



The Activator

September 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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THE POWER OF OUR THOUGHTS

By Marvin Clear – originally published September 2012

Paul “Bear” Bryant is widely considered to be one of the greatest college football coaches of all time. Before a big game, Coach Bryant said the following:

In this game, there are going to be four or five plays that will determine the outcome of the contest because they will swing the momentum toward us, or away from us. None of us know which plays these will be. All you can do is go out there and give all that you have on each and every play. If you are doing that on one of those crucial plays, and you catch your opponent giving less, that play will swing things in our direction. And if we rise to the occasion like that, on those four or five plays, we are going to leave here today a winner.

Those players kept the coach’s words in the back of their minds all through the game. They got the momentum and won the game. Momentum is not only important in a game, but also in our individual lives, and the life of a congregation. There is no way to maintain momentum like doing everything as Jesus directs. After all, He is the head of the Church and the leader of our lives, to the extent that we allow Him to be.

As I read Coach Bryant’s words, I thought about something that has been on my mind the last few days. In a devotional reading one morning, I read about the importance of having a Christ-awareness instead of a self-awareness. Matthew 11:28 records these words of Jesus; “Come to me...and I will give you rest.” Part of what it means to “come to Jesus,” is to have an ongoing awareness of Jesus instead of an awareness of self. I had been thinking about how I sometimes had more self-awareness than Christ-awareness. To have self-awareness doesn’t mean that all we think about is our self, but rather in the back of our mind there are thoughts of how whatever we are doing, thinking or saying will impact or reflect on our self. To have a Christ-awareness is to have thoughts of Christ in the back of our mind and then be thinking about how all we say, do or think will impact or reflect on Christ.

The results of those two very different approaches differ greatly. To do everything against the backdrop of thoughts of Christ creates momentum because it causes us to do, speak and think in line with Christ’s will for us.

The thought may come, “But how can we work and do all that we are expected to accomplish, if we are to constantly be thinking about Christ?” Well, don’t we most always have more than one thing on our minds? What do we do when there is some event coming up that really excites us? Thoughts of participating in that event are in our mind at the same time we give thought to whatever else we do, say or think about through the day. Our thoughts of that event color or shape everything else we do. Likewise, we can have thoughts of Christ on our mind while we do other things.

May Christ-awareness become the hallmark of our individual lives and our congregation!

September



BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Mavis Floss
- 13 – Nancy Louthan
- 21 – Dean Watts
- 30 – Dustin Thorne

ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 – Jerod & Ferren Sadler
- 12 – Dale & JoAnne Wooden
- 26 – Douglas & Sharon Coonrad



REMEMBER
TO PRAY FOR...

Sam Strayer
Marlys Smith
Doug Coonrad
Annette Tolander
Ethan Charley
Austin Charley

Our shut-ins

Mel Bartels
Margaret Mumm
Dee Vandenberg
Lila Epling

Don't forget to check out the Church Library.



1 **2** **3** The Iowa Conference COVID-19 Re-entry Team recommends mask usage for indoor activities due to the high transmission rate. Masks are available for anyone who wants one. We have also suspended coffee fellowship following morning worship for now.

MEDIA OPERATORS FOR JUNE



September 5 – Diane Schulz
 September 12 – Nancy Patterson
 September 19 – Nancy Patterson
 September 26 – Dave Tolander



Food Bank Sunday September 5, 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, September 5th, will be designated "Food Bank Sunday".

Since the start of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank Community Garden in 2014, volunteer Master Gardeners have worked all season to plant, maintain, and harvest over 25 different types of produce including broccoli, kale, beans, tomatoes, garlic and more. In 2020, over 3,000 pounds of fresh produce was provided to the Cedar Valley Food Pantry.

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?



Lila Epling has moved to the Martin Center within the Western Home Communities. Her new address is:
 Martin Center #112
 420 E. 11th Street
 Cedar Falls, IA 50613



August 2021

Offering:

August	1	1,147.00
	8	565.00
	15	160.00
	22	170.00
	29	20.00
		\$ 2,062.00

Also received:

Apportionments	\$	200.00
Haiti Relief		100.00
Rent		1,050.00
TOTAL	\$	1,350.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

Approved 2021 budget:	\$83,214.00
Approved budget through August:	\$55,476.00
Apportionments due for 2021:	\$ 8,226.00
Apportionment payment per month:	\$ 685.50

	<u>Monthly</u> <u>Thru 8/25</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Giving towards budget:	\$ 2,242.00	\$ 28,774.00
Budget Expenses:	\$ 3,077.00	\$ 37,539.00
Giving Apportionments:	\$ 200.00	\$ 1,605.00
Apportionment Payments:	\$ 0.00	\$ 260.00

We are 2/3 through the year. Our giving is 77% of actual expenses and 52% of approved budget year to date. Our year to date expenses are 45% of total approved 2021 budget.



September 5	Jon Cooper
September 12	Pat Benda
September 19	Jan Burnett
September 26	Jan Burnett



The past several years we have been fortunate to have received Matthew 25 grant money from the Iowa UM Conference to monetarily help support our sack lunch/school

supplies local mission. Due to COVID and fewer available volunteers, we did not serve sack lunches this summer. We were able to use the grant money to buy school supplies based on class supply lists and responses from Hudson teachers.



On August 19, we served our annual Back to School Staff Breakfast, but this year served in the newly renovated middle school commons. We didn't use a sign in sheet this year but think we served about 50 school staff members homemade baked coffee cakes, strudels, purchased muffins, fresh fruit cups, orange juice, and coffee. For the para-educators and bus drivers, (since they were not in attendance that day) we assembled goodie bags of apples, muffins, and juice. Thank you to those that monetarily, baked yummy bars, and helped serve the breakfast.



Thank you for your generous support of Hudson School teachers and staff. We appreciate the time you took to help us kick off the school year. The breakfast was delicious!

Sincerely, Sheila Petry & all Hudson Staff



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

Richard and Marilyn Tolander grew up in rural Henry County. Richard had twelve siblings! After serving in the Korean Conflict, Richard worked at the Olds Elevator. They then started a family of their own. Dave was born in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, in 1955. Two brothers, Duane and Ralph, soon joined the family. Through the years Richard had a corn shelling and trucking business and eventually retired from the co-op in Mt. Pleasant. Marilyn worked at a couple stores and a credit union, but mostly she worked from home baking and doing laundry for others. She was known for her baking across the county and people ordered treats from her until her late 70's. Sadly, she passed four years ago.

Annette was born in 1958 in Waterloo to Ed and Jean Bertheau. Jean was born and raised in Waterloo. Ed grew up in California. Ed and Jean met through a cousin while he was on leave from the service (WW2). Annette has one brother, Ken, who was 13 when she was born. The story goes that Annette's dad and Ken wanted a boy, so they called her Sam which many people still call her today. When she was young, her dad worked as a salesman for the Yellow Pages. Later, he went to work at Deere as a maintenance mechanic. Her mother worked as a mailman or as they called her a 'Letter Lady'. The lady across the street and Jean were the first women in Waterloo to deliver the mail. Eventually, she went to work at Iowa State Job Service in Waterloo.

Dave went to grade school in Olds and Waco. He graduated from WACO high school in 1973. He received an Associate degree in computer programming from Indian Hills Community College in Ottumwa and later earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management from Upper Iowa while working at John Deere.

Sam went to St. Mary's grade school, then Logan Junior High, Cedar Falls High and graduated from West High School. Sam graduated from Hawkeye Community College, then got her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of

Northern Iowa. She earned her Master's Degree from Viterbo University (La Crosse, WI). Beyond those degrees she took continuing education from a variety of institutions.

Dave worked for Blue Bird Bus Co. and for his dad shelling corn and driving truck. He also helped on his uncle's farm. Dave was hired at John Deere at age 20. He held several positions there including computer operator, computer operations supervisor, information technology analyst and later IT management. He retired with 39 years of employment at John Deere at age 59.

Sam has had many jobs; here are a few. She started working as a waitress at age 14 at Sambo's restaurant. She worked at Banco mortgage for about a year out of high school then was lucky to get hired in the computer center at Deere without a college education. She worked there just short of 10 years. She quit John Deere after their daughters were born; she and Dave had to change shifts so often that it was difficult to find child care. Annette also sold real estate, worked as a para-mutual teller at the dog track, then drove a school bus while going to college. After graduation, Sam taught school in the Waterloo School District until her retirement.

Dave and Annette met at John Deere. Actually, Dave was one of Sam's supervisors. They were married February 2, 1980, at the Little Brown Church. They went to Nashville for their honeymoon. Unfortunately, a snowstorm hit the area that basically shut the city down. So, they ate most of their meals at the Cracker Barrel which was in the motel's parking lot. Says Annette, "It was a good thing we were impressed with the restaurant at the time. However, it did get old. We laughed to see garbage trucks moving the snow."

Dave and Annette are blessed with two wonderful daughters. Stephanie, now 38, and her husband, Grant, reside in Franklin, WI, a suburb of Milwaukee. They have four children ages 6-10. Kristina, now 36, and her husband, Trent, reside in Ankeny.

Sam comes from a small family. Her parents have both passed. Her brother Ken married Myrna when Sam was in sixth grade. Their home

base is in Shell Rock, but they spend most of their time in Elkader and Florida.

Dave's brother, Duane (Diane) lives in Ankeny and brother, Ralph (Debbie) lives in Houston and Florida. He has numerous cousins. Dave's dad, age 93, moved to Ankeny a year ago to be closer to family.

Dave is up and at 'em by 5:30 every day. He stays busy exercising, attending to outside chores, fishing, hunting, and volunteering with Red Cross. He enjoys reading in the winter.

Annette enjoys not having to use the alarm to get up! She says she spends too much time surfing on her phone, day-dreaming and working puzzles like Sudoku. She also reads and enjoys coloring. "We rarely turn on the television until evening but seem to keep ourselves busy most days doing this or that."

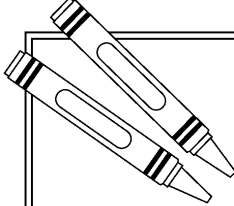
They spend a lot of their time going back and forth to visit their kids, grandkids and Dave's dad. They've been able to take some nice cruises, trips, and spent six weeks in Florida last winter.

When asked "What have you done to survive the pandemic," they answered, "We learned to stay home and enjoy reading, catch up on our 'to do' list, and play Cribbage. We settled into the peacefulness of it. We are grateful, though, for our electronics such as FaceTime and messaging so we could visit with family and friends.

Also, during the pandemic, we decided to do some work to our home. It took us nearly a year to complete a master bathroom/laundry addition. Then, it took six months for the new washer and dryer to arrive! It was well worth the effort. We sure appreciate the convenience.'

Our church family is grateful for the many hats Dave and Annette have worn while serving our church. Annette has taught Sunday School, was a Youth Leader, and worked with the summer sack lunch ministry. Currently, she takes care of the Angel Tree mission at Christmas and is the Church Council recorder. Her favorite job has always been working in the kitchen side by side with her church friends.

Dave has held many board roles including his current roles as Treasurer and Media operator. He, too, helped with the sack lunch ministry by picking up the food from the Food Bank. He chips in where ever he is needed from trimming bushes to drying dishes.



Just for KIDS

Psalm 46:10

Sometimes our lives are so busy that we cannot seem to fit another thing into the day! But there is something very important that we need to do each day.

Find the answer using the code below.

A	1	B	F	2	G	K	3	L	O	4	R	U	5	V
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We must talk to God and listen for God. "Be still, and know that I am God."

