



# The Activator

May 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.***

301 Washington Street  
PO Box 146  
Hudson, IA 50643

Office: 319/988-6040  
e-mail: hudumc@msn.com  
web page: hudumc.org

Mary Rekers, editor  
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Pastor: Mike Carey (563-203-0286) cell Email: mikecarey99@hotmail.com  
PASTOR OFFICE HOURS: *Wednesday beginning at 8:00 a.m.*

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## **7 Suggestions for Welcoming a New Pastor ... by Dr. Barry Howard**

When a congregation welcomes a new pastor, it is an exciting time, a new beginning for both the congregation and the new minister. To maximize this new beginning, it is important to prepare spiritually, cognitively, and emotionally for a new chapter.

Once a call to a new pastor is confirmed, there are a few things you can do to prepare personally and congregationally to follow a new spiritual leader:

- **Pray for your new pastor.** In most of the churches I know, members pray for the Pastor Search Team throughout the search process, and they pray for the pastor even before they know the identity of their new minister. And they pray for their new pastor in the pastor's inaugural days of ministry. However, I suggest making a commitment to pray daily for your pastor throughout the duration of his or her ministry. Once the honeymoon period is over, and the daily grind of ministry begins, praying for your pastor will strengthen your pastor's ministry and will fortify your bond with your pastor.
- **Send your pastor a welcome note or email.** Be careful not to make this correspondence a lengthy epistle and certainly don't make it a diatribe itemizing your personal expectations or agenda. Just offer a brief note, introducing yourself and/or family, and offering a heartfelt welcome. When I moved to my last pastorate, I received over a 100 such notes, and these notes confirmed and intensified my excitement about my new place of service.
- **Mention your name on your first several encounters with your new pastor.** Once your new pastor arrives, make sure to offer your name in each greeting for the first few weeks. Learning names is important for pastors. And be sure not to embarrass the pastor by quizzing, "Do you remember my name?" Give your pastor the opportunity to learn your name, and over time, to learn a part of your life story.
- **Embrace the uniqueness of your pastor.** Your pastor has a distinct personality, a unique set of spiritual gifts, and a diverse set of experiences. When the Spirit leads a church to a new pastor, the Spirit seldom leads a church or committee to a person just like the previous pastor or the beloved pastor from the church's history. To compare your new pastor to any other is to disrespect the Spirit's role in guiding you to your new pastor in the first place.
- **Be prepared to follow.** A pastor who is worth his or her salt must lead in both optimal and challenging situations. And the kingdom of God is enriched when we as a congregation follow our pastor and embrace our mission with enthusiasm. As a veteran pastor, I am quite aware that there is a small minority of pastors who are "wolves in sheep's clothing," whose motives are deceptive and whose methods are manipulative, and they need to be held accountable. However, the vast majority of pastors I know provide proactive leadership that is Spirit-led and mission focused. Don't be a backseat driver. Serve with your best gifts.

- **Give your pastor permission to fail.** The best pastors don't succeed 100% of the time. A few weeks into one of my pastoral assignments, a sincere church member said to me, "I am glad you're here. Every pastor I have had has disappointed me. I hope you never disappoint me." I quickly countered, "Let me just disappoint you right now and get it out of the way. Like you, I am an imperfect human being who will make mistakes. But if we forgive one another as God has forgiven us, we will get along just fine." I must admit, I think my response disappointed this well-intentioned member. Don't hold your pastor to a standard of perfection that is impossible to maintain. Allow your minister room to make mistakes.
- **Speak positively about your pastor publicly and privately.** One of the ways we bring out the best in our ministers is to speak well of them publicly and privately. With most pastors, it is easy to find something to criticize, because every minister has weaknesses. "He is too loud." "She is too soft-spoken." "He uses big words I don't understand." "She is not a people person." However, every pastor has more strengths than weaknesses. A healthy pastoral tenure is nurtured when we magnify around our pastor's strengths, and then minimize and compensate for our pastor's weaknesses.

There are many other ways to welcome your new pastor and to launch your pastor into an effective and healthy tenure. If you compare them to your favorite football coach and expect them to "win every game," not only will you be disappointed, you will make your minister miserable and ultimately ineffective.

But if you receive your new pastor as a spiritual leader sent to encourage your faithfulness, challenge your presuppositions, and to bring out God's best in you, the relationship between your pastor and your congregation will be vibrant and effective.

A few years ago, one of my colleagues and mentors, Hardy Clemons, reminded a group of us of the peculiar role of serving as a pastor:

*"Our goal is to minister: it is not to show a profit, amass a larger financial corpus or grow bigger for our own security. The ultimate goals are to accept God's grace, share the good news, invite and equip disciples, and foster liberty and justice for all."*

And as church members, we are privileged to co-labor with our pastor in this transformative work of demonstrating grace, sharing the good news, and equipping disciples.





## Birthdays & Anniversaries in May

### BIRTHDAYS

- 5 - Ruth Chittenden
- 19 - Kayla Watts

### ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Arthur & Millie Mehmen
- 11 - Edward & Marlys Smith



**Carol Ann Cowling**  
**Carolyn Mumm**  
**Ed Smith**



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

Don't forget to check out the Church Library



### MEDIA OPERATORS FOR MAY



- May 5 – Dave Tolander
- May 12 – Dave Tolander
- May 19 – Mavis Floss
- May 26 – Nancy Patterson



## Food Bank Sunday May 5, 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, May 5<sup>th</sup>, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Feeding America, and the Northeast Iowa Food Bank are kicking off the 6<sup>th</sup> annual nationwide "Fight Hunger, Spark Change" campaign which runs through May 20. The purpose is to raise awareness and combat hunger. Shoppers can help fight hunger by purchasing a participating item in-store or online, donate in stores, or donation on Feeding America's website, [feedingamerica.org/Walmart](http://feedingamerica.org/Walmart). In addition, the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Stamp Out Hunger postal carriers' food drive by is May 11<sup>th</sup>

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?



Ellie Joanna Munchoff, daughter of Amber and Billy Munchoff V, was baptized on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Faye and Bill Munchoff are her proud great-grandparents.



Weekly Offering for April 2019

<b>Offering:</b>			
March	31	1,345.00	
April	7	1,854.00	
	14	3,397.00	
	21	666.00	
	28	345.00	
		<u>7,607.00</u>	

**Also received:**

Apportionment:	\$	175.00
Matthew 25 Grant		135.08
Food Bank		25.00
Lions		25.00
Easter Lilies		99.00
Rent		<u>1,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,459.08</b>



Approved 2019 budget:	\$85,866.00
Approved budget through April:	\$28,662.00
Apportionments due for 2019:	\$11,912.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 993.00

	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 6,262.00	\$19,646.50
Budget Expenses:	\$ 4,959.00	\$21,236.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 125.00	\$ 435.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 0



May Preaching Schedule

5	Surviving Crucifixion	1 Corinthians 15:12-20
12	The Will of God	John 19:11
19	In Weakness & Much Trembling	1 Corinthians 2:1-5
26	Learning to Hate Your Family	Matthew 10:34-42

Wednesday morning Bible study of Mark meets at 10:00 a.m. each week.




Join us on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m. for cards, dominos, or just good conversation. LaVonne will be making her delicious chicken salad for lunch at noon. Everyone is welcome.

The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 a.m.



Jason Gideon Armstrong was born at 12:56 a.m. on 4/11/2019. He weighed 7 pounds 13 ounces and was 20½ inches long. He was welcomed by parents, Dylan and Catherine and siblings, Matthew, Casey and Lorelie.



**Just for KIDS**

"A Time to Plant..."

The spring of the year is time to plant gardens or tend to other plants. The list below contains the names of plants that grew in Bible times. How many do you recognize? Circle the names from the list. They may be found →←→↑↓↘↙. There will be 13 letters uncircled. Write them in the spaces below.

myrrh	aloes	cassia	mint	dill
lentil	apple trees	crocus	barley	cucumbers
balsam trees	melons	leeks	onions	garlic
oak trees	wheat	figs	mustard	grain
pomegranates	olive trees	beans	millet	cane
almonds	cinnamon	pistachio nuts	rose of Sharon	

lily of the valley

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

Who is the "Master Gardener"?

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