

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

SEPTEMBER 2020

ANSWER THE 911 QUESTION



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

The typical American is very familiar with the number 911. It is America's emergency number. Most countries have and use emergency telephone numbers. The process is simple: the emergency number is dialed and the caller remains on the line and speaks

with a dispatcher. The conversation that follows most often involves questions that require answers.

At first glance, the above title, *Answer the 911 Question*, may suggest the scenario I have just described. However,

even though the sequence looks the same, its meaning is a bit different. While our use of 911 is only for emergency situations, the phrase *Answer the 911 Question* is actually coined from the Scriptures. Check Matthew Nine-One-One...9:11. The Pharisees asked the 911 question to Jesus' disciples. Here it is: When the Pharisees saw this, they asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

Their question asks for an answer today, in our own century.

Matthew chapter nine is full of questions. In verse 11, religious leaders of Jesus' day were indignant at Jesus' lifestyle. Eating with tax collectors and sinners was simply not acceptable. Even worse, the dinner took place in the very home of a tax collector whose name was Matthew. Observe Jesus' answer: *It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."* For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners" (Matthew 9:12-13). Jesus implied that his ministry was to the sick, the lost, the poor, the outcasts, the unchurched, the not-far-from-the-kingdom-

people. Jesus' place and ways at the table modeled love and unity, rather than hatred and separation. Eating with sinners conveyed hope and restoration, not despair and condemnation.

Friends, the Pharisees believed that the best way to practice the *Torah* and tradition was to quarantine themselves from their neighbors. They safely distanced themselves from those who might infect them morally and spiritually. Jesus was radically different; he left us an example. Just like Jesus' world, our world needs us. Persons at the edge of society need us. Neighbors need us. Friends and families need us right now. Does this mean that quarantine is not necessary for Christians?

No! Does it mean that the Christian church should not observe physical distancing from people? Absolutely not! But, it does mean that we must not quarantine the

Word of God from the sick, the lost, the poor, the outcasts, the unchurched, the not-far-from-the-kingdom-people. It means we must not practice spiritual distancing from our neighbors. C. S. Lewis said, "There are no ordinary people. You have never met a mere mortal.... But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub, and exploit—immortal horrors or everlasting splendorous.... Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbor is the holiest object presented to your senses."

It is the default mode of humans to quarantine everything (including evangelism) in the name of this pandemic. However, as missional persons, missional families, missional people, missional congregations, and missional churches, quarantining the Gospel is not an option. Our ministry and mission is to engage our neighborhood by demonstrating Christ's compassion through our words and lives. This is Jesus' answer to the *911 question*. Prayerfully take steps. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you and give you courage. Pray each day that God will make you a blessing to someone.

Rev. Dr. Samuel A. Odubena
Pastor, Main Street UMC



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MICHAEL MCMINN
Custodian

SARAH JAMES
Nursery Attendant

PRESCHOOL STAFF
CAMI WALTERS
Director

RHONDA BUTZIN
KOLEEN MURPHY



HELLO *from preschool*

After a disappointing ending to our 2019-2020 school year, we are so excited and ready to learn for our 2020-2021 school year!

We will be super busy during the month of September. Our Otis Spunkmeyer cookie dough fundraiser kicks off on Aug. 31 and runs until Sept. 21.

We will be getting a visit with Michelle from The Peru Public Library, getting our pictures taken with Harmon Photography and discovering the life cycle of butterflies with Cindy.

Also in September we will get to visit McClure's Orchard.



Follow us on social media at:
Main Street United Methodist
Church, Peru

SEPTEMBER *birthdays*

John Powell	09/03	Carol Koenes	09/19
Rebecca Smith	09/03	Margaret Kreag	09/19
Sherry Gehring	09/06	Regan McGuire	09/19
Elizabeth Pennington	09/06	Cassandra Smith	09/24
Emily Spahr	09/12	Terry T. Smith	09/24
John Schwartz	09/13	Samantha Gornto	09/27
Brandon Giek	09/14	Tamara Johnson	09/28
Briley Rosenberry	09/15	Sarah Stevens	09/29
Miles Straly	09/15	Phineas Gornto	09/30





Missions and outreach update

Main Street UMC, you have done it again! At the Food Finders event on August 26 we served 229 individual families, representing over 600 individuals who received free nourishing food. That set a new Miami County record for the number of families served. (The previous record of 224 was also done at our church!) Reverend Samuel offered encouragement and prayers to clients in their cars and the response was awesome. A few individuals had waited in line from 3:00 a.m. and everyone who was served was very appreciative. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. You are truly making a difference.



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.



In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." John 3:3

Confession VII of the United Methodist doctrine states, "We believe man is fallen from righteousness and, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is destitute of holiness and inclined to evil. Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. In his own strength, without divine grace, man cannot do good works pleasing and acceptable to God."

Join Rev. Samuel in a sermon series on

THE NEW BIRTH

as we revisit the matters handled in John chapter 3 on Sept. 6, 13, and 20, 2020.

PRAYER list

Julie Carroll	Erin Savage	Rev. Mark Beeson	Phyllis Jeffers	Gary Miller
Jack Butts	Roger Powers	Dana Harp	Michele Swihart	Alen Burkhardt
Valerie Ann	Steve Butler	Will Pierce	Barb Keyes	Diana Perry
Norma DeWald	DJ Smith	Kaitlin Frick	Ashlee Beeman	Gabby
Doug Overmeyer	Terry Smith	Bernita Goble	Beth Wright	Debbie Gorka
Lynn Frick	Vance Cole	Julie Bunnell	Glenn Householder	Del Fawcett
Rhoda Ellers	Ashley Wright	Mike Dailey	Family of Brenda	
	Bob Dillman	Aaron Logsdon	Wooley	



UMC youth group

Join these masked crusaders Sunday, Sept. 6, from 4-6 p.m. and Wednesday, Sept. 13, from 5-7 p.m. Youth at Main Street welcome you to fun and fellowship. Do you know of a classmate, neighbor kid, friend, or even a stranger who may enjoy being part of this Youth Group? Invite them to join us!