

**THE**

# **Hopper Street Herald**

*November / December 2019*

## **HANNA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

*A home of belonging, growing in outreach and diversity to build community in Christ*

Office Hours: 1-4 p.m., Wednesday & Thursday

Church Office: 797-5223

Pastor Jim Denton's Cell: 1-219-281-1054

Email: [hannaumc@frontier.com](mailto:hannaumc@frontier.com)

Website: [hannachurch.org](http://hannachurch.org)



### **Worship Service, Children's Church, Hospitality Time**

Sundays, Beginning at 9 a.m.

### **Adult Bible Classes**

Sundays, 10:35 a.m.

### **Discipleship Classes** (In Our Fellowship Hall)

Tuesdays, 1 p.m.

Wednesdays, 6 p.m.



**Sparks** (K-6th grade): 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., Thursdays

**Fuze** (7th-12th grade): 4:30– 5:30 p.m., Tuesdays

## The Greatest Gift

As we enter the seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded of the wonderful gift of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is truly the gift that keeps on giving! Through Jesus, God is continually pouring out His love and grace to us. We all know that we do not deserve this gift, but as Paul says in Romans 5:8 "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Those of us who know Jesus as our Savior appreciate this gift so much, and yet our appreciation will always fall short of what this amazing gift deserves. The gift includes grace for our falling short as well; how marvelous God's love is!

While we are shopping for Christmas gifts, and Christmas goodies for the meals that we will share with family and friends, let us not forget to give the gift of the Good News of Jesus Christ, not just during Christmas time – but all time. Our Conference Superintendent, Saneta Maiko, is urging all of us to make witnessing to those who are still sinners about the Good News of Jesus Christ our top priority. Here is a letter sent to the churches of the North District from C.S. Maiko.

In Christ, Jim

### I HAVE NO EXCUSE NOT TO WITNESS

Our six District Connection Days are themed by witnessing as I call your attention to be ready, for the harvest is plenty and the laborers are few. I pray for you every week to grow in your faith and change someone's life for Jesus. I thank God for your passion and continued dedication to bringing life-change to your community. I am confident there is more to do. Can you imagine the North District of our Indiana United Methodist Conference changing the language about how we see and do mission? What if we promised to make the followers of Jesus who make other followers so that;

- We do not close churches but rather open new ones?
- We merge churches and use available space in buildings for more innovative ministries such as pre-schools, mentoring programs, after school activities, dinner churches, feeding the hungry and many more?
- We reduce conflicts between clergy and church leaders while building trusting relationships for Jesus?
- We reduce the number of committees in our churches and instead start more life-changing small groups in and outside our churches?
- We See ALL people, Love ALL people and Give ALL people JESUS?

Many of you have shared excuses of not knowing how to witness about Jesus. Please receive a list of opportunities for you and your church to reach over 4 million Hoosiers for Jesus: refugee centers, homeless facilities, parents with kids, special needs centers, and mental health facilities. Additionally, we have retirement communities, mobile home communities, special interest groups (bikers, gardening, Zumba, etc.), courthouses, law enforcement offices, prisons and jails, healthcare centers, schools, restaurants, bars, hair salons, tattoo parlors, and recovery communities. The only qualification to witness to these groups is first to come as you are and to seek to know Jesus as your Lord. Be willing to see and love all people the Jesus way.

You are so dear to my passion for sharing Christ with you through my leadership. Your ministry success is crucial in why I do God's business. Remember to accept one another (Romans 15:7) while fellowshiping with one another (1 John 1:7) in order to live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16). As we make disciples for Jesus, remember to let go of our control. Control of "our" church buildings to be God's spaces, "our" money to be God's money, and "our" pastors to let them be God's servants. Lastly, please let us give up control of "we have always done ministry this way" to let the Holy Spirit move in new ways of doing ministry as we bring transformation to North Indiana for Jesus Christ!

## Missions and Outreach Team

Our Coat Drive was extremely successful. On Monday, October 21, I delivered 44 Men's coats, 3 Men's scarves, 30 Women's coats, 16 pairs of Men's socks, 3 pairs of Men's shoes, and 1 pair of Ladies gloves to Swanson Center in Michigan City. I met with Edward Seal, Path Coordinator, and he stated that he was amazed as to the number of coats and items donated, in a short time frame. I told him that I have an awesome congregation. He further stated that the donations would be distributed to those seeking services and when the staff conducts an outreach for homeless people in Michigan City.

On Tuesday, October 22, I delivered 37 Women's coats to The Stepping Stones Domestic Shelter located in Michigan City. Latasha, the Assistant Director, was very grateful for all our efforts and in donating a very good quality of items.

Our congregation worked as a team to donate 113 coats to both non-profit organizations.

Finally, We the Missions and Outreach Team will meet again on November 20 at 9:30 a.m. Please remember to have your Individual Asset Map – Looking Inward and Looking Outward completed. Also, please have your suggestions prepared as to our Missions statement.

Thank you to everyone whom made both these very needed donations happen. I truly appreciate your efforts, dedication, and sincerity in the Coat Drive.

Sincerely,

Joy L. Thatcher

## Tom's Hope Depression & Anxiety Support Group

1 in 4 people will experience  
some form of anxiety  
in their lifetime.

It's time to talk about it!!

### JOIN US

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m.

AT

Hanna United Methodist Church  
101 W. Hopper Street  
Hanna IN 46340

Are you or somebody you  
know dealing with depression  
and/or anxiety? Come learn  
new coping mechanisms and  
get tips from mental health  
professionals.

Guest Speaker  
from the United Way.

"You're not going to master  
the rest of your life in one day.  
Just relax. Master the day.  
Then just keep doing that every day.



## GIVING TREE

Hanna UMC will be collecting new Teddy Bears, hats, gloves and scarves this holiday season to give to those in need.

There will be a collection box in the sanctuary for the bears, and a small tree as you walk in the church for the collection of outerwear.



**Advent begins Dec. 1**

**Christmas Eve Service  
December 24 at 6 p.m.**

## SAVE YOUR MILK JUGS!

We need milk  
jugs to use for  
our Christmas  
Eve luminaries.



Please bring rinsed,  
plastic 1 gallon jugs with a  
hole cut out (the size of a  
large fist) to Bill Garner.  
Thanks so much!!

## December 28 **BLOOD DRIVE**

The Red Cross is holding a  
Blood Drive Saturday, Dec. 28,  
from 8 a.m. to Noon in the  
Hanna United Center.

To schedule your appointment, contact Shelley Hunsley  
at 797-4701, 242-1576 (cell), or  
email: shelleyhunsley@yahoo.com.

*Our  
Deepest Sympathies  
To the Family  
and Friends of:*

*Mary Lou Styles  
She passed away  
September 11, 2019.*

May You Let  
God's Peace  
Comfort you  
in your  
Time of Sorrow.



A great BIG THANKS to all our volunteers that take such great care of the church lawn, flowers, and parking lot.

We are so blessed to have people willing to give their time and effort to help keep our church looking great!

## Church Council Minutes

**September 16, 2019**

### **Trustees**

Thanks to Greg Kellpsh for fixing the gutters at the parsonage, mudding & painting the wall in the Fellowship Hall by the restrooms, and installing the video doorbell for the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Matt Mertz for getting rid of the bats, repairing the soffit, and also taking care of a water problem in the parsonage.

### **Staff-Parish**

2020 Salaries were approved for Pastor, Janitress, & Secretary.

### **Pastor's Report**

58 people attended the Concert featuring Jim Papandrea that was held at Guse Farm.

### **Hannah Circle**

Donating \$500 toward the projector & \$500 toward the playset in memory of Thelma Garner.

### **Men's Group**

Purchasing new coffee pots for the Fellowship Hall.

### **Missions**

Joy Thatcher is the new chairperson of Missions.

### **New Business**

Safe Sanctuary and Social Media policy were approved. List of Officers for 2020 was approved.

## ***An Account of Your FAITHFULness***

*September 8 - October 27*

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Offering</u></b>	<b><u>Missions</u></b>
09-08	69	\$1,813.00	\$57.00
09-15	61	1,897.00	30.00
09-22	58	1,511.00	20.00
09-29	60	1,781.00	46.00
10-06	66	2,356.00	67.00
10-13	53	1,950.00	50.00
10-20	60	3,490.00	14.00
10-27	80	1,755.00	52.00

Average offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$2,497.89

Donations for Projector: \$815.00

Donations to Memorial Fund: \$225.00

Donations for Playset: \$945.00

Donations for Shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse: \$330.00

Donations to Children's Ministries: \$265.00

Donations for Bible Sticks: \$100.00

Donations for Sunday School Books: \$72.00

Donations to Multimedia Fund: \$100.00

Donations to Purchase Items for Fellowship Time: \$80.00

Fellowship Hall Rental: \$75.00

## Abiding in the Reign Worship Series

This series is about claiming the gifts of living in this life and yet fully participating in the reign of God, or what has been traditionally called the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God was the number one subject that Jesus came to share; therefore, it is something we continue to try to understand and embrace.

The word "reign" communicates a sense of authority or power. The idea of time is also conveyed this word. Whereas "king" is a person, and "kingdom" might be a place, reign suggests a time during which we might choose to live or a period of time in which we are participants in the reign. In this worship series we are choosing to be a part of the reign of God as an opportunity we offer to the whole world. As we begin to "see all the people," we are inviting people to come and live with us in the reign of God and experience the glory of belonging and walking with the one who reigns over us.

These readings point us toward a reality beyond our vision, yet that reality is central to our faith. Jesus says that we can live in this reality today, and not simply wait for the "someday" of our future. He tells us that this is a choice we make now, a way of seeing, a way of being members of God's family and making our way through the world of today - a complex and often troubling world - fully engaged with God's vision and promise. That's what it means to be "abiding in the reign."

### **November 3 ; Scripture: Habakkuk 1.1-4, 2.1-4 ; *Choosing to Abide***

Habakkuk is concerned about the lack of justice in the world, He cries out to God, asking when God is going to put things right - to end the cycle of violence, to heal the deep divisions in the society, to push back the wicked who pray on the righteous. The answer he gets is "Abide." Abiding doesn't mean sitting idly by. No, he is told to make a sign. We are called to proclaim a vision of justice and peace, of inclusion and transformation, of tearing down walls and building bridges. And we are to proclaim that vision loudly and consistently. That is what it means for "the righteous to live by faith." That is what it means to "abide in the reign."

### **November 10 ; Scripture: Haggai 1.15b-2.9 ; *The Spirit Abides***

Haggai remembers the glory of the Temple that was destroyed, but he is not looking back on the "golden era." Haggai conveys God's promise that the future glory of the temple will be better than what it was in the past. He isn't talking about a building. The words from God speak about God more than about the temple. "My Spirit abides," God says through Haggai; that's the glory we need to focus on, not the building and not who's here and who's not here.

God says, "I've got all the gold in the world; I've got all the silver; it's already mine." We don't honor God by giving something that God already owns! Stuff happens out there in the world; God is moving; pay attention to that. Seek the glory of God in the Spirit that abides.

### **November 17 ; Scripture: Isaiah 65.17-25 ; *Shaped by the Reign***

The final section of Isaiah (from chapter 56 on) begins with dire warnings and a mood of pessimism, as the people wrestle with wickedness and violence, injustice and meaningless worship, and leaders whose lives are an embarrassment to the people they lead. It's a messy world. Yet in the midst of it all, there is a call for hope. In this section of the book, we have this amazing vision that has echoes all the way to the book of Revelation: "I am about to create new heavens and new earth!"

God is rebuilding, remaking, reworking the creation that was considered good when everything began. Within this description is an invitation to participate in the rebuilding and being shaped by the reign of God into a holier people. And the mark of this participation? It is joy. The people of God should be people of joy. God's people should be a delight to the world in which they live because they are working in hope of a new reality - a reality in which weeping in distress is a thing of the past. God's vision for this new reality is surprisingly current. He talks about infant mortality rates and references elder care, home ownership, and fair wages in these verses. Some of the most crucial issues facing people who work for justice in our nation come to light in this vision of God's reign.

At the heart of it all is this sense of God's presence throughout. God's people call upon God, having already heard from God, And there shall be peace. Long-standing natural enemies—like wolves and lambs, or lions and oxen (might we add donkeys and elephants?) - shall set aside their differences and work together for the good of all. We are called by these verses to not just hope for this new world, but to begin living in it. We are called to let this image shape our behavior, our choices, and our priorities. This isn't pie in the sky, Pollyanna, no one in their right mind would even believe it is possible. But, these are marching order, blueprints of a new creation - the reign of God in which we can choose to live now.

### **November 24 ; Scripture: Jeremiah 23.1-6 ; *Allegiance to the Reign***

Jeremiah points to a time when a new leader, one who knows what it is to live in allegiance to the reign of God, will come. And we hear these words and can't help but hear the name of Jesus, who checks all the boxes that Jeremiah draws up. God says, "I myself will gather the remnant." And as the incarnate one, God enfleshed, Jesus is the one who gathers us. God says, "I will raise up for David a righteous branch, and he shall reign." And Jesus as the "son of David" reigns in righteousness.





## ***SUNDAY WORSHIP MINISTERS' SCHEDULE***

**NOTE: If you are unable to serve, please find a sub at least a week ahead.**

### ***FOR NOVEMBER***

#### **Ushers:**

Allen & Bill Garner,  
Monte & Paula Clindaniel,  
Ed Castle & Dave Jones,  
Glenn & Rita Wallace

#### **Readers:**

Mike Hagan, Heather Styborski,  
Jodie Funkhouser, Denise Tabor

#### **Fellowship Hosts:**

Brenda Bolakowski, Lorry Hagan,  
Hannah Circle, Hunsley Family

#### **Nursery Ministry:**

Lorry Hagan, Brenda Bolakowski,  
Tammy Moser, Becky Rodman

#### **Children's Church:**

Paula Clindaniel (3),  
Denise Tabor (10,17)  
Heather Styborski (8),  
Tracy Becker (24)

#### **Communion Stewards**

Carrie Cusick & Bonnie Guse

### ***FOR DECEMBER***

#### **Ushers:**

Jon & Kathy Mack,  
Mike & Lorry Hagan,  
Carol Heckman & Ann Mullins  
Allen & Bill Garner,  
Monte & Paula Clindaniel

#### **Readers:**

Paula Clindaniel, Elaine Shurte,  
Allen Garner, Carol Heckman,  
Craig Creutzburg

#### **Fellowship Hosts:**

Pam Creed & Kathy Mack (8),  
Hannah Circle (15)  
**(Hosts needed Dec. 1, 22, 29)**

#### **Nursery Ministry:**

Tammy Moser, Michelle Magley,  
Liz Serynek, Marla Bolakowski,  
Luann Marks

#### **Children's Church:**

Denise Tabor (1 & 29),  
Kris & Anna Jones (8),  
Heather Styborski (15),  
Paula Clindaniel (22)

#### **Communion Stewards**

Needed



**Items are received every Sunday in the Fellowship Hall, on the table next to the walkway.**

Thank you for supporting the Hanna Food Pantry.

### **November**

**3 Toilet Paper**

**10 Dish Soap**

**17 Spaghetti**

**24 Spaghetti Sauce**

### **December**

**1 Toilet Paper**

**8 Saltine Crackers**

**15 Paper Towels**

**22 Kleenex**

**29 Cereals**

**\*Items may be purchased in bulk; Pantry will separate.**

## **PRAYER CHAIN**

**PHONE CONCERNS TO  
NANCY BURNS,  
219-767-3332.**

**If Nancy doesn't answer,  
leave a message,  
and contact Judy Carter,  
219-767-2625.**



Hannah Circle has Nuts for Sale in the Fellowship Hall. Great for personal baking or for gift giving.

**\$12.00 per bag**

Pecan Halves, Pecan Pieces,  
Light Walnut Pieces,  
Deluxe Mixed Nuts, Cashews,  
Chocolate Covered Pecans,  
Chocolate Covered Cashews

**\$11.00 per bag**

Almonds & Harvest Medley

**\$10.00 per bag**

Mixed Chocolate Cranberries  
Tropical Blend

**\$9.00 per bag**

Trail Mix