

NOVEMBER 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



Warm greetings to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. November, the Thanksgiving month is here. We have so much to be thankful for, don't we? We absolutely do. We simply need to discern a reason for thanksgiving. God's goodness toward us is invaluable such that if we were to offer Him *nonstop gratitude*, we would not out-praise Him. One of the best ways we can celebrate Thanksgiving and bring flourishing into the world is to re-imagine Thanksgiving celebration in such a way that Matthew 25:35-40—"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat"—becomes someone's story. Interestingly, as I was writing this letter, Bishop Julius Trimble's message appeared in my inbox. What a timely message! It is a must-read as we prepare for Thanksgiving.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,

Reverend Samuel

WE DON'T GIVE A DAMN ABOUT THE POOR.



We don't really give a damn about the poor.

Let's be honest... We like our freedom. Freedom to choose our own pleasures, live in communities we choose, save or spend, pick our own set of truths, and speak our mind. We care about the things we care about. We vigorously protect our privileges, our children, and the echo chamber of our own tribes. In America, we like to feel proud, charitable, and exceptional.

God bless America!

Speaking of God, some of us like to say without fear of rebuttals that our country was founded on Christian principles by Christian men with Christian values that result in the republic that has as a core value the common good.

In his book "The Common Good," Robert B. Reich reminds readers that while romanticizing American History is not

helpful, the founders did try to produce a government that would produce virtuous people who intended the common good. In Federalist Paper no.45, James Madison claimed that "the public good, the real welfare of the great body of the people, is the supreme object to be pursued; and that no form of government whatever has any other value than as it may be fitted for the attainment of this object."

Is the world better off when some of us are doing just fine while millions wake up hungry and go to bed without shelter? I think not. Are we willing to accept that 18% of all children in the United States (13 million) are living in poverty in the richest country in the world?

As we grappled and grieved amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, 100 million more people were forced into poverty. The safety net spending bill proposed by Democrats in Congress is stuck in in-party squabbles and partisan blockade. Most Americans

Continued >>



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Office Hours

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

Friday 9:00 AM - NOON

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quietly watch as the working poor and the citizens considered less important get the shaft. The pandemic ejected millions of women and hourly workers from the workforce. While the billionaires are shooting rockets into space, we are still putting loved ones in the ground and turning our backs on a universal pursuit of the common good.

The United States is the only rich country without a federal mandate to offer paid leave for new parents or medical emergencies. Most experts agree we would be a stronger country if we provided universal pre-Kindergarten for parents who wanted it. Sociologists, economists, and parents know that more financial resources for families raising children reduces poverty. Safe and available childcare that is free for some and affordable for all puts people back in school and back to work.

There is a labor shortage at the same time there is a childcare shortage. Supporting a living wage and an increase in minimum wage is not radical; it is reasonable.

I will be calling my Congressional Representatives and Senators this month, and I encourage you to do the same. I get no pass on this common good thing because I pay for a storage space to store things I think are needed. I have multiple cars and a freezer full of food. And I claim to love Jesus as a Christian but refuse to sell all I have for the poor.

We all can do better. However, the things before Congress proposed by President Biden intended to help the working class citizens, parents with children, and reduce poverty are straight out of the founder's intent to pursue the common good. It is always the right time to do the right thing.

Bishop Julius C. Trimble

Bishop Julius C. Trimble is the Resident Bishop of Indiana Conference of The United Methodist Church. This essay first appeared at Indiana Conference Weekly News (October 15, 2021) and is reprinted here by permission.

FINANCE *report*

UPCOMING PLEDGE AND COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN

Sincere appreciation goes to all members and friends for your financial contributions, commitment and stewardship towards God's work. Indeed, your understanding of good stewardship not only helped our various ministries to reach out to hundreds of households and individuals, it also reflected in your spiritual involvement.

Starting November 14 and ending November 28, there will be a very important campaign that will help us to wisely leverage the assets God entrusted to us as individuals and families, improve our commitment to God's work, and become more present in the community. We had a most successful campaign last year, so let's vow to make this year even better! Please review your current commitment and try to increase it. Remember, God loves a cheerful giver!

Leon Huskey
Chair of Finance

*"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."*

-- Psalm 100



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE...

Music is the language of emotions and that's why we sing hymns and praise songs in church? Hymns and praise songs touch our hearts because they are linked to a melody. Sometimes, the melody alone can communicate power, joy, and praise. Last Sunday's (October 17th) prelude and closing hymn,

"Majesty", was one of those melodies

which give us joy. Sometimes we are inhibited from "making a joyful noise." Statements like, "I don't sing", "I don't know that song", "it's too fast", "it's too slow" may create a hesitancy to "make a joyful noise."

MISSIONS *report*

It is our privilege to tell you a little about a mission that Main Street UMC has been supporting for several years now. It is Operation Classroom. This mission, in partnership with the UMC, helps young people in Liberia and Sierra Leone grow into educated and productive adults who can make a positive impact on our world and end the cycle of poverty. Operation Classroom has provided thousands of scholarships that have allowed students who would otherwise be unable to attend school to get an education. Taiama Enterprise Academy (TEA) is a new program within Operation Classroom that offers innovative education with a STEM emphasis. As Bishop Yambasu (Bishop of the UMC Sierra Leone Conference) said about TEA: "It offers young people the opportunity to attain to the fullest, their God-given potential so that they can become persons of worth in society who are not only self-employed and self-sustainable, but who can contribute immensely to the overall socio-economic development of Sierra Leone." Thank you for making a difference in the lives of these young people!

I think it's interesting that Psalm 100 encourages us to "make a JOYFUL NOISE." That verse doesn't say make a beautiful song, just joyful noise. The Psalm also tells us to "enter his gates with thanksgiving," not hesitancy. And finally, the Psalmist tells us to "come before his presence with SINGING."

I have always enjoyed hearing you all sing joyfully showing your thanksgiving with your singing. Certainly, we all have our favorites. Many times you touch my heart with your strong voices. I hope to hear you continue to, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing."

Don Krug
Organist



November is the time when Operation Christmas Child (OCC) kicks into high gear. We will be packing 100 shoeboxes in the church gym on Wednesday, Nov 10 between 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. Both adults and children are invited to help out in this fun event.

The National Collection Week for OCC is Nov 15-22. For the 13th consecutive year we are the Drop-Off site for Miami County and in that time we have received and processed over 16,000 shoeboxes. We have a real need for volunteers on each of these dates to receive shoeboxes from the community. Please contact Miles (472-2273) and tell him when you can help. Plan to attend Sunday services on November 21 when all the shoeboxes will be dedicated.

PRESCHOOL *update*

Hello from Preschool! As always we are chugging along here in Preschool. October was a very busy month for us and we are looking forward to November and December. We will be discussing the importance of family and friends and being thankful for all the important things in our lives. We will have a Thanksgiving "feast" and learn about the true meaning of Christmas... the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. The UMW will make breakfast for our Breakfast with Santa. We are hoping to do another fundraiser with the Popcorn Cafe in Kokomo. This time of year is extremely busy and exhausting for our little friends so please keep them and their families in your prayers



**DO YOU KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS?
IT'S CHICKEN & NOODLE TIME!**



MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST WOMEN'S ANNUAL CHICKEN AND NOODLE DINNER
Tuesday, Nov. 9 from 4:00-7:00 PM

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped make oodles of noodles. We still need volunteers! Lots and lots of volunteers. We need hands to package the to-go boxes, baggers, runners, ticket-takers, traffic directors, potato mashers, and more! You can sign up (and please do so as soon as possible) with Susan Jordan, 765-473-2728.

Tickets are \$10 and available in the church office and with members of the congregation. A limited number of tickets will be sold at the door, but please encourage pre-sale. Like last year, this will be a drive-thru ONLY event. It's an event like no other! Fellowship, community outreach, collaboration, coordination, and yuuuummmmy! It's a production like you've never experienced and we want you to be part of the fun. For more information, please call the office at 765-472-3323.

Youth @MAIN STREET

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

YOUTH events for November

November 7

Youth Sunday (youth will lead entire service. Sermon is based on a clip from Back To The Future)

November 7

Watching *Back To The Future* after worship service in sanctuary

November 19

Lock-in for older youth (5th grade and older)

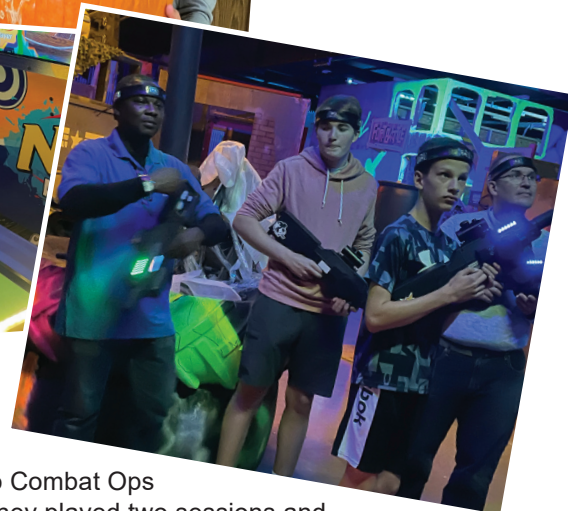


ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Tobi Odubena was recently inducted into the Peru Junior High Chapter of National Junior Honor Society (NJHS). Congratulations Tobi. We are all so proud of you and your academic achievement.

ON THE RUN!

Pictured to the right are members of the Maconaquah Girls Cross Country team at the Culver Regional. Abby Jordan placed 4th overall, and the team placed 4th, which qualified the whole team to run at the Semi-State at New Prairie. While the team did not move on, Abby placed 13th, which qualified her to move on as an individual to the State Finals next Saturday in Terre Haute.



FALL FUN!

October was a busy month for the Youth Group. First, they traveled to Combat Ops in Fort Wayne to play Lazer Tag. They played two sessions and found out that Ben Hochstedler is the Lazer Tag King!

And what's fall without carving pumpkins? Tapping into their artistic side, A.J., Abby, and Ben get busy putting the final touches on their pumpkins!





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

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

NOV. *birthdays*

Andrew Jordan	11/01	Kelly M. Forth	12/09
Samuel A. Odubena	11/02	Tony Spahr	12/10
Rhoda Ellers	11/03	Rick Brown	12/11
Laura Hochstedler	11/04	Steven Ray	12/11
Ann Tumlison	11/08	Helen White	12/11
Shalyn Renfrow	11/12	Christopher Collie	12/12
Ann Collie	11/13	Nathan Hochstedler	12/12
Herman Butzin	11/16	Stephanie Blackman	12/16
John Spahr	11/16	Peter Rice	12/16
Betty Craig	11/20	Jim Bond	12/17
Kay Weideman	11/22	Beth Wright	12/19
Ethel Rader	11/25	Tonia Ray	12/19
Claire Smith	11/25	Barbara Savage	12/20
Jodi Kotterman	11/27	Titan Anderson	12/21
Joyce Larrison	11/30	Adam Woloshuk	12/21

DEC. *birthdays*

Jon Holz Jr.	12/03	John Forth	12/23
Izaiah Kaufman	12/03	Betty Wilson	12/24
Mandy Bowyer	12/06	Dakota Krug	12/26
Glenn Hill	12/07	Christianah Odubena	12/27
Gabriel Butzin	12/09	Jon Holz	12/27
Isaiah Butzin	12/09	Emilie Hubbard	12/29
		Zan Tumlison	12/31

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



MUSIC *ministry*

The music organizations are busy with rehearsals to prepare for Advent and Christmas Eve. We hope to make this Christmas season inspirational and uplifting!

We are still working on getting the Chancel Choir back. We need a strong singer in the soprano section to be ready to go. Might that be you? Do you know someone who could help us here? If so, please contact me.

Nancy Huskey
765-438-6435
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. 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 765-472-3323 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.

NOVEMBER *at a glance*

November 1

Prayer Group 5:30 PM

November 2

Bible Study 6:00 PM

November 3

UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

November 5

Preschool: November Tuition Due

November 7

Youth Sunday 9:00 AM

T-Shirt Sunday, Photo following service

Youth: Movie: Back To The Future, following Photo

Special Meeting: Next Gen., following Photo

Community Prayer & Worship Service 5:00 PM

Jubilation Bells 6:00 PM

Carillon Quartet 7:00 PM

November 8

UMW Make Apple Crisp/Set Up for Market 9:00 AM

Prayer Group 5:30 PM

November 9

Chicken & Noodle Dinner: Preparation 9:00AM-9:00 PM

Chicken & Noodle Dinner Sales 4:00-7:00 PM

November 10

UMW Coffee/Meeting/Market Clean-Up 9:00 AM

OCC Shoebox Packing Party 6:30-8:30 PM

November 11

Strategic Team meeting 7:00 PM

November 13

Nancy Huskey's Fall Festival Music Contest

Sanctuary, 8:00 AM - Noon

November 14

Stewardship & H/C Sunday 9:00 AM

Adult Sunday School following service

Youth Sunday School following service

Charge Conference at Parkview 3:00 PM, all are welcome.

Jubilation Bells 6:00 PM

Carillon Quartet 7:00 PM

November 15

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-4:00PM

Prayer Group 5:30 PM

November 16

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-4:00PM

Bible Study 6:00 PM

November 17

UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-4:00PM

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 6:00PM-8:00PM

November 18

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-4:00PM

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 6:00PM-8:00PM

November 19

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-4:00 PM

November 20

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-12 NOON

November 21

Stewardship Sunday 9:00 AM

Welcome & Celebration of New Members 9:00 AM

OCC Shoebox Dedication 9:00 AM

Adult Sunday School following service

Youth Sunday School following service

Loading & Delivery of Shoeboxes 12-2:00 PM

Jubilation Bells 6:00 PM

Carillon Quartet 7:00 PM

November 22

Prayer Group 5:30 PM

OCC Drop-Off Center Open 9:00AM-12:00 NOON

November 23

Bible Study 6:00 PM

November 24

UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

November 25

Thanksgiving Day – Office closed

November 26

Thanksgiving Day – Office closed

November 28

Consecration Sunday 9:00 AM

Adult Sunday School following service

Youth Sunday School following service

Jubilation Bells 6:00 PM

Carillon Quartet 7:00 PM

November 29

Prayer Group 5:30 PM

November 30

Bible Study 6:00 PM



OPEN HEARTS.
OPEN MINDS.
OPEN DOORS.
The people of
The United
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MAIN ST. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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CUT AND POST IN THE COMMUNITY

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

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

TUESDAY, NOV. 9
4:00-7:00 P.M.

Tickets are \$10 each and includes homemade chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit delight, homemade yeast rolls, and apple crisp.

Drive through only. Enter the parking lot from 3rd Street, exit right at Main Street.

For more information, call 765-472-3323. Tickets are available at the church office, from church members, or in limited quantity at the door. Pre-sale is recommended.

Proceeds support our missions.

