



The Activator

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

Mike's Musings

By the time you read this, I will be well on my way to renewal leave which will encompass the month of January. What is renewal leave? Every four years (called a quadrennium in our United Methodist cycle of the time between general conferences) clergy are allowed one week of renewal leave for each year of the quadrennium or 4 weeks. We can take one week at a time or all four at once. All UM clergy are now required to take their renewal leave. Superintendents do and the Bishop does as well. It is something I have never done but more and more I am seeing the value of it.

So what do you do on renewal leave? Is it vacation? No. It is a time of guided study (in my case, extensive reading), reflection, prayer and rest. I have several books I am planning on reading (professional books, not the latest spy thriller). But more important for me, will be prayer and reflection. What I mean by that is I am very close to the end of the road. As of July 1, 2019, I will be within five years of mandatory retirement (age 72 in the UMC). I have to decide what I want to do with that five years. How do I want to spend myself for the Kingdom of God? How does God want to use me for His glory? Those are questions I will be seeking guidance and clarity on during renewal leave.

Will I be available for emergencies during renewal leave? No. Pulpits will be covered and Rev. Bob Holdorf will cover emergencies. Questions about anything should be directed to either Barb or Mary in the respective offices. We are blessed to have two very capable office managers and if they do not know the answer to something, they know where to go to find out.

Respective Bible studies will start up again in February and we will not miss a beat. You need to remember, preachers come and go but the church remains. You are the church, not me. I'm just a part of everything and not indispensable. You on the other hand, are not.

I plan to make the most of this opportunity. I am thankful for it and I am actually looking forward to it. I did not think I would at first, but the closer I get to it, the more I am. How I deal with this will be a foretaste of how I will deal with retirement. I always said my retirement plan is I plan not to retire. I guess we will see.

So I wish you a happy, healthy and blessed new year for 2019. As Spock said, "Live long and prosper." As Garrison Keillor says, "Go forth, do good, write if you get work and send money if you do." Seriously, you will be in my prayers throughout the month.

All the best for a wonderful new year!
Pastor Mike



Birthdays & Anniversaries in January

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Ferren Sadler
- 4 - Kirk Lundberg
- 14 - Jean Clausen
- 18 - Sharon Koger
- 21 - Dave Tolander
- 26 - Ron Bowers
- 27 - Jerod Sadler
- 29 - Jim Raymond
- 31 - Alan Clausen

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 - Gary & Barb Doughty



Carolyn Mumm
Mike Waters
Diane Roberts
Ed Smith

Becky Lundberg Nook -
 treatment for health issues.
Sue Roberts
Carol Ann Cowling



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

Don't forget to check out the
 Church Library



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR JANUARY



- January 6 – Jean Clausen
- January 13 – Dave Tolander
- January 20 – Nancy Patterson
- January 27 – Mavis Floss



Food Bank Sunday **January 6, 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, January 6th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

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



While Pastor Mike is on renewal leave, there will be no Wednesday activities – Great, Eat, and Meet; morning Bible study or Family Night Activities. All will resume in February.

In case of emergency, please call Mary's cell phone – (319) 269-5538.





for December 2018

Offering:

December	2	494.00
	9	2,085.00
	16	1,537.01
	23	580.00
	24	403.00
	30	1,039.00
		\$ 6,138.01

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$ 1,050.00
Memorial	3,500.00
Greet, Eat, & Meet	10.00
Food Bank	50.00
Angel Tree	544.00
Poinsettias	121.00
Rent	935.75
TOTAL	\$ 6,210.75



Approved 2018 budget:	\$84,947.00
Approved budget through December:	\$77,868.00
Apportionments due for 2018:	\$12,582.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 1,048.50

	<u>Monthly</u> (thru 12/26)	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 8,559.01	\$58,439.24
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,112.00	\$66,375.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 4,405.00



Karen Sage's
January Preaching Schedule

6	Celebrate the Gift of Love	Matthew 2:1-12
13	Have You Forgotten Your Baptism?	Matthew 3:11-17



Plan to stay after fellowship time on Sunday, January 6th, to help take down the Christmas decorations.

The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, January 26th, at 8:00 a.m.



I am truly blessed to work for such a wonderful group of caring people. Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift. I wish you all a joyous and blessed 2019. Mary

I want to thank the church for the nice and thoughtful Christmas gift. I appreciate it! Charles Mumm



Worship and Celebrate

In our many different denominations and congregations, we worship in many different ways. Although we may worship differently, we believe in the same God! We go to one God in worship and celebration!

Use the code to find words and phrases of things that God's people do in worship.

A	?	F	□	K	☞	P	☺	U	!	Z	☺
B	☺	G	☺	L	☺	Q	☺	V	☺		
C	☺	H	☺	M	☺	R	☺	W	☺		
D	☺	I	☺	N	☺	S	☺	X	☺		
E	☺	J	☺	O	☺	T	☺	Y	☺		

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11. ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

1. Praise 2. Pray 3. Light Your Hands 4. Play Music 5. Give Offerings 6. Sit Quietly 7. Communion 8. Lift Your Hands 9. Read Scriptures 10. Sing 11. Say "Amen"