Acton in action Newsletter of Acton UMC

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

MARCH 2023

Beef Stew

4

Beef stew is on the menu for this month's Fellowship Dinner. Bring a friend and join us at 6:00pm on the 15th.

2023 Budget

5

8

A breakdown of the 2023 budget shows 73% going to ministry work. A detailed budget is available in the hall.

UMCOR Sunday

March 19th is UMCOR Sunday. All money collected go to administrative costs of UMCOR.

Chili Winners

15

Fun was had by all at this year's chili cook-off. We raised \$600, but who won the golden ladles?

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

From the pastor's desk



Lint BY PASTOR MATTHEW STULTZ

Lent comes from the Middle English word *lente*, meaning springtime. Springtime is itself descended from the Old English word *lencten*. Lent also refers to meager and meatless as in the Lenten practice of fasting and doing away with things we do not need. In Latin, this practice and season was called *Quadragesima*, which comes from the Latin *quadragesimus*, or fortieth, and also refers to the first Sunday in Lent and the 40 days Jesus was tested in the wilderness.

A few years ago, a kid asked me why we celebrated lint. I assumed he was referring to Lent and went into a beautiful, child-friendly, explanation. "No," he said, "the stuff from the dryer and in your belly button. Why are we celebrating it in church? My mom just throws it away."

It has taken me some time to recover from that conversation but upon reflection, he may be on to something.

The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to give things up. But a better analogy would be Spring Cleaning: throwing out what we don't need. The "lint" of our lives that may include grudges or bitterness can be swept out of our spiritual house.

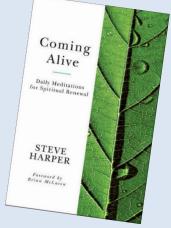
It is nearly Spring, and it is a 40-day observance called Lent. But I seem to be coming around to being reminded of the "lint" in my life that I need to deal with. How about you?

In Christ,

Mærfen



Everyone needs renewal, even the most committed among us. The spiritual life requires regular practice and a bit of time. Coming Alive: Daily Meditations for Spiritual Renewal offers five brief meditations each week for focused reading, reflection, and prayer. Each entry centers on a passage of scripture or spiritual writing. The meditations are deep, insightful, and beautifully simple, as readers have come to expect from Steve Harper's writing. This timeless book offers a gently challenging daily habit, which leads to renewal of spirit and mind.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH EVENTS

4th Music Bingo 9thGod's Bounty 15thFellowship Dinner 19thSweet & Savory Sale

APRIL EVENTS

9thEaster Sunday 13thGod's Bounty 16thSweet & Savory Sale 19thFellowship Dinner

MAY EVENTS

11th.....God's Bounty 17th.....Fellowship Dinner 21st.....Sweet & Savory Sale

TEAM MEETINGS

Staff Parish	March 7 th	
Strategy Council	March 9 th	
Trustees	March 21 st	
Missions	March 22 nd	
UMW Board	April 11 th	

See calendar for times and more events.

SINGLES

Join the Singles Group for lunch at the Olive Garden on East Washington Street on Sunday, March 12th after church. See Susan French or Trudi Wolfe for details.

STUDY GROUPS

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

Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 (Church) Women's – Just Like Jesus

Wednesday evenings @ 6:00 (Barb McCormack's home) Women's – Just Like Jesus

Friday mornings @ 9:30 (Church kitchen) Women's – Forgiveness, A Lenten Study

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

Checkout page 8 for more details

EGG HUNT

We are looking at doing an Egg Hunt this year on Saturday, April 8th. Details will be shared as plans come together. If you are interested in helping with planning or the event, please see Dan Repass.





March 15^{тн} 6:00рм

The women are serving beef stew! Benefits God's Bounty

GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

Church Bulletin Funnies



Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.





PLANNING MEETING

WEDNESDAY MARCH 8th 7:00pm

See Diane Crane for more details



READING CIRCLE

MARCH 27th ~ 6:00pm

Audrey Robert's home The Forgivenesses By Elizabeth Hardinger

Are you following AUMC on social media?

Facebook search acton umc

Instagram search actonmethodist



What Church Membership Means

The vows we take when we become a member of a United Methodist Church are grouped into three categories:

- Profession of faith in Jesus Christ to become part of Christ's universal church.
- Declaration of loyalty to The United Methodist Church in particular.
- 3. A pledge to participate faithfully in this local congregation through prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

We will be looking at each of these over the next few months.

you can count on me!

If you can bring a meal for the youth group on Sunday evenings, please see Diane Crane or contact the office.

GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

WEAR ORANGE MARCH 12th FOR KIDNEY HEALTH



MARCH IS KIDNEY AWARENESS MONTH

Your kidneys are shaped like two beans and one of their functions is to filter out toxins. They filter about a cup of blood every hour. When your kidneys are not functioning correctly, waste builds up in your blood.

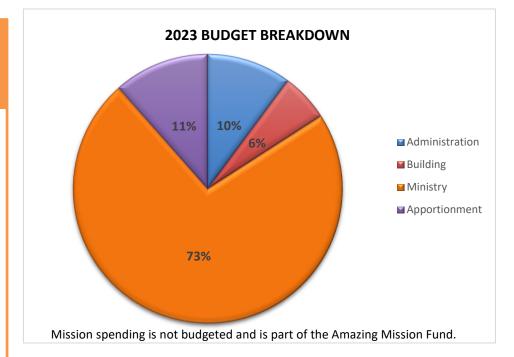
Chronic Kidney Disease affects more than 1 in 7 American adults and is the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S.

Managing your high blood pressure, reducing stress, and eating healthy food and drinks can protect your kidneys.

Learn more at

https://Nationaltoday.com/natio nal-kidney-month/

If you have any questions please contact our Parish Nurse, Margie Townsend.





Call the church office for more information.

Please share on social media if you see a post!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Margie Townsend – 1st Victor Kerlin – 3rd Barb Koertge – 3rd Becky Repass – 5th Susan French – 14th Renee Knight – 14th Lynne Newlon – 15th Linda McGuire – 19th Mollie Clark – 21st Andy Crane – 22nd Franklin Crane – 26th Harrison Crane – 29th



Our college kids are well into their second semester of the school year. It's time to send them some snacks and encouragement. There will be a donation box for out on Sunday, March 12th & 19th. Please drop a snack, something fun, or just an encouraging card in for each of our 7 kids. We will sort, box, and mail them out to each student. See our prayer list for student names.

Follow us on 🕤 💽

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS



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HEALING AND STRENGTH: Ann Howell, Suzie McKay, Jim Miller, Chris Osbourn (Grubb's daughter), Theresa Birdwell, Kevin Hitt (Randolph's son-in-law), Greg McConaughey, Linda Hicks, Amy Berns (Debi's principal), Paula McIntosh, Jeanne Carmen.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alexandria Meyer, Maddie Woodrow, Amy Johnson, Olivia Woodrow, Cherilynn Spicer, Ruth Crowel, Will Tope

MILITARY PERSONNEL: Adam Walters, Joseph (Andy) Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Jamie Boles, 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 we may pray for you and your loved ones. A request for prayer can also be sent out to other members on email or added to the prayer list but 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

UMCOR SUNDAY – MARCH 19th

Each year, the United Methodist Churches pick one Sunday, known as UMCOR Sunday, to collect funds for UMCOR administrative costs. This allows UMCOR to use 100% of funds collected for causes during the year on those designated causes.

Prayerfully consider how you can help. Envelopes are available or mark your donation for UMCOR Sunday. Donations can also be made online at actonumc.com or text UMCORSUN to 44321.

GOD'S BOUNTY HELP

WEDNESDAY, March 8th 6-7:00pm

THURSDAY, March 9th 10-11:00am & 1-6:30pm

If you can help, see Mary Jo Ensch

Loose Change and \$1 Collection March – Vida Nueva

DONATE TO GOD'S BOUNTY

Pick up a bag from the God's Bounty display and bring it back filled with nonperishable food. Someone from Missions will make sure it gets delivered to our local food pantry, God's Bounty.

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

FROM THE PULPIT

March 5 Fear of Having Done Something That Can't be Fixed Galatians 6:1-2				
March 12 Fear of a Meaningless Life	1 Corinthians 12:14-26			
March 19 Fear of Not Having Enough	Ecclesiastes 5:10-20			
March 26 Fear That You'll Be Broken Forever	Psalm 147:3, 56:8-9			
April 2 Fear of the World	Luke 19:35-40; 1 John 5:3-6			
April 9 Fear of Death	John 20:1-18, 15:1-7			



We started a sermon series for Lent on February 19th. The series goes through the seven things we are afraid, finishing on Easter with our fear of death. Join us this Lent and we will take small steps together out of the fear.

What stands out about radical hospitality?

We let go of a need to shape people into our own image.

We extend radical hospitality when we include people within a community without expectation that they will fully conform to it

Radical hospitality doesn't ask" do you

want to be with us?" It says "how can we be with you?"



WHAT IS RADICAL HOSPITALITY?

In Ryan Dunn's article on *What is Radical Hospitality* at <u>www.umc.org</u>, he offers the definition of radical hospitality as offering hospitality in a fundamentally different way and that radical hospitality requires a fundamental shift from a simple practice of offering welcome to an outward movement to stand with others – particularly those who at society's margins.

From <u>What Is Radical Hospitality (umc.org)</u>, *What is Radical Hospitality by Ryan Dunn*.

God entered our story instead of simply demanding that we enter God's story. Perhaps that is what best defines radical hospitality: when we practice it we say "I want to become a part of your story more than I hope you will become a part of mine."

RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

MEN ATTEND LENTEN BREAKFAST

On February 24, the *Saturday Morning Bible Study attended the Metro Ministries Lenten Kickoff Breakfast* held at Old Bethel UMC. Breakfast was great and they heard how a cooperative program between Old Bethel UMC and Faith UMC and Indy Urban Acres provides fresh produce to persons in the eastside neighborhood. They were challenged to be open to new opportunities to serve those in need in our local neighborhoods. *They also had the pleasure of having a former pastor of Acton UMC, Joe Bottorff joining them.*

FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

Due to an increase in costs for food items, God's Bounty food pantry is finding it more difficult to meet the increase in need in families seeking food items. If you are able, *please be encouraged to purchase and bring in food items any time.* There are bags at the God's Bounty display. Just grab one and return it filled with staple food items and Missions will make sure it gets delivered to God's Bounty. Please do not bring in expired food items. Expired items are tossed, which ends up wasting the time of volunteer staff.

It is hoped Meijer will be hosting a donation matching program for God's Bounty later this year. Stay tuned!

To feed those in need in our local community, **Acton UMC will be holding a Spring and Fall food drive** for God's Bounty Food Pantry. Look for more information to come.

UMCOR SUNDAY

The humanitarian relief and development arm of The Methodist Church is the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR).

March 19th *is UMCOR Sunday.* UMCOR Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and support for UMCOR. *All money collected for UMCOR Sunday goes to the administrative costs at UMCOR.* This allows UMCOR to ensure 100% of all donations throughout the year to a specific project, go towards that project. *Look for an envelope on March* 19th or you can give on-*line at www.actonumc.com.*

PACK AWAY HUNGER

Missions is planning another *Pack Away Hunger event for this spring* so keep watch for more details as they become available.

AMAZING MISSION FUND

Thru January 31, 2023 Balance: \$8,376.14

OTHER MISSION OUTREACH

Thru January 31, 2023 Loose Change: Brightwood Community: \$178.03 Fletcher Place: \$ Vida Nueva: \$

WAYS TO GIVE

Monthly Food Pantry Collection Amazing Mission Fund Kroger Gift Card Rewards Programs

WAYS TO SERVE God's Bounty – 2nd Thursday Mission Team Meeting – March 22nd SAWS Builds – See Ken Grubb





GALATIANS 5:13, NIV

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY further enriching other lives

United Methodist Committee on Relief

UMCOR is the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Through relationships with local organizations and trained community leaders, UMCOR activates its network and provides emergency funds as soon as urgent needs are known. UMCOR truly is one of the best ways that we as, a local church, make a meaningful difference in the lives of people in our own backyards and around the world.

Each year, the United Methodist Church focuses one Sunday on collecting donations to cover the operational and administrative costs of UMCOR. With these donations, UMCOR can use 100% of all other donations throughout the year directly to relief efforts.

UMCOR SUNDAY is MARCH 19th

- WE ARE UMCOR when we raise funds during Advent to support Ukraine and Hurricane Ian areas.
- WE ARE UMCOR when we provide school kits assembled by this congregation and shared with students around the world.
- WE ARE UMCOR when we collect items for flood buckets.
- WE ARE UMCOR when we receive today's offering to help cover administrative costs so that when a disaster strikes, the UMCOR network is in a position of strength to help our sisters and brothers in need.

HOW TO DONATE

ENVELOPES AVAILABLE MARCH 19TH MARK DONATIONS FOR UMCOR SUNDAY GIVE ON-LINE AT WWW.ACTONUMC.COM TEXT UMCORSUN TO 44321

THE COLLECTION WILL BE MATCH WITH AMAZING MISSIONG FUNDS



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

Screwtape Letters 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

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.

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 Bring your friends!



THROUGH OUT THE WEEK

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN OF FAITH Just Like Jesus Wednesdays, 10:00am, Church see Becky Repass

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY EVENINGS Just Like Jesus Wednesdays, 6:00pm, Barb McCormack's see Gayle Kerns

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNINGS Forgiveness, A Lenten Study Fridays, 9:30-11:00am, Church Kitchen see Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNINGS Book of Hebrews 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 and 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.

President: Felicia Crowel Vice President: Margie Townsend Secretary: Mary Ann Puckett Treasurer: Connie Walters Nominations: Linda Selke At Large: Josette Randolph and Gayle Kerns



United Women in Faith



Our Prayer Blanket ministry was started here at Acton in the fall of 2006. We have given almost 400 blankets to those in need of comfort and healing. Praying for others is one of the many things we do as Christians. The Women of Acton gather and make these prayer blankets and they are stitched with love and prayed over before being given to family and friends. If you would like to be part of this wonderful group, please see Mary Ann Puckett. Please contact the office if you need a blanket.

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 and beyond

- ~Sweet & Savory sale March 19th
- ~Passing on Kindness to others
- ~Third Sundays
- ~Call Audrey Roberts to help out

Reading Circle

- ~March 27th, 6:30pm @Audrey Robert's ~*All The Forgivenesses* by Elizabeth
- Hardinger
- ~See Audrey Roberts for more information

Hosting Fellowship Dinners

- ~March for God's Bounty
- ~See Barb Wiley or Margie Bartnick if you can help

Craft Fair

- ~October 21st
- ~Main mission fundraiser

Advent Tea

~December 1st

BIBLE STUDIES

- ~Wednesday mornings at 10:00am
- ~Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm
- ~Friday mornings at 9:30am



Thanks to all who were able to help with the chili cook-off. Whether you brought a crock-pot of chili, donated food, sampled the chili, or helped clean up, it was appreciated!

We collected \$600 that will go to the upkeep of our Bible Garden. **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 you kids need to leave after worship, make sure to pick them up from the Children's Chapel at the top of the stairs.

March Lessons

Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and people. Luke 2:52

March 5 Bible Games after worship March 12 Zacchaeus.....Luke 19:1-10 March 19 The Lord's SupperLuke 22:7-23; 33-34 March 26 Praying in the Garden...Luke 22:39-46



Bible Games!

KIDS OF ALL AGES ARE INVITED First Sunday each month Upstairs in the Children's Chapel



UPCOMING EVENTS

MISSIONS IN MARCH Food for God's Bounty Coins for Vida Nueva

FELLOWSHIP DINNER March 15th, 6:00pm

MUSIC BINGO March 4th, 5:00pm

BIBLE STORY



THE LAST SUPPER MATTHEW 26:17-30 *LUKE* 22:7-23

Who went ahead of Jesus and prepared the Passover meal?

What does the Lord's Supper remind you of?

How did Jesus say how Peter would know he had denied him three times?

YOUTH GROUP ACTON TEENS IN ACTION

SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH GROUP ~March 5th ~5:30-7:00pm, church

Youth GROUP ~March 12th ~5:30-7:00pm, church

FELLOWSHIP DINNER ~March 15th ~6:00pm, church

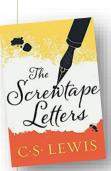
No Youth Group ~March 19th & 26th ~Enjoy your Spring Break

Youth GROUP ~April 2nd ~5:30-7:00pm, church

No Youth Group ~April 9th ~Happy Easter

ROBERT'S PARK MEAL ~April 16th

NO YOUTH GROUP ~April 16th ~Robert's Park Meal



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

A STUDY OF C.S. LEWIS' SCREWTAPE LETTERS LEAD BY DENISE GAUNT

SEE YOU IN THE YOUTH ROOM!!



ROBERT'S PARK MEAL APRIL 16th



Please see Andy or Diane Crane if you have questions about the Youth Group. All youth ages 5th-12th grade are welcome!

Ministries for our Community



Welcome New Scouts

Troop 104 had 12 boys cross-over into their troop from cub scouts.



Scout Sunday

It was nice to celebrating scouting with our scouts on February 12th, lead by Chaplain Aides Rylan and Maycie and the special music by Vincent.

YUM! Thank you to Troop 219 for holding their wonderful bake sale!

Busy, Busy, Busy

Our preschoolers have been busy with teddy bear tea parties, experiments, crazy hat day, and playing on the playground.



Enjoying God's Goodness

Chili Cook-Off Winners

Congratulations to our two golden ladle winners at this year's chili cook-off. Chris Crowel won the "traditional beef" category with his "Chili Chili Bang Bang." Matt Smith won the "other" category with his "Over The Top" venison chili. Thanks to all who participated and the 70ish people that sampled the variety of chilis. Over \$600 was collected for our Bible Garden.





Lenten Breakfast

The Saturday morning Bible Study attended the Metro Ministries Lenten Kick-off Breakfast. A former AUMC pastor, Joe Bottorff, was able to join the men.

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

MARCH 2023	SATURDAY	4 8:00 Men Study	11 8:00 Men Study	18 8:00 Men Study	25 8:00 Men Study	1 8:00 Men Study 12:00 Private Party		
	FRIDAY	3 9:30 Women Study	10 9:30 Women Study 7:00 104 Lock-in	17 9:30 Women Study	24 9:30 Women Study	31 9:30 Women Study		
	THURSDAY	2 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	9 7:00 Strategy Council 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA GODS BOUNTY	16 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	23 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA	30 6:30 Robotics 8:00 AA		
	WEDNESDAY	1 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies	8 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 7:00 Choir Practice 7:00 Kids Klub Team	15 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 6:30 GS Troop 817 7:00 Choir Practice FELLOWSHIP DINNER – 6:00pm	22 10:00 Women Study 6:00 Missions 6:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 7:00 Choir Practice	29 10:00 Women Study 6:00 GS Brownies 7:00 Choir Practice		
	TUESDAY	28 6:30 Robotics	7 6:00 Staff Parish 6:00 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Robotics 6:30 104 Dens	14 6:30 Robotics	21 6:00 Trustees 6:00 GS Troop 1849 6:30 Robotics 6:30 104 Dens	28 6:30 Robotics		
	MONDAY	27 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	6 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	13 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	20 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219	27 6:30 Reading Circle 7:00 Troop 104 7:00 Troop 219		
	SUNDAY	26 9:30 Worship 1:00 GS Troop 200 5:30 Youth Group	5 9:30 Communion 3:00 Troop 104 PLC 5:30 Youth Group	12 9:30 Worship 11:30 Singles 5:30 Youth Group 5:30 Pack Parent	19 9:30 Worship BAKE SALE	26 9:30 Worship 1:00 GS Troop 200		