



The Activator

February 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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PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: **Wednesdays**



Dear HUMC family from Pastor Audrey:)

The words “No school. It’s a snow day,” have a totally different meaning today than years ago. The Campbell Company and GMA TV show are promoting “Save Snow Day.” Of course, they want us to eat more soup, but also to go out and enjoy the Snow Day by making snow-angels and sledding, as a public service to our mental and physical well-being.

Since COVID has equipped all of our educational systems to instruct online, our young people may never know the excitement and freedom that an old-fashioned Snow Day could bring.

So it poses a question: “Are Snow Days forever gone?” And then: “What things in our Christian living have we forever given up, over the centuries, even 2,020 years, since Christ walked this earth?”

What would the Apostles write now in their letters to the churches they directly founded in the Middle East, Europe and Africa (Books of Romans thru Jude)?

What lessons would Jesus teach (Gospels of Matthew-John)? His parables often spoke of farmers and landowners. What would He say about environmental practices?

He lived in a time of patriarchal rule and monarchies. We know He gave value to women and children that His society did not. Would He more specifically help us sort out political divisions in our democratic republic?

What would Jesus say regarding industrialization and technology; racism and ageism, marriage and gender issues?

What would He, the Son of God, say about today?

Humankind already had God the Father’s answer to those questions in Exodus 20: “I am **the LORD your God...You shall have no other gods before Me.**” The Ten Commandments were given early in human history, and meant to give order to living more peaceably and cooperatively among one another.

They were further explained in Leviticus 19 which simply states the second through tenth: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 says, “Listen, Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord alone, and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your being, and all your might.”

Since Creation and then for thousands of years BEFORE Christ came, those two together became the Greatest Commandment. It’s even been shortened to “Love God. Love others.”

Adam and Eve’s family grew into tribes, then nations. The head of household was the only one to decide the beliefs of all members of his family, his servants and their families. The single ruler was the only one to decide what an entire nation was to believe.

We know authoritative rule continued, as church and government leaders were one and the same. Freedom of religion was why many of our own ancestors left Europe to come to America.

God had given Adam and Eve and all humankind freewill to choose good or evil. Through the ages, individuals, families, then nations did not follow God's guidance for cooperative living. These were the teachings of the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures.

So, Jesus came as the New Testament. He was a fresh start for humankind to be able to choose again one-by-one to live as God's people. Individuals would influence one another in their own families and communities, until nations, and then the whole earth, would love God, one another, and all creation again.


It was a goal that God had set in the hearts of all humankind. God clearly said how. Jesus clearly states it when asked The Greatest Commandment. Mark 12: 29-31: "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

And today we pray often in the Prayer the Lord gave us: "God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

When anyone questions what God is up to these days, you can be confident that God believes "The World Is Worth Saving!" It is the focus of my messages during Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17.

As Lent unfolds into Easter, it is my prayer that you will hear God's hope and be assured of God's good intentions for each of us and our world.

Please tune in online (or when we re-open, attend in person) our worship times. Share the video and invite others to join us in this hope-filled season. I'm excited to begin this chapter with you in our church family's life.

Just for KIDS

A Special Message

During the month of February we focus on special feelings and people. We see hearts everywhere and send cards and greetings to friends and family. We need to do this every month!

Use the code to find a special message from God. It's good for any day — any month!

CODE **A₁D₁** **H₂I₂** **O₃R₃** **U₄V₄**
G₁E **N₂L₂** **T₃S₃** **Y₄W₄**

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2 2 1 4 1

2 3 4 1 1 4 3 4

4 2 3 2 1 2

1 4 1 3 2 1 3 3 2 2 1

2 3 4 1”

“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”



Pastor Audrey H Westendorf has a NEW e-mail address: pastorahw1@gmail.com. Please update your address book so we may keep in touch as well as occasionally do church business by e-mail.

“Leading Through a Pandemic and Beyond” virtual conference will be livestreamed at www.aboutfirst.com/leading on Sunday, January 31st, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. The Cedar Falls 1st leadership will share some of their strategies and “lessons learned” the first hour and the second hour will be a series of breakout sessions, especially for committee chair people, led by conference leaders. Anyone interested is invited to attend.





February

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Margaret Mumm
- 6 – Dave Petry
- 6 – Connie Snyder
- 7 – Casey Armstrong
- 8 – Dee Bowers
- 14 – Donna Ricks
- 15 – Al Ricks
- 27 – Ken Kristensen
- 28 – Gail Bunz

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 – Dave & Annette Tolander



REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR...

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



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 February 7, 2021

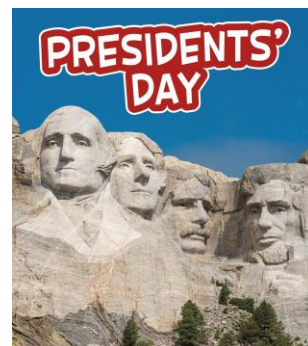
"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness. -- Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)

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, February 7th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank operates eight different programs that serve diverse groups of people over urban and rural northeast Iowa. The last two years the majority of food distributed was produce and perishable food. Did you know that \$.97 of every \$1 donated goes directly to feeding people and nearly 31% of funding comes from individuals?

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?





January 2021

Offering:

January	3	870.00
	10	675.00
	17	450.00
	24	0.00
		<u>\$ 1,995.00</u>

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	200.00
Trustees Interest		631.70
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	<u>1,881.70</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through January:	\$ 6,935.00
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	Monthly thru January 24	YTD
Giving towards budget:	\$ 2,195.00	\$ 2,195.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,038.00	\$ 5,038.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

With 1 month into the year, our giving is at 44% of actual expenses and 32% of budget year to date. Our expenses are 6% of total approved 2021 budget. Our giving last year through the same time period was \$4,015 and included one Sunday with no offering because of snow. We did apply for another PPP forgivable loan and it has been approved.

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).



Tune in Ash Wednesday and Lenten Sundays for "God Believes the World Is Worth Saving!"



Watch for and "reply all" to e-mails from church, pastor and leaders: hudumc@msn.com; deedee2x4@aol.com; dwt9497@aol.com; pastorahw1@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 or meetings.

There can be space for YOUR article here next month. E-mail your news to hudumc@msn.com by February 22nd about what's happening at HUMC.



Watch for announcement of reopening for in-person worship by e-mail and Facebook. There will continue to be online worship offered. Janesville hopes to offer livestreaming soon.



Community Church of Hudson has resumed weekly community meals in a "To Go" fashion on Wednesdays, from 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. and can be picked up at the west door in the parking lot. Reservations are required weekly and can be made by going to ccoonline.org and clicking on the "To Go" Meals button. Weekly menus are included on the reservation page.



LaVonne Kerr, Wilbur Mumm, and Margaret Mumm's sister-in-law and Charles Mumm's aunt, Avon Kerr, passed away recently in Oregon.



COVID-19 has prevented us from visiting our families, friends, and even neighbors. In this addition, we will be catching up with everyone's Valentine...LaVonne Kerr.

Hello from LaVonne. I have a lot to be thankful for, especially since I am in my 90's.

My parents were Charlie and Bertha Mumm. I am the fourth child and first daughter in a family of ten children. My brother Wilbur always says I was a squawky child, but I don't know how he would know as he is younger than me. I do know that Grandpa and Grandma Mumm helped us out a bunch.

I attended country school at Lincoln #5. I graduated from Reinbeck High School. In those years, I was able to earn my Normal Training teaching degree. I was licensed to be a teacher directly out of high school after writing and completing the state boards. I did attend some summer school at UNI.

Next, it was back to Lincoln #5 for four years, this time as the teacher. During those years, I lived at home. One day, a young man, Tom Kerr, came to our farm to pay Dad for some work he had done for Tom's mother; probably for silo filling or some such thing. Maybe Dad had a motive in the back of his mind, as he said, "LaVonne, go answer the door."

Tom was an only child. When we were married the pastor said to Tom that he might have his hands full joining a family of ten children and having seven brothers-in-law, but Tom fit right in and held his own.

After we were married I quit teaching, but I often wished I had kept up my teaching license as I could have done some teaching or substitute teaching. We were blessed with two children. First came Joe and a few years later Lori was born. Several years ago, Tom lost his battle with cancer and Joe lost his battle with a brain tumor. Lori graduated from UNI with a double major - pipe organ/music and accounting. Lori and her husband Scott live in Waterloo. Lori is the organist at Waterloo First

United Methodist Church and continues to work as a CPA.

I also have two grandsons, Ryan lives in California and James and his wife Mandy live in Waterloo. James and Mandy have twins. My great grandchildren, Thomas and Lillian, are 2 1/2 years old and bring me great joy.

For many years I was a member of Lincoln Township Homemakers. One of our projects was called Ag in the Classroom. We would adopt a classroom and teach the children about products from the farm. We would prepare breakfast for them and explain how the food came from the farm.

Of course, I was always involved with the church; Sunday school teacher, church council member, and United Methodist Women, and helping prepare meals for Lion's Club meetings. (And as we recall... we all enjoyed LaVonne's great cooking!)

COVID has been a terrible thing. I have to say I don't mind being home. At my age I don't go out much. I have to stay clear of the virus. I have many people who watch out for me. The Pints are part of my family. Katelyn, who is now a senior in college, was my pen pal when she was in fourth grade. After our spring luncheon that year, Katelyn asked if we could continue to be pen pals. It wasn't too long and I came to know her parents and sister. Katelyn calls me her chosen grandma. Dawn and Matt bring out supper once a week and we enjoy the meal together. When Katelyn is free, she joins us. Occasionally, Alexis and her husband Lucas, and Katelyn's boyfriend also visit and come for supper. Matt even takes me to my hair appointments!

Charles (LaVonne's nephew, Wilbur's son, and our church custodian) is a jewel. He shows up with groceries and sits and has a meal with me. Of course other family members and many friends stop in or give me a phone call.

So through all of this I am very comfortable. I don't spend time wishing I was younger because it can't happen.

God Bless you all!