



## LENTEN STUDY

A new Sermon Series Study starts March 1. We will be using Ray Vander Laan's study "Path to the Cross: Embracing Obedience and Sacrifice." This is a 5-week study that brings God's Word to life with astounding relevance and reveals unique insights into the Scripture's significance for modern day believers. Order your copy of the book through your small group leader or call the church to place your order for this study. 515-232-2750

### **MARCH & APRIL SERMON SERIES - "Path to the Cross"**

- March 1<sup>st</sup>: "The Way of the Essenes: Sold Out for God"**
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: "The Way of John the Baptist"**
- March 15<sup>th</sup>: "Into the Desert to be Tested: Led By Love"**
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>: "The Last Passover: Four Cups of Promise"**
- March 29<sup>th</sup>: "The Fifth Cup: Our Way of Hope"**
- April 5<sup>th</sup>: Palm/Passion Sunday**
- April 9<sup>th</sup>: Living Last Supper, 7pm**
- April 10<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday**
  - Stations of the Cross (self-directed)**
- April 12<sup>th</sup>: Easter Sunday**

### **Never Too Late to Join Chancel Choir**

Listen friends, we know that the single BIGGEST objection to signing up for the choir is that you simply don't have enough time in your schedule. It's tough to commit to weekly rehearsals and ALL the other things.

That's why we want to invite you to join the choir for a short period of time--a Choir Trial Period, if you will. Lent is a PERFECT time to "try out" the choir. ALL age groups are welcome.

Commit to the Choir Trial Period beginning on March 4 and ending on March 25. Practice is from 7:30--8:30p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a perfect way to get to sing with others and lead in worship without the long-term commitment.



“But you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.” Exodus 19:6

“...I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”  
Is 49:6

“You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”  
Matthew 5:14, 16

“...like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a royal priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5

When I started seminary, way back in the day, I was very apprehensive about studying theology. This poor engineer had never even taken a single philosophy course! The professor teaching theology was infamous for dragging his students from one end of the theological spectrum to the other, then requiring us to both understand (not agree) and write intelligently about what we read. Bottom line: I read a lot of theology I really hated. But over time, I began to learn that we agreed on more than we disagreed. I often discovered the real problem was we used a different way to describe a similar idea. And sometimes, even though we started in very different places, we actually ended up with the same conclusions. I was able to find some common ground with each theological perspective I read, in spite of whether or not I agreed with that perspective. I eventually learned to look for common ground first. It opened up a whole new world for me – and expanded my ability to form relationships with an eclectic group of people.

I am very excited about our Lenten Sermon and Study Series “The Path to the Cross” by Ray Vander Laan. I was introduced to Rev. Vander Laan’s teaching videos while serving in my first full-time appointment, and they blew my mind! While I do not always agree with some of the details of his conclusions, I deeply appreciate the contextual perspective brought into the studies from top scholars in archaeological, geographical, historical, cultural, and Biblical studies. It brings the Bible text to life! I think Vander Laan’s “big picture” analysis and perspective are not only fascinating, but affirming of what both Jewish and Christian faiths have consistently proclaimed over the centuries: God’s people are called to be a transforming influence in their current world.

If we cannot live out our faith, then it is not based in reality. By reading the Bible in light of the context in which it was written, as best we can, the underlying principles and ideas can more easily be identified. This which means we can more easily translate them for application in our world today. In so doing, the Bible becomes more relevant and truly livable, but it also challenges us to live out our faith more intentionally.

And now, the caveat: I want to be transparent about the fact that the publishing organizations for this Lenten study are in the more con-

servative theological camps. This may tempt some of you to avoid the material rather than engage it. I would ask that you watch at least one of the videos before passing judgment! If we are going to seriously embrace our diversity, then we at least need to attempt to engage the material with an eye towards learning from that diversity. We do not – and will not – all agree. But I think you will find enough common ground to learn something positive and uplifting in each of the studies as Rev. Vander Laan presents them.

See you in worship!

Yours for the journey,  
Kerrin

### **LAY SERVANT TRAINING**

On Saturday, April 4, 2020 there will be a Basic Lay Servant and two Advanced Lay Servant training(s) offered at the Iowa Falls, First UMC (619 Main St., IA Falls). The training is one ten hour day. Beginning at 8:00AM and ending by 6:00PM.

#### **BASIC - LAY SERVANT MINISTRIES**

Book Required: Lay Servant Ministries (978-0-88177-626-3)

Instructor: Jonathan Cooney

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **ADVANCED - POLITY**

Book Required: Polity, Practice, and the Mission of the UMC (978-0-068733-531-2)

AND The Method of Our Mission (978-1-42676-717-3)

Instructor: Steve Ransom

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **ADVANCED - MISSIONS**

Book Required: A Mission Journey: A Handbook for Volunteers (978-0-8358-1786-8)

Instructor: Jordan Derhammer

\*\*\*\*\*

For additional information and/or to register go to the link:

[layservantregistrationadvancedregistration-iafallsapril42020.pdf](#)

### **ASP FUNDRAISER - SELLING PICNIC TABLES**

The ASP members will be selling picnic tables as a fundraiser for their trip. Members of the team will gather pre-sales and then build the tables later this month or next month. If you would like to see one of the tables, there is one outside on the church patio and also one behind the staircase, that leads to the sanctuary on the south side of the church. The picnic tables are made of solid wood and are VERY NICE!! The price of the tables is \$500.00. Contact Ken Van Pelt with questions: [kkvanpelt@q.com](mailto:kkvanpelt@q.com) or at (515) 232-4018.

**CHILDREN, FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES**  
**NICOLE SMITH - COORDINATOR**

### **Confirmation Corner**

Confirmation class during the month of March will be focused on learning more about what it means to be a member of this congregation and the United Methodist Church.

There is a faith visit scheduled for March 8 at 10:45a.m. at Burns United Methodist Church in Des Moines. If you are interested in joining the confirmands, their families, and their mentors on a faith visit, please contact Nicole.

### **Children's Christian Education Opportunities**

#### **Sunday School**

#### **Spring Break Sundays**

On Sundays, March 15 and March 22, the Sunday school children will be hanging out in the balcony classroom for some fun movie lessons. Typically we take a "break" from our regular rotations during Spring break week but still gather for movie days and watch movies with a good lesson. We have popcorn and juice boxes while we kick back and relax and enjoy the show. Movie titles have yet to be selected for this spring break movie event but look for more information about that soon.

#### **Children's Sunday School Classes**

Children's Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:45am. Children from nursery to fifth grade can take part! All children meet in the sanctuary at 9:45-10am for music time and announcements. The nursery children, 2 & 3 year old preschoolers, and 4 & 5 year old preschoolers will head to their classrooms following music and announcements. Children in grades kindergarten through fifth will then head to their rotation for the day. Rotations are typically in Drama, Art, Games, or Movies. During March, the children will have rotations called "Texts from God."

#### **Family Fun Way to Close Out Spring Break**

Spring Break may be coming to an end on March 22 but the children and families of Ames First UMC are going to have a little more fun before it's over. We will be having a family fun event that will be great for all ages! We are currently finalizing plans and have it between a return to Time Out or trying something new at Perfect Games. Be on the lookout for an email survey to get your input! Whatever is decided, we hope to see you there for a fun afternoon. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Smith at [nicole@fumcomes.org](mailto:nicole@fumcomes.org).

#### **Wednesday Night Kids Club**

Kids Club meets on Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30p.m. in room E205. We learn about various bible stories through games, crafts, science experiments, drama, and more. The most important thing is that we learn how we can apply that lesson to our daily lives. Our focus is

**CHILDREN, FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES  
NICOLE SMITH - COORDINATOR**

always about loving and helping others. We like to also take part in a Mission of the Month activity. During March we will discuss the community garden we started last year that gives free produce to anyone walking by. This will take lots of planning again this year and even some seed planting later in the month. We will focus on Matthew 25:35-40 during the month. We will not meet on Wednesday, March 18.

**UMW UPDATE**

Thursday, March 5th, our UMW Unit will observe Day of Prayer and Self Denial at noon in the Multi-Purpose Room. There will be a simple lunch and our speaker will be Abra Dougherty from Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA). She will share about the program some of our donations support. All are welcome to join us for lunch and the program.

**\*\*\*\*UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY\*\*\*\***

Have you been interested in UMW activities but unable to participate because your schedule doesn't work? We have an opportunity for you! On Saturday, April 4th, our church will host the Conference Laity Day with the Bishop. UMW has been offered the opportunity to raise some extra money for our mission fund by serving morning refreshments and lunch to the 125-150 guests who will be coming from all over Iowa to our church that day. We'll need people to make and/or help serve some tasty treats such as coffee cake or muffins in the morning and also people to help prepare and/or serve and clean up lunch. If you'd like to bake, prep, serve or clean up, please contact Carol Miller (515-290-3843). This is an amazing opportunity for us to welcome people from outside our walls into our church and raise some funds for our mission efforts locally and around the world. We hope you'll take advantage and help welcome our brothers and sisters from around the conference.

**MISSIONS...**

**MICA Food Basket Challenge UPDATE!** The MICA Food Basket Challenge has begun! Thanks to the great response from our congregation we've had to make several trips to MICA! From the Youth's "Souper" Bowl food drive, we added 96 pounds in just one load! Our total as of February 20th is already at 277 pounds! Be sure to check the Missions board in Fellowship Hall to see the current total and latest needs. All donations are welcome, but sometimes they have specific requests. Thanks to everyone who has been bringing in donations! Working together, we'll reach that 1200 pound goal!

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS - KIM HEIDEMANN



A big thanks to all that attended the UMM Valentine's Dinner. You were so very gracious to our youth servers. I'm so impressed with the youth that helped. There were kids that worked for hours on the dinner prep, decorating, serving and clean up. Thanks to all the adults that helped to guide

them as well. It was awesome and I'm already looking forward to next year!

Do you want to get involved in youth ministry? I hope so! We need you. More importantly-your youth need you. We are always looking for people that can be helpers in the rooms on both Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings. Besides these opportunities, we will have more ways to get involved. We are working on the structure of the youth ministry in general-which is super exciting! Please stay tuned for more information on this. In the meantime though-think about getting involved. Congrats to Adam Heuer and Ainsley Jurgens for being selected as the next round of Ames First UMC youth reps to attend the Simpson Youth Academy. Please make sure to say something to them when you see them next!

Ames First UMC is blessed with an amazing choir and is looking for more youth to get involved! If you have a young person in your household that loves to sing, please encourage them to try choir. Myrna has put together a Choir Trial Period program. Commit to the Choir Trial Period beginning on March 4 and ending on March 25. Practice is from 7:30 p.m.--8:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a perfect way to get to sing with others and lead in worship without the long-term commitment.

**96 lbs of food!** A big thanks to all that brought food items for "Souper Bowl" Sunday. Carol Miller, UMW President, delivered the food to MICA and it came out to be a whopping 96 lbs! That's awesome! There was also about \$32 donated. That money will be used to purchase paper products that will also be given to MICA. Thank you again!

An FYI on what the youth are talking about this month. They are looking at the concepts of Lent, Holiness, and God's Power. Spring Break is this month too-which means that we will have some fun things happening in our youth rooms. On Sunday mornings (March 15 and 22) there will be a movie shown. There will be no YG on Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Reminder on normal youth meeting times: Middle School and High School youth meet on Sunday mornings from 9:45-10:45. They also meet for youth group on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-7:30. On Wednesday evenings there is a fellowship meal from 5:30 to 6:30. Puppets practice from 11-12 on Sunday mornings and the 6<sup>th</sup> grade

A.C.T group (which stands for Awesome Christian Theater) meets every other week. There is also ASP and confirmation. If you have a young person in your house....there are so many ways to get them engaged! As always if you have questions or comments, feel free to email me at: [kim@fumcames.org](mailto:kim@fumcames.org).

Thanks! -Kim Heidemann, Youth Ministries Coordinator

### **CENSUS WORKERS NEEDED**

If you know anyone who is looking for a part-time job, the Census Bureau needs workers.

The U.S. Census Bureau has launched a national recruitment effort to hire temporary workers to help conduct the 2020 Census.

We are currently hiring for all positions including full, part-time, and field positions. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in earning an extra income. The pay rate is **\$21.50** per hour in your area. There is a **high demand** of people needed to be recruited in Story County, IA. It is important to have a successful census count which will provide many benefits specifically for your area such as:

- Apportion the seats in the House of Representatives
- Draw state legislative districts
- Distribute more than \$400 billion annually in Federal funds
- Evaluate the success of community programs
- Identify populations that might be open and responsive to new services
- Determine sites for new business

Thank you!

**Denisyha Waller**, Office Clerk - Chicago Far Southwest Office  
U.S. Census Bureau O: (708) 907-4554 [census.gov](http://census.gov) | [@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

From Jim Miller:

Scout Troop 160 celebrated Scout Sunday at FUMC February 2nd. The troop of young men and women took part in both services by reading the scriptures and by helping serve Communion. A highlight of the service was the presentation of the prestigious award, "The Cross and Flame Award", an award given to an adult volunteer who distinguishes themselves in both church and Scouting. The 2019 recipient is **Matt Carney**. Matt has been active in Scouting for many years in various leadership positions and recently retired as his troop's Scoutmaster. He is also active in various FUMC positions and is currently serving as Ad Council Chair. Congratulations, Matt! Troop 160 consists of about 25 active young men and women. FUMC has sponsored this troop since 2012. Matt Meinhard serves as Scoutmaster for the Boys Troop. Dan Andrews and Darin Van Ryswick serve as Scoutmasters for the Girls Troop.

**THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!!**

## SCOUTS ....

You may have seen in the news that the national BSA organization is filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (restructuring). This is the direct result of the sexual abuses committed by volunteers years ago and the legal actions victims are now taking.

Given that FUMC just celebrated "Scout Sunday", I'd like to share a few things with you.

- BSA condemns any such abuse and now has in place standards of operation that is considered by many to be the gold standard in youth protection.
- BSA believes that victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting should be equitably compensated.
- BSA is restructuring financially so that the victims can be compensated and so that the BSA can carry out Scouting's mission for years to come.

The bankruptcy of the national BSA does not affect our local Council or troop. We are separate legal entities and financially independent of the national organization. There will be no changes in the Scouting experience locally.

Some additional information:

A short video: <https://youtu.be/rUQTVzeBhXw>

A letter from our local Council: <https://conta.cc/323hmSn>

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/02/18/the-boy-scouts-of-america-files-for-chapter-11-bankruptcy-heres-what-that-means-for-you/>

<https://www.bsarestructuring.org/>

Troop 160, as well as other troops in the area, remain committed to the Aims of Scouting: character development, leadership development, citizenship training and physical fitness for our youth. We steadfastly practice the principles of youth protection, including two-deep adult leadership at all troop activities.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. I'd be glad to discuss them with you. Feel free to share this information with others.

DNA

--

Daniel N. Andrews

Data, Assessment, and Program Evaluation Coordinator

Ames Community Schools

2005 24th St.

Ames Iowa 50010

515-231-0745

## Good Neighbor News

The last Good Neighbor committee meeting was held on Feb. 17 at Unity Church. For the month of January, the following totals were distributed to clients, Healthy Food Vouchers (HFV) assisted 980 households (215 members) for \$2940; Transportation (CyRide tickets and gasoline vouchers) assisted 47 households (90 members) for \$9105; Rent/Utilities was given to 37 households (83 members) for \$8071.49.

We are getting positive feedback both from funders and clients on the proposed changes to the HFV program. In July the vouchers will be distributed based on needs and household size rather than based on the last time they were distributed to individuals and the same amount of vouchers distributed to all clients not based on family size or need at time.

The hours of operation were originally going to be changed on July 1, however after discussion with the Executive committee and volunteers; it was decided to change them in February to Monday and Thursday from 10:30 to 4:00. Lori is also able to meet with individuals at the Food at First location, if they cannot arrange to come to GN at the scheduled hours. These two days are also when Emergency Residence and St Thomas take applications for assistance. This time change allows Lori to network with other assistance agencies and in times of low finances, we do not have to close our doors to clients.

We received the funds from the Michael Londra concert held in December. After Michael's expenses, GN received around \$1400. GN has also arranged with him to have a concert next year possibly in December. GN is planning on participating in "Golf Fore Kids", which is held during Greek Week. The ISU students will provide golf balls, candies, and tees with GN materials. GN will also provide Golf Towels with the agencies logo on them.

Some upcoming events which are being planned as fundraisers for GN are:

April 16 – Donor Thank you and Development – 6:30 at Raspberry Hill

April 18 – Irish Spring - Holy Grail playing - 1:00 to 4:00 at Jethro's

May 31 – Northminster Annual Choir Concert (proposed date)

My monthly reminder...after nine years of participating on the board of GN, I will be stepping down as the church representative June 2020. If there is anyone that would like to be involved in these missions, they are looking for a replacement. Also because of a conflict and being done with my three year appointment, they are also in need of a church representative for the Story County Ecumenical Housing board.

Submitted by Steve J. Hanlin;  
representative to Good Neighbor for First United Methodist Church,  
Story County Ecumenical Housing Board and Mission Committee.

Thank You  
from the  
Cyclone Country  
Aktion Club



To OUR FRIENDS WITH THE  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
OF AMES



Shanda  
Sunbken

Dean Doye



Lind



Denise  
Bluffitt



Brett Read

Talencia



Brendan



Angie

Joshua Dobbz

CCAC treasure

Missy



Barb H



Molly Allen

Jenni weig

AMY



Onnalee

missyw.



Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 188  
Ames, IA

**First United Methodist Church  
516 Kellogg Ave  
Ames, IA 50010**



**Don't forget! Set your clocks  
ahead when you go to bed on  
March 7. Daylight Savings Time  
begins March 8!**