



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**

Bearing Fruit in Summer



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

Summer is here. Its long days stretch ahead, full of opportunities for outdoor activities. But be sure to not waste the time, because summer is fleeting. So adhere to the famous sixteenth century English adage, "Make hay while the sun shines." In fact, the writer of Proverbs 10:5 unequivocally maintains that wise

people take advantage of summer opportunities to gather and harvest. So, welcome to summer!

When I think of summer, many beautiful and exciting characteristics of the season come to mind: warm sunshine, work, growth, fruitfulness, and harvest. Of course, summer heat has its unfavorable side too! However, since we have been exhorting

one another on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christ's followers, I want us to consider how one of the above mentioned features of summer—fruitfulness (bearing of fruit)—is

metaphorically associated with a life controlled by the Spirit of God. In case you missed the last two editions of the newsletter on "Pentecost" and "Fellowship of the Holy Spirit," please let us know.

When a farmer plants his crops, he expects the seeds to sprout, grow, and bear fruit. For instance, Indiana is known for our high production of corn and soybeans. The sight of these crops on vast fields gives rise to joy, because the fruit is on the way. People rejoice when their plants bear fruit. A good example is how God ended the agricultural crisis of Judah and blessed the land with abundant fruit. Take a look: "... be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things... The trees are bearing their fruit; the fig tree and the vine yield their riches" (Joel 2:21-22). On the contrary, farmers feel sad when they have invested so much in planting but it bears no fruit. We can be instructed by Jesus' parable of the unfruitful fig tree in Luke 13:6-9.

Similarly, those who have the Spirit of Christ living in them are expected to bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5:22-23,

Paul lists the fruit of the Spirit as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Did you notice from the above list that the fruit is used as a collective noun in singular form rather than plural form? Yes, it is "fruit" not "fruits" because it is an undivided character of Christ produced by the Holy Spirit. As Charles B. Cousar said, "It is not as if the Spirit in one individual creates love, in another joy, and in a third gentleness." So, in terms of the nature of the fruit, each Christian is expected to manifest this many-sided fruit in words and deeds—not by doing more or observing rules and regulations.

The fruit of the Spirit is produced in the believer by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit. The fruit is neither a degree to be earned through rigorous human effort nor is it a religious title to be attained through church membership and regular church attendance. The fruit is borne in the believer as he/she abides in Christ and is pruned by Christ. In John's Gospel, Jesus clearly

said, "Abide in me, and I will abide in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must abide in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you abide in me" (15:4). Abiding involves both awareness and will. We are aware

of what the Spirit of God is doing in and around us, and what He wants us to do, but at the same time we are ready to submit our will to His will. When this becomes a believer's lifestyle, sin will no longer dwell in his/her life, and fruit unto holiness will be borne.

Friends, take a look at the list of the fruit of the Spirit again. Do you see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control flowing through your words and deeds? Perhaps you see the absence of the fruit of the Spirit and the presence of its opposite in your life. Be encouraged today and know that you are not alone. Remember that it is summer. Consider how the branches abide in the vine and are pruned so that they can bear much fruit, and do likewise. Jesus is waiting for you. Submit your will to His will, ask Him to help you, and begin to abide. You will be sure to bear fruit.

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.



TECHNOLOGY *update*

Think about all the changes that are outcomes of the COVID pandemic. One change our church experienced was the suspension of in-person services for a period of time. But when there is a challenge, Main Street pulls together and tackles it head on. It became very apparent that we needed to stream services to continue Sunday worship. This accelerated the decision by the Finance Committee to approve the investment to upgrade our audio and video technology.

The upgrades have been made to include the purchase of a live streaming system and 2 PTZ (Pan, Tilt, Zoom) cameras to be able to provide high-quality live streaming services. This will allow our members and the community to worship with us whenever they are unable to attend in person. What a great opportunity this is for us to expand our reach to even more people. Please be sure to share with family, friends, shut-ins, snowbirds that Main Street United Methodist Church is alive and online with superior sound and video! Check it out on our Facebook page and the church website to see (and hear) for yourself the quality.

The new streaming equipment was purchased from The Sound of Music in Kokomo and they have provided training to our Media/Sound Team and some of our youth and will return for more training after the installation of the new digital sound board. Please be patient as we learn the new system.

If you have any interest in volunteering to be trained for media/sound/recording please contact Dave Swihart at Swihart2@gmail.com, or Melanie Giek at melvis.giek@gmail.com

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE WORD SEARCH

OLD TESTAMENT 1



Prizes will be given to the 1st second and third person to turn this in. You may either email it to Mail@perumainst.com, or mail it to 81 W. main st. the age group for this challenge will be 3years old- college age.

S	D	S	D	C	H	R	O	N	I	C	L	E	S	A
O	L	O	V	D	E	U	T	E	R	O	N	O	M	Y
N	G	E	N	E	S	I	S	S	Z	R	J	J	W	N
G	J	P	N	Z	N	B	E	Z	P	C	X	U	R	E
O	G	R	H	R	U	F	X	F	S	S	J	D	M	H
F	U	O	H	A	M	A	O	N	A	A	S	G	O	E
S	H	V	F	O	B	J	D	L	L	M	S	E	N	M
O	B	E	Z	U	E	M	U	E	M	U	S	S	Y	I
L	R	R	V	E	R	B	S	V	S	E	D	T	P	A
O	O	B	G	P	S	V	Y	I	D	L	K	T	U	H
M	Z	S	P	S	O	Q	R	T	E	Z	B	C	Q	V
O	E	S	T	H	E	R	U	I	V	J	F	J	H	A
N	J	O	S	H	U	A	T	C	P	J	O	O	C	Q
J	K	I	N	G	S	R	H	U	X	Y	D	B	F	Z
E	C	C	L	E	S	I	A	S	T	E	S	T	A	J



Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges

Ruth
Samuel
Kings
Chronicles
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon





The Indiana 4-H Youth Development mission is to provide real-life educational opportunities that develop young people who will have a positive impact in their communities and the world.

Many of our youth at Main Street are involved in 4-H. Here is a glimpse of some of their entries in the recent Miami Count 4-H Fair. Congratulations to all of the 4-H kids!



Abby Jordan showing her Reserve Champion Duroc.



Kamon Blong



Cassandra Blong



Proud Grandma Susan Jordan with Chloe Jordan and her poultry showmanship awards.



Kamon Blong



Kamon Blong



A.J. Jordan hits the show ring with his Duroc.



4-H ... it's a family affair for the Jordan family. Congrats to Chloe on her Grand Champion Barrow!



Questions? Contact Melanie Giek at melvis.giek@gmail.com

REMINDER

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.

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



YOUTH *events for July*

July 19 Circus Night

Families will meet at the church at 5 p.m. to walk uptown to eat and then attend the 7 p.m. circus performance

July 25 Summer Fun Activity: Splash House!

Marion's family-friendly public water park offers endless fun for all ages!

Attractions include a lazy river, two racer slides, 'big flush' slide, large wave pool, and kiddie play area with a play pad topped with a large bucket water-drop making a big splash!



Mark your calendars now for upcoming August activities:

Aug. 14 Youth Sponsored Church Open House

Aug. 29 Camera Party (*limited to 6th grade and older*)



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

We offer prayers for the families of those who are victims of violence both in our own country and throughout the world. Praise for the success of five UMC Indiana Conference Summer Camps.



George Gehring	7/5	Masyn McGuire	8/1
Brad Hochstedler	7/5	Anastasia Spahr	8/1
Ron Koenes	7/9	Sawyer Collie	8/2
Evelyn Powell	7/9	Joan Guyer	8/2
Tobin Blong	7/10	Susan Jordan	8/2
Allison Rice	7/11	Rosemary Rice	8/4
Robert Blong	7/13	Barbara Conner	8/5
Charles Cox	7/16	Ann Hubbard	8/10
Michelle Swihart	7/18	Jerry Garber	8/12
Betsy Guthrie	7/20	Michael McMinn	8/21
Bonnie Bond	7/25	Jennifer Hoover	8/23
Marcet Spahr	7/27	David Carswell	8/27
		Arch Wiltshire	8/29
		Marcia Worland	8/31



MUSIC *ministry*

A special thanks to all of the men who shared their voices during the service on Father's Day. If you have the desire to minister through our Music programs, please contact Nancy Spahr by email or phone at nbspahr01@comcast.net or 765-438-6435. If you know of a group or an individual who would like to share the joy of Christian music with the congregation, please contact Nancy or Reverend Samuel.

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 continue 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.

JULY at a glance

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
				1 • Cross America 6:00pm	2 •	3 •
4 • Holy Communion service 9:00am • Independence Day!	5 • Prayer Meeting 5:30pm • Office Closed • Rev. Samuel on vacation	6 • Bible Study 6:00pm • Rev. Samuel on vacation	7 • UMW Coffee 9:00am • Rev. Samuel on vacation	8 • Rev. Samuel on vacation	9 • Rev. Samuel on vacation	10 •
11 • Worship Service 9:00am • Rev. Samuel on vacation	12 • Prayer Meeting 5:30pm • Rev. Samuel on vacation.	13 • Bible Study 6:00pm • Rev. Samuel on vacation	14 • UMW Coffee 9:00am • Rev. Samuel on vacation • Food Finders	15 • Rev. Samuel on vacation	16 • Rev. Samuel on vacation • Circus Week Begins	17 •
18 • Worship Service 9:00am	19 • Prayer Meeting 5:30pm • Youth tentative Circus night • Rev. Samuel returns to office.	20 • Bible Study 6:00pm •	21 • UMW Coffee 9:00am •	22 • NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 •	24 • Parade and church breakfast. •
25 • Worship Service 9:00am • Youth trip to Splash House!	26 • Prayer Meeting 5:30pm	27 • Bible Study 6:00pm •	28 • UMW Coffee 9:00am •	29	30	31

All Sundays need to have adult Sunday school and youth following directly after services.



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

**Where did you see the Lord at
work last year and this past
half of 2021?**

**Come and share one of your
testimonies during our**

Glory Sightings Sunday

July 25, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

**Main Street United Methodist
Church**

81 W Main Street, Peru, IN 46970

***"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord
of hosts; the whole earth is full
of his glory!" – Isaiah 6:3***