

The Activator

July 2018

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

Annual Conference 2018 is now history. You received, by e-mail, the Annual Report and Narrative Budget last week. This included internet links you can follow for more detailed information. I want to touch on one thing that went on.

Annual Conference is held at Hy-Vee Hall in Des Moines. The hall is huge, able to seat well over 1,000 people from all across the State. Scattered around the hall are microphones. If you have something to say, want to make a motion, ask for a moment of personal privilege, etc., you go to the mic, flip a switch there that turns on a light above the mic and the Chair (usually Bishop Laurie Haller) will decide whether or not to recognize you and allow you to speak (she usually does).

It seems every year there are certain people who go to the microphone a lot. You expect it. You know who they are and can guess at what they are going to say. I am not one of those people. I have been going to Annual Conference in Iowa since 1999 and I can count my time at the mic on one hand. However, I am now beginning to attain a sort of elder statesman status so I am no longer shy about the mic. However, I still do not go to the mic unless severely provoked. Such a case occurred this year.

We have a special called General Conference coming up in early 2019 that will deal with the issue of human sexuality in the UMC. It is a hot topic that has been greatly debated. On Sunday afternoon of Annual Conference, four of our General Conference delegates (two clergy, two laity) sat before the Conference and conducted a kind of panel discussion on their thoughts and feelings on the issue of human sexuality in the UMC. One of the delegates (a lay person) was sharing her frustration with the issue and was suggesting that the UMC might be better off splitting over this issue rather than working to stay together. She is entitled to that opinion. However, to support her thinking, she cited Acts 15. At the end of that chapter, Paul and Barnabas get into an argument on whether or not to take John Mark with them on their next missionary journey. They cannot agree and go their separate ways.

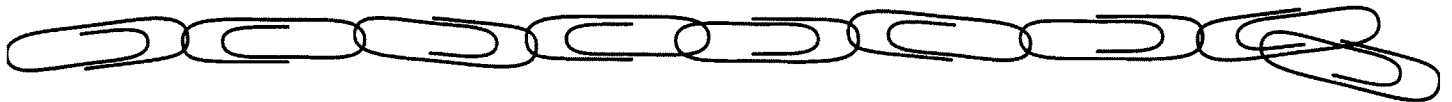
Long story short (and I will be glad to give you the long version of this if you wish to hear it) the delegate said that this could be used as a Biblical basis for the UMC splitting and going our separate ways. She said the disagreement between Paul and Barnabas was because of what had been decided at Jerusalem council which was described earlier in the chapter. Nothing could have been further from the truth. While I do not believe the delegate did it on purpose, she was twisting scripture. I could not believe what I was hearing and that no one was challenging her on this.

The next morning, the Bishop gave the Conference an hour for open microphone to share our feelings on the upcoming General Conference. Anyone wishing to speak had 90 seconds. I went to the mic and said (and you can check this, it was videotaped), "The matter before us on human sexuality is a matter of Biblical interpretation and authority. If you want to interpret the scriptures in a way that disagree with me, I will respect you and your right to do so. But if you are going to pull out the scriptures and use them as a club, you had better get it right." I then went on to remind the Conference of what the delegate said the day before and I plainly corrected her, saying that is not what the Bible says and she needs to be more responsible when using the scripture.

What's the big deal? Twisting scripture if done intentionally, is despicable; and by ignorance, is still dangerous. The Bible is a guide, a comfort and an encouragement, not a club you pull out when it is convenient (are you listening, Jeff Sessions?). As clergy, I have been ordained to the ministry of Word (scripture) and Table (sacrament). Scripture is the word of life. Its handling is not only important but sacred. For me to let something like that pass without challenge/correction, would be a violation of my ordination vows. I had to speak.

So, what will happen at the specially called General Conference in St. Louis in 2019. I do not know. I hope and pray that a definitive decision is made so we can stop fighting about this and get on with the business of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. I would encourage you to pray for the Conference. Pray that the delegates and leaders will have wisdom and discernment as we chart our denomination's course.

I remain hopeful,
Pastor Mike



Thank You!

Many thanks for your prayers and expression of concern for our family over the last month and a half. You are all greatly appreciated. #1 son, Ron, and his wife, Janayah, especially want to thank you for your prayers and memorials given in behalf of their daughter, Daysha (our granddaughter). They were shocked and emotionally overcome by your physical expressions of love and concern. Ron (a Minnesota guy) quipped, "I guess I'll have to take back all those Iowa jokes I've told over the years. Iowans are really caring people. Thank you!"

news
FROM THE
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

The appointment of pastors was set for 2018-2019 by Bishop Laurie Haller and Pastor Carey was been reappointed to Janesville-Hudson for the coming year.

We Believe



BIRTHDAY! in 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...

Becky Lundberg Nook -
treatment for health issues.

Sue Roberts
Carol Ann Cowling
James & Mandy
Carolyn Mumm

Our shut-ins:

Mel Bartels
Naomi Morris
Margaret Mumm
Barb Doughty
Richard & Dee Vandenberg

Don't forget to check out the Church
Library



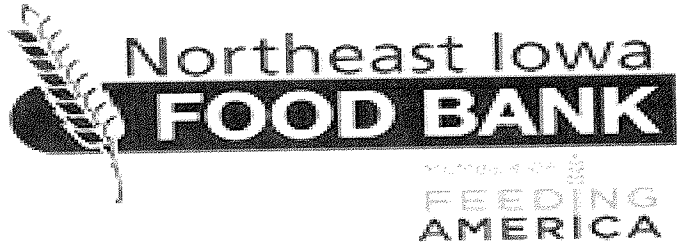
MEDIA OPERATORS FOR MAY



July 1 – Mavis Floss
 July 8 – Dave Tolander
 July 15 – Nancy Patterson
 July 22 – Dave Tolander
 July 29 – Nancy Patterson



**Please note: effective June 1
 the church phone number
 changed to (319) 988-6040**



Food Bank Sunday July 1, 2018

*"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 1, 2018, will be designated "Food
Bank Sunday".

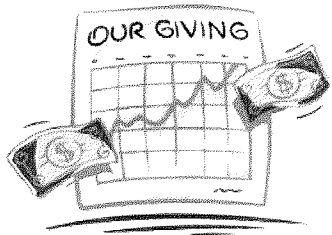
The annual Personal Care Drive runs from July
9th until August 6th and provides essential
hygiene products used on a daily basis. Items
needed include toilet paper, shampoo, soap,
deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and facial
tissue.

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?



Pastor Mike's vacation will be
June 26th through July 7th. As
always, in case of emergency,
leave a message on his cell
phone, (563) 203-0286.



for June 2018

Offering:

June	3	\$	1,840.00
	10		1,495.00
	17		270.00
	24		840.00
		\$	<u>3,230.00</u>

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	150.00
Food Bank		15.00
Hudson Days		50.00
Rent		1,000.00
TOTAL	\$	<u>1,215.00</u>

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2018 budget:	\$84,947.00
Approved budget through June:	\$42,474.00
Apportionments due for 2018:	\$12,582.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 1,048.50

	Monthly	YTD
Giving towards budget:	\$ 3,230.00	\$25,983.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 3,734.00	\$28,779.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 150.00	\$ 930.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

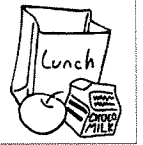
FROM THE PASTOR

July Preaching Schedule

1	What Does God Ask Us to Share?	2 Corinthians 8:7-15
8	Covenant	Matthew 26:27-28
15	The Silence of God	Isaiah 58:6-7
22	Looking Up Toward Heaven	Acts 1:9
29	Good News for Orphans	John 14:27-28

SUMMER SACK LUNCH MISSION

We're off to a great start with our Sack Lunch Mission. Last week we served 20 children and 2 adults. We are able to provide milk for the families to take home. We give thanks for the NE Iowa Food Bank and the Feeding America program in providing lunches and assorted foods which we are able to serve. Join us Wednesday mornings (not the 4th) at 10:30 a.m. to pack the lunches. We usually leave the church at 11:10 and are ready to serve the lunches at 11:25. Our serving time is set for 11:30 but when we arrive at Country Terrace, there are usually children waiting for us and they eagerly help us carry in our boxes of food and supplies. We'd love your help...and you would enjoy meeting these children.



HUDSON DAYS LUNCH



We will be serving lunch immediately following the parade until 1:00 p.m. on July 21st. There are still ways in which you can help! Check the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for needed food items, workers or cash donations or call the church office. Cash donations may be dropped off at the office or be given to Marcy or Diane. Please have food items to the church by 8:30 a.m. Saturday, July 21st.

The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, July 28th, at 8:00 a.m.

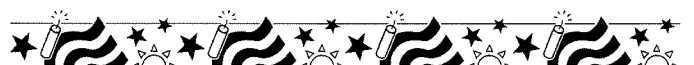


Breakfast

Church Photo Directory



When rearranging my office after the new carpet was installed, I found a couple old pictorial directories and some old snapshots. They are on the table under the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. There are a lot of familiar faces and some that, I'm sure, will bring back memories for many of you. There are a few snapshots (marked with Post-it flags) that are not identified. Your help would be appreciated.





It doesn't seem possible, but 2018 is now half over and that means that it is time to start thinking about and planning for the Thanksgiving Ingathering that will be held in Cedar Falls on November 3, 2018. We are proud that this will be our 39th year of following God's expectations for our church.

There are five sites throughout the state that work together during the year to make each Ingathering a success. In addition to the kits and other in-kind items, we support Church World Service, Heifer International, Self-Help International and Mobility World Wide of Hawandren, Iowa (formerly called P.E.T.). We also donate funds to local food pantries and other hunger alleviation agencies.

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) has changed how they are doing assistance to other countries and will no longer be shipping kits overseas. Therefore, the only kits they are asking us to make are the health kits and the school kits. We plan to take contributions from our church members toward the health kits in July and the school kits in August. The following are the items for the July kits:

- New hand towel – 15" x 25"
- New washcloth
- Bath-sized bar of soap in wrapper
- Large sturdy comb
- New toothbrush in wrapper
- 6 Band-Aids
- Metal nail file or fingernail clippers

If you would prefer to have me purchase the items, I am glad to do so. Please make your donations by noting on check or envelope that it is for the Ingathering. Thank you for helping with this important work of our church.

Jan Petry
Mission Chair



I believe in America because in it we are free - free to choose our government, to speak our minds, to choose our different religions.

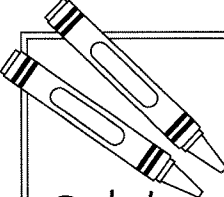
Because we are generous with our freedom, we share our rights with those who disagree with us.

Because we hate no people and covet no people's lands.

Because we are blessed with a natural and varied abundance.

Because we have great dreams and because we have the opportunity to make those dreams come true.

-Wendell L. Willkie,
Republican candidate for president in 1940



Just for KIDS

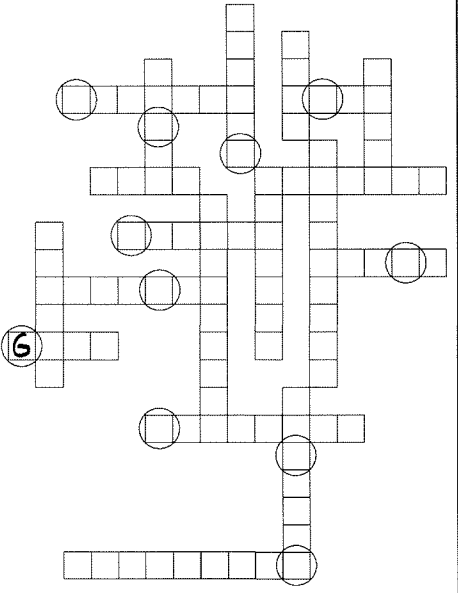
Celebrate Your Citizenship!

When we look at a globe or map, we see many different cities and countries. We are citizens of the place where we live. But we also hold another citizenship! Where?

Fit the names of these Bible-time places in the puzzle.
Write the circled letters on the lines below, in the order found.

Read the words!

- Tyre
- Cana
- Rome
- Gaza
- Sidon
- Berea
- Lycia
- Athens
- Kedesh
- Sychar
- Galilee
- Ephraim
- Ephesus
- Corinth
- Iconium
- Damascus
- Bethlehem
- Phillippi
- Jerusalem



Gods Kingdom



2018 JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 9:00 a.m. - Worship - Karen Sage speaking	02	03	04 Independence Day	05	06	07
Media: Mavis Floss	Pastor Mike on vacation					
08 9:00 a.m. - Worship Communion Birthdays & Anniversaries	09 6:30 p.m. - Lions' Club	10	11 10:45 a.m. - Sack Lunch Packing & Delivery	12	13	14
Media: Dave Tolander						
15 9:00 a.m. - Worship	16	17	18 10:45 a.m. - Sack Lunch Packing & Delivery	19	20	21
Media: Nancy Patterson				Hudson Days		
22 9:00 a.m. - Worship	23	24	25 10:45 a.m. - Sack Lunch Packing & Delivery Activator Articles Due	26	27	28 8:00 a.m. - Men's Breakfast
Media: Dave Tolander						
29 9:00 a.m. - Worship	30	31 Activator Mailing				
Media: Nancy Patterson						

As the days of May wind down and Annual Conference appears on the horizon we are reminded that The United Methodist Church is an itinerant church. A pastor is called and appointed for a season of time by the Bishop to a particular ministry and location. For the last seven years I have served in extension ministry, at the invitation of the Bishop, here on the NE District. My season as a Conference Superintendent is winding down and is coming to an end. When the appointments are “fixed” at Annual Conference my name will be read, and my new appointment will be announced. For the next season of my ministry I will be serving at Kenwood Park United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

As I reflect back over these seven years there are a plethora of experiences and memories. There is an array of emotions. It can best be summed up in my favorite one verse of Psalm 46:10— “Be still and know that I am God.” At the age of 26 I was led by the Holy Spirit into a United Methodist Church on the NE District, Grace UMC, in Oelwein. As an experienced teacher I was broken and discouraged and there was little hope that I could see. Now 35 years later here I am on the verge of a new ministry and season filled with experiences and memories yet to unfold. Through it all, God has been there leading and guiding me, providing grace upon grace, forgiving, and forgiving again, and always providing God’s love in abundance and persons of faith to journey alongside.

As I leave this appointment I want to thank everyone whom I have had the pleasure to meet and share time with as a District Superintendent. First of all, to all the Pastors who have served on the NE District. Your faithfulness to your call and service to God and God’s people will be remembered. Thank you. To all who have served and said, “yes” any time I offered an opportunity to serve, thank you! To the local church leaders who have been faithful to be the church—reaching out with God’s love into this broken world, into your community, and loving your neighbors—near and far. Thank you. Most of all, thank you to Rev. Jaymee Glenn-Burns, my colleague in ministry whose faithful service and resourcing of the churches on the district made a huge difference for you and for me. And to Karen Wersinger, the District Administrative Assistant, who always did her best to make me “look good”. Her organization and attention to detail helped me navigate many a busy week. Most of all I give thanks to God.

My moving van will arrive on June 12 and I will make my way to my new home in Cedar Rapids. Karen will be able to provide you with a contact for the District Superintendent doing coverage for the NE District. On July 1, Rev. Paul Wilcox will officially start as your new District Superintendent. I have known Paul since my first appointment, as a seminary student serving two small local churches, in the former Council Bluffs district. God has called, equipped, and is sending you God’s best for the next season on the NE District. May you welcome him with open hearts and share the stories of how God continues to shine hope into your lives.

My favorite Irish blessing prayed for you:
May the road rise to meet you,
may the wind be ever at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
and the rains fall soft upon your fields.
**And until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.**

Blessings, Jackie

Dear friends and colleagues,

How do you say goodbye?

I'd send a plane over the whole NE District and write "Thank you" in the sky. I'd sit down with each of you with whom I've worked and share memories over cups of coffee. I'd write a song or create a sculpture for you. I'd send letters of apology for all the times I spoke harshly or failed to follow up as I promised or let you down. I'd pray my goodbyes on the threshold of every church in the district.

Or more realistically, I write a letter for the Weekly on Wednesday. For 11 years you have loved me, inspired me, helped me, and challenged me. For 11 years we have worked together to live as "faithful leaders, fruitful congregations, and fire-filled people" in the NE District. No words can express how grateful I am for all that I've learned and for the people with whom I have served. You are amazing, beloved children of God and I will always treasure you and this season of ministry.

As I leave to serve as the pastor of Trinity-St. James United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids, I go knowing that I will be a better pastor because of you. Thank you for the cards and gifts. Even more, thank you for the laughter and memories and even the shared struggles that are behind those tangible expressions. Above all, I thank God that I got to minister alongside you for the sake of God's Realm.

As I pray my goodbyes and gratitude, I do so with confidence that you will continue the good work God has begun in you. With your new District Superintendent, Paul Wilcox, our trusty District Administrative Assistant, Karen Wersinger, and the Associates for Congregational Excellence, I know that you are in good hands.

So, with tears and laughter, grief, and hope, I pray God's richest blessings in the lives of each person, congregation, and community in the NE District.

With joy and gratitude,
Jaymee