

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
"A vital church connecting with God and with each other...driven to serve"
Connections for January 2016

january

EPIPHANY IS JANUARY 3rd

Epiphany is an unfamiliar word for many of us. Here are some phrases that may help it make more sense: "a revealing presence of God," or "the light of God radiating outward and inward", or "a gift, a reminder that God is here." The time after Christmas can often be a letdown within a secular consumer-driven culture. But in the Christian "realm" the story is different! Light expands into dark places. Newness appears in the midst of routine. Life bursts out of the expected deadness in the natural world. Where are the epiphanies that are awaiting YOUR attention? Watch and listen, and you will find them!



EPIPHANY



Chicken Pot Pie Dinner



Chicken Pot Pie Dinner

CHICKEN POT PIE & EXQUISITE PIANO MUSIC TO MARK 150TH January 31

Yes! Chicken pot pie has a place in the history books of Ames FUMC! Back in the World War 1 era, the troop trains would stop in Ames and the military personnel would be served a delicious hot meal at our church. This practice continued through the World War 2 years as well! So, on Sunday, January 31, we are serving home-made chicken pot pie, salad, and dessert at 5 p.m. in our fellowship hall. Dale and Ruth Vander Schaaf are the coordinators and chefs for this event.

At 4 p.m. in our beautiful historic sanctuary three or four students of ISU piano professor, Mei-Hsuan, will be performing some of the world's grand piano music, much of which was composed in the late 1800's and early 1900's at the same time Ames FUMC was getting started. Songs on this afternoon's program will include: Chopin's Revolutionary Etude, Brahms' "Rhapsody", Stravinsky's "Petrouchka", and Ravel's "Sonatina".

FROM THE LEWIS DESK:

May God bless you and keep you and be gracious to you.

May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;

the grace to risk something big for something good;

the grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth, and too small for anything but love.

So may God take our minds and think through them, take our lips and speak through them,

and may God take our hearts and set them on fire! Amen.

--- A Blessing for Any Season by William Sloane Coffin



These words of a blessing were written by one of our nation's giants in preaching and longtime peace activist, William Sloane Coffin. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church and received ministerial standing in the United Church of Christ. In his younger days he was an athlete, a talented pianist, a CIA agent, and later the chaplain at Yale University where he became a leader in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1960's and 1970's. He went on to serve as the senior minister at the prestigious Riverside Church in New York City. He was a fierce supporter of human rights.

My thought is this: **Can this blessing offer a vision for what is yet ahead in the future for the Ames First UMC?** I believe it can.

As I look back over 2015 I certainly believe that we have NOT been about selling ourselves short, nor about running from risks; but rather instead, we have been about discerning God's truth or God's vision for this congregation and responding to such a vision and to the mystery of grace with all the love that we can at this moment in time. **I want to believe that even when we "agree to disagree" --- or when we just plain "disagree" with one another --- and/ or refuse to really listen to one another; that we still are in prayer to God to reform, refine, reshape, revive, renew us in God's Spirit.**

Our Church Council/ Charge Conference has adopted some clear goals for 2016 to help guide our direction and life together as a congregation:

1. Welcome at least 48 new persons into church membership.
2. Strengthen our youth and young adult ministries.
3. Begin one new ministry or mission to help us "rethink church".
4. Enlist at least 6 persons to attend and experience a "Walk to Emmaus" and support our local Emmaus Reunion group to meet at least quarterly.
5. Strengthen our worship ministries around ushering and

- transporting persons to worship by enlisting more volunteers.
6. Support the Board of Trustees in their updating of the church kitchen and other projects.
 7. Increase support of missions both financially and with hands-on projects.
 8. Increase our marketing/advertising efforts.
 9. Increase overall yearly worship attendance by 10% (32-40 persons)
 10. Increase the number of members participating in our small group ministries such as LIFE groups, UMW, UMM, choir, and so forth.

I encourage everyone to keep these in mind and to find additional ways for all of us to be involved in expanding our extravagant generosity, risk-taking missions, passionate worship, intentional faith development, and radical hospitality.

FOR THE MICA FOOD PANTRY
Let's do a "Breakfast Sunday" for the Food Pantry!

In January, please consider bringing breakfast items with you to worship for area food pantries. Celebrate breakfast a meal that can be for any time. You could bring: pancake mix and syrup, muffin mix, Bisquick baking mix, boxed oatmeal, canned fruit, canned juice, boxes or packages of dried fruits, peanut butter, jams and jellies, coffee and coffee filters, other canned or boxed items that seem appropriate to offer to the local Food Pantry. Thank you!!!



WINTER WEATHER REMINDER

Remember to listen to the news, check the church website or call the church if severe winter weather strikes. We will try our best to make decisions and get word out through the news media. If at all possible, we will try to have worship. Stay home if the conditions are dangerous for you. If schools are dismissed early or canceled then the activities at the church will also be canceled. Call if in doubt.

We want everyone to remain safe.

WELCOME OUR NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR: REV. CEPHAS DAVIS

I am the son of the late Mr. & Mrs. Davis of Buchanan, Grand Bassa County, Liberia West Africa. I am currently a resident of Tyler, TX, where I live with my beautiful wife, Phyllis Davis.

I lived in a peaceful country until the age of 12 when a civil war started that lasted for 14 years. During which time about 300,000 people lost their lives. I grew up in a war-torn country but still trusted God and served Him during this time. Listening to guns shooting and war planes bombing was part of our daily life while we went to school and served God at the same time. This experience shaped my thinking and relationship with God.

God the Creator started working in my life as a youth and He's still using me for that which He has called me to do. It all unfolded in my life as a 17 year old youth President and Lay speaker in my home church (N. B. Whitfield UMC, Buchanan, Liberia); then as Vice President of our District Church School; Sunday School Superintendent, Campus Minister, District Evangelist, Lay Pastor, Missionary, Church Planter and a Deacon and elder in the United Methodist Church.

After high school, I was selected by the General board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church for mission service. I was trained and then commissioned at the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, Zambia and was later assigned in my home country at the Bishop Judith Craig Orphanage home where I worked with orphans, street kids, child soldiers and uprooted youth from 2000-2005, I also served as Campus Minister and Associate Pastor at Refuge UMC, Monrovia Liberia. After I immigrated to the USA, I served as a volunteer Youth Pastor at the Miracle Redemption Center International and volunteer at Coon Rapids UMC, Minnesota. I have served as Youth Director at First UMC Kaufman, TX and Youth Pastor at Lake Palestine UMC, Chandler, TX, respectively. During the 2008 & 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church, I served as a Page.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts in Religion from the Baptist Missionary Association Theological Seminary in Jacksonville TX, where I am also a Master of Religion candidate, and also did 4 years of theological studies at the United Methodist University School of theology in Liberia West Africa. I hold many certificates in ministry. I also hold a Master of Divinity from Perkins School of Theology. I am an ordained Elder in the United Methodist Church, Liberia Annual Conference. I am married to Phyllis Davis and I play pool and chess during my free time, and most of all I love to travel and have traveled extensively including 32 of the 50 states in the United States, countries in Africa and Europe.

AN INSTALLATION OF REV. DAVIS WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE 8:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE ON JANUARY 10, FOLLOWED BY A WELCOMING RECEPTION FOR CEPHAS AND PHYLLIS IN FELLOWSHIP HALL FROM 9:45 TO 10:45 A.M.

PASTOR DAVE'S DEN & PEN

A white Christmas may be the stuff of dreams, but many older folk don't mind December rains so long as basements stay dry. I'm personally thankful all the moisture was not of the frozen variety, or we'd still be shoveling. Over the holidays, I'll be replacing our sump pump and working on radon mitigation. If you've never tested your home for radon, don't delay. Radon is just behind smoking as a causal factor for lung cancer. Ours was much too high when I tested it a few weeks ago.

As was the case for many, 2015 was bittersweet. Cherry & I celebrated the arrival of two more beautiful healthy granddaughters. We can't get enough of our 4 growing grand girls and are so excited to love, hold, encourage and rave about them. They're a true delight as we age. We rejoice in that aspect of the past year. On the other hand, losing Cherry's dad has been more difficult than anticipated. Cherry was very much dad's daily caregiver and companion, stopping to see him most days after work. His death, although a release from a failing body, leaves us with a void. The Blue Christmas Service, although a sparse crowd, gave those of us who attended an opportunity to express mixed emotions healthily.

January and the New Year may be a lot colder and snowier, but Cherry & I hope to miss it. We leave for San Diego a couple days after Christmas for family/condo time, allowing me to join my sons at Holiday and Rose Bowls. It's likely to be "once in a lifetime," so we're hoping for fond memories. We're back in Iowa for a week++, then fly to Florida, so we can cruise the Mediterranean; closing out January, a great month of celebrating our 43rd anniversary, December 30. We'll miss welcoming our new associate pastor, but look forward to a reconfigured First Team. Surely, God will bless this new minister among us. Pray it so.

We prepared our hearts for the coming of the Savior during Advent, celebrated Word made flesh at Christmas and rang in 2016. I'm looking forward to new growth with our Stephen Ministry and with all the other ministries of our diverse vital congregation. We count many past blessings and anticipate many hopes for the future. May God bless us and help us to find the path and be all God calls us to be in 2016 and always. Let the Christ Light shine in and through you that the reign of the Prince of Peace might indeed come to pass in all of us. Please pray for refugees around the world displaced by terror and war. The Holy Refugee Family found hospitality and respite in Bethlehem and Egypt. Prepare Him room... in your life and in the life of our beloved community of faith.

Shalom,

Pastor Dave

WHAT'S UP WITH THE YOUTH AS THE NEW YEAR STARTS?

Sunday mornings will find our ongoing classes available for the youth during the Sunday school hour as well as our "Up With Puppets" rehearsals at 11 a.m. Below is a listing of what is tentatively planned for our other United Methodist Youth Fellowship group activities, with most of the events on Wednesdays at 6:30...but we have some EXTRA special things planned for winter and spring that will occur on other days:

2016 HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

January

- 6 — "A Night of Games" (Favorite card/board games to be enjoyed!)
- 13 — "A Night of Magic and Witness" - ISU magician will be coming to perform and to share his faith witness.
- 20 — **No Wednesday Meeting but....**
- 22 (Friday) --- **"A Party Night after the High School Game" from 9:30 pm to Midnight.**
- 27— **"A Night at Cinema 12"**

February

- 3 — Rehearsing for Youth Worship Weekend
- 10 — Going together to the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (start of the season of Lent) at the First Christian/Disciples of Christ Church.
- 17 — "A Night Learning about Stress-Management and Homework"
- 24 — **No Wednesday Meeting but ON 27 (Saturday) "A Trip to Des Moines to Sky Zone and other fun!"**

2016 MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP EVENTS

January

- 6 — "A Night of Games" (Favorite card/board games to be enjoyed!)
- 13 — "A Night Sharing about Magic and Faith"
- 20 — **"A Night to Eat Together --- El Azteca! ---and Good Conversation"**
- 27— "A Night of Making Something Good to Sell for a Super Bowl Sunday Treat"

February

- 3 — A Night Rehearsing for Youth Worship Weekend on February 6-7
- 10 — Going together to attend the 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (start of the season of Lent) at the First Christian/Disciple of Christ Church.
- 17 — **"A Night to Eat Together ---Valentino's ---and Good Conversation"**
- 24 — **"A Night at Cinema 12"**

CONFIRMATION CLASS PLANS

The Confirmation class meets on Wednesdays from 4:45-6 p.m. This winter the students are learning about church history and various faith traditions. If any adults from the congregation would like to join them on their trips to other houses of worship please contact Pastor Fred.

January

- 6 — “Our Jewish Start”
- 8 — **Trip to the Temple (in Des Moines)**
- 13 — “Our Roman Catholic Roots”
- 16 — **Trip to a Catholic Mass (St. Cecelia in Ames)**
- 20 — **No class**
- 27 — “Our Greek Orthodox Roots”
- 31 — **Trip to St. George’s Church in Des Moines**

February

- 3 — **No class**
- 5-6 — **YOUTH LEADING WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND**
- 10 — We will meet at a different time ---at 6:30 p.m. to go together to attend the Ash Wednesday Worship service as students and parents and mentors.
- 17 — “Our United Methodist Roots”
- 21 — **Trip to Burns UMC in Des Moines to attend worship at this historic and predominantly African-American congregation.**
- 24 — **No class.**



IT’S A MAGICAL TIME OF YEAR!

We just celebrated the visit of the Magi so why not celebrate with a visit from a Magician! On Wednesday, January 13 at 6:30pm, all are invited to attend a 30-40 minute show from Christian Magician Brennan Scott. Brennan is from Virginia and grew up in the church as the son of a pastor. He is currently an Iowa State University student studying graphic design. We are very excited to have him join us for a sure

to be incredible show. Following the show, the younger children (with assistance from the adults) will attempt some of their own magic “tricks” while Brennan takes some time with the youth of our church and talks to them about finding God in every day situations. Don’t miss out on this amazing, spectacular, fabulous event!



CREATED BY GOD

Be watching for more information about the Created by God class that will be offered later this spring. Created by God brings together fifth and sixth graders, their parents, and adult leaders in a faith-filled study on human sexuality. This curriculum was offered last year and we

had a great turnout. Testimonies from past participants will be in upcoming bulletins and newsletters along with the date offered, which is yet to be determined. If you have a fifth or sixth grader or know one, be watching for more information on this study.

L²IFE GROUPS

L²IFE Groups are off to a great start! If you haven't joined a group yet, it's not too late. Start the new year off right with a focus on your faith and join the L²IFE group that's just right for you! Many groups are just getting started in January too. Also—be watching for more information regarding the Serving Saturdays which will begin during Lent. These Saturdays will be an opportunity for church members and community members to work together to help people in the community with various needs. If you have any questions about L²IFE groups, please contact Carrie Copley or Cami McColley.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADULTS

The Wednesday Night Adult group will kick off the year with games and fun with the kids for the Epiphany party. The following week they will attend the magic show. Then the group will start with a six week study of the Gospel of John. Later on in the spring, the group will study the works of Paul with a study called The Call. The group meets 6:30-7:30 Wednesday nights in the conference room. The group is led by Mike Evans.



KIDS CLUB

Wednesday night Kids' Club will kick off the new year with an Epiphany Party. The following week (Jan 13) will be the Amazing Magic Show. Then the kids will start their study on the Gospel of John as they enter into the season of Lent. Later in the spring, they will also study the works of Paul with the children's study "The Call." Kids' Club is a great midweek gathering of children ages pre-K through 5th grade. The children work together in smaller groups and learn the lessons through games, crafts, story, sometimes science and history, and sometimes even through food! The group meets from 6:30-7:30 in room E206.



Sunday School Classes

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday school will start back up on January 10 with a rotation on the History of the United Methodist Church. The lessons will be in art, drama/story, and games. Following the this three week rotation, the children will have a "Day of Winter Stories" on Sunday, January 31 where they will learn all about what the winters were like "back in the old days" going to church and Sunday school straight from some of our congregation members. This is sure to be a fun day and will even include indoor snow!



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Adult Sunday school classes are growing! Be sure to check one out beginning again on January 10. Faith and Reason will continue on with their "Embrace" study in room E110. Through the Bible class will resume their study on "The Devotional Way of John Wesley" in room E111. Coffee Talk will resume in the conference room with a dvd and book based study leading up to the Lenten season. All Sunday school classes meet from 9:45-10:45.

Isaiah 40 Wellness Ministry



Did you make a New Year's Resolution to get healthy? What about committing to becoming spiritually stronger? Did you know that right here at First United Methodist Church we have a ministry that can help your WHOLE being become healthy!?

The Isaiah 40 Wellness Ministry has been going strong for nearly 3 years! And soon there will have a permanent room for the ministry on the first floor of the church!

You are invited to drop in on a class to give it a try. There are currently two classes meeting. There is a suggested monthly donation of \$35. All are welcome to try a couple classes for free. Scholarships are also available.

Beginning Jan. 4th the class schedule will be as follows:

Cardio class: Mon. 11am-12noon, Wed and Fri 8:30-9:30

Cardio, strength, balance and flexibility class meets in the West Balcony classroom...part of our warm-up is just getting to the classroom! Workouts focus on strength, cardio, balance and flexibility. The workouts frequently change focus for variety and needs. The group is co-ed with diversity in age and fitness level. There's groaning and lots of laughter at the same time! You'll love it!

Low-impact (chair) class: MWF 10-11

(Multi-Purpose Room until our new space is ready)

Participants use a chair to perform seated exercises and as support for standing exercises as individual need dictates. This provides a fantastic opportunity to gain balance, range of motion and flexibility, in and out of a chair. Individual needs are met in class. It is a great place to start if you have not been in an exercise program.

Feel free to visit both classes. Participants are free to move from one to the other as needed. Nanette Heginger, our ACE-certified personal trainer who has previously worked in discipleship ministries, will gladly help you decide where to start. Both classes include daily devotions and prayer during cool down after the workout. The class members have also worked on several service projects in the community and church. Through these classes, new friendships and committed and supportive bonds have been formed. Join now and kick the new year off right with a focus on not only physical health but also spiritual health!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Nanette Heginger, Wellness Ministry Director, at nrheg@hotmail.com or 515-290-0005, or Wellness Ministry spokesperson Mary Mekemson at 515-451-3151 or mary.mekemson@gmail.com

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

How would you like to be able to invest in First United Methodist Church? Member Investment Certificates are now being offered to FUMC members and their families. Investment Certificate rates are considerably above current CD rates offered by local financial institutions. Your investment will be used to reduce the bank loan cost for financing our beautiful new addition. If you are interested, or would like to know more, information packets are available in the church office. If you would like to have a packet mailed to you, just call the office: 232-2750.

Current Rates (effective through 3-31-2016)

<u>Note Term</u> <u>Rate</u>	<u>Annual Interest</u>
One Year	1.15%
Three Year	1.75%
Five Year	2.20%

Minimum Investment: \$2,000

Maximum Single Certificate: \$50,000



January 2016:

*Did you know that, for purposes of estate taxation, there is no limitation on the size of a charitable gift that you may give to your church at the time of your death? No matter how large, the gift is deductible for estate tax purposes.

*Permanent endowments are gifts that keep on giving. If the endowment agreement states that the principal shall never be invaded and that income is paid out to support a designated cause through your church, then your gift is "forever."

*Consider giving the use of your property to your heirs for the duration of their lives, but having the property at their death pass to the church as a family memorial. After the property has met the family needs, it will then support the mission and ministry of your church.



Choir Schedule

JANUARY SCHEDULE

Jan. 6...no bells, no choir
 Jan. 7...7:30...choir
 Jan. 13...bells, choir
 Jan. 20...bells, choir
 Jan. 27...no bells, no choir
 Jan. 28...choir

Chancel Choir ALWAYS welcomes NEW members. We usually practice Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. UNLESS there is an ISU basket ball game. Those nights we practice either Tuesday or Thursday. Make this YOUR year to join us! We have a seat reserved for YOU!

JANUARY GREETERS

9:30 Jan 3:

Allye Bodholdt - ISU
 Kayla Sankey - UNI
 Sam Rathe - U of I

Jan 10:

8:30 Donna Banker & Connie Killam
 11:00 Phil and Sandy Johnson

Jan 17:

8:30 Norma Downs & Anne Nelson
 11:00 Jo Farrar & Marilyn Gibbs

Jan 24:

8:30 Lee & Gayle Huey
 11:00 Pete and Sally Peterson

Jan 31:

8:30 Chad & Carrie Copley
 11:00 Bob & Zella Studer



USHERS

9:30 Jan 3rd:

Steve & Susan Simpson
 Pete & Sally Peterson
 Scott & Lori Jarmon

8:30 January 10th:

Rich & Cami McColley
 Joel & Aileen Sullivan

Larry Cormicle & Mary Beth Oostenbrug

9:30 Communion Assistants Jan 3:

Carrie Copley
 Jane Jorgenson
 Carol Miller
 Karen Andrews
 Rich & Cami McColley



THEOLOGIAN-IN-RESIDENCE WEEKEND AT THE UCC January 30-31

Our good neighbors at the UCC are hosting their annual Theologian-in-Residence weekend on January 30-31. This year's theme is "God and Government: Liberties Crumbling?" The theologian coming to Ames to lead this event is Barry Lynn, a UCC minister, who also is an attorney. He has had an extensive career in the Washington, D.C. area. He has been seen and heard on various well-known television and radio broadcasts and is known for his discussions of the First Amendment. He is the author of a couple of books and numerous magazine/journal articles. He is the Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, an organization that litigates, lobbies and educates the public about critical church/state issues. The first session will be on Saturday morning, January 30, from 9-10:30 a.m. on the topic of "A Primer on the History of Church and State: It Started in the Schools". Then, at 10:45-11:45 the topic to be explored is "When Political Candidates Step in it" (the issue of church/state). After lunch, from 1:15-2:30 the topic that Barry Lynn will be presenting is "And they Will Be Led By a Child". A panel discussion will be held on Sunday, January 31, from 9-10:30 a.m.

To pre-register for this event contact the church office at 515-232-9323. Cost of lunch is \$10.00.

There is no other fee except a freewill donation will be accepted .

HAPPY 2016! Thoughts to live in the New Year:

1. I am what I think.
2. Life can be ordinary or it can be great.
3. The fundamental object of life is emotional and spiritual growth.
4. Love can change and transform the course of my world.
5. All love freely given returns two-fold.
6. The past is gone forever.
7. Negative emotions destroy only me.
8. Problems bother me only to the degree I permit them to do so.
9. Happiness is a habit I will develop.
10. Enthusiasm is my daily exercise.
11. I am responsible for myself and will offer my best to my "traveling companions" in this adventure of life.
12. I am a competent person and have much to give others.

REV. DR. MARTIN LUKETHER KING, JR. OBSERVANCES

A Community-wide interfaith ecumenical Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. worship service will be held on Sunday, January 17, at 2 p.m. at First Christian Church (Disciples). Dr. Sharon Watkins, General Minister & President, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and National Council of Churches will be preaching. Jacob Carmi, the recent award recipient of the Dream Seed Scholarship will speak, too. A special offering for the Dream Seed Scholarship will be received, with a reception to follow the worship time.

Then, on Monday, January 18, there will be a city wide program held at the Ames Middle School in the evening sponsored by the Ames Human Relations Commission. We, as a congregation, are encouraging all church members, young and old, to make Monday, January 18, a day for “random acts of kindness” and helping others, all in the spirit of Dr. King, Jr.

Please note that the church office will be closed on January 18 in observance of this holiday.



“I **H**ave **a** **DREAM**...”

CONGRATULATIONS TO DALE VANDER SCHAAF

The Ames Human Relations Commission is awarding Dale Vander Schaaf with its 2016 Ames Humanitarian Award. This award recognizes someone whose contributions to Ames demonstrate extraordinary efforts to promote diversity, fairness and equality. Dale has done so through Habitat for Humanity, the Story County Community Housing Corporation and Food at First, as well as others. This award will be presented on Martin Luther King Day, January 18, 2016, at the day's celebratory program held at the Ames Middle School. Congratulations!

HUMAN RELATIONS DAY—JANUARY 16 & 17

Each of us is made in the image of God. Still, we live in a world torn apart by racial hatred and injustice and violence. United Methodists annually observe Human Relations Day as just one way to emphasize and demonstrate our desire to heal the divisions resulting from racist attitudes and to proclaim a message of unity for all humankind. On this day, every church member is encouraged to stop and say a prayer for healing of racial strife and to covenant with God to do his or her own part in bringing peace to this world. We will have a special Human Relations Day Offering that weekend

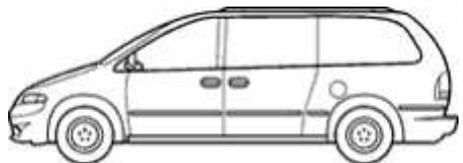
WHEN YOU LOOK AROUND THE CHURCH AND SEE A NEED

There are people at First Church who are very good and generous in that they look around the church and see a needed item that could benefit the ministry and mission of the congregation. They will then come to the office and donate a gift to pay for the costs; sometimes they will even be invited to go and purchase the needed item. We are so grateful for those who "see" and then work to fulfill a need. You are always welcomed to make such a contribution, after visiting with pastors and staff. Thank you, also, to those who see a task or job that needs to be done and then will give of time and energy to do it. Churches are transformed when people come together to serve needs through the sharing of their gifts!

Rides for Sunday morning worship.

Need additional folks to add to list of possible drivers. Please contact Jerry Giebelstein @ [515-460-2099](tel:515-460-2099) or Mary Schrunk @ [515-681-1777](tel:515-681-1777) to offer service for this vital ministry.

If you travel from Green Hills, Windsor Oaks, Waterford or Northridge Village, please let us know if you can take an extra rider or two on Sunday mornings.



SHUT-IN TRANSPORTATION NEEDED

Ushers Needed



USHERS ARE IMPORTANT TO WORSHIP-- BE AN USHER IN 2016!

Ryan Gehling has stepped down as our coordinator of ushering and NO ONE has stepped up to do this work. PLEASE, contact the church office if you can help! We need several church members to say, "Yes! I will gladly serve as an usher captain!" We need basically 24 Usher Captains: two for each month with one for 8:30 and one for 11 a.m. worship service. Of course the summer months are less work since we have only the one Sunday morning worship time! Each Usher Captain recruits 6 persons as the ushers needed for the worship services.

An usher may be a person's first contact with any one from our congregation as they come to church. The usher's smile, warm and friendly greeting may help people be more opened to God's Spirit and thankful for God's blessings. When people see the usher being of service to them, it may remind them to consider ways that they can be of service in the life of the church.

NEWS FOR YOU TO HAVE FROM THE UNITED METHODIST MEN:

Our UMM group welcomes all the men of the church to their monthly breakfasts held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 a.m. The first meeting of the 2016 will be held on Tuesday, January 5. Be sure to plan ahead now for the annual UMM sponsored "Sweethearts Banquet" to be on February 14th. The annual UMM Auction is currently on the calendar for April 30. To stay informed of UMM happenings visit with Don Wall or read the weekly bulletin or check the church website:



United Methodist Men



United Methodist Women

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The "theme" for 2016 for the United Methodist Women is "Seeking Justice & Joy---For All!" The key verse for January 2016 is John 15:11, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete." There are no large unit meetings of our local UMW until March but in the meantime the various Circles will be gathering: Circle of Faith on January 7 at 7 p.m.; Ruth Circle on January 14 at 9 a.m.; no January meeting for the Sarah Circle or for the Silver Anniversary Circle. The anticipated budget income for the UMW in 2016 has been established at \$19,681. The UMW hope to give this congregation \$7250 for various needs in 2016. Juanita Dunn is the woman to visit with regarding membership in the UMW. Jane Edwards is starting her term as the UMW president with Carol Miller as the Vice-president and Barb Van Slyke as secretary. Jo Durlam remains as treasurer. The 2016 Holiday Fair will be October 15 with Carolyn Yorgensen, Donna Banker, Margret Torrie, and Joan Peterson as co-chairs. The primary study topics for the "Mission U" in 2016 will be "The Bible and Human Sexuality: Claiming God's Good Gift", "Latin America", and "Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action." Good websites to learn more about United Methodist Women are: www.unitedmethodistwomen.org. or www.umwmissionresources.org.

The United Methodist Women (UMW) would like to thank the congregation for all their support throughout the year and especially during Holiday Fair. In addition to members' pledges, this helps us to meet our budgeted obligations to the denomination-wide United Methodist Women of \$9431; which helps to support 100 national mission projects, three of which are in IOWA, and 100 international mission programs. In addition to this, our budget includes local giving in the support of our Purpose, and funding our local organization. (Our budget is available in the UMW Program book.) At the end of the year we disburse all money that is available; keeping only what we need to support the following year's obligation.

The following disbursements were determined by the United Methodist Women's Leadership Team on December 9:

- \$165 for Staff Christmas gift certificates
- \$800 for Kitchen Supplies at FUMC
- \$250 for "Up With Puppets"
- \$500 for FUMC (Love Gift)
- \$500 Free Dental Clinic
- \$500 Food at First
- \$500 Good Neighbor
- \$100 Emergency Residence Project
- \$500 ACCESS
- \$500 Bidwell
- \$500 Iowa Conference UMW
- \$200 Wings of Refuge for services to victims of Human Trafficking

Total \$5015 beyond budgeted items

Included in the budgeted items for the local church are:

- \$1500 Camperships for Ames FUMC
- \$1000 Appalachia Service Project at Ames FUMC
- \$800 Education Work Area at Ames FUMC
- \$200 Kitchen Supplies

In addition the UMW has purchased the drinking glasses and flatware for the Multi-Purpose room kitchen, and new soup bowls (with the help of outside donations).

Again, we thank you for your support as we work to fulfill The Vision of UMW: ***Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.***

Sharon Boen, UMW President



CHURCH LEADERS & MEMBERS OF BOARDS, COUNCILS, CLUSTERS, AND MINISTRY TEAMS IN 2015

On January 1, 2015, new leadership will be in place. Each new leader can be looking for information to arrive to them. **We will install all leaders during each of our worship services on either January 16 or 17.** Hopefully, all who have agreed to take a place on one of our church's agencies will be able to be present.

Please know that not all church committees, boards, councils, and agencies will meet in January and not all groups meet every month. For those who like to "plan ahead" and get items on a family calendar, here is the plan for most meetings this year---most meetings will either be on Mondays or Tuesdays. *

1st Monday of a month: - CEMT (Children & Family) Cluster

1st Tuesday of a month: SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee)

2nd Monday of a month: Missions Committee

2nd Tuesday of a month: Member Care Committee

2nd Wednesday of a month: Stewardship Committee

3rd Monday of a month: Board of Directors of FUMC Foundation

3rd Tuesday of a month: Board of Trustees

4th Monday of a month: Welcome & Marketing Committee

4th Tuesday of a month: Committee on Finance

March 4 and September 2 ----Committee on Memorial & Gifts

February 4 and October 7 ----Worship Committee

October 7 & 14, November 4----Nominations & Lay Leadership Committee

Committee on Records & History ("on call")

The Church Council is the primary administrative body of the church. It is composed of the elected chairpersons for the various groups plus a few others. The Church Council will potentially meet on February 5, May 7, September 3 and December 3 (as needed) – plus whenever our annual Charge Conference is scheduled in the fall.

***Note -**

Only the Trustees and Finance Committee will meet in January!

2016 CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERSHIP

Helping to Create and Continue “the Visions & Mission” of Our Church

Chairperson	Terry Goodman
Vice-Chairperson/Lay leader	Carol Miller
Council Secretary	Jo Durlam
Co-Treasurers	Clarence Cory
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Dale Vander Schaaf
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Megan Van Pelt
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Kathy Van pelt
Staff Parish Relations Chair	Matt Carney
Finance Co-Chair	Bob Studer & Kevin Hinders
Trustees Chair	Alan McCunn
Building Project Chair	Dale Vander Schaaf
Memorial & Gifts Chair	Louise Yager
Foundation Board Co-Chair	Jean McBreen & Mary Beth Oostenbrug
Lay Leadership Secretary	To be elected
Church Historian	Susan Fraser
Children & Family (CEMT)	To be elected
Scouting Coordinator	Jim Miller
Worship Chair	Ann Murray
Stewardship Chair	Bruce Wight
Membership Care	Karen Kerper
Welcome & Marketing Co-Chair	Joyce Crotty
Mission-Outreach Co-Chair	Rhonda Carney
President of UMW	Jane Edwards
Treasurer of UMW	Jo Durlam
President of UMM	Don Wall
Treasurer of UMM	Bob Studer

Ex-Officio: Pastors, Nicole Smith, Myrna Cakerice

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH OFFICERS & LEADERS

On the weekend of January 16 & 17, we will be sharing in a moment of recognition and installation of our 2016 church leadership, elected at Charge Conference. We will take a moment in each of the three worship services that weekend to salute these people. Rejoice that God has called these people to come and share their gifts, witness, time and resources with the whole congregation. Do all you can to assist and encourage them. Give them your cooperation, your counsel, and your prayers.

WHO IS DOING WHAT?

The following persons are serving on our **Administrative Committees and Boards** in 2016. Say “thank you” to them and offer them your support!

Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC): Kathy Van Pelt, Bob Jolly, Amy Abrams, Matt Carney, Mavis Butler, Carol Miller, Greg Fuerst, Gina Smith, and Brenda Bright. Also on SPRC ex-officio are the pastors.

Board of Trustees: Harold Kilcrease, Roy Cakerice, Chris Strawhacker, Brian Cassaidy, Jon Heimer, Karen Mannes, Alan McCunn, Jerry Giebelstein, Ken Van Pelt, and Nathan Wiertzema. Also on the Board ex-officio are Pastor Fred, Carol Miller, Dale Vander Schaaf, and Steve Pelz.

Committee on Memorial & Gifts: Louise Yager, Harriett Ringgenberg, Peg Pearce, Bob & Karen Fowser, Margy Howarth, Cindy Sienknecht, Nancy Tamashumus, and Karen Barnes. Also serving ex-officio are Pastor Fred, Reid Cummer, Carol Miller, and Dale Vander Schaaf. Plus, there is a representative from Trustees.

Foundation Board: Jean McBreen, Norm Cheville, Mary Beth Oostenbrug, Peggy McConnell, John Martens, Rich McColley, Marty Sankey, and Joe Burris. Also serving ex-officio are Pastor Fred, Carol Miller, Dale Vander Schaaf, Alan McCunn, Bob Studer & Kevin Hinders, Bruce Wight, and Terry Goodman.

Committee on Finance & Administration: Dean Howarth, Marcia Skrdla, Jeff Johnson, Kevin Hinders, Bob Studer, Bob Blattert, Troy Jerman, Terry Goodman, Matt Carney, Alan McCunn, Bruce Wight, Dale Vander Schaaf, Carol Miller, the Pastors, Reid Cummer, and Clarence Cory.

Committee on Lay Leadership and Nomination: Joan Peterson, Renee Jerman, Julie Sankey, and Charli Hanaway, plus there are **5 open spots to yet be elected**. Also serving ex-officio are the Pastors, Carol Miller, Kathy Van Pelt, Megan Van Pelt, Dale Vander Schaaf, and Terry Goodman.

Committee on Records and History: Susan Fraser, Carol Deppe, Roseva Albertson, Vivian Nelson, Carol & Arlen Patrick, Jo Farrar, Margaret Vance, Jane Jorgensen, Jon & Marcia Sontag. Serving ex-officio are the Pastors, Carol Miller, Kathy Van Pelt and a representative from UMW, UMM, and Youth ministries.

Children & Family Council: Suann & Mike Evans, Aileen Sullivan, Mouy Poag, Justin & Laura Clausen, Derek and Stacy Tye-Williams, Tracy Heimer, and at least **2 more to be elected!** Also serving ex-officio are the pastors, Nicole Smith, Carol Miller, and Kathy and Megan Van Pelt.

Membership Care Committee: Karen Kerper, Doug Hill, Donna Banker, Lynn Potthoff, Marge Bourne, Julie Huisman, Lori Jarmon, and at least **2 more open positions to be elected!** Also serving ex-officio are the pastors, Carol Miller, Kathy Van Pelt, and Cami McColley (representative from Stephen Ministers).

Welcome & Marketing Committee: Anne Nelson, Lisa & Jim Sorenson, Elizabeth Orcutt-Kroeger, Carol Crawford, Becky Jordan, Joyce Crotty, Connie Killam, Lori Vander Werff, Rhonda Lofstedt, Mary Beth Kiner ,and Joan Peterson. Ex-officio members are the pastors, Carol Miller and Megan Van Pelt

Missions & Outreach Committee: Judith Fulton, Gene & Mary Rasmussen ,Julie Cassaidy, Rhonda Carney, Diane Schwendinger, Jackie Delay, Ellen Johnsen, and Steve Hanlin. Ex-officio members are the pastors, Carol Miller & Dale Vander Schaaf.

Stewardship Committee: William Edwards, Bruce Wight, Joel Sullivan, Bob Blattert, Kris Hinders, and **at least 4 more to be elected!** Ex-officio members are the pastors, Terry Goodman (Council Chair), Carol Miller (Lay leader), Bob Studer & Kevin Hinders (Co-Chair of Finance) and the Lay Members to annual conference: Kathy and Megan Van Pelt and Dale Vander Schaaf.

Worship Committee: Ann Murray, Jerri Adams, Carol Payne, Lori Stephens, Norma Speer, Brian Smith, Delores Ball, and at least 3 more persons to be elected! Ex-officio members are the Pastors, Myrna Cakerice, Mary Schrunk & Suann Evans, Jo & Mike Durlam, Pete Peterson, Marty Sankey, Nicole Smith, Carol Miller & Dale Vander Schaaf

If you are interested and willing to serve in any of the “to be elected” positions please contact Pastor Fred today!



LIFT UP PRAYERS FOR OUR GENERAL AND JURISIDCITONAL DELEGATES

Our global United Methodist Church (UMC) will meet for General Conference in Portland, Oregon, on May 10-20. This quadrennial gathering of leaders from across the world will be making important decisions for our denomination as they pray and work together on significant issues that matter in the life the UMC. Our Book of Discipline will be reviewed, updated and changed to address the social justice matters of our current time and to help better order and direct ministries and missions of our denomination. Each annual conference is allotted a certain number of elected delegates to attend General Conference. Here is a listing of the Iowa delegation:

2016 GENERAL CONFERENCE DELEGATES

Clergy:

Lilian Gallo Seagren
Katie Dawson
Barrie Tritle
Brian Milford
Diane Wasson Eberhart
Tom Shinkle

Lay:

Phil Carver
Norma Morrison
Becky Heeren
John Rothlisberger
Darcy Rubenking
Craig Scott

The North Central Jurisdictional Conference will then convene this summer. At this gathering the business related to our jurisdictional (regional) life is conducted and more importantly new bishops are elected to lead the denomination and bishops are assigned to episcopal areas. Those who attend General Conference attend also this gathering as well as the following additional persons:

2016 DELEGATES TO JURISDICTIONAL CONFERENCE

Clergy:

Sean McRoberts
Mike Morgan
Lanette Plambeck
Tom Carver
Nate Nims
Brian Oliver

Lay:

Margaret Borgen
Lindsay Drake
Kae Tritle
Marcia Young
Richard Hofmeyer
Lisa Larson

Clergy Alternates:

Heecheon Jeon
Scott Kisker
Beverlee Bell
Steve McElroy
Deb Coble Wise
John Louk

Lay Alternates:

Beverly Spencer
Dorothy Higdon
Lauren Loonsfoot
Ryan Russell
Nitza Dovenspike
Noreen Kahler-Miller

Stay informed and up to date on all these happenings by going to www.iaumc.org.



SPECIAL SUNDAYS FOR GENERAL UMC MISSIONS IN 2016

The UMC has SIX special Sundays in the year when we collect offerings for designated missions as a whole denomination. Typically, you will see posters and offering envelopes for these special offerings. Here is a list of 2016 dates for you and a website for you to visit to find out more about how these monies are used: www.umcgiving.org.

Human Relations Day---January 17
One Great Hour of Sharing---March 6
Native American Ministries---April 10
Peace with Justice---May 22
World Communion ---October 2
UM Student Day ---November 27

OUR PLEASURE TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AT COFFEE HOUR - Assignments for 2016

It is our pleasure to serve Fellowship Coffee between Sunday services each week. A freewill offering helps to defray the costs. Thank you for your financial support of the coffee hour! In 2016 we plan to once again assign the various groups and committees within our church the responsibility to prepare and host our fellowship time. Here is the 2016 schedule:

January - Member Care Committee & Stephen Ministry
February - Senior High Youth & Parents; Junior High Youth & Parents
March - United Methodist Women
April - Welcome & Marketing Committee & History Committee
May - Board Trustees & Committee on Memorials & Gifts
June - Missions Committee
July - Chancel Choir & Handbell Choir
August - United Methodist Men
September - Finance Committee & Council Chair, Lay Leader, Lay Members to Annual Conference
October - Stewardship Committee & Foundation Board
November - Children & Family Council, Confirmation Class & Parents
December - Staff Parish Relations Committee & Worship Committee

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We're looking forward to a great 2016 with all of you! Let's make this new year one to remember as we celebrate our 150th anniversary throughout the year!

