



**First United
Methodist
Church**

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United Methodist News

March 2016

Abigail Circle's Baked Potato Buffet

March 17th, 5:30 pm till 7:00 pm

Baked Potatoes and All the Fixings
Homemade Salads and Desserts

Free will offering.



Prayer Vigil

**7 am-7 pm, Saturday, March 26
in the Sanctuary.**

March Events

- Mar. 2 — Youth Group
- Mar. 12 — Shared Blessings
- Mar. 13 — **Daylight Savings Begins**
KFC & Dominoes
- Mar. 14 — Youth Group Pool Party
- Mar. 17 — Baked Potato Buffet
- Mar. 21 — Newsletter Articles Due
Grief Group
- Mar. 23 — “Connections Matter” 6:30
- Mar. 24 — Priscilla Circle
- Mar. 25 — Good Friday Service 7:15
- Mar. 26 — Shared Blessings
Prayer Vigil
- Mar. 27 — **EASTER**
Sunrise Service 7:00
Missions Easter Breakfast
- Mar. 28 — Meeting of the Holy Folders

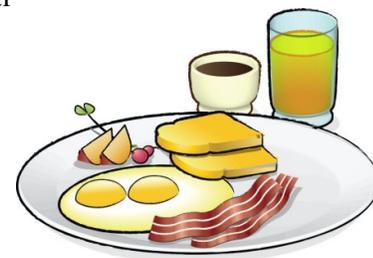
2016 GOALS

(consolidated by Leadership Council 1/27/16)

1. Build the skills for and the practice of intentional prayer
2. Make **disciples**
3. Emphasize hands-on **ministry, service & mission.**

Easter Breakfast

The Missions Team will serve Easter Breakfast on Sunday, March 27 right after the sunrise service until 8:30 a.m. Stay after worship or come for a special breakfast before Sunday school. We'll be trying a NEW main entree this year. We'll be having a variety of egg casseroles, an assortment of breads, fruit, juice and coffee. A freewill offering will be taken and any profits will go toward Mission projects.



HOLY WEEK PRAYER VIGIL

March 26 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Sign-up will be available starting March 11.
Come for as long as you wish.

If you came to the Fall Prayer Vigil, you won't miss this one.
If you didn't come in November, you don't want to miss another!!



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



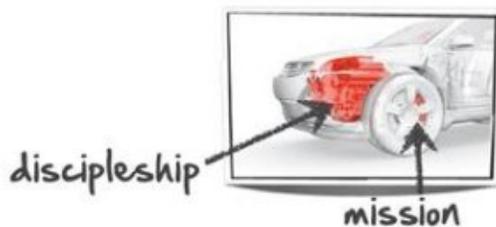
Paul's Ponderings

Are you tired of reading, hearing and being encouraged to participate in a GIG or some other small group for Bible Study, prayer and depth? Are you still wondering why we have a “Discipleship Pathway Self-Assessment?” Are you wondering what’s the big deal about “discipleship?” Read on, excerpts of an article by Mike Breen, author of over 20 books, his most notable being Building a Discipling Culture.

So what *is* the engine of the church?

Discipleship.

I’ve said it many times: *If you make disciples, you will always get the church. But if you try to build the church, you will rarely get disciples.*



If you’re good at making disciples, you’ll get more leaders than you know what to do with. If you make disciples in the way Jesus did, you’ll see people come to faith who didn’t know Him. **If you disciple people well, you will always get the missional thing as a byproduct. Always.**

The truth about discipleship is that it’s never hip and it’s never in style... because it’s the call to come and die, it’s a “long obedience in the same direction”, it’s fasting in the wilderness and taking up your cross.

[To be the church in mission is...] humbling. There’s often no obvious glory in it. It’s for the long haul.

And it’s completely unsustainable without discipleship.

Jesus knew what he was doing to form and build his disciples. “*While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves, and said to them...*” (Matthew 20:17) “*They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them...*” (Mark 10:32)

Being “DEEPLY ROOTED, BRANCHING OUT, and BEARING FRUIT” takes intentionality and work. And it all must be grounded in the deep soil of a relationship with Jesus Christ. That’s DISCIPLESHIP!!

After graduating from college I began an 8-year stint teaching Developmental Reading at Alden, Iowa. We rented a farmhouse outside of the little burg of Popejoy. There was a UM church in Popejoy, a 2-mile drive. It was an active, friendly church. I enjoyed it because the guys talked farming during coffee. But after a couple weeks we drove the six miles into Alden to the UMC. It was the same pastor, but many of the teachers attended there, and there were more activities for the women. After a year of being greeted at the door by Mike Petersen saying, “You’re late! Sunday school started an hour ago!” we decided to go to the adult Sunday School class. It had 40 to 50 people. After the first year they told me I was the teacher?!

On a weeknight after our first visit to the Alden church, the pastor and a lay person came out to our house. The purpose of their visit was to invite us to give money to pay off the new (perhaps four years old) church building. They saw the end of the mortgage and they were doing a drive to knock it off. We felt it a little strange at the time; and we felt rather poor. We didn’t give. Within a month there was a celebratory service that included burning the mortgage. It was followed by a picnic in the city park.

It wasn’t long before I felt like I missed out on something. Even a \$10 bill would have given me a satisfactory feeling that I had been part of a significant history. It wasn’t as big deal to me then, that I be part of it. Later I entered ministry out of that church, and in fact, another person, from our young family group, was in seminary at the same time. (I know six Iowa UM pastors from that church, including one of my students!) Those people contributed at least \$1,000 to our tuition every year. They knew what it was to be part of something bigger, more long-lasting than themselves! When I consider the spiritual legacy upon which I stand, the Alden-Popejoy UMCs are firmly under me. And I am privileged to be part of their legacy.

Pastor Paul

Missions

Mission Work Trip

The Missions team has set aside the week of July 18-22 for our annual summer work trip. We are in the process of determining the location and anticipate having registration materials available very soon. Watch for flyers! The deadline to register will be in April or early May as all participants will be expected to be a part of fundraising efforts and we'll need some time as a team to prepare for the trip.

If you've never been a part of a work trip or haven't had much construction experience, don't worry about it. All skill levels and abilities are welcome – there will be something for you to do. We plan to do some training before the trip and you'll learn as you go.

If you are unable to participate on the trip, we need "Back Home Buddies" who will pray for us, send along snack food and notes of encouragement, and to support our fundraising efforts. Watch for details!

If you have any questions, please contact anyone currently serving on the Missions Team. Once you've experienced a work trip, you will never be the same and will live life differently.

Rummage Sale

The dates have been set!!! The annual Rummage and Recycle Sale will be held **Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7**. As you do your "spring cleaning", please keep this in mind and set aside "gently used" items for the sale. Donations will be accepted the week before the sale. As usual, we'll also need help with set up, working the sale and clean up. More details and opportunities to sign up will be available in the April newsletter.

Easter Pool Offering

This month we'll be collecting the Easter Pool offering. Rather than collect ten special offerings throughout the year, the Missions Team "pools" those offerings into one special offering. The total amount given is then divided evenly toward ten areas of ministry: Human Relations, Native American Ministries, Peace with Justice, World Communion, United Methodist Students, Golden Cross, Disabilities Awareness, Christian Education, Neighbor Helping Neighbor, and Rural Life.

A special offering envelope is included in this newsletter. (And on the table at the rear of the Worship Center.) As with any 'special' offering, our gifts are intended to be over and above the offerings given toward the general budget of the church. Your offering, small or great, makes a difference. Thank you!

Share the Love

We've provided desserts during high school conferences for teachers the past couple of years. They appreciate the affirmation, recognition and TLC, and look forward to the yummy desserts you provide. This spring, we'll be providing desserts once again Thursday, March 3 and Monday, March 7. This time, we want to do "ice cream" desserts on March 3 and any dessert you'd like on March 7. We need 4 desserts (to serve 12) each day of conferences. If you're willing to make an ice cream dessert, we have a simple ice cream sandwich recipe you can use OR you can do your own favorite ice cream dessert recipe. Contact Renee Mente or the church office if you are willing to make a dessert. Thank you for helping us to reach out into the community!

Shared Blessings – Volunteers Needed

Carmen Hoffman has served as the volunteer coordinator for Shared Blessings the past 2-3 years. She's done a great job of filling the empty slots, but has asked to step away from that responsibility. Thank you for your work, Carmen! We're fortunate in that we have many outside groups (i.e. Lions, Trinity Lutheran, FCCLA, etc.) and many individuals from within the church who regularly volunteer to help with the Shared Blessings community meals.

We're looking for one or two people who'd be willing to **coordinate volunteers** for this important outreach ministry. We'd also like to expand the number of **groups & individuals** within the church to **serve 2-3 times each year**. If you are a part of a GIG or another group or just have a group of friends who would enjoy serving others, please consider getting involved. We could also use a few extra people to serve as **hosts** when we have outside groups. Hosts show them around the kitchen & provide guidance. Also needed are **bus drivers** to pick up people from Senior Park. Training is provided for all positions. Contact Renee Mente, Carmen Hoffman or Jane Moen if you have questions or want to volunteer.

Youth News

Attention Youth!

Our February meeting was a night full of making mason jar mixes to sell for Shared Blessings, starting our used book drive and lots of board games and laughs! It was a great night due to some great youth! Our next meeting will be **March 2nd**, dinner from 5:30 to 6:15 and meeting from 6:15 to 8:00. As always parent helpers are needed to help but more importantly to be with the youth and connect with them. All ages of adults are welcome, one night with these kids and you will understand what a great group of kids we have in our church! And as always youth, keep us in the loop of events you would like to do. We have two things available over Spring Break. Keep the ideas coming! Youth Group is open to all youth in grades 5th through 12th, and they are encouraged to bring friends.

YOUTH GROUP SWIM PARTY

Youth in grades 5th through 12th join us March 14th from 6-8 pm (during Spring Break) at the Tipton Aquatic Center for a night of swimming, games and prizes. Free admission! Bring a friend or two!

Youth Group Painting Fundraiser

Youth Group will be having a Creative Spirits Painting Party over Spring Break. Monday, March 14th from 2-4 at the studio. (118 E. 5th St.) Cost is \$30 each child, with a portion going back to our youth group! Adults are welcome to join also. (If cost creates a barrier, talk to Pastor Paul.)

Youth are encouraged to invite a friend, just be sure everyone registers through the link below so we have your spot ready!

<http://www.creativespiritsames.com/2016/02/tipton-umc-youth-fundraising-event-scattered-dreams/>

MASON JARS MIXES FOR SALE

The Youth Group spent part of their February meeting learning about volunteering, and opportunities available right here in our Church. As part of this they made Mason Jar Mixes of winter chili and cookies. These are available in the gathering room for a free will donation. All proceeds will be going to Shared Blessings, the youth and their families donated all the supplies. And thank you to the church for the jar donations. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Summer Church Camps

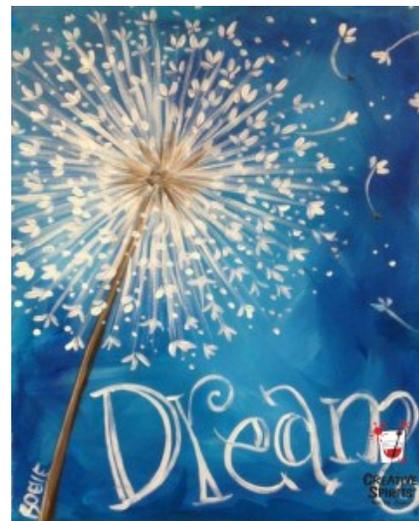
It's time to mark your calendar and register for Summer Church Camp. www.iaumc.org/camps; or 1-800-765-1651. Iowa UM Conference Camp Catalogs are now available; and the camps are also on the website.

The church values the unique experience offered by a "camp" setting. Therefore, when the UMW closed operations at the end of 2015, they specified that some of their remaining funds would still be available for camp scholarships. We will continue the practice of having campers write a letter to the church to request the scholarship. The "default" scholarship is ½ of the registration cost up to \$100. Get it to the office and we'll make a timely response. There are also scholarships available through the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. I have the application forms for that source. *Pastor Paul*

Okoboji – Okoboji.Camp@iaumc.org
www.OkobojiCamp.com

Pictured Rocks – PicturedRocks.Camp@iaumc.org
www.PicturedRocks.org

Wesley Woods – WesleyWoods.Camp@iaumc.org
www.WesleyWoodsIowa.org



Kids for Christ

Sunday, March 13th
2:30 to 4:30
All ages are welcome!

Neighbors & Disciples

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

For the Easter season, beginning the week after Easter, we will be offering a new study on the Gospel of John using curriculum from Adam Hamilton. Hamilton is gifted at producing content that helps both novice and experienced Bible readers gain new understanding. The 6-week curriculum includes a book with the text of John included, and a video and discussion guide for GIGs (Growth and Impact Groups). Please, if you've never read the Bible, haven't read it lately, or have read it but found it to be difficult to grasp, don't miss this opportunity! Our GIGs are a safe place to learn and grow. If you're not already in a GIG, contact the church office or Melinda Stonebraker to be connected.

Discipleship Pathway - Corporate Worship

The past two months we've looked at the "Deeply Rooted" part of our discipleship pathway self-assessment. The "Deeply Rooted" section can be thought of as the individual-focused interactions with God through Scripture and Prayer. Now we move on to the "Branching Out" section, which can be thought of as the interactions that occur in the church to connect us more deeply to God.

The first category in "Branching Out" is Corporate Worship. For many, corporate, or large group, worship was their introduction to the life of the church. When people say they're "going to church" they usually mean they're going to "corporate worship." Many people have busy work and family schedules that cause us to miss worship with our local church community. When that happens, I hope we do actually *miss* it. Worshipping as a group is an important part of our faith. We are interconnected by

our presence at worship; we support one another just by being present. In A Disciple's Path James Harnish says,

"There are times when I come to worship to affirm the faith that I hold, but there are other times when I come to worship so that the faith the church affirms can hold me. There are times when I come to sing my song of hope, but there are times when I need the church to sing that song for me."

He's a pastor and even he indicates there are some times when he doesn't "feel" like going to worship. American culture, sometimes including the church, is consumer-driven. We are tempted to only do the things that make us happy and comfortable. As disciples of Jesus we need to be careful to avoid looking at church as a place where we go just to be comfortable: to get our worship music in a certain style, to hear a certain length sermon, to get a certain feeling, etc. Those preferences can be important, but they're *preferences*, and worshipping God together should not be about preferences. It should be about God: the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of our faith.

To grow in your practice of corporate worship, consider the following: make worship attendance a priority in your life; come to worship early or stay late to connect with other people; stay mentally and spiritually engaged during worship by listening, participating, thinking, taking notes to consider later, etc; volunteer to serve during worship: children's lesson, reading scripture, nursery, usher, greeter, etc; practice listening and being aware of God's presence at worship.

Melinda Stonebraker,
"Neighbors & Disciples" chair

Prayer Vigil 7 am-7 pm, Saturday, March 26, in the Sanctuary.

WALK TO EMMAUS

A Free Gift for Yourself and Those You Care About

If you want more information you may do an internet search, go to <http://www.cedarrapidsemmaus.org> or talk to Pastor Paul.



July 14-17

July 28-31

October 20-23

November 3-6

Men's Walk #169

Women's Walk #170

Men's Walk #171

Women's Walk #172

Mt. Pleasant

Mt. Pleasant

Solon

Solon

Worry is a thin stream of fear that trickles through the mind, which, if encouraged, will cut a channel so wide that all other thoughts will be drained out.

-Author Unknown

First United Methodist Church ENDOWMENT FUND

1st UMC has a modest Endowment Fund, from which interest income is received annually. 2015 income amounted to \$717.94. That income is divided three ways:

- 30% Missions: people projects, local to international;
- 30% Maintenance: repairs, major improvements, special objects or furnishings;
- 40% Ministries: enhancements, education, communication, evangelism, worship

The purpose of the Endowment is:

For charitable purposes of the church with its prime objectives being the promotion and development of religious, charitable and educational activities; and for non-recurring purposes NOT REGULARLY BUDGETED. (The caps are in the original document!)

It is preferred that requests come from a work area or committee of the church, but requests from individuals are also received and valued. The date of the March Leadership Council meeting is the 9th. After that date the next access to Endowment Funds is March 2017. Submit your requests, in writing, to Kathy Houstman, the pastor or the church office before midnight March 8!

Looking for Hosts

Neighbors and Disciples will begin organizing intergenerational fellowship evenings soon and we need some people to serve as hosts. Specifics aren't worked out yet, but for now, here's the loose plan: people will sign up to participate in the fellowship. Then on Sunday evenings, probably 6:00-7:30 once per month, we will assign people to go to a host house for fellowship. Hosting is simple: provide a space for people to gather, popcorn, and a simple beverage. If you'd like to be a host, please

contact Jen Johnson
(johnson.jen.81@gmail.com).



Usher Coordinators

We need two more usher coordinators, one for July and one for August, or if s/he is especially awesome, one person can do both months! If you are willing to find people to serve as ushers during July or August, please contact Melinda Stonebraker or the church office. Coordinators may serve as ushers but it isn't required. Thank you!

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Full Members Dec. 31	509	497	465	~ 468	470	470	470	469	469	472
Members Received	11	21	2	29	7	18	17	17	6	17
Members Removed	19	33	34	~ 26	7	18	17	3	6	14
Ave. worship attendance	147	138	131	131	137	133	128	119	105	113
Baptisms	9	10	2	7	6	6	3	9	4	7
Funerals	6	10	13	10	13	12	11	6	19	13
Weddings	4	4	2	4	7	3	3	4	4	3
S.S. average attendance	61	65	63	69	71	75	76	72	66	76

Based on the numbers above, I trust you can each determine some conclusions. I will just say there are two lines that are central to me. One is the "Ave. worship attendance." That number says something about each of our commitments to God, to one another, and to caring for one another. A basic tenet of the Christian faith is that the Holy Spirit works in us and through us to encourage one another. If we're not present, we're not fulfilling the intention of Christ.

The other line, historically, is the "S.S. average attendance." We trended up the seven years from 2006 to 2012. Since then we are trending down. While this number is more than just children, I do invite every family with children to consider what we teach [or fail to teach!] our children by not putting a value on the discipline of regular Sunday School attendance. I'd be remiss if I didn't give a statement of gratitude and praise to the teachers who every week prepare a lesson and are here to model and teach the faith if even one child comes.

I anticipate in the future using a third line to give, as much as is possible, objective measure of our discipleship. That line will be the number of people involved in settings of intentional discipleship. Currently there are about 54 people participating in GIGs. (Growth & Impact Groups) Is it crazy to think that could double in the next two years?? (Why not?!)

Member News

DEATHS: May the promise of eternity grant peace to the families of...

Donna Marquett – funeral was Jan. 22

Nora “Bea” Fulwider – mother of Karen Anderson

Sharman Wagaman, son of Alberta

Thelma Nebergall, funeral was February 17

(Addresses of immediate family members are available from the church office.)

“MEMBERS”

At the Jan. 27 meeting of the Leadership Council we identified the names of 58 people who are listed as a “member” of 1st UMC, who, to our knowledge, are able to be mobile, but with and for whom we have not been able to be an active part of their spiritual life. In other words, we have failed to be their church. If you live away from Tipton, and are not moving back, find a church there where you live that can **be** your church! If you have already found a church home, please let us know! (In writing, please.)

We also need assistance locating addresses for the following people: Keaton DeWulf, Lonnie Krenz, Megan Leslie, Arlo & Barb Petersen, Amber (Jorgensen) Rogers, Amy (Winekauf) Schmidt, Donna Wiskus, Marlin Wiskus. Please, we need hard mail addresses. “Might still be at...” doesn’t help us much.

The books are coming in for “Change A Child’s Story”.

Spurring the increased number of books in the building is the fact that the UM YOUTH GROUP has joined hands with the Cedar-Jones Early Childhood Iowa book drive!! That effort is one month, so by the time some of you read this, the Youth Group will be busy, at their March 2nd meeting, sorting and labeling the ECI books from all of Cedar County and maybe some from Jones, too! Most of those books will be given to the ECI Coordinator Sherri Hunt to make available to providers of services to families with preschool children.

Also in March 1st UMC is scheduled to provide a book in every “Backpack Buddy” that is sent home the Friday of March 11, the last day before spring break. Tipton Schools reading teacher and Trinity ELCA member Deb Cook will be screening for appropriate books for that effort.

Can you read?? Pick up a time sheet (from the table in the Gathering Place) and find some children to read to and/or listen to!!



CONNECTIONS MATTER

Wednesday, March 23, 2016

6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Dining Room of First United Methodist Church

Dionne Daedlow, Presenter

ACEs is an acronym, short for Adverse Childhood Experiences. “ACEs” wasn’t around when you and I were “kids.” Oh sure, that does not mean we didn’t have such things as separated parents, death of close relatives or even parents, and we did have substance abuse and various forms of child abuse. But we might have figured that’s just the way it was.

We are wiser now! Brain studies can show us that ACEs actually affect the development of a child’s brain. When children experience ACEs, it’s possible that their brain synapses are changed; they go from experiencing a world of “good” to a world of turbulence.

To counter-balance ACEs, children need supportive, encouraging, nonjudgmental adults in their lives. That’s what this workshop is intended to encourage and foster among the adults and children of this church. YOU can be part of the “Core Protective System” of a child, to provide inoculation for threats and adversities that are sure to be part of life.

We will hear that children need positive affirmations. They need a developed sense of attachment and belonging. And they need a community culture of healthy spirituality. Yup, they should be getting an intentional dose of every one of those things from the adults in this church!

EVERY ADULT is invited to this workshop!! Make Easter a reality in the relationships of this church!

Birthdays and Anniversaries (Members and Constituents)

- 1 – Jeff Ormsby, Kathy Vance, Roger & Karen Regennitter
- 2 – Eldon Beers, Franklin Bierman, Jack Shipley, Bonnie Swick, Merlyn & Helen Timm
- 3 – Phil Seydel, Hannah Smith
- 4 – Katie Shaull
- 5 – Ken Gould, Alexander Wright, Randy Behne & Jennifer Rinas
- 6 – Scott Barber
- 7 – Blair Nebergall
- 9 – Mary Kathryn Gault-Allen, Robert Glick, Mary McKinney
- 10 – Kevin Anderson, Betty Elijah, Dorie Kordick-Wanek, Rich & Kiaya Urban
- 11 – Caroline Wright
- 12 – Brandon Martin, Kathryn Rippentrop
- 13 – Alaina Butler, Ellen Fear, Lily Johnson, Todd Smith
- 14 – Sherry Schmidt, Gloria Willer
- 15 – Jessi Lieser
- 16 – Cortney Curry, David Waugh, Kevin & Dawn Spickermann
- 17 – Nathan Leslie, Hunter Smith
- 18 – Lynn Gallagher
- 19 – Garry O’Leary, Nicole Royer, Marc Weaver, Rick & Judy Rouse
- 20 – Jason Brown, Erik Eisele, Josh & Alisha Hubler
- 21 – Roberta Gesling
- 22 – Lesley Puffer, Craig & Kimberly Regennitter
- 23 – Adam Fitch, Michelle Smith
- 25 – Dave Fetterman, Karen Zobel
- 26 – Chase Timmerman
- 27 – Carmen Hoffman
- 28 – Amelia Cundiff
- 29 – Carly Puffer
- 30 – Blake Beck, Keegan Mentel
- 31 – Alvin & Mary Wright

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

If you have a song of faith in your heart, it will be heard by the look on your face.

-Anonymous

Prayers

PRAYERS

Hospitalized/Procedures:

Lois Whitlach @ St. Lukes Cedar Rapids
Grace Nichols @ UIHC (JComstock’s mom)

Healing: Darlene (Marjorie Stonerook’s sister), Jerry Ferguson, Rod Ferris, Marvin/Frances Ford, Donna Gault, Arlene Hein, Linda Huff, Rex Idlewine, Ed Ketelsen, Erma Lyle, Ron Martin, Lynn McIntosh, Katherine Moen (Jane’s mom), Warren Nielson (L&K Houstman’s bro-in-law), Ray Penningroth (M. Stonerook’s bro); Jim Shontz, Ray Steinberg, Gary Taylor and others under care or treatment.

Prayers for those in Life Transitions:

Vivian Wiskus returned to Cedar Manor from UIHC Kaitlyn McKinney (& folks!) as she prepares to leave in a couple weeks for Coast Guard Basic Training Aaron and Jennifer Comstock family & the myriad decisions in this ‘wilderness.’

Couples/Families searching for the way forward.

Persons & families of incarceration;

Persons in employment limbo;

Families struggling with the impact of drug and alcohol abuse or other addiction.

Persons uprooted due to “natural” and/or “human” disaster; and those who are called to help.

Persons/people persecuted for religious convictions.

In Treatment: Jean (Jayne Erickson’s sis), Gary Kline, Linda (Kay Miller’s sis), Dan Conrad,

Hospice/Palliative Care: Elmer Flory, Mabel Lamp, Henry Wiskus

Armed Services: Thomas Brown (Seydel’s son-in-law), Sean Hannes, Kyle Marchik, Corey Ormsby



The Leadership Council determined it wise to seek funds with which to keep moving the church forward. To do that, they are utilizing the Edie Ford Bequest funds as a base for the **“Leaving a Legacy”** campaign. If you are like me, one of the first questions that arises is: WHY? This note will seek to give you a response.

1. We need to give the families and individuals of the church today an opportunity to “put their mark” on the ministries of the church. We can create the stories for future generations to share with their children’s children. It’s exciting to hear of the work people did when the Education Wing was built; when the organ was put in; when the “old parsonage” was moved. WE can have stories of what God did when WE were young adults with young families!!

2. We are seeking to be faithful to the “Prescriptions” which were noted on the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) Consultation Report. One of the things suggested was to have a “Welcome Center,” a location where people of the church and those new could go for information and/or signing up. We do not have space in the Worship Center for such activity. We have plans in-hand for such a “Welcome Center;” and even have people in the church willing to put it together.

3. You know we live in a digital culture, even as many of our people are used to a print culture. A screen is being installed in the Gathering Place we can use to display information, convey worship services to those who have needed to leave for any reason, and to project educational, spiritual and inspirational materials.

4. We’re not “done” with the building. You know very well that we’ve made changes and adjustments to the church building to make it as useable as possible for a variety of ministries. There’s more. For a year now the Trustees have sought advice and estimates of what it will cost to renew the main tower steps. (We have confidence they won’t fall down any time soon. They’re safe!) So far, they have determined that the one solid bid of \$28,000 is not compatible with the church’s mission and are seeking other ideas and estimates for the necessary work.

5. The breezeway was installed 51 years ago to connect the main, original building with the then-new Education Wing. The steel doors and round door knobs are unfriendly to children. Many preschoolers are not able to open the doors themselves. (That’s not to mention the door that doesn’t even work any more; and an “emergency exit” door that is impossible to open at certain times of the year!) People with mobility issues have as much or more concern to get into the



building. Two estimates came in around \$20,000 to redo the breezeway and Education Wing doors, including some sort of accessible door.

6. Every year for my 10 years here, the SPRC and Trustees have faithfully conducted a tour of the parsonage. Every year of those 10, the list of needs included “update the bathrooms; update the kitchen”. Because of the great needs of the 607 Lynn Street property, we have put off the house work. The Trustees are now getting [sticker shock!] estimates on the costs involved for the work on the house.

The Trustees are already making plans to put their share of the original Edie Ford Bequest to good use. Furthermore, at their January 27 meeting, the Leadership Council approved two expenditures of the 15% of “ministry funds” from that bequest. One proposal, of \$1,500, was to cover the purchase and installation of the technology in the Gathering Place. The other, also approved, was to go ahead with the construction of a portable (wheeled) “counter” that could serve as a “Welcome Center.”

Soon the Children’s Sunday School teachers and others involved with children’s ministries will begin to dream about the possibilities.

The plan approved at the 2015 Church Conference and affirmed by the Leadership Council is thus:

- A. Starting with the Edie Ford Bequest of \$31,227, build Leaving A Legacy to \$100,000
- B. 50% of the funds toward Trustee projects
- C. 25% of the funds into the 1st UMC-Tipton Endowment Fund
- D. 15% of the funds toward ministries, especially new, emerging ministries and those addressing the HCI Consultation Rx’s.
- E. 10% of the funds toward “Children’s Ministries”
- F. {This has not been stated, but has been implicit.} Funds are not to replace or relieve those ministries historically supported by the General Budget or Children’s Ministry resources.

If you have questions, talk to one of the members of the Leadership Council: *Ron Salmonson & Kathy Houstman – Lay Leaders & co-chairs, Bob Cummins, Berrie Glick, Renee Mente/Jane Moen; Kay Miller, Barb Rickard, Karen Strefling, Dusty Johnson, Melinda Stonebraker, Bob Young; J Gesling; Gail Fleming or Pastor Paul.*

March Sunday Servants

Presence & Gifts from Jan.

Liturgists Twyla Hein - Coordinator

13 – Ron Salmonson
20 – Ruel Wehde
27 – Jen Johnson

Power Point Becky Young - Coordinator

6 – Brian Heil
13 – Ken McKay (create), Kelly Leiser (run)
20 – Melinda Stonebraker
27 – Carmen Hoffman

Fellowship Coffee Barb R. & Dixie M.-Coordinator

6 – Rob & Amy Glick, Karen Strefling
13 – Deb & Ken McKay
20 – Rick & Judy Rouse, Scott & Karen Anderson
27 – Missions Easter Breakfast

Greeters Becky Young - Coordinator

6 – Ted Licht family
13 – Stephen & Cheryl Person
20 – Bob & Barb Richard
27 – Sunrise Service: Lary & Kathy Houstman
Regular Service: Murry Mente family

Nursery Office - Coordinator

6 –
13 –
20 – Alec & MJ Heil
27 – Kris Clark

Children's Lesson Office - Coordinator

13 – Kris Clark
20 –
27 – Dusty Johnson

Ushers Melinda Stonebraker - Coordinator

6 – Madison O'Leary, Kamryn, Molly, & Stacy Chapman, Jesse Lieser
13 – Jesse Lieser, Madison O'Leary, Landan Hill
20 – Kamryn, Molly, & Stacy Chapman, CJ Eicher
27 – (7:00am) Jesse Lieser, Landan Hill, CJ Eicher
(10:30am) Bailey Schmidt, Elliot Cummins

Communion Stewards Donna Gault - Coordinator

6 – Gail Fleming

Acolytes Kim Walter - Coordinator

6 – Danica Rippentrop & Margaret O'Leary
13 – Jacob Boedeker & Meredith Coppess
20 – Adam Heil & Lucas Lieser
27 – Davis Webb & Nicholas Eicher

Worship Attendance: 3–112, 10–89, 17–93, 24–110, 31–93 ; Average: 99

Sunday School Attendance: 3–60, 10–53, 17–63, 24–75, 31–63 : Average: 63

General Fund: \$29,563.00, Financial Peace University \$469.00, GIG Books \$31.00, Shared Blessings \$97.51, LFP Salary \$886.32, Missions \$75.00, Missions-One Great Hour \$100.00, Copper Kettle \$248.43, UMCOR \$53.00, **Grand Total \$31,523.26**

Worship in March

Mar. 6 4th Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Lost and Found"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21;
Luke 15:1-3 & 11b-32

Music: Keyboards and Chancel Choir

Mar. 13 5th Sunday of Lent

Sermon: "Take Out The Trash"

Scripture: Isaiah 43:16-21; Philippians 3:4b-14

Music: Christian Chaos, Choir Kids

Mar. 20 Palm Sunday, 6th Sunday of Lent

Message: No "sermon" today; we'll be using the Passion Narrative from Luke's gospel

Scripture: Luke 22:14-23:56
(Here's the *rest* of the story!)

Music: Chancel Choir, Keyboards, Good chance some brass will show up too!!

Mar. 25 Good Friday worship @ 7:15 pm

Sermon: "It Was Our Suffering He Bore"

Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-52:12

Music: Chancel Choir, Keyboards

Mar. 27 EASTER SUNDAY

7:00 am Service will be a lively time, centering on children, excitement and action; lead by youth.

7:45: Easter Breakfast

8:30: Choir Kids

9:00: Sunday School (Young children's classes will most likely meet as a group and do Easter activities.)

10:30 Service

Sermon: "'Do not hold onto me.' There's More Than Resurrection"

Scripture: John 20:17

Music: Christian Chaos, Choir Kids; some brass might show up!!

March Calendar

Tuesday, March 1

All Day-Pastor @ Work Retreat

Wednesday, March 2

1:00 pm GIG
5:30 pm Youth Group
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 3

10:00 am GIG
6:30 pm Financial Peace

Sunday, March 6

8:30 am GIG
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
3:30 pm Junior Lego League

Monday, March 7

6:45 pm Missions Meeting

Wednesday, March 9

1:00 pm GIG
1:30 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice
7:30 pm Leadership Council

Thursday, March 10

9:30 am Communion @
Cedar Manor
10:00 am GIG
6:30 pm Chaos Practice

Saturday, March 12

11:00 am Shared Blessings

Sunday, March 13

Daylight Savings Time Begins

8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday school
10:30 am Worship
2:30 pm KFC
6:00 pm Dominoes

Monday, March 14

4:00-6:00 pm Youth Pool
Party
6:30 pm Chaos Practice

Wednesday, March 16

1:00 pm GIG
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice
8:00 pm GIG

Thursday, March 17

10:00 am GIG
12:00 pm TMA
6:30 pm Trustees

Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday

8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship
2:00-4:00 pm GIG Painting

Monday, March 21

Newsletter Articles Due

4:30 pm Grief Group

Wednesday, March 23

1:00 pm GIG
1:30 pm Bible Study
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
6:30 "Connections Matter"
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 24

10:00 am GIG
6:30 pm Chaos Practice
6:30 pm Girl Scout Trp 5302
7:00 pm Priscilla Circle

Friday, March 25

Good Friday

7:15 pm Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 26

7:00 am-7:00 pm Prayer Vigil
11:00 am Shared Blessings

Sunday, March 27

Easter Sunday

7:00 Sunrise Service

7:45-8:30 am Missions Easter
Breakfast
8:30 am Choir Kids
9:00 am GIG
9:00 am Sunday School
10:30 am **Easter Worship**
3:00 pm Cedar Manor
Worship

Monday, March 28

4:30 pm Grief Group

Wednesday, March 30

8:00 am Meeting of the Holy
Folders
1:00 pm GIG
6:00 pm GIG
6:30 pm GIG
7:00 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 31

10:00 am GIG

Sunday, April 3

Missionary Mark
Stransky here!



