

Message from Pastor Dean

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship. Rom 12:1-2 NIV

RETHINK. Maybe you have seen the ads by the United Methodist Church. Very soon there will be RETHINK door hangers on every door in Glenwood. But just what is the RETHINK message all about?

New research conducted by The Barna Group on behalf of United Methodist Communications found that 66 percent of young adults surveyed were searching for meaning and purpose in their lives and 62 percent considered themselves "spiritual." Two in three said there were specific events or times in their lives when they were more likely to search for spiritual answers. But 78 percent said they never attend church, or only attend once in a while. The Rethink Church campaign aims to bridge that gap.

Rev. Larry Hollon, chief of United Methodist Communications says, "We've heard the concerns of young adults searching for meaningful ways to change the world, and to find meaning and purpose in life with friends who care about them. We want to provide the invitation for people to make that kind of connection within The United Methodist Church."

But to do our part, we need to think again. We need to RETHINK CHURCH. Paul wrote in Romans 12:2, "*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*" First, we need to remember that it is not all about us, it is about Jesus Christ. Second, it is not just about the church, it is about serving His kingdom. We need to take another look at the gospel.

Richard Stearn, CEO of World Vision, in his book, *The Hole in Our Gospel* points out that we need to reconsider what it is that God truly expects of us, his disciples. We have been filtering who Jesus is through a lot of old church habits and assumptions. I know that I have to be reminded that there are all sorts of things about who Jesus is, and what he said and did, that I have overlooked, even though I have been reading the Bible for years. Let's take another look. As we RETHINK about who Jesus is, maybe we will RETHINK CHURCH in the process, and maybe we can see the newcomers that the Holy Spirit brings into our midst with fresh eyes.

Display of Deployed Military

The church is going to have a small table in the overflow room with pictures of service men and women who are now deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. The pictures will be no larger than 5x7. The table will also have a small flag and plaque. If you care to contribute to this, a small donation can be made at the church office marked military. Family members are asked to provide a picture. Rev. McPherson would also like a digital picture on CD if possible.

MOPS Events

Come to the MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) meeting Wednesday, Sept. 9 at 6:30 p.m. There will be a speaker from Chicks Dig Deals. They will be helping us learn the art of saving money by finding the best deals with coupons and sales. Their website is: <http://chicksdigdeals.blogspot.com>.

The book club will gather at Becca's on Wednesday, Sept. 30 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. to discuss the book [Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons](#) by Lorna Landvik.

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

Prayer & Praise Sisters

You are invited to join the Prayer & Praise Sisters for prayer, praise, and sharing in fellowship each Wednesday morning. They meet at 8:15 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

If you have questions call Louise Weber.

Join the Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir will begin practice on Wednesday, September 2nd. The choir practices every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. and has a schedule of singing the first three Sundays of a month. This year we present our first musical message on September 13. Please join us not only for an outlet for your talent but also for the fellowship of a fun-loving and supportive group.

Lynnette Dunn, Director

September Committee Meetings

Sept. 2	Trustees	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 9	Church Council	7:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	S. S. Teachers	6:00 p.m.
Sept. 16	Nurture & Education	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 16	Missions	6:30 p.m.

Do You Have Memories or Memorabilia to Share?

Jerold Irvin was pastor of Grace UMC from 1980-1984. He died in 1995. Jerry's son Les is currently compiling information on his life's work and is looking for people who might be interested in contributing memories or memorabilia to the project. If you can help, please email Les at lesirvin@gmail.com.

Lost & Found

Found: A set of keys in the restroom at the American Legion during the fundraiser Saturday, August 22. They may be claimed in the church office.

Rally Sunday Open House

Rally Sunday/Open House is coming September 20th. This will be an exciting day for Grace and we hope that all of you can attend! A portion of the worship service will be devoted to the introduction of the Sunday school teachers, and children in all grade levels will be asked to bring a friend.

In addition, Patti Cahanding, the Christian Education Director, has sent a post card thanking the VBS kids, who did not have a church family, for coming to VBS and inviting them to continue to attend Grace. The parents of those same kids have gotten letters from the Discipleship Committee inviting them to worship with us as well.

Between now and then, teams will walk the streets of Glenwood placing door hangers on the homes of our neighborhoods with a special invitation to “RETHINK” church, attend worship and the open house.

So you can see the probability for a great attendance is high.

Following the 10:30 service everyone is invited to enjoy a Rally Sunday “indoor picnic”. Sloppy Joes, chips and desserts will be provided. The congregation is asked to bring a favorite summertime salad (no hot dishes please).

Following the “picnic” our church will host an open house until 2:00 p.m. to allow visitors to learn more about Grace and what we have to offer.

What can you do? Start with this: Love God, Love Others, Serve the Kingdom. You love God by your service to others and the kingdom. Help walk the neighborhoods with door hangers, provide a salad for our “indoor picnic,” invite a friend to worship. Whatever you do, if you do it with a happy and willing heart, God will know.

Love God! Love Others! Serve the Kingdom!

72 “Caps” for \$200 Each

The Church Council has approved needed repairs to the exterior of our church. For the last several years the trustees have been aware of the need to repair the mortar between the bricks at the upper levels of our church building and to replace the “caps” to prevent water leaks.

The condition of the “caps” and mortar continues to worsen and has reached a point that the work must be done. The project will be completed in October at a cost of \$14,000. We are asking that you consider supporting this project by gifts during this year and next. There are 72 “caps” so we would appreciate your consideration of buying a “cap” for \$200. If 72 families will “buy a cap” the entire \$14,000 will be covered.

Please return the “pledge” form are available in the church office.

Thank you for your support.

Will You Serve in a Ministry?

The Committee on Lay Leadership will meet Monday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. and begin asking volunteers to serve in the ministries of the church. Please prayerfully consider serving in one of these areas of the churches ministry: Church Council, Finance, Memorial, Staff Parish Relations, Board of Trustees, Permanent Endowment, Historical, Library, Nurture & Education, Missions, Discipleship, or Worship. If you have questions about any of these ministries, please contact Pastor Dean or one of these committee members: Carol Rogers, Cathy Christiansen, Betty Stanley, Jason & Melissa Arbogast, Anita Coatney or Jeff Mitts.

Cluster Conference Here

Grace U.M.C. is hosting the Cluster Charge Conference this year. The Cluster Conference is Monday, October 12 at 7:00 p.m. District Superintendent Brian Milford will lead the conference. The churches represented at this conference along with Grace UMC are Pacific Junction, Hillsdale, Silver City, Emerson, and Wesley Chapel. Let’s all join in making everyone feel welcome.

Coming in October... “Life’s Healing Choices”

Reaching Men through Discipleship & Mentoring

God to Man, Man to Man, Man to Boy

The 12th Annual Four Conference United Methodist Men's Retreat is Saturday, October 10, 2009 at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Papillion, NE. Featured speaker is Coach, Ron Brown. The cost is \$20 including lunch. Registration by September 15th is encouraged. Pastor Dean is planning to go. If you would like to attend or want more details please contact him.

Put these Important Dates on Your Calendar!

August 30 – Promotion Sunday for Students and Teacher Dedication at 8:45 worship service

September 14 – Parents of Confirmation Students Meeting at 7:30 p.m. with Pastor Dean

September 20 – Rally Day Open House – Invite a friend to Sunday School & Church

October 7 – After School Groups begin

October 25 – Sunday School hosts Stone Soup Lunch

Introducing Our New Director of Children's & Youth Ministries

Hello Everyone!

I would first like to thank you for entrusting me in the position Director of Children's & Youth Ministries. I pray that I am able to continue to improve on the work that Roxanne accomplished. She truly had a heart of gold when it came to our children and youth and they are all better Christians because of her.

For those of you that don't know me, I was born and raised in Glenwood and graduated from Glenwood HS in 1994. I attended Iowa State University and graduated with a B.S. in Consumer Food Science and a minor in Spanish. After college I moved to Kansas City, MO where I worked as an Organic Chemist for 6 years. In 2005 I met my husband Ron and returned to Glenwood and began attending GUMC.

Since becoming a member of GUMC I have served as the director of the Christmas program, co-sponsor of the youth group (MYF), director of SonShine Choir, member of the SPRC committee, member of the Praise Team, and director of VBS. I love working with the children and youth of our church and community. I wish that when I was young, I could have had the enthusiasm for God that these youth have. They truly bring a smile to my face when I see them singing and praising God.

The world we live in today is fast-paced and it can be tough to keep up. As a result, I am a huge fan of the Internet and email. Therefore, the majority of announcements and reminders will be done through email unless you prefer a postcard. Not only is this a time saver, but it also reduces paper waste and postage. If you would like to receive my announcements and reminders about our youth please email me at patemelt@aim.com with the subject "GUMC parent" and include your child's name and grade. If I don't receive an email from you I will continue to send postcards.

Since I began working with our youth group (MYF) I have seen first hand the issues with which they are struggling. There are several issues that plague our teenagers that I never even saw until I was well into my twenties. In many ways the youth of our society struggle with the same issues as adults, such as drug/alcohol addiction, abuse, pornography, and self-image issues. My intention is that we as a church are able to openly discuss these issues with our youth and provide them with the tools of our faith with which to confront them. Whether we choose to acknowledge these issues or not they will still be a part of their lives. Our youth need our help and I pray that we as a congregation are able to uphold the commitment we made at their baptism "to love and care, increase their faith, confirm their hope and perfect them in love".

It is an amazing opportunity to work with children & youth and as the Director of Children's & Youth Ministries I hope to build and grow our children and youth through faith development and service. I also ask

for your prayers and support for me as I begin a new chapter in my faith journey. I am very excited about this position and am anxious to begin this amazing work!

God is Good!

Patti Cahanding

Director of Children's & Youth Ministries