



# The Activator

April 2019

A monthly newsletter from the United Methodist Church of Hudson

**Mission Statement of the Church:**

***As followers of Jesus Christ we want to lead our community to a growing faith.***

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Mary Rekers, editor  
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**Pastor: Mike Carey (563-203-0286) cell Email: [mikecarey99@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecarey99@hotmail.com)**

**PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday beginning at 8:00 a.m.**

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## Mike's Musings

Spring at last! After this winter, we thought it would never get here. Hallelujah!

By now you have heard that I will be moving and becoming the next pastor of First United Methodist Church in Nevada, Iowa effective July 1. Nevada is 10 miles east of Ames (Go Cyclones!) on Highway 30. It's a nice town of close to 7,000. The church is downtown, a nice physical plant with parsonage across the street. The church is between 725 – 750 membership with an average worship attendance of about 180 with two worship services: one contemporary and one traditional. They seem like an upbeat group of people and I look forward to the opportunity to serve them.

To answer your question of why is this happening now; it is a move that I requested. Why? Short answer is that I have done my job here and it is time for the next challenge. I am not the kind of person to come into a situation and stay long term. My skill set is more of a shorty term fix-it guy. There is nothing wrong. No one said or did anything to make anybody mad. It's just time for me to move on and the Bishop and cabinet agreed with me.

Will everything we have done fall apart once I am gone? I hope not because that will mean I have failed in a very important area. That is a church should never, ever be pastor focused or driven. Pastor's come in, give leadership, help shape the vision but the congregation has to buy into that vision and carry it forward. People need to be committed to and love their church and church family. It helps if you like the minister but it is not mandatory. You do need to love Jesus and one another. If you do, the rest will take care of itself. We are not building personality cults. That is never a good thing. We are lovers and followers of Jesus Christ. He is our focus and ultimate leader. Pastors come, pastors go, but the church remains. Be the church.

What is the process from here? Our Staff/Pastor Parish Committee is meeting with our district superintendent on April 1 at the district office to do what is called a church profile. They will talk about strengths and weaknesses of the parish and what kind of gifts the next pastor should have to meet those. If you would like to have input on that, talk to a member of the Staff/Pastor Parish Committee (LaVonne, Diane, Nancy Louthan, and Nancy Patterson), maybe even write some things down that they can take to the meeting to share. Our superintendent is Rev. Paul Wilcox. I know Paul personally and he is a good guy, has been a good and faithful pastor in our conference for many years. He takes his job seriously and will work diligently with the committee. He will take the profile information back to the Bishop and the rest of her appointive cabinet to discuss and pray for the needs of our parish. They will consider all available clergy and decide on the next person who will be brought to the SPRC for an interview and "put in". There is no time line at this point other than they will take over effective July 1 and there will be someone to take my place. That is the United Methodist way.

Let me close by saying it has been an honor and privilege to serve this parish. We have not always seen eye to eye on everything but we have accomplished a lot that you should be very proud of. I know I am and I am proud of all of you for your commitment and service. Continue to love Jesus and one another. With that, you cannot go too far wrong.

Yours in Christ's service  
Pastor Mike Carey



in April

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 - Barb Spates
- 12 - Vinny Robbins
- 30 - Molly Ungs



- Sue Roberts**
- Carol Ann Cowling**
- Carolyn Mumm**
- Diane Roberts**

- Ed Smith**
- Melissa Boesch**
- Pennie Lundberg**



- Mel Bartels**
- Margaret Mumm**
- Barb Doughty**
- Richard & Dee Vandenberg**
- Lila Epling**

Don't forget to check out the Church Library



**MEDIA OPERATORS FOR APRIL**



- April 7 – Dave Tolander
- April 14 – Mavis Floss
- April 21 – Nancy Patterson
- April 28 – Nancy Patterson



**Alleluia!**  
**He is alive!**



**Food Bank Sunday**  
**April 7, 2019**

*"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness. -- Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)*

We continue to request your support of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by donating non-perishable food and non-food items and money through the church. The first Sunday of the month, April 7<sup>th</sup>, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

For some children, going to bed feels like a punishment. When you're finally tucked in, it's almost painful thinking about what you must be missing. But for some kids in our community, going to bed carries with it a very different, very real pain: the pain of an empty stomach. Friends of the Food Bank have agreed to match every gift – up to \$10,000 - from now until April 30<sup>th</sup>. We believe that no child should ever have to experience the pain of an empty stomach. Your gift will go twice as far to ensure that children have a meal before bedtime and hope for breakfast in the morning.

There is a container in the entryway for your donations of food and non-food items. If you prefer to give a monetary donation, make your check payable to the church with a notation that it is for the Food Bank. Your donation will show on your statement of giving to the church.

For every \$10.00 the food bank receives, they can provide approximately 40 meals. Your donations do make a difference. Can you help this month?





Weekly Offering

for March 2019

<b>Offering:</b>		
<b>March</b>	3	1,565.00
	10	2,262.00
	17	2,045.00
	24	767.50
		<hr/>
	\$	<b>6,639.50</b>

**Also received:**

Apportionment:	\$	100.00
Matthew 25 Grant		135.08
Food Bank		25.00
Lions		25.00
Building Use		50.00
Easter Lilies		22.00
Rent		1,000.00
		<hr/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,357.08</b>



Approved 2019 budget:	\$85,866.00
Approved budget through March:	\$21,467.00
Apportionments due for 2019:	\$11,912.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 993.00

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 6,639.50	\$12,039.50
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,162.00	\$16,277.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 100.00	\$ 260.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0



April Preaching Schedule

7	The Delivery Room	Luke 21:20-28
14	The Silence of God	John 19:11
21	The Suffering of God	John 19:28
28	Karen Sage speaking	

Wednesday morning Bible study of Mark meets at 10:00 a.m. each week. It's never too late to get started!



Join us on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. for cards, dominos, or just good conversation. Macaroni and Cheese, salad, and dessert will be served at noon. Everyone is welcome.



Regular Family Night Activities with Adult Bible Study and children's programming at 6:15 p.m. Plan to join us. There will be potluck and fun on April 24<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:30 p.m.



Good Friday Service will be held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

We are looking for someone to "host" rolls and coffee before the worship service on Easter Sunday beginning at 8:00 a.m.



The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m.



Easter lilies will decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase one for \$11.00 in memory or honor of a loved one, return the order form to the church office by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Mike will be on vacation April 23<sup>rd</sup> through May 7<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Mary at (319) 269-5538 in his absence.





Laity Day with the Bishop offers a special opportunity for hearing from Bishop Laurie and for interaction about issues that concern us all. Additionally, there is a Mission Focus exploring a missional response to faith.

It will be held on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at Collegiate UMC in Ames with registration and refreshments beginning at 9:00 a.m. The bookstore will be open and display tables ready to explore. The program begins at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Bishop Laurie's sermon, during morning worship, is titled "The Same but Different." The current situation in the United Methodist church will be explored during a morning session, "The UMC: Taking Stock and Looking Forward." You will have the opportunity to hear from Iowa's General Conference delegation and Bishop Laurie.

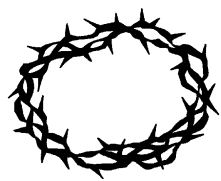
The Missional Focus at Laity Day is titled "Practicing Love with Women at the Well" led by Rev. Lee Roorda Schott, the pastor of Women at the Well. Rev. Schott will lead us to consider how we "get to" practice love through the United Methodist congregation inside the women's prison at Mitchellville.

**GENERAL CONFERENCE UPDATE**

Things are in a turmoil across the denomination and that was to be expected no matter what decisions were made at the Special General Conference held the end of February in St. Louis. To recap, by a narrow vote, the restrictive language regarding human sexuality was retained. Also clergy cannot be practicing homosexuals and we cannot perform gay weddings even though State law in Iowa says we can. Everything that was passed by the special conference has been referred to the judicial council which is our church's supreme court to determine constitutionality. That will happen the end of April. Irregularities in voting at the Special General Conference have also been discovered and there is an investigation of this going on. No word on a time line for that at this point although it seems certain that irregularities did exist.

Actions that have happened as a result of the action of the Special General Conference: UMC in the German Annual Conference have already said they will not abide by the decision. The same is true of the New York and New Jersey conferences. I would not be surprised if the entire Western jurisdiction did the same. A number of clergy in the Minnesota/Dakotas conference have signed a letter indicating they will not abide by the decision as have a number of Iowa clergy as well.

So, what does it all mean? It means we are at point of significant disagreement. What happens next? I don't know. We will have to wait and see how the process plays out. The regularly scheduled general conference will be in 2020 in Minneapolis. Things will get very interesting by the time we get there. Stay tuned...



**Just for KIDS**

"... and on the third day"

Jesus died upon a cross and was buried in a tomb. When the women went there with burial spices on the third day, what did they find?

Follow the arrows. Fill in the blanks.

Begin →

T	H	E	A
B	S	T	O
M	O	C	N
T	H	R	E

R	O	O	D	E	F	W	P	R	O
E	A	F	S	G	Y	A	S	H	L
N	A	L	I	A	A	W	E	L	
N	G	E	D	T	J	B	A	D	C

F	O	T	H
E	H	M	E
I	S	N	O
H	E	H	T
E	R	E	R
H	S	R	E
A	I	S	N

→ End

Luke 24:6

Answer: The stone was rolled away from the door. An angel said to them, "He is not here, he has risen."

**“A Meditation on the General Conference”**

March 17, 2019

Psalm 2:4 *The one who sits in the heavens sits and laughs*

By Rev. Bill Cotton [revcottonhill@hotmail.com](mailto:revcottonhill@hotmail.com)

The Poet T.S. Eliot once said there are three things worth writing about: Sex Politics, and Theology. I have given some thought to this as part of my prayers for the General Conference.

**Sex**, as I have experienced it, is a most wondrous biological gift, a divine mystery, and the most private part of my life. In our beginnings we had no control over who we might be as sexual beings. It simply was a happening, not a learned behavior, it is what it is. And it should be the most private form of revelation that can happen between persons. May we resist the temptation to judge who is worthy of this divine gift. Lord have mercy!

**Politics:** A cynical friend told me that on the first day of creation two creatures met on the edge of the jungle, once and for all to decide who would be the *dinner* and who the *diner*. But a Methodist view of politics, or political-ness, is the way we order our lives to be with each other in community. Good politics assumes that both the weak and the strong have obligations to be with each other. Walter Brueggemann reminds us of how many times the little word “with” is used in the scripture. Adam is *with* Eve, not above or below but in relationship. This little word is used always to allow equal relationships. It’s a bit like saying Emmanuel, God *with* us, not above but *with*. The right politics turns our relationships into neighborliness. Indeed we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, armed with Paul’s great ingredients of faith, hope and love, with love winning the day.

**Theology** is the discovery and naming of the mystery that gives us life. Actually we do not find God, God finds us! And I know there is one closer to me than I am to myself. In this one we live and move and have our being. When I learned to focus on Jesus, the divine mystery was revealed to me. Jesus is the focal point that allows me to see and to know the goodness and mercy of God in all creation – in every soul. Indeed, in Jesus I discover that my life is incomplete without persons to share life with. Theology is a way of seeing, of knowing, a relational way of being in the world with self and others.

The recent General Conference has been a test of maturity in such faith.

A bit of psalm has helped me as we have approached this moment in our Church’s life. The Psalmist reminds us the “the one who sits in the heavens sits and laughs.”

One thing I know for sure, regardless of how things will continue to unfold: here in Iowa, local congregations will continue to worship, teach, and be taught, and act out the daily task of being the good neighbor. Perhaps to wonder at the actions of some who would represent God’s pure love by selectively persecuting others. And to know that we must stand *with* the persecuted.

The church that I attend is named Grace, so we have no real choice except to reach out to each other to offer the pure unbounded love of Christ to our neighbor, and to not remain silent or asleep when our neighbor is being harmed. Thanks be to God.