



Vol. 74, No. 8

*August 2011 edition*

## First Church was founded in 1836



### Our Mission Statement

*"To be a spiritual home that welcomes, equips and sends all into the ministry to which Christ has called us."*

### Our Worship Schedule:

#### Saturday

5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

#### Sunday

8:00 am Chapel Service

9:00 am in the Sanctuary

Children's Sunday School &

Adult Study Groups at 10:15 am

11:15 Praise & Worship in the Sanctuary

### Office Hours: Monday - Friday

8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Phone: (319) 385-1740

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Web Site: [www.firstmethodistonline.org](http://www.firstmethodistonline.org)

Information for the September Messenger  
is due Thursday, August 25th.  
It will be mailed to you on the 30th.

### Our Staff

Rev. Herbert Shafer, Senior Pastor  
Rev. David Bracht-Wagner, Pastor for  
Youth & Young Adult Faith Development  
Jean Evans, Financial Coordinator/  
Membership Secretary  
Priscilla Marlar, Administrative Assistant/  
Director of Children's Music  
Nancy McGohan, Youth Assistant  
Chuck Ring, Custodian  
Jerry Lalaga, Organist

### Dodransbicentennial--

Noun. Derived from Latin contraction of *de-quadrans* which means "a whole unit less a quarter" 175 years is a quarter century less than the next whole (bi)century.

175 years of celebration. Coming soon!

From Pastor Herb:

"The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom."

-- Isaiah 35:1

A lifelong dream was fulfilled for my wife Jan in June as we boarded the Amtrak for the Grand Canyon. Vast, desolate and yet alive with magnificent blooming plants of all sorts, the desert southwest is an awe inspiring part of the world. For me this was the first leg of a four week "renewal leave". So for the entire journey it was a time to pay attention to God who I "saw" and "heard" in unexpected ways.

I've always liked the train as a mode of travel. It is an experience in and of itself, with the dinner car being the best part. In addition to good food and beautiful scenery, the dining car is the place to meet new friends. As no one is allowed the luxury of dining alone, Jan and I joined Kim and William who were traveling singly. For one brief hour we explored the world together.

Kim I understood each other. A lay church worker, she was on her way to Ghost Ranch in the New Mexico desert. The theme was to be "There is enough for everyone in God's abundant creation". This was a paradox, I thought, since we were at that moment passing through what to this Iowa boy looked like the perfect wasteland.

William, on the other hand, was quick to say that he was non-religious but loved the Christian culture: the music, the art, the ritual. He explained, as we rolled along, that he was a great collector of religious memorabilia, in particular the hand held fans that funeral homes used to place in the church pews. You know, the ones with pictures of children with puppies or The Last Supper. I was amazed when he reported that he was preparing a display that he hoped would be exhibited at the Smithsonian. By this time, the conversation had digressed beyond my range of interest and I was ready to order dessert.

But then it happened. God showed up. Like the surprise and delight of a flower blooming in the desert, William said something I needed to hear. He explained that he loved the church of his childhood but the two things that he most longs for today are "fellowship" and "reverence" as he no longer finds them in his experience of "church". Was he now the prophet, like John the Baptist in strange clothes crying in the wilderness, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord"? Certainly, his words caught my attention and gave me reason to ponder the kinds of "fellowship" and "reverence" to be found in our churches today. Do others find our "fellowship" to be phony and our "reverence" shallow? What do the Williams of the world find when they come needing to experience the holy? Do we notice when they are turned off? Do we pay attention when they turn away?

I would never have known William's story if it hadn't been for a chance meeting in the dining car of a train traveling through the desert. For me, the surprise I found there is still in bloom. It's good to be back home. See you in church!

Blessings,

Pastor Herb

<b>BUDGET NEWS</b>	
June 2011	
<b>Current Budget</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 9,953.33</b>
Income:	
Pledges/Giving	\$ 16,110.83
Other Income	<u>7,541.97</u>
Total June Income	\$ 23,652.80
Expenses:	(28,430.80)
Liabilities Withheld:	<u>1,353.16</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 6,528.49</b>
Liabilities:	
Payroll Taxes	(1,353.16)
Apportionments	<u>\$ (6,967.50)</u>
<b>Funds Available:</b>	<b>\$ (1,792.17)</b>
<b>Missions Budget</b>	
<b>Beginning Balance</b>	<b>\$ 4,860.56</b>
Received	2,651.16
Disbursements:	<u>(5,242.33)</u>
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 2,269.39</b>

<b>CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>	
July 2, 5:30 pm	30
July 3, 8:00 am	16
July 3, 9:00 am	103
July 3, 11:15 am	<u>37</u>
Total	186
July 9, 5:30 pm	40
July 10, 8:00 am	22
July 10, 9:00 am	78
July 10, 11:15 am	<u>31</u>
Total	171
July 16, 5:30 pm	30
July 17, 8:00 am	26
July 17, 9:00 am	110
July 17, 11:15 am	<u>30</u>
Total	193
July 23, 5:30 pm	50
July 24, 8:00 am	22
July 24, 9:00 am	94
July 24, 11:15 am	<u>32</u>
Total	198

**THE MESSENGER** (USPS 341-140)

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**ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA  
JULY 20, 2011 7:00 PM ROOMS 9-11**

Present: Chairperson Chuck Albright, Rev. Herb Shafer, Deb Beal, Steve Brimhall, Carrie Co-ble, Pat Doak, Carol Dustman, Mary Elgar, Jean Evans, Donna Gardner, Mark Kimzey, Sue King, Darrel Rogers, Wes Shaffer, and Esther Wonderlich.

Pastor Herb opened with devotions and prayer. Jean reviewed the financial report which stood approved as presented.

The Holy Space Task Group is looking into options for a fellowship area in the back of the sanctuary.

Our 175th Anniversary celebration will be held on September 25 with Sunday School at 9:30 AM, Worship at 10:30 AM, and dinner at 11:30 AM. Each committee is asked to have an information booth on their ministry activities and opportunities. It was suggested to take reservations for dinner. Carol and Pat will assist the office with a mailing to former pastors.

A garden space has been obtained for a community garden and details are being worked out with the Fellowship cup for help and use of the produce.

Contacts are being made with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts to assist as a ministry.

There are a few incoming IWC students who would welcome an Adopt-a-Student contact.

It was agreed to host the Bethel College Jazz Concert on February 18 in our sanctuary; housing arrangements being made from another church.

It was suggested that all committees meet the second Tuesday of the month and to determine if monthly meeting are necessary, freeing time for Bible study and ministry.

Next Step Conference will be held on October 28 - 29 at Ankeny First United Methodist Church; Friday at their Christian Life Center, 710 NE 36th Street; and Saturday at their up-town campus, 206 SW Walnut Street.

Framework to be installed for VBS booths is scheduled for Tuesday, July 26 at 6:30. Help is needed for it and during VBS which is July 31 - August 4. Free face painting and free pop sicles will be offered on July 22 at Rock Around the Block with registration forms available for VBS.

Old Threshers will be September 1-5 and Sunday School will begin September 11. There are many opportunities to serve at each. All Saints Day and Confirmation Day will be November 6.

The meeting closed with everyone joining in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Gardner, secretary



## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**Looking for opportunities to lend a helping hand? Check back with this section of the Messenger each month to see an updated list of ministry opportunities. This month:**

**Old Threshers -- Volunteer sign up sheets are available in the Sanctuary. Various positions are still available in the food tent!**

**Adopt-a-Student -- Adopt an IWC student this fall. Be their support network in their new community! See pg. 4 for details.**

**Missions Committee School Kits -- Missions Committee is now collecting school kits for local students in need. Be a part of this important project. Instructions for assembling the kits are with the display in the Sanctuary.**

**Fellowship Cup is *always* looking for willing volunteers!**

*Use this page as a resource for finding out how you can be a minister in your own community. Be on the look out for a ministry opportunities directory. For additional information contact the church office.*

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Jesus said, "My house will be called a house of prayer" Matthew 21:13  
Please keep these friends in your prayers:*



(Information current as of July 25, 2011)

- Continued prayers for Steve Wettach at Northwestern Hospital in Chicago
  - 832nd Engineering Division who returned home on July 21st
  - Jamie and Linda Spillane who are moving to Rochester, NY
  - Lanny Elgar at Methodist Manor in Cedar Rapids
  - Jean Harryman at home
  - Florence Kinney at Mercy in Iowa City for a knee replacement
- Ongoing prayers for:
- Joy Sudbrink, missionary to Northern Azerbaijan. She is the sister of Ava Seibert.
  - Drs. Lynn and Sharon Fogleman, missionaries at the Red Bird Clinic in Kentucky.
  - Residents of the Care Centers and the homebound.
  - Our soldiers who are serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and to those vulnerable populations that are in harm's way.

**Congratulations to:**

Chad and Elisha McMullin on the birth of their new baby girl, Ellaina Grace McMullin. Ellaina is the granddaughter of Steve and Linda Heise.



## WHO AM I?

Who opened the doors for first church service?

Who greeted everyone with a smile?

Who always made the coffee?

Who ran the sound system for first service, weddings and funerals?

Who did all of this and more for twenty-nine years?

If you guessed **Paul Anderson**, you are correct!

Thanks Paul for all you have given. Your presence is dearly missed!

# Worship



## Judges 5:3

"Hear this, you kings! Listen, you rulers! I will sing to the LORD, I will sing; I will make music to the LORD, the God of Israel."

## Worship Schedule:

### Saturday Nights:

5:30 p.m. Saturday Praise and Fellowship in Fellowship Hall

### Sunday Mornings:

8:00 a.m. Service in the Chapel

9:00 a.m. Classic Service in the Sanctuary

11:15 a.m. Contemporary Praise and Worship in the Sanctuary

### Coming Soon!

175th Anniversary Service

September 25th

Sunday School at 9:15 and one service in the Sanctuary at 10:30

Luncheon to follow

# Iowa Wesleyan COLLEGE Adopt-a-Student

Dear Potential Host:

Thank you for your interest in the Adopt-A-Student Program! The Religious Life Office, Alumni Office and the Student Alumni Association wants to help ease the transition into the Iowa Wesleyan College and Mt. Pleasant communities for our incoming new students with the Adopt-A-Student program. This special program matches interested first-year students with local alumni, IWC staff, and friends of the college who serve as sponsor hosts and help introduce the students to the campus and local community.

**WHAT** is this program?

While the students are here, they may want an occasional change of scenery and a chance to be off campus in the Mt. Pleasant community. This program, sponsored by the Religious Life Office, Alumni Office and the Student Alumni Association, matches students with hosts according to their common interests. Many students enjoy ongoing relationships with their adopted hosts well beyond their first year.

**WHO** will be my student(s)?

Our students reflect a wide range of individuals from across the United States and abroad. They are interested in making the transition to college life as smooth as possible with the help of a local family. You are matched with a student based on your answers to the Adopt-A-Student form.

**WHEN** will I be matched to my student(s)?

The committee begins the matching process mid-summer. After the matching, you will be sent information about your adopted student(s) and we hope you take that opportunity to make contact with them before they arrive on campus.

**WHAT** does the program involve?

To help you get acquainted with your student(s) there will be a few planned activities during the first and second semesters they are on campus. Beyond these activities, what you do is up to you and your student - it can be as much or as little as you like!

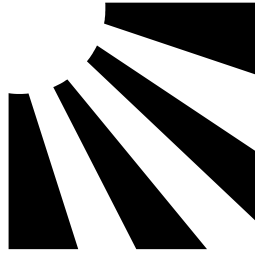
**WHERE** will I meet my student(s)?

You are responsible for contacting your student to set up an initial meeting; however, you are invited to meet your student during New Student Orientation details will be forthcoming.

**HOW** do I sign up?

Please submit the online Adopt-A-Student host form and you will receive information about your students in early August.

*If you have any questions, call the Religious Life Office at (319) 385-6398 or Chaplain Dave Bracht-Wagner at (319) 480-4461*



# Youth



Greetings everybody,

Summer break has gone too quickly and it is just about time for Old Threshers, oh, I mean, school to start. The good thing is that we will be starting up fall activities: volleyball, cross country, football, marching band, classes with homework...lots of things that keep you busy. Hopefully, there is some time in there for hanging with friends, sleep, perhaps a meal or two, time for family and some time with God.

This year, youth is going to focus on mission and service. In small groups, there will be study and discussion about what the Bible says about these two things and how being in mission and serving others is a way to show God our love. We will also have mission/service opportunities throughout the year. Some will be Sr. High only, some Middle School only and some will be combined. We will also do more fun activities like the bonfire/hayrack ride, Adventureland, ski trip, etc.

The Middle School will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:00 pm starting with large group games and worship; then going into small groups for discussion, study and prayer. Middle School will begin meeting August 24th.

Sr. High will meet on Sunday evening. **I am looking for some input from the Sr. High about when works best for them.** As part of the Sr. High time, I would like to include a meal. The time for the Sr. High will be approximately one hour. Sr. High will begin meeting on August 28th. Also, what can we do to help support you and your busy schedules?

Hope to see everyone in August for the scavenger hunt and family cook out! (Sr. High is August 7th and Middle School is August 10th). All youth events are friend-friendly, that is, you are welcome (*and encouraged*) to invite your friends.

Be bold, be strong,

Pastor Dave

## UMW Circle Meetings

Grace Circle - No meeting until October 6

Love Circle - No meeting until September

Friendship Circle - No meeting until September

Patience Circle - August 20th, 9:00 a.m.  
Meet in the Library

Charity Circle - August 18th, 9:15 a.m.



## **KNOTS OF LOVE** **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Wednesday, August 3rd at 8:30 am  
Wednesday, August 17th at 8:30 am

Meet in Room 109 - everyone is welcome to join; just bring knitting needles or a crochet hook, some yarn and a desire to help others!

# August Birthdays

1  
Christopher Henkel  
Joshua Heusel  
Jamie Spillane

2  
Curtis Alexander  
Richard Augsburg  
Lynn Butterbrodt  
Betty Green  
Clayton Loving

3  
Nicholas Cordes  
Heather Roberson  
Pamela Wilson

4  
Heather Himes  
Andrew Keagle  
Lyle Swan

5  
David Barnes  
Ronald Buckingham  
Carrie Coble  
Alice Parks

6  
Lori Anderson  
Mary Elgar  
Shawna Goettesche

7  
Rahni Myler  
Yvonne Rich  
Steve Rod  
Bradley Woerdeman

8  
Doris Brent  
Ella McNamee  
Annette Reynolds  
Dan Schurr  
Faye Thomas  
Carlee Wilkins

9  
Gary Wiegel

10  
Donna Batey  
Cheryl Johnson  
Thomas Moore

11  
Martha Brown  
Dana Chen  
Sara Hope  
Chad McMullin  
Rosalie Stipe  
Robert Waters

12  
Izaac Zihlman

13  
Lori Baylor  
Eugene Christner  
Miriam Kauffman  
Izaak Krieger-Coen  
Melanie Lees  
Michael Mitchell  
David Price  
Cheyenne Stonehouse

14  
Halaina Crane  
Clifford Hunsaker

Dwight Ridinger  
15  
Lesla Fitzpatrick  
Cynthia Smith

16  
Bernice Jennings  
Ruth White

17  
Arial Keagle  
Ellen Spillers

18  
Virginia Styron  
Thomas Tipton  
Martha Wick

19  
Susan Kerr  
Edwin Rhodes

20  
Jalen Chen  
Alan Huisinga  
Byron Jennings  
James LeDuc

21  
Patricia Dunn  
Katelynn Gardner

22  
Dolores Mathews  
Dorothy Moehlman  
Megan Schwerin

23  
Debra Beal  
James Beatty

Ruth Wilson

24  
Peggy Crew  
Matthew Miller  
Teresa Miller

25  
Joyce Dennison  
Marcie Givans  
Juanita Johnson  
Krystal Noble  
Janet Roth

26  
Kiley Christner  
Cameron Watson

28  
Marvin Mallams  
Marcia Millsbaugh  
Jennifer Schoettmer  
Taylor White

29  
Jill McCarty  
Pam McSorley  
Colby Newman

30  
Robert Lance

31  
Robert Bixler  
Patricia Coe  
Marie Davidson  
Teresa Owens  
Vern Peterson



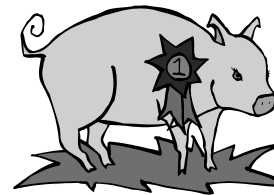
# SUMMER SCHEDULE



## DIGITAL SCAVENGER HUNT & GRILL OUT

MIDDLE SCHOOL - AUG. 3RD  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M. (ALL FAMILY INVITED)

HIGH SCHOOL - AUG. 7TH  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M. (ALL FAMILY INVITED)



## STATE FAIR FAMILY DAY

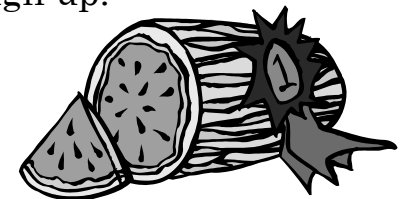
Wednesday, August 17th

Depart from the church at 8:00 am on the bus

Bring money for admission and lunch/dinner

Leave fair grounds approximately 8:00 pm

Call the church office to sign up!





1 - Monday  
5:30-8:00 pm - Vacation Bible School

2 - Tuesday  
5:00 pm - SPRC  
5:30-8:00 pm - Vacation Bible School  
6:00 pm - Worship Committee

3 - Wednesday  
8:30 am - Knots of Love  
1:00 pm - Staff Meeting  
5:30-8:00 pm - Vacation Bible School

4 - Thursday  
5:30-8:00 pm - Vacation Bible School

6 - Saturday  
8:00 am - Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm - Saturday Evening Praise and Fellowship  
6:30 pm - Host IWC CA's for dinner

7 - Sunday  
8:00 am - Service in the Chapel  
9:00 am - Classic Service in the Sanctuary  
11:15 am - Praise and Worship in the Sanctuary

8 - Monday  
4:30 pm - Stephen's Ministry in the Library

9 - Tuesday  
5:30 pm - Missions Committee  
6:30 pm - Trustees Committee  
7:30 pm - Finance Committee  
7:00 pm - Acapella

10 - Wednesday  
1:00 pm - Staff Meeting

13 - Saturday  
8:00 am - Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm - Saturday Night Praise and Fellowship  
14 - Sunday  
8:00 am - Service in the Chapel  
9:00 am - Classic Service in the Sanctuary  
(Recognition of Paul Anderson's service)  
11:15 am - Praise and Worship in the Sanctuary

16 - Tuesday  
6:30 pm - Christian Ed. Committee  
7:00 pm - Acapella

17 - Wednesday  
8:00 am - Church bus departs for State Fair Family Day  
8:30 am - Knots of Love  
7:00 pm - Ad Council

20 - Saturday  
8:00 am - Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm - Saturday Night Praise and Fellowship

21 - Sunday  
8:00 am - Service in the Chapel  
9:00 am - Classic Service in the Sanctuary  
11:15 am - Praise and Worship in the Sanctuary

23 - Tuesday  
7:00 pm - Acapella

24 - Wednesday  
1:00 pm - Staff Meeting  
6:00 pm - Threshers Set-Up @ Threshers Grounds  
6:30 pm - Middle School meet



27 - Saturday  
8:00 am - Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm - Saturday Night Praise and Fellowship

28 - Sunday  
8:00 am - Service in the Chapel  
9:00 am - Classic Service in the Sanctuary  
11:15 am - Praise and Worship in the Sanctuary  
(PM Time???) Sr. High meet

**Come join us as we celebrate the 29 years of dedicated service Paul Anderson gave this church. Paul will be recognized Sunday, August 14th at the 9:00 am service.**