

January 2018

Fishers United Methodist Church

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SOCIAL MEDIA ROUND UP

Highlighting posts from the past month



Fire & Water students celebrated the season with their annual Christmas Party. What's your favorite tradition this season?



Today's #VerseOfTheDay is a familiar one - John 3:16. "For God so LOVED the world, that God gave us His one and only Son..." How can you show God's LOVE in a new and tangible way?



The giraffe preschool class at Fishers UMC collected 20 pounds of food for the food pantry. Thank You!



Upcoming Events

January 7 Child Safety Training

12:30 pm, Dining Room

January 9 UMW Executive Committee

7 pm, Room 276

January 10 Alpha Course Begins

6 pm, Dining Room

January 11 Fifty Plus

11:30 am, Dining Room

January 13 United Methodist Men

8 am, Dining Room

January 23 Monthly Book Club

7 pm, Library

COMING IN FEBRUARY

February 4 Present Over Perfect Study

February 14 Ash Wednesday

February 18 Adult Mission Team Lunch



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

**SOUP, CRACKERS, TOASTER PASTRIES,
HOT CHOCOLATE**

Donations may be dropped off in the pantry boxes located inside Doors 1 & 4 or at the Food Pantry on Wednesdays between 9:30am and 7:00pm

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

2018 is here! As we enter a new year we step into new territory, going where we have never gone before; facing adventures and challenges we have never faced before. But as we embark on the new, we carry with us the knowledge, and sometimes pain and scars, from where we have been. I find myself remembering my own woundedness from past journeys: my failings and fears; shackles of my shame; and the painful awareness of sins of my life. But with these things we carry with us we enter into the "Land of 2018" with the assurance that a King who chose to "move into our neighborhood" and become flesh as John's Gospel says. That King in commoner's clothes bears us in his arms. Lee Eclov says this very well. I'll let him tell you. Read on....

There is a vivid picture of Christ's sacrifice for sin in Mark Twain's novel, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. The story tells the adventures of an ordinary man (the Connecticut Yankee) from the 19th century, who is transported back to the medieval world of King Arthur. At one point he convinces King Arthur to dress like a peasant and take a journey through his kingdom. The results are generally laughable as the king, completely oblivious to life in the trenches, tries to carry on with all the pomp of the court while those around him simply think he is crazy. But there is a touching chapter titled "The Smallpox

Hut" describing how the king and his companion happen upon a beggar's hovel. The husband lies dead, and the wife tries to warn them away:

"For the fear of God, who visits with misery and death such as be harmless, tarry not here, but fly! This place is under his curse."

The king replies, "Let me come in and help you. You are sick and in trouble."

The woman asks the king to go into the loft and check on their child.

"It was a desperate place for him to be in, and might cost him his life," observes the Yankee, "but it was no use to argue with him."

The king disappears up a ladder looking for the girl.

There was a slight noise from the direction of the dim corner where the ladder was. It was the king descending. I could see that he was bearing something in one arm, and assisting himself with the other. He came forward into the light; upon his breast lay a slender girl of 15. She was but half conscious; she was dying of smallpox. Here was heroism at its last and loftiest possibility, its utmost summit; this was challenging death in the open field unarmed, with all the odds against the challenger, no reward set upon the contest, and no admiring world in silks and cloth-of-gold to gaze and applaud; and yet the king's

bearing was as serenely brave as it had always been in those cheaper contests where knight meets knight in equal fight and clothed in protecting steel. He was great now; sublimely great. The rude statues of his ancestors in his palace should have an addition. I would see to that; and it would not be a mailed king killing a giant or a dragon, like the rest. It would be a king in commoner's garb bearing death in his arms.

There is Jesus on the cross!
A king in commoner's garb bearing sinners in his arms.

Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois; source: Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, chapter XXIX



FOR THE ONLY
CAUSE THAT
MATTERS,

Pastor Kevin

VISION TEAM UPDATE

"For Such a Time as This..."

In the book of Esther, she is told by her uncle Mordecai:

"If you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise from a different place...And who knows but that you have come to your position for such a time as this" (Esther 4:14). For such a time as this, Fishers UMC is in a unique position to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our community. And who is our community? Who are we, today?

The Vision Team has been working hard to answer those questions. Using objective and subjective data, gathered from interviews with church members, Hamilton County demographic reports, and their own, diverse experiences, the Team has gathered information about our current context that will help shape how we do ministry going forward. The following is a snapshot of our county and church in 2017:



HAMILTON COUNTY

Fishers named "#1 Best Place to Live" in America according to Money Magazine

Hamilton County is becoming an increasingly diverse community - ethnically, religiously, and socio-economically

The population of Fishers has grown from 20,500 in 1995 to over 90,000 today

More than four out of five residents are under 55 years of age, with the average age being 34 years old

The importance of faith for the average resident is lower than the state average, coupled with a culture of "busyness" in work, play, sports, school, etc.

Household incomes are above state average, so too is the risk for foreclosures



OUR CHURCH

In a changing community, Fishers UMC has deep, stable roots

We did not have an intentional, disciple-making plan (called a Discipleship Pathway) to shepherd persons from non-believers to fully-devoted disciples of Jesus Christ *[The good news is that thanks to the Vision Team, a Discipleship Pathway has been identified and a Ministry Team has been created. More details to come next month about this exciting work!]*

While the community has grown steadily, our church's average worship attendance has plateaued

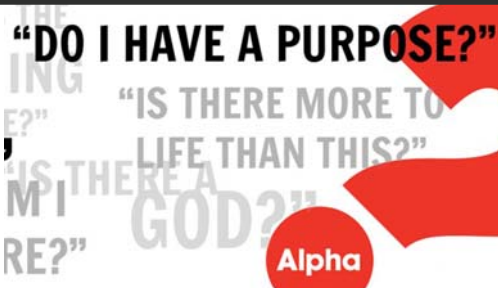
The 11:00 hour possesses the greatest potential for growth - in worship, youth and children's ministries, and Sunday School opportunities.

The above information contains some of the highlights from the Vision Team's research. While much data has been gathered and many insights learned, the strongest takeaway has been that for such a time as this our church is positioned to make a strategic jump to innovate our tradition-rich history in ways that will share the Good News of Jesus with more and more people in our community. Next month, we will share more about the Core Values that will shape how we do ministry here at Fishers UMC.

IN PARTNERSHIP TOGETHER, Pastors Kevin, Jared, and Jill

ADULT MINISTRIES

ALPHA



ALPHA IS BACK Beginning Wednesday, January 10! Alpha is a unique study that creates an environment of hospitality where people can bring their friends, family, and work colleagues to explore the Christian faith, ask questions, and share their point of view. Alpha makes it easy to invite friends to have a meal, hear a short teaching talk, and have an opportunity to explore life's biggest questions in a safe and respectful way. The class will run from 6-8:15pm and will first meet in the Dining Room. Sign up to attend in Connection Central or fishersumc.org/alpha

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS



Starting Sunday, February 4, Kate Kendall will be leading a new 6-week study on Shauna Niequist's book, Present Over Perfect, during the 11:00 hour in Room 286. "Present Over Perfect is a hand reaching out, pulling you free from the constant pressure to perform faster, push harder, and produce more, all while maintaining an exhausting image of perfection." This class is open to all, especially those who don't currently have a Sunday School class.

UNITED METHODIST MEN

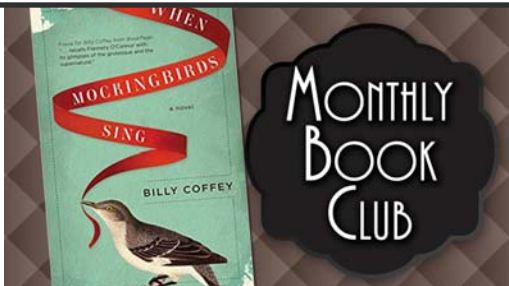


Fishers United Methodist Men January meeting isn't just for men! On January 13th, we are fortunate to have Dr. Saneta Maiko share with us the findings evolving from an IU Health project clarifying the important role of spirituality and religion when loved ones are seriously ill. The research is showing approaches with clear benefit to end of life experiences. All adults of the congregation--men and women--are invited to participate.

Dr. Maiko, an elder of the Indiana Conference and participant in Fishers UMC activities, is lead researcher for the project which is being conducted under the auspices of IU Health's Daniel F. Evans Center for Spiritual and Religious Values in Healthcare. The program includes tips and techniques for professionals, family, and friends to improve the end of life experience for loved ones when dealing with difficult diagnoses, making decisions, improving mental state and other aspects of this stressful time. This is truly a program for adults of all ages.

Come Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 8:00 AM to the Dining Room, where a hot breakfast will be served. If you plan to attend, please email the number in your party to FishersUMM@att.net or sign up in Connection Central.

MONTHLY BOOK CLUB



Join the Monthly Book Club in January as we read and discuss *When Mockingbirds Sing* by Billy Coffey. Nine-year-old Leah's invisible friend seems harmless enough until he aids her in upsetting the tranquility of her new town, a place where her parents desperately hoped she'd finally be able to make friends and fit in. Hidden within a picture she paints for a local toymaker are numbers that win him millions. Suddenly, townspeople are divided between those who see Leah as a prophet and those who are afraid of the danger she represents. Caught in the middle is Leah's agnostic father, who clashes with a powerful town pastor over Leah's prophecies and what to do about them. If you are looking for a way to

combine your love of reading and books with a small group atmosphere of fellowship, this is the place for you! The Book Club meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the Library at 7:00pm. **This month we are meeting on January 23.** If you are interested or need more information, contact Kim Arnott at 797-8612 or kimarnott@mac.com.

STUDENT MINISTRIES



MONTHLY HIGHLIGHT

In December, Fire & Water Student Ministries celebrated Christmas at their Annual Christmas Party. There, students ate food, played games such as "Manger Things" a trivia game and celebrated the birth of Jesus!

Right: Students enjoy playing their favorite Christmas game, which involves a ball of saran wrap filled with various prizes



Christmas Party

JANUARY FOR FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES

F.I.R.E. (JUNIOR HIGH)

Weekly Activities: Sunday School @ 9:45 am, Refinery @ 6:00pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm

January 7 Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours

January 10 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

January 13-15 "Giving It Your All" Winter Retreat

January 17 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

January 18 Third Thursday @ Hamilton Trace @ 3:15 pm

January 21 Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours

January 24 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

January 28 Sunday School, Refinery, After Hours

January 31 Bible Study @ 7:00 pm

W.A.T.E.R (SENIOR HIGH)

Weekly Activities: Sunday School @ 9:45 am, Drink Deep @ 6 pm, After Hours @ 7:30 pm

January 4 Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm

January 7 Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours

January 11 Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm

January 13-15 "Giving It Your All" Winter Retreat

January 18 Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm

January 21 Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours

January 25 Supermarket Sweeps @ 3:30 pm

January 28 Sunday School, Drink Deep, After Hours

Home Bible Studies take place throughout the week.

WINTER RETREAT forms are available at fumcfireandwater.com or on the dock in the Wharf.

FIRE & WATER STUDENT MINISTRIES IS SELLING CONCESSIONS at Upwards Basketball on Saturdays. If you can help us with this fundraiser please sign up at <http://signup.com/go/cdrSuSb>

THE 2017-2018 FIRE & WATER PRAYER CALENDAR is available in Connection Central, in the Wharf, and at www.fumcfireandwater.com Find out what is going on for the year and ways you can pray for student ministries

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

WE ARE GROWING!

Wow, what a blessed year it has been for Fishers UMC Kids! So many new families to meet and so many familiar faces to greet! With this growth, comes the need for more help in the nursery during the 11:00 service. If you love babies and love to serve, please consider giving an hour of your month to help care for our precious little people. Contact Jenica Giffin at jgiffin@fishersumc.org to learn more OR just stop by the nursery and let her know!



CHILD SAFETY

All persons involved with children at Fishers UMC (Sunday school teachers, volunteers, confirmation mentors, etc.) are encouraged to attend the Child Safety training on Sunday, January 7th at 12:30P in the dining room. Emergency procedures, background checks, and education in child safety will be discussed. Lunch and childcare provided. Register in the Church App, in Connection Central or at fishersumc.org/childsafetytraining.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

Did you know that we have a Library next to Connection Central right outside the Sanctuary? Stop by on Sunday before or after worship and check out our vast selection of books. We also have a book shelf of books, that for a donation can be yours!



ARE YOU MISSING SOMETHING?

The lost and found area in the Family Life Center Lobby inside Door #4 is overflowing! Jackets, sweaters, sunglasses, shoes, and other various trinkets are waiting for you to come claim them. But don't wait long, in a few weeks we will be donating all these items if left unclaimed.

INSPIRATION

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life. Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite -- telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups...And then you began eyeing each other's cups."

"Now consider this," he continued... "Life is the coffee. The jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us."

God brews the coffee, not the cups... Enjoy your coffee!

-Author Unknown



THROW BACK



A FEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES FROM YEARS PAST AT FISHERS UMC.

Do you recognize anyone? Bring back any memories? How do they compare to your Sunday School classes today?

C O N N E C T

Fishers United Methodist Church



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S U N D A Y S

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:30, 9:45 & 11:00 am
MODERN WORSHIP 11:00 am
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:45 am



WE ARE A COMMUNITY OF HEALING AND SERVING ROOTED IN JESUS CHRIST