



The United Methodist News  
**Vol LVI — No. 3 — March - 2017**  
Sunday Worship: 8:30 Traditional / 10:30 Contemporary  
Sunday School: 9:30 AM  
Wonderful Wednesday: 5:30-7:30 PM



## ASH WEDNESDAY

*Wed, March 1st*

**5:30 Meal @ Wesley Place**

for youth, parents, and the entire congregation !!

Concluding the evening with an  
**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE @ 6:30 PM**  
in the sanctuary.



*Ecumenical*  
**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

**1:00 PM - Friday, March 3rd**  
**@ Grace Lutheran Church**



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDIES

*See Men's and Women's Bible Studies scheduled for Lent on page 3 & 5*

## NEW PASTOR APPOINTED

*Pastor Duane Larson* has been appointed to serve the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church, effective July 1st. Pastor Duane is currently serving as an interim pastor in Missouri after serving 11 years as the senior pastor of the Eureka UMC, MO. Pastor Duane is married to **Lisa**, who grew up in the Lakes area and graduated from Arnolds Park High School in 1982 (*Lisa's maiden name is Battern*). They have 3 adopted children: **Sam**, who is in college; **Seth**, who is a senior in high school and **Sarah**, who is in 6th grade. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare to become part of our church family in July.

In the coming days and months ahead we will want to enjoy the time we have left with **Pastor Lon & Nancy** before Pastor Lon retires in June.

## VISIONING PROGRAM

Next Meeting

**Sunday, March 12th**  
**@ 6:30 PM**

*Visioning Update on page 4*

## NO APOLOGIES 2017

*No Apologies for Teens is a large group gathering for 6th-12th grade coming*  
**Wed, March 15, 2017—6:30 PM**

Hear from Special Guests: **HARRIS iii**  
(Master Illusionist & Storyteller)  
Clay County Event Center, Spencer

# Sharing With Others !!



## Daylight Savings Time

**Turn Your Clocks Ahead One Hour**

*Before Retiring On Sat, March 11!*

**REMEMBER:**

*Spring Ahead - Fall Back !*



## EASTER LILIES, BLANKETS, SEED PACKETS

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ would like to purchase an **EASTER LILY** for \$11 each in memory or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ would like to purchase a **BLANKET** for \$5 each in memory or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ would like to purchase a **PACKET OF SEEDS** \$5 each in memory or in honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
purchase a **PACKET OF SEEDS** for \$5 each in memory or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: April 7, 2017**



## SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY RESULTS

115 Cans of Soup, 3 pkgs of macaroni & cheese and 1 pkg of crackers were collected to fight local hunger. Some will be used for the Backpack Program, and others taken to Discovery House and the Food Pantry at Upper Des Moines Opportunity and the Dickinson County Food Pantry at Spirit Life Fellowship.

*Thank you for your support,  
Mission Committee*



## WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

In case of cancellations due to bad weather be sure to tune into KUOO or KICD Radio or to the Lakes Area Website: [exploreokoboji.com](http://exploreokoboji.com) or to KTIV.

**Remember:** When there is no school or an early school dismissal on **Wednesday** because of the weather—there is no **Wonderful Wednesday Meal** or youth activities.

**Circles:** Also, if there is no school or a late start, morning & afternoon circles will not meet.

**Church Office:** Also, if there is no school or a late start...the church office may not open on time or in case of really bad weather...at all. Be sure to leave a message, if no one answers.



As we prepare to enter the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 1), it is always a good thing to remind ourselves what this season is all about. The Lenten journey has been called the “*Paschal Mystery*”. Jesus, the Paschal Lamb, is sacrificed for us and our sins. It refers to the saving work of Jesus Christ and our participation in that event. Through the season of Lent, the Church takes part in God’s action through Jesus Christ, and in a very real sense we live and die and rise with Christ. That is why we offer various opportunities for growth such as Lenten Bible Studies, special worship services, etc.

But maybe it is easier to remember that the Lenten season is basically a road trip that we travel with Jesus. Rev. James Moore, a United Methodist pastor, says it this way:

*“Each year as we move toward Easter, we make a road trip. We join Jesus on the road as he moves to and through the cross....In a real sense, we could say that Jesus spent his whole life on the road. He was born on a road trip. He died on a road trip. And one of his most dramatic post-Resurrection appearances occurred on the road to Emmaus.”*

So, are you ready to join Jesus and your church family for a road trip this March and April? It is quite a trip that takes us through such scenic locales as the tomb of Lazarus, the Upper Room in Jerusalem, the garden of Gethsemane, Pilate’s Hall and courtyard, the hill at Golgotha, and the tomb that could not hold Jesus. I hope you and your family will join us as we travel the Lenten road trip with Jesus! After all, we mean everything to him and he knows that the journey will not be complete without every one of us! So let’s put on our walking shoes and hit the Lenten trail with Jesus!!

*Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Lon*



**I.R.O.N. MEN’S GROUP**

***Friday Mornings, 7:00 am***

*(March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; April 7)*

Fireside Room led by Pastor Lon



All men are invited to join us during the Lenten season for food, fellowship, and faith-building! We will be utilizing a great DVD study by Rev. Adam Hamilton called “***The Call – The Life and Message of the Apostle Paul***”. As stated in the intro, this study will center on “*the story of the Apostle Paul, whose writings continue to shape the lives of one-third of the world’s population, a man second only to Jesus in his impact and influence on the Christian faith, and whose witness defines what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. In this study, we will join Adam for a six-week video journey to the lands where Paul traveled, preached, suffered, and triumphed.*” No preparation needed – just come and join us as we grow in our faith together!

*Spirit Lake United Methodist Church*

**COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

Our church will be giving several college scholarships again this year. All scholarships will be awarded on the basis of need; scholastic records; church service or community service. **Applicants must be members of the Spirit Lake UMC.** Scholarship applications are available in the church office. **Deadline: April 1, 2017**

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*UMC Iowa Conference*

**COLLEGE  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Iowa United Methodist Foundation awards scholarships for undergraduate, graduate and seminary education. Go to [www.iumf.org](http://www.iumf.org) and click on **Scholarships**. You may read the scholarship criteria and decide which conference scholarships to apply for on-line. **Deadline: March 15, 2017**

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**A GREAT WAY TO GIVE !**

Did you know that Spirit Lake UMC has the option available to set up *auto-withdrawal* from your checking account for your church financial giving?? It's true—and it is so easy to do!! Just give our Financial Secretary, Donna Fisher, a call at the church office (336-3115) and she can help get you all set up. Just think—no more checks or stamps—and the comfort of knowing your church financial giving will be paid at the same time each month, even if you are on vacation or out of town !!

**VISIONING UPDATE**

Our congregational Visioning Day on February 12 was a great success and a lot of fun! Rev. Ryan Christensen shared a wonderful message about re-learning to fly, which is really what this process of visioning for our local church is all about. We are getting to know ourselves more fully as a congregation so that we can better cast a vision for our future ministry that will be clear, concise, compelling, contagious, and shared. It was a super morning of worship, praise, celebration, commitment and fellowship. The pizza lunch was outstanding, an excellent and satisfying way to complete the morning's activities! And lots of great discussion was generated about visioning in our church!

Our next scheduled congregational Visioning program will be on **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm,** in Paige Hall, and everyone is invited to attend! Our meetings are always completed in less than 90 minutes. Join us as we continue on in our congregation's vision journey together!



**GIRL  
SCOUT SUNDAY**  
*Sunday, March 12th*  
We will be recognizing all  
**Girl Scout and leaders.**  
**WEAR YOUR UNIFORM !**



### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

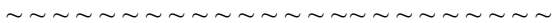
*The Books of Joshua & Judges  
Have you ever found yourself full of faith  
one moment only to falter the next?  
Oh, how like Israel we are!  
As we experience the highs and lows of  
Israel's faith journey in these two books,  
their history will provide valuable lessons  
for us today. This will be a 9 week study.*

**Choose a time that works for you!**

**Thursdays: 2:00-3:15 PM**

**Fridays: 10:30 -11:45 AM**

**RSVP** the church office 336-3115



*Wonderful Wednesday*

### CONGREGATIONAL MEALS

**Each Wednesday at 5:30 pm  
at Wesley Place  
Everyone invited!!**



### FINANCE UPDATE 2/12

**2017:** Our monthly budget equates to about \$34,485/month.

January 2017 Actual: **Giving = \$28,447**  
**Expenses = -\$32,288**

We are all reminded that routine, monthly giving to cover expenditures allows us to be current with financial obligations; also, helping pave the way for avoiding any financial squeeze during the last quarter of the year. *Thank you for your continued financial and prayerful support.*

### DISTRICT

### LEADERSHIP INCUBATOR

**Sunday, February 26th from 2:30-5:30 pm**

*St. Paul's UMC, Cherokee, IA*

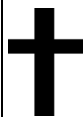
**Speaker: Superintendent Tom Carver**

**Theme:** *Putting Spiritual Leadership into Practice*

**We encourage** all members of our church along with those serving on a committee or leadership position in our church to attend.

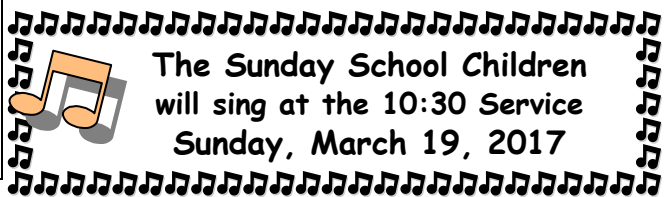
**Pastors and participants can choose from these options:**

- Staff-Parish Relations Committee
- Communicating Vision Through an Annual Mtg of the Cong.
- Simplified Leadership Structure
- Building Effective Leadership Teams
- Stewardship
- Trustee Committees
- Empower the People
- Listening to the "And We" in Missions
- Churches with Part Time Local Pastors
- Technology and Social Media for Ministry



### OUR LENTEN & EASTER OFFERING

This year our Lenten & Easter Offering will go for *the Discovery House Bedroom Renovations*. Discovery House is a Christian halfway house located one block north of the post office, that provides shelter and guidance for those recovering from addictions as they get back on their feet. They are needing to refurbish their bedrooms with lights, floor coverings, paint, window treatments, etc. The Mission Committee will be working with them on this project, and will appreciate your help with this offering. Enclosed is a Lenten Offering Envelope.



**The Sunday School Children  
will sing at the 10:30 Service  
Sunday, March 19, 2017**

**THANK YOU: Chuck Wetzeler & Andy Schultz**  
for auditing the church financial books!

Thank to everyone for their thoughts and prayers for Ethan Wicks. It is a true miracle because he is home now and doing very well. While in a coma the doctors found him to have severe brain damage, respiratory problems and kidney damage. After he came out of his coma he defied the odds and was released from the hospital with no signs of brain damage, his lungs are now clear and the doctors said that he no longer needs dialysis for his kidneys. Prayers were answered! God is so good!

*Wicks Family & Jill Longest*

Thanks to everyone for their prayers and concerns. All my testing came out with good results. No surgeries required. Thanks to all!

*-Bonnie Gross*



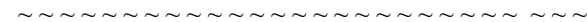
**BACKPACK PROGRAM**

*Did you know there are children going hungry every weekend in Spirit Lake?* The school is starting a **backpack program** to send food home. When you go **grocery shopping pick up** some of these items and bring them to the box in the narthex. **You can make a difference !!**

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Easy Mac & Cheese (microwave)                              | Pudding Cups     |
| Juice Boxes – any flavor                                   | Jars of Peanut B |
| Individual Bottles of Juice                                | Jars of Jelly    |
| Jiffy Peanut Butter To Go pkgs                             | Fruit Snacks     |
| Crackers & Cheese pkgs                                     | Pretzels         |
| Hormel Complete Dinners                                    | Mini Muffins     |
| Individual Cereal Boxes                                    | Pop Tarts        |
| Microwave Quick Oats with flavoring                        |                  |
| Chicken Noodle Soup / Stars                                |                  |
| Chewy Granola Bars (P Butter or CChip)                     |                  |
| Individual pkgs of Cheez It's/Gold Fish (100 calorie pkgs) |                  |

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

- |                |                            |                    |
|----------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Sharon Cusick  | Bob Kelley                 | Jerry Starkweather |
| Jo Gray        | Joyce Grim                 | Jack Daniels       |
| Ray Tryon      | Bonnie Gross               | Betty Ogle         |
| Colleen Daly   | Vern Voss                  | Pat Fedders        |
| Verneda Hively | Annette Fairchild          | Doc Maris          |
| Mike Wiley     | Martha IntVeld's son, Mike |                    |
- Gary & Bev Hurley's son-in-law, Charles Birkland of SL  
Becky Daniels' mother, Sue Prior  
Nancy's brother-in-law, Bob Levisay , Des Moines  
Satomi Lemkuil's father, Nobuhiko Kawawakatsu  
Penny Bossow's nephews, Rick Bossow, Scott Stengley  
Betty Romero's brother, Harry Burns



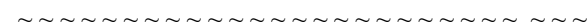
**SYMPATHY**

**Sympathy** to the family of **Arlene Reed**, who passed away on February 15, 2017. Services were held Monday, Feb.20th.



**IN THE HOSPITAL ?**

Please contact the church office 336-3115 or by email if you know of a member of our Spirit Lake United Methodist Church that has been admitted to the hospital. The new privacy laws are now being **strictly enforced** and there are many times we are unaware of who has been hospitalized and to what hospital. We would prefer to get 10 calls rather than none at all.



**CHURCH DIRECTORIES**

The new 2017 Church Directories with our church committees, policies, names and addresses are now available in the narthex and church office! If you have any additions or corrections please notify Betty, that we may keep our records updated. *Thanks !*



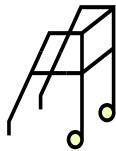
**Welcome Our Visitors**

We all know what it's like being some place new, that's why it's so important to reach out and help others feel welcome when they visit Spirit Lake UMC. One of the extra ways we help folks get acquainted with our church is in the welcome center Sunday mornings. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please sign-up on the sheet on the bulletin board. We need volunteers following both services. PLEASE CALL AND VOLUNTEER!

- March 5:** Early: Betty Sangel  
Late: Carol Larson
- March 12:** Early: Audrey Allen  
Late: Jess A Marlys Nichols
- March 19:** Early: Bev Hurley  
Late: Ann Kuiper & Kristen
- March 26:** Early: Betty Sangel  
Late: Jess & Marlys Nichols

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*Handicap Walker*

**CARRY ALL BAGS**



*Edwina Gardner* has graciously made some great heavy duty **Carry all Bags** to attach to walkers. She would like to share these with members and loved ones of our congregation.. Please feel free to stop by the church office & pick one up.

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**DIAPER COUPONS**

Place any diaper coupons you find in the basket in the narthex.

**Young Mothers:**

Feel free to pick up a coupon to save money when you buy diapers !!

**ADOPT A DAY!!**

Did you know that the Spirit Lake UMC utilities (electricity, gas, etc) average \$75 a day? Why not adopt a day on your birthday or that of a family member, or your anniversary, or all of them.

**Adopted Days this month**

- 2/13 - **Scott & Kelly Sievert**
- 2/17 - **Tim & Jodie Murray** in celebration of *Christopher's 7th Birthday!*
- 2/19 - **Larry Shaffer's Birthday !!**
- 2/22 - **John Maris Family**
- 2/28 - **Hazel Read** in memory of her late sister.
- 3/1 - **Ian & Shelly Coburn** celebration of *Owen's 17th Birthday!*
- 3/2 - **Dennis & Lynda Langstraat**
- 3/8 - **Bower Family** in celebration of *Abby Wilson's Birthday!*
- 3/9 - **Matt & Tammy Branum** in celebration of *Mikaila's 20th Birthday!*
- 3/9 - **Dave, Carol, Andrew Larson** in celebration of *Krista's 20th Birthday!*
- 3/15 - **Bill & Jackie Carpenter** in celebration of *Their 47th Wedding Anniversary!*
- 3/26 - **Jodi Wollmuth's Birthday !**
- 3/26 - **Bower Family** in celebration of *Becky Wilson's Birthday! (daughter-in-law)*
- 3/28 - **Craig & Sharol Anderson**

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**TV BROADCAST SPONSORS**

We are on TV Mediacom **Channel 22** on Fridays @ 9:00 AM, Mondays 9AM when possible.

**Thank you to the following:**

- March 5:** Dave & Carla Bjork
- March 12:** Linda & Bill Moore for *Visioning Team*
- March 19:** Needed \_\_\_\_\_
- March 26:** Craig & Sharol Anderson

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**ONGOING FUNDRAISER**

**Old Printer Cartridges? Cell Phones?**  
Drop off at the church office



**To View the  
March 2017 Calendar**

**Go to Home page of this website  
And click on calendar  
And you will see  
The schedule of events  
For March 2017**