



Seeking to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

through actively reflecting the love of Jesus Christ.

# the Messenger

southwhitleyumc.com

## WORSHIP

### Sunday Morning Service

State Roads 14 & 5

Worship Service  
9:00 am

Sunday School  
10:15 am  
Features children's programming, youth and adult small groups.

## CONTACT

South Whitley  
United Methodist Church  
6685 W SR 14  
South Whitley, IN 46787

260.723.5107  
260.723.6418 fax

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00am - 3:00pm

### Childcare & Preschool Needs

260.723.5105  
Jodi Sims, Childcare Director  
Traci Kreider, Preschool Director

Newsletter Announcements  
[swumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:swumc@embarqmail.com)



### "A PEACEFUL PAUSE..."

Written by: Pastor Keith R. Schreffler

#### A Prayer for Advent

Creator God, as I think about the upcoming season of Christmas, a time which is supposed to be joyous, fun-filled and exciting; a time with family and loved ones gathered together in celebration, I cannot help but think about those in the world and, yes, those all around us who are facing extreme hardship and devastating loss.

I think about those who find themselves having to do without the everyday pleasures of life that so many of us all too often take for granted---a roof over our heads; food on the table; the love of a spouse, family and friends. There are those who will find it very difficult to be truly grateful and even more difficult to celebrate!

There are times, Lord, as blessed as I am, when I come to the realization of my own selfishness and failure to give as You have called me to give. Open my heart and the hearts of all Your people to the needs of our fellowman that we may reflect the true love of Christ this holiday season. Forgive us, Lord, for those times when we fall short and fail to recognize the needs of others.

As we enter into this season of Advent, Lord, remind us that Christ came, not for the saved, but for the lost. Remind us that we who profess Christ as our personal Savior are to be like Christ to those we encounter along our journey through life; that we are to be caring, loving, servants in a broken world.

Remind us, Lord, that Christmas is about Christ and not about materialistic gift giving. It is about sharing the good news of Jesus' birth, His life, His death and His resurrection. Christmas is about the good news of salvation for all those who accept Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

In the name of Jesus Your Son, we pray, Amen!



### Retirement Celebration

Let's join together and extend warm wishes to Pastor Keith and Kay as they begin their retirement (again) on December 30, 2018. Pastor Keith and Kay came to the SWUMC a few short months ago and immediately touched hearts and lives in our congregation. They will be remembered as genuine, warm, and friendly.

To celebrate their well-deserved retirement, the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be hosting a farewell reception immediately following the service on December 30<sup>th</sup>. We invite everyone to attend as we express our appreciation to Pastor Keith and Kay Schreffler.



### Old Fashion Christmas Party

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY** on December 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in Social Hall. Join us for hors d'oeuvres, singing, fun and Fellowship. Please indicate your intention to attend on the sheet in the church Lobby. Any voluntary food donations can be selected from the preplanned menu also found at the signup table. Please feel free to invite family and friends and we look forward to seeing everyone there.



### Christmas Choir

The Christmas choir will be leading the worship in the December 16<sup>th</sup> am service. We will have one practice on Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>. Any adults and any children who wish to participate must be at this practice in order to sing on Sunday. The practice will run from 6:30pm to 8:30pm. Please see Michele, or sign up on the sheet to ensure you have a place in this worship leading choir!

### Christmas Caroling

On December 16<sup>th</sup>, South Whitley UMC will be Christmas caroling in North Manchester at Peabody and Timbercrest. First we will get lunch at El Mezquite Mexican restaurant then go caroling. It will be a wonderful time of sharing joy and song to the residents.



### Giving

**Advent Giving:** Throughout this Advent Season there will be a special Advent Offering taken up. All donations that are given in the Advent Offering envelopes will go to SWUMC's Benevolence Fund. You can find an Advent envelope in Sunday's, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> bulletin and in the pews the rest of the Advent Season.

**2019 Giving Envelopes:** The 2019 giving envelopes are now available in the Church Lobby. You can help the church save postage by picking up the envelopes labeled with your name. If you would like to start using envelopes, you may pick up a packet without a name on it.

### Mission News

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." ~ Winston Churchill

57 shoe boxes are on their way to brighten a child's life. Thank you to all who so freely give and keep praying for the children and their families who receive the gifts.

December's Food Cart Theme is breakfast as school is out for Christmas Holiday and kids who depend on school feeding programs need support for the school break. We are asking for breakfast items i.e. cereals, peanut butter and jelly.

The Back Pack ministry which gives kids in need a weekend supply of meals and snacks needs volunteers to help fill the back packs every month after service and also drivers willing to deliver them to elementary school on Friday at 9:55 am. Special needs students meet you there and deliver the back packs to classrooms. It's only one Friday a month or longer if more drivers step up. Contact Sam Staley to volunteer.

As this year winds down, so do our Missions activities, but there is always an opportunity to show our Light. There is always a chance to pass on God's love and blessings whether it is our joint work as His church or random encounters through out our day. Keep your eyes and your hearts open to God's possibilities. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give is just our presence. Visit someone.

In the midst of all the hustle and bustle that Christmas has become, take a moment to put your feet up, sip a hot chocolate and take in the scents of the season. Smell the pine, the bayberry candles, the spices in the Christmas cookies, the peppermint cant cane melting into the cocoa. Watch the snowflakes drifting to Earth and marvel at the beautiful glistening white blanket that encompasses the land. Remember that Jesus chose to be born into the world in the frailest of human forms so that we may be washed white as snow and have peace. May the Christmas blessings of Love, Joy, and Peace be with all of us throughout the coming year.

### Our Gifts, Our Presence (to date thru October 2018)

| To date thru Oct    | Actual           | Budgeted         |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Regular offering    | \$180,593        | \$209,333        |
| Debt retirement     | \$16,314         | \$15,000         |
| <b>Giving Total</b> | <b>\$196,907</b> | <b>\$224,225</b> |

Giving was under budget by \$27,318

| To date thru Oct | Actual    | Budgeted  |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Expenses         | \$201,604 | \$216,531 |

Expenses were under budget by \$14,927

**Overall Expenses were higher than Giving for a deficit of \$4,697**

| Attendance     | Worship    | Time of Growth |
|----------------|------------|----------------|
| Oct. 7         | 184        | 31             |
| Oct. 14        | 113        | 43             |
| Oct. 21        | 99         | 41             |
| Oct. 28        | 101        | 38             |
| <b>YTD Avg</b> | <b>113</b> | <b>38</b>      |



### Office Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, and Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of the holidays. Office Staff will not be available on Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. Due to the unavailability of office staff over the holidays, the best way to reach Pastor Keith is to call his cell at 260-450-1809.

Also note, any emails sent to [swumc@embarqmail.com](mailto:swumc@embarqmail.com) between Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, **WILL NOT** be read and responded to until Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

If you have a prayer request you wish to be placed on the prayer chain between Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> & Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>, please contact Jodi Sims at 260-609-3029.

### Thank You!

There are many things I cannot possibly do on my own at the church and "Hanging of the Greens" is one of them! Our church is blessed with a beautiful sanctuary as well as many other wonderful areas that are decorated for Christmas. One of my love languages is acts of service, so this group of people filled up my "love" tank on Nov. 25th. Although our team was small, I would like to especially thank the following people for helping with the "Hanging of the Greens" this year:

Rod Roman, Luke Spurlin, Storm & Aiden Baldrige, Rick, Chloe, & Kendal Bollinger, Jeremiah & Heather Bingham, Patty & Jerry Good, and Tony, Julie & Reagan Klepinger.

### Our Celebrations

#### Birthdays

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Lanny Idle         | 19 - Hilary Nicodemus |
| Daisy Till             | 21 - Darci Kessie     |
| 4 - Ellie Adkins       | Lulu Rudd             |
| Laurie Walters         | 24 - David Mulligan   |
| 5 - Lexee Staley       | Rex Wilkinson         |
| 6 - Doris Moffitt      | 25 - Laurie Kahn      |
| 8 - Tory Kyler         | 29 - Mike Snavley     |
| 13 - Benton Kyler      | 30 - Lisa Lukens      |
| John McCammon          |                       |
| 14 - Angie Hollenbaugh |                       |
| 15 - Veronica Palmer   |                       |
| 17 - Rachel Abbott     |                       |
| Frank Baldrige         |                       |
| 17 - Dora Gable        |                       |
| Earlyne Kline          |                       |
| John Langmaid III      |                       |
| 18 - Stan Franz        |                       |
| Rachel Hippensteel     |                       |
| Danny Wilkinson        |                       |



#### Anniversaries

- 3 - Dan & Dianne Amburgy
- 17 - Tayler & Kelli Kreider
- 23 - John & Darla McCammon
- 25 - James & Becky Benson

### Our Prayers



#### Military Personnel

- Johannes Bingham
- Benjamin Bryan
- Justin Roman
- Zach Snep

#### Darlene Welty

Send things to Darlene in care of...  
Justin Welty  
46 Woodacre Drive  
Carmel, IN 46032

#### Peabody Retirement

#### Margaret Graham

400 West Seventh Street  
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

#### Geraldine Graves

400 West Seventh Street  
North Manchester, Indiana 46962

#### Timbercrest Senior Living

#### Buford Baker

PO Box 501  
North Manchester Indiana 46962

### Mark Your Calendars

- December 2** - Backpack Meal Ministry Packing (10:15am)  
Trustees Team Meeting (10:15am)  
Fusion Christmas Family Shopping (10:15am)
- December 4** - Zumba (7:00pm)
- December 5** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- December 6** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- December 8** - Social Hall Reserved (12:00-7:00pm)
- December 9** - Pancake Breakfast Yth Fundraiser (10:15am)  
Old Fashion Christmas Party (5:30-7:30pm)
- December 11** - Zumba (7:00pm)
- December 12** - Christmas Choir Practice (6:30-8:30pm)
- December 13** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- December 16** - SWUMC Christmas Caroling (11:15am)  
Fusion Christmas Party (12:00-3:00pm)
- December 19** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- December 22** - Social Hall Reserved (4:00-7:00pm)
- December 23** - NO Fusion (Christmas Break)
- December 24** - Christmas Eve Service (7:00pm)  
Office & Sonshine Child Care CLOSED
- December 25** - Merry Christmas!  
Office & Sonshine Child Care CLOSED  
Social Hall Reserved (4:00-9:00pm)
- December 26** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- December 30** - Farwell Reception For Pastor Keith & Kay Schreffler (10:15am)  
Fusion (6:00pm)

