

The Messenger August, 2017 Newsletter

PASTOR JOSH'S MESSAGE



- "Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art. Thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light."

- "Be Thou My Vision" page 451 United Methodist Hymnal, is an old Irish song. It is often attributed to 6th-century Irish Christian poet and martyr, Saint Dallan. It was believed that some of his poetry, when recited with devotion, could restore sight to the blind.

- "Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord; thou and thou only, first in my heart, great God of Heaven, my treasure thou art."

As the legend goes, In 598 Dallan was visiting a friend at his monastery when pirates raided the island. He was, reportedly, beheaded. It is said that God reattached his head to his body after he was martyred.

- "Great God of heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever be-fall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all."

For its beauty, its legendary connection to healing the blind, its call for God to be our wisdom, our vision, our light, and first in our hearts; this hymn is one of my favorites.

Emily and I had the gathered crowd at our wedding sing this song. May God always be our wisdom and first in our hearts.

Peace,
Pastor Josh

Stewardship Reflection

When I was a boy at the Mt. Vernon UMC, we sometimes did plays for the congregation during Vacation Bible School. One play I will always remember is the year we did the feeding of the thousands (Matthew 14:13-21, John 6:1-14, Mark 6:31-44, Luke 9:10-17).

At the dramatic moment when Jesus was to turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into an abundance for all gathered, we turned our backs to the audience, got out the Goldfish crackers we were hiding, filled baskets with the crackers; and "TA-DA", revealed the miracle of Jesus' multiplication of the fishes and loaves to the crowd! Our play was a hit, the crackers were delicious, God's word and love were shared.

Just as the disciples were asked to feed the crowd and not make them find their own food, we too are asked to give. We are called to show our love of God and neighbor by fully

participating in the life of your local church with six acts: Attending worship, sharing our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Through these faithful acts, our sense of self-absorption gives way to a greater sense of community and responsibility, our faith deepens, our hope increases; and the good our local church can do on God's behalf as the hands and feet of Christ is multiplied like the fishes and loaves in the feeding stories.

If you are lacking in any of these six areas, I hope you will consider coming and talking to me about why. I hope you will pray for strength in those areas. I believe when you seek God's direction in these areas, your own life increases in joy as you more fully sense the presence of the Holy Spirit. Inevitably, that joy over flows from you for it cannot be contained. Christ is wherever 2 or more are gathered after all. Come to worship. Share in fellowship. Feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. Give all you can financially, and otherwise. Every bit helps. If you give nothing, give something. If you can give more, please do. If you are giving all you can, thank you!

Pastor Josh

FAMILY AND FRIENDS NEEDING OUR PRAYERS:

Pastor Josh and Emily - as they start their life together and safe travel while on their honeymoon.

Ray Potter - as he endures severe back pain and heals from a broken ankle.

Continue to pray for those members and friends that are unable to be with us on Sunday:

(Mae Fuller, Pat Hartzler, Phyllis Moore, Marilyn Overton, Evelyn Tolkan, Mildred Philpott and Pearl Van Fleet)

NOTE – If you have knowledge of someone that is hospitalized, may need a visit or phone call, please let Pastor Josh know.

Also, if you wish to have a visit from Pastor Josh, please contact him at the church at 266-6404 or on his cell 991-6368.

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

Administrative Board will meet Sunday, August 6th @ 9:45 AM

The 2017 Administrative Council includes the following: **Josh Steward, Sharon Baker, John Ratcliffe, Marjean Moyle, Erin Lowe, Carole Gassaway, Margie Brown, Melissa Myers, Mary Brown, Lois Nolte, Jennifer Medina, Carlos Medina, Phyllis Roe, Doris Sheeder, Dick Smith and Jeff Woodard.** Note – Mission team rotates attendance.

AD BOARD REMINDER

This reminder is in response to a couple of people suggesting we return to the committee structure we had prior and my assumption that others may be sharing in that conversation. After hearing many concerns about low attendance at meetings, older people not wanting to go out at night, and our having enough people to get work done, the AD Board voted to respond to your concerns by trying the structure with which we are currently experimenting where the AD Board is functioning as Worship, Evangelism, Nominations, and Trustees.

The first benefit is that we have had fewer meetings so people are saving time and energy while not having to go out at night nearly as much because Ad Board can plan, assign tasks, and seek help from the whole congregation. The second benefit is that there is no low attendance problem and follow-up is easier since AD Board can initiate planning for those committees.

The third benefit is that communication is better. With poor attendance at committee meetings, we were struggling with a situation where several committees including Ad Board itself, were having low attendance, it was hard to get things done, and people felt like they were uninformed. Under the new structure, with Ad Board functioning as several committees, the whole Ad Board can be involved in planning, know what is going on, and report back to their small groups and committees. This can improve communication as leaders are encouraged to report back and seek your input.

I know that part of the desire to return to the committee structure was to improve communication after the part-time pastor and worship time votes. However, the sense some had of lacking communication had nothing to do with the structure we are trying. Remember, there were short timelines by which those decisions had to be made. We had to vote on the merger by 5/16 due to the availability of the District Superintendent. We had to vote on worship by Mid-June so I could publicize any changes to both congregations by July 1 when my new appointment with Sheridan Park and Wesley UMC started. AD Board also canceled the April meeting and chose not to meet prior to the Special Charge Conference vote on joining with Wesley in May.

We each play a role in the church having good communication. There is a bulletin for you to read every week and a newsletter each month. The Ad Board minutes are posted on the bulletin board. With 4 at-large members on Ad Board (Doris Sheeder, Phyllis Roe, Carlos Medina, Dick Smith), we are also having better attendance and getting increased input. Everyone is always welcome to attend Ad Board and/or to share your ideas with Pastor Josh or the relevant ministry area leaders. **Your chairs are:** **Worship:** Jen Medina/ **Finance:** Margie Brown / **Evangelism:** Currently open and needing to be filled as of 7/16.

Education: Erin Lowe/ **Trustees:** Jeff Woodard /**SPRC:** Mary Brown

Missions: No chair, everyone is sharing jobs, they rotate who reports at Ad Board meetings.

Under the new structure, the leaders of the areas run by Ad Board (Evangelism, Worship, Education, and Nominations) still have the people listed in the Charge Conference booklet as members. They meet as needed after planning has begun by Ad Board. Finance, Worship, Missions and SPRC are still meeting quarterly. Trustees, Education and Evangelism are meeting as needed. Overall, this saves time and energy because there are fewer meetings, and it enlists more people to help than the low committee attendance problem we had.

I believe Ad Board was wise to try this approach and I hope we continue it into next year. Please let me know what you think. Pastor Josh

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

While Bidwell no longer works with these box tops, Brubaker still does. If you don't have another school that you donate these to, please trim, bring to church and Marjean will get them to Brubaker.

EDUCATION REPORT by Erin Lowe, Christian Education Chairperson:

- Children and youth Sunday School will begin September 10th.
- Children and youth will be working on raising funds for Heifer International.
- This last school year we worked on our "blessing bag" project. All the "blessing bags" have been distributed. Our bags included soap and a washcloth, several non-perishable food items, a bottle of water, and a couple dollars. So far, all the bags have been distributed at convenience store parking lots; freeway and Interstate exits/entrances; and at an Asian restaurant.

We will continue this next year. We have had a member who has volunteered to donate \$100.00 for this project. We are very grateful for that.

- The Education team and youth group will host a Halloween party on Saturday, October 28th from 6 to 8 PM.

MISSION REPORT – submitted by Beverly Nolte

Members of Sheridan Park will have the opportunity to help package “Meals from the Heartland” on Wednesday, **August 30 from 9 – 11 AM**. Let Beverly know if you would like to participate, as we need 10 volunteers. We will car pool to the event.

At the Mission team’s last meeting, we allocated the following funds:

- \$150.00 = Beverly’s work trip to Cuba
- \$113.00 = Local South Sudanese congregation
- \$122.00 = Dr. Emmanuel & Florence Mefor, Nigerians who serve as medical missionaries in Zimbabwe.

In the months that have 5 Sundays we take the Noisy Money offering. This offering helps support a variety of mission projects locally, in the United States and around the world. The mission committee makes these decisions that allow us to be a Rainbow Covenant Church.

“Women at the Well” is the United Methodist Church within the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville. The pastor is Rev. Lee Schott. They held their first adult Vacation Bible School with the theme of “Everest.” Being a traditional VBS there were songs, Bible study, craft and outdoor games, which were enjoyed by over 80 inmates. As a volunteer, the three nights of the event, it was neat to watch the women as they listened, learned and loved this special event. Our church has financially supported this important ministry.

TRUSTEE’S REPORT by Jeff Woodard, Trustees Chairperson

- Mowing and trimming schedule is posted on board. Please consider assisting with this. Thanks to those that have helped with this!!
- Thanks to the individuals/groups that use the church facilities for personal events, for taking care of the property and cleaning up after themselves.
- The bottom level door does not shut well. Please be sure to pull or push it to make sure it is completely closed. Also, make sure the lights are all turned off.

SPRC REPORT:

Pastor’s schedule as we move to our yoke arrangement with Wesley UMC.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs.	Friday	Saturday
10:30 Sheridan Park Worship	9:00-Noon Wesley UMC	9:00-Noon Sheridan Park UMC	Out for Bible Studies	At either church as available/ needed	Day off	
11:30 Wesley UMC Worship			6:00 P.M. Youth at Sheridan Park			

If you need to reach Josh *at any time* he can be reached at (515) 991-6368 or by email at ministerjosh@gmail.com.

The charge conference is scheduled for Sunday, 10/8 at 2pm, at New Hope

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES:

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT:

We will be *co-host with Sheridan Garden Neighborhood National Night Out again this year on Tuesday, August 1st from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.* National Night Out is an event being held in communities throughout the US. It is an opportunity for community members of all ages to come together to strengthen neighborhood spirit, support local crime prevention, build police-community partnerships and HAVE FUN.

This is a great opportunity to have those in our community visiting our church so if you do not live in the Sheridan Garden neighborhood and your neighborhood isn't having an event please plan to attend and visit with those in our neighborhood.

There will be a picnic type meal provided, games, face painting and balloon twist with drawings for prizes.

FREE OUTDOOR MOVE (Summer Free Flick Movie):

Sheridan Gardens Neighborhood Association is co-hosting with Brook Run a FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE on Thursday, August 3rd at Bright Grandview Golf Course, 2401 East 29th Street at 9:00 P.M. Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, coolers, etc. and enjoy *The Lego Batman Movie*.

NOTE: These are advertised as Free Flick Movies but the neighborhood associations hosting them financially support the event.

SCRUB DAYS: 3rd Saturdays of Each Month

SCRUB events are free to the citizens of Des Moines, therefore you may experience longer wait times based on participation.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY SITE:

DMARC's mobile pantry is at the Norwoodville Community Center, 3077 NE 46th Avenue, each Thursday from 1:00 – 4:00 PM. If this would help you, or someone else, please check it out. For more information and other sites see www.dmarcunited.org/food/mobile.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN by Shirley Wilson

The Martha Circle will be collecting items for the UMCOR sewing kits that will be taken to the Ingathering on November 4th. The kits consist of the following:

- 3 yards cotton or cotton-blend fabric (one piece)
- 1 new spool matching thread (medium to large size)
- 5-8 matching flat buttons on card
- 1 sewing scissors
- 1 package hand-sewing needles (in original package)

Fall sale – October 7th

PRAYER BAND GROUP:

This group meets every other Tuesday morning at 9:30 A.M.

August 8th hosted by Lois Nolte at her home

August 22nd hosted by Alice Marnin at the church

WORSHIP REPORT

Thanks to all who help make worship a praise and prayer-filled experience, glorifying God. We are always grateful to all who sign up as Sunday morning helpers: liturgist, song leader, children's time, acolyte, communion steward, transportation, cookie Sunday, juice/coffee provider, greeter, nursery, and usher.

Reminder – Pastor Josh will be leaving from our worship service so that he can be at Wesley UMC by 11:30 FM.

SCRAPBOOKING:

This group meets every third Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. They often order food and share in fellowship. They invite anyone with any project or hobby that might benefit from the space to join them on **Sunday, August 20th from 12:30 to 4:00.**

GLEANERS CLASS - Fellowship Opportunity: No August activity

August Birthdays

4th Raymond Potter
5th Nancy Houseman
8th Diane McBurne
11th Shirley Wilson
12th Eldon Nolte
14th Lois Smith
15th Jacob Isaac
17th Phyllis Roe
17th Michael Stevens
18th Phyllis Moore
21st Alyssa Medina
22nd Mike Nicoletto
23rd Belle Lemley
24th Charles Sears
24th Sara Woodard
25th Jessica Myers
25th Barbara Ratcliffe
27th Steve Strock

August Anniversaries

1st Dean and Mary Brown
7th James and Marjean Moyle
8th Troy and Andrea Dolphin
10th Marvin and Rosalea Hollingshead
22nd Mike and Darci Nicoletto
26th Larry and Doris Sheeder

FINANCE REPORT by Margie Brown, Chairperson:

The following shows the “budget” income and expenses incurred during 2017 as of July 24th:

General Budget Income	First/Second Quarter 2017	July 24th, 2017	2017 Year to Date
Pledge Envelopes = 31 giving units	38,049.02	5,220.00	43,269.02
Non Pledge Envelopes = 19 giving units	5,399.11	776.80	6,175.91
Unknown Giving	55.00	.00	55.00
Special Budget Giving “Friends”	678.00	90.00	768.00
Extra Budget Giving “Members”	829.19	226.83	1,056.02
Sunday School	379.84	27.00	406.84
Loose Money	65.43	10.00	75.43
Special Giving for CAT	150.00	.00	150.00
Mid American Energy Rebate	513.78	.00	513.78
UMW Budget Giving	380.00	.00	380.00
Church and Parking Lot Usage Donations	250.00	50.00	300.00
May 21 st Luncheon	100.00	.00	100.00
Postage for mailing Newsletter	10.00	.00	10.00
Bank Correction for Duplicate Check Order	60.85	.00	60.85
Total Budget Income	46,920.22	6,400.63	53,320.85

Expenses Incurred and Paid			
Apportionments	3,002.00	.00	3,002.00
Direct Health & Pension	11,509.38	1,361.94	12,871.32
Pastor Salary/Support	22,345.50	2,563.69	24,909.19
Janitor Salary & SS Paid	3,014.18	430.96	3,445.14
Stewardship Programs	.00	.00	.00
Church Office Expenses	719.06	33.99	753.05
Christian Ed. & Media Resource Center	624.88	200.00	824.88
Ministries (Children/Youth/Coffee Time)	131.42	67.55	198.97
Worship Material & Programs	205.20	.00	205.20
Evangelism	29.40	17.25	46.65
Property Maintenance to the Church	619.14	92.28	711.42
Insurance (Property & Workman’s Comp)	2,100.00	350.00	2,450.00
Utilities			
• Mid American Energy	2,058.06	262.20	2,058.06
• Century Link	405.22	66.64	471.86
• Des Moines Water Works	1,529.48	250.91	1,780.39
Total Expenses Incurred and Paid	48,292.92	5,697.41	53,990.33

Total Income Less Expenses	(1,372.70)	703.22	(669.48)
Carryover balance from prior year end			2,517.60
Check book balance for Budget Items			1,848.12

Your finance team wants to **THANK EACH OF YOU** for your financial support to the church. Please keep the finances of our church in your prayers.

If you have any questions regarding the church budget or any of the other funds feel free to either contact myself or Jim Moyle, our church treasurer.

Worship Volunteers

August 6, 2017:

Coffee: Jim Moyle & Bob Worth

Greeters: Belle Lemley & Joan Foresman

Nursery: Lois Nolte

Transportation: Dick Smith

Ushers: Bob Worth (Capt.), Jim Moyle, Dean Brown, Marvin Hollingshead

Communion Stewards: Lois Nolte & Debra Markin

Bulletin: Beverly Nolte

August 13, 2017:

Coffee: Frank & Joan Foresman

Greeters: Shirley Wilson & Dean Brown

Nursery: Sara Woodard

Transportation: Lois Nolte

Ushers: Marcia Isaac (Capt.), Dale Wilson, Frank Foresman, Barbara Potter

Bulletin: Eldon Nolte

August 20, 2017:

Coffee: John & Barb Ratcliffe

Greeters: Marvin & Jaylene Barton

Nursery: Doris Sheeder

Transportation: Marvin Barton

Ushers: Alice Nelson (Capt.), Bonnie Becker, Jerry Nelson

Cookie Sunday: Marjean Moyle (Hostess), Connie Thrasher, Alice Marnin, Shirley Wilson

Bulletin: Sharon Andrews

August 27, 2017:

Coffee: Dick & Lois Smith

Greeters: John & Barb Ratcliffe

Nursery: Sharon Baker

Transportation: Barbara Ratcliffe

Ushers: Marvin Barton (Capt.), Carlos Medina, Barb Ratcliffe, Jack Ness

Bulletin: Mary Brown

Sheridan Park United Methodist Church

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