

April 2024



Ellettsville First United Methodist Church



## *Living Discipleship*

Christian theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was hanged by the Nazis in April 1945, taught that Christianity and discipleship are intertwined. “Discipleship means adherence to Christ,” he wrote in *The Cost of Discipleship*. “An abstract Christology, a doctrinal system, a general religious knowledge ... render discipleship superfluous ....”

Bonhoeffer continued, “With an abstract idea, it is possible to enter into a relation of formal knowledge, to become enthusiastic about it, and perhaps even to put it into practice; but it can never be followed in personal obedience. Christianity without the living Christ is inevitably Christianity without discipleship, and Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

## The Joy of Jesus



The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



## Wallace Max Meyers

Wally was born in Cornetsville, Indiana to a "saint of a mother" and a father as the only boy with three sisters, Kay, Beth, and Linda. The family started by a meeting between Mom, Dorothy Ina Miller, of Bicknell and Max Wallace Myers Sr. while roller skating. He was a Perdue student and she was living and working on the family farm. He was to leave college for the war. They married while he was in basic in St. Louis in 1942. During the war, Dorothy worked at the parachute factory in Washington, IN. Following the war, they settled at the Miller farm.

His family was to stay in the general area where small towns such as Edwardsport and Bicknell were close as well. Wally's mom was always a church based person, but Dad had some experiences that shaped his church life a little differently. Growing up, Dad's Methodist church was also the meeting place of the KKK; Wally says this is documented. In Wally's young years he wanted to stay home with Dad on Sunday mornings, but Mom would have none of that. Dad worked hard for the family in farming, teaching agriculture in Bruceville, a fertilizer plant, and later for the government in agricultural stabilization in Knox and Gibson Counties. Wally's family still own some of the family land and sister Linda lives in the area. Kay is a staunch Alaska resident, and Beth, born developmentally handicapped, lives in a group home. Seventy years ago about the only way to get help for special needs children was to make them a ward of the court. The family continued to connect to Beth. Wally is her guardian and brings her home for family visits.

Wally stayed in one place during his high school years, but the school did not. As that time was the age of consolidation, he was a student of Edwardsport with a class of 42 students, then Vigo, and lastly North Knox with a graduating class of 153 in 1964. He returns as much as possible for the monthly get-togethers.

Asked about his growing up years, Wally had some sketchy stories. Mom had been a good student and Wally had many of her same teachers. His reputation was not as good as hers. He remembers being rebuked for gum chewing and talking. Once he came in late from recess because he was playing with kids not from his class and did not realize his time was up. Another time he was playing around the janitor's car and got paddled for it. He says this was not justified because he had never been told the area was off limits. He was the focus of some teasing when Mom washed his tennis shoes with red clothes and they came out pink. Gym class was fun that day. Sad to say, some of Wally's teachers left a bit to be desired. Ones he remembers said "don't go to college," "don't take algebra," and critiqued his work in ways that intimidated him for life. On behalf of good teachers, sorry, Wally.

Life Lesson. Wally said idle hands are the devil's workshop. He was in Tressler's 5 and 10 and on a whim stole some paper. As he started to leave, the owner confronted him. Wally gave up the paper and that was the end of that. However, this incident did much to shape Wally for life. From then on, he worked to stay on the straight and narrow. His major regret is that he never told his mom; though she may have found out. The owner was a fellow church member. Wally says he wanted to maintain a low profile so as he moved from these junior high years to high school he decided to never play in sports.

Wally never like to disappoint his mom. One day he was working plowing in fields next to the house and the tractor got clogged. As he worked on it colorful language came out of his mouth. Later, Mom let him know she heard it. At age 15 Wally decided that was the last time he would be so expressive. He says he worked to please his dad who always addressed him as "Young Man."

Two years at Vincennes University followed high school. They were not the best educational years for Wally. Vietnam was going on and the draft was catching up so Wally decided to enlist in the Navy. He completed basic at Great Lakes in the winter and continued training in aviation ordinance at Jacksonville, FL. Further training took him to Bremerton, Washington where he saw the first flight of the 747. He then served his time aboard the USS Essex on its last cruise in the North Atlantic and Baltic Sea. He is a mem-

ber of the Royal Order of the Blue Nose (was across the Arctic Circle). He is proud he was on the initial trip on the John F. Kennedy and was in the Mediterranean Ocean, Caribbean, Cuba, and off the Israeli coast in 1968. All members of the first crew are plank owners and are piped off the ship rather than just the high officers. (I hope I said that right.) In fact, for about 10 minutes he stood at the helm.

Following his stint in the navy, Wally pursued education at Eastern Michigan in Ann Arbor. He studied earth science with a minor in recreation. This school was near an aunt and uncle so he and Donna (more about that coming) lived in an apartment on their property.

His work life took them to Evansville where he was the 4H Youth Agent for two or so years before he landed with the US Postal Service. Later, he transferred in 1984 to the Bloomington office where he remained until he retired on Halloween in 2009. He said he tried to bring humor to the workplace with a silly hat or a joke. Postal work can be very stressful or tedious and he wanted to liven up the place. He hopes he did just that.

Let us jump back in time to Wally's love life. In 1965 Wally (with a date) was at a Knox Co. Rural Youth Organization dance in Vincennes. Donna was there and he did meet her. This was the first chance meeting. A year or so later, Wally was at the Grand Canyon and went to a campfire service. Donna was there on a family trip. This was followed by a chance meeting at the MYF state meeting in Bloomington. He was not a parental favorite but the romanced blossomed. In 1968 he proposed and they were married in December, 1969. While he was in the navy, Donna stayed here and continued her nursing education graduating in 1970.

The two of them enjoyed much time together camping and biking. In Evansville they attended the Methodist church and still talk fondly about Pastor Chuck Armstrong. In 1975, Cindy and Mendy were born. Twins can keep you busy. In 1984, to be closer to Donna's family, they moved to Monroe County.

When they came to Ellettsville, they came to EFUMC. Charles Cazell was here and Wally had known him in Bicknell so there was a connection immediately. Rodney Vandever was the Sunday School teacher and made a positive impact on Wally. Sara Johnson and Sally Murphy worked with the kids in church which helped get all of the family rooted in the church.

During his church years Wally has served as trustee, UMM worker, and SS Superintendent. He is perhaps best and little known for his behind the scenes work: coffee every Sunday, yard cleanup, and helper as needed. Thank you. He says he likes the changes in the church building. The sanctuary feels so open that he may need binoculars if he sits in back. He knows we need younger families and he feels he cannot "talk their lingo" so he does not know how to help with this. He feels we are a welcoming church, but how to get people to come to find that out is the issue. Age and lack of young people is a widespread problem in churches and service groups.

Wally is a member of the resurrected Ellettsville Lions Club and he feels that they have the same problem with members as churches do. Family dynamics, work, and lifestyles have changed. He says this problem is beyond his scope. As an active Lion he is Zone Chair, collects glasses, and visits other clubs.

Wally would like to get back to some childhood activities. He enjoyed fishing and would like to do it again. It is relaxing whether the fish bite or not.

His reading habits turns to mysteries. Favorite authors include Ken Follett, David Baldacci, Clive Cussler, Steven Counts, and Wilber Smith. If any of these are on your read list, or if you are looking for new authors, you may want to have a literary discussion.

UPDATE: Wally's wife, Donna, battled cancer until she could battle no more. Daughters Cindy and Mendy surrounded their parents throughout the tough times. In fact, Cindy is relocated to be at home with her parents.

Wally has spent over a year getting used to the new life style after losing his life partner. He moved to a new house where he says he "will not have to take care of so much land." He still spends much time traveling and walking. We are still enjoying his sense of humor and his smiling face as he passes out bulletins on Sunday morning.

He would like for people to remember him as a serious person with a wit. Hopefully, people got something from him. "That one time I hit the mark." He will talk politics. He feels that the issue should determine how one votes; not the party. He wants to continue enjoying his family and hopes to end this earthly life with dignity.

Other goals include visiting all 61 national parks. He has been to 45 so far. Past travels include all 92 counties in Indiana. Wow! He has been in all of the Provinces of Canada, Mexico, and Scotland. If you have travel plans to anywhere he has been you might talk to him for some tips or suggestions.



# April 2024



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7 <b>No church service today</b> Church building & grounds closed due to	8 <b>Eclipse</b> Begins at 1:49pm Max. View 3:06pm Church building & grounds closed due to eclipse.	9 6pm Lions	10 6:30pm Pack Meeting 7:30pm Choir Practice	11	12 6:30pm Bears	13																																																																																																																
14 9:30am Communion Service 10:30am Fellowship 10:45 Adult Sunday School 11am UMW/UMF	15 6:45pm Scouts 7pm Trustees	16 6pm Lions	17 6:30pm Tigers 7:30pm Choir Practice	18 12pm Emmaus Reunion group at Arby's	19 6:30pm Bears	20 Scout Pack Meeting Outdoors																																																																																																																
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# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Anniversaries

21 Marion Krefeldt & Craig Stewart  
28 Ken and Joy Hayes

## Birthdays

2 TJ Nichols	17 Randy Wright
7 Barry Fisher	20 Laurie Samuelson
9 John Bray	21 Marge Clark
10 Trenton Fender	25 Linda Blackwell
13 Phil Rambo	26 Ken Hayes
14 Darby McCarty	29 Braxton Harris
17 Tim Felton	

## A Wakeup Call

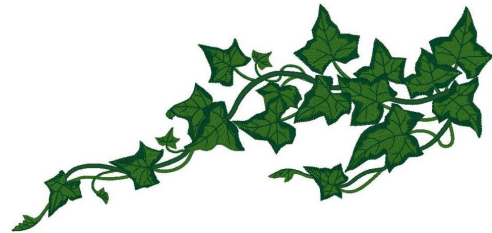
God — let me be aware.  
Let me not stumble blindly down the ways,  
Just getting somehow safely through the days,  
Not even groping for another hand,  
Not even wondering why it all was planned,  
Eyes to the ground unseeking for the light,  
Soul never aching for a wild-winged flight,  
Please, keep me eager just to do my share.  
God — let me be aware.  
God — let me be aware.  
Stab my soul fiercely with others' pain,  
Let me walk seeing horror and stain.  
Let my hands, groping, find other hands.  
Give me the heart that divines, understands.  
Give me the courage, wounded, to fight.  
Flood me with knowledge, drench me in light.  
Please — keep me eager just to do my share.  
God — let me be aware.

—Miriam Teichner

# Faith WORKS

## Special Dates

- Administrative Professionals Day,  
*April 24, 2024*



## Bible Quiz



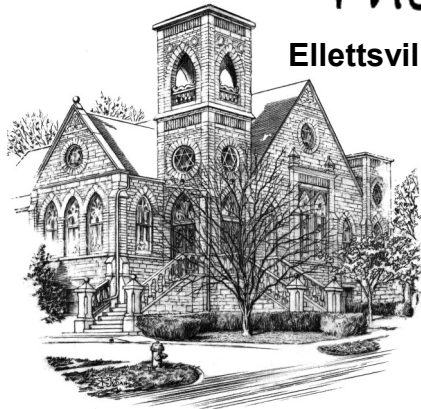
What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

# The Communicator

Ellettsville First United Methodist Church, Inc.



803 W. Temperance  
P.O. Box 548  
Ellettsville, IN 47429

**Worship** 9:30am  
**Fellowship** 10:30am  
**Adult Sunday School** 10:45am

**Office Hours:** M, W, F 9am-12pm  
**Church Phone:** 812-876-4792  
**Email:** [efumchurch@bluemarble.net](mailto:efumchurch@bluemarble.net)  
**Webpage:** <http://www.efumchurch.org>

April 2024

*If you are receiving this newsletter in error and wish to have your name removed from our distribution list, please notify the church office by e-mail, phone or postal mail.*



# Amen