist the pastor or other worship leaders with communion, baptism and other duties. Children and youth often serve as acolytes, but adults may serve as well.

“Jesus said: ‘I am the light of the world’” (John 8:12 NRSV). The presence of the light reminds us of Jesus coming

into our world and into our lives. The light is carried into the worship service as a symbol of Jesus coming into the presence of the worshiping community.

Many congregations use two candles on the Lord’s table. While the original use of such candles was simply to provide enough light for the presider to see the communion liturgy well enough to pray it, some also came to see those two candles as a reminder of the dual nature of Jesus, both human and divine. At the end of the service, the light carried out into the world is a sign that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere, and that Christ goes with his people into the world where serve as his living body.

<https://umc.org>



*A.J. Jordan, Nathan Hochstedler and Peace Odubena recently trained for this important role that also is significant in the growth of their faith.*



Wednesday, Oct. 21, 5-7 p.m.  
 Sunday, Nov. 1, 4-6 p.m. (Youth Sunday rehearsal)  
 Sunday, Nov. 8, Youth Sunday  
 Wednesday, Nov. 18, 5-7 p.m.

You won't want to miss Sunday, Nov. 8 when the Main Street UMC Youth lead the entire service! It promises to be uplifting. The kids and Melanie have fun in store for you during this service.

Mark your calendar for Dec. 7 when we will be doing our Shop for an Angel trip. We will leave right after the first service.

Do you know of a classmate, neighbor kid, friend, or even a stranger who might enjoy being part of Main Street Youth Group? Invite them to join us for fun and fellowship.

### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



It is time to start thinking about Operation Christmas Child. Despite the current pandemic concerns, Main Street UMC will again be Miami County's only collection site for shoe boxes.

Several stores are offering sales now on many of the items that we will need to fill our goal of 200 Boxes this year. We have a need for the following items: stuffed toys, bars of soap, wash clothes, tooth brushes, pencil boxes, small notebooks, calculators, scissors, combs, hair brushes, ect. Please bring your items to church and place them in the box

at the back of the sanctuary. If you would like to write a personal letter to a child, please include it with your return address. Monetary gifts are also needed to help with the shipping expenses.

Volunteers are need to receive shoe boxes at the church from Nov. 16-23. Because of Covid concerns, volunteers will be requested to wear masks and gloves and receive the boxes curbside when possible. Please contact Miles at 472-2273 if you will be able to help during this period. Items that are still needed ot complete our 200 shoe boxes include, bars of soap, tooth brushes, small balls, pencil boxes, scissors and pencil sharpeners. Other items may be accepted as well as money to cover shipping costs.



***"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."***

***James 5:16***

### 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  | Rev. Mark Beeson  | Alen Burkhardt  |
| Jack Butts     | Dana Harp         | Diana Perry     |
| Valerie Ann    | Will Pierce       | Gabby           |
| Norma DeWald   | Kaitlin Frick     | Scott Straly    |
| Doug Overmeyer | Bernita Goble     | Marge Siscoe    |
| Lynn Frick     | Julie Bunnell     | John Powell     |
| Rhoda Ellers   | Aaron Logsdon     | Gary Loe        |
| Erin Savage    | Phyllis Jeffers   | Sara Dailey     |
| Roger Powers   | Michele Swihart   | Melissa Dillman |
| Steve Butler   | Barb Keyes        | Judy Cain       |
| DJ Smith       | Ashlee Beeman     | Larry Yoder     |
| Terry Smith    | Beth Wright       | Gabriel         |
| Ashley Wright  | Glenn Householder | Cabrera-Schram  |
| Bob Dillman    | Gary Miller       |                 |

## OCTOBER *birthdays*

Nathan Cutler	10/05	Terry W. Smith	10/25
Texan Smith	10/06	Zachary Whann	10/25
Gerald Fisher	10/08	Favour Odubena	10/26
Scotty Fisher 90th	10/08	Judy Satrom	10/28
Cassandra Blong	10/12	Mary Courtney	10/29
Ashley Brown	10/17	Gavin Hochstedler	10/29
Julia Schwartz	10/18	Timothy Conner	10/31
Alexandria Blong	10/25		

## NOVEMBER *birthdays*

Andrew Jordan	11/01	John Spahr	11/16
Rev. Samuel Odubena	11/02	Betty Craig	11/20
Rhoda Ellers	11/03	Kay Weideman	11/22
Laura Hochstedler	11/04	Ethel Rader	11/25
Ann Tumlison	11/08	Claire Smith	11/25
Ann Collie	11/13	Jodi Kotterman	11/27
Herman Butzin	11/16	Joyce Larrison	11/30



**CONGRATULATIONS** to John Schwartz for winning the Missingomesia Country Club investors Invitational Tournament.



## MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN & NOODLE DINNER

Main Street United Methodist Church  
81 W. Main St., Peru

**TUESDAY, NOV. 10, 2020  
4-7 PM**

**Adult \$9 and Child (12 & under) \$4**

Includes homemade chicken and noodles,  
mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit delight,  
homemade yeast rolls, and apple crisp

Drive through carry-out only  
Enter parking lot from 3rd Street  
Exit right on to Main Street

Proceeds support our missions.  
Tickets available at the church office,  
from church members, or at the door.

## MISSIONS *support*

We need your help to promote this year's chicken and noodle fundraiser. Here are some ways you can assist:

- If you are on social media, please post this event and invite your friends and followers to this delicious, carefully prepared meal.
- Buy tickets for your staff as a 'thank you'
- Buy a pair of tickets for your child's school teacher as an appreciation gesture
- Clip the handbill on the back of the newsletter and distribute at your work or a place you do business.

The proceeds from this event are critical to support the missions we, as a church, support.

Additionally, we will need an army of volunteers to help prepare the food, collect tickets/money, direct traffic, and clean up at the end of the evening. Contact Anna Jo McKaig at 765-469-7851 for more information.





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



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For more information, please call the church office  
at 765-472-3323.