



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

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

Our Constant and Living Hope



Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

We reach out to you with this month's newsletter amidst protracted and challenging times. The coronavirus pandemic and its latest variant, omicron, continue to ravage the world. The tyranny of terrorism and violence is on the

increase locally and internationally. Who is our hope in the face of this uncertain situation? Christ is He. As obvious as the answer may sound, it seems that Christians don't think often enough of Jesus Christ as a round-the-clock Intercessor. Think with me about this priestly ministry of our Savior and Lord.

In this season of Epiphany, we should grasp that Christ is not only celebrated as the manifested Christ, He is also celebrated as our continual interceding High Priest. The writer of Hebrews states that ¹⁴ *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.* ¹⁵ *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin.* ¹⁶ *Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need* (Hebrews 4:14-16). This scripture reminds me of Martin Luther's statement about Jesus. Luther said, *"In His life, Christ is an example, showing us how to live; in His death, He is a sacrifice, satisfying for our sins; in His resurrection, a conqueror; in His ascension, a King; in His intercession, a high priest."* Luther's statement encapsulates the life, ministry, passion, death, resurrection, and post-resurrection ministries of Jesus Christ, as well as His ongoing priestly role.

At the time of Hebrews, the high priest of the Old Testament (Old Covenant) was not able to empathize with the people's

weaknesses. In fact, he can only present people's requests and prayers to God after he had made confession of his own sin and received forgiveness. Leviticus 4:3 gives us the reason: *"If the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, he must bring to the LORD a young bull without defect as a sin offering for the sin he has committed."*

In other words, it was hoped that the high priest of the Old Covenant would help people get out of their messy situations. Unfortunately, his human frailties made the people he was supposed to intercede for, sin against God, inasmuch as they followed his example. Jesus Christ is different—He is the *one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin*. His priesthood is eternal—through grace He is leading men and women into fellowship with God and at the same time praying for them.

He is constant, loving, and dependable even in hopeless and uncertain situations as ours today.

**It seems that
Christians don't
think often enough
of Jesus Christ as
a round-the-clock
Intercessor.**

So, how can this truth—that Jesus Christ, our high priest is praying for you round-the-clock—be a comfort and hope as you journey through this year and it challenges? First, hold firm the faith. The writer of Hebrews goes on to say, *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.* Our faith will be tried by all shades of challenges of life. But we are consoled

and encouraged that Jesus Christ our great High Priest is interceding for us. What a joy! Imagine Jesus praying for you and mentioning your name and the names of those around you. How does that sound to you? I believe it ignites joy and hope. Second, always remember that Jesus is approachable. Again, the author of Hebrews says, *Let us have confidence, then, and approach God's throne, where there is grace. There we will receive mercy and find grace to help us just when we need it.* The very same knowledge that brings you comfort about Jesus' intercessory ministry is the basis for you to pour out your heart and concerns to Him. Do you know anyone whose hope is dwindling, or someone who has given up on their faith? Look for an opportunity to share this message with them so that God can make a difference in their lives. Indeed, Jesus Christ is our living hope.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,

Reverend Samuel



STAFF @ Main Street UMC

SAMUEL A. ODUBENA Ph.D.
Pastor

MILES STRALY
Lay Leader

ELAINE CRAIG
Office Manager

NANCY HUSKEY
Director, Music Ministry

DON KRUG
Organist

KAY WEIDEMAN
Pianist, Worship Leader

MELANIE GIEK
Youth Director

MICHAEL MCMINN
Custodian

MARCIA MINARD
Financial Secretary

SARAH JAMES
Nursery Attendant

PRESCHOOL STAFF
CAMI WALTERS
Director

RHONDA BUTZIN
KOLEEN MURPHY
JESSICA RASMUSSEN



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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

CELEBRATE *our newest members*

Main Street United Methodist Church celebrates and welcomes its newest members, John and Patricia Sasso and Mary Linda Guthrie.

The Sassos have been married for 46 years. John retired from Maconaquah School Corporation after teaching for 37 years. Patricia is a registered

Nurse. She retired from

Community Howard. John and Patricia have two daughters: Angela and husband Mike who reside in Marden, England, and Elizabeth and husband Kjetil who reside in Houston, Texas. The Sassos attended Parkview UMC for many years and look forward to being active members of Main Street United Methodist Church.

Linda is retired as an Associate Professor from Ivy Tech Community College. She also taught at Greenfield Junior High School, Maconaquah Middle School, and Peru High School. She also worked in her husband, Tom's, dental practice for 21 years. They have a son, Jonathan in Crawfordsville, a daughter, Meg in Peru, and a son James, in Greenfield, as well as five grandchildren. Linda created and taught in TEAM Miami County, a youth leadership program; is a member of Tri Kappa; and developed and facilitated WOW, a program to help women entering the workforce. She spends her time helping her mom in Zionsville and helping with their grandchildren.



GREAT *collaboration*



In the spirit of the Great Collaboration, Main Street United Methodist Church, First Christian Church, and Chapel of Praise came together on December 31, 2021, to hold a New Year's Eve service of praise songs and prayer. The one-hour service was a unique opportunity for the 48 attendees to nail their sins and burdens to the cross, and to end the year 2021 with repentance; and then transition to the new year 2022 looking upward and forward. Many thanks to Rev. Samuel Odubena, Pastor Jim Loft, and Pastor Marie Thompson, Don Krug, Kay Weideman, and FCC Praise Band for leading us.

ADULT *Sunday school*



Thank you for this opportunity to grow my spiritual quest with this amazing group of people in this adult Sunday school class. The month of January and part of February Miles Straly selected a six-week series called *Mysteries of the Messiah*. This series is written by Rabbi Jason Sobel, who is a messianic Rabbi. What that means is he's Jewish by faith but believes in Jesus Christ the Messiah. From the first words of Genesis to the last words of Revelation, God's Word is filled with clues, revelation, and an extraordinary plot. We have explored odd characters, dysfunctional families, bloody battles and courageous heroes, yet we have found incredible wisdom and power in these Words. In each series we have examined scriptures filled with mysteries of the Old Testament and uncovered connections to scriptures in the New Testament through Jesus Christ the Messiah.

The series included: *Finding Jesus in the story of Creation*, *Finding Jesus in the story of the Patriarchs*, *Finding Jesus in the story of Joseph and Judah*, *Finding Jesus in the story of Moses*, *Finding Jesus in the story of Ruth and Boaz* (coming February 6, 2022), *Finding Jesus in the story of David* (coming February 13, 2022). Each series has unraveled revelations that have caused inspiration, hope and overflowing blessing in our hearts. We have had the opportunity to learn, share and build friendships. I believe we all have had eye-opening moments and new ways to reflect on our lives. Watch for new series information in our weekly bulletin. Thanks to all adult Sunday School attendees for making the *Mysteries of the Messiah* come to life!!!

Candace Ballard

PRAYER *ministry*

The Prayer Team will continue to meet on Monday evenings at 5:30pm over Zoom. Our next in person meeting will be Monday, March 28th. We are thinking about using the Chapel to hold the meeting this time. Main Street members are welcome to join our in-person meetings once every two months. We are always looking for new people to join our team. If you are interested, please see Laura Hochstedler or Rev. Samuel for more information.

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.

WELCOME *Elaine*

Meet Elaine Craig, the new office manager at Main Street United Methodist Church.

Elaine has had a variety of jobs including newspaper reporter, editor, and photographer at the Peru Daily Tribune and the Logansport Pharos-Tribune; a bookstore manager with Waldenbooks and the general manager at Books-A-Million; a customer service representative at Modern Graphics; and a secretary, receptionist and Learning Resource Center Technician at Ivy Tech.

She is a graduate of Peru High School, attended Indiana University and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Purdue University.

She enjoys reading, photography, writing, painting and spending time with her family and friends.

Her attention to detail, advanced computer skills, and customer service experience will make her an asset in her new role as Office Manager.

MISSIONS *update*

This month we would like to focus on two important missions that Main Street United Methodist Church has supported for many years.

The first is UMCOR. This is the United Methodist Church's Committee on Relief. It is the global humanitarian aid and development organization of the United Methodist Church. Connection is at the core of UMCOR's work. UMCOR connects the UMC, its people, and congregations to partner with others engaged in God's global work, which takes place in a variety of settings, countries, and cultures. UMCOR was born in the throes of WW2. In the past year UMCOR provided a caring presence and humanitarian aid for

people impacted by severe weather, earthquakes, volcanoes, COVID-19 lockdowns, political unrest, and armed conflicts. Three of the major events that UMCOR supported in just the past few months were the devastating Dec 10, 2021 tornadoes in the Mid-South USA, Super Typhoon Rai in the Philippines in



December, and the August 2021, 7.2 magnitude earthquake which hit Haiti. UMCOR funds and volunteers were quickly on-site to bring relief and Christian love to all of those who were hardest hit.

We are also a supporter of the Lucille Raines Residence in downtown Indianapolis. This facility has been owned and operated by the United Methodist Women of Indiana since 1977. The 49 men and women who are residents are actively engaged in rebuilding their lives from substance abuse. They all share in learning to function independently in day-to-day life. Many are finding Christ to be the source of their successful recovery. The Lucille Raines Residence 12-step recovery process and meetings help the residents rebuild their

lives and relationships with God in a safe, clean, and sober environment.



Note: Additional photos from the Filipino Super Typhoon can be found: umcmmission.org>umcor

Additional photos from Lucille Raines Residence are available at lucillerrainesresidence.weebly.com



Missions and Youth are joining to present another Nelson's Port-a-Pit chicken sale fund raiser. It will be a drive-by event in our church parking lot. Chicken and Pit Potatoes will be offered from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on **Saturday, April 23**. Pre-sale tickets will be available soon. Please get several to use, sell, or give to friends.

PRESCHOOL *update*

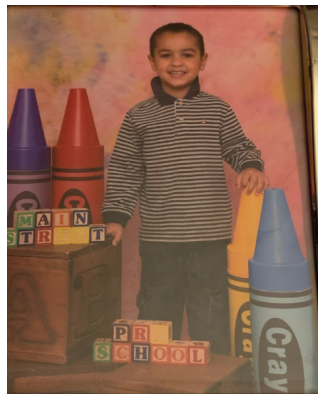
We are happy to report we accepted four new friends after the holidays which brings our number to 64 preschoolers. We will start registration for the 2022-2023 school year the first of March.

Preschool will be doing an Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser from February 1st to February 15th. Please look for a catalog and order form.

The second week in January we had to stay out of the gym and we are happy to report that Climate Makers got our air conditioning installed. It's hard to appreciate during the middle of winter but it will be great when the weather turns warm.

We would like to thank the UMW for our amazing breakfast when we had our Breakfast with Santa. It takes months to plan but the looks on the preschoolers' faces are priceless. We let our preschoolers be creative with their parents' Christmas presents this year. They used Christmas bows hot-glued to popsicle sticks to create their own creations that we absolutely loved.

ALUMNI *news*



When St. Charles closed its doors, Ann Hanley was thankful to find Main Street Preschool for her son Joel. The scholarship they received was such a blessing as was the comfort in knowing Joel would be in the care of loving Christians. Joel is now a senior at Peru High School. He plays basketball and desires to be a professional basketball player. Occasionally, Joel will pop into our youth gym to shoot baskets with his mom, Ann Hanley. We wish Joel blessings as he wraps up his senior year and as he pursues his goals.

Do you know someone who graduated from our preschool who we can feature in our next edition? We'd love to see the path God has set for those who attend our preschool. Let us know. Send the information to office@perumainstreet.com.



The kids really enjoyed having Officer Jeremy Brindle and Officer Darro visit the Bee class for show and tell.





PRAYER *list*

The Scripture admonishes us to pray and intercede for one another. Please remember the following members and friends in your prayers:

Bob and Marcia Harkema
 Carl Christensen
 Mandy Custer
 Stacy Young
 Wm. Roger Powers Jr.
 The family of George Gehring
 Sherry Gehring
 Debbie Plothow
 Julie Carroll
 Dale Heltzel
 Rhoda Ellers and family
 Will Pierce
 Vince Gant
 Judy Satrom and the family of DeLeana Satrom
 Sandy Althouse
 Erin Savage
 Steve Butler
 Gary Loe

Terry Smith
 Gabby
 Heather Walters
 Larry Yoder
 Ashley Wright
 Bob Dillman
 Dana Harp
 Kaitlin Frick
 DJ Smith
 Deb Smith
 Bernita Goble
 Glenn Householder
 Kathy Conner
 Beth Wright
 Alen Burkhardt
 Theo Massaro
 John Powell
 Joe Slone
 Lori Haun
 Melissa Dillman

Bradley Conner
 Angela Dean
 Jessica Shutter
 Mary Courtney
 Anna Marie Slone
 Belinda
 Scotty Fisher
 Ron Lamb
 Chris Bond
 Debbie Dailey
 Terry W. Smith
 Robert Bonifant
 Pastor Kenny Cole
 Bill Summers
 and for our church members
 and Pastor.

FEBRUARY *birthdays*

Baylie Giek	02/01	Janet Vincent	02/11	Cami Walters	02/17
Kelly Trevithick	02/02	Connie Cutler	02/15	Kent Worland	02/18
Tresha Rice	02/03	Julie Worland	02/15	Jared Giek	02/19
Steven Hoover	02/07	William Gornto	02/15	Travis Smith	02/24
Abigail Gornto	02/11	Rod Daniels	02/17	Abigail Smith	02/28

MARCH *birthdays*

Abby Jordan	03/01	Kari Whann	03/10	Ray Parrish	03/20
Erin Smith	03/01	Benjamin Hochstedler	03/11	Cameron Smith	03/24
Jennifer Morimoto	03/02	Robert Doran	03/12	Terry B. Smith	03/24
Corinne Cutler	03/04	Kris Galvin	03/14	Brad Smith	03/25
Nancy McMinn	03/04	Frances Lease	03/15	Don DeWald	03/26
Christopher McGuire	03/05	Sarah Gould	03/16	Teresa Beall	03/27
Douglas Rice	03/05	Abigail Logsdon	03/17	Tracy Music	03/27
Linda Spikerman	03/08	Karen Kallok	03/18	Gina Friend	03/28
Alicia Garber	03/09	Curtis Powell	03/18	Marianne Savage	03/30
A.J. Jordan	03/09	Don Krug	03/19		

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

Otis Spunkmeyer
FUN-RAISING

Feb. 2-15
PRESCHOOL
COOKIE DOUGH
FUNDRAISER



For fun cookie dough ideas visit: <https://www.otisspunkmeyer.com/blog/fun-cookie-dough>

FEBRUARY *at a glance*

February 1

- Bible Study 6:00 PM

February 2

- UMW Coffee 9:00 AM
- Strategic Team meeting 5:30 PM

February 5

- No Regrets Men's Conference 8:00 AM-2:30 PM

February 6

- Holy Communion Service 9:00 AM
- Adult Sunday School following service
- All Youth: Craft/Service project for the community/church members following service
- Vocal Group (RISE or 441) 5:00 PM
- Jubilation Bells rehearsal 6:00 PM
- Carillon Quartet rehearsal 7:00 PM

February 7

- Staff Meeting 9:30 AM
- Prayer Group 5:30 PM

February 8

- Bible Study 6:00 PM

February 9

- UMW Coffee 9:00 AM
- UMW Meeting 10:30 AM

February 13

- Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
- Adult Sunday School following service
- Youth Sunday School following service
- Children Sunday School following service
- Vocal Group (RISE or 441) 5:00 PM
- Jubilation Bells rehearsal 6:00 PM
- Carillon Quartet rehearsal 7:00 PM

February 14

- Staff Meeting 9:30 AM
- Valentine's Day
- Prayer Group 5:30 PM

February 15

- Bible Study 6:00 PM

February 16

- UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

February 20

- Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
- Adult Sunday School following service
- Youth Sunday School following service
- Children Sunday School following service
- Next Gen: Practical Evangelism/Discipleship Seminar 10:30 AM
- Vocal Group (RISE or 441) 5:00 PM
- Jubilation Bells rehearsal 6:00 PM
- Carillon Quartet rehearsal 7:00 PM

February 21

- Staff Meeting 9:30 AM
- Prayer Group 5:30 PM
- Psi Iota Xi meeting 6:30 PM

February 22

- Bible Study 6:00 PM

February 23

- UMW Coffee 9:00 AM

February 27

- Sunday Worship 9:00 AM
- Adult Sunday School following service
- Youth Sunday School following service
- Children Sunday School following service
- Next Gen: Practical Evangelism/Discipleship Seminar 10:30 AM
- Vocal Group (RISE or 441) 5:00 PM
- Jubilation Bells rehearsal 6:00 PM
- Carillon Quartet rehearsal 7:00 PM

February 28

- Staff Meeting 9:30 AM
- Prayer Group 5:30 PM

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.

A Verse-By-Verse

Study on the
Book of REVELATION

- How can I understand the book of Revelation?
- How is Christ presented in the book of Revelation?
- Who are the 24 elders that are often mentioned in Revelation?
- What is the relevance of the letters to the 7 churches to today's churches?
- Who is the "great harlot" that is discussed in Revelation 17?
- What is the marriage and the marriage supper of the Lamb in Revelation 19?
- Will just 144,000 be saved in the Tribulation or will more than that be saved?
- How does the book of Revelation apply to me?

Join Dr. Samuel A. Odubena
In-person
Main Street, United Methodist Church, Peru, IN

Tuesdays, 6:00-7:15 pm. (EST)

<https://bit.ly/3A5VJ16>



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

CUT AND POST IN THE COMMUNITY

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"

Proverbs 22:6



The wise king says, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). At Main Main Street, we take the ministry of starting off our children in the way of the Lord seriously. It

is one of our core values. We plant the eternal seed in their hearts at home and in the church, we water the seed through our lifestyle (words and deeds), and then trust God to bless our efforts by transforming their hearts. It is a great joy to see our children move from elementary Sunday School to Youth Sunday School. What more? They are doing excellently well in school. Perhaps you are looking for a church with Christ-like passion for children, Main Street UMC is the right place for you and your family.

