



JUNE/JULY 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

Crushing the Power of Anxiety



I welcome you to summer in the name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Summer is the season of sunshine, vacation, and other activities. Whichever zone or country you are in, I encourage and pray that you and your family will enjoy this season in peace through the precious name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Why am I encouraging you and your family to enjoy this season? Though the season itself is exhilarating, it is discouraging to see increasing crime, injustice, terrorism, and godlessness. The world is beset with poverty, persecution, a continuing pandemic, killing of innocent children, and even Russia's inhuman attack on Ukraine. No doubt these situations are bound to cause increasing anxiety. But the good news is, in this challenging time, the word of God has a cure for anxiety. Here is what Apostle Paul told the Philippians: *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*⁷ *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 4:6-7).

Paul wrote the letter to the Philippian church because they were constantly suffering persecution and opposition from their pagan neighbors. At the same time, Paul wrote the letter in such a way that it is applicable to us. Interestingly, Paul himself had every reason to be anxious because at the time of writing this letter, he was a prisoner of Rome awaiting trial. He was under house arrest. He was not sure whether he would live or die. Not only that, at the time of writing this letter, there were problems and quarrels in some of the churches he had planted, and he could not travel to fix these problems. He should have been anxious, right? Instead, he chose to trust in God and God used his chains as an occasion for the spread of the gospel of Christ. In Philippians 1:13-14 he categorically said:¹³ *As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to*

*everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.*¹⁴ *And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.* So he could say: Do not be anxious about anything!

The Greek word used in this text for “anxiety,” “worry,” “concern,” “unduly care” is *merimna*, meaning “distraction.” Anxiety is something that easily distracts—even believers. The Hebrew word translated as anxiety means the emotional distress caused when something vital to your life is threatened. Anxiety or worry is a negative faith. Anxiety makes us assume the worst and anticipate that something terrible will happen. Even if those things we are anxious about do not happen, anxiety leaves us with disastrous consequences, such as digestive issues, headaches, physical and mental problems, blood pressure, etc.

Even Jesus Christ has something to tell us about it:²⁵ *Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*²⁶ *Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?*²⁷ *And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?* (Matthew 6:25-27). Now here's the point. When Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our life—food, body, clothing—he doesn't mean that these things are not important.

Friends, *Do not be anxious about anything* is neither an admonition to ignore your emotions nor is it a call to deny the reality. It is rather an instruction for you to deal with anxiety by choosing to trust in God. It is an invitation to embrace rest and to live through thanksgiving. God is calling you to avoid debilitating anxiety by intentionally trusting in Him. I know that anxiety cannot be totally eradicated (2 Corinthians 11:28), but you can overcome it and make it subject to you. Crush the power of anxiety today by putting your trust in God, take shelter in Him as your fortress, and speak a kind word to someone who needs it. And like Paul, God will use your situation as an occasion for the spread of the gospel of Christ.

Your fellow disciple in Christ,
Reverend Samuel

*Do not be anxious
about anything is
neither an
admonition to
ignore your
emotions nor is it
a call to deny the
reality.*

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Main Street UMC**

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THE MIRACLE *of healed lungs*

Below is an excerpt from a very long email from Regina's son Jordan. Jordan has asked us to share this testimony of God's power to heal. Hope it blesses you and increases your faith.

Mom's small group dedicated an evening to praying and fasting for her (particularly her breathing problems) just before the last update. That same night, mom had a very vivid dream in which two large hands (which she understood to be God's hands) reached down to her....one held underneath her back, and the other touched her chest. When she awoke, she says she was able to take a deep breath for the first time since the operation. We were so thankful, but also wanted to operate in the "trust but verify" mindset before sharing this publicly. As we watched over the past week, she made huge leaps forward in her breathing, coming off of physical pressure support, supplemental O2, and several medications. As you know from previous emails, these were tricky issues that had stumped doctors on how to make further progress, until everything pivoted following this dream. It is clear to us that God has touched her and healed her lungs! This is a moment to celebrate!

STRATEGIC TEAM *News*

The Strat Team is starting 2-3 part listening sessions for learning about the changes the UMC is proposing for the 2024 General Conference. To start these sessions, the Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson, CS, will be here for the Sunday School hour on Sunday, June 26th. She will have frank conversations about the proposed changes and responsibilities of the local church. Please come with your questions - no topic is off limits! We encourage everyone to join us to learn more about this.

On Mother's Day, we enjoyed the ministry of our beloved Conference Superintendent, Rev. Lore Blinn Gibson. May God continue to nourish her and make her family and ministry more fruitful. We love you. Lore.
See our website for her message.



MISSIONS *update*



You all know about Operation Christmas Child and how it has been an important mission outreach for Main Street UMC for the past fifteen years. You have been an essential part of packing shoeboxes with gifts for children all over the world. But, do you know the rest of the story? After receiving their shoebox gifts, many children are invited by the local churches to participate in OCC's discipleship program, The Greatest Journey,

a 12-lesson course that includes Bible stories and Scripture memorization. The goal of the program is for children to become faithful followers of Jesus Christ in their daily lives as they share Him with family and friends. And to that end, since 2009, more than 14.9 million children have made a decision to accept Christ as their personal savior after taking The Greatest Journey!

We at Main Street are renewing our efforts to be a part of this wonderful ministry. The new OCC committee consists of Melanie Giek, Kristi Jordan, Janet Vincent, and Debbie Plothow. Their plan is to make OCC a year-round effort and will be asking the congregation to donate specific items each month to keep OCC in focus. A bright red collection box has been placed in the back of the sanctuary to receive your donations. See their donation schedule on page 4.

Let's make this a record year for Operation Christmas Child as we put together more shoeboxes to bring joy to countless children and more importantly, to help lead them into a relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus.



FOOD FINDERS *Truck*

Volunteers are needed to help in the church parking lot with the Food Finders Drive-by events on Wednesdays, June 22 and August 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you can help, please contact Miles.

When you pause to think about the freedom you enjoy as an American, thank those veterans who helped secure that freedom. One way you can show your appreciation is to donate food items to the Marion Veteran's Food Bank. We have a large bin at the back of the sanctuary for your donations. A list of needed items is placed there.



by Miles Straly

2022 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: *Donation Schedule*

There is a new team leading Operation Christmas Child. We have decided it will take four of us to do everything that Miles and Peggy Straly did! The new OCC committee consists of Melanie Giek, Kristi Jordan, Janet Vincent, and Debbie Plothow. We are asking for your forgiveness early as we are still learning the ropes and are realizing the massive job Miles and Peggy did by themselves. It will definitely take all four of us to do what they have done!

We are going to kick off Operation Christmas Child by having the congregation bring in items throughout the year instead of waiting until fall. (Next year we will begin in January) There will be a bright red box in the back of the sanctuary to put your items in. Each month will have a different item(s) to bring in, but by all means, if you find something on sale that isn't for a specific month, you are more than welcome to bring it in. We never know when things are going to be on clearance.

Here is the suggested donation schedule:

May - Personal Care (bars of soap, toothbrushes, hair supplies, decorative band-aids, small water bottle, non-liquid lip balm, small flashlight with batteries or solar power, small mirror, nail clippers and files).

June - Small Toys (small foam ball, slinky, finger puppets, play cars and trucks, plastic dinosaurs, plastic tools, tennis balls, yo-yo, small etch-a-sketch or magna doodle, hacky sack, small frisbee, kaleidoscope, marbles, - remember, nothing war related).

July and August - School Supplies (watch for those clearance sales after school begins in August).

September - Clothing Items (pillowcase dress, socks, hats, gloves, sunglasses, friendship bracelets, wrist watch, tote bag, beaded jewelry or bead kit, bandana.



October - "Wow" items (stuffed animals, small musical instrument, compact backpack, an outfit to wear, playdough, puzzles, binoculars, Legos).

The above schedule is just a suggested time. You can bring in anything at any time and put it in the box. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Melanie, Kristi, Janet, or Debbie.

by Melanie Giek

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

The Staff-Parish Committee had their first meeting in April and we are getting right to work. The purpose of this committee is to act a liaison between the staff and members of the church. We are also here to support our pastor and staff to carry out their leadership responsibilities. A part of the Staff-Parish Committee's responsibilities includes keeping our job descriptions up-to-date for the church. Several of our descriptions are outdated so we are working with the staff members to get our records correct. This will help us to support our Staff in all that they do for the church.

The committee currently consists of Susan Jordan, Kris Galvin, Connie Cutler, and SPRC Chairperson Laura Hochstedler. We are looking to add more to our committee and would love to have you join us! Please feel free to talk with any of the current members if you are interested. Our meeting dates for this year are June 29, September 28, and November 30 all at 5:30pm in the library.

Laura Hochstedler

Youth @ MAIN STREET

In April and May, the youth took stained glass crafts and Easter cards to Blair Ridge, helped with Nelson's Chicken fundraiser, had an inspirational Youth Sunday service and had fun during camera party. They all did amazingly well. Huge congratulations to Eli Walters on the completion of his high school education. May God bless the future ahead of you. Amen.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming events for the Youth Group will be a pizza party while decorating for Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 25th, from 10 am to noon. Also, that day, the group will travel to Wabash to see Samantha Gornto and Favour Odubena perform in Matilda at the Honeywell Center at 7:30 pm. This event is for youth of all ages. The high school youth are welcome to volunteer to help lead games or help with preschool during VBS from June 27-July 1st. Junior high and elementary youth are welcome to participate in VBS. See the calendar for details.

PJHS SOCCER Team

Picture shows three of our Youth on the PJHS Soccer Team: Ben Hochstedler, Cassandra Blong, and Tobi Odubena. Main Street was well represented on the soccer pitch.



MAIN STREET PRESCHOOL *update*

The months of April and May are always crazy busy for our Preschoolers. In April, we celebrated Jesus' Resurrection with a Resurrection egg hunt. The preschoolers enjoyed it and learned the story of Jesus dying on the cross for our sins. We also got to take a Field Trip to Garden Gate Greenhouses. Susan Jordan and others helped our preschoolers learn about seeds and plants and how to care for our plants once we bring them home. Another special day in April we celebrated was Mother's Day. We had a Mother's Day Celebration and the preschoolers and their mothers decorated flower pots. We also had snacks and played color/shape bingo. It was a great day.

May has been spent getting ready for our End-of-The-Year Program and Graduation on the 24th. We had three "kindergarten" days where the Owls and Butterflies came to preschool from 9-3. We were able to walk to East End and visit the Library on our first kindergarten day. Our second kindergarten day we enjoyed a picnic lunch and played at The Fort. We wish our Preschoolers and their Families to have the best summer and to be safe.

Classes for the 2022-2023 school year will start on Monday, August 8th! Thank you to Rev. Sam, Elaine, Mike and the congregation for all the support you have given us during this school year. We are truly blessed!

Cami Walters
Rhonda Butzin
Koleen Murphy
Jessica Rasmussen



The Owls and Butterflies enjoying The Fort during one of their kindergarten days



Texan asked his dad to bring his semis for star of the week and he did!!



The Butterflies taking graduation pictures.



Susan Jordan helping all our classes learn about plants and how to take care of them.



The Ladybugs enjoying time outside with sidewalk chalk.



The Owls and Butterflies hunting Resurrection Eggs for Easter.



Garden Gate Fun!!

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY PICTURES





Pictures FROM 2022 GRADUATION



2022
class of
CONGRATULATIONS



JUNE & JULY *at-a-glance*

REPEATING WEEKLY ACTIVITIES:

SUNDAYS

Sunday Worship, 9 AM

Adult Sunday School following service

Youth Sunday School following service

Children Sunday School following service

MONDAYS

Staff Meeting 9:30 AM

Prayer Team Meeting 5:30 PM

TUESDAYS

Bible Study 6- 7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAYS

UMW Coffee 9 AM, Church Library

JUNE Calendar

June 1

- *Northwest Clergy Fireside Chat Noon
- *Clergy Summer Conversation at Wabash 11:00 a.m.
- *Strategic Team meeting 5:30 PM

June 4

- *Piano Recital Rehearsal 5:00-7:00 PM

June 5

- *Holy Communion Service 9:00 AM (Pentecost Sunday)
- *Piano Recital 2:00 PM

PRAYER *ministry*



The Prayer Team encourages Main Street members 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.

June 6

- *Rev. Sam on vacation

June 14

- *Peru Fasting and Prayer Day, Old Fire House building 6:00 PM
- *Rev. Sam returns from vacation

June 19

- *Sunday Service (Father's Day) 9:00 AM

June 22

- *Food Finders Truck Drive thru' 10:30 AM-12:30 PM

June 25

- *Youth group helps decorate for VBS/Pizza party 10:00 AM-Noon

June 26

- *Sunday Service (Mission Emphasis) 9:00 AM
- *Listening/Q & A Session with C.S. Rev. Lore following service

June 27

- *Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30 PM

June 28

- *Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30 PM

June 29

- *Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30 PM
- *SPRC Meeting (Library) 5:30 PM

June 30

- *Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30 PM

JULY Calendar

July 1

- *Vacation Bible School 5:00-7:30 PM

July 3

- *Holy Communion Service 9:00 AM

July 4

- *Office Closed (Independence Day)

July 6

- *Northwest Clergy Fireside Chat Noon
- *Strategic Team meeting 5:30 PM

July 10

- *Glory Sightings Sunday 9:00 AM

July 15

- *Circus City Festival Begins

July 17

- *Worship Service 9:00 AM

July 18

- *Youth: Attend Circus show 7:00 PM

July 20

- August Newsletter Deadline

July 23

- *Circus VIP Breakfast 8:00 AM

July 24

- *Worship Service 9:00 AM

July 30

- * Youth: Splash House Water Park in Marion, Time TBA

July 31

- *Worship Service 9:00 AM



PRAYER *list*

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

Beth Benge
 Gretchen Lautzenheiser
 Matt Miller
 Melissa Mullinnix
 Donna Jeffers
 Ukraine families
 Robert Blong
 Del Fawcett
 Sara Dailey
 Marcia Harkema
 Mandy Custer
 Stacy Young
 Roger Powers Jr.
 Sherry Gehring
 Julie

Carroll
 Dale Heltzel
 Will Pierce
 Erin Savage
 Steve Butler
 Gary Loe
 Terry Smith
 Heather Walters
 Larry Yoder
 Ashley Wright
 Bob Dillman
 Dana Harp
 Kaitlin Frick
 DJ Smith
 Deb Smith

Bernita Goble
 Glenn Householder
 Beth Wright
 Alen Burkhardt
 John Powell
 Lori Haun
 Melissa Dillman
 Angela Dean
 Jessica Shutter
 Scotty Fisher
 Chris Bond
 Terry W. Smith
 Bob Harkema
 Robert Bonifant
 and for our church
 members and Pastor.

June *birthdays*

Diana Krug	06/03	Janet Staller	06/10	Sydney Diskey	06/25
Emma Bond [V]	06/07	Jaclyn Bonifant	06/10	Kristen Rice	06/25
Natalie Fishback [V]	06/07	Linda Carwood	06/11	Skylar Nelson [V]	06/26
Rebeca Powell	06/07	Jason Gornto	06/12	Stacia Bonifant	06/28
Jack Young	06/08	Dyna Stickford	06/14	Daniel Conner	06/28
Deborah Swihart	06/08	Amy Forth	06/20	Dwayne Johnson	06/28
Jessica Rhode	06/08	Joseph Brown	06/22	Jennifer Bowman	06/29
Kimberley Fisher	06/08	Larry Yoder	06/23	Evelyn Holz	06/30

July *birthdays*

Greg Borden [V]	07/04	Evelyn Powell	07/09	Charles Cox	07/16
Brad Hochstedler	07/05	Tobin Blong	07/10	Michelle Swihart	07/18
Nathan Mosher	07/07	Kyndal Wheetley [V]	07/10	Susan Cupka Head	07/19
Jim MacDonald [V]	07/08	Allison Rice	07/11	Bonnie Bond	07/25
Olivia Woloshuk	07/08	Robert Blong	07/13	Marcet Spahr	07/27
Ron Koenes	07/09	Tami Holz	07/15	Anna Jo McKaig	07/30

Music *Ministry*

What a wonderful Music Sunday we had! Many thanks to all who participated and made it both meaningful and joyous! I especially love that the entire congregation was able to join us in singing the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”!

Our church is so fortunate to have many with musical gifts! As we pause rehearsals for summer, I invite many of you to volunteer to provide special music for a Sunday. Do

you play an instrument? Would you sing a solo or in an ensemble? We have also had people who have done sign language to music. Please consider what gift through music you could provide.

Feel free to contact me (765-438-6435) by phone, text, or email (nbspahr01@comcast.net).

Nancy Huskey



Next Gen

MAIN STREET
UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH



Created by Rev. Sam, Next Gen is a group of Main Street members who are in their 40s and 50s. This group was created to live as the missional bridge through which people can connect with God, to meet and act purposefully to ensure that Main Street not only survives, but thrives in the coming years through practical evangelism and discipleship. In order to begin this lifelong journey, the first group of Next Gen had a three-week seminar on how to confidently share their faith through the various platforms God has given them. In the April/May edition of *The Messenger*, we shared some testimonials from the participants. Below are more testimonials as this group continues its works to connect people with God:

I learned from the Next Gen seminar that I need to get out of my comfort zone and speak boldly to others about the Word of God. It's not just to everyone else but to me as well to help support and make the church grow. I chose the backbone so I could stop being timid and go out and share the Gospel of Christ. – *Kent*

After the Next Gen seminar, my perspective on evangelism changed. For me, it is noteworthy that the work of evangelism is not for pastors alone. We (the body of Christ) are all called to win souls for Christ within a culture of evangelism that helps people to keep moving toward Christ. I learned that conversion might be an event, discipleship is the process of transformation that produces Christ-likeness in every follower of Christ. Going forward, I desire to keep reaching out to people through the Spirit of Christ. – *Christianab*

I have a lot of work to do within myself to strengthen my own faith. I need to begin to read the Bible daily to better understand God's word. Growing up in the Catholic church we went to church every Sunday. I understood that living a moral life—following the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments along with attending church regularly and participation in the sacraments put you on the road to salvation. There was no emphasis on helping to bring others to know Jesus; and, in fact, the

word evangelism had a bit of a negative connotation about it. To be honest, historically, many times when I attended church it was largely going through the motions. However, as I have aged I have begun to feel a stronger connection to God. I need to continue to foster this. I need to continue to grow this relationship with God. I do believe that strengthening my own relationship and faith in God is key to being a better disciple and being able to effectively share his Word with others. – *Bob*

Most noteworthy things I took from our time together: Faith is a gift given by God-it has nothing to do with me. To truly believe you must continually have “True” heart and faith. By sharing your faith you will have a full understanding of the good things in Christ. One must understand that sharing even if a discouraged response from others helps to bring our faith even closer. In my mind sharing my Faith becomes second nature keeping myself “in check.” – *Alexandria*

When I was asked to join the Next Gen group, I felt it was an opportunity I should take advantage of. I have attended Main Street for over 20 years and I believe in our beautiful church and want to see it flourish and grow. I think all of us on the Next Gen team mentioned that inviting unchurched people to church was a little outside of our comfort zone. But this is something we MUST do to populate the kingdom of God. I enjoyed making the video with Kent and Julie Worland and watching the other teams' videos. Following the seminar, I have spoken to a few people and I am going to continue to work on them in days to come. My other focus is to get more children at Vacation Bible School this summer and to work on getting their families to church. Overall, doing evangelism and increasing our church membership will be a long process but we all can work together to make it happen. – *Melanie*

Attending the Next Generation seminar was very eye-opening and showed me areas I need to focus on to do my part in fulfilling the Great Commission. It is very easy to get so focused on activities and services the church provides that we forget what it is we are truly called to do—to make disciples of Jesus by sharing the gospel. – *Kristi*

CHURCH POTLUCK Party

Following the beautiful Music service held on May 15th, we had a jolly potluck party. Many thanks to Ann Tumlison and Candace Ballard and their team for planning a successful party for our church family. We look forward to getting together soon. :)



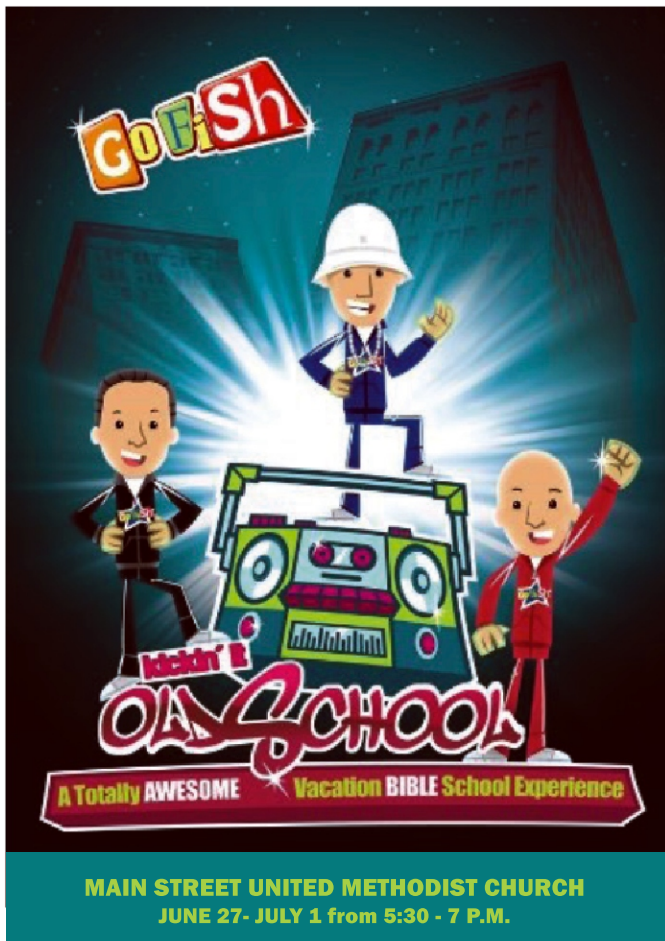
FOCUS on the children

When a child is baptized in our church, we, the congregation, make a solemn promise to provide for the Christian nurture of the child. We have the perfect opportunity for you to fulfill this promise by giving a short lesson during Focus on the Children. Have you ever thought, "What a great lesson she gave!" Those great lessons are already prepared and ready to go. The information in the prepared lesson even tells what props might be helpful. These are simple props such as a dollar bill or a piece of clothing. The lessons are short, simple, and you'll enjoy the responses made by the children. We only need to fill slots for just half of the Sundays in 2022. If we have 26 volunteers, each volunteer only has to do one, but you may find you enjoy it so much, you'll want to do three or four.

There is a calendar posted outside the door of the Sanctuary so that you can even choose the date that's best for you. Looking forward to both new faces and veterans of fulfilling this important promise we made to the children of our church.



And if you are reading this newsletter and need a good place for your child to grow in faith, Main Street's focus on the children and children's Sunday School are great platforms to support your parental efforts to bring them up in the way of the Lord.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The vacation Bible school planning committee began meeting in January to plan VBS 2022. VBS will be held June 27-July 1 at Main Street from 5pm-7:30 pm. We are excited to have five churches working together to plan a bigger community Vacation Bible School this year. The churches are Main Street UMC, First Christian Church, Parkview UMC, Chapel of Praise and The Church of the Nazarene. *Our theme will be "Kickin' It Old Style" by Go Fish.*

This retro 80's theme uses classic hymns done in a fresh new way. Children will learn how God's holiness and separation from sin have never changed.

How can you help with VBS? You can be a group leader! You can volunteer to help with games during VBS! Or your group can prepare a meal for the VBS attendees for one evening! More details about how you can help will be available soon.