MUSTARD SEED

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

A Publication of Porter United Methodist Church

Resurrection!

Within three days Jesus' followers went from heartbroken sadness to triumphant jubilation. The cross screamed, “The End,” making them feel hopeless and helpless. But the resurrection trumpeted, “The Beginning,” bringing confidence and courage. The cloud of doubt and despair that had shrouded them melted away and was replaced with unshakeable faith.

Can you imagine how they felt when they realized Jesus had risen from the dead? Suddenly hope came alive; now everything He had said was validated as truth. They had not believed a lie. His victory over death was the acid test that forever sealed their sure conviction that He was the Messiah.

We commemorate Jesus' death on the cross with solemnity, but the resurrection calls for thunderous applause, praise, and song. All the blessings that come our way through the Savior’s cross are confirmed by the resurrection. It proved that the Father was satisfied with the Son’s payment for our sins. Now we can know that our transgressions are forgiven and we’re eternally secure.

What’s more, Jesus promises that we, too, will be resurrected and given new bodies. Physical death could not hold Him, nor will it overpower us. Because He overcame the grave, His followers have the same kind of life He has - eternal and indestructible.

As Christians, we have the right to celebrate Easter with great rejoicing. Because of this event, our lives have been forever changed. We’ve been transformed and given new life. With unwavering faith, we trust the Bible because Christ’s power over the grave proves He can and will fulfill every word. Let us live as Resurrection people of HOPE!!!!

Pastor Dee

REJOICE!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor’s Ponderings	1
Missions in the Spotlight	2
Children’s Ministries	3
Holy Week Services	4
Lay Servant Academy Info	5
Lay Servant Registration	6
Calendar of Events - April	7
Corned Beef dinner recap	8

Sermons in April:

Easter Sunday, April 1st
Set Free
John 2:13 - 22

Sunday, April 8th
Unlocking Doors
John 20:19 - 31

Sunday, April 15th
You Are Witnesses
Luke 24:36b - 48

Sunday, April 22nd
Hymn Sing

Sunday, April 29th
No Vine, No Wine
John 15:1 - 8

MISSION STATEMENT: “Nourishing Souls with Loving Hearts and Caring Hands.”

Applications are now being accepted for the 2018 Rebuilding Together - Duneland work day. This event helps individuals and families in need who live in the Duneland School District, make the necessary improvements to their homes in order to maintain a safe, healthy and independent life. Volunteer to help your neighbor and the Duneland community on National Rebuilding Day **Saturday, April 28, 2018!**

Skilled or unskilled workers, all are welcome over the age of 14. Learn new and different skills, no construction experience necessary, meet new people, make new friends, earn volunteer hours, enjoy a team building experience and make a difference in your neighbor's life. All volunteer applications are easy to do and must be placed on their website at www.rtduneland.org. If you have no access to a computer, then call them at (219) 926-3233 and they'll input your information for you. In order to plan for lunches and t-shirts, **the deadline to apply is April 10, 2018.**

Butter Braids Fundraiser Total

Special thanks to all who helped make this year's Butter Braids fundraiser a success. We got our shipment pre-sorted again this year to help in getting orders ready for pick-up on the day of delivery. Our total profit was $1,147.80. Thanks again for your support in getting the word out as well as taking orders from all around the community. A special thanks to coordinator ***Judy Reales*** for a job well done!

Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry

We continue to support the Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry with donations of food items collected each Sunday. **For the month of April, please bring in donations of canned fruit of any kind.** Thank you for continuing to help the food pantry reach those in need!

Missions In the Spotlight

New Quarterly Mission Focus:
Vacation Bible School

Our first quarterly mission focus on Royal Family Kids Camp has ended. We thank all of you who generously gave to help provide camp experiences for children who have endured challenging family situations or those in foster care. Thanks to you, we will be able to give RFKC a little over $300.

For this quarter's mission, we will once again be collecting for our very own VBS. Vacation Bible School is a great outreach to children in preschool through 5th grade, both within our church and to those within the community. Leader resource materials, DVDs & CDs, children's learning materials and other items needed to help bring the theme to life (not to mention the food since we provide dinner each night) require money to help make a program as large as this a success. We hope you will help support this vital outreach of our church.

New Children's Mission Quarterly Offering:
Jacob's Ladder

This month begins our new quarterly children's special mission offering for **Jacob's Ladder Pediatric Rehab** in Chesterton. Located at 1595 S. Calumet Road, they are a non-profit organization providing comprehensive therapy & care for special children and to provide support for their family.

The money collected will go towards providing scholarships to cover the cost between insurance allowance for therapy and the amount of therapy that is actually needed as their therapist recommends.

Sunday School News

Spring is here and the season of Lent is over. During the last four weeks the children continued their around-the-world adventure, traveling to Alaska. We were introduced to a new character, a girl named Aurora. She is a child who loves God, nature, and church!

Each week during our video visits the children are taught what it means to be followers of Jesus, and serve as disciples in the classroom, our local community, and the world.

As we approached Easter, we looked at the connection between Passover and how we celebrate communion in our church. Prior to Holy Week, each child created their own resurrection garden. This is one of their favorite crafts to do each year. A stark container of soil, grass seed, water, rocks and a wooden cross are transformed into a beautiful green "garden", representing New Life by Easter morning. They will also enjoy an Easter egg hunt during the second half of Sunday school on Easter Sunday. ***Thank you to everyone who donated candy to fill the eggs. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!***

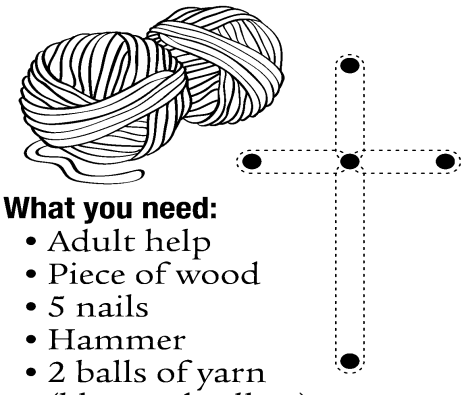
We will meet through April and finish up on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 13th. But don't forget, we'll have Vacation Bible School beginning the first Sunday evening in June and running through Wednesday evening.

After this spring session I will no longer be in charge of children's Sunday school. This fall my schedule will change significantly. My husband Jim is quickly approaching retirement, so we will be gone from time to time. With this change I have decided to step back from director. I will still teach when I can, but I am putting out a call for a replacement. Please pray about and consider this wonderful position in our church. We have a great team of teachers, helpers and snack ladies. We are always praying for more! If you have any questions, please call me at home, 219-926-4942 or my cell, 219-628-1117.

Linda Green

CROSS CRAFT

Make this special cross as a reminder of Jesus' death and resurrection.

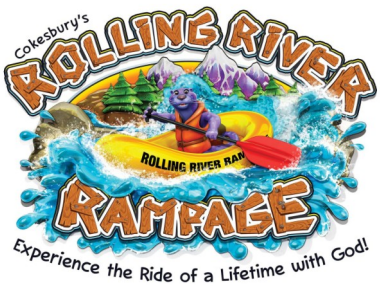


What you need:

- Adult help
- Piece of wood
- 5 nails
- Hammer
- 2 balls of yarn (blue and yellow)

What you do:

1. Hammer the nails into the wood to form a cross shape (see example).
2. Tie the blue yarn to the bottom nail. Wrap it up and around the top nail and back down to the bottom nail. Then wrap it around the middle nail and around the side nails. Repeat until the yarn is wrapped about halfway up the exposed nails.
3. Repeat step two with the yellow yarn. Wrap it around the nails until only the heads are visible.



VBS: June 3rd - 6th 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Our first meeting to begin planning and organizing for *Rolling River Rampage* was held on March 7th. With several volunteers already in place, we continue to look for more. Let the church office know if you would like to experience "the ride of a lifetime with God and the youth of our church and community."

Preregistration will begin in May. If you have family and/or friends in the area, please invite them to this rafting adventure full of wonder and surprise. They will learn to trust God to be with them through anything. ***Our next meeting dates are on Thursdays, April 5th and May 3rd, at 6 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.***

Special Upcoming Services:

Palm Sunday - March 25th
10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday - March 29th
6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Worship Service

Easter Sunrise Service - April 1st
7 a.m. Worship @ Porter Gazebo

At the Easter Sunrise service, communion will be available for those who wish to partake. In the past, the weather has been chilly, so please dress accordingly (especially since Easter is so early this year).

Please remember that there is no seating available in or around the gazebo, so folding chairs are encouraged for those who do not wish to stand during the service. As a courtesy to the Porter Park Department, we ask that you do not park on the lawn.

Immediately following the service, everyone is invited to return to the fellowship hall for breakfast.

8 a.m. Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

9 a.m. Sunday School (Children's Easter Egg Hunt during part of Sunday School)

10:15 a.m. Easter Worship Celebration

Indiana North District Lay Servant Academy

"We Must Go!"

God calls every one of us to proclaim the presence and power of Him through all that we say and do. How is God calling you to serve? With so many avenues of training, Lay Servant Ministries offers you a valuable education in multiple ministry areas.

A Lay Servant Is:

- An active, supportive professing member of a United Methodist Church.
- Eager to serve the church, community, and the world.
- Well-informed on scripture and the doctrine, heritage, organization, and life of the United Methodist Church.
- Committed to witnessing through church and community leadership, care-giving ministries, and spoken communication.
- Willing to improve his or her skills by training for service.

Join us at **Michigan City First UMC *every Sunday* April 8, April 15, April 29 and May 6.**

The Michigan City First UMC is located at 121 E. 7th Street Michigan City, IN. Classes begin at 1:00 p.m. CT and end at 4:15 p.m. CT.

Classes offered during this session include:

- **Basic Course** — This course is required for first time attendees. Participants are encouraged to discover and employ personal spiritual gifts as God intended and to consider the importance of exercising servant leadership. **BOOK:** *"Lay Servant Ministries"* ISBN #DR626-9780881776263 **$11**
- **Beginning Preaching** — Beginning course for those who want to learn to put sermons together and fill the pulpit when asked. Requires completion of the Basic Course. Space is limited to 8 participants. **BOOK:** *"Go Preach"* ISBN #DR384-9780881773842 **$14**.
- **Advanced Preaching** - This course digs deeper into the skills learned in Beginning Preaching. ***Requires completion of Beginning Preaching.*** Space is limited to 8 participants. **BOOK:** *"From Pew To Pulpit"* ISBN #978-0-88177-375-0. **$10.71**
- **Accountable Discipleship** — This course focuses on the concept of the household of God, scripture as divine revelation, Wesleyan understanding of Grace and the importance of class leader. Requires completion of the Basic Course. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Servant Speaker certification. **BOOK:** *"Accountable Discipleship"* ISBN # DR339-978-0-88177-339-2 **$15**.
- **God's Mission-Our Journey** - This course gives provides students with a better understanding of a holistic approach to participating in God's Mission to the world. This course is one of the required courses for Lay Servant Speaker certification. **BOOK:** "*A Mission Journey: A Handbook For Volunteers*" ISBN #DR669-978-08817-7669-0 **$17**
- **Leading In Stewardship** - This course helps develop a holistic understanding to stewardship. **BOOK:** *"Afire With God"* ISBN #DR520-978-0-88177-520-4 $15.
- **Social Justice of Everyday Life** - This course looks at the social principles of the United Methodist Church. **BOOK:** *"Social Principles of the United Methodist Church"* ISBN # 9781501835773 **$3.99**

Please contact Denise Parker with any registration or schedule questions at dparker3434@gmail.com or (574) 361-7243. **NOTE:** Students are required to purchase their own materials prior to class. Materials are available through Cokesbury.com and other online retailers. If you are unable to do so, please contact Denise Parker.

Indiana North District Lay Servant Academy

Registration form for Michigan City Academy 2018

Please complete this registration form. Mailed forms, along with payment, are due by March 29. Please make checks payable to the INUMC. Registration fee is $15. Send forms and payment to:

North District UMC
P.O. Box 878
Plymouth, IN 46563-0878

All class materials must be purchased prior to the start of class. Please contact Denise Parker with any questions at dparker3434@gmail.com or (574) 361-7243.

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

Pastor Name: _____

Course Title (1st Choice): _____

Course Title (2nd Choice): _____

Please indicate your interest:

_____ Local Lay Servant (Requires Basic Course)
_____ Certified Lay Servant (Please note year of last class)
_____ Certified Lay Speaker (Indicates an interest in filling pulpits)
_____ Audit (Interested for personal growth)

April BIRTHDAYS

1 David Campbell
4 Adrienne Leary
10 Cindy Copollo
10 Richard Bowen
10 Meghan Lucas
13 Fern Duvall
17 Alice Scharp
18 Leah Shreve
19 Pastor Dee
24 Jeff Micinski
25 Liz Scharp
29 Dolores Slater
30 Carol McClure

April ANNIVERSARIES

4 Will & Liz Scharp
6 Jim & Linda Green
16 Larry & Darlene Peterson
18 John & Sharon Nelson

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

- William Shakespeare

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **Sunrise Service** 7 a.m. **Breakfast** **Sunday School** 9 a.m. **Easter Worship** 10:15 a.m.	2	3	4 8 p.m. AA Meeting	5 7 p.m. Bible Study	6	7 7 p.m. Models Club
8 **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m. **Worship** 10:15 a.m.	9	10	11 8 p.m. AA Meeting	12 7 p.m. Bible Study	13	14
15 **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m. **Worship** 10:15 a.m.	16	17	18 8 p.m. AA Meeting	19 7 p.m. Bible Study	20	21 3 p.m. Models Club
22 **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m. **Worship** 10:15 a.m.	23	24	25 8 p.m. AA Meeting	26 7 p.m. Bible Study	27	28
29 **Sunday School** 9:00 a.m. **Worship** 10:15 a.m.	30					

Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner

Marcia Wood & ***Bob Kremke*** would like to thank everyone involved with the Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner. It's always a busy night, but we all work together to make it happen...plus we had great desserts! Bob spent a lot of time precooking the corned beef. We got a lot of compliments on a good meal and many come and linger over conversation. Leftovers were shared with the Moraine House & men's shelter in Valparaiso. We brought in $ 1,063.27 in profit through ticket sales & donations. **THANK YOU SO MUCH** for a successful 27th annual dinner, with special thanks to ***Jewel-Osco*** and ***Strack & VanTil*** in Chesterton and ***Panera Bread*** & ***Pepperidge Farm*** in Michigan City, and of course - ***members & friends of PUMC***!

Porter United Methodist Church
100 E. Beam Street
Porter, IN 46304

Porter United Methodist Church

Dee L. Miller, Pastor

Summer Worship: 9:30 a.m. (beginning 6/3)

Regular Worship: 10:15 a.m. (beginning 9/9)

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
(219) 926-1586

VISION STATEMENT

As the community of Christ, which is one in Jesus Christ, we will nurture and care for one another, spread God's word and love throughout the community thereby fulfilling our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ.