



Advent can be filled with worry about finding the perfect Christmas gifts. Deep down we want people in our lives to know they are special and that we love them. But sometimes we overlook the greatest gift of all... our very presence. Our spiritual ancestors were also worried— often about survival in the midst of political occupation. And the response of the scriptures is "the Holy Living One is with you." Like a shepherd who never leaves the flock, we are held close. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

Our Advent into Christmas series, "The Gift of Being Present" will run Sunday December 3rd through Sunday December 31st.

- December 3rd Being Present with Hope
- December 10th Being Present with Peace
- December 17th Being Present with Joy
- December 24th Being Present with Love
- Christmas Eve Being Present with Light
- December 31st Being Present with Assurance

Please make note of the schedule and make sure to join your church family to be present for one another as we learn to be more present for our families and friends this holiday season!

The light is coming,

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DECEMBER EVENTS

3rd Advent Tea

14th God's Bounty

17th Youth Caroling

20th Christmas Pitch-In

21st..... Blue Christmas Service

24th Robert's Park Meal

JANUARY EVENTS

11th God's Bounty

17th Fellowship Dinner

21st..... Sweet & Savory Bake Sale

22nd.... Reading Circle

27th Women's Winter Gathering

FEBRUARY EVENTS

8th God's Bounty

21st Fellowship Dinner

18th Sweet & Savory Bake Sale

25th Chili Cook-Off

TEAM MEETINGS

Staff Parish December 5th
Strategy Council December 14th
Trustees December 19th
Missions January 24th
UMW Board January 8th

See calendar for times and more events.



DECEMBER 3RD 4:00PM

4:00PM
Signup or contact Felicia
Crowel to attend



STUDY GROUPS

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

Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 (Church)

Women's – Three Wise Women

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

Saturday mornings @ 8:00 (Church kitchen)

Men's – Book of 1 Peter, 2 Peter, Jude

Checkout page 8 for more details

Mark Your Calendar

1/27 - Women's Winter Gathering 7/26 - Summer Spectacular

2/25 - Chili Cook-Off 10/19 - Craft Fair

3/30 - Egg Hunt 10/31 - Trick-or-Treat

June & July - Kids Klub 12/8 - Advent Tea

Fellowship Dinners - Third Wednesday Every Month



what's going on in the garden? The flags and stakes on the eastside of our property are markers for the water and sewer that is being run for our neighbors. The garden and the property will be put back to rights when they are done. We are not hooking in at this time because there isn't a need, and it is expensive. If you have any questions, please talk with a Trustee.





Church Bulletin Funnies

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Women of all ages are invited to share breakfast and make care bags for cancer patients and their caregivers.

Mark January 27th at 10:00am on your calendar. We will have a yogurt bar, a card making station, and an assembly line for the bags.



January 22nd 6:30pm @Barb Wiley's

The Last Green Valley
By Mark Sullivan



Cookies for Acton Elementary

Cookie donations (homemade or store bought) for Acton's Snacks with Santa program need to be into the office by Thursday, November 30th.



Advent Choir practices start November 29th. Talk to Debi Harrison if you are interested.



If you can help in the kitchen or be a server at the Advent Tea this year, please see Dan Repass.

AED NOW AT ACTON

Thanks to Margie
Townsend, our Parish
Nurse, for getting an
AED (Automated
External Defibrillator)
installed at the church.
It is on the walll across
from the nursery. See
Margie with any
questions.



THE YOUTH WILL BE CAROLING on December 17th. If you would like to book them to come sing for you or someone you know, please contact Diane Crane or the church office.



CHRISTMAS PITCH-IN

DECEMBER 20th ~ 6:00PM Come and enjoy an evening meal with your church family. Ham will

be provided. Bring a side or dessert to share. This will be a fun evening of fellowship and maybe

some carol singing!





BIRTHDAYS

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

JANUARY Floyd Selke 2nd Dan Repass 5th Maryln Kerlin 9th Barb Wiley 10th **Emily Crowel 16th** Connie Lowry 16th **Bruce McKay 19th** Ken Grubb 22nd Olivia Woodrow 23rd Bill Howell 30th

A group is going to Fletcher Place on Tuesday, November 28th to help sort items for their annual Christmas Fletcher Place at program. If you would like to help, please contact Barb Wiley.



As of October 31, 2023 Income \$236,998....... 83% of budget Expenses \$236,681 83% of budget

WEAR GREEN - DECEMBER 10th

December is the biggest give-gifting month in the world. Remember to keep safety in mind as you are shopping for kids and grandkids. In 2018 more than 226,000

> emergency rooms visits were linked to children's toys. Choking hazards are one of the most common. Follow us on 🗾



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PRAY FOR EACH OTHER



HEALING AND STRENGTH: Sandy Grubb, Terry Fansler, Carol Cain, Stan Ensch, Shawna Harrison, Cheryl Herron, Chris Osbourn (Grubb's daughter), Theresa Birdwell, Linda Hicks, Greg McConaughey, Paula McIntosh, Mike Finnigan (Stephenson's son-in-law)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Amy Johnson, Nick Crane, Olivia Woodrow, Cherilynn Spicer, Ruth Crowel, Will Tope, 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

ADVENT GIVING

During the month of December, we will be collecting men's socks for Robert's Park UMC. The socks will be given out with a sack lunch on Christmas day. Please drop any donations off at the display.

Our Advent collection during December will go to RIP Medical Debt for the Indianapolis area. Every \$100 collected clears out \$10,000 in medical debt. You can give on our website at www.actontumc.com or on Sundays.

GOD'S BOUNTY HELP

WEDNESDAY, December 13th 6-7:00pm

THURSDAY, December 14th 8:00am & 1-6:30pm

If you can volunteer, see Mary Jo Ensch

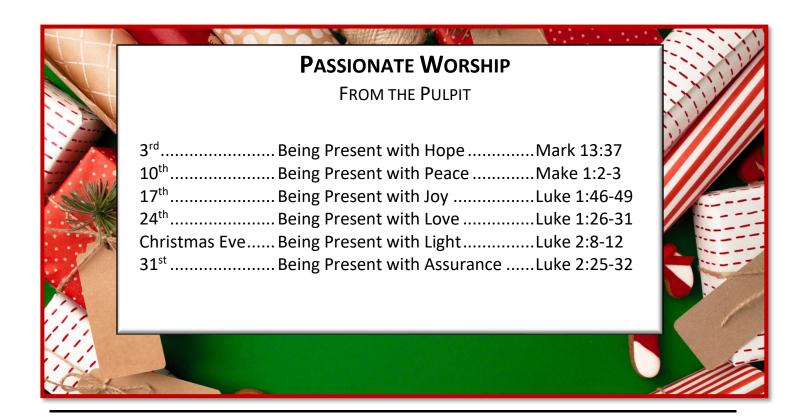
Loose Change and \$1

December – Brightwood January – Shepherds Community

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. A total of \$29,500 was donated to God's Bounty under the Meijer Simply Give Program. Thanks to all who donated this year. Also, thanks to all who were able to contribute to the Fall Food Drive for God's Bounty. We collected a total of 288 pounds.





GREETERS

DECEMBER

3rd...... Earlene Cougill 10th..... Rich & Betty Lou R. 17th..... Barb T. & Margie T. 24th..... OPEN 31st..... Cheryl H. & Joyce H.

JANUARY

7th...... Victoria P. & Phyllis T. 14th..... Eric & Lynne N. 21st..... Mark & Aimee H. 28th..... Rich & Betty Lou R.

BEING PRESENT

This Advent we will be doing the worship series, *The Gift of Being Present*. This season, we are invited to be the gift of presence for our loved ones, for our communities, for those who need it most.

A **guided journal** will be made available for anyone to use during the series. Pick up your copy after Thanksgiving.

The book *Right Here Right Now* by Amy G. Oden is an accompaniment to the worship series if you or your small group would like to study it during Advent. The book is a wonderful look at the history, theology, and practice of "Christian mindfulness." If you are interested, a guide is available from the office for you to use as you read through the book.

For children, Winter's Gifts is a good book for Advent. You can also engage children at home by lighting a good wishes candle each night of the season and sending good thoughts to someone in need.



RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



Mission Giving

AMAZING MISSION FUND GIVING

Thru October 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 Fires: \$1,000 Partners in Health: \$1,000

Echo: \$1,000

Lucille Raines: \$500

Doctors Without Borders: \$200

CONGREGATION DIRECT GIVING

Thru October 31st

Loose Change:

Brightwood: \$1,023.47 Fletcher Place: \$763.57 Vida Nueva: \$385.97 Shepherd's: \$264.58

UMCOR International: \$100

UMCOR US: \$225

UMCOR Sunday: \$1,435.50 Meijer Simply Give: \$5,395

WAYS TO GIVE & SERVE

Monthly Food Pantry Collection Amazing Mission Fund Kroger Gift Card Program God's Bounty – 2nd Thursdays Mission Meeting – January 24th

Knit Hats

Thanks to Phyllis Taylor for knitting several stocking hats for folks at Wheeler Mission. Phyllis continues the tradition she and



her late husband, Ed, started many years ago.

Blood Drive

We had 25 people at the Blood Drive for a total *of 27 units of blood donated*. There were 10 people who were not connected to AUMC but live or work in our community. This included two 17-year-olds who lightened up the group considerably! Thanks to all who participated. Next drive is May 23rd.

Robert's Park UMC Community Meal

On Christmas Eve morning, December 24th, Acton UMC will be helping at Roberts Park UMC. They will have a hot meal and we will be handing out socks along with a sack lunch.

This ministry at Robert's Park provides a much-needed meal to those in the neighborhood. About 90% of the visitors are male. We have been working with Robert's Park for a few years and help 3 or 4 times during the year.

During the month of December, we will be collecting men's socks to hand out on December 24th. Please leave any donations in the marked tub at church by Sunday, December 20th. Socks should be new. Any extra socks collected will go to Wheeler Mission.



Volunteers are also needed to help prepare sack lunches on Sunday morning, December 24th, and/or help hand out socks and sack lunches. If you think you may be able to assist in this effort, please contact Gayle Kerns or Bruce McKay.

LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

SHARING OUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS

Each year during Advent, our Missions Team selects a mission focus. In the past we have raised funds for wells in Burkina Faso, for Ukraine efforts through UMCOR, for medical debt elimination in our area, for ECHO, and items for UMCOR flood buckets. In 2019 we focused on RIP Medical Debt. We were able to raise \$25,000 and eliminated \$2.5 million dollars in medical debt in Franklin Township.

This year, we will be collecting for RIP Medical Debt throughout Advent and on Christmas Eve.

We are not able to designate where our donation goes by zip code, but we can ensure it stays in Marion County.

RIP Medical Debit is an organization dedicated to removing the burden of medical debt for individuals, veterans, and families across America. Those that benefit make less than 2 times the federal poverty level and have 5% or more of annual income going to out-ofpocket medical bills.

RIP Medical Debt uses our donation to purchase bundled medical debt portfolios on the secondary debt market, and then forgives that debt at pennies on the dollar.

Every \$100 raised, abolishes \$10,000 in medical debt.

Our Christmas Eve offering this year will go towards wiping out our Marion County neighbor's medical debt.

Join us this Christmas as we spread the Joy of Christmas to those in our community.

Our goal is to collect \$10,000 by Christmas Eve.

If you would like more information about RIP Medical Debt, see one of our mission team members or go to ripmedicaldebt.org.



YOU CAN HELP!

Give on-line at www.actonumc.com

> Text MEDEBT to 44321

Mark your offering on Sunday for RIP Medical Debt

Did you know?

- of • 66% all bankruptcies are tied to medical debt issues.
- 25% of all US credit card debt is medical debit.
- To avoid high costs, 1 in 2 don't go to the doctor when they are sick.

RIP Medical Debt was founded in 2014 by two former debt collection executives. Craig Antico and Jerry Ashton

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 Church See Andy or Diane Crane for info Bring your friends!



THROUGH OUT THE WEEK

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN OF FAITH

Three Wise Women

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

Books of 1 Peter, 2 Peter, and Jude

Saturdays, 8:00am, Church Kitchen see Dan Repass

Everyone is 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.



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 **It's been an honor** serving as the United Women in Faith President. I have learned more about all the wonderful things the women of Acton do. There are a lot of service hours for the church and outside the church that I didn't even realize happened. What fun I have had working with all the lovely ladies, and it has been nice getting to know them better. I appreciate all the support and help I have been given and know you will show the same to our new president Margie Townsend. I am not going anywhere and plan on continuing to be a part of the wonderful Women of Acton!

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 January 21st
- ~Third Sundays
- ~Call Barb Thompson to help

Reading Circle

- ~January 22nd, 6:30 at Barb Wiley's home
- ~The Last Green Valley, by Mark Sullivan
- ~See Audrey Roberts for more information

Hosting Fellowship Dinners

- ~January 17th
- ~See Connie or Felicia if you can help

Craft Fair

- ~Thanks for all the help
- ~Raised over \$4,000 for missions
- ~Next year's date is October 19th

Advent Tea

- ~December 3rd, 4:00pm
- ~Sign up to attend

BIBLE STUDIES

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



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!

korner

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.

December Lessons

And they will call him, Emmanuel. Matthew 1:23

December 3...... Bible Games

December 10..... Mary and Joseph Luke 1:26-47; Matt 1:18-25

Chapel upstairs after worship.

December 17..... Mary and Elizabeth...... Luke 1:39-45

December 24..... The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:1-20

December 31..... The Wise Men..... Matthew 2:1-12

Bible Games are the first Sunday each month in the Children's

UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSIONS IN DECEMBER

Coins for Brightwood Food for God's Bounty Socks for Robert's Park RIP Medical Debit

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

December 20th, 6:00pm

BIBLE STORY



Matthew 2:1-12

Who was the king?

What was in the sky that the kings saw?

Where did the king send the wise men?

What were their gifts?

Why didn't they return to the king?



Cornhole, hayrides, pumpkin carving & smores. It must be fall at Southeastway Park.



SAVE THE DATE

NO YOUTH GROUP

- ~November 26th
- ~Happy Thanksgiving!

NO YOUTH GROUP

- ~December 3rd
- ~Attend or help at the Tea

YOUTH GROUP

- ~December 10th
- ~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC

YOUTH CAROLING

- ~December 17th
- ~5:30-7:00pm, AUMC

NO YOUTH GROUP

- ~December 24th & 31st





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

Sharing Smiles and

Eagle Scouts

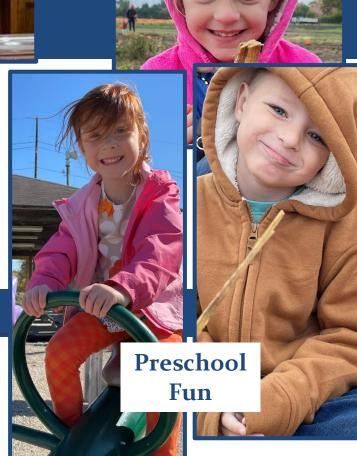
Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts from Troop 104, Isaac and Michael.



Hanging of the Greens

Having fun decorating the church for Christmas.





Enjoying God's Goodness

Southeastway Park

Fun was had by all at the campfire at Southeastway park in October. It was a beautiful night with pumpkin carving, a hayride, and a campfire.





DECEMBER 2023	THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY	30 6:00 Prayer Service 9:30 Women Study 8:00 Men Study 8:00 AA Advent Tea Setup	7 6:00 Prayer Service 9:30 Women Study 8:00 AA Troop 219 Lock-in Troop 219 Lock-in	14 16 6:00 Prayer Service 9:30 Women Study 8:00 Men Study 6:30 Strategy Council 8:00 AA GODS BOUNTY	22 6:00 Blue Christmas 9:30 Women Study 8:00 Men Study 8:00 AA	28306:00 Prayer Service9:30 Women Study8:00 Men Study8:00 AA4:00 Private PartyOFFICE CLOSEDOFFICE CLOSED
	WEDNESDAY	29 30 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Pra 6:00 GS Brownies 8:00 AA 7:00 Choir Practice	6 7 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Pra 6:00 GS Brownies 8:00 AA 6:00 Preschool Prog 7:00 Choir Practice	13 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Pra 6:00 GS Brownies 6:30 Str. 7:00 Choir Practice 8:00 AA GODS B	20 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 7:00 Choir Practice CHRISTMAS PTICH-IN 6:00pm	27 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Pra 6:00 GS Brownies 8:00 AA OFFICE CLOSED OFFI
	TUESDAY	28 11:00 Fletcher Place 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens	5 6:00 Staff Parish 6:30 Pack 104 Dens	12 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104	6:00 Trustees	26 5:30 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Pack 104 Dens OFFICE CLOSED
	MONDAY	27 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	4 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	11 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	18 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	25 Meraj Christmas
	SUNDAY	26 9:30 Worship 1:00 Troop 200 4:00 Private Party 5:30 Youth	3:00 Communion 3:00 Troop 104 PLC ADVENT TEA 4:00pm	10 9:30 Worship 5:30 Youth Group	17 9:30 Worship 5:30 Youth Caroling	24 9:30 Worship 7:00 Christmas Eve