



The Activator

October 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

The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30 is one of those stories that makes us shake our heads and say, "I wish Jesus had not said that." or "That is just not fair." You know the story. One guy is given 5 talents, one is given 2 talents, and a third is given 1 talent as the boss leaves the country for an extended period. When the boss comes back and an accounting of assets is made, the 5 talent guy has doubled his boss's money. So has the 2 talent guy. Both are praised by the boss and rewarded. But the 1 talent guy played it safe and just buried his talent, which he gives back to the boss, unused. The boss is unhappy with this lack of performance and the 1 talent guy is punished.

What is the teaching here?

- 1) We all have talents, some have less than others, but we all have talents.
- 2) We are expected to use these talents for the Kingdom of God. God considers it a sin for you to not use what He has gifted you with.
- 3) Using those talents may very well mean taking some risks. The 5 and 2 talent guys had to risk what they had been given. They were successful but if they had failed, I do not think they would have been judged. The sin is not to try and fail, the sin is not to try at all. As philosopher/theologian Soren Kierkegaard wrote, "Sometimes you have to take that leap of faith into the darkness, believing the Almighty will be there to catch you."
- 4) There will be reward/judgement for whatever we do or do not do, but do not let fear be your motivator. Remember that you are loved as well as gifted. Consider instead that you are call to be part of a great endeavor, establishing the Kingdom of God in this world.

Consider the words of one of my real-life heroes. Teddy Roosevelt has been a hero of mine since I read his biography as a child. I have had this hanging in my office for over 25 years (see Page 4 – under Just for Kids). Read it well and consider what it means for you and your church.

Daring greatly, I encourage you to dare greatly, both personally and as a church.

I am your pastor, standing on the edge, staring into the dark.

Pastor Mike

Questions:

- 1) How do you think you personally please God? What does the Bible say is the way to please God?
- 2) When you evaluate your life, to whom do you accredit your achievements, goodness, and success?
- 3) In what areas of your life are you not living honestly?

The life not self-examined is a life not worth living.



in October



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Diane Roberts
- 5 - Greyson Sadler
- 8 - Hillary Rickert
- 9 - Wilbur Mumm
- 12 - Isabella Robbins
- 15 - Jacob Patterson
- 15 - Jordan Patterson
- 22 - Todd Patterson
- 27 - Edward Smith
- 28 – Pastor Mike

**Food Bank Sunday
October 2, 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, October 2nd, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

A big thank you for your recent donations of food and personal care items for the Food Bank.

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?

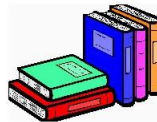


- Becky Lundberg Nook** - treatment for health issues.
- Sue Roberts**
- Carol Ann Cowling**
- Carolyn Mumm**
- Pastor Mike's mother-in-law**
- Lila Epling**
- Lori Waters**

Our shut-ins:

- Mel Bartels**
- Margaret Mumm**
- Barb Doughty**
- Richard & Dee Vandenberg**

Don't forget to check out the Church Library



MEDIA OPERATORS FOR OCTOBER



- October 7 – Nancy Patterson
- October 14 – Nancy Patterson
- October 21 – Nancy Patterson
- October 28 – Nancy Patterson





for **September 2018**

Offering:

September	2	\$	1,295.00
	9		3,665.00
	16		920.00
	23		138.00
		\$	6,018.00

Also received:

Apportionment:	\$	100.00
Lions' Club		25.00
Ingathering		50.00
Blanket Sunday		75.00
Rent		1,000.00
TOTAL	\$	1,250.00

Approved 2018 budget:	\$84,947.00
Approved budget through September:	\$63,710.00
Apportionments due for 2018:	\$12,582.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 1,048.50

	<u>Monthly</u> (thru 9/24)	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 6,018.00	\$41,154.41
Budget Expenses:	\$ 7,734.00	\$51,938.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,240.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0	\$ 4,405.00

FROM THE PASTOR
October Preaching Schedule

7	A Moment of Truth	Luke 5:1-11
14	With Power & Great Glory	Mark 13:24-26
21	Waiting in the Dark	John 1:6-8
28	Blessed are the Upside Down	Matthew 5:11-12



BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday morning Bible Study of the book of Mark resumes on October 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

GREET, EAT and MEET

October 3rd at 11:00 a.m. immediately following Bible Study will be Greet, Eat, and Meet. Join in a rousing game of dominos or cards or bring a project to work on. We will have maid-rites for lunch at noon. We had 8 for lunch in September. There is always great conversation. Invite a friend. Hope to see you there!



PROGRAMMING!

By the time you read this, we will have started Wednesday nights. This is an educational opportunity for children and adults. Adults will be working through the study "Half Truths." Things you thought were in the Bible but are not. We begin at 6:15 p.m., done by 7:00 p.m. A lite supper will be provided October 24th at 5:45 p.m. Hope to see you there!



CHURCH COUNCIL

will meet on Wednesday, October 17th at 5:30 p.m.

The men will meet for breakfast on Saturday, October 27th, at 8:00 a.m.



Charge Conference is scheduled for Sunday November 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Dike UMC. Mark your calendars now!





Our 39th Ingathering will be held November 3rd at Cedar Falls 1st UMC. We will be turning in our kits and cash contributions at this time. Everyone is invited to attend.

If you have not had an opportunity to contribute to this important mission work of our church, please prayerfully consider giving to one of the projects that are funded by the Ingathering (please read project descriptions provided on the next page). We will be taking your contributions at the offering time at our Sunday services during the month of October. Please designate "For Ingathering" on your check or envelope.

Thank you.
Jan Petry
Mission Chair



Friends, just an update as to where we are financially. We had to use the rental income from the parsonage earlier in the year for maintenance on the parsonage, so we are behind on the budget, particularly on our apportionment payments. Take another look at the Treasurer's Report. You can see our expenses are over \$10,000 more than giving so far this year. As we go into the final quarter of our fiscal year, I want to make you aware of that and encourage you to help us out.

Paying apportionments is an important part of who we are and our ministry. Please give prayerful consideration to your financial support in the next three months.

Yours with gratitude,
Pastor Mike



Just for KIDS

Fruits of the Spirit

In the book of Galatians, Paul told the people to "live by the spirit" – to live God's way. He told them what they would need to do this. These characteristics are called the "fruits of the Spirit."

Find the "Fruits of the Spirit" using the code below.

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

1) 1) 3)

4) 5) 6)

7) 8) 9)

Gentleness, Joy, Faithfulness, Self-Control, Patience, Peace, Kindness, Goodness, Love

"It is not the critic who counts,
Nor how the strong man stumbled and fell,
Nor where the doer of deeds could have done better.

The credit belongs to the man
Who is actually in the arena,
Whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood;
Who strives valiantly; who errs,
And comes short again and again,

There is no effort without error and shortcoming,
But who does actually strive to do the deeds,
Who knows great enthusiasms,
The great devotions,
And who spends himself
In a worthy cause.

He who at the best knows in the end
The triumph of high achievement,
And who at the worst,
If he fails,
At least he fails while daring greatly,
So that his place shall never be
With those cold and timid souls,
Who know neither victory nor defeat."

— Theodore Roosevelt



THANKSGIVING *ingathering*



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE: A relief, development, and refugee assistance ministry of 35 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations in the US. Working in partnership with indigenous organizations in more than 80 countries, CWS works worldwide to meet human needs and foster self-reliance for all whose way is hard. In the US, CWS assists communities in responding to disasters.



HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: Works to help hungry families feed themselves and care for the earth. HPI is a non-profit organization and works in partnership with churches, civic groups and other organizations as well as individual donors.



UMCOR DEPOT – BALDWIN, LA: The UMCOR Depot is a 48,000 square foot facility that serves as a warehouse and distribution center for relief supplies that are used in the United States and around the world. The supplies are donated by churches and individuals from across the US and are shipped to disaster areas at the request of a United Methodist Bishop or United Methodist

Committee on Relief Representative in the area of the disaster. Health, Sewing, Layette, School, and Birthing kits as well as components of the kits are sent to the Depot where they are assembled for distribution by approximately 3,000 volunteers who go there annually. The kits offer love and hope to people made vulnerable by the disaster that surrounds them.



SELF-HELP INTERNATIONAL: Continues to introduce digestible protein corn, QPM (quality protein maize) to Nicaragua and Ghana. The seed produces higher yields, tastes good, and is more nutritious. At least 80% of Ghana farmers grow QPM and more than 35,000 farmers in Nicaragua. A Children's Feeding Project operating in both countries serves QPM porridge to 1,000 children annually in an effort to alleviate malnutrition. Self-

Help operates a micro-credit program for nearly 500 women in Ghana and Nicaragua each year. Loans are paid back with interest with 97% return. Women use these proceeds to improve their family's quality of life, especially education for their daughters. The goal is self-reliance.



MOBILITY WORLDWIDE (formerly known as Personal Energy Transportation {(PET)}): is a sturdy, hand-cranked wheelchair. It has a heavy metal frame and wooden bed; uses wheelbarrow wheels; is shipped partially disassembled and with a tool kit for repairs and spare parts; comes in two sizes – adult and junior; is powered by a hand-crank with a 21 to 26 gear ratio with #35 machine chain; is shipped with a seat belt and instruction

packet; and is made by volunteers in eight workshops across the USA, but parts are interchangeable. It is now in more than 90 countries of the world. The cost of a PET is \$250.

DISTRICT HUNGER RELATED AGENCIES: Each of the eight districts has a modest sum of money for distribution to hunger related agencies within the district. Contact your District Representatives for more information. Call your District Office for the name of your Ingathering Representative or look in the Ingathering booklet.