

JUNE * JULY * AUGUST 2016
CLARION CONNECTION
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
201 3RD AVENUE NE
CLARION, IA 50525

Pastor: Rev. Mike Gudka
Church Phone: 515-532-2845
Pastor Mike's cell: 515-835-7847
Email: pastormikegudka@gmail.com
Website: www.clarionumc.com

Secretary: Jodi Kraft
Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
SUMMER HOURS: Monday – Thursday 8 a.m. – Noon
Closed on Fridays (June, July, August and September 2)
Email: jodi@clarionumc.com

Church Treasurer: Andy Schutt 532-3334
Financial Secretary: Jodi Kraft
Ad Board Chair: Carol Townsend

Custodian: Tim Wesenburg
Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday - afternoons, Wednesday off

HOSTS – Changes have been made by the Worship Team. We will no longer have Greeters and Ushers but instead have Hosts. Therefore the hosts, will do the previous greeter and usher duties. Refer to the sheets at the back of the sanctuary for the duties needing done such as a count of all attendees, offering put into drop box, etc. If you have questions please ask Pastor Mike.

JUNE HOSTS: Cindy and Doug Riley
JULY HOSTS: Todd Sorensen
AUGUST HOSTS: Mike Bowman and Rose Ann Baumer

LITURGIST – June – Jeff Farwell
July – Martha Busick
August – Jeff Farwell

COMMUNION STEWARDS FOR SUMMER:
June – No Communion, Pastor Mike at Annual Conference
July – Carol Townsend
August -

We are in need of Communion Stewards for 1st Service from August thru December, 2016. Please look at your schedule and if you can fill in your name for one of the Sundays during August - December, it would be most helpful. For anyone who has not served previously, we have Stewards who are willing to provide assistance. Please call Carol Townsend if you have any questions, at 1-630- 334-9846. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the Sanctuary.

Your Giving Makes a Difference
Last week: \$1,685, Needed weekly: \$3,928
Year-to-date: \$70,204, Needed year-to-date: \$82,488

SUNSHINE VISITS -

If someone is ill or in the hospital and would like Pastor Mike to make a Sunshine Visit to them, please let him or the office know. We don't always know when someone is in need of him visiting.



United Methodist Women have NEW cards for sale in the Fireside Room. The cards are marked on the end of the box. You may leave your money with the secretary or put it in a pew envelope on Sunday morning, mark it as such and put envelope in the offering plate. Thank you.



Life Serve of Iowa (blood drive) will be at the Clarion United Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, June 7, July 5, August 2 from 2-6 p.m. for a blood drive. If you can donate, please call 1-800-287-4903 to set up an appointment or come when you can as a walk in. Blood is always needed.

New addresses:

MARY AND ARNOLD COOK
110 N 5th AVENUE W
NEWTON, IA 50208-3189

DORLA HILL
C/O JULIE GLADE
2305 ROWND STREET
CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613



the Pastor's Notes

June 2016 Newsletter

Greetings in the name of Christ! It will be one year in late June since I came to Clarion. And as I write this monthly article I have reflected on just how wonderful is our Church and community. When I think about the miraculous things we have done in the past and look at all the talent and energy we currently have, our future is so bright that I have to squint when I think about it!

Also, as I reflect back on the previous eleven months, I know how much change has taken place: A very different pastor style, new worship flows, new organizational structures, loss of the organ, new leaders, new expectations for teams and committees, new meeting frequencies for teams and committees, new budgeting process, new office procedures, new door keys, new alarm system, a new audio/visual system, a change in worship host duties, a change in worship styles during the upcoming summer months, new worship and Sunday school times beginning next September, an entirely new Sunday school curriculum for next year, etc., etc., etc. Whew!

Have you ever wondered what process we use that brings all these changes about? The United Methodist Church is an "odd bird" when it comes to how the Church is ran. We operate through committees or teams that bring information to the Church Council for final approval. But all of this process starts with the voice of the congregation coming to members of the teams and committees. This input is reviewed, analyzed, prayed about, and decided upon by the individual team and committee. Then based upon the recommendation of the team or committee, the chairperson of that team or committee brings it to the Church Council. Where once again it is discussed, reviewed, analyzed, prayed about, and a final decision is reached. And then the change is implemented.

For instance, let me share with you what went into the decision to change the worship and Sunday school times beginning on September 11. It started with the Worship Team hearing many voices about the need to change and this was discussed over several meetings. They prayed and looked at these issues from every perspective they could think of and then made a recommendation to Church Council. Then the Church Council looked at the changes from every angle they could over several meetings, and then decided to make the changes. Now you might ask yourself why would both the Worship Team and Church Council ask for so much sacrifice from so many folks: 1. The Traditional Service attendees will have to arrive 15 minutes earlier, 2. The Contemporary Service attendees will have to arrive 15 minutes earlier, 3. The Praise Band has to arrive 30 minutes earlier, 4. The Sunday school teachers will have to arrive 30 minutes earlier, and 5. I usually get up at 5:00 AM on Sunday mornings so I can spend an hour in prayer in the sanctuary. This is not my favorite time of the day. But now I am going to have to get up at 4:30 AM on Sunday mornings? Why ask all this sacrifice and change from so many people? The answer is a simple – the sacrifice and change is for our children. Today, our children only have about 40 minutes in Sunday school. After they have music, they only receive about 20 minutes of classroom time. The driving factor in making this decision is that with a world working so hard to pull our children away from Christ, we, as The Body of Christ, need to give our Sunday school teachers more time. And once the leadership team realized that Sunday school needed to be a full hour, everything else needed to be adjusted.

Now unfortunately when change happens, many of us only look at how it impacts our individual lives. Our teams, committees, and Church Council are charged with seeing how it impacts everyone, and more importantly how it impacts our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ and glorifying God in everything that we do. And the Church Council tries very hard to get these decisions right. And they also recognize that they are fallible and if need be, they are willing to change a decision.

Of course the vast, vast, vast majority of our congregation understands this and are willing to support the changes. And when they have questions or concerns, they always go to a church leader or to me to provide input and get their questions answered. They truly come seeking to understand. And I give thanks for their questions and input!

But unfortunately, there is a very small number of people in our congregation who tend to focus on gossip and speaking negatively about The Body of Christ. My friends, this type of talk is sowing seeds for Satan to rip apart and destroy The Body of Christ. Even though the numbers of people that participate is very small, what they do is dangerously destructive! Please know that there isn't much that people say about me that doesn't make its way back to me. But I have some pretty tough skin and criticism is just part of what it means to be a Pastor. I get paid to take it. But this type of negativity and gossip deeply hurts other people in our congregation. These are people that you have known for years. These are people that have stood with you through good times and bad, prayed for you, and people you see all the time. These are people you are going to have to spend an eternity with.

So if it is only a few people that gossip, why even write an article about it? The reason is that gossip and talking negatively about others is a direct attack on The Body of Christ. In other words, a direct attack on Christ Himself. In fact, it is so horrifically destructive to the Church (even when only a few participate) that God placed over 146 passages in the Bible speaking against gossip and talking negatively about our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. When God says something 146 times, we need to listen! Here is just a small sampling of what God says:

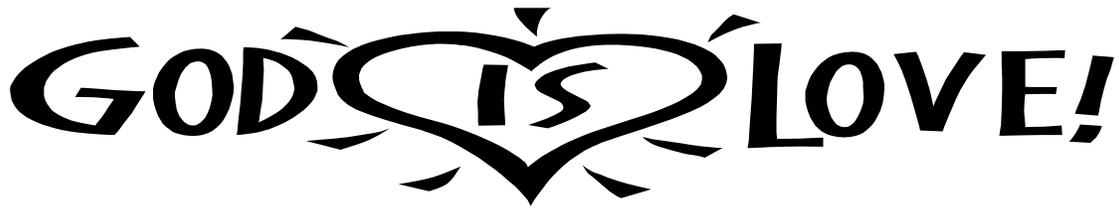
- Psalm 15:1-3: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill? Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right, and speak the truth from their heart; who do not **slander with their tongue**, and do **no evil to their friends**, nor take up a **reproach against their neighbors**;
- Psalm 34:12-13: Which of you desires life, and covets many days to enjoy good? Keep **your tongue from evil**, and your **lips from speaking deceit**.
- Proverbs 11:9a: With their **mouths the godless would destroy their neighbors**,
- Proverbs 8:13b: [God says]...I hate the way of evil and **perverted speech**.
- Matthew 7:1-5: [Jesus said] "Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' while the log is in your own eye? You **hypocrite**, first

take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye."

- Romans 1:29-30a: They were filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, covetousness, malice. Full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, craftiness, **they are gossips**,

So let's all make a concerted effort to lift each other up in a positive way through prayer and thanksgiving and allow this wonderful place called Clarion First UMC to continue to be a light to our community. When things change and you have questions and concerns that is great. You have these questions and concerns because you love this Church and want the best for all. But don't gossip or speak negatively about your brothers and sisters. Instead, go talk to a church leader or to me. Let your voice be heard and also be willing to listen to the overall thought process that went into making the decision.

God bless,
Pastor Mike



Summer Worship Times begin June 5:

We will go to one worship service at 10:00 AM beginning June 5 and running through September 4. We will continue to celebrate Communion on the first Sunday of each month except for June when Pastor Mike will be away at Annual Conference.

Elim Arrival to Play on June 5

On Sunday, June 5, we go to one worship service during the summer at 10:00 AM. In addition, Pastor Mike and our Lay Leader Jody Johnson will be away at Annual Conference. So let's celebrate this Sunday with music! Elim Arrival is a unique band from Iowa City and they will play for most of this service. If you want to know where this band gets its name, please read Exodus 15:26-27. They play everything from old-time gospel, to your favorite hymns, to your favorite contemporary music. So let's come together on this first Sunday of our new summer schedule and celebrate God with music! So invite your friends, your neighbors, and even people you don't like, and let's worship together through music!

Installation Date Set for New Sound and Projection System

Because of some events and a wedding happening at our Church that we don't want to disrupt with an installation, we have scheduled the installation of the new audio and projections system for June 27 - July 1. Thank for your financial and prayer support in making this happen!

Local Summer Children's Mission Needs You!

Hannah McLaughlin is leading an effort to take Christ out to the kids in Clarion (Preschool through 5th Grade)! She will be providing a simple lunch and a fun Bible story to all of the kids in our community this summer at Gazebo Park. And we need your help! In the back of the sanctuary there is a sign-up sheet where you can sign up to donate the specific food items on the list, cups, napkins, and lemonade (please see the sign-up sheet for specific food items needed). You can also sign up to help put the simple meals together and deliver them to the park. And you can even sign up to pray for the kids during this time. Here are the dates: June 29, July 6, 13, 20, 27, and August 3. If you can provide a specific food item listed on the sign up sheet, then please have this to the church no later than 10:00 a.m. on the date you sign up to help. If you can help put the simple meals together, then please arrive at the church at 10:30 a.m. on the date you sign up to help. If you can pray, then please pray from Noon until 1:00 p.m. on the date you sign up to help. And also, help us get the word out to all the kids in our community!

Many children's coats have been left behind, they are hanging on the coat rack at the top of the stairs in the education wing, please take the coat that belongs to you.

Confirmation Class for 2016-2017:

Do you have a child that will be entering the 7th Grade or above? Do you want them to go through Confirmation? Does your child want to go through Confirmation? The next Confirmation Class will begin on Sunday, September 18, 2016 and run through Sunday, May 14, 2017. This year's class will be held on Sundays, during the new regular Sunday school time of 9:40 to 10:40 AM. To get registered for this class, please see Pastor Mike for more information.

Interested in Bill Pay or Direct Deposit?

Many folks cannot make worship service every week, or they may travel for extended periods of time. This makes it challenging from a cash flow perspective for our Church (we peak during Christmas and Easter, and then see low offerings during the summer). If you are interested in setting up Bill Pay with your Bank or Direct Deposit with your Employer, please see Jodi for more information.

Please Record Your Attendance

We have some new church software. As a result, we are beginning to track Sunday worship service attendance from the information that you provide on the Attendance Pads. This information will help us know when someone has not attended recently, then we can call them and see if they have any prayer requests. Please make sure and write all of the names of your family members in attendance and please write legibly. This makes Jodi's input job a lot easier.

Quarterly Committees (July, August & September)

July Co-chairpersons:

Shannon & Kelly Leist
Alison & Jeff Friesleben

August Co-chairpersons:

Carolyn & Dennis Bowman
Cindy & Doug Riley

September Co-chairpersons:

Connie & Mark Hill
Linda & Marlin Klehm

Additional Committee persons:

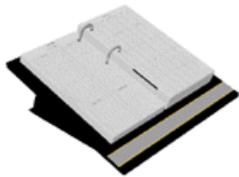
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|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Marie Beenken | Sally & Ron Emerson | Shirley & Steve Hill |
| Tanja & Brian Jensen | Jody & Darren Johnson | Kari Jo & Daniel Murray |
| Mary & Frank Mechem | Marilyn & Karl Olsen | Helen & Ed Southard |
| Donna & Bill Speirs | Kayla Vulgamott | Susan & Sidney Baker |
| Carroll Hallagan | Agnes Hendrickson | Beth & Steve Jackson |
| Phyllis & Gene Lewis | Marilyn Mechem | Melvene Nickles |
| Doris Orcutt | Ann Schipull | Kathy & Nick Stahl |
| Ruth Bohy | Dolores Bowman | Martha & Stan Busick |
| Barb Edwards | Emily Harris | Amy & Steve Krueger |
| Kay & Brian Marker | Kim & Bob Ott | Virginia Sadler |
| Brenda & Fred Steenhard | Hannah & Coy McLaughlin | |



June Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 – Marshall Rief, Kennedy Rief
- 2 – Reed Campbell, ***Anna & Tyler Warnke***
- 3 – Elizabeth Woolf, ***Shelley & Tim Fletcher***
- 7 – June Christensen, Linda McCormick
- 8 – Kent Harklau

- 9 – Mary Cook, Cathy Farwell, Jaydan Sorensen, **Emily & Mark Bernhardt**
- 10 - Brenda Rauch, Tory Warnke
- 11 – Kelli Leshar, Todd Sorensen, **Carolyn & Chuck Etter**
- 13 – Patrick Bilyeu
- 14 – Bertha Peck
- 15 – Deanna Lehman
- 16 – Bryan Meinders
- 17 – LaVerne Ott, Eric Sorensen
- 18 – Emily Bernhardt, **Bonnie & Bud Young, Alyssa & Jeremy Fender**
- 19 – Kimberly Leshar, Matthew Rier
- 21 – Anna Warnke
- 22 – Janet Hennigar
- 25 – Pat Tracy, Dan Smith
- 26 – Connie Hill, Linda Marker, Jim Ott
- 27 – Roger Brooks, Tim Marker, Gary Keller, Nathaniel Steffenson, **Kim & Tim Marker**
- 28 – Colin Kirstein, Ania Renteria
- 29 – Robert Rauch
- 30 – Sidney Baker



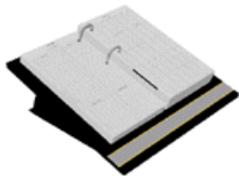
JUNE Calendar

- June 1 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - No Youth Group team meeting
 - No Education team meeting
- 3 – 6 – Iowa Annual Conference
- 4 – 7:30 a.m. His Men
- 5 – Summer Worship service begins 10:00 a.m., Elim Arrival performs
- 8 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
- 10 – Church office closed
- 12 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service
- 15 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn (at The Meadows)
 - No Grace Stockwell
 - No Trustees meeting
- 17 – Church office closed
- 18 – 7:30 a.m. His Men
- 19 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service, Father's Day
- 20 – No Lydia Circle
- 22 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - No Finance meeting
 - No Church Council meeting
- 24 – Church office closed
 - Wedding rehearsal
- 25 – 4:00 p.m. Wedding of Kari Jo Warnke and Daniel Murray
- 26 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service
- 27 – July 1 – Installation of Audio/Visual
- 29 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
 - 12 – 1:00 p.m. Children's Mission – Gazebo Park
- 30 – 2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee



July Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 1 – Theresa Hansen, Daniel Murray
- 3 – Jake Johnson
- 4 – Mary Carlson
- 5 – Kari Jo Warnke, Ember Howell
- 6 – Allyn Christensen, Bob Ott
- 7 – Austin Walton
- 8 – Kim Marker
- 9 – Katie McCormick
- 12 – Phoebe Sanders, **Miriam & Leroy Jensen**
- 13 – Karl Olsen, Nick McOllough
- 14 – **Mari & Ken Bernhardt**
- 17 – Bill Drury, Claire Kirstein
- 18 – Jim Moore Sr., Jaqueline Rief
- 19 – Steve Martin, Joella Steffenson
- 20 – **Shannon & Kelly Leist**
- 21 – Jodi Kraft, **Amber & Patrick Bilyeu**
- 23 – Lynette Smith, **Lynette & Dan Smith**
- 24 – Katie Bradshaw, Carol Leshar
- 26 – **Linda & Marlin Klehm**
- 27 – Abby Kirstein, Sharon Evans
- 29 – Natalie Kirstein
- 30 – Mike Bowman, Emma Conlon
- 31 – Vern Elston



JULY Calendar

- July 1 – Church office closed
Audio/Visual installation
- 3 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service, Communion Sunday
- 4 – Happy 4th of July, Church office closed
- 6 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
12 – 1:00 p.m. Children's Mission – Gazebo Park
- 8 – Church office closed
- 9 – No His Men
- 10 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship service
- 13 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
12 – 1:00 p.m. Children's Mission Gazebo Park
- 15 – Church office closed
- 17 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
- 18 – No Lydia Circle
- 20 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
12 – 1:00 p.m. Children's Mission – Gazebo Park
2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn (at The Meadows)
No Grace Stockwell
No Trustees meeting
- 22 – Church office closed
- 23 – No His Men



"Save the date for VBS 2016! This year's Ecumenical Vacation Bible School program will be held Sunday, July 24th through Thursday, July 28th. The theme this year is "Surf Shack: Catch the wave of God's Amazing Love!" As with every year, we will need teachers, helpers, kitchen gurus, and snack-making extraordinaires. As we get closer to the date, we will pass around a sign-up sheet for our snack night as well as for providing bars or cookies for our final night meal. * Please note: If you are planning to be present at VBS, you will need to sign our Safe Sanctuary forms. These can be obtained from Pastor Mike, Jodi Kraft, or Nikki Conlon. If you have any other questions, or if you would like to teach or help at VBS, please contact Nikki at 532-2203. Thank you for your service to God and His children!"

- 24 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School starts
- 25 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School
- 26 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School
- 27 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
12 – 1:00 p.m. Children's Mission – Gazebo Park
No Finance meeting
No Church Council meeting
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School
- 28 – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School
- 29 – Church office closed
2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee
- 30 – Mission Trip to Beacon of Hope in Ft. Dodge
- 31 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
Mission Trip to Beacon of Hope in Ft. Dodge



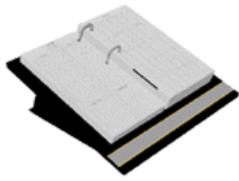
August Birthdays and *Anniversaries*

- 2 – Norm Carlson, Rich Hocraffer
- 3 – Ron Emerson
- 5 – **Connie & Mark Hill**
- 6 – Alan Hagie, Agnes Hendrickson
- 7 – Dominic Carey, Claire Campbell
- 9 - Derek Conlon, **Kay & Roger Brooks**
- 10- Terry Evans
- 11- Evan Wahl, **Carolyn & Dennis Bowman, Katy & Craig Warnke**
- 12- Scott McCormick, Troy Schultz, **Theresa & Jeff Hansen**
- 13- Kari Disney, Dylan Jackson
- 14- Pastor Mike Gudka, Kirk Disney, Dawn Nail, Whitney Carey
- 15- Kennedy Jackson, Donna Miller
- 17- **Nancy & Mike Nail**
- 18- Tanner Abbas
- 19- Kathy Walton
- 21- Debbie Hennigar, **Jennifer & Jim Mewes**

- 22- Ed Nail
- 23- Alison Friesleben
- 24- **Janice & Dennis Murphy**
- 26- Sarah Hansen, **Cathy & Jeff Farwell**
- 27- **Nora & Brandon Thompson**
- 29- Edythe Moe, Nancy Nail
- 30- **Amy & Scott Wiezorak**
- 31- Nikki Conlon, Sally Emerson, **Abby & Dean Kirstein**

Happy Birthday and **Happy Anniversary** to all!

Note: If your birthday or **anniversary** is not listed, or we have the date wrong,
Please contact the church secretary.



AUGUST Calendar

- August 3 – 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
12 – 1:00 p.m. Children’s Mission – Gazebo Park
- 5 – Church office closed
- 7 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service, Communion Sunday
Fellowship Hall reserved in the afternoon (Borel gathering)
- 10 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
- 12 – Church office closed
- 13 – 7:30 a.m. His Men
- 14 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
- 15 – No Lydia Circle, Newsletter Articles due for September Clarion Connection
- 17 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
2:00 p.m. Isabella Thoburn (at The Meadows)
No Grace Stockwell
6:30 p.m. Trustees meeting
- 19 – Church office closed
- 21 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
The Story curriculum materials handed out to Sunday school teachers
- 24 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes
2:00 p.m. UMW Executive Ice Cream Social
6:00 p.m. Finance Committee meeting
7:00 p.m. Church Council meeting
- 26 – Church office closed
2:30 p.m. BINGO for Quarterly Committee
- 27 – 7:30 a.m. His Men
- 28 – 10:00 a.m. Summer Worship Service
The Story curriculum materials handed out to Sunday school teachers
- 31 - 8:30 a.m. Bibles and Bikes

a good representation from First United Methodist on that day. I will remind you of this date again later in the summer.

If you have been reading for the Reading Program, please make sure Nancy Nail has the list of books that you have read. She will be sending the report to the Secretary of Program Resources in June.

We have set the date for the August Unit meeting. It will be held on August 24, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Fellowship Hall. I hope to see all of you then.

An exciting opportunity has been revealed to us for a Mission Trip to Costa Rica in 2017. The dates are March 11-18, 2017. More details are coming so start saving those dollars now!!

Remember you are all invited to attend the Devotion time on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 in the church library. If you have a bike and want to ride with us we would love to see you on the trail. If you don't have a bike and would like to share in the devotion time, please join us.

The scripture chosen for the Fireside Room is Psalms 118:24 "This is the day the Lord hath made. Let us Rejoice and be glad in it." That is just as true today as it was when the Psalmist penned it so long ago. Praise God for each beautiful day we are privileged to enjoy.

As you go about your summer, in all things remember to live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God!

Have a Great Summer, Carolyn Bowman

MISSION, OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION!!!

May 10, 2016

Do you want to move your faith into action this summer? Keep reading!

Would you like to provide food for a mission project? You will have many options.

Want to participate in outreach in our community? Opportunities abound.

On six Wednesdays this summer (June 29 – August 3), Hannah McLaughlin will be working with the M.O.E. Committee to provide free lunches and an interactive Bible story time to children from pre-school through fifth grade. We need your help!! A sign-up sheet in the back of the church sanctuary allows you to purchase, prepare, or serve the food. You can sign-up to help a little or sign-up to help a lot. We would love to have your help.

Have you considered a mission trip, but are concerned about making the commitment to attend?

Prayerfully consider getting involved one weekend this summer. It's a great place to start.

On July 30th and 31st, we will once again be supporting the Beacon of Hope men's homeless shelter in Fort Dodge. We will serve in many ways: completing projects, preparing meals, and providing worship.

Match your gifts with the activities planned and reserve the weekend of July 30th and 31st.

Haven't Seen Someone In Church Lately?

The Mission, Outreach, and Evangelism Team is gathering names of people that we haven't seen in church lately. And then prior to Rally Sunday on September 11, they will call them and invite them to join us as we kickoff our Fall schedule. If you know of someone that could benefit from a call, please see Bud Young.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

April 27, 2016

Members Present: Pastor Mike, Andy Schutt, Pam Bradshaw, Sue Mechem, Bev Claude, Kent Kirstein, Steve Hill and Denny Bowman.

Chairman Bowman opened the meeting by sharing a reflection on concepts from the book "Not A Fan". Author Kyle Idleman covers a topic of "If not now, When?" based on Matthew 4:18-20.

Andy Schutt shared the financial report through March. The Committee was pleased with the present balance and the financial support for both the special project of the sanctuary update and also the operating budget. Kirstein moved to accept the financial report, Schutt seconded. Motion passed.

Bowman reviewed the loan application for our capital campaign. All those directed by the Church Council to sign the application have done so. The loan is set as a line of credit with a limit of \$110,000.00.

The use of Bill Pay was discussed. We are looking for ways to promote its use. It is felt that the use of this tool would take time to develop.

The Church Council has directed each Committee chair to determine if present members want to continue with the committee they presently serve. All Finance Committee members present confirmed they would serve in 2017. Kent Kirstein will serve as Chairman with assistance from Denny Bowman when conflicts with schedule may arise.

Committees were also instructed to eliminate members who have not been able to serve or wish not to serve on their present committee. Mike Geary has not been able to serve in 2015-2016. It was moved by Mechem and seconded by Hill to remove Mike from the Finance Committee for 2017. Motion passed.

A lengthy discussion was held on the use of the funds that are presently being held at the Foundation in Des Moines as a Reserve Fund. Kirstein moved and Bradshaw seconded that we request the \$10,000.00 be returned to our local bank and to look at alternatives for a long-term investment to be used in the event of an emergency. Motion passed.

An investment strategy will be discussed at the August meeting.

Pastor Mike closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Denny Bowman

**CLARION FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

APRIL 20, 2016

The church council of the Clarion First United Methodist Church met on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 with fourteen members and one team representative present: Emily Bernhardt, Carolyn Bowman, Dennis Bowman, Pastor Mike, Janet Hennigar, Bob Herbst, Jake Johnson, Jody Johnson, Kelly Kirstein, Jodi Kraft, Andy Schutt, Carol Townsend, Kathy Watts and Bud Young. Team representative Stan Busick. Chairperson, Carol Townsend, called the meeting to order. Jody Johnson talked about Chrysalis and offered the opening prayer.

Pastor Mike asked to add the organ to the agenda. Carolyn made a motion to adopt the amended agenda. Second by Janet. Voted on and carried. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting. Second by Kelly. Voted on and carried.

Andy presented the Treasurer's Report. It was moved by Jake to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Kelly. Voted on and carried. Jodi presented a short review of Chapter 4 from the book "Not a Fan".

Pastor Mike asked if anyone had heard any feedback about the Audio/Visual project. There has been both good and bad. We will continue working on the windows as able. The Chrysalis Flight, Youth Retreat, and Trustees work day went well. Carolyn made a motion on the recommendation from the Finance Committee to have \$2,000 in a reserve fund to be available for Andy to use for cash flow if needed and with approval of the Church Council. Second by Kelly. Voted on and carried.

The Worship Committee recommended the summer schedule start June 5 with only one service. The first Sunday will be a Traditional service with the rest of the Sunday's being Contemporary. Dennis made a motion to start the summer schedule with one service to start at either 9:00 a.m. or 10:00 a.m. depending on the Praise Team and to start the fall schedule September 11th with Traditional service from 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m., Sunday school 9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. and Contemporary service 10:45 a.m. – Noon. Second by Janet. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reported that we don't have the new keys for the doors yet but the plan is to go to test mode in May with the go live date June 1st. Pastor Mike reported that Thursday, May 5th will be National Day of Prayer service at our church. Pastor Mike asked for ideas that clients from Mosaic could do as volunteers. Several ideas were presented.

Several new logos were presented with no decision made.

Jake made a motion to schedule a Fall Retreat for the Church Council to look at long term goals for November 6th from 1:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Second by Bud. Voted on and carried. Bob made a motion to not have meetings in June or July. Second by Kelly. Voted on and carried.

Pastor Mike reported that the General Conference for the Methodist Church is held every 4 years and will be held May 10 – 20. There may be some fallout from the decisions made.

Pastor Mike reported for the Education Team that the new curriculum "The Story" will start this fall and VBS is being planned. Trustees – work day was held and a lot of projects were completed. Janet reported for Memorial that they have some funds designated for the kitchen remodel. Jake reported for Young Adults and Families that they have met and are working on what their objectives should be. Finance – Dennis reported that the papers have been signed to get the line of credit. It has been set up so people can do direct deposit. They will not meet in June or July. Worship – Kelly reported that they are working on getting greeters for the first service. She also asked about getting a basketball hoop put up as we have such a good attendance of students at the different groups. UMW – Carolyn reported that the May luncheon is set for May 11th. Carolyn Cook will be presenting the program. They have had the choir robes cleaned and are planning on cleaning the brass and the paraments. Youth – Emily reported that the Youth Retreat went well. The Youth are in charge of the 2nd service on May 1st. Missions – They are planning another weekend at the Homeless Shelter in Fort Dodge and also gave money for the milk for breakfasts at the school.

Pastor Mike reported that the organ is broke and can't be repaired except for with considerable expense. Kay is the only one that can play it and she will be retiring. Her recommendation is to not put any more money into it. Carolyn made a motion to take the organ out. Second by Bob. Voted on and carried. Discussion was held to have a celebratory service. Removing the organ will allow the space to be used and be able to plan where to put things for the Audio/Visual project.

Jodi reported there will be only one newsletter for June/July/August and reminded chair people to get articles in early.

The next meeting will be May 25th at 7:00 p.m. Jody closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Watts, Secretary

Planning for Fall



New Fall Worship and Sunday school Times Begin September 11:

Beginning on Rally Sunday, September 11, we will once again go to two worship services and start Sunday school. With the approval of the Worship and Education Teams, and the Church Council, the times for the services and Sunday school will change slightly beginning on September 11: Traditional: 8:30 to 9:30 (one hour); Sunday school: 9:40 to 10:40 (one hour); and Contemporary: 10:45 to Noon (1.25 hours).