

April 2026

Acton *in action*

Newsletter of Acton UMC

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



Saturday ~ April 18th
5:30pm
\$5 per household or car load
bring an appetizer or snack to share

APRIL

- 2nd Maundy Thursday
- 3rd Good Friday
- 4th Egg Hunt
- 5th Easter Sunday
- 9th God's Bounty
- 12th Wear **GRAY OR SILVER**
- 18th Music Bingo
- 15th Fellowship Dinner
- 26th Child Protection Training

MAY

- 10th Health Focus Sunday
- 14th God's Bounty
- 14th Blood Drive
- 17th Pack Away Hunger
- 17th Bake Sale
- 20th Fellowship Dinner

TEAM MEETINGS

- Staff Parish. April 7th
- Trustees April 21st
- Mission April 29th
- UW of Faith. April 6th

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

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

April 15th, 6:00pm

Our Missions Team is hosting the April fellowship dinner on April 15th, at 6:00pm. They are serving Sloppy Joes and all money collected at this free-will offering meal is for our Amazing Mission Fund.

MISSION FOCUS



God's Bounty Food Drive

This month our goal is to collect "a ton" of food for God's Bounty and join our scouts in their Scouting for Food Drive. Bring your donations any time during the month of April.

GOD'S BOUNTY

April 8th 6-7:00pm
April 9th 10am, 1-6:30pm

Scan or click the QR code to volunteer during our week at God's Bounty. See Charlie Walters with any questions.



HEALTH FOCUS

Parkinson's Disease Awareness

Parkinson's is a disorder of the nervous system that effects movement. Wear **GRAY OR SILVER on Sunday, April 12th** in awareness of Parkinson's Disease.



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.
9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings,
for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace
(Hebrews 13:8-9a)*

Effective Ministry

Pastor Matthew Stultz

As I write this, I am adjusting back to our Indiana time zone after nearly two weeks overseas. It was a trip we had planned for a very long time and the kind of thing that will continue to bless us with memories for years to come.

There were many things we enjoyed seeing that have been over there for centuries. We saw the Book of Kells, the Celtic Christian manuscript of the four Gospels written in 800 A.D. We also saw the Irish harp that is nearly as old, the symbol of Ireland itself. Seeing the permanence of history can create a new outlook for the future, a hope through change.

I know this is a tremendous time of transition for our congregation. Just days before leaving for this trip with my family, we announced I would be leaving as your pastor in June. While I was away, your new pastor, Rev. Dr. Tina Patterson, was announced. Sunday will be Palm Sunday followed by Holy Week and Easter. The transition between pastoral leaders is anchored by the traditions of Holy Week and Easter. It is a reminder of what is important.

While there are things I hope you appreciated about my ministry in over a decade of serving with you at Acton UMC, I know there are things I could have done better or things not within my gifts and graces that you wish had been a priority. That's the thing with leaders, we all have our strengths and areas that need help or growth. Each relationship between pastor and congregation needs time to hear stories, time to pray, and time to assess how to make the strongest combination out of the strengths of the laity and the pastor. No matter the easy celebrations of blessings or the challenges of growth areas, this one thing remains true: Jesus Christ is the reason for it all and the amazing love he has for us all never changes. As the writer of Hebrews teaches us, not only is Christ the same no matter our times of transition, we are to be "strengthened by grace." That means we create space to say goodbye to friends and remain open to make new ones. It isn't always easy, but with Christ as the foundation, we can be assured the most important things are always taken care of.

I look forward to the Holy Week and Easter time with you as well as celebrating our time of ministry together.

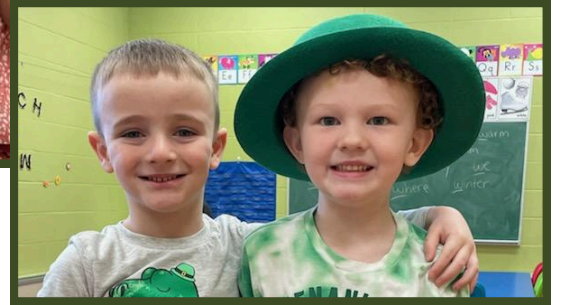
Pastor Matthew

SMILING FACES OF ACTON



PRESCHOOL

Our students are always having fun!



MEN'S STUDY GROUP

The men meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00am in the kitchen. All are invited and rumor has it there can be some sort of breakfast treat. They are reading *Friendship - Growing Side by Side* right now. If you are interested please see Dan Repass or one of the other men that attend.



MISSION WORK

Thanks to all who prepared the meal and served it on March 22nd at Roberts Park Soups On. About 100 people were served. We are serving in June as well if anyone is interested in helping.

OUR YOUTH



We have many talented youth to help out with music and they enjoy their time together on Sundays. All are welcome!

GOOD TO KNOW

PRAYER LIST

HEALING AND STRENGTH

Diana Stocks, Larry Smith, Carla (Randolph's daughter), Lynn Cunningham (Rae Ann Woodrow's mom), Beverly Aldous (Barb Wiley's sister), Kevin McMahan, Kathy Phillips, Mary Wright, David Phillips, Stan Enschede, Cheryl Herron, Chris Osborn (Grubb's daughter)

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Cherilynn Spicer, Madison Hulskotter, Ethan Warner, Kaylynn Clark, Henry Crane, Molly Smith, Brianna Stultz, Nick Hulskotter, Luke Jordan, Maycie Wilson

OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

N. Crane, B. Kerns, M. Kerns, L. Lamkin, A. Walters

If you would like to be added to our prayer list or to the prayer agapenet emails, please call the church office. If you have a confidential prayer request for Pastor Matthew, you may also call the church office.

Sermon Schedule

April 5th - *Easter Sunday*

April 12th - *Fearless - Paralyzed by Fear*

April 19th - *Fearless - Fear and Hate*

April 26th - *Fearless - Fear of Failure*

May 5th - *Fearless - Sickness, Aging, & Death*



BECOME FEARLESS

Starting April 12th, we will spend four weeks learning how to be FEARLESS as we overcome our fear with faith. Topics include fear, hate, failure, and death.



BLOOD DRIVE

Our spring blood drive is on May 14th. This is a community drive so pass on the word to family and friends. Sign up now by scanning or clicking the QR code.



PACK AWAY HUNGER

On May 17th, we will be doing our Pack Away Hunger event to pack up 10,000+ food kits. Look for sign ups some time in April. This is a fun event for all ages.



United
Women
in Faith

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



PRAYER BLANKETS

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYER



Contact the office or Mary Ann Puckett

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1st Earlene Cougill
7th Molly Smith
16th Nancy Rosemeyer
24th Terry Fansler
26th Ann Howell
27th Gordon Fansler
29th Michele Lowry-Schmeler
20th Eric Newlon

FREE KID'S NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, APRIL 24TH
6-9:00PM

DINNER, GAMES, CRAFTS, AND MORE
AGES 4YRS - 5TH GRADE

SCAN TO SIGN UP



Parkinson's Disease
WEAR GRAY OR SILVER
ON APRIL 12th



Parkinson's is a disorder of
the nervous system that
affects movement.

APRIL LOOSE CHANGE GOD'S BOUNTY

GREETERS

April 5th

Sandy S & Stephanie A

April 12th

Dan & Becky R

April 19th

Susan F & Margie T

April 26th

Steve & Mindy F

BUDGET

as of February 28th

Income
\$55,907

Expenses
\$44,493

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

APRIL
26

ALL 14+ WHO WORK WITH CHILDREN OR
YOUTH AND DIDN'T ATTEND LAST YEAR

AFTER WORSHIP - 30 MINUTES



CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Our policy calls for anyone working with youth or children to go through our Child Protection Training every two years. If you didn't attend training last year, please attend the training on April 26th after worship in the sanctuary. If you aren't sure, contact the office or see Blake Warner.

AMAZING MISSIONS

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Our Mission Team will be serving Sloppy Joes at this month's Fellowship Dinner on April 15th. They will let us know about the Amazing Mission Fund as well as give us an update on our food drive. Dinner is served at 6:00pm and everyone is welcome. This is a free-will offering meal and money collected will be for our mission fund.

PACK AWAY HUNGER

Last year we packed over 10,000 meal kits for Pack Away Hunger. We are hosting another event to pack 10,000+ meals. This event is on May 17th. Sign ups will be out this month. This is a fun event for all ages and abilities.



UMCOR SUNDAY

Thanks for everyone that donated to the UMCOR Sunday collection. We collected \$240. This money will be used by UMCOR to cover administrative costs so that 100% of money given during the year goes to the designated cause.

MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE

The Southport Meijer is extending the Simply Give program for God's Bounty through June 27th with double match on June 20th.

MISSION GIVING THRU FEBRUARY 28TH

Amazing Mission Fund

Balance: \$11,367.85

God's Bounty: \$270.32

Kairos Prison Ministry: \$750

Congregation Giving

Compassion Center: \$443.83

UMCOR US: \$25

UMCOR Sunday: \$100

Crop Walk: \$378

God's Bounty: \$165

Ways to Give & Serve

Monthly Loose Change Offering

Food Pantry Collection

Amazing Mission Fund

Kroger Gift Card Program

God's Bounty - 2nd Thursdays

Loose Change Offering Give on Sundays or on-line

God's Bounty Food Pantry

Roberts Park Soup's On Ministry

Compassion Center

Fletcher Place Meals Program

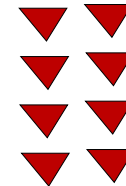
Next Mission Meeting

April 29th, 6:00pm



**CLICK OR SCAN TO GIVE
ONLINE TO MISSIONS**

APRIL MISSION FOCUS



***Providing
food with
compassion
and respect.***

Items needed this month:

- **Canned chicken**
- **Canned fruit (all kinds)**
- **Canned vegetables (all kinds)**
- **Canned tomatoes (all kinds)**
- **Canned Ravioli & Spaghetti O's.**

GOD'S BOUNTY FOOD PANTRY

Local churches in Franklin Township work together to manage, stock, and staff God's Bounty food pantry. The food pantry serves those in Franklin Township and is open Thursdays from 1-6:30pm, except the fifth Thursdays. The pantry is currently serving over 130 families each week.

If you would like to learn more about the pantry and see how you can help, please see Charlie Walters. Check out their website at gods bountyindy.com.

BRING IN FOOD DONATIONS THROUGHOUT APRIL AS WE COLLECT "A TON" OF FOOD



What is needed?

Please bring in any of the following items this month to help stock the pantry with the things they need the most including **canned chicken, canned fruit, canned vegetables (all kinds) and canned tomatoes (all kinds) and Chef Boyardee can products.**



How to get involved



Acton UMC is responsible for staffing the second Thursday every month. If you are able to serve, please sign up online by clicking or scanning the QR code. If you would like to learn more about the pantry, speak with Charlie Walters.

LEARN AND GROW IN YOUR FAITH

SUNDAYS

ADULT CURRENT EVENTS

The Wired Word

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Kitchen

Sandy Grubb & Charlie Walters

YOUTH

A STUDY OF NARNIA

The Magician's Nephew

Sundays, 10:35-11:15am

Youth Room off Kitchen

Denise Gaunt

KID'S OWN WORSHIP (4yr-5th)

After Children's Message

Sundays, 9:45-10:30am

Children's Chapel upstairs

Sheila Sexton

The Education Team is available to help resource adult and children ministries with curriculum and materials for study. If your group is interested in suggestions or recommendations, please see Pastor Matthew or Samantha Warner. All materials promoted through AUMC communications will line up with the Social Principles of The United Methodist Church.

STUDY GROUPS

A variety of groups meet during the week to study God's word and grow in faith together. All are welcome! Reach out to the leader listed or the office.

WOMEN'S TUESDAY EVENING

The book of John

Tuesdays, 7:00pm, at Diane Crane's home

See Diane Crane or Felicia Crowel

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY MORNING

The Sacred Art of Listening

Wednesdays, 10:00am, at church

See Becky Repass

LEARNING WITH PASTOR MATTHEW

More in depth on the Sunday message

Thursdays, 6:30pm, in the sanctuary

See Pastor Matthew

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNING

Luke - Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws

Fridays, 9:30am, at church

See Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNING

Friendship - Growing Side by Side

Saturdays, 8:00am, at church

See Dan Repass

YOUTH GROUP

Our youth, 6th-12th grade, meet on Sunday evenings, 5:30-7:00 for dinner, a lesson, games, and more. It is a fun evening of fellowship. See Andy or Diane Crane with questions.

Cooks Needed
SUNDAY EVENINGS
FOR THE YOUTH
PLEASE SEE DIANE CRANE

