



The Poster is published
monthly by Fort Des
Moines United Methodist
Church, 6205 SW 9th St,
Des Moines IA
50315-5516.

To contact us:

Church Phone:

515-285-6545

Church fax:

515-285-3740

Church email

ftdsmumc@gmail.com

Website:

www.fdmumc.org

Information for *The Post-
er* should be in the church
office by the 4th Tuesday
of the month.

Office Hours:

8:30am-12:00pm

Monday-Friday

Sunday Worship:

9:45am

Inside this issue:

Ash Wednesday	2
UMF Scholarships	2
Prayer Corner	3
Camp Books	3
Council Highlights	4
Pancake Breakfast	4
February Ministry	5
Monthly Calendars	5a-b
Fundraising	5c-d
Prayer calendars	5e-f

THE POSTER

Volume 17, Issue 2

February, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here we are again for our monthly conversation. Something I am beginning to enjoy and settle into a little bit more. I hope that this letter finds you well and pray that God would continue to bless you and remind you often of how much He loves you.

This past month, we found ourselves in the Gospel of Matthew following the life of John the Baptist, a prophet heralding the message of repentance and baptism. As he was calling people forward to confess their sins, Jesus came forward to be baptized too. It was in this humble moment that we witnessed both of these men, serving our Almighty Father with obedient, servant-like hearts. Soon after, we followed Jesus to Capernaum where he would begin his public ministry, picking up the same message, "repent; heaven is near".

Matthew challenged us in many ways, but here are four ways to apply it to your life:

1. Renewing our vows and commitment to Jesus and His holy church (Baptism Vows)
2. Finding the beauty in confession to God and a repentant heart (Confess/Repent)
3. Sharing our God-moments for encouragement, inspiration, and hope (Testimonies)
4. Intentionally developing a teachable heart (Hungry for Righteousness)

As we continue to seek the face of God in all that we do, I pray that God would meet you and speak to you, whisper to your soul, comfort you in times of need, and hold you when things are uncertain. Know that our Almighty God, loves you and longs to be with you in conversation. My prayer this month is that you would seek Him out in the quiet moments in your day, in the dark hours of the night, and mostly in those moments when you need comfort. Know that God is there, waiting.

I will leave each of you with this beautiful poem. I was reading about Saint Teresa of Avila and found these words moving to me. I shared them in a sermon recently and they have stayed with me since then as inspiration to my daily walk as a Christian. I hope they bring you some encouragement too.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,
no hands but yours, no feet but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which to look out
Christ's compassion to the world;
Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good;
Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.
- Saint Teresa of Avila

Peace Be With You,

Pastor Sandy

Ash Wednesday Service Feb. 26, 7:00pm

There is a line toward the end of T. S. Eliot's poem, "Ash Wednesday", that says "This is the time of tension between dying and birth, the place of solitude where three dreams cross."

In the infant years of the church, there was a long period of preparation that led up to one's baptism. It was a time observed through fasting, solitude, prayers and reflection. The one who was about to be baptized, then, was living between dying and birth, between an end to the old self and a rebirth to new life as a child of God.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. We will move through Lent being "Cross-examined," arriving at Holy Week prepared for the Passion of our Lord.

In Lent, as each of us lives between the tension of dying and birth, we are led by Christ into new possibilities for ourselves, our families and our church. Indeed, it was Martin Luther who suggested that repentance was a continual crawling back to the font, the baptismal womb-of-our-faith. Our Lenten journey can be an occasion for renewal focused on our baptismal remembrance and centered upon Christ's death and resurrection. It can be a time when our lives are changed and our Lord and his church are placed in proper relationship to one's total life.

--Charles R. Wertz

Thank for Your Continued Support

Food Pantry donations for 2019 totaled 84 food items, \$869.00 and 35 personal care items. Thanks to everyone who supported this project.

January Finance Report

Carried into 2020	\$	6,804.21
Year-to-Date		
Total Income	\$	4,716.16
Total Expenses	\$	10,650.02
Balance Jan. 31	\$	1,563.68

Jump for Joy! 100+ Scholarships Available!

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation has over 100 scholarships available for graduating high school seniors, general scholarships for students going to non-Methodist colleges, scholarships for students going to United Methodist colleges and seminary scholarships designated for individuals following the call to join the ministry. Check out the criteria on the website (<https://iumf.org/scholarships>) to see which one you are eligible to apply for. Online applications will be available from Dec. 1 through March 1, 2020.

Have You Been Thinking About Membership?



Meet and Greet with Pastor Sandy will be held on Sunday, Feb. 9, at 11:15am, in the Chapel. This will be an opportunity to learn about the United Methodist Church and get to know Pastor Sandy a bit better.

We would be excited to welcome you into our fellowship as a member! We trust that God's Spirit will guide you to relate to our church in whatever way is right for you at this time. Our pastor is available for personal meetings if you have questions or wish to discuss church membership. If you join as a full member of our church, we will ask you to affirm your faith and your commitment to support the United Methodist Church by your prayers, presence, gifts, witness, and service. Please contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or ftdsmumc@gmail.com.

Nut Sales

Our profits from this year's sale were \$687.50. We had \$659.31 carried over from last year so we have a total of \$1346.81 that we can spend. In the past, Nut Sales funds have been used on things like postage stamps, door mats, and carpet cleaning. The decision about this year's profits will be made soon.

Prayer Corner

- For our members: Cheryl Smith, Larry Seid; Roger & Debbie McCloney; Janan & Mark Horak family, Kay King & Bill Fisher and their families
- For those that are home-bound, their caregivers, and those we especially name in our hearts.
- For those actively serving in our military, their families, the deployed, and our veterans.
- For all the recovery groups that meet in our building throughout the week (NA/AA) that they would have what they need each day, that our building would be a blessing to them, and that our community would experience supernatural healing through these groups.

Bible Camp Books Are Here!

Yes, we still have snow on the ground and occasional frigid temperatures. But we can dream about warm-weather activities like swimming, canoeing, archery, horseback riding and zip-lining. Pick up a camp book (found in Fellowship Hall) and browse through the activities for Wesley Woods and Lake Okoboji camps. Pick your camp, mark your calendar and get registered by filling out a paper form (found in the church office) or going online: www.iaumc.org/camps It's the Adventure of a Lifetime!

February

All outdoors
Edged in lace,
Twigs and grasses ...
Beauteous grace.
Sunlight glows
Through snowy birches,
On frosty limb
A blue jay perches.
Thank you, Lord,
For heavenly art,
Your valentine
Has touched my heart.

--Adeline Roseberg

Cause for Celebration!

February Birthdays

3 Lucas Norris
6 Matt Clevenger
17 Carlin Peer
20 Bruce Evans
23 Nick Nalevanko
26 Lee Kennell
27 Trevor Crise

February Wedding Anniversaries

February Baptismal
Anniversaries
16 Doug Brooks

March Birthdays

3 Kambra Xayaphiou
5 John King
11 Jerry Swigert
11 Stefanie Lee
11 Jasmine Miller
12 Josh Lee
13 Connie Keller
15 David Miller
17 Lois Horn
18 C. Jim Meier
19 Jake Carruthers
23 Emilee Jones
24 Virginia Simmons
24 Eloise Coen
27 Rickie Ramsey
28 Addison Hartman

March Wedding Anniversaries

14 David & Sherri
Little
31 Mike & Carol
Holmes

March Baptismal Anniversaries

2 Kristina Norris
9 Alexandra Newton
12 Jean Pease
22 Renee King
25 Pam Cave
27 Carlin Peer

Let Us Know!

- Let us know if you have recently moved, changed your mailing address, your email address, phone number or are using cell phones instead of land lines.
- Let us know if you would like to be included in the prayer chain.
- Let us know if you are hospitalized. (Privacy laws do not allow hospitals to contact clergy when a parishioner is hospitalized.)

Contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or ftdsmumc@gmail.com or Pastor Sandy at 515-290-9905.



Care Ministry Team Meeting Sunday, Feb. 16, 11:15am in the Chapel

If you are home bound, in a nursing home, or feeling alone and would like a visit by our Care Ministry or Pastor Sandy, please let us know because we would love to visit you. Please contact the church office at 515-285-6545 or ftdsmumc@gmail.com.

What we do

Caring Ministry is provided by and through the members of our church. Many of our members already provide caring ministry through the writing of letters to our members for special occasions, providing meals to those returning from the hospital or during the loss of a loved one, sending cards, and visiting those in the hospital or long-term care facilities. To expand on this ministry we are already doing, we are looking for ways and volunteers to continue to stay connected to those members who might not be able to attend services regularly, and or have recently gone through a transition in their lives; health, housing, or grieving a loss.

Areas for volunteers to serve:

- Visiting members in long-term care facilities (Monthly)
- Visiting members in the hospital (As needed)
- Bringing a meal (chili) to a member or their family (As needed)
- Calling members who are homebound to visit (Monthly)
- Delivering recorded sermon series to homebound (Monthly)
- Available to provide small, household maintenance projects (As needed)

Together, as a church family of faith, we can share our time, talents, and gifts with one another. If you have an idea for this ministry, please let us know. All ideas are welcome and encouraged! Contact the church office or Pastor Sandy.

Council Highlights

The Administrative Council met on Sunday, Jan. 26. Following is a summary of the meeting:

- ◇ Elton Wolfe, Jim Meier, and Lisle Goode reviewed the books on Jan. 20 for the Account Fund Report.
- ◇ The catch basin repair work cost us \$700 instead of the expected \$3000 which was quoted
- ◇ The low bid for the parsonage driveway never returned our calls so we will go with the next bidder of \$4900. The work will be completed in the spring.
- ◇ Termites have been discovered in the church in 6 places. Springer Pest Solutions had the lowest bid of \$2500.00. The inside work has been completed. The outside work will be completed in the spring.
- ◇ Cockroaches were sprayed for on Jan. 23.
- ◇ Sharon Wilcox is replacing Joyann Benoit on the Memorial Committee. Joyann resigned effective Dec. 31.
- ◇ The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee will be reviewing job descriptions at their February meeting.

March Pancake Breakfast

Bidwell Riverside Center's Annual Pancake Breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 14, at Grace United Methodist Church, 37th & Cottage Grove. Serving will be from 8am to 12noon. Ticket prices are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children 6-12 and children under age 5 eat free of charge.

As always there will be great food (pancakes, sausage, eggs, coffee, milk and juice). Yummy baked goods and quilts will be for sale, and a silent auction featuring a wide variety of items donated by local dining, arts, and entertainment companies will round out the morning's activities.

As you know, 37% of all Iowans no longer make enough to cover the cost of living. Last year's fundraising effort impacted 16,524 individuals who received food, 99 children received early-childhood education; 653,453 food items were distributed, 648 families received Christmas meals and 1,571 children received Christmas presents.

February Ministry: Hungry & Homeless

Blankets
Hand warmers
Warm gloves
Toilet paper
Hearty soups
Canned meat

There will be a collection of items for **Joppa**, an agency in the metro area that works with the homeless by expressing Christ's unconditional love, building relationships, providing supplies of food and care to help people stay warm, dry, and healthy. They respond to needs and emergencies and advocate for the homeless. Bring your items by **Feb. 16** and place them in the box located in the narthex. If you wish to make a monetary donation to Joppa, mark your check "Joppa" on the memo line, and it will be given along with the in-kind items received.

The name Joppa comes from Acts 9:36 (NIV) "In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha, who was always doing good and helping the poor." This is the first recorded outreach in history. The community of Joppa was an ancient seaport providing vital supplies; a place of anonymity and acceptance. It was a community of love, support and hope.

February 16 will also be **Food Pantry Sunday**. Shelf-stable food items, hygiene items, diapers of all sizes, wipes, formula and cash will be collected for the Des Moines Area Religious Council's Food Pantry Network.

Do You Know?

The monthly expenses for keeping the doors open here at Ft. Des Moines UMC are between \$8,000 & \$9,000.00. Utilities (garbage, gas, electric, telephone and water) run about \$1650.

Just like your home, there are ongoing expenses that require ongoing income. Your continued, generous support is appreciated.

Faith is like radar that sees through the fog—the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.

--Corrie Ten Boom

Valentine's Day

In 496, a pope by the name of Gelasius tried to bring a spiritual dimension to the happy pagan festivities of the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia by creating a feast day honoring two early Christian martyrs, both named Valentine.

The first Saint Valentine was a priest who was executed in 269 for helping persecuted Christians. Ironically, he was beheaded at the site of an ancient altar to Juno, the Roman goddess of women and marriage, who, along with her male counterpart, Pan, the god of nature, was honored by the feast of Lupercalia. Three years later, the second Saint Valentine lost his head for bringing a Roman family to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Ultimately, Christianity survived the persecution, but Gelasius' well-intentioned attempt to change the festival of Lupercalia to Saint Valentine's Day was less successful; the sentimental meaning of the earlier heathen rite remained, albeit with a new name. Some things are just too much fun to get serious about.

At first blush, one might ask what two martyred clerics named Valentine have to say about love. The answer is plenty. For one thing, they understood a dimension of love that is all too often missing in modern-day relationships, namely sacrifice. Our Lord, who established the standard of love by the gift of his own life, tells us that there is no greater exhibition of love than the voluntary giving of the supreme sacrifice for others. Wow! That's kind of heavy for a happy hedonist.

"There's no woman so valued that I'd die for her," you say, or "no man is worth my life," you argue? Yet, the message from those first Valentines is that loves costs, that it is more than a sentimental journey focused on desire, that it is an active, beneficent, selfless and sometime sacrificial concern for the well-being of the one loved.

--Roger W. Turnau

Happiness is being audited by the IRS for your church contributions only to discover that you gave more than you declared.

Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church
6205 SW 9th St
Des Moines IA 50315-5516

We give thanks for you!!!

**Ft. Des Moines United Methodist Church is a community of faith
in worship and action, open to all in the spirit and love of God.**

February/March 2020

Events:

Feb. 26: Ash Wednesday Service @ 7pm

Feb. 29: Community Meal @ 4pm

Mar. 8: Daylight Saving Time begins

Special Offerings:

Food Pantry Sunday will be on Feb. 16.

Donations of shelf-stable food items, cash, hygiene items, diapers (all sized), wipes, and formula will be received.