

December 2024

Acton in action

Newsletter of Acton UMC

LOVE – LEARN – SHARE – SERVE
with eternal purpose through faith in Jesus Christ

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 19 @7:00pm

Recognizing the long nights before Christmas and the struggle with darkness and grief for all of us.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 8th Wear Green
- 8th Advent Tea
- 12th ... God's Bounty
- 18th ... Christmas Dinner
- 19th ... Longest Night Service
- 19th ... Preschool Program
- 24th ... Christmas Eve Service

JANUARY EVENTS

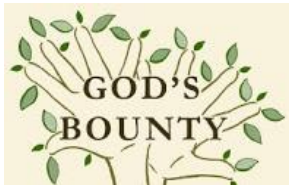
- 9th God's Bounty
- 15th ... Fellowship Dinner
- 19th ... Bake Sale

TEAM MEETINGS

- Staff Parish Dec 3rd
- Strategy Council Jan 16th
- Trustees..... Dec 17th
- Missions..... Jan 22nd
- UW of Faith Jan 13th

See calendar on-line for times and more events.

5650 Senour Road
Indianapolis, IN 46239
317-862-2588
www.actonumc.com



Fellowship Christmas Dinner December 18 @6:00pm

Join us for our annual Christmas Dinner. Caroling starts at 6:00pm and **dinner is at 6:30pm**. Bring a side or dessert to share.

God's Bounty December 11th 6-7:00pm December 12th 10am, 1-6:30



Scan to volunteer. See Charlie Walters with questions.

December Mission Focus ECHO

ECHO helps teach communities about farming techniques that allow them to be self-sufficient. Learn more at echonet.org.

Christmas Eve Worship December 25th, 7:00pm

Hear the Christmas story through scripture and song. Our family friendly, candlelight service will be at 7:00pm.

December Health Focus Disability Awareness

Wear **green** on December 8th in recognition of Disability awareness.

From the pastor's desk



“Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me”

Advent is here. Waiting is here. But how do we wait, how do we observe our Advent traditions in the midst of a culture where secular Christmas has been bombarding us since before Halloween?

It is about peace. It really doesn't matter if you sing a Christmas song before Christmas Eve. That component is just a discipline that helps us to realize how we have become a culture of instant gratification, "I want it now, so it is okay that I have it now." That's simply not part of Christianity. And that matters, but not as much as peace.

Any craft fair, any decoration display will have different artsy signs with various words and peace will be one of them. We hear the phrase in our Christmas music, "Peace on earth goodwill to men (all)." But we don't feel very peaceful (full-of-peace.). So, my question for you at the edge of Christmas, upon the Advent threshold is this: Where do we get the peace we keep hearing about? It's easier to find than you might think,

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. (John 14:27)

The peace we have is a gift from Jesus and it is something within our grasp but we have to give it away, to share it. In sharing peace, in bringing a peaceful response where we are tempted to be judgmental or hurtful, we make the world a little better in that one moment, in that small space. So, practice the discipline of the small peace. Enjoy the season and those you love, but "let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Stultz".

Pastor Matthew Stultz

You can reach Pastor Matthew on email at matthewstultz@me.com. He is in the church office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, or you can call to schedule an appointment.

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Mission Giving

AMAZING MISSION FUND GIVING

Thru October 31st

Balance: \$12,230.64

RIP Medical Debt: \$1,500

Robert's Park Meal: \$252.30

Kairos Prison Ministry: \$1,000

Peace with Justice: \$500

Impact Ministries: \$500

Pack Away Hunger Event: \$3,565

Indy Ten Point Coalition: \$500

UMCOR Sunday Match: \$1,540

Meijer Simply Give: \$3,500

Habitat for Humanity: \$2,500

CONGREGATION DIRECT GIVING

Thru October 31st

Loose Change:

Shepherds Community: \$656.44

Fletcher Place: \$485.35

Brightwood Community: \$647.21

God's Bounty: \$1,400

UMCOR US: \$200

UMCOR International: \$150

UMCOR Sunday: \$1,540.56

WAYS TO GIVE & SERVE

Monthly Food Pantry Collection

Amazing Mission Fund

Kroger Gift Card Program

God's Bounty – 2nd Thursdays

NEXT MISSION MEETING

January 22nd, 6:00pm

Advent Collection

Missions has selected ECHO for the Advent collection this season.

ECHO equips and empowers hungry families with knowledge and skills to improve the lives of their families and their homelands. **Learn more at echonet.org.** Mark your special offering for Advent or give on-line at www.actonumc.com.

Fletcher Place

Fletcher Place Christmas Event helps those in their community provide needed gifts for Christmas. **If you are able to help this year** for setup or the event week, please see the volunteer link on the Fletcher Place website and follow the "Explore our Programs" prompts to choose the Christmas program sign-up link.

Robert's Park Christmas Meal

For the last several years, AUMC has had the privilege of being a part of serving the Christmas Dinner at the Robert's Park Soup's On program. **We will be doing so again this year, on December 22nd. We need 8-12 folks to be part of this effort.** Youth are welcome and encouraged to help as well. It will take place from 10-2:00pm. **Please call Barb Wiley to sign up if you need more information.**

This time of the year most especially, Robert's Park Church ministry to the homeless and in need becomes more intense. **Missions will be hand carrying a \$1,000 check as well as taking needed items collected when we serve the meal on December 22nd. Please bring items you are able to donate to the display at church by December 20th.**

*Deodorant (men's and women's)

*Shaving cream

*Wipes

*Feminine Hygiene Products

*Shampoo/Conditioner

*Gently used blankets, backpacks, gloves, hats, scarves, duffle bags, and sleeping bags.


*Disposable razors

*Sandwich size Ziploc bags

*Toilet Paper

*Soap (bar and liquid)

(Laundry soap (pods only))



January 20th
6:30PM
Margie Townsend's
*Churchill's Secret
Messenger*

December Worship Angels Among Us

We look at the stories of the angel messengers as we contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring more hope, peace, joy, and love to the world.

December 1..... Make Ready a People..... Luke 1:5-25, 57-80
 December 8..... Nothing is Impossible..... Luke 1:25-56
 December 15..... Do Not Be Afraid Matthew 1:18-25
 December 22..... This Will Be a Sign Luke 2:1-20
 December 24..... Traditional Christmas Eve Worship
 December 29..... Get Up and Go..... Matthew 2:1-23


#morehope #morepeace #morejoy #morelove #morelife



As of October 31, 2024

Income	\$248,843	89% of budget
Expenses.....	\$221,062	79% of budget

DECEMBER LOOSE CHANGE
Brightwood Community Center

**RADICAL
HOSPITALITY**
it's changes lives

DECEMBER GREETERS

1st Cheryl H & Joyce H
 8th Dan & Becky R
 15th Dick & Josette R
 22nd Eric & Lynne N
 24th Rich & Betty Lou R
 29th Mark & Aimee H



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dick Randolph 4th
 Phyllis Taylor 8th
 Kathy Phillips 15th
 Rae Ann Woodrow 17th
 Don Repass 22nd
 Chris Crowel 29th


**Preschool
Christmas
Program**

DECEMBER 19
6:00PM

COME SERVE
COME ENJOY



**WEAR GREEN
DECEMBER 8th**



**COOKIES FOR
ACTON ELEMENTARY**

HAVE IN THE OFFICE BY 10:00AM
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12
HOMEMADE OR STOREBOUGHT



HEALING AND STRENGTH: Kathy Phillips, Joanne Jennings, Mary Wright, David Phillips, Stan Enschede, Cheryl Herron, Chris Osbourn (Grubb’s daughter), Linda Hicks, Greg McConaughy, Paula McIntosh

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Nick Crane, Olivia Woodrow, Cherilynn Spicer, Madison Hulskotter, Ethan Warner, Kaylynn Clark, Henry Crane, Molly Smith, Brianna Stultz

MILITARY PERSONNEL: Adam Walters, Lucas Lamkin, Nick Crane, Travis Beasley



United Women in Faith

At Acton there are opportunities for all women including helping with dinners, a reading circle, our blanket ministry and Acts of Kindness teams, fellowship events, our Craft Fair, and the annual Advent Tea. Please, think how you may enjoy becoming a part of the Acton United Women of Faith. If you have any questions, please speak with our President, Margie Townsend.



YOUTH GROUP

All youth, 6th-12th grade, are invited to be part of our Youth Group. Friends are always welcome.

YOUTH GROUP

~December 1st
~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC

YOUTH GROUP

~December 15th
~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC



CRAFT FAIR RESULTS

Thanks to all who helped with this year’s Craft Fair. We were able to raise \$3,500 for our mission work.

COOKIES NEEDED

Please have cookies and candies into the church by noon on December 7th for our Advent Tea dessert trays.



ADVENT TEA

The Advent Tea, *The Gifts of Christmas*, will be on December 8th. See Margie Townsend to sign up.



CHILDREN’S SUNDAY WORSHIP & FUN

Our Kid’s Own Worship includes kids PreK through 5th grade upstairs in the Children’s Chapel on Sundays, after the children’s message. The kids have their own worship followed by snacks, games, crafts, and more.

December Lessons

God saw everything he had made: it was supremely good. (Genesis 1:31)

- Dec 1st..... Bible Games after worship
- Dec 8th Gabriel’s MessageDiane Crane
- Dec 15th Mary Visits ElizabethSheila Sexton
- Dec 22nd Jesus is BornThe Crowels
- Dec 29th Joyous News & Follow the Start.....Connie Walters

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR FAITH – ALL ARE WELCOME



ADULT CURRENT EVENTS

The Wired Word

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Kitchen

Sandy G. & Charlie W.

YOUTH

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Youth Room

Denise Gaunt

BIBLE GAMES (PreK-5th)

1st Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Children's Chapel upstairs

KID'S OWN WORSHIP (PreK-5th)

After children's message

9:45-11:15am

Children's Chapel upstairs

YOUTH GROUP

Join us for dinner, games, fun, fellowship, and faith building lessons.

SUNDAYS

5:30-7:00pm, at the church

See Andy or Diane Crane for info

Bring your friends!



THROUGH OUT THE WEEK

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENINGS

The Angels of Christmas

Mondays, 6:00pm, Phyllis Taylor's

see Gayle Kerns

WOMEN'S TUESDAY EVENINGS

The Angels of Christmas

Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Diane Crane's

see Diane Crane or Felicia Crowel

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

The Angels of Christmas

Wednesdays, 10:00am, Church

see Becky Repass

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNINGS

The Angels of Christmas

Fridays, 9:30-11:00am, Church Kitchen

see Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNINGS

Growing Older & Wiser

Saturdays, 8:00am, Church Kitchen

see Dan Repass



All are welcome to drop in a class at any time. If you don't see anything that interests you, reach out to the church office or Pastor Matthew.

Life Saving Sunday



**Do you know
where our AED
is located?**

**Just outside the office door in
the hallway to the kitchen.**



2025 IS COMING!



Fellowship Dinners

3rd Wednesdays at 6:00pm

Bake Sales

3rd Sundays, Odd Months

MISSION FOCUSED

Socks for Compassion Center
Cancer Care Bags
UMCOR Sunday
God's Bounty Food Drives
Blood Drives
Echo

Metro Ministries
Lucille Raines
Kroger Card Program
Robert's Park Meals
Fletcher Place Christmas

Chili Cook-off
Music Bingo
Egg Hunt
Kid's Klub

Summer Spectacular
Craft Fair
Trunk or Treat
Advent Tea

FUN TIMES

