

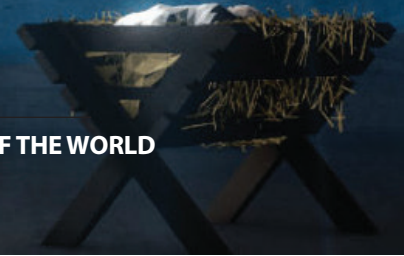


DECEMBER 2021

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



Let the Earth receive her King



Joy to the world, the Lord is come, let Earth receive her King!

Let every heart, prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing!" So sings the eighteenth century Christmas staple. But what does that mean to receive the King? What does that mean in practice? Who is the King? How should we and how do we actually

receive the King—the Word of God? The King is Jesus Christ, the Son of God—the Word that became a human being and lived here with us.

For us as Methodists, the Advent (the promised coming) of Christ and his Nativity (his birth) are central to our faith and our life in God. For most of us, Luke's account of the Mary's story is quite familiar. Think with me about this innocent young girl. Perhaps she has something to teach us about how we (the Earth) should receive the Word of God. There she is, perhaps fifteen years old, a Jewish girl in a little town called Nazareth with a population less than Peru, Indiana. At her young age, Mary is already engaged to a man named Joseph. Very importantly, Luke notes that Mary was a virgin. Of all the young Jewish girls in all the small towns in Galilee, God saw and chose Mary. The Eternal God of Creation chose to send the Living Word to *Mary and through Mary* to us who desperately need a Savior. Two important points leap out here. First, God will send his Word to any receptive heart, regardless of our location. Second, as it was with Mary, God's Word is received in two ways, *externally and internally*. Mary's story is an Outside-Inside story.

"God will send his Word to any receptive heart, regardless of our location... as it was with Mary, God's Word is received in two ways, externally and internally."

Luke states that *God sent the angel Gabriel* to a specific place, Nazareth, and to a specific person, Mary. Gabriel spoke: *"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."* Gabriel then delivers the greatest short sermon ever preached: *"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."* Did you get the point here? Mary received the Word of God, first by hearing it! She received it *externally*. Hearing God speak is absolutely vital to our knowing God. Few of us, if any, will ever come to know the Savior of the world until we first hear His word to us. How do you and I receive the Word of God? Somewhere, somehow, through some person we must first hear God's Word. We do many important things here at Main Street UMC.

But, the main thing at Main Street is the Word of God that warms our hearts and helps us makes difference wherever we go. Mary heard the Word of God. I pray that you will faithfully hear the Word of God.

Mary heard the Word, but that was not all. Mary also believed Gabriel and she *received the Word*. She received the Word *internally*. Listen to Luke's report (Luke 1:38), *"Then Mary said, 'Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word.'"* For the nine months that followed her reception of the external Word, Mary carried the eternal, living Word in her womb. The Apostle John said it clearly, *"In the beginning was the Word (Christ) and the Word was with God (the Triune Godhead), and the Word was God. The Word became flesh (in Mary's womb) and made his dwelling among us, and we beheld His glory"* (John 1:1, 14). An awesome truth cries out here: Mary conceived the Word in her womb, the Incarnation. In that action of infleshness, incarnation, God entered our space, our time zone. Jesus came to us; God dwelt among us. It is true, you and I will never birth the Savior. But Mary's personal experience of *internalizing of the Word* does have a parallel



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

Office Hours

Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Friday 9:00 AM - NOON

Phone: 765-472-3323

NEWSLETTER DESIGN
Marcia Worland



in our lives. Hearing the Word is important, but not enough. Receiving the Word is vital.

So, what might Mary's *internal and external reception of the Word* teach us today? First, Mary was not immune to strange news, surprises, troubling statements and difficult questions. Second, in all of this, she surrendered; she heard the Word and she received the Word. Beloved, regardless of the many challenges before you, my prayer is that like Mary, you too will hear the Word and will then receive the Word. I offer you this call to action: Like Mary, surrender yourself to the voice of God when He speaks to you. Listen, externally. Receive Him into your heart and life, internally. Pass on the Word and thereby the Earth will receive her King.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,

Reverend Samuel

MUSIC *ministry*

The music groups are planning some wonderful Christmas music for December! Please let me know your favorite Christmas carols, so we can include them sometime during the month. If you would like to sing with a revitalized Chancel Choir beginning in January, that would be wonderful! We are especially in need of strong sopranos. Please call or text me, Nancy Huskey, at 765-438-6435, or email at nbspahr01@comcast.net.

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. A Zoom link will be sent via email. If you are not a member of our congregation, please contact the office at 765-472-3323 so we can send the link to you. Our final meeting for 2021 is December 14. We will resume Bible Study on January 11, 2022. Which book of the Bible do you want us to study? Text your response to 859-553-5534.

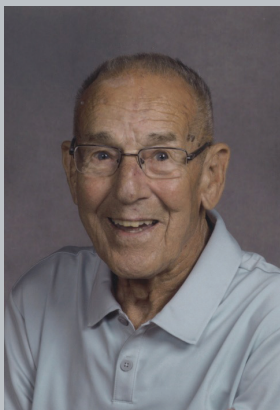
PRAYER *ministry*

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.

Arch has been called home.

Our dear friend, Arch, has been called home to the Lord.

Arch Lloyd Wiltshire, 83, of Peru passed away at 3:36 AM, Friday, December 3, 2021 at St. Vincent



Heart Center in Carmel, IN. He was born in Saratoga, WY on August 29, 1938 the son of Harold and Donna Geiger Wiltshire. Arch married Carol Broniec on June 15, 1963 in Chicago, IL and she preceded him in death on May 25, 2003. Arch was a member of Main Street United Methodist Church and worked as a teacher at Peru Community Schools for 35 years. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Western State University in Gunnison, CO and his Master's Degree from Ball State University. While in college he played football and baseball. After college Arch played fast pitch softball and was inducted in the ASA Softball Hall of Fame. Arch loved to play golf and travel. He also enjoyed woodworking and was a member at the Peru Maennerchor. Arch is survived by his daughter Kristi Lockhart and her husband Phil of Sugar Grove, IL; son Brett Wiltshire and his wife Jen of Naperville, IL; grandchildren Jeanie Ramos, Zachary Ramos, Katie Lockhart, Aidan Wiltshire, Addison Wiltshire and Avery Wiltshire; a brother Harold "Jr." (Patty) Wiltshire and sister Renee (Dave) Dawalt. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister Marlene Wiltshire. A service celebrating the life of Arch Wiltshire will be held at 1:00 PM, Saturday, December 11, 2021 at the Eikenberry-Eddy Funeral Home, 84 W. Main St., Peru with Rev Samuel Odubena officiating. Burial will be in Ever Rest Memorial Park, Logansport. Family and Friends will gather from 9:00 AM – Noon, Saturday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association.

MISSIONS *update*



Mad Anthony's
Children's Hope House

This month's featured mission is the Mad Anthony's Children's Hope House in Ft. Wayne. The Children's Hope House is dedicated to providing families with children in any community hospital overnight accommodations in a family-centered, home-life, supportive

environment. This enables families to stay close to their loved ones at minimal or no cost. Previously the only option for many families was spending nights in their cars or the hospital lobbies. Since its founding in 2003 Hope House has provided home-away-from-home to over 9,000 individuals representing over 34,500 nights. Jack Arnold, founding president of Hope House says: "Children's Hope is a reality, where very worried parents receive comfort and support, in addition to lodging. It's not just a hotel; there is a lot of healing going on and a lot of communicating between guests." Main Street UMC is very happy to support this worthy mission.

We would like to offer a hearty thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child. 1,258 shoeboxes were collected in our community this year and are on their way to bring joy and the salvation story to children all around the world.

If you have been thinking about a way to serve our Lord by helping His people, why not consider being a part of Main Street's Mission Team? We could definitely use a few more individuals who have a heart for missions. Pray about it and ask God if this might be the right path for you.

As we are preparing for the New Year, we would like your input on different mission areas where we might serve. If you have any ideas, please share them with the Mission Team.

For more information on Mad Anthony's Hope House visit: <https://childrenshopefw.org>.



Many thanks to those who donated items and volunteered to box the Project Christmas Child items. This year 1,258 boxes were dedicated by the congregation and shipped out from our church and our community.



PRESCHOOL *update*



The Lord blessed our 60 preschool children with a Thanksgiving meal. We are so thankful to spend this special time with those who mean so much to us and look forward to focusing on the reason for the season.



It takes a village (or a very dedicated congregation) to organize and execute the United Methodist Women's Annual Chicken & Noodle Dinner. This year's event raised over \$4,000. Thank you to all volunteers and customers. A special thanks to Chairwoman Susan Jordan.

Youth @MAIN STREET

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



YOUTH *events for December*

December 5

- Elementary youth Christmas program, "The Birth Of Jesus" during worship service.

December 19

- Jr/Sr High Christmas program during worship service . Title is "A Christmas To Believe In"
- Jr/Sr High youth group event planning for activities in January through March during Sunday School. Parents are encouraged to attend as well.
- Christmas Party for all youth 3rd grade through high school. We will have a gift exchange so each person should bring a wrapped family type card / board game to exchange. Try to spend \$10. More details about food and activities will follow. Party will be 4pm-6pm.





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	Kaitlin Frick	Jessica Shutter
Jack Butts	DJ Smith	Mary Courtney
Dale Heltzel	Deb Smith,	Anna Marie SloneBelinda
Doug Overmeyer	Bernita Goble	Scotty Fisher
Rhoda Ellers and family	Roger Powers, Jr.	Ron Lamb
Will Pierce	Glenn Householder	Chris Bond
Vince Gant	Kathy Conner	Debbie Dailey
Erin Savage	Beth Wright	Nancy McMinn
Steve Butler	Alen Burkhardt	Terry W. Smith
Gary Loe	Theo Massaro	Bob Harkema
Terry Smith	John Powell	Robert Bonifant
Gabby	Joe Slone	Pete Gorka
Heather Walters	Lori Haun	The family of
Larry Yoder	Melissa Dillman	Barb Keyes
Ashley Wright	Lynette Combs	Pastor Kenny Cole
Bob Dillman	Bradley Conner	Callie and for missionaries in
Dana Harp	Angela Dean	Haiti.

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

DEC. *birthdays*

Jon Holz Jr.	12/03	Helen White	12/11	Adam Woloshuk	12/21
Izaiah Kaufman	12/03	Christopher Collie	12/12	John Forth	12/23
Mandy Bowyer	12/06	Nathan Hochstedler	12/12	Betty Wilson	12/24
Glenn Hill	12/07	Stephanie Blackman	12/16	Dakota Krug	12/26
Gabriel Butzin	12/09	Peter Rice	12/16	Christianah Odubena	12/27
Isaiah Butzin	12/09	Jim Bond	12/17	Jon Holz	12/27
Kelly M. Forth	12/09	Beth Wright	12/19	Emilie Hubbard	12/29
Tony Spahr	12/10	Tonia Ray	12/19	Zan Tumlison	12/31
Rick Brown	12/11	Barbara Savage	12/20		
Steven Ray	12/11	Titan Anderson	12/21		

JAN. *birthdays*

Carrie Gallahan	01/02	Cole Borden [V]	01/09	William Burks	01/18
Debra Gorka	01/05	Thomas Hubbard	01/09	Vicki Draper	01/19
Eli Walters	01/05	Thomas McKaig	01/10	Steven Morimoto	01/22
Parkhurst Cutler	01/06	Evan Stickford	01/10	Susan Neher	01/22
Alicia Harrell	01/06	Hope Gardner	01/12	David Shaffer	01/30
Daniel Johnson	01/06	Scott Mosher	01/13	Sue Beall	01/31
Tim Spahr	01/06	Esther Collie	01/14	Zoe Fisher	01/31
Joe Anderson	01/06	Matthew Sutton	01/16	Emily Gardner	01/31

If your name should appear on the birthday list and doesn't, please notify the office.

SPECIAL *thanks*

I wish to thank everyone who willingly says "yes" when I have asked them to be a greeter, a liturgist – help with the offering – and other things as they arise. It is a great pleasure to work with all of you and to be a part of this great church family!

To God be all the Glory!
Kay Weideman

DECEMBER *at a glance*

December 1

- *UMW Coffee 9:00 AM
- *District clergy meeting 12 Noon

December 2

- *Delivery of Poinsettias

December 5

- *Holy Communion 9:00 AM
- *Adult Sunday School following service
- *Youth Sunday School following service
- *Special Meeting: Next Gen., following service
- *Youth shop for an Angel 11:30 AM
- *441 Quartet rehearsal 5:00 PM
- *Jubilation Bells rehearsal 6:00 PM

December 6

- *Prayer Group 5:30 PM

December 7

- *Bible Study 6:00 PM

December 8

- *UMW Ladies Christmas Brunch & Program@ Gabriel's 10:00 AM
- *Mission Committee meeting 6:30 PM

December 9

- *Strategic Team meeting 7:00 PM

December 12

- *Jubilation Bells rehearsal 8:00 AM
- *Worship/Elementary Kids Christmas Service 9:00 AM
- *Adult Sunday School following service
- *Youth Sunday School following service

December 13

- *Prayer Group 5:30 PM

December 14

- *Preschool Breakfast with Santa 8:00 AM-Noon (UMW making breakfast)
- *Bible Study (2021 final meeting) 6:00 PM

December 15

- *Preschool Breakfast with Santa 8:00 AM-Noon (UMW making breakfast)
- *Be ye fruitful: Special Service for couples with fertility problems @ 8:00 PM EST (Zoom only: See Newsletter, Facebook, & Website for details)

December 19

- *Worship/Jr/Sr High Christmas service 9:00 AM
- *Adult Sunday School following service
- *Youth Sunday School following service (Planning for 1st quarter)

- *All youth Christmas party 4:00-6:00 PM
- *Christmas Eve service rehearsal (TBD)

December 20

- *Preschool Christmas break begins
- *Prayer Group 5:30 PM

December 22

- *UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

December 24

- *Christmas Eve Service 7:00 PM

December 25

- *Christmas Day

December 26

- *Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
- *Adult Sunday School following service
- *Youth Sunday School following service

December 27

- *Prayer Group 5:30 PM

December 29

- *UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

December 31

- *Crossover service of songs & prayer 11:00 PM (Everyone is welcome)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Friday, December 24, 2021 | 7:00 P.M.
Main Street United Methodist Church, Peru, IN

Come and celebrate the birth of Christ with family, friends,
instruments of music, songs, candle lights, comfort and joy

JOY TO THE WORLD!



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

CUT AND POST IN THE COMMUNITY

“BE YE FRUITFUL”

A special online prayer service for couples who are praying to God for the gift of children.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2021

Time: 8:00 p.m. EST

Zoom Link: <https://bit.ly/32Sr3r6>

Meeting ID: 875 8859 1828

Passcode: 762922

Ministering: Rev. Dr. Samuel Odubena

For more information, contact Main Street
United Methodist Church call 765-472-3323,
or email mail@perumainstreet.com

