

The UCC Connection

February 2021

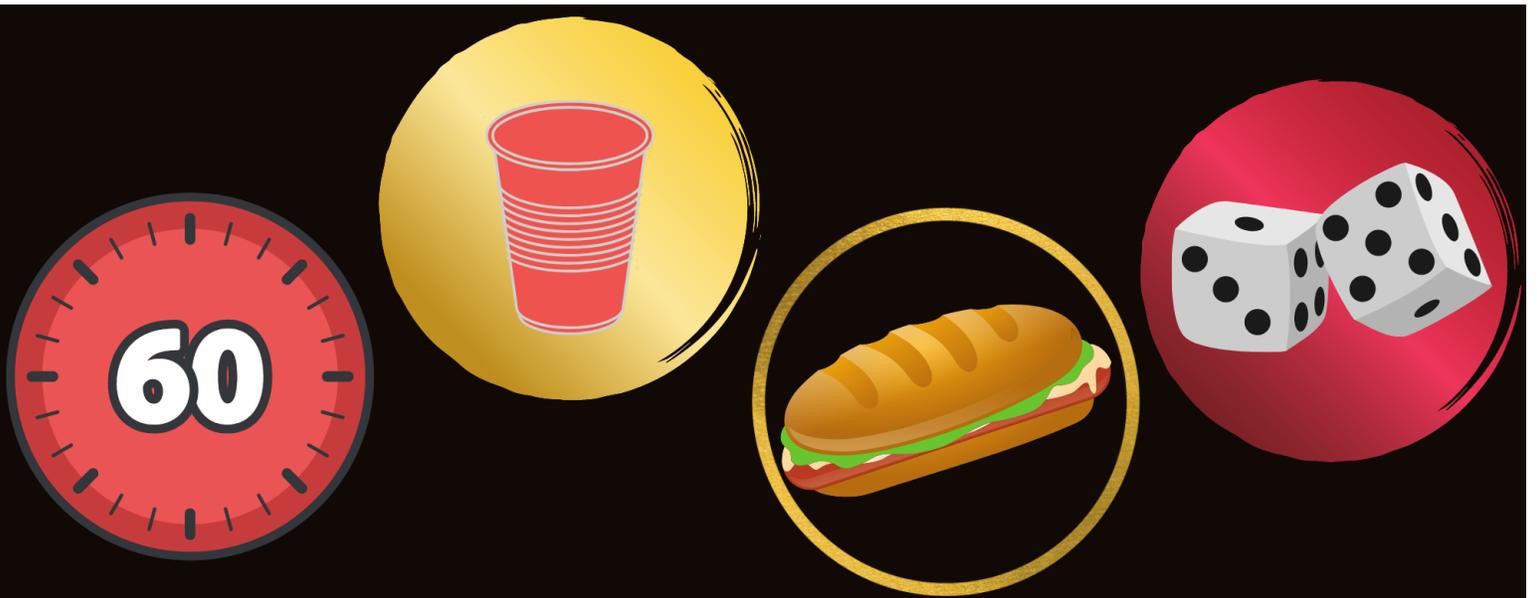
A publication of University Christian Church

Where Life Change Happens

Steve Huddleston, Senior Minister

Andrew Cullen, Associate/Youth Minister

Michael McDonough, Children's Minister



**UNIVERSITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

SUBS N' TUBS

Event for elementary/preschool families
Come join us for some subs
and family-style "Minute to Win it" games

Game supplies will be in plastic tubs for safety precautions

**FEBRUARY 27TH | 11AM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER @ UCC**



Baptism

Molly Metz was baptized and became a UCC member on January 19. We are so excited for her and her two children Grace and Elijah!

Payroll Protection Program

On April 15, 2020, under the leadership of Tony Coston and Randy Glassburn, we applied for and were awarded a Payroll Protection Program (PPP) Loan through the CARES Act in the amount of \$46,222.40. This money was used for our payroll (none of our staff were furloughed during the lockdown) and for utility payments. By abiding by the requirements of the PPP loan program, we could apply for forgiveness of this loan, which we did. On January 12, 2021, we were notified that our loan had been fully forgiven. Praise God for giving UCC the opportunity to apply for this loan, have it granted, and then totally forgiven. Thank you Tony Coston and Randy Glassburn for your hours of incredible work.

2021 Phone Directory

We would like to have an updated directory to help us all stay in touch better. If you have had a change in address, phone number, or email address please contact Laci Carroll. Email your changes to laci@universitychristianchurch.com or call the office at 765-284-0896.

Sunday Services

We continue to have two in-person services; one at 9am and one at 10:30am (children's programs available during 10:30am service only). The 10:30am service will be Facebook Live and then it will be available on our website by the following Monday. If you plan to attend one of our Sunday services, please be sure to register online by going to our website and clicking on the "Register for Sunday Service" button.

Website:

www.universitychristianchurch.com

Remember:

- Doors open 10 minutes before service starts.
- Please respect others and practice social distancing.
- Masks are requested.
- If you are showing symptoms or have been exposed to someone who may have COVID please stay home and worship with us online until you are no longer at risk of spreading the virus.

Dave & Christy Small Groups

After sharing with us January 31, Dave and Christy will be doing two follow-up sessions *Hope for the Nations: Parts 1 & 2*, that give a deeper understanding why and how they serve in Liberty. In Part 1, they will share more about why they choose to go to Liberty's unreached, unengaged people groups. And they will tell thrilling stories about Dave's arrest, how God protects them, public debates with religious leaders, and a supernatural dream that birthed a church. In Part 2, they will further explain their strategies—Disciple Making Movements and Discovery Bible Studies—so you can pray more knowledgeably. And they will tell stimulating stories about food distribution and trauma outreach, leader trainings, and another dream that started Bible studies. *Hope for the Nations: Parts 1 & 2* will be on Wednesday, February 17 and 24 from 6-7:30pm. Again, they prefer face-to-face, but Zoom is also available. Contact Laci Carroll at laci@universitychristianchurch.com for the Zoom information.

Walk A Mile In My Shoes

UCC is participating once again in Muncie Mission's Walk A Mile annual fundraiser. We will be walking around the church property, Saturday, February 13, at 10am. Arrive at UCC at 9:45am to meet—socially distanced—and pray before walking a mile around the church. We would love to see you and your family and friends here supporting Muncie Mission. If you aren't able to join us but want to know how you can help or you have questions, please contact Laci Carroll today. *Join our team or give online:* <https://secure.ggiv.com/event/munciemissionwalkamile2021/team/872138/>

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Team is looking for new members. If you'd like to serve UCC by helping plan church-wide events, please contact Beth Scholer at 765-212-5955 or by email at beth.scholer@gmail.com

This Month at UCC

- Men's Lunch at Puerto Vallarta—February 2 @11:30am
- Women's Journey—February 4 @6pm
- Elder's Meeting—February 11 @5:30pm
- Offices Closed—February 15
- Full Praise Team—February 17 @ 7pm
- Dave & Christy Small Group – February 17 @6pm
- Senior Saints—Thursday, February 18 from 12-1pm
- REACH Yorktown Food Distribution—February 20 @ 9am
- Journeymen—February 22 @6pm
- Dave & Christy Small Group – February 24 @6pm

A Note from Steve



When I let my dog off his leash, he runs and scampers all over the yard. Within a couple of minutes, there probably isn't a square inch of grass he hasn't happily trounced upon. A year ago, when a lab in China reportedly unleashed the COVID virus, it quickly spread there, then into neighboring countries, and within just months overseas and all across the United States.

When something gets "unleashed," it doesn't just sit dormant in the small little circle it was formerly bound to. Instead, it moves out unrestrained to cover unlimited territory.

This is what happened to the New Testament Church. After the crucifixion of Jesus, his disciples hunkered together and hid in fear. But then they saw the risen Christ, and the last thing Jesus told them before he ascended back to heaven was that the Holy Spirit would come upon them and unleash them to be his witnesses "in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." And as you read through the book of Acts, that's exactly what happened. The Church was born and unleashed on the world, starting in Jerusalem and spreading out from there to bring untold millions to salvation through Jesus Christ.

Unfortunately, today in America, it seems that the Church is back to hunkering down together in the shadows of our church buildings, leashed again by fear and apathy. Meanwhile it is godlessness, immorality, and hostility to the Christian faith that seems to have been unleashed on our world.

Friends, it is time to unleash the church once again! This may not seem like the ideal time since we are in the midst of a pandemic. But the New Testament Church grew by leaps and bounds in times that were no less difficult. They had plagues and pandemics to deal with too. They also had to deal with a powerful and oppressive Roman government and with religious leaders who would rather kill than convert to Christianity. But that didn't stop them from changing lives and changing the world.

Now is the time for us to rise up and do the same. We must call upon the Holy Spirit to unleash us from fear and apathy. We must move forward with faith and devotion to bring revival to our world. In our current sermon series, we've seen that the "recipe for revival" is not a bunch of gimmicks or popular church growth strategies. It is for UCC to "be a community known for our unique love, unrelenting evangelism, uninhibited discipleship, unselfish involvement, useful study of Scripture, and unity in prayer" (from our Vision 2025 statement). If you have missed any of these messages, please go to our website and view them there. Then join us as we unleash the church on our community and continue spreading the revival out from there until, with God's help, we change our world the way the New Testament Church changed theirs.

We **MUST** do it, for the sake of future generations. But more importantly, we must do it for the glory of God. Our next sermon series will be on the character and nature of God. The more we recognize Him for the great and awesome God He is, the more motivated we will be to remove the leash and run wild with the Good News of a loving and all-powerful God who sent His Son to bring hope and life to the world! Are you with me?

All For Jesus,

Steve



Senior Saints

Yummy's Lunch Pick-up
Thursday, February 18, 12-1 pm

Place your order with Wally Draper by Monday, February 15.

*University Christian Church exists for bringing others to Christ,
building them up in Christ, and sending them out for Christ.
Join us for in-person worship at 9am or 10:30am or Facebook Live at 10:30am.*

University Christian Church
2400 N. Nebo Rd.
Muncie, IN 47304
765-284-0896
www.universitychristianchurch.com

Listening to the Lord

By Mike Green

Ways to Hear from God Regularly

God is constantly speaking to people. But too often, they miss out on hearing God's messages because they seek His guidance only occasionally – usually when they're going through a crisis or facing a major decision. Then, with a dire need to hear from God, people become confused and frustrated when they don't clearly hear what they should do. They start to wonder how to hear from God and why they aren't.

It doesn't have to be that way. God wants everyone to hear His messages clearly, and it's possible to do so. The key is to forget about formulas and gimmicks for hearing from God, and to focus instead on developing the kind of relationship with God that will empower you to hear God speaking regularly. The closer you get to God, the more you can enjoy ongoing conversations with Him, both listening and hearing from Him, and the more God will use those conversations to transform you into the person He wants you to become.

Make your goal more than just hearing God.

While it's important to hear from God, that shouldn't be your ultimate goal. Instead, make your main goal to become a spiritually mature person in a close relationship with God. That's the only

way you'll clearly and correctly hear what God has to say to you. *Know that you're important to God, but be humble.*

Have the confidence that God is willing to speak to you just as powerfully as He did to the people in the Bible, because He values you just as much. However, don't let pride creep into your soul, because you must be humble in order to faithfully receive and respond the messages God has for you.

Don't try to force God to tell you something.

Focus on developing a respectful relationship with God and wait for His timing to deliver messages to you. Also, if God chooses not to give you specific guidance about something you've prayed about and what you're considering is within the Bible's moral principles, you can confidently go ahead and make your own decision about what to do and be within God's will.

Invite the living Word to help you when you read the written word.

The Word of God is a living, creative force – Jesus Himself – and He is actively at work when you read God's written word – the Bible – prayerfully. When you read the Bible, ask Jesus to make the Bible's words come alive for you and become conduits through which He sends His thoughts, faith, and love into your soul. Then focus on what He sends you and orient yourself toward it so it will begin to transform your life.



Andrew Cullen
Associate/Youth Minister

X-Factor is back in the swing of things! We are meeting Sunday and Wednesday evenings and I am seeing the teens eager to be together and grow as disciples. A couple weeks ago, we decided to visit some of the teens who have been unable to come for one reason or another. We bought chocolate cupcakes from Concannon's, wrapped them in decorative gift boxes, wrote a letter saying "we miss you," and drove to their homes to deliver each gift. This was valuable kingdom work.

Since November, we have been studying the first 3 chapters of Revelation. Our students are learning Bible study techniques and are encouraged that the Bible on a whole is not as difficult to understand as they once thought. We finished the seven churches on January 24, so we started a new series this past week.

On February 5-6, we are hosting an overnight event at the church! We will be discussing why God created men and women and how we make sense of sexuality in our culture. The youth leaders have talked about when would be a good time to talk about these issues. After a parent sparked the idea, we decided now was the right time. Please be praying for us this week as we all prepare to understand how to apply God's truth in a culture that is hostile to God's truth. As Paul wrote to the church at Rome, "Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever!" (Romans 1:24-25)

I love hearing about the ways that the teens get together on their own. Their commitment to come to X-Factor has borne the fruit of friendships. In fact, most of the teens attend different schools, are in different grades, have different hobbies, and live in different neighborhoods, yet they are demonstrating the unique love of Jesus toward one another. I wonder if their generation is going to be able to display this supernatural love more "naturally" because they have not grown up in a bubble. For all its faults and flaws, technology has connected people with differing perspectives, values, hobbies, skills, passions and ideas in a way that we have not seen before.

We are trying to make 3-dimensional disciples who are connected (youth family), consuming (Bible study), and contributing (kingdom work). Difference makers are disciple makers.



Michael McDonough
Children's Minister

Coming Up in the Children's Ministry:

February 27th: We will be having a socially distanced family "Subs N' Tubs" event that will begin at 11am. We will have subs for each person (these will be preordered, so be sure to RSVP) and play some "Minute to Win It" style games. Your family will have their own table, and that will be your "team". The materials for the games will be provided to you in plastic tubs (to help with social distancing).

Camp: Sign-ups are now open for the Ark Christian Ministries for this summer! The church will pay up to half of the cost for your child(ren) to go to camp. Check out www.thearkcm.org for more details.

God Sightings:

One way that I see God working is that there are a few kids that are asking more questions about being baptized. I have a book that I give the kids to read/write in about baptism, and it is geared towards kids. If your child is talking about wanting to get baptized, please let me know and I can talk to them and get the baptism book to them as well.

February Focus:

I want to encourage you to continue (or start) reading the Scriptures I sent out in January. If you read all 30 verses before Valentine's Day (February 14th), you will receive a treat from my favorite chocolate/candy/ice cream place, Good's, located in Anderson! If you need another copy of the verses, please let me know.

I am creating a devotional for your families that will be begin mid-February, and it will take you on a journey to Easter. The theme for this is "All About Jesus", and there will be different things you can do as a family to prepare your hearts for Easter. I am very excited about this project, and I pray that it will be a blessing to your families.

If there is anything I can do for your family, please let me know.

If you have any questions about what is going on with the kids, please contact Michael at (765) 516-3532 or at michael@universitychristianchurch.com.



February 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 LC—piano 10:45-11:30am	2 Men's Lunch 11:30am (at Puerto Vallarta) ECHS 1:30-4pm	3	4 Women's Journey 6pm	5	6
7	8 LC—piano 10:45-11:30am	9	10	11 Elder's Meeting @5:30pm	12	13
Muncie Mission's Walk A Mile Virtual Walk Week, February 8-13						
14	15 Offices Closed LC—piano 10:45-11:30am	16 RYM mtg 7-9pm	17 Dave & Christy small group 6-7:30pm <i>Full Praise Team</i> 7:30pm	18 Senior Saints Yummy's lunch pick-up 12-1pm <i>Outreach Mtg</i> 6-9pm	19	20 Reach York- town 9-11am
21	22 LC—piano 10:45-11:30am <i>Journeyman</i> 6pm	23	24 Dave & Christy small group 6-7:30pm	25	26	27 Subs & Tubs 11am-12:30 pm
28						

Birthdays

- Feb. 1 Donna Crawford (94)
- Feb. 3 Debbie Glassburn
- Feb. 4 Abraham Spahr
- Feb. 7 John Burton
- Feb. 7 Thomas Saubert
- Feb. 9 Zane Cole
- Feb. 10 Grace Daugherty
- Feb. 12 Ginger Fisher
- Feb. 12 William Sue
- Feb. 13 Connor Eason
- Feb. 17 Michelle Peterson
- Feb. 18 Samara Smith
- Feb. 19 Ron Ice
- Feb. 20 Abigail Melton
- Feb. 21 Logan Roberts
- Feb. 27 Greg Dixon

Anniversaries

- Feb. 6 Todd & Julie Soules
- Feb. 11 Bud & Jennifer Evans
- Feb. 15 Phil & Erma Unger