

## Message from Pastor Dean

### Forty Days of Love

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*

*Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.*

*And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 13:1, 12-13 NIV

Love. Maybe Paul was right about seeing a poor reflection. Mistaken for feelings, our sentiments often masquerade as the real deal. But 1 Corinthians 13 reflects love as God intended for it to be. It is all muscle and action, patience and self-sacrifice. With Valentine's Day nearly here, I ask myself, "Is what I think is love for others, a poor reflection of love, or a cheap imitation? Or am I walking in the footsteps of Jesus?"

Starting Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be spending forty days looking at the topic of love, and how to get along with others. We will be using the text, "*The Relationship Principles of Jesus*" by Tom Holladay. We will look at six principles Jesus lived out in his relationships. The books are available for \$10, and the small group study guides are \$5. Each week we will introduce one of the principles in worship, and then you can dig deeper at the weekly study groups we are organizing.

**Join us for Forty Days of Love.**

## Prayer & Praise Sisters

You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters each Wednesday morning in prayer and some fun activities:

Feb. 4 at 8:15 they will carpool from the church to Perkins in Council Bluffs to celebrate Pat Conrad's birthday.

The rest of the month they will meet in Fellowship Hall at 8:15 a.m. February 11 is Valentine card exchange.

If you have questions call Louise Weber.

## MOPS Meeting

MOPS will have their meeting February 11 in Fellowship Hall. Monica Mayberry will be speaking about the importance of dating your mate. Monica will be presenting the Once Upon A Family "Date Night Deck".

On Saturday, February 14 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. MOPS will host a Valentine Party for the kids in Fellowship Hall.

Join other mothers at a MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting! For more information about MOPS contact Monica Mayberry or Amber Dyer. MOPS have a website. Check it out at [www.freewebs.com/mopsofgrace](http://www.freewebs.com/mopsofgrace).

## Beth Moore Bible Study

Beginning on February 2, 2009 Calvary Baptist Church in Glenwood is hosting the new Beth Moore Bible Study entitled "Esther". The study will be held at 9:30 A.M. and at 6:30 P.M.

Grace U.M.C. will be hosting a study on "Daniel" by Beth Moore when the "Esther" study ends. For more information, contact Jean McInerney.

## Join Us for Supper & Worship During Lent

Ash Wednesday, February 25, is the beginning of the liturgical season called Lent. We hope you will join us each Wednesday during Lent for...

Supper at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall and Worship at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

A freewill offering for missions is received at the suppers. We thank the following groups for volunteering to serve a supper:

Feb. 25 Nurture & Education Committee

Mar. 4 God's Kids

Mar. 11 Men of Grace

Mar. 18 United Methodist Women

Mar. 25 MOPS

Apr. 1 Mission Outreach Committee

## NEW Grace UMC Food Ministry

The Food Ministry is designed to help people that need meals taken to them due to illness, birth of a child, etc. Volunteers sign up into one of six groups (or more) and when a need arises one of the groups takes food to the person or family with the need.

The church staff hears of a need. They contact the Food Ministry Coordinator. The Food Ministry Coordinator contacts the team foreman of the team whose turn it is. The team foreman uses their list to set up the meal. The team foreman will also call the person that will receive the food and coordinate with them the delivery.

Disposable dishes are encouraged so the receiving parties do not have to work to clean or return dishes.

Last Sunday (1/25/09) forty-seven people signed up to be on a Food Ministry Team. Please call the church office 527-4607 if you would like to be a part of this ministry and provide part of a meal. Also, notify the church office if you have a need or know of a need for meals to be delivered.

## Join United Methodist Women

**Feb. 5** – The U.M.W. unit meeting is Thursday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Roxanne Boverhuis will provide the worship center, program and devotion. Hostesses are Verna Kelley, Ruth Robertson and Vera Tackett. U.M.W. volunteers will host a birthday party at Glen Haven on Thursday, Feb. 19.

**Feb. 9** – Faith Circle will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Lounge. Pat Conrad will provide the devotion and program. Hostess is Wilma Kelly.

**Feb. 16** – Hope Circle will meet in the Church Lounge at 7:30 p.m. Kathy Bird will provide the devotion and Susan Rouse is the hostess.

## Who are United Methodist Women?

United Methodist Women (UMW) is a nearly one million member-strong organization of women who seek to know God and to make life better for women, children, youth and marginalized neighbors in the ever-expanding global village of today's world.

Any woman may become a member who chooses to belong, is committed to the PURPOSE and is willing to be involved in global mission through UMW. Women of the United Methodist Church are not automatically members of UMW. All women are encouraged to join and are welcome to attend the Unit meetings and Circles.

**PURPOSE** – The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

## **Spiritual Retreat – Walk to Emmaus**

There is another “Walk to Emmaus” scheduled at Corning U.M.C. in Corning IA. The Men’s walk is set for February 19 through February 22, 2009. The Women’s walk is set for February 26 through March 1, 2009. Anyone interested in attending, or if there is a Walk to Emmaus member, who would like to sponsor someone, please contact Pastor Dean McPherson or call 527-4607.

## **Birthday Party for Henry**

Henry “Heinie” Vohs celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 30. There will be a birthday party served in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, February 1 during Fellowship Time (10:00 – 10:30 a.m.). Everyone come wish Henry a Happy Birthday!

## **Anniversary Open House**

Dyle and Nancy Downing would like to invite you to an Open House in honor of their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, February 15, 2009 in Fellowship Hall from 2 to 4 in the afternoon. Please come and no gifts please.

## **Souper Bowl of Caring!**

**Super Bowl Sunday** (2/01/09) is a day when our nation turns its attention to a football game. Millions are spent on advertising and publicity is huge. It is the hope of our Jr. High Sunday School class that on this day people’s attention can also be turned to caring for those in need in our own community.

We have a display in the upstairs Sunday School Wing where we are asking our church family and friends to each donate one dollar and one canned food item. These donations will help support charities in Mills County during a time when many are falling into economic hardships. Thank you!

## **Sunday School Teacher’s Appreciation Brunch**

On Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> help us show how much we appreciate the sacrifice of service our Sunday School Teachers make to enrich the spiritual lives of our children. Please join the Education Committee for a Coffee Fellowship Brunch, (10:00- 10:30 a.m.), as we offer our gratitude. Don’t forget to tell your children’s teachers “Thank you” for their commitment.

## **What’s Happening in our Small Group Ministries?**

\*Each Wednesday the after school groups meet right after school for snacks until group time.

**Jesus’ Shining Stars** are learning about the “Fruit of the Spirit” through stories, crafts, games and Praising God. Each Wednesday they create things out of their own play dough while they listen to the story. This helps them to understand key points! There are several boys and a few girls that would love to have their friends join them from 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Pre-k through the 2<sup>nd</sup> grades).

## **The Sonshine Choir**

After an awesome Christmas break they are glad to be back singing again. They have such a great time being with their friends laughing, sharing snacks and praising God with songs! Currently there are 15 in this choir and they are always looking for more.

## **The Grace Notes**

This choir had the opportunity to perform at the Holy Rosary Church for the 'Soup & Song' fundraising event in December. This event was to make funds available for families in Mills County that need help with their heating bills. They look forward to performing in church again soon!

**God's Kids** met on January 7<sup>th</sup> and made 'Prayer Pillows' to help them remember who to pray for at bedtime. God's Kids will meet again on February 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 where they will be making 'Valentines For Heroes'. \*Mark your calendars for March 4<sup>th</sup>; God's Kids will be hosting a Taco Salad Lenten Meal. Information regarding this meal will be made available soon.

## **What's Happening in Sunday School?**

**The Joy Choir** sang on January 25<sup>th</sup> during the July in January hot dog roast in the Fellowship Hall. The event was after the 10:30 worship service.

### **The Harmony Hands Bell Choir**

This group of 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> graders meet and practice the bells during Sunday school class time. They have been practicing a few songs that they performed for July in January. They hope to be able to perform in our church again before the end of the school year. What a great bunch of kids we have and they are sounding so good!

**The 3 Yr. Old's Nursery Class** has been learning about the birth of Jesus and how a very bright star led the Wise Men to him. They are going to make a book about Jesus' life and how he grew up. They are also going to measure their growth on the growth chart. They are so happy to know that Jesus loves all of us!

### **The Pre-K/ K Class:**

Christmas is always an exciting time for the Faithful Frogs. Learning about the Advent Season, Wreath, and getting ready for the birth of Jesus!

In the next few weeks they will be learning about Jesus as a little boy & growing up. They will learn that Jesus teaches us the Good News of God's love.

Jesus said to them, "Follow me." – Mark 1:17. And, "Let the children come to me." – Luke 18:16.

### **The 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade (The Holy Bee's!)**

Through December, they have been completing the journey to Bethlehem with Mary and Joseph. They have also been busy practicing the bells to prepare for a performance. If you are in this class, you will want to come for the fun in learning about God's love for us and playing the bells for Harmony Hands. Remember to keep studying your Bible verses so you can earn a party!

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class**

This class has been working their way through the Bible and learning about Bible heroes. They've studied about Baby Jesus and the Wise Men that visited Him. They plan to continue to learn about Bible heroes and the last Sunday of the month they celebrate birthdays and play games.

### **The Jr. High Class**

In the weeks leading up to Christmas the class has focused on Advent and preparing their hearts for not only celebrating the birth of Christ, but also for His return. This has raised some questions on prophecy, so they are looking into prophecies of both the Old & New Testaments and what they have to say about the future. In the past couple of weeks the class has watched the fictional Revelation movie, "Left Behind".

In this class we try to find other interesting ways besides the use of curriculum to make learning fun.

**The Sr. High Class** has been reading the Upper Room for devotions and understanding the season of Advent. In the next few weeks they will be using the DVD series “Good God Theater”, (New Testament), as they focus on the life and teachings of Jesus. This study will run through Lent and Easter.

## **Scholarships are Available**

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation awarded over \$150,000 in scholarships to members of the United Methodist Church for the 2008-2009 school year.

On the bulletin board near the church office there is a listing of the scholarships available for the 2009-2010 academic year. The student must complete one set of application documentation for each scholarship for which they apply. This is available at the conference website: [www.iumf.org](http://www.iumf.org). Applications must be postmarked on or before February 15, 2009.

## **2009 Scholarship Essay Contest**

The Peace with Justice Essay contest is open to students who are high school juniors and seniors during the current school year. This year’s topic is “**How can people of faith devote the same discipline and sacrifice to non-violent peace-making that the military devotes to war?**” Completed essays must be typewritten, approximately 500 to 1500 words. They should be sent to the Iowa Conference Peace with Justice Coordinator, Marian Solomon, 1801 20<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, IA 50010 or emailed to [msolomon@mchsi.com](mailto:msolomon@mchsi.com) by April 15, 2009. There will be three winners. Each winner will receive a \$500.00 scholarship award.