

The Tower

September 2019

Office will be closed on Labor Day Monday, September 2, 2019.

Office hours will return to Mon-Friday 8:30-1:00.



MISS SALLY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Welcome to the start of a new Sunday School year!

(The Sunday school program resumes on **Sunday, September 8, 2019.**) I'm excited to spend time together to sing, learn the stories from the Bible, and be crafty at the table. Hope to see you soon!

CALLING ALL 4TH GRADERS FOR BIBLE PRESENTATION:

Bible Presentation will be **September 8, 2018**, during worship service. If they haven't done so already, parents are requested to contact Sally Stromseth or the church office with the name they want printed in the Bible.

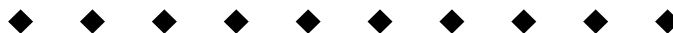
The Bibles WILL be used during Sunday school throughout the year.

We would like to thank the following individuals for agreeing to teach Sunday school for the 2019-2020 school year:

Preschool-3rd Grade: Sally Stromseth

4th Grade-5th Grade: Deb Tekippe

6th Grade-8th Grade: Emily Johnson Young



FUMC Reads Book Club will meet on

Tuesday, September 17, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Kathy Johnson and Jane Hardy will be hosting the book club this month.



Rev. Hyeunmee "Mee" Kang

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ADULT FELLOWSHIP POTLUCK DINNER

Join us on
Sunday, September 8, 2018
At 5:30 p.m., FUMC Fellowship Hall
Wayne & Phyllis Wasta, hosting



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW is off to a new year of activities. All church women are welcome. We carry on the vision of our foremothers to provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ, put our faith into action and work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy.

Please contact Pam Ransom, FUMC's UMW President, if you wish to learn more at 563/382-9408.

THIS MONTH:

September, 2019

Tuesday, September 4

1:30 p.m. Executive Committee Meeting

2:00 p.m. General Meeting – Mission Study, Eve Circle Serves

September 6-Northeast District UMW Annual Meeting, Strawberry Point

Circles meet on September 18

9:15 Sarah Circle– Ranell Bolson, Hostess; at church Jerri Osenga has the program

1:00 Mary/Martha-Carol Hageman hostess at Church; Tina Shedinger has the program

1:30 Eve Circle-Elaine Thompson, hostess; 1103 S. Mill Street; Norma Bappe has the program



BUS TRIP

Wednesday, **November 13** at the Ames Center in Burnsville, MN

The Church Basement Ladies in **Hark!**

For more information or to reserve your space call Candace Arp @ 382-5099 or darpcarp@hotmail.com; or call the church office 563-382-3835 with your reservation.

\$87/person includes bus transportation, matinee ticket, and all-inclusive buffet

*Full Soup & Salad Bar; Hash Brown Casserole; Glazed Herb Carrots;
Dinner Rolls & Butter; Assorted Desserts; Coffee, Water & Lemonade*

September Volunteers

Worship Leader

9/1 Steve Luse

9/8 Mark Landas

9/15 Jan Heikes

9/22 Phyllis Wasta

9/29 Alan Lerstrom

September Communion Stewards Joan & John Lubke

Audio Visual

Gary Mineart

Gary Mineart

Gary Mineart

Gary Mineart

Gary Mineart

Coffee Fellowship

Gerald & Virginia Leidahl

Kathy Euans/Ann Chrenen

Nick & Lori Rissman

Ann Duder/Herb & Carol Hageman

Jerry & Elaine Thompson



September Birthdays

9/1 Amy Weldon

9/3 Lia Vsetecka; Silas Row Heyveld; Ranell Bolson

9/4 Pam Ransom

9/6 Joan Lubke

9/8 Dick Schuman

9/9 Joshua Vsetecka

9/11 Paul Horsfall

9/13 Denise Northup

9/14 Darlene Graves

9/16 Herb Hageman

9/19 Sue Anderson

9/20 Karen Gipp

9/21 Jane Vande Berg; Amey Shedinger; Samantha Amdahl

9/22 Wayne Wasta

9/24 Brenda Headington

9/29 Deb Tekippe

Please call the church office at
382-3835 with any additions or
corrections.



Visioning Committee Met

Several members of the Ad Council and Pastor Mee met with Jaye Johnson, Director of Congregational Excellence at the Iowa Conference. Jaye met with us to talk about visioning for our church. As we talked to him about our church and our values, Jaye had another idea that he felt would be helpful to undertake before a visioning process. He suggested that our congregation go through an assessment process that would help us determine more about who our members are (demographics) and what members are thinking and feeling about the church and issues of the day. This assessment would normally cost a church \$2,500, but it would be free to us through our apportionments.

Jaye will be coming to present the concepts of this assessment to the Ad Council at a special meeting on Sept. 5th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Council will then have the opportunity to approve this process. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend to hear what Jaye has to say.

Linda Watson, Kathy Johnson, Alan Lerstrom and Pastor Mee



September Altar Flowers –

September altar flowers are being coordinated by Syd Stephenson (563/ 379-2054).

September 1 – Communion Sunday no flowers are needed

September 8– Provided by Ranell Bolson in Memory of Father Ronald Olson

September 15 – Provided by Pam Ransom in Memory of Husband Ray Ransom

September 22–

September 29-

Please call Syd a call if you wish to provide an arrangement in honor or memory of a loved one in September. *Thank you!*

BACK PACK FOOD PROGRAM



Peanut Butter Drive:

The backpack food program is conducting an ongoing peanut butter collection drive. They will welcome your donation of peanut butter – any size – any brand (but please, no glass containers) in the shopping cart labeled for same in the church lobby.

FUMC CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference will be held here in Decorah on **Sunday, October 27, 2019** at 5:00 p.m.
Congregational Potluck will be held starting at 5:00. Bring a dish to pass. Come and meet our District Superintendent.

Everyone is encouraged to attend.



Committees Meeting in September

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

- *5:30 Thursday, September 5
- *5:30 Tuesday, September 10

FINANCE COMMITTEE

- *5:30 Monday, September 9
- *5:30 Monday, September 16
- *5:30 Monday, September 23
- *5:30 Monday, September 30

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

- *3:00 Wednesday, September 11

NOMINATION COMMITTEE

- *Immediately following worship on Sunday September 8 in Pastor's office.

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- *6:30 Wednesday September 25



Administrative Council July 16, 2019 minutes

Reports from Committees, Groups, Task Forces

SPPRC: Jayme reported recent meeting regarding payment for summer pianist, group is planning to review staff job descriptions and evaluations. Upon suggestion of Ranell after noting work load, church office hours will be changed to 8:30-1:00, with the office being closed on Fridays for the summer. Closing the office on Fridays is a test to see if we could close on Fridays during summer months next year. This will start in August. Announcement will be placed in bulletin and in the Tower

Social Concerns: Michelle and Sondy reported adult forums being planned. Nominations for membership will be sent to Pastor Mee. The role of Social Concerns with Reconciling Ministries has been discussed.

Finance: Nick reported on recent meeting. Plans continue to have speaker on special giving. No dates have been confirmed.

Trustees: Syd presented recent insurance inspection and work to be done. Sunday, August 25th has been designated as church clean up.

Nominations and Leadership Development: Pastor Mee asked that Ad Council members send any potential nominations for committees to her. Any nominations and resignations are to be sent through her office.

Christian Education: Pastor Mee is planning future meetings. Sally Stromseth is working very hard on Sunday School for fall. Helpers are always welcome.

Membership: Joan reported getting needed information from phone calls being made to make membership list current. Jayme and Nina assist with this project. Pastor Mee informed Council of new member joining church later this month. Suggestion was made for Liturgist to encourage congregation to sign attendance pads. Pads will be renamed as Friendship pads.

Worship: No report

No Old Business presented

New Business

Inclusive Ministries proposal. Nancy reviewed history of group. Proposal statement read. Discussion held regarding their proposal of straw poll. Pastor Mee shared information from the Book of Discipline on congregational vote. A motion was made by Bill with a second by Syd to proceed with the appointment of a subcommittee to research on straw poll/ballot issue to the congregation. Motion carried. Report will be brought back to the September Meeting. Andy will set up committee. Council and congregation are encouraged to contact Nancy Ruen with any questions.

Visioning: Alan, Kathy J., Pastor Mee and Linda will meet with Jay Johnson, Consultant with Iowa Conference tomorrow regarding visioning.

Charge Conference date and location has not been set, Pastor Mee expects it to be end of September/early October.

Pastor asked for volunteer to ring bell for opening of Nordic Fest as requested by Nordic Fest Board. Nancy Ruen volunteered.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 10 at 5:30

Respectfully submitted, Deb Tekippe, Secretary

A Message from our Choir Director, Amy

Do you know the legend of Caedmon?

According to the Venerable Bede, Caedmon was a lay brother, someone who took care of the animals, at the monastery of Streonæshalch (now known as the Abbey of Whitby), in Yorkshire in the late 7th century. During local feasts at which singers and musicians would demonstrate their talents, Caedmon would feel embarrassed, believing he had no talents to share. Legend has it that Caedmon left one such feast to be with his cows in the pasture, feeling he could contribute nothing to the merriment. He fell asleep and dreamed that a man appeared to him and told him to sing him a song. Caedmon at first rejected his request, but the man persisted until Caedmon finally asked what he should sing. He was told that he should sing about the Creation of all things. Immediately, Caedmon began to sing verses in praise of God. When he awoke, he was amazed that he not only remembered the verses he had just sung but was able to continue the poem. (source: catholicexchange.com)

Besides being an interesting story, it also has a wonderful lesson for all of us. Like Caedmon, we sometimes feel like we have no talents to share in any meaningful way. Yet, like Caedmon, when we sing, it's not to edify ourselves (even though singing can be pleasurable and fun to do!) – it's about thanking God for what he does for us each day and the many gifts he's given us. I personally think that, no matter what kind of music we make, God thinks it's the most wonderful thing he's ever heard. A "joyful noise" is every bit as much a gift to God as using our other talents to help others or putting money in the offering plate.

I hope you will consider joining us for choir on Wednesday evenings from 7:30 till 8:30, beginning on Wednesday, September 4 (our first "singing Sunday" is on September 15). We work hard, but we also have a wonderful time in a low-pressure, supportive environment. Music reading skills are helpful but not essential! We work on music several weeks ahead, so you don't have to feel like you're going to be completely lost if you miss a week or two. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to me or any member of the choir – we'd love to speak with you!

(By the way, the poem Caedmon ended up creating reads:
Now we ought to praise the Guardian of the heavenly kingdom,
The might of the Creator and his conception,
The work of the glorious Father, as he of each of the wonders,
Eternal Lord, established the beginning.
He first created for the sons of men
Heaven as a roof, holy Creator;
Then the middle-earth, the Guardian of mankind,
The eternal Lord, afterwards made
The earth for men, the Lord almighty.)

(Translation from an Old English 'gloss' of the Latin by Elaine Treharne.)



September 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9-Worship w/ communion 10-Fellowship	Office Closed for Labor Day		2- UMW 7:30 Choir	10:30 Wohlsdorf Funeral 5:30 Ad Council	UMW District at Strawberry Point	
8 9-Worship with 4th grade Bible distribution 10- Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School Nomination Com. Adult Fellowship	9 5:30 Finance Committee	10 5:30 Ad Council	11 3-Worship Committee 7:30 Choir	12	13	14
15 9-Worship 10-Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School	16 5:30 Finance Committee	17 7- Book Club	18 9:15 Sarah Circle 1- Eve Circle 1:30 M/M Circle 7:30 Choir	19	20	21
22 9-Worship 10-Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Inclusive Ministry Q & A	23 5:30 Finance Committee	24	25 6:30 Social Concerns 7:30 Choir	26	27	28
29 9-Worship 10-Fellowship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Inclusive Ministry Q & A	30 5:30 Finance Committee	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; background-color: #e0f0ff;"> <p>Pastoral Care Reminder: If you or a loved one have entered or plan to enter the hospital, and you desire a visit from the pastors, please remember to contact the church office (563-382-2638) after office hours call 563-277-1595</p> </div>				