



Dyer United Methodist Church

...Where the adventure begins...

APRIL 2009

2016 Church Street :: Dyer, IN 46311 :: 219-865-8947

Dear Friends,

This is the season where we usher in the message of hope. In a couple of weeks, we will celebrate the most important message of our Christian faith: Because Jesus lives, we have power to overcome our obstacles, defeat our lives of pain and sin, and claim an eternal connection to love. We have hope. It is seen in budding of trees, heard in the strains of "Hallelujah," felt in a child's hug, smelt in the opening of a lily plant, and tasted in the eggs, chocolate, caffeine and all the other goodies we faithfully gave up in Lent. All of our senses connect to the promise that as sure as the sun shines longer, God's everlasting love surrounds us with hope.

And none too soon, I might add. All of this winter's erosion of trust in our economy, government, and future has really made for a bleak time lately. I learn every week about someone in our church losing their job, or having to take pay cuts, or struggling to make ends meet. One example of this is our food pantry growing exponentially with people needing to seek us out to stretch grocery budgets and find staple goods.

But, I take pride in knowing that our church family at large has really shoveled out of this winter of storms time and time again—literally, as well as figuratively, with the generosity and support that really makes a difference in people's lives. There is always enough in those closets downstairs to help a family out. There is always a hug and a prayer meeting you in our narthex or in a Sunday School classroom. There is often a card or a call available. There's a sense that we are (and have been) connected to this life giving power of love all along.

Can we meet every need? No. Are the storms of life over? No, in fact, now we get to start into the spring task of bailing out water from the basement. But do we have hope in the one who in and out of season brings us life, and purpose and meaning? You bet! And that relationship keeps showing itself around here in amazing ways.

Thanks to all who staff our food pantry ministry. And thanks to those who cook meals for the homeless, and raise funds for animals in other lands, and who send out prayers and calls and cards. Who bring in candy for an Easter egg hunt, hand out bulletins on Sunday morning, and serve a mean cup of Java (go HeBrews!) It's the little things that make Easter matter every day. One of my predecessors favorite songs is "Every Morning is Easter Morning." And I agree with that idea. For Jesus' sake, let's celebrate this hope all year long!

Serving With You, Ken



Here to Serve...

Pastor Ken Puent

pastorken@dyerumc.org

Office Administrator

Char Szulewski
office@dyerumc.org

Music Director

Juanita Jarecki

Director of Student Ministries

Mike D'Attoma
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Office Assistant

Mary Jayme
finance@dyerumc.org

Coordinator of Christian Education

Maureen VanSwol
children@dyerumc.org



The Guys retreat was a great weekend in which we grew together as men, and also grew in our faith. We had a great weekend with about 50 other guys from all around the country hanging out, worshipping, playing football, and learning about discipleship. We took 5 high school guys to Liberty, Missouri and they returned with a better knowledge of the Word of God, and a great example of true Biblical fellowship. It was an amazing weekend!! We had services each day, and 45-minute discipleship seminars on Saturday to focus in on God's Word. The seminars were intense, and encouraging. It was a great weekend!

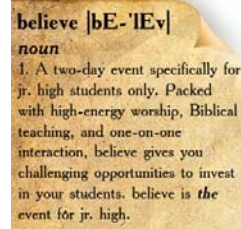
Thanks for your support!! Mike D'Attoma

Upcoming youth events

Jr. High Believe 2009
April 18-19 Anderson University

The undeniable issue facing adolescence is that of identity.

This quest for acceptance into the community of adulthood is long and difficult. Students question if they have any significant role to play in life or if they are destined to be an extra in some other lucky person's movie. Through the awesome life of Jeremiah, your students will learn: God formed you and set you apart. So don't be afraid, speak God's words.



Senior High MOVE is an intense week of growing in our relationship with Christ and is geared to reach the senior high student!

The date for CIY MOVE 2009 June 15-19 @ Anderson University.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

I wish to thank you so much for your concern, prayers, cards, phone calls and visits during the eight week that I was confined to home. I also want to thank Pastor Ken for his visit to the hospital. I also am very thankful and very blessed for my caring and loving family for taking such good care of me. My love goes out to all of you.

Keep the FAITH. GOD IS GOOD

Lorraine Warmelink



Thank you for the nice lunch served for the family of Eldon Johnson. It is so nice being a part of a nice church that we have at the Dyer United Methodist Church.

Gene Johnson and family



Dear Pastor Ken,

Thank you for the opportunity to have Meals on Wheels speak about our mission in the community to your congregation.

Regards,
Sandy Noe
Executive Director, Meals on Wheels.



The Puent/Alger family would like to thank the entire church for their outpouring of love during difficult time of Beth's father's passing. Thank you for providing food at the funeral home, and for all of those who visited, prayed and sent cards, Dyer UMC truly has a sense of service and ministry like no other church. You have been blessed with a great gift.



Children's Ministries

Children's St. Patrick's Day Party

On Friday, March 13, seventeen children came together to celebrate a little Luck O' the Irish. Games, snacks, and a fun story by Chris Engles filled the evening. Our friends Cheryl Jordan and Lauren Podowski came out to



Mark your calendars for the annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. and is open to the public.

It takes lots of volunteers to make this event happen. We need people to

help hide the eggs, bring snacks, set-up of the kitchen and clean up afterwards. Sign up at the Information Center.

Also, bring your child to help celebrate the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem by participating in the Palm Sunday "Parade of Palms" at both services on April 5.



Don't forget to order your Easter Lilies. Forms are in your bulletin.

For an \$8 donation receive a potted spring flower or contribute to the camp scholarship fund. If you would like to make multiple donations, please use separate order forms. Payment and forms must be turned in by April 1, to allow order time for the plants and time to place memorial dedications in the Easter Bulletin.

DUMC welcomes three new families to membership

On February 22 three families were welcomed to their larger Dyer United Methodist Church family. These are faces you should recognize by now. Take a moment to welcome them and introduce yourselves.



Ciano Fernandini



Dan & Carol Szymanski and their son Max



Russell & Michele Wysocki and their children: Clarissa, Jake, Trey, Chase, Kari, Logan & Hannah

Men's Club Annual Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 12 7:30am or 9:30 am seatings
\$5 per person, Children ages 3-12 \$3
Children under three free
Maximum per family \$20

Tickets will be available in the narthex after church service. Seating is limited so buy your tickets in advance. The menu includes egg casseroles, potato casseroles, sausage gravy and biscuits, Danish, fruit, drinks and more.

Contact Carl Lisek or Tom Lane if you have any questions.

Reaching out to the world and our communities

Lauren Podowski shares her experience in Nicaragua

Over spring break I went down to Nicaragua with 12 other students in the Valparaiso University Education Department. For two weeks, we traveled across the country delivering school supplies and teaching in three schools and two orphanages. I taught second and fourth grade for one week, and kindergarten children for a few days. We weren't sure what to expect when we to Nicaragua, but I feel that we made a difference. Teaching in Nicaragua was harder than we expected it to be. Many people only spoke Spanish, and we had to adapt quickly to the culture. In the end, however, we were all able to adapt and build successful relationships with the children and the teachers. We were able to teach the children about another culture, and teach the teachers how to better teach the children and keep them on task. We all felt that this was a very successful and enlightening trip. Thank you to all in the congregation that prayed for me or donated money and supplies. A special thanks to Nancy Gray, who popped popcorn to fund raise and Diane Meyer with Operation Backpack for donating so many supplies and journals.



Lakeshore Area Regional Recovery of Indiana, LARRI, is a committee of non-profit, faith based, business, public and other community partners, commonly known as a long term relief committee, formed to serve the survivors of the flooding of September 13-15, 2008 who have reasonably exhausted their resources from insurance, FEMA, savings and other sources in the restoration of their homes.

LARRI exists to assist those survivors in restoring their homes to a safe, sanitary and secure standard. These goals are accomplished by combining the human and material resources of its partner organizations and the community to meet the needs of our clients on a case by case basis.

LARRI provides muck & gut and construction assistance to these homeowners in order to provide a clean slate from which they can begin to rebuild their lives. We have identified some 900 homes in Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties in dire need of restoration assistance. Of those, almost 150 are still living with the dangerous mold and muck from that initial flood.

Volunteers of all skill levels are needed to assist in these efforts. LARRI is also in desperate need of housing for the out of town groups of volunteers that will be arriving as warmer weather approaches. Food and cooked meals are also needed for those visiting volunteer groups.

For information on LARRI call 877-LARRI4U or contact Donna George at (219) 218-9437.

Upcoming Sermon Series

Sermons for March/April 2009



Lenten Series: On the Edge of Easter

Looking at the peripheral characters of the passion story, we will identify similar traits in our own responses and reactions to Jesus' ministry and death.

March 29

Scripture Text: Mark 14:66-72

The Servant Girl

You've been watching this stranger for awhile. You are just curious about who he is, but he gets really upset when you ask the right questions. How difficult is it to find out about this Jesus if his follower won't tell you anything?

April 5 Palm Sunday

Scripture Text: Mark 11:1-11

The Parade Goer

This is the day your parents and synagogue teachers have told you about your whole life. The Son of David coming to claim his title. How do you get ready to meet and greet the Messiah?

April 12 Easter

Scripture Text: Mark 16:1-8

Salome

You intend to offer a gesture of tribute and respect to a man you devoted your life to following the past year or so. What you discover sends you away terrified and speechless. How do you react to the unexpected encounter of Jesus in your life?

Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer need that you would like to add to the prayer chain, please call the church office, Cathy Millard at 365-3954 or send email to Roseann Piercy at: rr_piercy@comcast.net

Our Thoughts & Prayers are with...

Our Service Members	Rollin Flanagin
The Albright Family	Robert Galbreath
The Meyer Family	Olive Han
Debbie Busch	Art Krumm.
Linda Crowder	Jackie Smith
Tom Fizer	Eileen Stiemart
Rob Fizer	Nancy Stivers
Melba Fixter	Fran Werth

Is Your Pledge Up to Date?

Record of Faithfulness

Totals to Date as of 03/22/2009

Weekly Stewardship to Reach Budget

\$7,555.00

Weekly Stewardship

Received

02/22/2009 \$5,786.00
03/01/2009 \$8,091.02
03/08/2009 \$5,906.27
03/16/2009 \$9,844.68

Weekly Attendance

02/22/2009 - 196
03/01/2009 - 213
03/08/2009 - 165
03/16/2009 - 230

Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4

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2016 Church Street
Dyer, Indiana 46311



Upcoming Events

Priorities of Dyer United Methodist Church

**#1 To Give Glory
To Christ and
Build His Kingdom
In All That We Do.**

**#2 To Serve and Reach Out In
Love To Those Outside The
Body Of Christ.**

**#3 To Love, Support and Serve
Those In Our
Church Family In Order
To Raise Up Disciples
of Jesus Christ.**

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 4 at 10:00 am

Palm Sunday, April 5

Children's parade of palms—both services

UMW Sedar Meal, Thursday, April 9, 5:00 pm

Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm April 9

Good Friday Passion Play, 7:00 pm, April 10.

Easter Services on Sunday, April 12

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am

Traditional Service 8:30 am

Contemporary Service 10:30 am

Men's Club Easter Breakfast, April 12

7:30 am and 9:30 am

