



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

through actively reflecting  
the love of Jesus Christ.

## 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)

# the Messenger

southwhitleyumc.com

## Passover, Easter, and "The Way"...

The Greek word sounds like "pa-scha" in English. It's translated "Passover" all but one time in the King James Bible when it's translated "Easter." Acts 12:4, "When King Herod apprehended Peter, he put him in prison... intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people." Why would the translators, this one time, put the word "Easter" instead of "Passover" into the ink of Luke's two-part Christ story (Luke-Acts)?

The time is after Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension. His followers are being persecuted. Remember Zebedee's sons, James and John? James is dead, murdered by Herod to appease the crowds. It's a tragic fulfillment of their mother's request that her sons be first in following Jesus. James followed Jesus – laying down his life for "The Way."

"The Way" that's what the early church called itself – not a way, not some way, but The Way – perhaps reflecting this moment in John 14:5-6: Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Years ago, newly into United Methodist ministry, I was walking along a path beside a graveyard outside the wall of Old Jerusalem. My companion was a retired pastor. This verse came up. He asked, "You aren't one of those narrow-minded bigots that literally believe Jesus is THE way – the only way, are you?"

Fast-forward four years into a heated discussion with another ministerial colleague that I respect greatly. "Jesus is the way for me, but he may not be the way for you" was his response to a young man asking about Christianity following a Lenten service in a public park. Is the church still "the Way?" Not – if we are no longer an "after Easter" people.

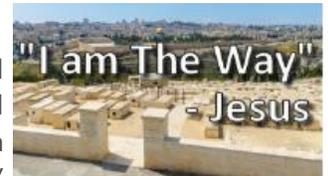
God is in conversation with all of humanity. That's what we call "Prevenient Grace." God unilaterally, unconditionally, and unfailingly offers His love and mercy to everyone. But, there's more! There's Easter – the God of Creation caring enough to create the way to greater intimacy with Him. "God" can be "Father" through Jesus for "after Easter" people.

How arrogant is it to believe that humanity could somehow create another way? Isn't that the story of the Tower of Babel? When you accept God's invitation to intimacy through Jesus you experience a new relationship with God. That's what we call "Justifying Grace." Someone justified by grace has experienced Easter – an encounter with the risen Lord.

Peter and James were "after Easter" people, so am I. I hope you are, too. I'm not a bigot, but I am a beacon drawing others to the way, the truth and the life Jesus offers as God's Christ. But, I recognize, even in Jesus' lifetime, not everyone accepts Jesus as the Christ.

John 6:66-68 (NLT), At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you going to leave, too?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You alone have the words that give eternal life." Deserter disciples – sounds harsh but, then and now, some who hear the Gospel keep looking for another way. See you Sunday at SWUMC where Jesus is still The Way.

Pastor Jerry Milner



### Spring Clean-up

Can you spare a few hours to help clean up your church home?



SWUMC Trustees have planned a spring clean-up/workday for Sat., April 6th, beginning at 8:00am. If you are interested in helping or have a project that you think would be beneficial to add to the list to be completed that day, please contact the church office or a member of the trustees.

Trustees: Baily Beiswanger, Thad Maser, Todd Bechtold, Bryan Nicodemus, Jacki Bishop, Dan Beiswanger, Rickie Witte, Greg Hippensteel, Jeremiah Bingham, and Braydan Beiswanger.



April showers bring May flowers. Shower gear and other hygiene products seem to be a popular gift to Food Bank. These items are also greatly appreciated by the clients as they are not eligible for purchase by any assistance program. So plan to fill April's cart with shower, laundry and dish soaps. Shampoos and conditioners, tooth brushes and tooth paste, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper and paper towels are also in high demand. Thank you so much for your continued generosity.

Once again we are planning to kick off Easter Sunday with a Fellowship Breakfast. The Missions Team will have sign up sheets for carry in dishes starting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. Plan to come for good eats and great worship. Invite someone to come with you. An invitation to join the celebration will be added to all the backpacks meals.

If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? Answer next month.



### Easter Choir

Did you know there are 103 different words for types of worship in the bible? Halal, Shebach, and Taga are just a few.



Psalms 68:3 tells us to "Alatz" which means jump for joy, & celebrate victory. We won't use all 103 words, BUT we will be using a lot as the choir gets ready for Easter this year!

Come join our special Easter Worship Choir as we practice our Alatz at 6:30pm on Wednesday April 17<sup>th</sup>! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Church Lobby.

### Port-A-Pit Chicken



The cornerstone Sunday School class is planning to sell Nelson's port-a-pit chicken at the South Whitley town garage sale on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup> near the stoplight. The Cornerstone Class and the Youth Group will be working the booth. All we ask is that everyone bring their appetite when stopping by the booth to get your chicken!

### Youth & Church Camp Project



The Fusion Youth group will have a day of outreach/mission on Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Epworth Forest. They will help with a variety of projects that help to get Epworth Forest Camp and Conference Center ready for their summer camp season. They plan to leave from SWUMC at 8am and will head home around 3pm. We welcome anyone who enjoys working with their hands to come join us. If you have questions or are interested in going, see Tony Klepinger.

### Our Gifts, Our Presence (to date thru February 28, 2019)

To date thru Feb	Actual	Budgeted
Regular offering	\$28,571	\$38,333
Debt retirement	\$3,230	\$3,000
Other	\$108	\$309
<b>Giving Total</b>	<b>\$31,909</b>	<b>\$41,642</b>

Giving was under budget by \$9,733

To date thru Feb	Actual	Budgeted
Expenses	\$38,249	\$42,908

Expenses were under budget by \$4,659

**Overall Expenses were higher than Giving for a deficit of \$6,340**

Mortgage balance at Feb. 28 was \$60,770

Attendance	Worship	Sunday School
Feb. 3	140	37
Feb. 10	107	34
Feb. 17	107	41
Feb. 24	114	43
<b>YTD Avg</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>39</b>



### Easter Eggs



It's Easter Egg Hunt time and your help is much needed!! We have hundreds of eggs to fill so the kids can have the greatest Easter Egg Hunt ever on Easter morning. On April 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, there will be bags of empty plastic Easter eggs in the lobby. If you are willing to help, please take a bag or two home, fill the eggs with candy, money, or other small items, and bring the bag(s) back to church by Easter Sunday. Thank you in advance for your help with this great event!

### Popcorn Prayer



*16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*  
~ 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Fire up your faith, fill your heart and calm your soul. Come check out the Popcorn Prayer group on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We pray first to praise and thank God. We pray for each other, our church, our community, our country, and our world. We pray for everything God lays on our hearts. You can also be a silent partner if you aren't comfortable praying aloud.

Come check it out. Bring a sacrifice of praise into the house of the Lord and just see what happens in your life.

(Note: Easter week Popcorn Prayer will be Tues., Apr. 16<sup>th</sup>.)

### 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

*"Prayer is the VOICE of faith directed Godward."*  
~ Billy Graham

### Mark Your Calendars

- April 3** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- April 6** - Spring Clean-up/Workday (8:00am-Noon)
- April 7** - NO Fusion (Spring Break)
- April 8** - Trustees Meeting (7:00pm)
- April 9** - Zumba (6:30pm)
- April 10** - Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- April 11** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- April 14** - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)
- April 15** - Education Team Meeting (6:30pm)  
Early Learning Ministry Team Meeting (7:30pm)
- April 16** - Staff Parish Team Meeting (6:30pm)  
Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Easter Band Practice (7:00pm)
- April 17** - Easter Choir & Band Practice (6:30pm)
- April 18** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- April 19** - Good Friday Service (7:00pm)
- April 21 - He is Risen!**  
 Easter Breakfast (8:00am)  
Easter Worship Service (9:00am)  
Easter Egg Hunt (10:15am)  
NO Fusion
- April 24** - Finance Team Meeting (6:30pm)  
Popcorn Prayer (6:30pm)  
Praise Team Practice (7:00pm)
- April 25** - Cub Scouts (6:30pm)
- April 28** - Fusion (6:00-8:00pm)

### Our Celebrations



#### Birthdays

- |                            |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 4 - Derek Barnhart         | 22 - Jacob Ray             |
| 5 - Marissa Cripe          | Braylon Williamson         |
| 6 - Poppy Roman            | LouAnn Winterrowd          |
| 7 - Sydney Krider          | 23 - Storm Baldrige        |
| 8 - Katie Geiger           | 25 - Dutie Browning        |
| 9 - Evan Rice              | Angi Hathaway              |
| 10 - Cole Bechtold         | 26 - Crystal Bollinger     |
| Maudie Sickafoose          | Sarah Hewitt               |
| 11 - Mike Butcher          | Haley Willson              |
| 12 - Jeff Bryan            | 27 - JadyN Geiger          |
| 13 - April Bishop          | Scott McDevitt             |
| 14 - Katherine Hippensteel | 28 - Meredith Hoffman      |
| 15 - Drew Rice             | 30 - Matt Maser            |
| 16 - Stephen Butt          | Aimee Roman                |
| 17 - Marisa Baldrige       |                            |
| Eric French                | <b>Anniversaries</b>       |
| 18 - Faith Roman           | 8 - David & Dawn Wilkinson |
| Dawn Wilkinson             | 9 - Tim & Laurie Kahn      |
| 20 - Madison Cripe         | 30 - Todd & Amy Bechtold   |
| Kaitlynn Ware              | Jerry & Lisa Milner        |

