

Message from Pastor Dean

You have six days in which to do your work, but the seventh is the day of rest dedicated to Me.

Exodus 20:9

I am probably not the sharpest knife in the drawer, and neither is the one I carry. I keep a small knife for sentimental reasons. It has a nail file, a screwdriver and a small blade, but it is usually rather dull, because

Think about it for a moment, if you were using a kitchen knife to cut carrots, and then, when it was what good would that do? You really need to stop and sharpen it, don't you?

This is what a lot of us do with our time. We work hard and put in long hours at our place of employment to catch up on all the other work that we have at home. And the knife just gets dull.

Most of us would never think about committing adultery, or stealing, or killing another person, but his "Big Ten" that we violate without giving it another thought. It's called, "the Sabbath". That God put would consider weightier sins, should give us pause. God gave us the Sabbath for our own good, and so

There are three things we need to do on our "Sabbath":

1. Rest our bodies.
2. Recharge our emotions.
3. Refocus our spirits. (Pay attention to our relationship with God.)

If we don't, we will just become a bunch of "dull" knives in the drawer.

Spiritual Retreat – Walk to Emmaus

You are invited to participate in Walk to Emmaus at Corning UMC in Corning, IA. The Men's Walk is July 9-12. The Women's Walk is July 16-19. Anyone interested in attending, or if there is a Walk to Emmaus member who would like to sponsor someone, please contact Pastor Dean, 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. The study book cost is \$17.50. Everyone is invited to attend. Invite friends. For more information contact Jeannie McInerney.

Father's Day is June 21

On Father's Day the Men of Grace will be leading the worship service. A special gift will be given to all men in attendance that morning, so bring dad to church.

MOPS Event

MOPS will have their "Craft Make Up" night Wednesday, June 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. For more information about MOPS contact Monica Mayberry or Amber Dyer.

Prayer & Praise Sisters

This summer the Prayer & Praise Sisters will meet once a month. On June 24 they will carpool from the church at 8:15 and go to Bradley's Grill in Malvern, IA for breakfast. They will be celebrating Louise Weber's and June Hostetter's birthdays. You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters for prayer, praise and sharing in fellowship. If you have questions call Louise Weber.

June Committee Meetings

June 10	MOPS	6:30 p.m.
June 11	Finance	7:00 p.m.
June 17	Education	6:30 p.m.
June 18	Discipleship	7:00 p.m.

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.

Bestselling Author's New Book on the Economic Meltdown: Yours for Free

Patrick Morley, author of 16 books including *The Man in the Mirror*, spent seven years fighting an economic meltdown and survived. He chronicles the spiritual, practical, and financial lessons he learned in *How to Survive the Economic Meltdown*. Download a free PDF copy at www.survivethemeltdown.org. No strings attached.

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 lanette@mmcts.com.

Developing Ministries:

Pastor Dean will be leading some training for some new ministries this summer. During June and July, he will be leading training for a new Member Care Program. Are you interested in strengthening the connections between Grace UMC and its members and constituents? If so, this ministry may be for you. Learn how to strengthen the connection through a variety of contact methods.

Beginning this summer, pastor will also start training for Celebrate Recovery, a new spiritual growth and recovery ministry, which will launch with a series of messages this fall. Pastor is looking for leaders who want to help others heal their hurts, habits and hang-ups. Call the church office if you are interested in either of these summer growth opportunities.

United Methodist Women's News – Come to the U.M.W. June Picnic

Thursday, June 4 at 6:30 p.m. at Glenwood Lake Park (Fellowship Hall if bad weather)

What should you bring? Your family, A dish or two to share, and Your own table service.

June McMahill & Helpers are hostesses.

Mission Outreach News

Let's Support Mike Joyce's Mission Trip to Bolivia

Dear Friends,

During July 2009, I will be going to Bolivia as a representative of Grace United Methodist Church to assist Dr. Bill Janecke and his wife, Heidi, in their ministry to people of Bolivia. I will be linking up with individuals from other churches in the U.S. who also support Bill & Heidi.

Bill works with World Concern serving poor rural Bolivian families whose survival is linked to what they can produce with little land and very limited resources. World Concern provides training, technical assistance, and spiritual strengthening to these families as they work to improve the production of their small farms and seek strength, guidance, and perseverance through relationships with Jesus Christ.

Heidi works with Talita Cumi Children's home. Talita Cumi is home to about 30 abandon, abused or orphaned children ranging in age from 6 to 16. "Talita Cumi" from Mark 5:45, means "Child arise!" It appropriately sums up the strength and spirit of confidence and restoration the kids find in the loving, Christ-centered environment. She is also on the board of directors for Talita Cumi orphanage and uses her energy and creativeness to help the children create scarves and other crafts to sell to support the needs of the orphanage. "Tia (aunt) Heidi", as the kids call her, is a daily witness of Christ's love to these great kids. As you can see, their work is different. Rather than providing relief, they focus on the transformation of individuals, groups, and communities through balanced ministry to spiritual, physical, mental, social, and ecological needs.

Among other projects, the two-week trip will include work on a drainage project at Talita Cumi and further renovation as a result of a fire a couple years ago. I will also be going to the veterinary school and providing instruction on orthopedic surgery, most fracture repair. Here again, helping them help themselves.

I'm excited about the opportunity and experience that lie ahead. I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this requires financial support from a number of people. I have found buyers for some of my surplus veterinary equipment to raise funds for this trip. If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful. And, most importantly, I also need prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful. Without prayer, nothing will happen.

DVM. Mike Joyce

Peace with Justice Sunday

Sunday, June 7 there will be a special offering envelope in the bulletin and a mission moment about the Peace with Justice Sunday offering.

The Peace with Justice offering recipients will use the money to foster peacemaking ministries such as helping people of all ages learn alternatives to violence and to foster global justice. Half of the money received will remain in the Iowa Annual Conference to be used by the Board of Church and Society.

Relay for Life – is June 13-14 Deadline to turn in money is June 7.

Purchase a luminary in memory or honor of a friend or loved one who has had or who is currently fighting cancer. The luminaries are \$5.00 each. You'll receive an information card to complete which will be stapled to the front of each luminary. **Deadline to turn in luminary money is June 7.** Information cards need to be turned in as soon as possible. Luminary cards are available at the back of the church or in church office. Give money and card to someone walking or give to church office.

Thank You for Supporting the Mission Auction

The Mission Outreach Committee is very grateful for all the support of the Mission Lunch and Auction. Thank you for all the wonderful donated items, for attending the lunch and giving to the freewill offering, and for the very generous bidding. \$2,516.06 was raised to help others in 2009.

Thank you to Earl Theis for being our auctioneer. Thank you to Todd Peverill, Kyle & Cody Griffin and Caleb Sanders for assisting the auctioneer and to Kathleen Hockabout and Mindy Lehman for being the bookkeepers. You all made this event run smoothly.

We missed our other auctioneer Don Goetz this year. Don was in the hospital and we pray he is feeling better. Don and his late wife, Linda are the people who began the Mission Auction tradition at Grace UMC.

2009 Thanksgiving Ingathering Kits

This year is the 30th Anniversary of the Iowa Conference Thanksgiving Ingathering. Each year our Mission Committee selects kits to take to Ingathering and invites the congregation to donate items or cash towards those kits. This year five different kits have been chosen and they are:

June – Health Kits help disaster victims reclaim their dignity and self-respect and are used as teaching tools with children. When people can maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves. Kit items needed are: (kit value is \$13.00)

1 new hand towel	1 new washcloth	6 band aids (3/4")
1 bar soap in wrapper	1 large comb (not pocket size)	1 new toothbrush in package
1 nail file or fingernail clipper (no emery boards or toenail clippers)		

July – School Kits provide tools for education, which changes lives. In countries where children don't have books, school supplies or classrooms, a school kit may be their only educational resource. Kit items needed are: (kit value is \$11.00)

3 notebooks (wide ruled)	1 2 ½" eraser	1 blunt scissors
1 30 cm metric ruler	1 hand pencil sharpener	1 box of 24 crayons
6 unsharpened pencils	1 14" x 16" cloth bag (finished size) with 22" handles.	

August – Layette Kits provide women with basic supplies for the needs of their new babies.

Kit items needed are: (kit value is \$35.00)

6 cloth diapers	2 one-piece body suits (Onesies)	2 receiving blankets
2 gowns or sleepers	2 baby washcloths	2 diaper pins
1 sweater or jacket open in front		

September – Birthing Kits – Traditional Birth Attendants and midwives deliver babies in unsanitary places in the bush, in huts and alongside the road. With this kit they will have all the necessary clean and sanitary equipment to cut the umbilical cord while assisting with the delivery. Kit items needed are:

2 pieces of packing string or thin cord 18" long	2 single edge razor blades
4 2" x 2" gauze squares	1 pair latex gloves
4 4" x 4" gauze squares	6 alcohol swabs
1 roll clear flexible adhesive tape, ¾" x 25'	1 tube antibiotic ointment (1 oz)
9' x 12' plastic disposable drop cloth (like used in painting)	

October – Sewing Kits foster independence rather dependence. Cottage industries often grow out of sewing classes where these kits are used to practice skills. Kit items needed are: (kit value is \$18.00)

3 yards cotton or cotton-blend fabric (one piece)	1 sewing scissors
1 new spool matching thread	5-8 matching flat buttons
1 package hand sewing needles	

What's Happening in Christian Education??

***NO ONE MOVES UP!**

For several reasons, the Sunday School Teachers and the Nurture & Education Committee have made a very difficult decision to reorganize the structure of our regular Sunday School program.

Beginning in August 2009 we will divide our classrooms to coordinate with our curriculum.

1. The Toddlers & 2's class will be the new Nursery Class and will be for children 2-3 years old.
2. Last year's Nursery class will be the new Pre-School Class and will be open for children that are 4 or will be 4 by September 15th.
3. The old Pre-K/Kindergarten Class will be the new Kindergarten/1st Grade Class.
4. The old 1st/2nd Grade Class will be the new 2nd/3rd Grade Class.
5. The old 3rd/4th Grade Class will be the new 4th/5th Grade Class.
6. The old 5th/6th Grade Class will no longer be.
7. Jr. High will now consist of 6th-8th Grades.
8. Sr. High will consist of 9th-12th Grades.

GREAT CAMPERSHIPS available through the Mission/Outreach and the Endowment Committees.

Now the church will help families sending their children to church camps this summer by offering them a campership of 2/3's up to \$200.00 for each child! There is also a small fund available from the UMW group. For details, contact Roxanne M-W from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children that were in Pre-K- 5th grades this past school year are invited to participate in the One-Room Summer Sunday School Program.

The children will meet in the Fellowship Hall during the regular Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00). Summer dates are from June 7th – August 23. The Toddlers & 2's, Nursery, 6th – 8th Grade class & Sr. High class will continue to meet during the summer months.

Vacation Bible School

There are miracles... and then there are MIRACLES! This summer kids will explore both. At "Crocodile Dock" VBS kids will explore miracles, the big stuff God did to make himself known – a burning bush, an assault of plagues, and Jesus' resurrection. But kids also discover God's little miracles – demonstrations of God's love in everyday life. With your help children will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God is alive, active, and with them every moment.

There are two ways that you can participate in this awesome ministry. You can volunteer to be a Bayou Crew Leader that travels with a group of students as they learn that fearless kids shine God's light, or sponsor a child. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board downstairs by the office. You may also sponsor a child by donating \$20 (one child's week at VBS) and your reward will be to see kids' love for God grow deep and their excitement about sharing his love bubble over. Just write "VBS" in the memo of your check and place it in the offering plate.

Last year 127 kids in our church and community experienced God and His love at our VBS. This year our goal is 150 kids! Our VBS is July 27-July 31 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Registration information will be available soon. Thank you in advance for your continued support of this awesome ministry. VBS is a great way for our church to Love God, Love Others, and Serve the Kingdom.

Volunteers Needed for Next Fall

Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of our children's ministry areas.

- **God's Kids is an after-school group that usually meets on the first Wednesday each month from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** Rosters that include parental help each month and easy spiritual learning activities make this a great ministry for people that have very little extra time on their hands. This group is for 2nd – 5th grades.
- **Jesus' Shining Stars is an after school group for children in Kindergarten through 1st Grades.** This small group uses a mid-week Bible Club format and curriculum. They meet from 3:30- 4:30 each Wednesday.
- **Sonshine & Youth Choirs.** We could use someone to lead this group of 2nd-5th graders and 6th -8th graders for the first 15 minutes of Sunday School or on Wednesday afternoons. If you love music and children, this is a great opportunity.