

The Herald

MAY
2013



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations Committee has chartered a bus for a trip to Des Moines on Sunday, June 9th, for the ordination service of the Iowa Annual Conference. During this service, Pastor Nate Nims will be ordained as an Elder of the United Methodist Church.

The ordination service, held at HyVee Hall Event Center, is open to the public, and those wishing to attend need to arrive before the 9 a.m. start time in order to register. The chartered bus will be leaving the Fairfield United Methodist Church parking lot at 6:30 a.m. sharp in order to make that deadline. Bishop Trimble will be leading the service, which will last approximately two hours. A short informal gathering will follow the service to meet and greet the celebrants.

As a special treat, the

members of FUMC have been invited to lunch at Immanuel United Methodist Church at 2200 49th Street, Des Moines. This meal will be prepared by their Missions Committee. Their minister, Gary Nims and his wife, ask that we join in celebrating their son's ordination.

Please call the church office, 472-4303, to reserve your seat. Cost of the trip will be \$20. Per person.

FAREWELL POTLUCK

Pastor Mark and his wife, Faith will be leaving FUMC on May 15th. They are moving to Canada so Mark can pursue his second retirement dream of being a fishing guide.

To show our appreciation for the job done at FUMC and to wish them well with the new retirement, FUMC is having a potluck lunch after the 10:35 service. Table service and drinks

will be furnished by UMW; all you need to bring is some food, smiles and well wishes.

Even though their time at FUMC was short, let's have a great turnout and a big sendoff on the 12th.

It's time to say goodbye. You have been wonderfully welcoming to me. I am confident that you will welcome Todd Holman with all the Christian love and good will that you showed me. You have a bright future as a church and I wish you well. I take the many new friends I have made here with me in my heart as I go back into retirement to see what God has in store for me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and meet so many faithful people here in Fairfield.

Mark



Children's Church

Children's Church is in need of two additional adults to help with the program. Each volunteer would help once a month during the 10:35 service. The youth team plans the lessons/activities. Please contact the church office if you are interested in being a part of this.

I want to thank everyone who was able to make the brunch that was put on by the youth for their summer mission trip to Benton Harbor and all of you that helped them get their yard by yard by taping me to a chair. I also want to thank the UMW for their support of our youth through their salad luncheon and the UMM for their donation to the trip. Thanks to everyone's generosity we raised just over \$1,000 last month. In the few months that are left before the trip we will need to raise \$2000 to make sure that the youth can leave for Benton Harbor, Michigan debt free. Our next planned fundraiser is a tip night at the Pizza Ranch here in Fairfield on Wednesday, May 29th. I hope you can make this meal as you continue to pray for and support our youth.

In the next few months there will be a number of changes here at First UMC. Sunday, May 12th will be Pastor Mark's last Sunday with us, and we will have a potluck following the 10:35am service to thank him for his ministry with us. Then on May 19th we will

celebrate our confirmands as well as our high school graduates. On the weekend of June 8th and 9th we will have two services here at First UMC, Saturday at 5pm and Sunday at 10:35. The 9th is when I will be ordained in Des Moines at the Iowa Annual Conference. There are still seats available on our bus if you would like to come to the service with us, or you may feel free to provide your own transportation to and from Des Moines. June 16th will be my last Sunday at First UMC and on that day we will gather as a church for one service at 10:35am and then have a time of food and fellowship following worship.

Throughout all of these transitions I hope that you will continue to pray for our church as well as our conference as appointments are made. I would also ask that you keep Mark and myself in your thoughts and prayers during this time as well. We have both greatly enjoyed being here at First as your pastors and see a future with hope for you all.

Pastor Nate

Our UMW unit has created a committee to organize our participation in 2013 RAGBRAI on July 26. The decision has been made to prepare and serve a meal for 1000-1500 people. This project will involve more than UMW members—it will involve members from the entire church. We are in the process of organizing the menu, figuring costs, discussing the logistics of serving a large group of people, and other things that go along with this. We will be asking for volunteers from our church to help us days ahead of the actual event as well as the day of the meal. We also will accept any cash donations to help defray the upfront costs of supplies needed for the meal. Proceeds from our RAGBRAI meal will be used for updating the dining room and the hallway leading into the dining room.

If you would like to make a cash donation, please bring it to the church office and designate the donation is for RAGBRAI. If you know now that you want to be part of the work crew, please contact Gloria Countryman (472-9041), Ronda Logli (319-696-3122), Kathy Horn (472-5976), or Joan Salts (472-5651).

A TESTIMONIAL TO MY UNITED METHODIST FAITH

My name is Phil Miller. My wife, Connie and I moved to Fairfield in June of 1975. We had just married and I had just graduated from the College of Veterinary Medicine in Ames Iowa.

Wayne Bartruff was the minister at that time. Connie knew Wayne and his family from Ames when he was at Collegiate United Methodist. They were also neighbors. I grew up on a farm in Keokuk County and was a member of the Methodist Church in Webster. We have attended this church since.

Our four children attended Sunday school, Bible school, and were baptized and confirmed here. We have enjoyed Sunday worship, Christmas programs, Easter musicals, and many delicious potlucks over 38 years. I always knew that when I walked inside our church for whatever reason, but especially for Sunday service, I felt good. The things that create stress for me in my practice of veterinary medicine or the challenge of raising three sons and a daughter were much more manageable and enjoyable after listening to a good sermon.

Our Methodist church was helping me live my life. It was part of my life. I had been a member of several church committees over the years and I thought I was an active member. However, I now think I was receiving much more than I was giving.

I listened to good sermons. I listened to good music. I enjoyed eating delicious church meals. I think I was being a better person, a better husband and father, and a better veterinarian because of my church. I was receiving much.

One Sunday before 10:30 service, Doris Eklund asked if I would become a member of the finance committee. I told her no. I had been on this committee before

and knew that finding enough money for all the church needs was a big challenge. After listening to the choir and a sermon by Mike Metz, I realized again I was receiving the goodness of our Methodist church. I was selfish. I needed to give back. I told Doris while leaving the church that I would be happy to serve on the committee.

Over the next several years I have become a much more active Methodist. I'm often at church on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday attending a study group, choir practice, or scheduled committee meeting. Church members have become my church family. The more I give of my time, the better I feel. The more I give, the more I receive.

There, I did it. I was asked by Joe Hunt to give a testimonial. I said yes! I'm glad he asked and I'm glad I wrote this. Hopefully some positive energy will radiate.

God Bless,
Phil Miller

UMW UPDATE

The UMW has had a busy spring! The Lenten lunch was well attended, followed by the Hospital Auxiliary brunch. Lots of appreciation from attendees of both.

The salad luncheon held April 16th was a success and \$500 in proceeds will be donated for the youth mission trip this summer.

Preliminary plans are being drawn up for dining room and basement hall remodeling. It's time for a fresh update to make our dining facilities more modern and welcoming.

Also we have been starting to make plans for RAGBRAI, which will be having an overnight visit in Fairfield on Friday, July 26th. We will be needing a lot of volunteers to

make this project a reality. Our initial plan is to serve a meal for 1000+/- people on that day.

Upcoming dates:

May 6 UMW Committee Meeting,
2:00PM

June 3 UMW Committee Meeting,
2:00PM

June 20 Rose Breakfast

HEIFER UPDATE

Do you wonder where your money goes when you give to Heifer International each month? To help the greatest number of families move toward self-reliance, Heifer does not use its limited resources to track gift animals from donation to distribution. Instead, your gift supports the entire Heifer mission. They use your gift where it can do the most good by combining it with the gifts of others to help transform entire communities. Heifer's unique community development has assisted more than 191,000 families with gifts of animals, training and Passing on the Gift. In addition, members of almost 300,000 families received special training in sustainable farming techniques. And, because you are helping Heifer fight hunger and poverty, your gift is tax deductible.

Your continued support of our goal of raising funds for 3 arks is wonderful! To date, we have a total of \$11,692.15 in our Heifer fund. We need to raise \$15,000 by October 31. Anything you can contribute to reach this goal will be appreciated.

IMAGINE NO MALARIA

The Missions Committee has set May 5th as our Sunday to raise funds for "Imagine No Malaria".

If you wish to make a donation to this project be sure your check or pew envelope is so marked. Thanks.

WORSHIP TIME CHANGES

Twice in June there will be changes in our worship time. The first will be on June 9th, when Pastor Nate will be ordained at Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines. There will be worship as usual on Saturday evening, but one worship service on Sunday, June 9th at 10:35am.

The weekend of June 15th/16th, Pastor Nate's last

weekend with us, there will be only one worship service, Sunday at 10:35am, followed by a potluck and time of fellowship.

RAGBRAI

We have had some requests for housing for RAGBRAI participants. If you are willing to house some riders, call the church office 472-4303.

VBS

Plans are now being made for Vacation Bible School. This year VBS will be held July 8-12, 4:00-6:30 P.M. Mark your calendars!

Volunteers are always needed, so if you are willing to teach or help in any way, call a member of the Education Committee.

Thank you!

THANK YOU

A great thank you to our Trustees! They are starting to add the needed amenities to our church labyrinth. More will come over time as money and planning permit. Since it is available to the entire community 24/7, there are people who walk it in the night. So they have added an impressive night light! Some of the other needed amenities under consideration are a bench, shrubbery, a sidewalk from Court Street, an entrance and walkway down the alleyway from the church parking lot (east of the parsonage), and welcoming signs.

Labyrinths are an ancient Christian experiential tradition, beyond words and the intellectual. They are found in the floors of the great gothic cathedrals. The most famous one is Chartre Cathedral just outside Paris. There is no particular way to enter or walk labyrinths. There is no one intention nor way

to be present with it. I walk it daily.

Gene Copeland

THANK YOU all for thinking of me during my surgery! I love my prayer blanket that was delivered by Gloria Countryman!

Thanks Nate for your visit to the hospital! And thanks to the youth group for the peanut butter cookies!!

I am recuperating well and will be back to my normal routine soon....

Love and prayers,
Jennifer Clements

To my friends at FUMC,

I want to express my sincere thanks for the heartfelt gift of a prayer blanket, after my recent hip surgery. I was humbled to receive such a thoughtful gift from my church family. Connie and I also enjoyed the visit from Gloria and Phil Countryman. We truly have a sharing and caring church.

God Bless,
Phil Miller

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

KEITH BAGBY 5/2
JOY MESSER 5/2
CHAD DAVIS 5/2
STEVE MEYERS 5/2
MAKENZIE KRAEMER 5/3
RICHARD JOHNSON 5/4
NANCY SWAIM 5/6
KATHERYN DAVIS 5/6
ANN BUCKINGHAM 5/6
CARI NICELY 5/7
BRANDON HYDE 5/7
TIFFANY CRILE 5/11
KARA DAUGHERTY 5/11
BRYNNA BOWMAN 5/12
TIM LANTZ 5/12
SOPHIE STEVER 5/13
AIDEN MILLER 5/14
BEVERLY OLSON 5/17
TRENT NELSON 5/18
SHAWN MCLARNEY 5/18
MYRNA GILPIN 5/19
ROSE ANN FERREL 5/19
LAUREN KRAEMER 5/19
ROGAN BELL 5/19
AARON MAYER 5/20
DEE ANN LANTZ 5/21
CLAUDETTE DORRELL 5/21
SHARON FLINSPACH 5/22
JORDAN BISHOP 5/22
KONNOR BURKHART 5/23
CAARRIE BROWNLEE 5/23

MARLENE MELCHER 5/24
RYAN HIGGINS 5/24
DORIS WATSON 5/26
EARL GRIMES 5/27
BETTY SKAGGS 5/27
CHARLES HERTEL 5/28
ALEXIS MEGRATH 5/28
ASPEN TARRENCE 5/29
CLAUDE BROWN 5/30
HAYLEE GILPIN 5/31
MARK & LAURIE LA VAN 5/1
RON & SHARON BROWN 5/1
TIM & DEE ANN LANTZ 5/3
MIKE & MARLA CREW 5/5
PETE & FERNE WICKLIFF 5/11
BLAKE & CAROL CARNAHAN 5/17
BRETT & AMY FERREL 5/18
ROD & BEV NELSON 5/19
SHAWN & TIFFANY CRILE 5/20
MARILYN & SAVIN UNGARO 5/22
ELDON & PENNY BRYANT 5/22
DAVE & STACI KRAEMER 5/24
DAVE & SHERI NEFF 5/26
FRAZER & BO JONES 5/26
MARK & RONDA LOGLI 5/26
CORY & SHAWN KLEHM 5/27
JIM & JOAN SALTS 5/31