



First United Methodist Church

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United Methodist News

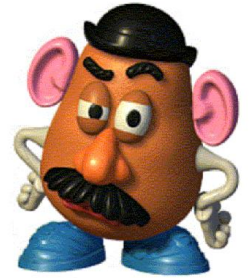
March 2011

Abigail Circle's Baked Potato Buffet

March 15th — Right after worship

Baked Potatoes and All the Fixings
Homemade Salads and Desserts

Free will offering.



March Events

- Mar. 4 — Grief Group Sessions Start
YOUTH Group
- Mar. 8 — Kids For Christ
- Mar. 10 — Endowment Proposal Deadline
- Mar. 14 — Shared Blessings
- Mar. 15 — Carroll Mitchell Scholarship
Deadline
Abigail Circle Potato Buffet
- Mar. 16-20 — Tipton School Spring Break
- Mar. 18 — Newsletter Articles Due
- Mar. 25 — Meeting of the Holy Foldes
- Mar. 28 — Shared Blessings
- Mar. 29 — Palm Sunday Children's
Program

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

— Anonymous

Hello! My name is Karis Horstmann and I have accepted the position of Administrative ministries Coordinator here at First United Methodist Church. I am looking forward to working with all of you! I have lived in Bennett all of my life and married my high school sweetheart Fred Horstmann Jr. This year we celebrated 38 years of marriage. Our son Matthew and his wife Chasity live in Dixon, Iowa with their girls Dakota and Carington. Daughter Sarah and her husband Zach Pedersen live south of Tipton with their children Keaton, Kason, Brynlin, Audyn and Ansley. My previous work experience includes 17 years in healthcare, 13 of which were at Unity Clinic in Wilton, and 8 years as a dispatcher for Cedar County. I am very active in my home church of Peace United Church of Christ in Bennett. I love to read, crochet, fish and of course spend time with all the grandkids!

[Note from Pastor Paul: Karis (it has a phonetic "long a" sound) has some prior commitments around which we will be working the first couple weeks of March so her first 'normal' or 'regular' week might be the week of March 16.]



THE STORY is an attempt to make the Bible accessible in a fairly short, manageable format. That means that some stories, some lessons, some entire books of the Bible, are not included. If you become aware of biblical ideas,

stories, events that have not been included, let me know and we'll seek to put them into the schedule of Sunday worship events; or, it's possible that more involved or significant events might warrant a few class sessions. Let me know! Pastor Paul



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors



Paul 'sPonder -

I have previously referenced the writing of Kiaya Rickard-Urban's high school classmate, Pastor Jerry Nuernberger. Here's a wonderful introduction to the wonder we call "Lent," when Jesus set his face to Jerusalem. pf

Hello, Just when I thought that I had seen it all, last week I saw something that broke that assumption apart. Tractor Square Dancing. Yes, Tractor Square Dancing. There is a thing here in Pennsylvania that is sort of an indoor winter state fair....cattle judging, pig shows, chickens and sheep....tractor pulls, implement displays...and something that I have never seen at a fair...tractor square dancing. It is just what it sounds like. Eight antique tractors with grey haired and no haired drivers following the directions of a caller....a la mande left, dos a dos, promenade right, circle up, and swing your partner. By the precision of the "dancers" you could tell that this was something that these folks had often practiced...which led me to wonder: who would have ever thought this up? I am trying to imagine a bunch of retired farmers gathered around the table of the local café where they meet every day at 7:00, when in between the gaps of silence that make city-folks uncomfortable one of the guys says, "Ever thought about doing square dances with our tractors?" The pregnant pause that surely must have followed would have left most of us to conclude that there wasn't much support for the idea, but if you have ever sat at one of these tables, you would not have been surprised to hear a coffee cup set on the table and out of the side of one of the guy's mouth, "Sounds good to me." And so began Tractor Square Dancing...maybe."

"What do you say we go to Jerusalem?" said Jesus to his disciples. Jerusalem: the place where his face would have been posted amongst the "Most Wanted" in the post office; the place where those who enjoyed judging and condemning were doing all they could to silence Jesus' words of forgiveness and mercy; the place where the appetite for his life was most ravaging; the mouth of the lion. "What do you say that we go to Jerusalem?" If there was a pregnant pause, it certainly would have been caused by the disbelief of the disciples at the hearing of Jesus' words. Having wandered around with him for the last several years and saying over and over again to themselves at the things that they saw him do (like eat with

the town's biggest slime bag –Zacchaeus) and say (like "pray for your enemies"), "I thought we had seen it all," one can only imagine the thickness of the silence that fell around that table.

But that is the wonder of what Christians call the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. Just when you might think that you've seen it all when it comes to the crazy things that God will do, we see the one who carries the name of the Son of God set his face toward torture, suffering and death. And why? The Bible tells us: love (John 3:16,17).

I found myself laughing at the square dancing tractors. I find myself astounded by the Jerusalem bound Jesus. Astounded that the Divine, the Wholly and Holy Other would so hold the likes of me, or the likes of anyone as a matter of fact, as the apple of his eye that that one would completely incarnate himself in humanity and then irreversibly and intentionally walk into the worst pain that humanity could conjure up. It is hard to believe....and some find it impossible to believe. But having seen the outrageous creativity of old farmers with old tractors, I find myself saying that maybe I shouldn't be so surprised at the outlandish determination of the Creator to make all things new with me...and you.

So, when I see someone baptized and remember my Baptism, when I hear the words "your sins are entirely forgiven", when I receive a piece of bread and a sip of wine containing the promise of the presence of Jesus body and blood, and when I hear that I have been enlisted to bring God's hope into a hopeless world... well, I don't find myself saying with unexpected surprise, "Just when I thought that I had seen everything." Instead, I find myself saying with the expectation of being surprised, "Thanks be to God." Have a great week.

God's grace and peace,
Pastor Jerry Nuernberger

*See you at worship... where we celebrate God's love.
Pastor Paul*

Missions

Prayer Bear Ministry

Caring Ministries is starting an exciting new “Prayer Bear” ministry! To get this ministry started, we will be taking donations of gently used and new teddy bears and/or monetary donations to purchase bears. These bears will be prayed over, and attached with a special prayer reminding their new friend(s) of God’s love. The bears will be available in the front pew near the pulpit in the sanctuary (where they will listen to our prayers, joys, and concerns week after week) until they find someone who needs a special hug and prayer. If you know of someone (any age) who could use some extra TLC, then you can pick up a teddy bear for them!

As you begin your spring cleaning, please bring any bears to the Gathering Place. The plan is to start this ministry in March! The Brad and Bobbie Lieser family has volunteered to coordinate this ministry. Contact Jesse or Kelley if you have any questions!

24 Hours That Changed the World

The adult “Friends” class that meets on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. is starting a new study on March 1st. Adam Hamilton’s study 24 Hours That Changed the World is focused on helping viewers better understand the events that occurred during the last twenty-four hours of Jesus’ life. The class will learn about the theological significance of Christ’s suffering and death while reflecting upon the meanings of these events in our lives today. Travel to the Holy Land with Adam Hamilton to visit the sites where the events took place. The sessions include:

1) The Last Supper, 2) The Garden of Gethsemane, 3) Condemned by the Righteous, 4) Jesus, Barabbas and Pilate, 5) The Torture and Humiliation of the King, 6) The Crucifixion, and 7) Christ the Victor. All are invited to participate in this class.

Blood Pressure Screening

Sunday, March 29, Mary McKinney and Cheryl Person will be doing blood pressure screenings after worship in the Gathering Place. Stop by for this simple, life-saving procedure! If you haven’t been tested lately, it’s possible you have high blood pressure and don’t know it. The screening is free and only takes a couple of minutes. Do yourself a favor and get your blood pressure checked now!

Thank you!

The Missions Fat Tuesday Pancake supper was a huge success! Thanks so much to all who donated food and griddles, helped with set up, cooking, serving, or clean-up, and/or came for the meal. We had 110 people for the meal and raised \$450 for mission projects.

Thanks to all who donated crockpots of soup/food and supported the Caring Ministry Souper Bowl lunch! With the snow storm that weekend, we ended up with a hearty, but small group for lunch that day. We appreciate the many people who joined us for the rescheduled meal on February 4. A special thanks to Sherry Willey and Pastor Paul for setting up for the meal as those on the committee were unable to help out. We ended up raising \$343 for Caring Ministry projects.

Mission Work Trip

The Missions team has set aside the week of July 13-17 for our annual summer work trip. We are in the process of finalizing the location and anticipate having registration materials available very soon. Watch for flyers! The deadline to register will be in April 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 on **Friday, May 1 and Saturday, May 2**. As you do your “spring cleaning”, please keep this in mind and set aside “gently used” items for the sale. Donations will be accepted a 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.

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. If you want to go on the internet to register but don't have that capability at home you may come to the church and use one of the machines here when the office is staffed – usually mornings. Call for other times.

As a reminder of the usual camp scholarship:

The United Methodist Women (UMW) will pay half, or up to \$100, for any child attending a United Methodist Church camp. Campers wishing a stipend for a campership are asked to submit a written request to the UMW President prior to the time of the camp.

If the cost of registration is still prohibitive and may prevent a youngster from going to camp, talk to Pastor Paul about some other options.

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

College-Age Jobs!!! Caring Christians at least 18 years old are needed at the three Iowa UM Camps to serve through the summer as counselors, nurses, cooks, lifeguards, office workers, canoe instructors, maintenance, photographers, teachers, horse wranglers... Contact the campsite at which you'd like to work.



Sunday, March 8th
2:30 to 4:30
All ages are welcome!

We will make crafts, visit our friends at Cedar Manor, and enjoy snacks.

Helpers and drivers are always appreciated and blessed. Parents are welcome to stay and participate or, perhaps enjoy a two hour "break" instead. Kids are encouraged to invite a friend.

YOUth [Adult] Leadership Inquiry and Invitation

A couple years ago Heidi Shumaker saw a needed ministry and stepped into the gap. She became the lead organizer for the YOUth Ministry of 1st UMC. Due to a family situation, at the end of March Heidi is needing to take a step back for a few months as she rearranges priorities. *(Don't worry; she's been told it's only "approved" if it is temporary!!)*

This is a good time for some **New Adult Leadership** to step forward for the YOUth program. We have others who have been very active, like Bobbi Lieser, Renee Mente, Diane Wallick and Jane Moen, and others who have been very willing when asked, but there is room for more committed & regular adults. We have intention of continuing to build this ministry. If interested, talk to any of these people.

SPRING FEVER?? CABIN FEVER?

We're just putting together the numbers for the annual report. It's rather interesting that our average attendance at Sunday School the spring semester of 2014 was 54. The average attendance fall semester of 2014 was 83. I want to believe part of the reason for the increase in average attendance was that families embraced participation in THE STORY. That makes me say YAH!! But let me share this observation: Through the first seven Sundays of 2015 (I didn't include Feb. 1st) average attendance is down to 69 from that average of 83. Hmmm... let us not grow weary!

YOUth Group

Despite missing our January meeting due to weather, YOUth Group was back in full swing in February. Our monthly meeting consisted of preparing for our Valentine Meal which included taste testing dessert options. YUMMY!

Thanks to all that assisted or attended our Valentine Meal. Although we have only served 3 Valentine Meals, it is noteworthy that one of our YOUth has already matured from server to Guest List. Alek Comstock and his Valentine supported our YOUth Group by dining this year. His change in roles for the evening, returning guests, and first timers made for yet another wonderful night.



First United Methodist Church ENDOWMENT FUND

1st UMC has a modest Endowment Fund, from which interest income is received annually. 2014 income amounted to \$536.65. 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!)

The guidelines of the Endowment state:

"Needs in the above areas are ever present. Chairpersons of the committees... will submit their plans for the funding at the March Leadership Council (LC) meeting. The LC will approve all spending plans... Funds may be accumulated if... it takes more than a year to plan and implement or it takes more than a year to raise enough funds to do the project."

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 12th. After that date the next access to Endowment Funds is March 2015. Submit your requests, in writing, to Kathy Houstman, the pastor or the church office before 8:00 a.m. March 11!

Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation

For schedule and information of nation-wide Academies, go to the Five Day Spiritual Formation website of the Upper Room: <http://academy.upperroom.org/events/five-day-academies>. Here's one that might be closest to Iowa this year:

Schuyler, Nebraska

St. Benedict Center

April 12 - April 17, 2015

Faculty & Topics:

Rev. Grace Imathiu: "My Story in God's Story"

Dr. Wendy Wright: "What is there about Mary"

Contact: Registrar, Mike Flury,

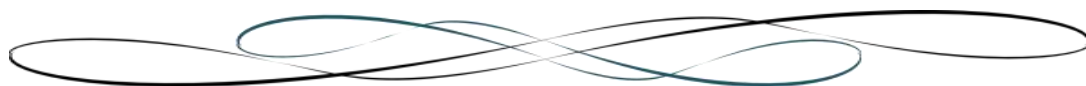
flury.micheal50@gmail.com, 1-402 747-2671

Sponsors: Great Plains Annual Conference of the UMC and Upper Room Ministries

MECCA of Iowa City has provided addiction services for this area for some time. That organization has changed it's name to Prelude Behavioral Services. It continues to provide similar services as in the past for Cedar County. A contact person is: Kristin Frank; Prevention Manager. kfrank@preludeiowa.org The 'home' address is the same: 238 Stevens Drive; Iowa City, IA 52240; 319-351-4357 www.preludeiowa.org

GREEN MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

After years of watering the plants in every nook and cranny of the church, Randy Behne has retired. This important position sets their own schedule. Qualifications: know "wet" from "dry;" able to carry at least a quart of water; personal initiative; love having living greenery in the church. Apply to Pastor Paul.



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

March Sunday Servants

Liturgyists Twyla Hein - Coordinator

- 8 – The Daniel Family
- 15 – Twyla Hein
- 22 – Liz Simons
- 29 – Jen Johnson

Power Point Becky Young - Coordinator

- 1 – Brian Heil (Both)
- 8 – Alec Heil (Both)
- 15 – Becky Young (Create), Jesse Lieser (Run)
- 22 – Renee Mente (Both)
- 29 – Comstock Family (Both)

Fellowship Coffee Bark Rickard & Dixie Martin - Coordinators

- 1 – Jane Moen & Paul Frederiksen, Kim Cross & Twyla Hein, Steve & Cheryl Person
- 8 – Ron & Lois Salmonson, Deb Eisele, Dawn Spickermann
- 15 – Abigail Potato Buffet
- 22 – Scott & Karen Anderson, Pat Fankhauser, Linda Hannes
- 29 – Jack & Denise Cartwright, Dusty & Jen Johnson, Kent & Carmen Hoffman

Greeters Becky Young - Coordinator

- 1 – Tom & Mary Ehresman
- 8 – Allan Charette & Deb Conant
- 15 – Ken & Deb McKay
- 22 – Steve & Cheryl Person
- 29 – Ted, Deanna & Steven Licht

Communion Stewards Donna Gault - Coordinator

Pam Spear

Nursery Office - Coordinator

- 1 – Chris & Kiley Schultz
- 8 – Vicki Daniel
- 15 – MJ & Alec Heil
- 22 – Ann Jurgensen
- 29 – Kris Clark

Children's Lesson Office - Coordinator

- 1 – Penny & Sara Webb
- 8 – Dusty Johnson
- 15 – Deanna Licht
- 22 – Roberta Gesling
- 29 – Dusty Johnson

Ushers Lorna Muller - Coordinator

- 1 – 29 Karen & Heather Strefling, Kim Cross & Twyla Hein

Video Camera Mary McKinney - Coordinator

- 1 – Stonebrakers
- 8 – Jane Moen
- 15 – Still needing someone
- 22 – Ruel Wehde
- 29 – Mary McKinney

Acolytes Kim Walter - Coordinator

- 1 – Meredith Coppess & Avari Calonder
- 8 – Danica Rippentrop & Hanna Schmidt
- 15 – Jacob Boedeker & Ian Spangler
- 22 – Kallie & Coryn Wallick
- 29 – Levi Daniel & Caleb Shumaker

Presence and Gift from Jan.

Presence: Worship: 4th – 95; 11th – 108, 18th – 110, 25th – 82

Sunday School: 4th – 58; 11th – 77, 18th – 81, 25th – 74

Average attendance:

Worship: 99, Sunday School: 73

Gifts: General Fund \$23,022.00, • Facility Use \$140, • Upper Room \$3.01, • Apportionments \$1,260.00, • The Story \$50.00, • Shared Blessings \$16.11, • Copper Kettle \$164.25 • **Grand Total \$24,655.37**



*To pray is to listen, to
move through my own
chattering to God, to that
place where I can be silent
and listen to what God
may have to say.*

—Madeleine L'Engle

Birthday and Anniversary (Members and Constituents)

- 1 – Jeff Ormsby, Kathy Vance, Roger & Karen Regennitter
- 2 – Eldon Beers, Frank 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, Rob Glick, Mary McKinney
- 10 – Kevin Anderson, Betty Elijah, Dorie Kordick-Wanek, Kiaya Rickard-Urban & Rich Urban
- 11 – Caroline Wright
- 12 – Brandon Martin, Katie Rippentrop
- 13 – Alaina Butler, Ellen Fear, Lily Johnson, Todd Smith
- 14 – Sherry Schmidt, Gloria Willer
- 15 – Jesse 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, Jessica Marchik, Thelma Nebergall, Alisha & Josh 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
- 29 – Carly Puffer
- 30 – Blake Beck, Keegan Mente
- 31 – Alvin & Mary Wright

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

THANK YOU to all who have helped in the office or related tasks this past month. As of this writing, those people include (and I beg forgiveness if I have overlooked anyone!): Kim Cross, Twyla Hein, Jane Moen, Barb Rickard, Ron & Lois Salmonson, Pam Spear, Kim Walter, Rhonda Waugh, Sherry Willey, Becky Young. Others have expressed willingness to help with projects, and Brian and Mary Jo Heil are always in the shadows being helpful. You've all made a difference.

If you would like to make a helpful difference, it is great when we have a good-sized group to prepare the newsletters for mailing. 'Regulars' include JoAnn Brennan, Donna Gault, Lorna Muller, Vivian Shontz, This group, called the "Holy Folders," works just once a month, always on Wednesday. (Least conflicts with the coffee schedule!) This is a one-hour job when we have enough help. Just show up, 8:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 25.

DEATHS:

Travis Wallace, nephew of Roberta Gesling.

Kathleen Trombley, mother of Colette Crock

Dorothy Gerdner, mother of Dee Wallace

BIRTHS:

On the bulletin board outside the office is a picture of Ruth Wolcott's twin Great-grandbabies, born Dec. 18, 2014. Ruth is the wife of former pastor Jerry Wolcott, now deceased.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL is scheduled for April 4 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Starting March 15 we will have a box in the Gathering Place in which you may place prayer requests that will be posted during the Vigil. Would your GROUP, GIG, CLASS or FAMILY like to sign up for a time slot? That opportunity will be available starting March 15.

**Newsletter articles are due
Wed., March 18th.**

**Meeting of the Holy Folders is
Wed., March 25th.**



SHANE CLAIBORNE is lecturing at Iowa Wesleyan College Sunday afternoon, March 1 from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. Shane is a radical Christian. His witness has taken him to Calcutta, Chicago, Rwanda and the West Bank, Afghanistan and Iraq. But his home is in a downtrodden part of Philadelphia where, as founder of "The Simple Way," they rehab houses, garden empty lots (against city code!) and are creating a radical Christian community. He is also the author, with Tony Campolo, who was one of his professors in college, of *The Red Letter Revolution: What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said?* There is no charge for this lecture, but it ought to come with a "caution!" If you would like to go, talk to Pastor Paul about possible car-pooling.

More Discipleship Opportunities

April 24 & 25 is a Discipleship Pathway workshop in Cedar Rapids. We will have people attending and you are welcome, too! This is a Friday evening and most of the day Saturday event. Talk to Melinda Stonebraker or Pastor Paul for more info.

Leadership Conference

May 15 – 16, again Friday eve/Saturday, is a Leadership Conference at the Ankeny 1st UMC about Small Group ministries. See Melinda or Pastor Paul.

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.

Praise
the Lord

HEALTHY CHURCH INITIATIVE (HCI) UPDATE

Thanks everyone who assisted at the February 13 'Lucky Day' bridge event at the Heartland Sports Center!! If you would like to assist to create and/or carry out more such events talk to Gail Fleming or Pastor Paul.

Another group has been working on HOSPITALITY and will bring us further ideas during worship and other settings. Here's part of a report from that group:

The HCI has given us an opportunity to have outsiders take a peek at the Sunday worship and tell us where/how we might improve our 'welcome.' The Hospitality Committee was generated from a group of people seeking to improve our welcome and attract new participants. We've asked, "What are some patterns that we have developed that might discourage a family in even the first 5 minutes from coming here again?" So our first initiative is to take a good look at the way we greet and usher persons into the worship center.

Are we giving enough information to guests, those with small children or those with disabilities?

Do we tend to visit with friends rather than welcoming, passing out bulletins, acknowledging new persons?

How can we do a better job of covering all the doorways into the worship center? (There are many!)

We also realize that being a "welcoming congregation" is not dependent only on the official "ushers" and "greeters," but is dependent on each and every person in each and every pew!

We are also kicking off a program we'll call, "Sunday Callers." The Sunday Caller assigned to a particular day will come to the office after worship and assist to go through the Sunday Registration sheets. If there is a 1st-time guest, the Caller will take the name and address and a small gift and will seek to visit their home within 36 hours (before bedtime Monday!) of the service. If you would like to be a Sunday Caller, let the church office know.



Unit Methodist Women

Prayer s

March Circle Meetings

Abigail — Wed., Mar. 18th at 8:00 p.m.
Hostess:

Mary Martha — Fri., Mar. 20th at 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: **Pat Fankhauser**

Priscilla — Thurs., Mar. 26th at 7:00 p.m.
Hostess: **Karen Anderson**

Worship in March

Mar. 1 — “The Birth of the King” Chapter 22

Scripture: Isaiah 60:1-6; John 1:1-14

Music: Chancel Choir & keyboard

Mar. 8 — “Jesus’ Ministry Begins” Chapter 23

Scripture: I Corinthians 13:1-7; Mark 1:9-22

Music: Christian Chaos, Choir Kids

Mar. 15 — “No Ordinary Man” Chapter 24;
Minute for Missions

Scripture: Psalm 100:1-5; Mark 4:35-41

Music: Chancel Choir & keyboard

Mar. 22 — “Jesus, the Son of God”

Scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21; John 8:51-59

Music: Choir Kids and Christian Chaos

Mar. 29 — Palm Sunday - **Children’s program**

“The Hour of Darkness” Chapter 26

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:1-11

Music: Chancel Choir & keyboard

*Stand still and consider
the wonderful works
of God.* - Job 37:14



Hospitalized/Procedures: Keith Wood @ St. Luke’s

Healing: Joyce Abbot (Candi Duesenberry’s mom), Wanda Berner, Joe Cheshareck (G.Fleming’s bro-in-law,) Darlene (Marjorie Stonerook’s sister), Wayne Eisele (Mike’s father), Pat Fankhauser, Jerry Gallagher, Dorothy Gerdner (Dee Wallace’s mom), Berrie Glick, Jean Heil (Brian’s mom), Arlene Hein, Rex Idlewine, Calvin Kuehl, Erma Lyle, Ken McKay, Edna Miller (J Ohrt’s sister), Jim Shontz, Charlotte Wagaman (Bert’s g’dau.), Gary Taylor, Alberta Wagaman, Carolyn Wiggins (S. Gould’s sis), and others under care or treatment.

Prayers for those in Life Transitions:

God’s gentle peace to the families of Dee Wallace whose mother, Dorothy Gerdner, of Burlington, died Feb. 20; and in Michigan, Kathleen Trombley, mother of Colette Crock, died Feb. 20.

Griffin Tauke & family; his teacher Carrie Glick and 2nd grade classmates as Griffin deals with terminal cancer.

Persons/people persecuted for religious convictions

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

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

Couples/Families searching for the way forward.

Persons & families of incarceration;

Persons in employment limbo;

In Treatment: Wally Reidel, Melissa Bliss (wife of D. Cartwright’s nephew), Barb Knack (B. Cummin’s sis)

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 STORY now addresses the life and times of Jesus...

(The following comes mostly from leadership materials found on the web page for THE STORY.)

In Chapters 23-24 of *The Story*, Jesus' mission is one of *creative destruction*. Jesus reinvents the notion of a Messiah, a Deliverer. But it turns out that was just one of His two missions. As He makes his entrance on the scene, there were two critical missions that Jesus had to accomplish. Everything that happens in these chapters falls under one of two key objectives:

1. **Shatter the notion of the long-awaited Messiah.**
2. **To authenticate His dominion and authority over all other forces.**

Both of these were absolutely critical. And in the context of fulfilling both of these purposes, we see Jesus maintaining his authenticity: He is Lord, Ruler and Authority over both the **Jewish elite** and **Gentile outcasts**, neither group being able to imagine that this is how God would work!! And so, in the face of this fanatical, avant-garde Messiah, this revolutionary way of life, **there's only one question left for us to ask today:**

What happens to your faith when your expectations aren't met?

Some people, when faced with a decision, try to play both ends, to serve two masters—but Jesus has already addressed that. So what do you do? What do you do with a God you can't explain, a Messiah who can't be manipulated into your preferences? A God who won't conform to your stereotypes?

Why do people reject this counter-intuitive Jesus? The same reason they did when they built the golden calf:
We prefer our own gods.

It started with the Twelve: *Who do you say that I am?* "You are the Messiah," Peter answered. And then, for the first of three times, Jesus told them what that meant: He would be killed and rise again. No one will be spared the details. And when Peter took Him aside and said He'd gone a little too far with this Messiah complex, Jesus rebuked the words of Satan that were coming out of Peter. "Wrong! It is for this that I have come!"

We had better understand that because the question is queried to each one of us: *Who do you say that I am?*"

Get in Shape... and join us at the Prayer Vigil

In January a few of us went to hear Rev. Rebecca Fisher, our conference's new Leadership Development Minister for Evangelism and New Ministries Development, talk about Spiritual Strengthening and Conditioning. Her message is that we need to "get in shape" spiritually across the conference. This is especially true for our congregation as we anticipate growth due to implementing the prescriptions. We need to prepare. And by "we" I mean "you" and "I". Sure, our GIGs can and do help, as well as other classes and groups, but our congregation will only get in shape as each of us individually gets in shape. Getting into physical shape takes effort and habit changes: diet changes, exercise changes, schedule changes, etc. Getting into spiritual shape takes effort and habit changes as well: schedule changes, behavior changes, priority changes, etc in order to making time for worship, Bible study, fellowship, prayer, fasting, etc. What do you need to do to get in shape? How can you help someone else? What help do you need from the church? Requests or ideas can be emailed to the office or put in the Neighbors and Disciples box.

One of the tools we are providing for strengthening and conditioning is a prayer vigil Saturday, April 4 from 7am to 7pm in the sanctuary. Each year our congregation holds this prayer vigil on the Saturday of Easter weekend. The past few years the participation has been low. This year the Neighbors and Disciples work group is excited to revive this special event by expecting each group in the church to come and participate in the prayer vigil. We will provide direction through readings and prompts for prayers. So talk among your group and determine a time that works well for most of your people then sign up. Individuals are also encouraged to participate if they don't belong to a group at this time. Look for the signup board beginning March 15. All of Romans 12 is good reading, but verse 12 from the Living Bible says this: "Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and prayerful always." As we are preparing ourselves spiritually for all that God is planning for us, let's be prayerful, and on April 4, let's do it together.

March 2015

March 2015

April 2015

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Mar 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<div>2nd Sunday of Lent</div> <div>8:30am Choir Kids (Sanctua</div> <div>9:00am G.I.G. (BR)</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School (All</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div> <div>2:30pm Shane Claiborne @</div> <div>4:45pm Haiti Mission Mtg (G</div>	<div>6:30pm GS Daisy Troop (#4218) (rm. 111)</div> <div>6:45pm Creative Worship (WR)</div>	<div>4:00pm Communion @ Prairie Hills</div>	<div>10:00am Pastor @ Bible Study</div> <div>4:30pm Grief Group (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (Johnson's)</div> <div>6:15pm YOUTH Group</div> <div>7:00pm Chancel Choir (San</div>	<div>9:30am Communion @ Cedar Manor</div> <div>10:00am G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:30pm Xn Chaos</div>		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<div>3rd Sunday of Lent</div> <div>Daylight Saving Time starts</div> <div>8:30am Choir Kids (Sanctua</div> <div>9:00am G.I.G. (BR)</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School (All</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div> <div>2:30pm KFC (DR)</div>	<div>6:30pm Xn Chaos</div>	<div>Endowment Deadline</div>	<div>10:00am Pastor @ Bible Stu</div> <div>1:00pm Confirmation Early</div> <div>1:30pm Bible Study (WR)</div> <div>4:30pm Grief Group (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (Johnson's)</div> <div>7:00pm Chancel Choir (Ser</div>	<div>10:00am G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>10:00am Senior Park Program</div> <div>12:00pm Pastor @ TMA</div>		<div>11:00am Shared Blessings Meal (DR/K)</div>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<div>4th Sunday of Lent</div> <div>Scholarship Deadline</div> <div>8:30am Choir Kids (Sanctua</div> <div>9:00am G.I.G. (BR)</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School (All</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div> <div>11:30am Abigail Potato Buff</div>			<div>No Little Friends Preschool</div> <div>Newsletter Articles Due</div> <div>10:00am Pastor @ Bible Stu</div> <div>4:30pm Grief Group (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (Johnson's)</div> <div>7:00pm Chancel Choir (Ser</div>	<div>10:00am G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #8719 (DR)</div> <div>6:30pm Trustees (WR)</div> <div>6:30pm Xn Chaos</div>	<div>1:30pm Mary Martha Circle (DR)</div>	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<div>5th Sunday of Lent</div> <div>8:30am Choir Kids (Sanctua</div> <div>9:00am G.I.G. (BR)</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School (All</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div> <div>10:30am Sunday School (All</div> <div>ages)</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div>	<div>6:30pm Xn Chaos</div> <div>6:45pm Missions Meeting (WR)</div>	<div>2:00pm Prairie Hills Program (Prairie Hills)</div> <div>6:00pm Daisy Troop #4231 (111)</div>	<div>Meeting of the Holy Foldert</div> <div>10:00am Pastor @ Bible Stu</div> <div>1:30pm Bible Study (WR)</div> <div>4:30pm Grief Group (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:00pm G.I.G. (Johnson's)</div> <div>7:00pm Chancel Choir (Ser</div>	<div>8:30am Pastor @ ECI</div> <div>10:00am Pastor @ HCI (Springville UMC)</div> <div>10:00am G.I.G. (113)</div> <div>6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #5302 (rm. 111)</div> <div>7:00pm Priscilla Circle (DR)</div>		<div>11:00am Shared Blessings Meal (DR/K)</div>
29	30	31	Apr 1	2	3	4
<div>Palm Sunday</div> <div>Spring Children's Program</div> <div>8:30am Choir Kids (Sanctua</div> <div>9:00am G.I.G. (BR)</div> <div>9:00am Sunday School (All</div> <div>10:30am Worship (Sncry)</div>						

Mar 1 - 7

Mar 8 - 14

Mar 15 - 21

Mar 22 - 28

Mar 29 - Apr 4

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Mission Statement:

Tipton First United Methodist Church

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Tipton First United Methodist Church Staff:

Pastor - Paul Frederiksen

Administrative Ministries Coordinator - Karis Horstmann

Accompanist - Sylvia Gould

Custodian - Don Griffith

Chancel Choir Director - Alice Ann Gallagher

Choir Kids Director - Denise Cartwright

Choir Kids Accompanist - Dee Wallace

Christian Chaos Director - Denise Cartwright

Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference - Julius Calvin Trimble

East Central District Superintendent - David Crow

East Central Iowa District Field Outreach Minister - Jill Sanders

Ministers of Jesus Christ in the World - All the People of God!