



The Activator

August 2021

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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Guest article from Pastor Mike Carey, Nevada FUMC

I was doing a weed and feed spraying on the parsonage yard a few days ago and took a break on the backyard patio. We have some arborvitaes back there, and birds like to nest in them. As I was sitting there, a rose-breasted grosbeak flew up with his mate and lit on the electric wire. After a moment, she flew into the arborvitaes, but he stayed on the wire and began to sing. He sang loud and long, singing his little heart out. I was impressed, so I decided to say so. (Remember, I am the Dr. Doolittle of the clergy. I speak fluent grosbeak.)

I said, "Excuse me, but you are really loud for such a little fellow." And he said, "And you are extremely rude interrupting me when I am singing. Have you no manners?!" (I forgot. Grosbeaks are temperamental, like red-winged blackbirds. Never try to talk to a red-winged blackbird. They are all attitude!)

I quickly apologized. "I'm sorry. I am just impressed by the joy and strength of your song. You seem to be very happy. Why is that?" "Why shouldn't I be happy? I have my mate, we have a good nest, our babies have hatched, and there is plenty of food to feed them. Of course I am happy." He started to sing again but paused to chase off another grosbeak. He quickly returned and added, "And we have good neighbors. The chickadees live next door, and they are good neighbors." He sang a bit more; then he added, knowing I was clergy, "And of course, I know I am loved by God. Doesn't your Bible say God knows and cares if a grosbeak falls to the ground?" "Um, I think it says sparrow." "Whatever! Surely it's grosbeak. Why talk about sparrows when you can talk about grosbeaks?" With that bit of arrogance, he flew into the nest, and I went back to doing the weed and feed.

But the thing that stuck with me was his answer to "Why are you so happy?" To him, it seemed so obvious. He had the basics, and he was assured of the love of God. What more did he need? For him, it was a rhetorical question. He needed nothing else. Our lives are so complicated. We have all these places to go and things to do. And we need so many things to get everything accomplished, so many things. The latest cell phone, an upgrade on my computer, faster Wi-Fi and on it goes.

But take away one of the basics, and what happens? Take your health for example. The doctor suddenly has some concerns about something. A test did not come back so good. What happens to your joy then? I would suggest that the very foundation of your joy should begin and end with the fact that you are beloved by God—you are precious to your Creator. He knows the number of hairs on your head, and He knows when a grosbeak (OK, I'll give him that) falls to the ground. God does NOT promise to keep the tough times from us, but He promises to walk through them with us. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me." It doesn't say we will avoid the valley. It says He walks with us through it. BIG difference.

So, focus on the basics. Begin and end with this: you are a precious child of God.

Press on, Church!



August

BIRTHDAYS

- 9 – Marlys Smith
- 13 – Mishayla Robbins
- 18 – Gabe Watts

ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 – Jim & Judie Raymond
- 5 – Robert & Ruth Chittenden
- 30 – Taylor & Taylor Calhoun



REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR...

Sam Strayer
Marlys Smith
Doug Coonrad
Annette Tolander
Ethan Charley
Austin Charley

Our shut-ins

Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling

Don't forget to check out the Church Library.



Are you getting weekly worship e-mails? Would you like to get the Activator in your inbox? Be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@gmail.com.

MEDIA OPERATORS FOR JUNE



- August 1 – Nancy Patterson
- August 8 – Dave Tolander
- August 15 – Dave Tolander
- August 22 – Nancy Patterson
- August 29 – Nancy Patterson



Food Bank Sunday August 1, 2021

"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, August 1st, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank's 2019 Personal Care Drive ends on August 8th. Many of the same families that struggle with food insecurity also struggle to provide personal care items for their families. No access to those items lead to poor hygiene, health issues among both adults and children, and damage to a family's well-being. Items needed for the Personal Care Drive are toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, toothbrush/toothpaste, hand soap, and garbage bags.

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?





July 2021

Offering: July

4	1,090.00
11	825.00
18	90.00
25	250.00
	<u>\$ 2,255.00</u>

Also received:

Apportionments	\$ 200.00
Trustee Interest	631.05
Rent	1,050.00
TOTAL	\$ 1,881.05



Our church will be serving the School Staff Back to School Breakfast on Friday, August 20th, from 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. If you are able to help serve that morning, please talk to, call or text Diane (319-231-7790). If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with grocery expenses, you may drop your donation in the designated basket in Fellowship Hall or send it in the mail to Hudson United Methodist Church, P O Box 146, Hudson, IA 50643.



The families of:
Betty Arnold (Don's aunt)
Larry Andorf
Jody Bauer (Diane's friend)
Lloyd Loonan (Teresa Strayer's step grandfather)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through July:	\$48,541.50
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 2,455.00	\$ 26,532.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 3,131.00	\$ 34,463.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,405.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 260.00

We are 58% through the year. Our giving is 77% of actual expenses and 55% of approved budget year to date. Our year to date expenses are 41% of total approved 2021 budget.



While we did not have to install a hitching post for them, we are extremely grateful that God brought the Circuit Riders to serve our church.

Thank You
FOR
GIVING
...
GENEROUSLY



August 1	Pat Benda
August 8	Ethan Kober
August 15	Fred Lewis
August 22	Jan Burnett
August 29	Jon Cooper



COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. In this addition, we will be catching up with Ken and Marcy Kristensen.

Flora and Harold Kristensen and their two daughters, Frances and Norma, lived in Hudson across the street from the city park. On February 27, 1936, at Presbyterian Hospital, Waterloo, they welcomed a son, Kenneth.

Harold had a trucking company and hauled freight, livestock, and grain. He hauled lots of cattle and hogs to Raths. Prior to starting a family, Flora taught in Manchester. When the children were in school, she was the school secretary at Hudson School.

Ken has lived in Hudson his entire life. He remembers that the WPA built the old shop at the school. The school needed another school bus driver, so Glen Joder, the school janitor, approached Ken, a junior in high school, about driving bus. Ken had never driven a school bus before, but he drove the bus to Cedar Falls on icy roads to get his chauffeur's license. He walked up to the woman in charge and said he was there to take the chauffeur's test. She replied, "That will be \$2." And with that, he had his license to drive the school bus. No test! Ken drove the school bus during his senior year, as well.

Following high school, Ken attended Iowa State Teacher's College (UNI). At that time, the college year was divided into quarters, not semesters. Ken says he attended college for two quarters and knew that college was not for him, so he got a job with Sig Petersen's carpenter crew.

Ken also joined the Army Reserves and served for eight years. More on this later!

Marcella Hinz was the oldest child born to Gladys and Harry Hinz. Marcy was born in the old Schoitz Hospital. At this time Harry was in the cavalry, stationed in Kansas, so Gladys and Marcy lived with Marcy's grandparents on their farm in Bennington Township until Harry could return home to farm. The Hinz family grew quickly. Seven children were born in 9 ½ years;

four boys: Jerry, Dick, Harold, and Dale and two other daughters: Jane and Rose.

Marcy attended kindergarten in Dunkerton, but then attended country school in Bennington Township. When Marcy was a sophomore, her dad rented the Degener farm and moved the family into the Hudson school district. It was at school that Marcy and Ken met. Ken asked Marcy to go with him to the school carnival in 1953 and they've been together ever since!

One day following high school graduation, Marcy's mom took her into Waterloo and told her they were not going home until she had found a job. Marcy went to Northwestern Bell and was hired as a long-distance operator and information clerk.

November 15, 1958, wedding bells at Evangelical United Brethren Church (now Hudson United Methodist Church) rang for Ken and Marcy. They went to Missouri for their honeymoon and they experienced a tornado!

Daughter Lori was born in 1961. Ken was still in the Army Reserves and when Lori was only one month old, he was called to report to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. In the spring his group was moved to Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. One of the guys in his group was Gordy Ubben. During this time, Marcy and Lori lived with Gesche Ubben. Every Friday night the two men would drive back to Hudson and every Sunday night they would drive back to Fort McCoy. Finally, in August, the men were sent back home for good. Son Gary was born in 1963.

Ken was a semi driver in the Army and the job suited him well. After his military stint, Ken landed a trucking job with Stewart Trucking hauling Kent Feed. Then Ken took a job with Hudson Dairy as they were getting a new Kenworth. First Ken had to work inside the dairy dumping milk and bagging milk powder. Eventually, the new truck was ready and Ken drove the milk tanker. When Mississippi Valley bought the dairy, Ken hauled cheese to Green Bay and Springville, MO, and hauled butter to Chicago.

Stewart Trucking called Ken and asked him to come back to work for them. Later Ken worked

for Birch Cabinets delivering product to Texas, Minnesota, the Dakotas, Nebraska, Ohio, and Kentucky.

Ken retired in 2001, but as he said, after laying around for two years and playing a lot of golf, he was ready to go back to work and took a trucking job with Ryder Trucking shuttling trucks within a 300 miles radius. After thirteen and one-half years, Ken retired a second time... this time for good!

During the early years of their marriage when the children were young, Marcy was a homemaker and did babysitting. When the kids were in school, Marcy took a job at Hudson Hardware. Later she worked at Younkers, primarily in the children's section, retiring in 2002. And of course, Marcy babysat their three grandchildren, Brian, Lindsey, and Kristen, frequently.


While Ken worked for Bertch, Ken and Marcy enjoyed the Bertch vacations to Hawaii, and several cruises. Hawaii was their favorite. In fact, Marcy said she didn't want to come home!

Now, they don't travel so far away from home. They do get down to Marshalltown where Lori and Mike live. Gary and Shelley live in Johnstown, Ohio. The three grandchildren who spent so much time with them as children now live in Colorado, Iowa City, and Lincoln, Nebraska. Ken and Marcy also have five step-grandchildren, one great-grandson, and seven step-great grandchildren.

When the kids were young, Marcy served as a Sunday school teacher. She was also involved with UMW and was president and UMW secretary. And she has served and continues to serve on various committees.

Ken continues to enjoy woodworking. Marcy ties charity quilts. They have a cute little dachshund named Minnie, and they like to help others as much as they can. They say that helping others has helped them endure the pandemic. We know the friends and neighbors who they help greatly appreciate them, as do we, their church family!





“Take a Vacation”

Use your imagination to plan a great “Bible Lands” vacation. Use the code to find the names of these Biblical places. Look up the verses to find out about each place.

CODE:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N
	○	☀	●	☀	★	☀	★	☀	★	☀	★	☀	★	☀
	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z		
	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀	☀

☀ ○ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Matthew 26:36)
☀ ○ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Genesis 2:15)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Matthew 4:18)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Matthew 3:13)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Exodus 19:20)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(John 4:6)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Acts 18:2)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Genesis 11:5-9)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Daniel 6:16)
☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀	(Exodus 16:1)

Garden of Gethsemane, Garden of Eden, Sea of Galilee, Jordan River, Mount Sinai, Jacobs Well, Rome, Tower of Babel, Lions' Den, Wilderness