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

FEBRUARY 2024

Newsletter of Acton UMC

Chili Cook-off

Acton in action

Who will win the golden ladle? Sign-up to compete in our annual chili cook-off. Money raised is for the Bible Garden.

Lenten Series

7

З

What are you up to? The worship series for Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th.

2023 Misions

9

See what we contributed to our community and world in 2023. Nice work!

Robert's Park

15

Take a look at the pictures from serving the Christmas Eve morning meal at Robert's Park UMC.

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

From the pastor's desk



Love and Lent BY PASTOR MATTHEW STULTZ

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. John 13:34 (NRSV)

This year we will begin our Lenten observance on February 14th. I received a message the other day with a picture of the ashes being placed on someone's forehead in the shape of a heart with the caption, "When Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day." That was a good one! It also got me thinking that with some of the darkness, some of the fasting, some of the reminder of what will drive Jesus to the Cross, we seldom think of Lent as love.

If you give something up for Lent, or you proactively add something to your life that draws you closer to God and your community, how is that not love? If we get to Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, or even Holy Saturday, how does the journey to the cross not scream love?

Each year I hear the phrase at least a handful of times, "Valentine's Day is just a day popularized by the greeting card companies." I'm sure that it is, and don't forget chocolate and flowers. The unfortunate thing about the tie this year between Lent and Valentine's Day is that many feel the same way about the church, and about Christianity in general. For them, Lent and Easter are just made-up holidays that are hollow and fleeting once the calendar page is turned. The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians that we are supposed to be all about the business of love:

If I speak in the tongues of humans and of angels but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2** And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge and if I have all faith so as to remove mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. **3** If I give away all my possessions and if I hand over my body so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing. **1** Corinthians 13:1-3

For many church people, the strict adherence to codes of conduct outweigh love. We strive to be in the right, not to be loving; to judge, not to be gracious.

Lent and Easter are all about love because our faith is all about love. If we are not loving, we've missed the point; no, we've missed the commandment given by Christ to love one another.

No matter how you observe Lent this year, be sure to share some of the love Christ has given you with someone else.

Pastor Matthew

Pastor Matthew is available via email at matthewstultz@me.com or you can call the office at 317-862-2588 to schedule an appointment.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY EVENTS

8th God's Bounty 11th Scout Sunday 11th Troop 219 Bake Sale 14th Ash Wednesday Service 21st Fellowship Dinner 25th Chili Cook-Off

MARCH EVENTS

10th UMCOR Sunday
14th God's Bounty
17th Bake Sale
20th Fellowship Dinner
28th Holy Thursday Service
29th Good Friday Service
30th Egg Hunt
31st.... Easter

APRIL EVENTS

11th God's Bounty 17th Fellowship Dinner

TEAM MEETINGS

Staff Parish	February 6 th
Strategy Council	February 8 th
Trustees	February 20 th
Missions	February 28 th
UMW Board	April 12 th

See calendar for times and more events.



STUDY GROUPS

Sunday mornings @10:35 (The Kitchen) Adult Class – The Wired Word

Monday evenings @6:00 (Phyllis Taylor's) Women's – Just Like Jesus

Tuesday evenings @7:00 (Diane Crane's) Women's – The Book of Proverbs

Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 (Church) Women's – The Women of the Bible Speak

Friday mornings @ 9:30 (Church kitchen) Women's – *Living the Psalms*

July 26 - Summer Spectacular

October 31 - Trick-or-Treat

December 8 - Advent Tea

October 19 - Craft Fair

Saturday mornings @ 8:00 (Church kitchen) Men's – Book of 2 Peter

Checkout page 8 for more details

Mark Your Calendar

February 25 - Chili Cook-Off

March 30 - Egg Hunt

May 23 - Blood Drive

June & July - Kids Klub

July 13 - Lunch at the Lake

Fellowship Dinners - Third Wednesday Every Month







Church Bulletin Funnies

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



LOVE - LEARN - SHARE - SERVE



ACTS OF KINDNESS SLIPS AVAILABLE AT CHURCH PICK ONE UP TODAY



PASS ON A LITTLE KINDNESS



As of December 31, 2023 Income\$289,163......101% of budget Expenses\$281,841......98% of budget





FEBRUARY 25TH after worship

SPOONS \$1 VOTE WITH \$\$\$

Sign up to bring a crockpot of chili.





Get your blood pressure checked on February 11th after worship by our own Parish Nurse, Margie Townsend.

WEAR RED - FEBRUARY 11th

February is Heart Health Awareness Month. Heart diseases include blood vessel diseases, heart rhythm problems, and congenital heart defects. Heart disease is the main source of death in the U.S. To reduce your risk, make sure to exercise, stop

smoking, limit alcohol use, eat a heart healthy diet, and reduce your stress.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER



HEALING AND STRENGTH: Kelly Durm (Randolph's daughter), Amy Anderson (Fansler's friend), Family of Link Cooper (former member), Curt Fulk (Gary & Karen's son), Mary Wright, Barb McCormack, David Phillips, Carol Cain, Stan Ensch, Shawna Harrison, Cheryl Herron, Chris Osbourn (Grubb's daughter), Linda Hicks, Greg McConaughey, Paula McIntosh, Mike Finnigan (Stephenson's son-in-law)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Nick Crane, Olivia Woodrow, Cherilynn Spicer, Madison Hulskotter, Ethan Warner

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

If you have a prayer request, please call the office, or fill out a prayer request card during Sunday worship so that the pastor may pray for you and your loved ones. A request for prayer can also be sent out to other members on email and added to the prayer list online and in the Sunday bulletin. We know that details of prayer requests can be private so information and updates will only be shared if requested.

EXTRAVAGANT GENEROSITY

SHARE THE BLESSINGS YOU HAVE RECEIVED

RIP MEDICAL DEBT

*Our Advent collection w*ent to RIP Medical Debt for the Indianapolis area and we collected \$13,260! Thank you to all who were able to contribute. Missions will be expanding this

collection with other churches in the area through March. Please do your part and scan the QR code and pass on the link to family and friends.



GOD'S BOUNTY HELP

WEDNESDAY, February 7th 6-7:00pm

THURSDAY, February 8th 8:00am & 1-6:30pm

If you can volunteer, please sign-up on-line at www.actonumc.com or contact the office.

Loose Change and \$1 February – Fletcher Place



DONATE TO GOD'S BOUNTY

Grab a bag and fill it up! Missions will take your donations to God's Bounty food pantry. Bags are available in the Missions Nook.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

FROM THE PULPIT

4 th	Why Do the Innocent Suffer? Genesis 1:27-28
11 th	Scout Sunday
18 th	what r u up 2? - Come Up Mark 1:9-15
25 th	what r u up 2? – Take Up Mark 8:31-38
3 rd	what r u up 2? – Raise Up John 2:13-22

LENTEN SERIES BEGINS ASH WEDNESDAY

GET UP TO SOMETHING INSTEAD OF GIVING SOMETHING UP THIS LENT



Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just "giving up" in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or used to do, in a culture where "measuring up" to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God's call in our place, for our time.



GREETERS

FEBRUARY

4th..... Chuck & Cynthia R. 11th.... Scout Sunday 18th.... Gary & Karen F. 25th.... Dan & Becky R.

MARCH

3rd...... Earlene C. 10th..... Rich & Betty Lou R. 17th..... Barb T. & Margie T. 24th..... Steve & Mindy F. 31st..... Cheryl H. & Joyce H.

INVITE SOMEONE INTO YOUR HOME

Below are excerpts from the article *How to Practice Biblical Hospitality* by Pat Ennis about showing hospitality to those by inviting others into your home. Read the whole article at the gospelcoalition.org.

Whether enjoying personal devotions, a Bible study, or a worship service, what mental images emerge when you're presented with passages that encourage hospitality? For many, the images mirror glossy magazine photos—an immaculate home, a gourmet menu, an exquisite table setting. And while some of these images could be applied to biblical hospitality in certain situations, what they actually portray is entertaining. When hospitality is described in the Scriptures, there are zero instructions regarding home décor, menu, or table setting. Romans 12:13b says we are to practice hospitality literally, to "pursue the love of strangers" (Heb. 13:2)—not simply to hang out with our best friends.

The 21st-century church has cultivated highly sophisticated procedures and tools for evangelism. Training sessions, online and media resources, seminars, manuals, and methodology books are all available. However, **as we study Scripture, we also find that the home served as a center for evangelism in the early expansion of Christianity.**

Think about inviting someone over and don't worry about the "entertaining" side of things. Just welcome them with love and hospitality.

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Mission Giving

AMAZING MISSION FUND GIVING

Thru December 31st UMCOR Sunday: \$1,134.50 Little Free Library: \$408.54 Robert's Park Meal: \$578 UMCOR Indiana Tornado: \$1.000 UMCOR Hawaii Fires: \$1,000 Sacred Heart Migrant: \$1,000 Pack Away Hunger: \$3,325 Kairos Prison Ministry: \$500 Habitat for Humanity: \$1,500 Meijer Simply Give: \$3,725 God's Bounty Take Away: \$203.21 Marion County Home Fires: \$1,000 Partners in Health: \$1,000 Echo: \$1,000 Lucille Raines: \$500 Doctors Without Borders: \$200 Crop Walk: \$550

CONGREGATION DIRECT GIVING

Thru December 31st Loose Change: Brightwood: \$1,298.11 Fletcher Place: \$979.68 Vida Nueva: \$385.97 Shepherd's: \$264.58 UMCOR International: \$100 UMCOR US: \$350 UMCOR Sunday: \$1,435.50 Meijer Simply Give: \$8,720

WAYS TO GIVE & SERVE

Monthly Food Pantry Collection Amazing Mission Fund Kroger Gift Card Program God's Bounty – 2nd Thursdays Mission Meeting – February 28th

Fletcher Place

Thanks to all who were able to donate girl's tops for the Fletcher Place Community Center. They were able to provide 86 families with household items, blankets, food, and stocking stuffers, and 245 kids with clothing, games, sporting goods, stuffed animals, books, arts and crafts, and toiletries.

Volunteer!

Beginning with Easter, Robert's Park will only provide an in-house hot meal. Their staff will plan and prepare the meals. *Volunteers are needed to help cook, serve, setup and clean up.* We are committed to December 22nd, but there are many dates open if you have a group that would like to serve. Please see Bruce McKay.

Robert's Park UMC Community Meal

On Christmas Eve morning, nineteen people from our church family volunteered to prepare and help serve two meals to the downtown community, primarily homeless men. (See pictures on page 15.)

One meal was a sack lunch to take with them for later in the day. The second meal was a hot "sit down" dinner. Robert's Park UMC opens their dining room to the public every Sunday to serve a hot meal to the community. On Christmas Eve, they were served a ham dinner with all the side dishes and dessert. They were also supplied with new backpacks filled with numerous survival and hygiene necessities including our socks we collected.





We have already personally thanked each person, but we also want to use this forum to publicly thank each person who helped prepare, serve, and of course, clean up the two meals. We, indeed, have a generous church family who are willing to be the "hands and feet" of our Lord.

The Missions Team



2023 Missions

Here are just some of things we did for missions in 2023. Thanks to all who could help. Let's do even more in 2024!







132 lives saved through our two blood drives.

\$2,928.34 collected in loose coin and dollar bills for Metro Ministries.

9,504 meals packed for Ukraine with Pack Away Hunger.

Over 150 pairs of socks collected for Robert's Park.

2+ tons of food collected by our scout troops for God's Bounty.

A minivan stuffed full of boxes of baby clothes collected for Better Indy Babies

1 upgraded Little Free Library at God's Bounty.

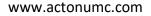
Over 900 families served at God's Bounty.

30 dozen cookies donated to Acton Elementary.

400 sack lunches made and given out at Robert's Park.

100 cancer care bags made for patients and their caregivers.

95 girl's tops for Fletcher Place Christmas event.











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

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.

YOUTH GROUP

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

SUNDAYS 5:30-7:00pm, at Church See Andy or Diane Crane for info Bring your friends!



THROUGH OUT THE WEEK

WOMEN'S MONDAY EVENINGS Just Like Jesus Mondays, 6:00pm, Phyllis Taylor's see Gayle Kerns

WOMEN'S TUESDAY EVENINGS The Book of Proverbs Tuesdays, 7:00pm, Diane Crane's see Diane Crane

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY MORNINGS The Women of the Bible Speak Wednesdays, 10:00am, Church see Becky Repass

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNINGS Living the Psalms Fridays, 9:30-11:00am, Church Kitchen see Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNINGS Book of 2 Peter Saturdays, 8:00am, Church Kitchen see Dan Repass



WOMEN OF ACTON

TOGETHER IN MISSION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

United Women in Faith?

The United Women in Faith is the largest denominational faith organization for women in the world. We are focused on mission and providing opportunities for women to grow spiritually.

If you attend a United Methodist church, you are a member of the United Women of 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 questions, please talk to one of the board members.

2024 Officers

President: Margie Townsend Vice President: Barb Thompson Secretary: Renee Knight Treasurer: Connie Walters Nominations: Becky Repass At Large: Lynn Newlon and Diana Baker

> United Women in Faith

I wanted to say a big thank you to all the ladies in my grandma's (Phyllis Taylor) Bible study who donated to the children's hospital in Gainesville, FL for Christmas. The money you all raised was used to buy complete Christmas gifts for about five kids! I am so thankful for generous people like you that make Christmas cheer possible in the hospital. You ensured that children were able to wake up to presents on Christmas morning. You also took the stress away from parents who may not have had the time or money to go buy gifts for their child. I greatly appreciate your interest in the work I do and being faithful donors to the kids. Thank you again!

Love, Julia Rusler

MINISTRIES

Prayer Blanket Ministry

- ~Make quilts for those needing comfort
- ~See Mary Ann Puckett to help
- ~Call the office for a blanket

Acts of Kindness

- ~Sweet & Savory sale March 17th
- ~Six times throughout the year
- ~Call Barb Thompson to help

Reading Circle

- ~February 26th, 6:30 at Margie Bartnick's
- ~Moloka'i, by Allan Brennert
- ~See Audrey Roberts for more information

Hosting Fellowship Dinners

- ~March 20th
- ~See Josette if you can help

Craft Fair

~October 19th

~Our main mission fundraiser

Advent Tea

- ~December 8th, 4:00pm
- ~See Margie T. to help in the planning

BIBLE STUDIES

~Wednesday mornings at 10:00am ~Friday mornings at 9:30am

2023 Giving

(See pictures on page 14.)

Through events and donations, the Acton United Women of Faith were able to help the following in 2023.

Cancer Care Bags – 100 Our Bible Garden - \$610 God's Bounty - \$900 RIP Medical Debt - \$409 Arlington Elementary - \$750 Lucille Raines - \$1,000 Fletcher Place Preschool - \$500 Red Bird Mission - \$1,000 Echo - \$1,000 Operation Classroom - \$1,000 St. Francis Fire Victims - \$1,010 Acts of Kindness - \$1,500

f 🔽 🐻

Page 12 **KIDS KORNER**

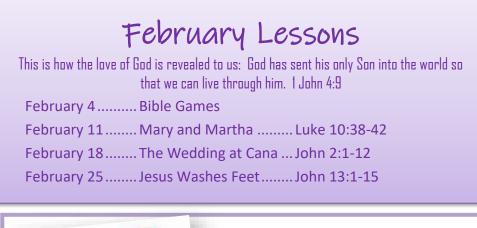
WELCOME TO KIDS KORNER, a page just for kids and their families. Learn about what the children are studying on Sunday and see what fun events are upcoming for the kids and families. There's also a Bible story to help you dig into God's word. Enjoy!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP & FUN

Our Kid's Own Worship includes kids PreK through 5th grade. They come upstairs to the Children's Chapel for fun and learning after the children's message. The kids have their own worship followed by snacks, games, crafts, science experiments and mission projects.

The first Sunday, kids stay in worship with their families so they can share the Lord's Supper with us – make sure to come to the Children's Chapel upstairs after worship for Bible Games. All ages welcome!

If your kids need to leave after worship, make sure to pick them up from the Children's Chapel at the top of the stairs.





Bible Games are the first Sunday

each month in the Children's Chapel upstairs after worship.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSIONS IN FEBRUARY Coins for Fletcher Place Food for God's Bounty

FELLOWSHIP DINNER February 21st, 6:00pm

BIBLE STORY



Luke 10:38-42

Who did Martha invite to home?

> Who was Martha's sister?

What was Martha busy doing?

> Why did Martha complain?

What better choice did Mary make?

Jouth in action



The Youth braved the cold and went ice skating in January.

SAVE THE DATE

WINTER JAM

~February 3rd ~Gainbridge Fieldhouse ~Meet at AUMC at 4:00pm

YOUTH GROUP

~February 4th ~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC

NO YOUTH GROUP ~February 11th & 18th

Fellowship Dinner ~February 21st ~6:00pm, AUMC

Youth GROUP ~February 25th ~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC



Please see Andy or Diane Crane if you have questions about the Youth Group. All youth ages 6th-12th grade are welcome!

Eagle Scout

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout from Troop 104, Riley.





Troop 219 Volunteer The ladies of Troop 219 volunteered at Servant's Heart to help them get ready for Christmas.



Toys for Kids

Thanks to the Wednesday morning Bible study that donated \$400 to the children's hospital in Gainesville Florida. The money collected helped to purchase Christmas gifts for the kids staying there.

Enjoying God's Goodness

Robert's Park Lots of help and lots of fun fellowship at Robert's Park UMC on Christmas Eve morning.



Ladies at Work 100 care packages were assembled for cancer patients and their caregivers.



Pictures are always appreciated! Send them to crowel862@gmail.com



	rage 10						
	SATURDAY	10 8:00 Men Study Troop 219 Lock-in	17 8:00 Men Study Troop 104 Lock-in	24 8:00 Men Study	2 8:00 Men Study	9 8:00 Men Study 5:00 GScout Dance	
	FRIDAY	9 9:30 Women Study Troop 219 Lock-in	16 9:30 Women Study	23 9:30 Women Study	1 9:30 Women Study	8 9:30 Women Study	
_	THURSDAY	8 6:00 Prayer Service 6:30 Strategy Council 8:00 AA GODS BOUNTY	15 6:00 Prayer Service 8:00 AA	22 6:00 Prayer Service 8:00 AA	29 6:00 Prayer Service 8:00 AA	7 6:00 Prayer Service 8:00 AA	
FEBRUARY 2024	WEDNESDAY	7 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies	14 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00pm	21 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies FELLOWSHIP DINNER 6:00pm	28 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Missions 6:00 GS Brownies	6 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies	
	TUESDAY	6 6:00 Staff Parish 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens	13 6:30 Pack 104 Parent	20 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Pack 104	27	5 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:00 Staff Parish 6:30 Pack 104 Dens	
	MONDAY	5 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	12 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	19 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	26 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	4 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	
	SUNDAY	4 9:30 Communion 3:00 Troop 104 PLC 5:30 Youth	11 9:30 Worship 1:00 Eagle Court SCOUT SUNDAY 219 BAKE SALE	18 9:30 Worship 6:30 Pack 104 Parent	25 9:30 Worship 1:00 Troop 200 5:30 Youth Group CHILI COOK-OFF	3 9:30 Communion 3:00 Troop 104 PLC 5:30 Youth Group	