First Church was founded in 1836

Our Mission Statement

“To be a spiritual home that welcomes, equips and sends all into the ministry to which Christ has called us.”

Our Worship Schedule:

Saturday
5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall

Sunday
9:00 am in the Sanctuary
10:15 am September thru May
Children’s Sunday School & Adult Study Groups

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday
8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Phone: (319) 385-1740
Fax: (319) 385-1745
Web Site: www.firstmethodistonline.org

Information for the August Messenger is due July 21st

Our Staff
Rev. Deborah Slowers, Senior Pastor
pastordjs@fumcmtp.org
Pastor Luann Benge
Joan Rodgers, Director of Lay Ministries
lay.director@fumcmtp.org
Jean Evans, Office Administrator
office.admin@fumcmtp.org
Jerry Lalaga, Organist
Jan Hughes, Saturday Night Pianist
Mark Kimzey, Choir Director
Chuck Ring, Custodian

FACEBOOK: First United Methodist Church, Mt. Pleasant - group and page
First United Methodist Church Youth, Mt. Pleasant – page
FUMC Mt. Pleasant Youth - group
Dear Family of Christ,

You are in for a treat! Pastor Luann Benge and her family, members of the Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee and their families met on Wednesday this week and it was kismet! Everyone got along famously and had a wonderful time sharing together. Of course, the radical hospitality of Melinda and Al Huisinga and the food that was provided cannot be dismissed or discredited. The Huisingas opened their beautiful home for the event and we all ate like royalty, and, in my case, as if I had not eaten before and did not plan to eat again.

There was no end to wonderful smiles, great stories and laughter. Pastor Luann, even though she and her family came to the potluck directly from moving out of their previous home in Richland and were exhausted, could not have been more delightful and excited to be coming as our new associate pastor. Even Pastor Luann and Pastor Carl’s children, Sarah and Lydia, who were promised and awaiting the chance to go swimming at the hotel made friends with John Rode who challenged them to a game of “I Spy.” John quotes, “They’re tough (competitors).”

Pastor Luann will act as liturgist during the worship services of the weekend of July 3rd and will be preaching the weekend of July 10th. There will be a cookie reception after the Sunday morning worship service on the 3rd and a potluck dinner on July 9th after Saturday evening’s worship service. Take advantage of these times to meet and begin to know Pastor Luann. And, consider gathering a few friends together in small groups (call them Pie with the Pastor, Cake with the Clergy, Salads with the Associate, Meat with the Minister, or Lemonade with Luann – whatever, you decide) and make an appointment with Pastor Luann. This is a great way to welcome and become even better acquainted with Pastor Luann.

Annual Conference Reflections

Annual Conference was a busy time for me, Pastor Deb; as chairperson of the Board of Ordained Ministry I had responsibilities during the Clergy Executive Session of the Conference on Friday evening. There I had the opportunity to meet Bishop Thomas Bickerton, resident bishop of the Western Pennsylvania Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. If his location – Western Pennsylvania – was not enough to recommend him, his expressed thoughts were. Bishop Bickerton offered words of encouragement throughout the conference, preached the Ordination Service message and presided over all the legislation that came before the conference members. I learned later that the folks who schedule for Annual Conference had set aside 13 hours for legislation and under Bishop Bickerton, we finished in one-half hour. Unheard of! Spectacular! Those Pennsylvanians know how to get things done. (By the way, Bishop Bickerton has written a new book entitled, “What Are Change a Child’s Story

Number of books given: 742
Hours of reading: 777.75

Change a Child’s Story does not stop over summer! We can help out with the Summer School reading program. Anyone who would be willing to help out during the following dates/times please call the office and we will schedule what works for you. Summer School is focusing on reading skills so this fits well with our mission. If you have not volunteered before, Joan will help you get signed up and ready to go. Summer school is held at IWU Science Hall from 9-11:30 a.m.

July 11-14 and July 19-21
August 1-4 and August 8-11

Thank you so much for the books given to our students as part of “The Change a Child’s Story” program. We wish you could see the excitement when they returned to our classrooms with a new book of their own! And a special thank you to Marti Mabeus for spending time each week as she carried out your ministry.

Belinda Gomez, Gloria Schmitz and Barb Kennedy

EMMAUS WALK #169 COMING TO IOWA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY AND MT. PLEASANT FUMC

The Walk to Emmaus is a highly structured 3 day experience that is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them their families, and the world in which they live. Emmaus is open to any denomination. If interested in registering or want to know more, please contact Marlene Hill, Sally Kinney, or Ava Seibert. Registration for the summer walk is now taking place.

Walk Dates July 14 -17 for Men
Walk Dates July 28-31 for Women
We Fighting For?” Our Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble recommended this book and copies have been given to those who attended the conference.

One thing that was accomplished this year was approving budget requests from the various boards and agencies of the conference – the means whereby volunteer leaders are given the resources to accomplish great things in the name of the United Methodist Church of Iowa. We heard reports from ministries such as Change a Child’s Story and learned that we, here, at First United Methodist Church in Mount Pleasant are doing very well in our goal of 2000 books and 2000 hours of reading in two years. We are really making a difference in children’s lives.

The conference was mainly without controversy due to the actions of the General Conference of the United Methodist Church which met in May. Among their deliberations was the hot topic of ordination of professed and practicing homosexuals and recognition of the LGBTQ community. The United Methodist Church is justifiably fearful that a decision either way would split the denomination. The decision of General Conference was to form a committee who would study and determine all the ramifications of the issue. Prayers and wisdom upon their work.

I was focused upon the message that I was to preach at the Retirement Service and so much of happenings of Annual Conference passed by without my avid concentration. (I received compliments on my message and if you are interested the message is on the conference website.) John Rode, Jennifer Rode, and Jean Evans, though, who served as lay members to the Annual Conference and served well, very well indeed. If you have questions about the conference, please direct them to one of us.

### Project Wesley
The Faith, Friends and Fellowship Sunday School Group invites you to join them in Project Wesley. On Saturday, July 16, they will be serving a spaghetti lunch to the residents of the Heidelburg Motel, Mt. Pleasant’s most transient location. There will be a collection box in the Upper Fireside Room for soap, shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes. Cash donations can be left in the office for the purchase of gas cards and laundry cards. Volunteers are welcome to help that Saturday to perhaps share their faith, but more importantly, just sit and be an attentive listener to their stories. For more information, contact Linda or Brian Eearl, Mark Kimzey, Mike Fitzpatrick or any member of the group.

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### Congratulations to the First United Methodist Church High School Seniors of 2016
Catherine Bappe  Keegan Pullis
Luke Beal  Sidney Taylor
Jack Davis  Kaley White
Joseph Goody  Jarrett Wilson
Allison Lowe  Samantha Zeleny
Kailey Peterson

### Are you headed to college this fall?
If so the First United Methodist Church members who are going to attend college during the academic year 2016-2017 may apply for a scholarship of up to $1,000 through the Higher Education Ministry Team of FUMC.

To apply, please send or e-mail a letter of application to Mary Elgar, 403 W. Courtland, Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641 or to maryel@lisco.com. The letter of application should include applicant’s past church activities, letters of recommendation from ministers, Sunday School teachers or youth group leaders and future plans. Application deadline has been extended to July 1st.

Continued from pg. 1

Pastor Deborah Stowers
Please Pray For Healing and Support:
- Premature Baby of Susie Clark’s daughters’ friend Michelle
- Luann Benge - Our newly appointed Associate Pastor
- Marilyn Tolander
- Esther Anderson
- Violet Stafford
- Nancy - Carla McNamee’s mother
- Jo Thornton
- Helen Snodgrass
- Sharri Fillinger - Niece of Joy Gillard
- For peace in the Middle East and safety for the people bring displaced
- Our shut-ins and residents of Care Centers
- Our sister church in Medellin, Colombia and Rev. Pastor Duque and Hugo Oquendo
- Drs. Lynn and Sharon Fogelman in the South Sudan
- Our armed service members who are serving throughout the world

Congratulations to: Ryan and Amanda West on the birth of a daughter, Eva LaRue Styron West, on Tuesday, June 14th. Grandparents are Emery and Virginia Styron.

Camping has started!!

Registration is now open for the Iowa UMC Camps of Wesley Woods, Okoboji and Pictured Rocks. Go to www.iaumc.org/camps to see the many opportunities that are available. The church will again offer to pay for 1/2 of your child’s camping registration fee. If you register on line please call the church office so we will have a list of those going.

Wesley Woods, will again have camping available here at FUMC. There will be two overnight camps for 7-9 year olds and a day camp for 5-6 year olds. The dates are July 10-12 and July 13-15 for the 7-9 years olds. July 13 for the day camp. There are camp books available in the Narthex or call the church office.

The church will pay half up to $200 of the camp costs. There are also scholarships available thru the Iowa Annual Conference and a member of the church. Please contact the church office for more information.
MISSION MOMENTS

School supplies will soon be on sale so this is a good time to purchase the School Kit items. Our goal is 250 for this year. Kits will go to the In-Gathering and be sent to UMCOR for distribution.

Supplies: Customs are very strict as to what can be shipped so please purchase only the items listed with NO ADVERTISING ON THEM OR USA FLAGS, IF POSSIBLE!
- 1 pair of blunt metal scissors
- 1 - 2 1/2 inch eraser
- 1 - 24 count box of Crayons
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 hand held pencil sharpener (NO one inch ones)
- 1 - 30 centimeter ruler with no advertisements
- 3 units of paper (8 1/2 - 11 spiral notebooks, wide rule, 210-250 sheets total)

If you can sew a bag or two, call the church office or Madonna Worden, 385-3299. Kits are cut and ready to be assembled. Sewing machines are also available if you need one.

The supplies may be placed on the table at the back of the sanctuary. The value of the supplies is $11, if you would like us to go shopping for you. The shipping has been donated by two good Samaritans. If you would like to help with postage, it would be greatly appreciated. We appreciate your help with this project!

September 11 has been designated as Compassion Sunday … watch for details.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

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<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 28, 5:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 29, 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>June 12, 9:00 a.m.</td>
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BUDGET NEWS
May 2016

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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Current Budget</th>
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<tr>
<td>Beginning Balance</td>
<td>$11,231.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income:</td>
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<td>Pledges/Giving</td>
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<td>Expenses:</td>
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<td>ACH for Mission</td>
<td>695.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liability Difference</td>
<td>(166.28)</td>
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<td>Ending Balance</td>
<td>$7,889.08</td>
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<td>Liabilities:</td>
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<td>Withholdings</td>
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<td>Funds Available</td>
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Missions Budget

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<td>Received</td>
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<td>Disbursements:</td>
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<td>(3,320.34)</td>
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<td>Total:</td>
<td>$4,123.87</td>
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The Campbell Soup Company is stopping the program “Labels for Education”. We have been sending ours to Bidwell Riverside and they request that we send in the labels we have by July 15th. That gives them time to meet the Campbell deadline of July 31st. If you have labels, please bring them to the church by Sunday, July 10th, so that we can get them to Bidwell by the deadline. The labels are used to purchase educational items for their classrooms.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL THE LABELS THAT WE HAVE DONATED TO BIDWELL RIVERSIDE. EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS SOMEONE IN NEED.

There is an opportunity for one of the “Great Seamstress of FUMC” to help our Ministry of Communion by making a new Communion table and card table coverings. Please call the church office if this is a project that you would be willing to do.
Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers during my last illness.  

Jo Thornton

Thank you for all the encouraging words and gift cards sent during final weeks. I always appreciated that you thought of me during those busy/stressful times! I graduated last Saturday with a degree in Elementary Education and I look forward to seeing what this next chapter holds for me. Thank you again for all your support throughout this journey!

Emma Davis

Thank you so much for the gift card to Subway. It was very appreciated - and a great way to take a break from studying.

Madison Pullis

Thank you to all who donated shoes for Tree of Life ministry in Mission, South Dakota. The back of a pickup was full of shoes! They were delivered June 20th and will be a blessing to many people.

Joan

Thank You to everyone who helped with our successful VBS! Whether you donated your time, cookies, or supplies, it was all very much appreciated and the reason we were able to continue this tradition. We had 25 participants who all had fun.

The Christian Education Ministry Team

Do you need a shower, wedding or graduation gift?
One of the First United Methodist Women Cookbooks is a great gift. Stop in the church office and pick one up for $13.

You are invited to the Sanctuary Thursday, July 5th, from noon to 1 p.m. to pray and receive Holy Communion. This is a quiet time with God removed from the world’s activities. There is a list of prayer concerns, there are scriptures and prayers you can read, there are candles to light and Pastor Deb serves communion when you are ready. Come and go during the hour as you feel led. Please note the change of place while the Chapel is under repair.

Summer Theme: Meeting God in the Movies

- Weekend of July 2-3 - Saving Private Ryan
- Weekend of July 9-10 - Shriek
- Weekend of July 16-17 - Zootopia
- Weekend of July 23-24 - UP
- Weekend of July 30-31 - Friendly Persuasion
- Weekend of August 4-5 - Chariots of Fire
23rd - Saturday
5:30 p.m. - Praise & Fellowship Worship

24th - Sunday
10:00 a.m. - Worship at TTT Shelter House
All Church Potluck and Games following.

25th - Monday
10:30 a.m. - Staff

26th - Tuesday
6:30 p.m. - Ad Council Rm. 9-11
7:00 p.m. - Acapella

27th - Wednesday

Found, one beach towel, left at Saunders Park after VBS. If you lost yours please check the lost and found box in the Narthex.

What: Outdoor worship, Potluck & Yard Games

When: Sunday, July 24: 10:00 AM Worship, 11:15 AM Potluck Lunch followed by Yard Games
Where: TTT Shelter at Saunders Park

Special Instructions: Lemonade, water and cups will be provided. Please bring your own entrée, dessert or salad to share during the potluck, and table service (plates, silverware & napkins). Please also bring yard games to share with the group (bags, boards, bocce ball, ladder ball, croquet, etc.).

NOTE: The 10:00 AM service on July 24 will take the place of the 9:00 AM service (THERE IS NO 9:00 AM SERVICE ON JULY 24). In case of rain we will move the 10:00 AM service and 11:15 AM potluck to the First United Methodist Church. Join the Worship Committee for all or part of this special event!