

## Message from Pastor Dean

### Are You Running on Empty?

Have you ever run out of gas? Isn't it embarrassing? I find that I usually run out of gas about noon on Easter. (We're not talking gas gauges and gasoline any more are we?)

How many times in our lives do we run out of gas, not have enough "stuff" to get the job done? I think you will be amazed at how much of a parallel there is to running on empty emotionally. And running on empty financially. And running on empty relationally. And running on empty physically. And spiritually.

Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." The problem is that I often try to do everything in MY OWN STRENGTH, and that just doesn't work. That is when I find myself running on fumes.

Right now we are starting a series called, "Running on Empty", in which we will investigate all the ways that God can help us when we feel like we are running on fumes, or coasting to a stop. Come join us.

## Welcome to Our New Members

On Palm Sunday, April 5, Tyler Jensen and Caleb Severn were confirmed into membership.

On Easter Sunday, April 12, we received seven people into membership. Sarah Simmons, Mike & Lori Murphy, Chuck, Cheryl, & Kasey Haynes were received at the 8:45 service. June Hostetter was received at the 10:30 service.

We are very blessed to have them in our membership. Please extend a warm hand of friendship and welcome to them as we grow in faith together.

## Have You Been Thinking of Joining Grace UMC?

If you have been considering joining Grace United Methodist Church please contact the church office 527-4607. We would like to receive new members on Pentecost Sunday, May 31. You may choose which service 8:45 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

## MOPS Events

Saturday, May 2 the MOPS & Nest Program Community Baby Shower at The Mills County Storehouse is from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The public is invited to donate and / or attend. Cake and punch will be served.

MOPS will have their "End of Season Party" meeting May 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Child care is provided in the Sunday school wing for a small fee.

MOPS book club will meet at Amber Dyer's home at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27.

For more information about MOPS contact Monica Mayberry or Amber Dyer.

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## May Committee Meetings

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May 6	Trustees	7:30 p.m.
May 13	Church Council	7:30 p.m.
May 20	Education	6:30 p.m.
May 20	Mission Outreach	6:30 p.m.

## **Come to the U.M.W. May Breakfast**

**Saturday, May 2 At 9:30 a.m. In Fellowship Hall**

### **Program on Historical Dolls Presented by Betty LaFollette- Johnson**

Barbara Tucker will present the devotion. Faith Circle will set the tables and provide the decorations. Sunny Seitz and Cheryl Bichel are preparing the meal. Hope Circle members will be the servers. Donna Bishop, Margaret McKee and Verna Kelly have volunteered to clean-up.

No Faith Circle or Hope Circle meetings are scheduled until September.

## **Mother's Day is May 10**

Bring Mom to church on Mother's Day. A special gift will be given to all women in attendance that morning. At the 10:30 service there will be a baptism, the Grace Notes Chime Choir will play, and the Chancel Choir will sing.

## **Congratulations to Graduates**

Sunday, May 10 these students graduating from High School will be honored:

Megan Bachman	Annaleah Herrman	Valerie Ryks
Brooke Bird	Katelyn Maring	Taylor Shanks
Amber Brockman	Megan McVay	Brian Visocky
Kristopher Callaway	Andrew Reinert	Breanna Wright
Emily Fajardo		

A brunch reception will be served by the Christian Education Committee in Fellowship Hall at 10:00 a.m. The United Methodist Women will present a gift to each graduate. Please plan to come celebrate with the graduates and their families.

## **Who are our '09 College Grads**

We would like to recognize all our college graduates in our next newsletter. We need your assistance, because graduation schedules vary. If there is a recent graduate in your family (mid-winter, May or one to graduate by the end of summer), please contact the church office 527-4607.

## **Bible Study on Daniel**

The Beth Moore Bible study on the Book of Daniel will begin Monday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m. This twelve week study will be held in the sanctuary of Grace UMC. Everyone is invited to attend. Invite friends. For more information contact Jeannie McInerney.

## **Special Music is needed for Our Summer Worship Services**

Will you share your musical talent? During the summer months the choirs take a break. If you would like to or you know someone who would like to provide special music for either of the worship services this summer, please, contact the church office 527-4607.

## **Prayer & Praise Sisters**

You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters each Wednesday morning for prayer, praise and sharing in fellowship. The group meets in Grace UMC Fellowship Hall at 8:15 with coffee and refreshments served at each gathering.

If you have questions call Louise Weber.

## **Lay Speaking Ministries**

Advanced Lay Speaking Training Event will be July 24-25, 2009 at Harlan First UMC.

Advance Course 1: Theme: Passionate Worship – Advanced Preaching (Lay Speakers Preach – Dave Swinton, instructor).

Advanced Course 2: Theme: Radical Hospitality – Pursuing the Full Kingdom Potential of Your Congregation – (Lay Speakers Lead in Evangelism – Lanette Plambeck, instructor)

The next Basic Course will be offered March 26 & 27, 2010 at Atlantic First UMC. For those interested in becoming a Certified Lay Speaker and who have not yet taken a Basic Course, they may take their Advanced Course (other than preaching) prior to the Basic, but will not receive certification until after the Basic Course is taken. All Certified Lay Speakers must take an Advanced Course every three years. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Lanette at 712-655-3928 or [lanette@mmctsu.com](mailto:lanette@mmctsu.com).

## **Order a Grace UMC T-Shirt**

Orders are being accepted until May 31 for Grace UMC tee shirts. You can order pink or royal blue and many sizes are available. On the front is the Cross & Flame with Grace United Methodist Church. On the back is our purpose:

Love God... Love Others... Serve the Kingdom...

The cost of each shirt is \$10.00. Bring order form and money to the church office or contact Michael Schmidt or Carolee Heath for more information.

## **Help is Needed for Annual Fall Fundraiser**

I would like to have a silent auction at the fundraiser this fall, but need your help obtaining donations! You can start now, asking businesses or people you have contact with for donations of items or services. Or you can personally donate items and / or service. Please label each item with the business name and address and your name, and leave them in the church office.

Thanks for helping make this another successful fundraiser! Call Carol Rogers if you have questions.

## **Mission Outreach News**

### **A Special Offering for Native American Ministries**

Sunday, May 3 we will receive a special offering for Native American Ministries. Your gifts support Native American Ministries, whether it's providing shelter for victims of domestic violence, filling food pantries, starting new churches or educating Native American seminary students. The special offering is one way United Methodists honor Native Americans.

Our Annual Conference keeps 50% of the offerings received from Iowa churches to develop and strengthen Native American ministries within this Conference. The rest of the money goes to programs benefiting Native Americans in cities throughout the United States.

There will be special offering envelopes in the bulletins or you may designate N.A.M. on the memo line of your check.

## **K.C. McGinnis Mission Trip**

K.C. McGinnis is being called by God to go on a Mission Trip to Jordan this summer. We are accepting donations to assist with K.C.'s mission trip expenses. Please give your donation to Grace UMC and designate for K.C.'s trip.

K.C. is a member of Grace UMC and a college student at University of Iowa. Please keep him in your prayers.

## **C.A.N. Offering**

C = Community A = Assistance N = Needs

The Mills County Ministerial Association is sponsoring the C.A.N. offering so they can assist with more of the needs of people in Mills County. You are encouraged to collect change in a can and bring that money to church with you on Pentecost Sunday, May 31.

## **Grace UMC Meal Ministry**

Please notify the church office 527-4607 if you know of someone who is ill, having surgery, had a baby, etc. and may enjoy having a meal delivered to them. Our meal ministry teams are ready to serve.

## **Meals on Wheels**

*Meals on Wheels* is a meal delivery program offered through Southwest 8 Senior Services. A meal can be brought to your home each week day. For more information on this program or to sign up for this program call 712-328-2540.

Please contact Virginia Vohs if you would like to be a volunteer from Grace UMC to deliver meals for the Meals on Wheels program.

## **Senior Center Offers Meals**

The Glenwood Senior Center, corner of 1<sup>st</sup> & Vine St., offers a noon meal Monday – Friday. The menu is published in the Opinion Tribune each week. The suggested cost of the meal is \$3.00 for people 60 years and over and \$6.00 for people under age 60. Take out is available. Please call 527-4213 by 11:00 the day before to reserve your meal. Tell your friends and share a meal together at the Senior Center.

# Christian Education News

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

### **\*One Room Sunday School:**

It's that time again. The school year is coming to a close, our self-less Sunday School Teachers are due some well deserved time off to enjoy their families, and we need YOU to volunteer to teach a one-time class this summer. Our dates are from June 7<sup>th</sup> – August 23. Class sizes vary (10-15) and are for the Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> grades. The curriculum is so easy a 5<sup>th</sup> grader could do it! **Dates still available: July 12 & 26, Aug. 2 & 16.** \*Please contact Roxanne to sign up or for additional questions.

### **\*Painters Needed:**

Mark your calendars for June 1-6. School is out so now is the time to paint our Education Wing. We need painters, tapers, and cleaner-uppers. We will need paint brushes and cleaning rags. Haven't signed up? Just show up when you can!

## Campers Wanted!

Our camp information, catalogs and campership display table is at the top of the north stairway. The Missions Outreach Committee will give all campers that ask scholarships of 1/3 the cost of their camp cost up to \$100.00. There is also a small fund available from the UMW group. The Iowa Conference also offers scholarships. For details, contact Roxanne M-W from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

## On the May Calendar:

**May 6:** God's Kids meet from 4:30-5:30.

**May 10:** Graduating Senior's Brunch Reception during Coffee Fellowship hosted by the Education Committee. Grace Notes Chime Choir performs during the 10:30 Worship Service.

**May 13:** Wednesday After School groups will end their year with a Celebration of Participation Party! During our regular meeting time we will have awards, games and treats!!

**May 20:** The Education Committee will meet @ 6:30 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade classroom.

**May 24:** Sunday School Attendance & Participation Recognition for Harmony Hands & Joy Choir members, Acolyte & Jr. Ushers during the 10:30 worship service.

**May 31:** The Sonshine Choir performs with the Bells of Grace (both services) as they celebrate 30 years of making music together.

## What's Happening ~ Small Group Ministries?

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

**“Jesus’ Shining Stars”** is a mid-week program just for kids in the Pre-k through the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. **The Stars** meet each Wednesday from 3:30-4:30 in the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom. We have fun learning about the ‘Fruit of the Spirit’.

**The Sonshine Choir:** All I can tell you is: “Arky, Arky!” and “celebrating 30 years of playing together!”

**The Grace Notes:** Our choir just keeps growing, growing, and growing! We have added more members; they all sound great and enjoyed performing last month! They meet each Wednesday after school.

**God's Kids:** WE NEED SOME HELP FROM GOD'S KIDS FOR PARK CLEANUP! Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-5:30, we will meet and transport your children to Hiley Park. After the cleanup is done we will have fun and treats in the park. Parents and siblings are invited to come to help and stay for treats. Or you can pick up your child at 5:30 at Hiley Park located at the north end of Hillcrest Ave. If it rains we will stay at the church and play games. Have questions? Call Lori.

**The UMYF** youth group meets on the first and third Wednesdays from 6-7:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall. (May 6 & May 20)

## What's Happening in Sunday School?

**The Toddlers & 2's Class:** Classroom helpers this year have been CrisDee Plambeck, Laura Lambert, Amber Dyer & Julie Godbout. We have been talking about sharing, helping others, and singing. We read books at 'Story Time' – "New in God's World" by Doris Willis and "The Man Who Said Thank You" by Ella K. Lindvall.

We had looked forward to Easter. We talked about spring & nature and about the precious Earth God has given us!

**The Nursery Class** (3-4 year olds): We have been studying about Jesus' death and Easter Sunday when He arose! In the next few weeks we will be studying about Jesus' trip to Emmaus and how we need to tell others.

**The Faithful Frogs** (Pre K/Kindergarten): This class has been learning about Jesus' Journeys and they have also been celebrating! The Faithful Frogs had decided that they needed a party to celebrate Easter and the resurrection of Jesus!! On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> they partied and talked of how much God loves us and that it was part of His plan for Jesus to die for us. We also learned that Easter means "New Life".

The Faithful Frogs love to sing, especially as the Joy Choir! They are all such a "JOY" to be around!! They have all missed Larry and are so glad that he is back!

**The Holy Bees** (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class): We have been learning about Jesus, His death & resurrection. We will still be learning our Bible verses every week to get our Bees out of the hive! We want one more party before the year ends. We are also practicing to play our bells one more time. Come 'bee' part of our fun class!

**The Harmony Hands Bell Choir:** Harmony Hands would like to invite all 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> graders to join their choir. They meet each week in their regular Sunday School Classroom (9-10a.m.). Come play with your friends!

**The Jr. High Class:** We are on an Amazing Bible Race this spring, March- May. This is an online competition with other youth throughout the country. This race is a team event where we keep each other accountable; we want to earn as many points as possible! If you are in Jr. High, come be a part of our team. Check out the website [www.amazinggrace.com](http://www.amazinggrace.com)

**The Sr. High Class** is using the "The Good God Theater" series as their curriculum and the Upper Room Devotional guide for class reflection. They have just finished the New Testament series and will begin the Old Testament this month. The 'Good God Theater is a DVD in which each weekly scripture lesson there is a fun,

thought provoking skit. The group is lead by the Three Wise Guys and Ron always brings treats! Please: No Cell Phones!

**The Adult Class:** This fun-loving, but studious group is led by Larry Herrman. They are studying the book of Hebrews and will begin a study of the book of James. Larry says that they have books from Back to the Bible that are informative and help the class study the Word of God. Great Stuff-Please join them!!

**God's Word is Alive!**