



The Activator

December 2020

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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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: Wednesdays



Dear HUMC Families,

It breaks my heart to write there will be no Worship services until COVID numbers in Black Hawk County has held below 15% for two weeks. So, likely no in-person Christmas Eve.

I pledge to do my very best for you, to offer meaningful worship during this difficult season. And I hope you will watch online with anticipation of hearing God's word for you.

Usually it's great to be among the top 10, but Iowa has been fifth in the nation, the whole USA, for COVID cases since the first week in November. Until there is a vaccination available and it has had time to work, it doesn't look very hopeful that we will be worshipping in-person for some time. That's what is safest and best for our physical beings.

However, it may not be what's best for our emotional and spiritual beings unless we each take responsibility for ourselves, especially with the short daylight of the winter months upon us. That may sound a bit like "pulling ourselves up by our own bootstraps," however we are not in this alone. First, God is with us and has been with His family through every imaginable crisis of humankind through all the ages.

We have loving and caring leadership in the UMC. Our Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller offers these practical suggestions to pastors and you:

- Read a good book.
- Watch a movie at home.
- Walk or ride bike on one of our wonderful Iowa trails.
- Get enough sleep.

- Take a regular day off every week and do not apologize for it. And a Sabbath day too.
- If you are feeling overly stressed, talk to a good friend or make an appointment with your doctor.
- Stay connected with family and friends
- Limit the watching of news.
- Exercise regularly.
- Eat healthy, well-balanced meals.
- Recognize that you cannot be all things to all people.
- Relax.

And I am as close as your phone or internet with a text, call, e-mail or Facebook message. God bless us everyone.

Pastor Audrey:)



There WILL BE AN ONLINE SERVICE. With the "two weeks below 15% COVID advisement," we would need to be at or below 15% in Black Hawk & Bremer Counties on or before December 10 in order to celebrate in person at a 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship time. Just like so many other things in 2020, time will tell how our lives will go. Be safe dear HUMC family.

December

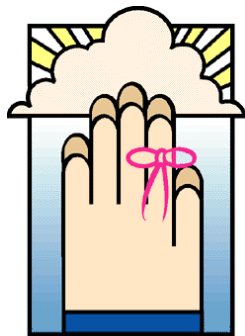


BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Tyler Patterson
- 4 – Lila Epling
- 15 – Dean Staack
- 16 – Lorelie Armstrong
- 21 – Jan Petry
- 26 – Catherine Armstrong
- 31 – Sharon Coonrad
- 31 – Millie Mehman

ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 – Ron & Dee Bowers
- 14 – William & Faye Munchoff



**Carol Ann Cowling
Mavis Floss
Doug Coonrad
Erin Adair
Health Care Workers
First Responders**

Our shut-ins

**Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling**

**PLEASE REMEMBER
THESE FRIENDS IN
PRAYER**

Don't forget to check out the Church Library.



Are you missing the online worship link that is e-mailed on Sunday mornings? If so, be sure we have your current e-mail address by sending it to Mary at hudumc@msn.com.



**Food Bank Sunday
December 6, 2020**

"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, December 6th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank expects to serve 3,300 families a Thanksgiving dinner kit this year. A \$35 donation provides a full course meal including meat, fresh produce, dairy, bakery items, side dish, canned vegetables, and dessert. A \$25 donation provides meat, fresh produce, dairy, and bakery items.

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?



**We can listen to
Christian Christmas
music at 101.9 FM**





November 2020

Offering:

November	1	665.00
	8	2,125.00
	15	5,850.00
	22	100.00
		\$ 8,740.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	700.00
Northeast Iowa Food Bank		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	1,775.00



Approved 2020 budget:	\$86,154.00
Approved budget through November:	\$78,975.00
Apportionments due for 2020:	\$11,231.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 936.00

	<u>Monthly thru</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	<u>11/23</u>	

Giving towards budget:	\$ 9,440.00	\$ 51,473.79
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,573.00	\$ 57,517.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 700.00	\$ 3,158.78
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0

With 92% of the year completed, our giving is at 90% of actual expenses and 65% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 73% of total approved 2020 budget. 41% of the total giving this year has been in the last 2 months. Thank you for your response to our plea for financial assistance.

Please send your offering to the church (P O Box 146; Hudson, IA 50643) or use our online giving option on our website (hudumc.org).



Quarterly giving statements will not be sent during 2020 unless requested. Annual giving statements will be prepared in January 2021 for 2020.



IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Mission kits and items were taken to Ingathering on Saturday, November 7th.

In Kind Items	
11 School Kits in one-handle bags	\$176
1 Electric Sewing Machine	\$100
Total In Kind Value	\$276
Check	\$225
Total Checks and In Kind	\$501

For details for continued Mission Work, go to <http://www.midwestmission.org/kits-projects-patterns/midwest-mission>. Donate there or they are grateful for checks sent through the church with *Ingathering* in memo line also.



30 activity bags were put together as a mission project. Bags will be given to children displaced from their homes by local Red Cross volunteers.

Our Conference Apportionments

Instead of Poinsettias,

we suggest a gift in memory or honor of your loved one(s) to Iowa missions and ministries through apportionments and district askings.



We were able to celebrate All Saints Day together and remember the following members and family members.

Gerald "Joe" Bowers
 Richard Vandenberg
 Jane Martin
 Cathy Umsheid
 Barb Doughty
 Terry Floss
 Elizabeth Wooden
 Carolyn Mumm



November 29	The FAITH of St. Nickolas, aka Santa Claus, will be the focus of our worship time with enjoyable stories for children, youth and adults. Find out the true story of how one man's faith became a world-wide tradition.
December 6	The FAITH of Joseph, the man God choose to be the earthly father of His Son.
December 13	The FAITH of the Shepherds, the lowliest visited by the Most High.
December 20	The FAITH of Whoville and the Grinch
December 24	Christmas Eve
December 27	The FAITH of the old Simeon and God's promise to Him.
January 3	The FAITH of the Wisemen who traveled so far.

THANK YOU

TO OUR HUM FAMILY,

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your extended families. You are all included in our prayers. Please have a safe and thankful Thanksgiving Day. Despite the turmoil around us, God is by our side and will never abandon us. Several have inquired about my hip replacement recovery. It is painful and slow going, but that was expected. I hobble from place to place and try each place for a few hours. The change seems to help, at least psychologically. Please keep me in your prayers. It will be a long recovery.

Kathy and husband Mark are up from Florida with their dog and Doug, Jr. is here from Iowa City. Grandson Parker, and granddaughter Morgan and her boyfriend will join us periodically throughout the week and for Thanksgiving.

Lastly, many of you know that Jeni's husband, Erin, has been awaiting back surgery for more than a year. He finally had it scheduled for Tuesday, but tonight it was advanced to tomorrow. Jeni must remain outside the hospital. My sister is at their home to help out. We ask for prayers for this family unit as well.

Finally, as a bit of information about how COVID has affected elective surgeries in the Cedar Valley - if your expected hospital stay is more than 2 days, it will be postponed to reserve beds for COVID patients. One day later and my surgery would have been postponed. THIS IS SERIOUS STUFF - I know that there were COVID patients on my floor and the nurses were very busy. Please add them and all of our first responders to my growing list of prayer requests. We are certainly learning that there are many angels among us. Guess who sent them!
 Doug Coonrad



Thank you to Wilbur and Don for putting up the Nativity. Wilbur thought it was one of the warmest days that he could remember setting it up.



COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. In this addition, we will be catching up with...Dean Staack (Mr. Christmas himself!)

I guess as an introduction you should be aware of who I am and a bit of my background. I am Dean G. Staack. (I always tell people now and told them a long time ago the G. stands for “goodness,” just like the General Mills advertisement stated in its earlier commercials.) Born in December of '43 in Clinton, Iowa, I lived on a farm in Clinton County with my parents and four older sisters near Low Moor, midway between Clinton and DeWitt until I was 4 or 5. I began my kindergarten classes in DeWitt and went to DeWitt High School until March 1959. That's when I with my only other (last in birth line) sister moved to Hudson, where I still reside. I lived on a farm with my parents. My sister returned to work in Clinton and eventually married – like my three older sisters.

Upon high school graduation (1962), I went to UNI (then SCI) where I graduated in 1967. In between I met Pat, and we married in 1964. My favorite story with Pat is that I proposed to her on 2-3-4 (easy to remember) which stood for February (2nd month), third day, of 1964. We remained married until 2015, just over 50 years, and we remained in Hudson until the love of my life passed of cancer in March of 2015.

We have two children, Laurie and Jerrod, who live in Reinbeck and Janesville respectively. Laurie and her husband, P.J., have two girls, both married and with children. Now I am blessed with great grandchildren. Jerrod and his wife, Kari, are teachers (distance educators now) with four children. The oldest of theirs will marry this next year on June 5. Pat and I loved living in Hudson, between the other two towns and sharing time with each family. Our children graduated from Hudson High School. Pat was also a Hudson graduate. I never dated Pat in high school, but finally woke up when I asked her out when we both went to SCI, but of course, lived yet in Hudson.

I always wanted to teach high school history and be a coach, but finding those teachers, at the

time, were a dime a dozen. God pointed me to a teacher at Price Lab School in Cedar Falls who taught 6th grade and demonstrated that, even being a man, I might become an effective elementary classroom teacher. So...the rest is history, and God has opened many doors in education that I have been able to continue living in Hudson and teaching in Cedar Falls as an elementary instructor at Cedar Heights and Orchard Hill from 1967 – 1983. And in 1983 I was fortunate enough to be selected the elementary principal at Hudson Elementary and remained there for 17 years until 2000. I was fortunate to be blessed with a very competent and child centered staff. There after I subbed at the elementary and secondary level until my wife (a secretary at the high school) retired in 2006.

We have a cabin north of Brainerd, Minnesota, and enjoyed our children and grandchildren visiting each year. I still live in our home we built in Hudson in 1969 and am constantly sharing stories and many memories Pat and I created over the years. I was blessed with a wonderful lady whom I will never forget.

Today life has been a challenge for all of us. I used to put puzzles together while Pat scrapbooked. (She made a separate one for each grandchild.) Two of our grandchildren, Alex and Kayla, graduated from Reinbeck and were the first to receive them. The next four, with parents Jerrod and Kari, were not completed before Pat passed, so I completed them and then I knew how tough it was! I have one more left and he will graduate from Waverly-Shell Rock in 2023, so I need to play catch-up.

Anyway, in the past my hobby was putting puzzles together, as I said, and have been giving them away at the last couple of Christmas celebrations. I've given two to each of our six grandchildren and have done enough for two more for each. Oh, I forgot to say that all the puzzles are pictures of Santa or Christmas scenes.

And speaking of Santa, I have several suits and many years of wonderful memories of meeting children on my lap and listening to their stories. Many asked for the moon, yet some requested health and love for others. It was a most revealing and accepting time for each child...and adults

because I also was a Santa for nursing homes and care centers.

I guess the pandemic is what you make it to be. A challenge or an opportunity. God never presents us with something to be solved without allowing us to make the best of it and creating a solution. I continue to be positive and keep criticisms to a minimum and attempt to offer solutions. Life has been kind to Pat and I and we have always tried to have a smile on our face and be positive. God really is good and I want to face him someday with a smile on his face as he points me to Pat.

Well, it's time to begin making my peanut brittle which Pat taught me to put together, AND finish writing my Christmas cards (yes, I still do that), and complete my shopping for my ever-growing family. Two children, six grandchildren, and now there are great grandchildren. Nineteen people, including me, for a gathering which we won't be having for a while until life gets some problems resolved. Oh well, it's great to be alive.

Hope you all stay well and safe.
Love, Dean




WATCH FOR E-MAILS FROM CHURCH, PASTOR, AND CHURCH LEADERS.
hudumc@msn.com
pastorayoung@gmail.com

Church "business" is being done over e-mail with "reply all" discussions and votes. Please participate to keep our church operating and our members safe while we are not holding in-person Worship and meetings.

GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2020

#GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Celebrated on the Tuesday following the widely-recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday celebrates the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. To learn more about #GivingTuesday, visit GivingTuesday.org.



Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↗ ↘ ↙ ↘ ↑ ↓ . There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

joy	hay	men	inn	wise
Lord	star	baby	king	east
Mary	gold	angel	taxes	Jesus
sheep	myrrh	three	manger	Savior
donkey	Caesar	Joseph	birthday	Messiah
shepherds	frankincense	Bethlehem	Augustus	

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	P	S	M	A	R	Y
I	A	N	G	E	L	E	G	O	L	D	E	C	A	E
R	C	B	J	S	M	Y	R	R	H	R	S	A	E	K
T	J	O	Y	E	H	E	T	S	A	E	S	E	M	N
H	T	A	X	E	S	E	N	O	I	H	I	S	A	O
D	A	G	N	I	K	U	E	N	N	P	A	A	N	D
A	E	Y	W	R	A	T	S	P	N	E	H	R	G	R
Y	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	T	H	R	E	E	O
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	A	R	L
R	O	I	V	A	S	R	T	H	J	O	S	E	P	H

“ _____ ”

Answer: Peace on Earth