

ACTON *in action*

Newsletter of Acton United Methodist Church

MASK CHANGES

STARTS JUNE 21

GARAGE SALE NEWS

WHAT WAS DECIDED?

MISSIONS

AMAZING THINGS ARE HAPPENING

UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD'S PLAN

CRAFT FAIR

BOOTH SPACE AVAILABLE

FELLOWSHIP DINNERS

IT IS TIME TO GATHER AGAIN

Spring 2021



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

SPRING 2021

this issue

Come On In 3

Reconnect Club 7

Child Sponsorship 9

New Leaders 15



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

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

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

Pastor Matthew Stultz
pastormatthew@actonumc.com

actonumc.com

Follow us on  

Contents

- 1 A Word from Our Pastor
- 2 Smiles of Acton
- 3 Upcoming Events
- 4 Good to Know
- 5 Good to Know
- 6 Congregational Care
- 6 Extravagant Generosity
- 7 Passionate Worship
- 8 Radical Hospitality
- 8 Risk Taking Mission & Service
- 9 I Love to Tell the Story
- 10 Intentional Faith Development
- 11 Acton United Methodist Women
- 12 Kids' Korner
- 13 Youth Group
- 14 Scouting Adventures
- 14 Preschool Smiles
- 15 Garage Sale News

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

We are coming to a point of transition in our community. The mask mandate has been lifted for Marion County and our congregation is preparing to adjust the rules for keeping one another safe.

I've noticed the aftermath of politicization from the pandemic in public spaces like grocery stores and restaurants. Some react harshly to someone not wearing a mask, chiding them as being insensitive to the needs of others. Others respond to someone wearing a mask as needing to "get over it." There are many reasons we choose to mask up or take it off, not always evident. I'm currently still masking in public because there has been a huge surge of stomach virus cases and I'd much rather wear a mask than be down for a few days with a bug; but that is my choice.

Regardless of your personal preference, guard your heart on how you tell the stories of others. You see someone but you don't know their story, so let it go and love on. Masks are here to stay no matter our preference. It is just a part of life now. So we need to be careful that our opinions do not do any harm.

Jesus taught us that how we live in society would make or break the church. People will judge Jesus based on how you treat them. Remember in his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said:

14 "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. —Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV

Your light is your love. How can you be more loving towards others during this time of transition? What ways will you actively strive to demonstrate kindness? YOU are the light. Let it shine! In Christ,

SMILES OF ACTON

ENJOYING GOD'S GOODNESS



Gathering outside at the May Fellowship BBQ.



Euchre club got to celebrate Audrey's birthday!



AUMC 500 Festival Princesses Earlene and Emily



Congrats to our 2020 Graduates (Noel W. & Emily C.) and our 2021 Graduates (Nick C., Olivia W., Tanner H. & Tatum H.)



Debi and the Crane boys providing wonderful music on Sunday.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

JUNE EVENTS

10th God's Bounty
16th Fellowship Dinner

JULY EVENTS

8th God's Bounty
21st Fellowship Dinner
13th Life Line Screening Day
19th Reading Circle

AUGUST EVENTS

12th God's Bounty
18th Fellowship Dinner

TEAM MEETINGS

Staff Parish 1st Tuesdays
Trustees 3rd Tuesdays
Missions 4th Wednesdays
Strategy Council July 13th
UMW Board August 14th

Check calendar for times

ARE WE HAVING THE GARAGE SALE THIS YEAR? That seems to be the question everyone is asking. Based on input from the congregation, the Garage Sale team has decided to cancel this year's sale. If you have large items you need to get rid of, please contact Becca in the office. We are selling larger items on Facebook Market Place with money going to Missions & Trustees.



STUDY GROUPS

Sunday mornings @ 10:35
On hold for now
Tuesday evenings @ 7:00 (Barb McCormack's)
Women's – *The Harbinger II, The Return*
Wednesday mornings @ 10:00 (Wesley House)
Women's – *The Discipline of Grace*
Thursday evenings @ 7:30 (The Grubb's Home)
Adult – On hold for now
Friday mornings @ 9:30 (Church kitchen)
Women's – *Making Sense of the Bible*
Saturday mornings @ 8:30 (Church kitchen)
Men's – *Twisted Scripture*

Checkout page 8 for more details

JOIN
in
the
FUN



What happens when our world falls apart? How do we press onward when our tightlyknit plans unravel into loose threads? What do we become when our identity—or the path we are on—comes undone? What if all of this is not the end we fear it will be? In our unraveling, sometimes life surprises us with unexpected joy, love, and hope— with a new beginning we could not have imagined. Sometimes we need God to unravel us, for we long to be changed.

Join us this summer for a worship series that will explore 12 stories of unraveled shame, identity, fear, grief, dreams, and expectations. These are stories where God meets us in the spiraling, unraveling our plans—and us—into something new. Pick up your journal starting July 4.

WORSHIP
SERIES
SUMMER



Fellowship Dinner
3rd Wednesdays
6:00pm

GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

NEED PRAYERS? The office will send out any prayer request or announcement through our Agapenet email distribution. Just call the office and talk to Becca. Becca will also be keeping track of hospitalizations, surgeries, etc. so please make sure she knows so we can pray and provide any assistance you may need.

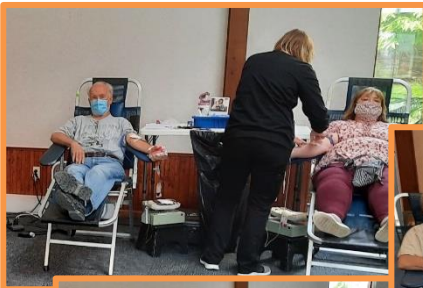


Sundays @ the Crane's
5-7:00pm

Dinner, faith-based lessons & fellowship



SPRING BLOOD DRIVE was May 27th and we collected 24 pints of blood. Thanks to all who were able to donate. See you in the fall.



DO I STILL NEED TO WEAR MY MASK? Marion County has lifted it's mask mandate and our Congregational Council voted to do the same starting June 21. The only time we are asking you to wear a mask is when we sing during worship.

SECOND QUARTER GIVING STATEMENTS will be emailed or mailed for those without email in July. If you have any questions, please contact Kay Lynne Zietlow.



RESTORATION OF THE CROSS in the Bible Garden is well underway, led by our own, Madison Hulskotter. The restoration is Madison's Eagle Scout project, and her team began work the end of May. The cement platform that the cross will sit on has been poured and is curing. The plan is to raise the cross (using a crane – and not Franklin) early on July 1st. If you would like to watch, please stay in the main lower parking lot and away from power lines. Also, welding will be taking place, so it is imperative that you do not look at the arcs while he is welding. We want to keep everyone's eyes safe and healthy! Madison wants to thank everyone for their support, encouraging words, and financial donations.



READING CIRCLE is meeting on July 19th to discuss *The Gathering of Secrets* by Linda Castillo. They will be gathering at Margie Bartnick's clubhouse at 6:30. See Audrey Roberts with questions.



GOOD TO KNOW

TIDBITS OF AUMC NEWS

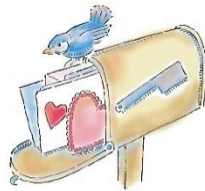
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES! We had a nice reception at the shelter house after worship on May 23rd to honor our 2020 and 2021 graduates. Our 2020 grads are Noel Wolfe (UIndy, Social Work) and Emily Crowel (IUPUI, Art Education). Our 2021 grads are Nick Crane (Franklin Central, going to Air Force Academy), Olivia Woodrow (Franklin Central, going to IU Jacobs School of Music), Tanner Howell (IU, Informatics), and Tatum Howell (UIndy, Nursing).

IF YOU HAVE ANY LARGER ITEMS that you think might sell well on Facebook Marketplace, just give Becca a call. She and Larry Suits will coordinate pick up and take care of the rest. All monies received will go to our Trustees and a portion will be given to Missions.

CARDS

FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Call the office for addresses



CRAFT FAIR plans are underway in hopes that it will happen. The date is set for October 9. Booth registration is open. Please pass on the word to any artisan you know. Go on-line at actonumc.com or you can contact the church office for more information.



MEIJER SIMPLY GIVE program in April raised over \$23,000 for God's Bounty. That is a lot of food to help serve our community. Thanks to all who were able to participate.



BUDGET REPORT

As of May 31, 2021

Income\$120,722 44% of budget
Expenses\$108,674 39% of budget

BACK TOGETHER AGAIN for our first Fellowship Dinner in over a year. We were able to gather safely outside for our May dinner. Pastor Matthew provided delicious BBQ and sides with yummy additions from the UMW (Thanks Margie T.). We were even joined by our Conference Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Aleze Fulbright. Our district provided a very nice write up on Facebook along with some pictures.

7:06

91%



Central District - Indiana
United Methodist Conference
is with **Matthew Stultz** at **Acton**
United Methodist Church.
1d • Indianapolis, Indiana •

Tonight, the people of Acton UMC gathered for the sake of missions and around great food. It has been over a year, since this congregation has convened in-person fellowship; so the beautiful weather, and the safety measures in place, created a great time of connection and raising funds for missions.

They are living our Central District vision of being Christ-Centered, Community-Connected, and Missionally-Centric. A Central District Thanks to the people of Acton UMC and the leadership of the Grill-Pit Master/Pastor Rev. Dr. Matthew Stultz for the warm invitation and radical hospitality!

#CEINUMC #leadINumc

III

O

<

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH FAMILY & FRIENDS



HEALING STRENGTH: Debi Harrison, Deb Burke, Darren (Diane Eskew's son)

SYMPATHIES: Family of Bill Carmen, Family of Bob Birdwell, Family of Willajean Hicks (Bobby's mother), Family of Sue Skelton

OUR HOMEBOUND: Jeanne Carman, Clara Ford, Theresa Birdwell, Lurana Babcock

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS: Alexandria Meyer, Adam Zietlow, Wyatt Crowel, Maddie Woodrow, Amy Johnson, Olivia Woodrow

MILITARY PERSONNEL: Adam Walters, Joseph (Andy) Roberts, Lucas Lamkin, Jamie Boles, Nick Crane

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

DEB BURKE



Deb Burke is a volunteer at God's Bounty food pantry and well known among Acton workers. Deb has been trying to get a kidney transplant

for several years. She is working with the organization Help Hope Live to get on a transplant list. She needs to raise \$3,000 for this to happen. If you can help Deb she would be grateful. Any thing she raises over the \$3,000 will be used for any expenses needed after the transplant. Go to <https://helpholive.org/campaign/16220> if you would like to donate.

GOD'S BOUNTY HELP

WEDNESDAY

July 7th & August 11th
6-7:00pm

THURSDAY

July 8th & August 12th
10-11:00am & 1-6:30pm

If you can help, see Mary Jo Ensich



Loose Change and \$1 Collection

Fletcher Place
& 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 to God's Bounty.



PASSIONATE WORSHIP

FROM THE PULPIT

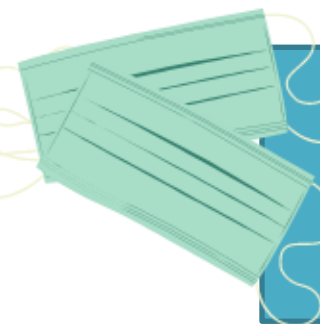
June 6	The Will of God	Mark 3:20-35
June 13	The Mystery of Seeds	Mark 4:26-34
June 20	Life and Faith During the Pandemic.....	Romans 5:1-5
June 27	Touching Jesus	Mark 5:21-43
July 4	Amazing Unbelief	Mark 6:1-13
July 11	Unexpected Joy and Surprise	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7
July 18	Unraveled by Uncertainty	Matthew 14:22-33
July 25	Public Grief that Inspires Action	2 Samuel 3:7; 21:1-14
August 1	Radical Unraveling of Vocation.....	Luke 19:1-10
August 8	When Humans Unravel God's Plan for Justice.....	Exodus 5:1-2; 7:8-23
August 15	Discovering a New Path.....	Acts 9:1-20
August 22	When Dreams Unravel	Jeremiah 29:1-7
August 29	Unraveled Shame	John 4:1-29

OPTIONS FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

COME INSIDE ~ STAY IN YOUR CAR (87.9) ~ WATCH ON YOUTUBE

RADICAL HOSPITALITY

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST



BEING HOSPITABLE IN TODAY'S WORLD can be a challenge. What is the mandate in this county? Do I have to wear my mask here? Here at Acton, all are welcome in our doors. Congregational Council has voted to lift our mask requirements starting June 21. You are encouraged to still wear a mask if you need to, but they are only required when we sing during worship.

YOU CAN DO MORE FOR YOUR CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH! Acton is hosting a Life Line Screening for our community on July 13. If you are interested, pre-registration is required. Just call 1-888-653-6450. More information is available from the office or at LifeLineScreening.com.



RISK TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE

SERVING OTHERS IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PICK UP A FEW EXTRA ITEMS AT THE STORE And donate them to God's Bounty. God's Bounty is the Franklin Township food pantry supported by several churches in the area, included AUMC. Leave any donations at the display table at church and someone from Missions will deliver them to the pantry. If you are interested in volunteering at the pantry, AUMC covers the second Thursdays and help is needed Wednesday, 6-7:00pm, to accept donations, Thursday morning to unload the Gleaner's truck; and two hour shifts Thursday (1-6:30pm) to hand out food. See Mary Jo Ensich or Gayle Kerns if you have any questions.



GLEANING FOOD THIS SUMMER. During the month of June, Acton UMC is volunteering through Society of St. Andrew to glean produce from the Indianapolis Downtown City Farmers Market and the Garfield Park Farmers Market. Vendors are asked to donate produce that did not sell. Donated items from downtown are taken to Wheeler Mission and produce from Garfield Park is given to a Fountain Square food pantry. Thanks to Red Wine Farm, Buffalo Trains Farm, VanAntwerp Farm, Arnold Farm, and Heirloom Acres for their donations. If you visit these Farmers Markets, thank them for their donations.



AMAZING MISSION FUND

Thru of May 31, 2021

Balance: \$3470.12
 UMCOR Texas Storms: \$2,000
 God's Bounty items: \$2,000
 Fletcher Place: \$1,000
 UMCOR Sunday match: \$575
 Deb Burke: \$1,000

OTHER MISSION OUTREACH

Thru May 31, 2021

Loose Change:
 Vida Nueva: \$522.06
 Fletcher Place: \$385.87
 Pink Ribbon Connection: \$1,000
 Meijer Simply Give: \$1,300
 Crop Walk: \$300
 UMCOR USA: \$100
 UMCOR Sunday: \$575
 UMCOR International: \$5

WAYS TO GIVE

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

WAYS TO SERVE

God's Bounty – 2nd Thursday



June 23rd, 6:00pm

"...volunteers serve at their own convenience while servants serve at the discretion of the one who calls."

*Taken from "Change the World"
 by Mike Slaughter*

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

AMAZING MISSIONS

Acton has been Amazing in Missions since 2012

In 2012, AUMC's Mission Team established the Amazing Mission Fund (AMF). This fund is a pledged backed fund used to support the various mission ministries at Acton.



AMAZING things are happening!

The Amazing Mission Fund has been used in many ways to support the various mission ministries of Acton since 2012.

- Africa University
- Suicide Prevention
- Barnes UMC
- Brightwood food pantry
- Burkina Wells
- Camperships
- Community Assistance
- Compassion Center meals
- Crop Walk
- East 10th Street UMC meals
- Fletcher Place food pantry
- Franklin Township Fast Track
- Friends on a UMission
- Gleaners
- God's Bounty
- Habitat for Humanity
- Little Free Library
- Metro Ministries
- Mission Trips
- Operation Christmas Child
- Promise Packs
- Salvation Army
- SAWS
- UMCOR Flood Buckets
- UMCOR Health Kits
- UMCOR Relief Domestic
- UMCOR Relief International
- United Way Oregon wildfires
- Vida Nueva

\$133,600

The **AMAZING MISSION FUND** is funded by way of a designated pledge program - a yearly, ongoing commitment that would be separate and in addition to our regular giving to the church budget. The intent is not to detract from our regular gifts and tithes on which the very bases of our church finances depend; but to strengthen our level of commitment. Each year in May, the Mission Team holds a pledge drive to support the AMF. Due to the recent pandemic, the Missions Team did not hold their annual pledge drive for AMF in 2020 or 2021. Missions asks that you continue to donate as you can to AMF. If you have any questions, please see Bruce McKay or another Mission Team member.

CONTINUE TO GIVE AS YOU CAN TO AMF

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in... Matthew 25:35 NIV



A total of \$137,258 has been given to the Amazing Mission Fund over the last 9 years.

Sunday School SCHEDULE

ADULT CURRENT EVENTS CLASS

The Wired Word

Meets Sundays, 10:35-11:15am,
Kitchen, see Cliff Lathrop

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS

Meets Sundays, 10:35-11:15am,
Youth Room, see Pastor Matthew

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS

Meets Sundays, 10:35-11:15am
Jungle Room, see Chris Count

PREK-5th GRADE CLASS

Bible Jeopardy

Meets 1st Sunday, 10:35-11:15am
Children's Chapel upstairs

Kid's Own Worship & More

Meets rest of the month after the
children's message, 9:45-10:30am
Children's Chapel upstairs

YOUTH GROUP – Join us for dinner, swimming,
games, fun fellowship, and faith building lessons
Sundays, 5:00-7:00pm, at the Crane's. See Andy or
Diane Crane with any questions.

WOMEN'S TUESDAY EVENING

The Harbinger II by Rabbi Jonathan Cahn

Tuesdays, 6:00pm, Barb McCormack's home
see Gayle Kerns

MEN'S TUESDAY EVENINGS – ON HOLD

Tuesdays, 7-8:00 pm, Church Kitchen
see Steve Povalac

WEDNESDAY'S WOMEN OF FAITH

The Discipline of Grace by Jerry Bridges

Wednesdays, 10:00am, The Wesley House
see Becky Repass

ADULT THURSDAY EVENINGS (TGIT) – ON HOLD

Thursdays, 7:30pm, Grubb's home
See Ken or Sandy Grubb

WOMEN'S FRIDAY MORNINGS

Making Sense of the Bible

Fridays, 9:30-11:00am, Church Kitchen
see Connie Walters

MEN'S SATURDAY MORNINGS

Twisted Scripture, by Andrew Farley

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



All are welcome to attend
Sunday school classes, Youth
Group, or a Small Group.
Come and fellowship as we
learn about God's word.

ACTON UMW

WOMEN IN MISSION AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

WHAT IS THE UMW?

United Methodist Women 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 Methodist Women. Also, you do not need to be a member of the church to be a United Methodist Woman.

At Acton, UMW has so many opportunities for all women including:

- Host Fellowship Dinners
- Reading Circle
- Acts of Kindness
- Blanket Ministry
- Women's Luncheons
- Women's Retreat
- Craft Fair
- Advent Tea

So, please, every woman, think how you may enjoy becoming a part of Acton United Methodist Women.



OUR ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR is scheduled for October 9th. Booth registration is open, and we are looking for folks wanting to help plan and get things ready. If you are interested in being on the team, let Felicia Crowel or Margie Townsend know.

MINISTRIES

Prayer Blanket Ministry

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

Acts of Kindness Bake Sale

- ~2nd Sundays after worship.
- ~Bring baked or savory foods.
- ~Off for the summer.

Reading Circle

- ~July 19, 6:30pm @Margie Bartnick's
- ~*The Gathering of Secrets*, Linda Castello

Hosting Fellowship Dinners

- ~We host in August and October
- ~UMW Prepares throughout the year
- ~See Margie T. to help

Craft Fair

- ~October 9
- ~Main fundraiser of the AUMW

Advent Tea

- ~First Sunday in December
- ~The tables are always beautiful

BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Friday Bible Study is studying *Making Sense of the Bible*. They meet in the church from 9:30-11:00am every Friday.



July 19
6:30pm
Margie Bartnick's
clubhouse

The Gathering of Secrets
by Linda Castello

All women of the church and
their friends are invited

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 Kindergarten 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.

Our Kid's Own Worship is on break right now, but the Children's Ministry team is looking at the best way to start this program back up after our summer break. If you can help, see Diane Crane.

Upcoming Events

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

July 21st

August 18th

MISSIONS

Food for God's Bounty

Coins for Metro Ministries

**We are not holding VBS this year.
Look for details on a family event
at the end of the summer!**

BIBLE STORY

Read about the amazing people of the bible. How are you like them?



PAUL'S CONVERSION

Looking for volunteers to assist or teach during the Kid's Own Worship on Sundays. See Diane Crane if you can help!

VOLUNTEER



YOUTH GROUP

ACTON TEENS IN ACTION

The summer fun has begun!



SAVE THE DATE

YOUTH GROUP

- ~ Sunday evenings
- ~ 5:00-7:00pm, at the Crane's
- ~ dinner, games, lessons, swimming, & fellowship

Summer Fun

HEADING BACK TO
THE CRANE'S

SUNDAYS
5-7:00pm

BRING A FRIEND &
WEAR A SWIMSUIT



Scouting Adventures

Troop 219 and 104 collected almost 4,300 pounds of food for God's Bounty in April. Thanks to all who donated.



Congratulations to the latest Troop 104 Eagle Scouts. Vincent R., Finn M., & Nick C.

Girls of Troop 219 enjoyed a weekend of hiking at Turkey Run State Park.



Preschool Smiles



Congrats to our 2021 Graduates!



GARAGE SALE NEWS

After gathering input from the congregation, the Garage Sale Team decided it was best to cancel this year's Garage Sale. It was not an easy decision since we were unable to hold the sale last summer. The decision was based on concern for having enough volunteers to get ready for the sale and the response that **63% of those who took the survey thought it best to not have the Garage Sale this year.** Input was also received from the Finance Team. We are currently able to fund Trustees through our investments so there is not a financial need for the sale this year.



GARAGE SALE SURVEY

The Congregational Council agreed to do a survey about this year's sale. The date was provided to the Garage Sale Team to help make the best decision as to whether to have the sale this year.

The survey consisted of questions about volunteering, feelings about the sale, should we do the sale, and other opportunities if the sale is canceled this year. 82 people took the survey.

VOLUNTEERS

11 people would help almost every day, 34 people would help once or twice, and 28 people would only help the day of the sale.

FEELINGS ABOUT SALE

16 people feel the sale is a tradition we should have no matter what, 44 people feel with a pandemic and folks getting older it might be time to move on, 8 people are not real connected to event, and 12 do not care one way or the other.

FUTURE

31 people think we should find a fundraiser if this year's sale is canceled, 27 people feel we should find a fellowship opportunity, and 18 say do not worry about it right now.