



# The Activator

July 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 Rev. Willy Mafuta, formerly at New Hampton FUMC:  
"Seeds Planted" (Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; Mark 4:26-34)

I have been thinking about seeds planted lately. Is it maybe because I am fascinated by the beauty of nature in this time of the year, or maybe because I am surrounded by hard working farmers who have taught me to appreciate the values of their work? Farmers and gardeners are so appreciative and religiously revered the awesome power of nature that causes things to grow and bear fruit. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is like that."

In Mark 4, we read, The Kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise, night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The Kingdom of God is a like a mustard seed when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.

I make the case that what Jesus is conveying in this story is that there is the awesome power of nature that causes things to grow and bear fruit. The seed, according to Jesus, is planted in men and women; this seed grows because of the power of the love of God. Whenever that seed bears fruit, it is a sign of the Kingdom of God. In our life, someone has planted a seed in us because of the love of God and the fruit of that seed is a sign of the Kingdom of God. Barbara Brown Taylor in her book "The Seeds of Heaven" says that if we cannot find the Kingdom here, we will never find it anywhere, for earth is where the seeds of heaven are sown.





July

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 11 – Diane Schulz
- 18 – Austin Watts
- 21 – Pennie Lundberg
- 25 – Gary Doughty
- 25 – Marcy Kristensen
- 28 – Steve Louthan
- 28 – Madisen Grams



REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR...

**Health Care Workers  
First Responders  
Sam Strayer  
Marlys Smith**

**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](mailto:hudumc@gmail.com).

**MEDIA OPERATORS FOR JUNE**



- July 4 – Dave Tolander
- July 11 – Nancy Patterson
- July 18 – Nancy Patterson
- July 25 – Dave Tolander



**Food Bank Sunday  
July 4, 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, July 4<sup>th</sup>, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank has begun its summer food program. This program offers breakfast, lunch, and snack opportunities for children out of school. The meal sites this year are: Bethel United Presbyterian Church in West Union, Fayette Elementary in Fayette, Valley Elementary Learning Center in Elgin, St. Joseph Community School in New Hampton, and YMCA in Waterloo. Afternoon snacks are available at the local Boys and Girls Club at: 515 Lime St. in Waterloo, 803 E 4 St. in Waterloo, and 3574 Lafayette St. in Evansdale.

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?





**June 2021**

**Offering:**

<b>May</b>	30	380.00
<b>June</b>	6	1,410.00
	13	1,860.00
	20	240.00
	27	190.00
		\$ <b>4,080.00</b>

**Also received:**

Apportionments	\$	200.00
Food Bank		25.00
Building Use		25.00
Rent		1,050.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,300.00</b>

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through May:	\$41,607.00
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 3,905.00	\$ 24,077.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 5,651.00	\$ 31,277.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,205.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 260.00

We are half way through the year. Our giving is 77% of actual expenses and 58% of approved budget year to date. Our year to date expenses are 38% of total approved 2021 budget.



Thank you for taking time to celebrate me on such a big milestone in my life! Thank you to every one for the love and support that has been given to me through the years.

Thanks, Meleah



Diane Roberts' brother-in-law, Doug, passed away June 14<sup>th</sup>.  
Melissa Boesch's sister-in-law, Iris Strieter, passed away June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Charles "Chuck" Smith, 69, of Overland Park, Kansas passed away peacefully on June 6, 2021 after a long illness. Chuck was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa, son of Elliott Smith and Ercell Nation Smith, and raised in Hudson, Iowa. At age 18 he enlisted in the Navy and later graduated from Graceland College with a degree in nursing. He was commissioned as an officer in the Navy, served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and retired from the Navy Reserves as a Lieutenant Commander. Chuck worked as a registered nurse at the Kansas City VA Medical Center until he retired in 2011. Chuck is survived by his wife, Susan, sons Marcus (Melissa) Smith, Elliott Smith, Kenneth (Ashley) Smith and stepsons Chris (Holly) Skelton and David (Alex) Skelton, six grandchildren, and two brothers, Harlan (Mary) of Hudson Iowa and Edward (Marlys) of Hudson, Iowa, and with several nieces and nephews. Chuck is preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Beverly Smith Hesse, and her husband, Siegfried Hesse.



July 4	Lisa Congdon
July 11	Shawna Brimm
July 18	Pat Benda
July 25	Chris Eiler







I listened in on the annual conference and here are some of the take-aways.

The following six issues were supported by the legislative body:

**Mental Health** • We support all people (children, youth and adults) suffering the effects of mental illness and strive for equal and effective treatment for all.

**Poverty** • We support legislation that will equip people in poverty to achieve self-sufficiency. The Bible witnesses God's preference for the poor. We are to offer compassion and justice for the neediest of God's children. An amendment was made concerning Matthew 25 grant. Some of these monies may be dispersed in 2021. The grant will also be available in 2022.

**Gun Safety** • We support local and national laws that prevent or reduce gun violence.

**Environment** • We support care of the earth which will preserve the environment for the benefit of all.

**Criminal Justice** • We affirm a criminal justice system that reflects God's desire for healing of offenders, victims and communities through restorative justice. There was a new resolution, The George Floyd Justice Policing Act which "urges church members to contact Iowa US Senators, requesting passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act."

**Human Rights** • We affirm all persons as equally valuable in the sight of God and therefore work for a world where all are valued and affirmed.

- There was an update to the current resolution to the Palestine Human Rights for members of the conference to urge Congress members to support H.R. 2590 so that US tax dollars are not used to violate Palestinian human rights.

- Action Item #802, which would address food insecurity, was laid aside because of a lack of time.

- Action Item #803, an aspirational vision discussing inclusiveness and equality, although called out of order, will be handed to the Ezekiel Team and the Iowa General Conference delegation for collaboration work.

- Other items of interest: Eleven churches in Iowa were closed this year. Thirty-nine retiring clergy were honored. Our eight state districts have been consolidated into five, as a budget

cutting measure. We are now part of the Pictured Rocks District.

- Apportionment news: Our total conference apportionment budget for 2020 was \$13,127,917. Our local churches sent in \$8,928,527 which was 68% of the total. (Hudson UMC sent in 100% of our apportionments.) Here is a comparison of budget versus actual received from 2016 to 2020. As a conference, in 2016, we received 78.5% of the total budget. We had a high in 2017 of 81.6%, dropped to 74% in 2018, then 68.9% and then 68% in 2020.

Diane Schulz



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

As recently as three weeks ago, residents of Parkview Manor in Reinbeck, Iowa, were able to receive visitors. I was delighted to visit Margaret and take a walk down memory lane with her.

When jobs couldn't be found in Illinois, Fred Stewart and a brother landed a job picking corn by hand and moved to Blairsburg, Iowa. It was in Blairsburg that Fred met Daisy. Five children were born to Fred and Daisy: Lucille, Lewis, Harry, Marie, and the youngest being Margaret. Marie, Margaret's older sister by four years, lives in Nashua and they continue to enjoy phone visits one or twice each week.

Margaret attended school in Blairsburg for 11 ½ years. Halfway through her junior year of high school, her dad retired from helping a farmer and moved his family to Williams. When asked how Margaret felt about the move, she said, "Not good! It was hard. Blairsburg and Williams were known to be rivals." Margaret drove each day to and from Blairsburg to complete her junior year, but her dad told her she had to attend the school in Williams her senior year.

For a while Margaret worked at the Corner Café and also candled eggs. Then she attended Pitzie's Beauty School in Waterloo. No jobs were to be had in the Waterloo area, so Margaret and a friend rented an apartment in Des Moines and found jobs at the beauty salon in Younkers.

One of Margaret's good friends was Loretta, who at the time was dating Bud Mumm. Loretta told Margaret that Bud had four brothers and she would have to meet at least one of them. Well, that day finally came. At Loretta and Bud's February wedding, Margaret was the maid of honor and Dick Mumm was his brother Bud's best man. The wedding dance was held at Janesville, and three young men asked to take Margaret home and Margaret chose Dick.

A whirlwind romance followed. After the dance, Margaret received a letter from Dick every week, and he made several trips to Des Moines. At Easter of that same year, Dick asked for Margaret's hand in marriage. Just a couple of months later in June, 1958, their wedding was being planned at the Little Brown Church, but some sort of a mix-up or conflict caused a change in plans and Dick suggested they get married at Hudson United Methodist Church, the church Dick attended.

Prior to meeting Margaret, Dick had been stationed in Germany toward the end of World War II, and then back to California. After his discharge from the military, Dick and brother Wilbur farmed together. In fact, Wilbur lived on the home place with Margaret and Dick for about a year following Dick and Margaret's wedding. Dick and Margaret lived on the farm for thirty-two years before moving to the smaller home down the road. (Son Ronn and his wife Deb now reside on the family farm.)

Dick and Margaret were blessed with three children, Ronn, Jan, and Marty, seven grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren with one more on the way. Unfortunately, Dick died in 2012, and Margaret later moved to Parkview Manor. A grandson moved into the house where Dick and Margaret had enjoyed time together.

Margaret grew up on a farm and enjoyed being a farm wife. One of her hobbies was quilting, a hobby she shared with her daughter. Margaret's eye-sight has deteriorated and it is difficult for her to see, so she's not able to partake in her hobbies any more. But she still enjoys a good visit!

COVID-19 caused a wrinkle in life at Parkview. Of course, for a long time no visitors were allowed.

Margaret's section of the home was in quarantine for a while which disrupted their routine again. Luckily during the past year and one-half, Margaret has been able to visit with family over the phone or through the window of her room. Now, residents can once again enjoy visits from friends and family. Visitors do need to wear a mask, check in and out at the front desk, show proof of vaccination, and get a temperature check both upon arrival and at departure. (In my opinion, that's a small price to pay to visit a loved one or a long-time friend.) In recent days Parkview residents once again can engage in activities together, enjoy music together, and worship together on Wednesday mornings.

Margaret's room faces a pretty flower garden, so even though she doesn't see the goings-on at the park from her room, she does get to enjoy the pretty flowers and birds out her window. Margaret was happy to hear news of her Hudson United Methodist friends and wanted to wish all of you a big hello and hope that you are all well! Cards and letters may be sent to Margaret Mumm, Parkview Manor Nursing Home, 1009 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Reinbeck, Iowa 50669. If you plan a visit, call ahead to schedule your visit as otherwise she might be off to one of the activities!

