



The following is shared from an article the Indiana UMC shared. It is written by Jayson Bradley

The Case for Church Membership / Leading Ideas / Good Read

People are less inclined today to join a church than in the past, even if they are interested and involved. But membership still matters, says Jayson Bradley, as it is a proclamation of commitment, belief, mutual support, and a desire to mature as part of a community. There's something that happens in us when we stand up in front of God and everyone and say, "I am dedicated to this community." Jayson Bradley

- 1. This is my church.** You would think that going to church regularly should be enough to communicate your commitment. But there's something that happens in us when we stand up in front of God and everyone and say, "I am dedicated to this community." It's the difference between living with someone and marrying them.
- 2. I agree with their beliefs.** Most people who attend a church don't really have any idea what their church believes about different doctrinal issues. The membership process is a great way to discover what beliefs are most important to these worshippers — and what you truly believe.
- 3. We're committed to supporting each other.** Membership isn't about simply agreeing to some theological principles and pledging yourself to a church building. You're telling this community that you're there for them. Their concerns are your concerns. Their needs your needs. In turn, they're there to support and encourage you, too!
- 4. I trust the church leadership to help mature me.** This is probably the biggest sticking point for most people considering membership. The idea that people can meddle in our lives isn't a very popular in our culture. In our culture, we don't want someone poking around in our business.

Christianity isn't simply about regular quiet times and listening to sermons. It's about opening our lives and inviting spiritually mature people in to encourage, edify, and empower us to live more dynamically. This requires vulnerability and mutual submission.

Membership doesn't save us. Joining a church isn't a salvific act. But being committed to a community of faith is integral to our spiritual growth. Membership might not be prescribed biblically, but it's a powerful step in a transformational direction.

Dear Church Family,

The old church would use the time before Easter to prepare people for baptism and membership, the tradition is still with us today. March 29th will be Confirmation Sunday for the youth that has completed Confirmation. As a young adult or adult, it is also an opportunity to be Baptized, and /or join the church in church membership. If you have questions, please contact me.

-Pastor Greg

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ALTAR DECORATIONS

This lamp is called the "Protestant Sanctuary Lamp." Among the church's historical information there is a description written by Gladstone S Rheubottom, who at one time presented the church with this lamp as a memorial. Here is the description:

The Lamp Embodies Symbols both of Old and New Testaments.

1. The burning lamp is a symbol of the ever living and eternal presence of God among men.
2. The color red, visible from the flame, is a symbol of life and vitality, and God who is the Author of Life.
3. The lamp has the overall shape of a chalice or the cup of communion, emblematic of Holy Communion, of God and man.
4. The upper part has three major divisions, while the lower part is one, reminding the worshippers of the Trinity, three yet one.
5. Each of the three sides has a cross at the center, as the cross must be the center of life that is truly Christian.
6. At the end of the crosses are symbols of the four Gospels or of the four evangelists.
7. The lamp is placed upon the altar, high and lifted up, so that all men might be drawn unto God.

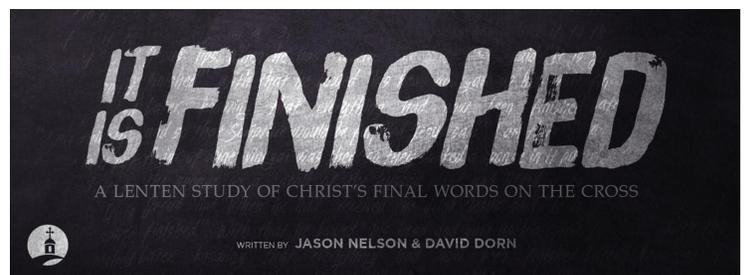


Thank you to Gail Abel, who is responsible for the altar decorations at this time and pulled this lamp out of storage for a while for us to enjoy!

LENT BEGINS WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

We will hold an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday February 26th 5:15-6:15 pm. It is an open house style service. This will be a time for personal prayer and reflection. You may walk in anytime to receive your ashes then sit and pray. You may leave when you are ready.

During worship services March 1st—March 29th, Pastor Greg will be reminding us of Jesus last words on the cross and reflecting on what we can learn from them.



SUNDAY MORNING ADULT GROUPS

FAITH

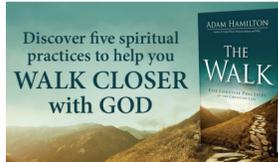
Classroom led by Pastor Greg



This class continues their study of the book of Mark in February.

HOPE

Classroom led by Judy Briganti



The Connections Class will continue the study of Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk* which focuses on the Five Essential Practices of Christian Life.

February 2- "Give: Where your Treasure Is"

"What we do with our money tells us something about the condition of our heart."

February 9- "Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light"

"Most people who choose to follow Jesus do so because of the positive witness of Christians through whom they experienced love and from whom they heard a compelling witness and example of what it mean to be a Christian."

February 16- "The Five Practices from the Cross"

Adam Hamilton wrote *The Walk* anticipating that Christians and churches might use the content to take up the recommended practices during Lent.

February 23- "The Final Challenge "

Our goals during lent might include the following practices that we have studied.

1. Pray five times a day and worship regularly.
2. Read five verses of the Bible daily and study the Bible in a small group.
3. Practice five acts of intentional kindness toward others each week and serve others.
4. Extend five acts of generosity toward others each month and give generously to God through the church.
5. Let others know you are a Christian and invite five people to church each year.

The important thing is not the specific numbers. They are suggested goals for implementing the concepts learned in studying *The Walk* by Adam Hamilton. Please consider "walking" with us.

LOVE

led by James Geleske & Mark Mikel



This group of mixed age adults continues to meet every Sunday. They choose videos to view from RIGHT NOW media and discuss how it relates to them personally. The LOVE group has begun planning outside of church fellowship activities and enjoyed bowling last month!

SMALL GROUPS MEETING THIS MONTH

S.P.A. Group

Will meet this month on Wednesday, Feb. 5th at the church
On Wednesday, Feb. 19th, they are hosting a social at Miller's Senior Living. The entire congregation is invited to join.



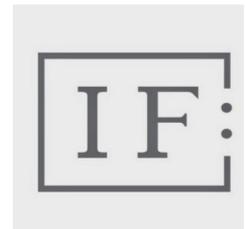
Men's Group

Will Meet Saturday, Feb. 8th &
Saturday, Feb. 22nd, both at 8 am



IF: Table

Evening group - Tuesday, Feb. 11th 7 pm @ the Menessah Mullett's
Daytime group- Friday, Feb. 28th 9:30 am in the church kitchen



United Methodist Women

Will meet on the 3rd Wednesday for lunch
February 19th at Noon in the church kitchen



Coffee, Christ & Conversation

Meets Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. Will meet Feb. 5th & 12th.
Instead of meeting on the 19th, all participant's are invited to the social at Miller's. Feb 26th, will meet after the Ash Wednesday Service.



Chancel Choir

Choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:25 pm. Anyone is welcome to join! This month instead of practice on February 19th, the group is invited to participate in the social at Miller's Senior Living.



SERVANT OF THE MONTH

Caryn Hershberger and her husband Denny became members of our church in 1988, shortly after their daughter, Holly, began attending preschool year. She says, "We found it such a warm and welcoming place when we first moved to Wakarusa. We raised our children in this church and are so thankful for the influence it has had in their lives."

Caryn has been very involved in the ministries of our church. She helps monthly in the Children's Sunday School, has been a regular Bible School volunteer for several years. She and Denny both greet and usher at the contemporary service. She is the leader of SPA (sharing, prayer, action) women's group and enjoys using this group to bless others in the church and community. She is also an active participant in the evening IF: table group.

After teaching 32 years she retired to spend more time with her family and has quickly filled up her time serving others. In addition to her church volunteering, she babysits her grandchildren a couple days a week, volunteers at the baby clinic at FCDC and serves as a board member for FCDC. She also works part time supervising student teachers through Bethel University.

Caryn shared that one of the most life changing experience she had was when she went on our church mission trip to Lower Beech Fork in Kentucky. It took her out of her comfort zone and taught her what service to others is really about. "Being a Christian is so much more than going to church on Sunday, reading the Bible and Praying. It's about finding ways to serve the Lord by reaching out to others."



Thank you Caryn for all you do for our church, the community and God!

GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER

- Faster than a speeding child!**
- More Powerful than a budget cutter!**
- Abel to leap tall volumes in a single bound!**
- It's Super Librarian!**
- Defender of books,**
- Teacher of all learners**
- Defender of civilization!**



Someone shared this picture of Alice Bjornstad who livened up things at Hubbard Hill where she works. She dressed as a "super librarian" for their Super Heroes Day.

LOOK GOOD & DO GOOD

We are placing orders for new church t-shirts. The church features a saying derived from the teachings of John Wesley the founder of Methodism. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." The shirts are available in sizes from youth small all the way up to Adult XXXL. You may purchase one for \$10 each. Place your order by e-mailing the church office or using the order sheet in the entry way. Wear the shirt when serving at our sausage sandwich booth, tutoring at school or other times you serve in the community. We also plan to use this as our Bible School volunteer shirt, so you can help us save money to spend on other items by purchasing it now yourself. Please place orders by the end of February!



A REASON TO GO SHOPPING



Christmas is only 11 months away! The SPA group plans to pack Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes again this year and is asking your help to prepare. By purchasing items throughout the year instead of waiting until fall, you can get better prices on items. Each month we will feature an item to look for in stores. We have set up a collection area at the church to bring your items. This month you may be able to find good deals on small accessories: sunglasses, jewelry, watches or hair ties & bows.



GO: outreach & service

Special Article– 2020 Budget

Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will burst with wine. Proverbs 3:9-10

Category Description	2020 Budget
Administrative	\$ 6,050.00
Annual Conference Expenses	\$ 500.00
Education	\$ 4,130.00
Misc	\$ 250.00
Outreach and Nurture	\$ 1,150.00
Property Upkeep	\$ 14,250.00
Insurance	\$ 8,500.00
Refreshments	\$ 650.00
Right Now Campaign	\$ 960.00
Career Development	\$ 800.00
Choir Director	\$ 4,269.76
Custodian	\$ 4,479.51
Health Ins Church	\$ 15,600.00
Nursery	\$ 1,795.92
Organist	\$ 5,928.32
Pastor	\$ 52,000.00
Pension Church	\$ 10,725.00
Communication/Youth Coord	\$ 11,500.00
Social Security	\$ 2,140.03
Travel	\$ 1,000.00
Workman's Comp	\$ 1,000.00
Utilities	\$ 12,000.00
Worship	\$ 1,750.00
Worship Technology	\$ 750.00
Expense Total	\$ 162,178.54
Give UMCOR 2%	3,269.13
Pay Apportionments: Dist 1%, Conf 10%	<u>17,968.00</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$ 183,415.67</u>
Needed per week	\$ 3,527.22

The Finance Committee met in January to plug in the final numbers to the 2020 budget. Above is the proposed budget. This will be voted on at the Administrative Council Meeting on February 6th. The church is supported 100% by giving among our members and attendees.

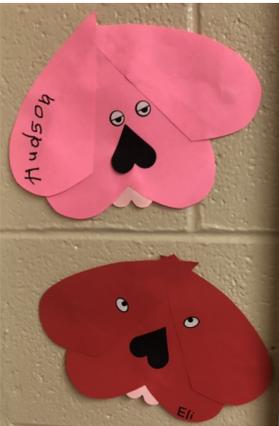
PLANNING TEAM REPORT

The planning team met on January 13th. This group's primary function is to share ideas, plan events and work together to accomplish the mission of our church: "Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." This is the opposite of a business meetings. We do not make any decisions re: the building, finances or staff. Instead we focus on planning worship services, outreach in the community and enhancing the spiritual lives of our members.

During the January meeting, special dates were set for the year of 2020. These include Easter Breakfast, Fall Bible School, Harvest Sunday. Other items discussed were the new "Do Good" t-shirts and including music from the children on the last Sunday of each month.

Planning team will meet again Monday March 9th @ 7pm. The meeting is open to anyone and your input is welcome!

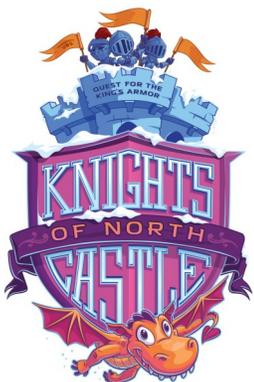
NURSERY SCHOOL UPDATES



During January the Nursery School classes spent a day at Gongwer's Gym and had a lot of fun. The 4 year olds are working on their alphabet books and just finished their dinosaur unit. The 3 year olds have been learning their colors and shapes and practicing their large motor skills in an obstacle course.

In February, all students will bring their dads to Father's Nights. Classes will also have Valentines parties and celebrate February and June birthdays!

PREPARING FOR FALL BIBLE SCHOOL



The theme for our 2020 Fall Bible School will be "Knights of North Castle" Beth Pogue will be travelling to Fort Wayne on Saturday, February 29th for a preview showcase 9-noon. Anyone who is invested in this church outreach program is invited to ride along. We will see a preview of the Bible Stories, decorations, music & activities. It will be a time to be inspired!

Contact Beth to ride along!

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Mon Feb 3	7pm	Hand Bell Practice
	7 pm	Nursery School Board Meeting
Wed Feb 5	6:30 pm	SPA meeting
	6:30 pm	Coffee, Christ & Conversation
	7:25 pm	Choir Practice
Thu Feb 6	7 pm	Administrative Council Meeting
Sat Feb 8	8 am	Men's Group
Mon Feb 10		Father's Night for the 3's preschool
	7pm	Pastor/parish Committee Meeting
	7pm	Hand Bell Practice
Tue Feb 11		Father's Night for the 4's preschool
	7pm	IF: Table (evenings) at Menessah Mullet's home
Wed Feb 12	6:30 pm	Coffee, Christ & Conversation
	7:25 pm	Choir Practice
Mon Feb 18	7 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Wed Feb 19	Noon	UMW Lunch
	6pm	SOCIAL AT MILLER'S SENIOR LIVING
Sat Feb 22	8 am	Men's Group
Mon Feb 24	7 pm	Hand Bell Practice
Wed Feb 26	5:15-6:15 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	6:30 pm	SPA meeting
	6:30 pm	Coffee, Christ & Conversation
	7:25 pm	Choir Practice
Fri Feb 28	9:30 am	IF: Table (daytime) in the church kitchen
Sat Feb 29	9-Noon	Bible School Showcase (in Fort Wayne)

Birthdays

- 2/5 Jayme Will
- 2/6 Kathy Berkey
- 2/9 Richard Truex
- 2/13 Paige Hershberger
- 2/14 Ruby Abel**
- 2/14 Rick Vandegrift
- 2/14 Bonnie Woodlee
- 2/15 Paula Hershberger
- 2/16 Patti Jamison
- 2/19 Judy Smeltzer
- 2/20 George Abel**
- 2/23 June Schieber
- 2/23 Ted Wesolek
- 2/28 Candi Sellon

Sunday School Children are in **PURPLE**
Please take time to send them a card!

Anniversaries

- 2/16 Bob & Laura Zell
- 2/24 Randy & Jane Abel

We are in the process of updating our Birthday & Anniversary Lists.

Please let us know if there is an error by e-mailing the church office

wakarusaumc@gmail.com

This couple is celebrating the 47th Wedding Anniversary this month.

CONGRATULATIONS!



WAKARUSA
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

MAKING DISCIPLES OF
JESUS CHRIST FOR THE
TRANSFORMATION OF
THE WORLD

GLOWING WITH
CHRIST'S LOVE

GROWING IN FAITH
TOGETHER

AND

GOING TO SHARE GOD'S
LIGHT

SPECIAL DATES- WE WANT TO SEE YOU!

Evening Social at Miller's

On Wednesday February 19th the SPA group is hosting a social hour at Miller's Assisted Living. The entire congregation is invited to join. It brings such joy to the residents there to have someone to visit with .

February 19th 6 pm @ Miller's Senior Living

Ash Wednesday Service

On Wednesday February 26th there will be an Ash Wednesday walk-in service 5:15-6:15. You may come anytime during the hour for a quiet time of reflection and prayer and placement of ashes by Pastor Greg. The ashes represent mourning for our sins and a sign of repentance.

February 26th 5:15-6:15 pm



WAKARUSA
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH
309 S. Elkhart Street
PO Box 414
Wakarusa, IN 46573

Phone: 574-862-2863
E-mail:
wakarusaumc@gmail.com

**Visit us on the web:
www.wakarusaumc.org**

Sunday mornings schedule:

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service

9:30 a.m. Discussion groups and classes for all ages

10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE