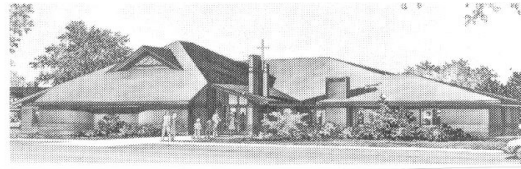


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THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 326, 108 W. Fifth St.
Woodward, IA 50276
Phone 515-438-2007
Pastor Dale A. Schoening
Pastor's cell (515) 290-7737
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Http://www.woodwardumc.com



THE GOOD WORD #01/14
Woodward United Methodist Church

January, 2014

USHERS:

Capt. Jim Frantum, Dennis DeGroote, John Kiley, Larry Frantum

HOSTS:

January 5 Jim & Robin Frantum
January 12 Buster & Cynthia Frantum
January 19 Verla Elliott & Nylene Hanson
January 26 Pat Heifner & Joan Miller

ORGANIST: Kathy Wade

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS:

Adult Teacher: Pastor Dale
Youth: Julie Burkhart & Kathy Yager
Music: Mary Thompson

The Good Word January 2014

It's hard to believe I have been here six months already. The time has flown by.

Lately I have been looking at how things have gone over these six months, and it has become apparent that a few course corrections are needed. This is normal. Things that were well-intentioned don't always turn out the way one hopes or expects. So here goes:

1. It has been brought to my attention that a number of you have been asking why we sing the Psalms in worship. So allow me to share some information with you about that (most of this info is adapted from my metrical psalms website).

The Psalms were written to be sung. Indeed, they are the sung prayerbook of the Jewish people to this day. The superscriptions which appear at the beginning of many of the Psalms in the Bible indicate they are directed to the "choirmaster." Sometimes tune names are given. A few psalms carry the attribution "of the sons of Korah," which was the musician division of the tribe of Levi.

The psalms also have long been sung in the Christian tradition. Monks and nuns chant them. Other traditions sing them antiphonally (chanting or reading the psalm, with a refrain or antiphon being sung periodically—this is how the psalter in the back of our hymnal is set up). The Protestant Reformers advocated singing the Psalms. In our own United Methodist tradition, I found this quote in the journal of John Wesley, co-founder of the Methodist movement, from November 11, 1738: "...Saturday, 11, spent the evening with a little company at Oxford. I was grieved to find prudence had made them leave off singing psalms. I fear it will not stop here. God deliver me, and all that seek Him in sincerity, from what the world calls Christian prudence!" To this day, some Protestant denominations sing nothing but psalms, and others consider them the central piece of their congregational song. These denominations, for the most part, sing metrical psalms.

Metrical psalms are psalms written in a metered, poetic format so they can be set to familiar hymn tunes. The first metrical psalters appeared in Switzerland and France at the time of the Protestant Reformation. To this day, the churches of the Reformed and Presbyterian traditions have been the leading users of metrical psalmody. The first metrical psalter in English, that of Sternhold, was published prior to his death in 1549.

My journey into sung psalmody began in 1985, when I was exposed to singing the psalms at a worship convocation. The varieties of sung psalmody being advocated there were basically chanted and antiphonal. In fact, the workshop instructors had nothing good to say about metrical psalmody! Finding singing an exciting way to use the psalms (certainly more exciting than the dread responsive reading, which only has been used for the Psalms since the late 19th century), I brought the idea home and started experimenting with antiphonally sung psalmody in the three small congregations I was serving at the time. The polite feedback I received from them was basically a) this is too difficult for us; b) this feels out-of-sync with our tradition. At this point I began questioning why metrical psalmody was being disparaged. I soon found answers--archaic language, stilted sentence structure, forced rhyme schemes, and since many metrical settings did one stanza for each verse of the psalm, extreme length in many cases. I decided it was time to come up with a modern, understandable metrical version of the psalms. After all, hymns are the dominant song culture of most small membership Protestant churches. Since metrical psalms are set to hymn tunes, I have found these are much more accessible and acceptable to the congregations I have served.

(Continued from page 1)

To do this, I decided to forget rhyming. Hebrew poetry does not rhyme, nor does much contemporary poetry in English. So I began in earnest to write metrical psalm settings for the Common Lectionary. I completed the manuscript in 1987, and published my first book, *Sing the Psalms!*, the following year. Soon after that, the Revised Common Lectionary replaced the Common Lectionary, so a second volume, *Supplementary Volume to Sing the Psalms*, was published to update my first book. Since neither volume sold well, I eventually put my psalm settings on an Internet website (<http://metricalpsalms.homestead.com>). I occasionally receive appreciative e-mails about them from clergy and church music leaders from many different denominational traditions all over the world.

I must confess that I have been a bit taken aback by the negative reaction I have received to singing the Psalms in this church. Most of the other congregations I have served, even the ones who were not very musically adept, liked singing them. Woodward UMC is probably the most musically gifted congregation I have ever served, yet it is also the one that has complained the most about it being difficult to sing them, even to familiar hymn tunes. I have been told it would probably be easier if the music was printed with the words, but I do not presently have the capability to make that happen easily. From what I have observed, I don't think chanting would go over well, and I have also been told that using the psalter in the back of the hymnal with the sung antiphons has been tried in the past and was not very successful. And if it isn't already evident, this is something around which I have considerable passion and on which I have expended over 25 years of effort.

So I am not inclined to give up singing the Psalms. However, (here is the course correction) I am open to trying some different ways—and it may be that sometimes the choir or a soloist may sing it instead of the congregation. And we certainly don't have to be limited to what I have written; there is other good material available written in a variety of styles. That's something to be figured out in the weeks to come.

2. The second course correction involves our youth ministry. As you recall, the decision had earlier been made to combine our youth ministry with that of Emmanuel UMC in Granger. The idea made sense in many ways—after all, the young people go to school together, I know I am not the right person to lead a youth group, and Emmanuel has a solid cadre of youth leaders already in place. Our churches already have experience in sharing Holy Week worship services, and I am told that has been a positive experience. But for some reason, sharing youth ministry isn't working. Only one of our young people has been attending youth group at Granger—and this person is a 6th grader, meaning none of the youth who were in our youth group last year are participating in the combined effort.

What I have decided to do is take advantage of the new structure and create a volunteer staff position, Youth Ministries Coordinator. The person who accepts this position will be given the responsibility of organizing our youth ministries, with help from others in our church who are interested. My hope and prayer is that this will provide our youth with the fellowship, Christian growth, and opportunities to serve that they need and desire.

3. Related to the second is the Youth Bible Study, which has been meeting on Wednesday afternoons at our church, also done jointly with Emmanuel, and co-led by Pastor Bill Deskin and me. The first time we met, back in September, we had two youth attend, both from Woodward. The second time we had six, three from each church, and had a really good discussion. All of those who attended were middle school age. However, the last three times we were scheduled to meet, no one showed up, except in December one of our young people who already happened to be in the building for another reason

(Continued on page 3)

January 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Epiphany of the Lord Eucharist (Communion)	6	7	8 WASH, 2:30 p.m. Choir 7:00 Leadership Board 8:00	9 2 Pastor out of the office	10 3 UMW 9:00	11 4
12 Baptism of the Lord	13 Pastor out of the office	14	15 Choir 7:00	16	17	18
19 Human Relations Day Offering	20 Blood Drive	21	22 Choir 7:00	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Choir 7:00	30	31 Pastor out of office	

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY

Wed 1	New Year's Day—office closed Pastor on vacation
Thu 2	Pastor out of office
Sun 5	Epiphany of the Lord Eucharist (Communion)
Wed 8	WASH, 2:30 p.m. Choir, 7 p.m. Leadership Board, 8 p.m.
Fri 10	UMW, 9 a.m.
Sun 12	Baptism of the Lord
Mon 13	Pastor out of office
Wed 15	Choir, 7 p.m.
Sun 19	Human Relations Day OFFERING
Mon 20	Blood Drive 3-6:30
Wed 22	Choir, 7 p.m.
Wed 29	Choir, 7 p.m.
Fri 31	Pastor out of the office



Prayer Requests

If you have a prayer request notify the prayer chains or leave a prayer card in the office or offering plate.

Email prayer chain
Songbirdia@aol.com

Prayer Chain by phone
Janet Schlichter—438-2135
Janice Ramsey—438-2359



If we have missed your special day, please contact the office so we can include you next year.

- January 1 Grace Coghlan
- January 2 Avis Spidle
- January 2 John Swanson
- January 7 Natalie Faltonson
- January 8 Matt Bice
- January 9 Buster Frantum
- January 9 Oscar Potter
- January 10 Sherrie Tague
- January 12 Kelly Clime
- January 13 Julie Schlichter
- January 19 Doug Burkhardt
- January 19 Pam Faltonson
- January 20 Matt Danilson
- January 21 Matt Neal
- January 22 Linda Feller
- January 30 Janelle Hammarstedt
- January 31 Ashley Tenborg

Serving In the Military

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Danny Clason | Alexandra Eppert |
| Jay Field | Brent Fiferlick |
| Luke Monroe | John Shannon |
| Thomas Newton | Nicholas Eppert |
| Daniel DeGroote | Steve Jacque |
| Nick Kaster | Cristen Field |
| Jenna Hansen | Jenna Hansen |
| John Courtright | Mike Shannon |

(Continued from page 2)

popped in 45 minutes late and asked if he had missed Bible Study.

We have decided to discontinue the Youth Bible Study for now. If any of our youth have suggestions about how to better connect with them, please contact me.

4. Another part of the course correction is figuring out how to use the new structure in the best way. It now seems best to me to continue the work of many of the programming committees under the old structure by creating volunteer staff positions to be in charge of these. I had already previously decided on this route for Worship, Missions, and Christian Education, and have now added Outreach to that list.

I also discovered that in some cases I have misspoken on the tasks of Nurture, Witness, and Outreach. Rather than continue to misspeak, here is what the 2012 *Book of Discipline* has to say about these: “The nurturing ministries of the congregation shall give attention to but not be limited to education, worship, Christian formation, membership care, small groups, and stewardship. Attention must be given to the needs of individuals and families of all ages.

“The outreach ministries of the church shall give attention to local and larger community ministries of compassion, justice, and advocacy. These ministries include church and society, global ministries, higher education and campus ministry, health and welfare, Christian unity and inter-religious concerns, religion and race, and the status and role of women.

“The witness ministries of the church shall give attention to developing and strengthening evangelistic efforts of sharing of personal and congregational stories of Christian experience, faith, and service; communications; Lay Servant Ministries; and other means that give expressions of witness for Jesus Christ.” (from par. 252.2a-c)

So to connect this with what we currently do: Nurture includes Worship, Christian Education, and Youth Ministries. Outreach includes Missions, as well as the various things we do to connect the congregation with the community. Witness has to do with evangelism and communication.

Please pray that we may find God’s direction in these matters.

Pastor Dale

P.S.

Contrary to rumor, Lil Sprouts Daycare and Preschool is not being discontinued as a mission of the Woodward United Methodist Church. We have not yet discussed where it is going to fit under the new structure but will discuss this at our January Leadership Board Meeting.



The United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women 2014 Membership/Pledges are due January 11. By pledging to UMW you become a member and support the ongoing programs of the local organization including keeping the kitchen area well-stocked with supplies and keeping our appliances up-to-date. Pledges may be of any amount. The United Methodist Women meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. These monthly meetings consist of a short business meeting, a program presented by different members, and refreshments. Membership is open to every woman in the church who pledges to support this program.

Please fill out the following Membership/Pledge Card with your donation and return it to: Donna Stream, 809 Maple Ave. Woodward, IA, 50276. Please let Donna know if you need a receipt.

Woodward United Methodist Women
PLEDGE TO MISSION CARD FOR
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
Date of Pledge _____
For the coming year, I pledge \$ _____

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHURCH SECRETARY

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Duana (pronounced dew-ANN-a) Bennett of Woodward as our new church secretary. Duana began her duties in mid-November.

Duana has lived in Woodward three years and had previously worked at Home Depot. She the mother of 3 children, two boys and a girl. Grandmother of nine and Great Grandmother of two . She enjoys shopping and reading. She loves her grandchildren and spends a lot of time with them. She is picking up cooking as a hobby as well as being an animal lover. Secretary’s office hours continue to be Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-12 noon.

A FEW WORDS FROM OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE

If you have not yet returned your pledge card for 2014, please do so soon so we may know your commitment to support the ministry of Woodward United Methodist Church. You may mail or bring it to the church office.

There has been a special gift of \$4,000 given by a member of our church designated to go toward payment of our conference apportionments, which is our portion of supporting the ministry of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. You are invited to give extra designated gifts toward at least matching this gift and help us in paying this money which is part of our commitment to the ministry of our denomination.

(Continued on page 5)

KEEP THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray daily for Bishop Julius Trimble, our District Superintendent (Rev. Dave Weesner), our Field Outreach Minister (Rev. Karen Nelson), and your pastor. Please pray also for our Conference Lay Leader, Dave Decker; our District Lay Leader, Margaret Borgen, and the lay leadership and people of the church. Please pray for the ministry of our sister congregation, Women at the Well UMC inside the walls of the Iowa Women’s Correctional Institute at Mitchellville and their pastor, Lee Schott.

PRAY FOR OUR PEOPLE IN CARE CENTERS AND SIMILAR FACILITIES

Gerald and Betty LeMaster, Eastern Star Masonic Home, Boone
Mary Lowe, Madrid Home
Nadine Burkhart, Madrid Home
Marian Jesse, Madrid Home
Caloma “Kip” Shannon, Perry Lutheran Home
Dorothy Skinner, Kennybrook Village, Grimes
Donna Grimm, Riverside South, Ames
Please notify the office of any additions or corrections to this list.

PRAY FOR OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS

Savannah Bice, Grand View University, Des Moines
Caleb Schoening (Pastor Dale and Mitzi’s son), DMACC, Ankeny
Please notify the office of any additions or corrections to this list.

LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Jan. 5 (Epiphany of the Lord): Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12
Jan. 12 (Baptism of the Lord): Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 19 (2nd Sunday after the Epiphany): Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42
Jan. 26 (3rd Sunday after the Epiphany): Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

2014 Central District Leadership Training
"Name, Bless, and Connect"
January 12, 2014 - 2-5pm

Windsor United Methodist Church, 6222 University Ave., Des Moines

De'Amon and Mike look forward to seeing what gifts of the Spirit overflow in the lives of the people of the Central District. They will provide an opportunity to experience and think about what happens when we pay attention to the Spirit's presence and power in our lives and in the life of the community around us (including - and especially - those that we have often felt called "to serve"). We will look at structures that bear witness to this both inside and outside our doors. Congregations have a special gift as places of blessing and connection. As we pay attention to that vocation - we begin to see the miracles and abundance around us.

Speakers:

Rev. Michael Mather

Rev. Mike Mather is one of the pastors at Broadway UMC in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition, he also works with congregations around the country and serves as a consultant for Asset Based Community Development—among secular and religious communities and organizations. Mike is the author of a booklet entitled "Sharing Stories, Shaping Community" and numerous articles in a variety of publications.

De'Amon Harges

De'Amon Harges is the original "Roving Listener" at Broadway UMC in Indianapolis. His role is to find the gifts and talents of every person in the life of their community, to find the place for those gifts, celebrate those gifts in ways that build community, economy, and mutual delight.

District Superintendent Dave Weesner believes this is going to be the most helpful leadership training event in his time on the Central District. Based on what he has told Pastor Dale, much of what the speakers will have to say will be very relevant to our situation as we move into a single board model of church governance. Let's have a substantial group from our church attend this event!

(Continued from page 4)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

As the new year begins, we are beginning a new video series called *Work as Worship*. We will learn during these six sessions how the work we do each day can be an act of worshiping and glorifying God. The video teacher is J. D. Greear, a pastor in North Carolina. We hope you will join us on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. to study and grow.

WITH THE ONSET OF WINTER...

One must keep in mind the weather. In the event it is deemed necessary to cancel worship or other church activities on account of the weather, the following media outlets will be notified:

KCCI-TV, channel 8

WHO-TV, channel 13

WOI-TV, channel 5

Raccoon Valley Radio (KDLS, AM 1310; KKRF, FM 107.9; KGRA FM 98.9)

In addition, all cancellation announcements will be posted on the Woodward United Methodist Church Facebook page.

WASH

Wednesday Afternoon School Hour is in full swing. This group meets the first Wednesday of the month and is open to any 2nd through 5th grade child. January Theme is "Before you speak, THINK" This will include a short message from Joyce Myers on "Strife". This cassette tape set is available to checkout from the library.



January
WASH Theme

Madrid Home Communities

Dear Friends,
What an amazing year 2013 has been! As this year comes to a close, I want to express our overwhelming gratitude to all of you for your continued support of our organization. This support has been particularly remarkable in the last couple of months when donations for our annual Fall bazaar and Christmas celebration have poured in. Our Fall Bazaar generated over \$2,000 toward our ongoing goal of renovating our 2nd and 3rd floor neighborhoods. This is an event high!
Our Christmas celebrations were a great success. All residents of our nursing facility and assisted living facilities received a minimum of three gifts a piece, all of which were donated and wrapped by volunteers. I cannot express enough thanks to all of you who donated your time, efforts, funds and resources to support our organization. Please extend my thanks to members of your congregations, should this letter not reach them individually. Without these numerous contributions, we would not be able to fund these events and opportunities that directly improve our residents' quality of life. Your impact is immeasurable. Thank you again for all of your contributions and have a great 2014!
Sincerely, Kacie Purl,
Friends of MHC Coordinator.

**WOODWARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LEADERSHIP FOR 2014**

LEADERSHIP BOARD *(elected)*

(Year listed after each position means term expires 12/31 of that year)

Chairperson (2015)	Dick Lindgren
Finance (2014)	Rich Danilson
Finance (2016)	Bill Siglin
Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations (2015)	Teresa Neal
Staff/Pastor-Parish Relations (2016)	Robbon Benbow
Trustees (2014)	Pat Heifner
Trustees (2015)	Howard Schutt
Lay Leader (2016)	Dennis DeGroot
Nurture (2014)	Missy Bice
Witness (2015)	Deanna Blagg
Outreach (2016)	Mary Thompson
Nominations (2014)	Robin Frantum

LAY MEMBER TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE *(elected)*

Dennis DeGroot

VOLUNTEER STAFF *(appointed by Leadership Board)*

Treasurer	Dennis Halsne
Financial Secretary	Steve & Jody Smith
Christian Education Coordinator	Julie Burkhart, Kathy Yager
Worship Planning Team Coordinator	Jan Danilson
Event Coordinator	Mary Thompson
Historian	Mary Thompson
Missions Coordinator	Terri Danilson
Youth Ministries Coordinator	
Outreach Coordinator	

Leadership Board meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m., beginning in January.
As you can see, we still have a few openings. If you are interested in doing one of these things or need more information, contact Pastor Dale.

THANK YOU

We say “thank you” to the many people who served in various capacities under our previous structure. We encourage you to find ways to get involved according to your gifts, passion, and interests as we move to the new one.

Thank you for the monetary gift we received from the church at Christmas. We are glad to be here and much appreciate your kindness.

Pastor Dale

LifeTouch Pictures

We had a wonderful turn out for the pictures for the pictorial directory. We have some families that were not able to have their picture taken during our scheduled days. If we have 10 people sign up for January 21 they will come back out and take more pictures. Please call the office to schedule a time.

Thank You

We had 15 beautifully decorated Christmas trees sold at our silent auction Des 15th. Thank you so much to everyone who decorated in various themes. They were awesome! Another thank you to everyone that purchased these trees. May you enjoy them for years to come. The Mission Committee.

Perry Fine Arts Concert

Perry Fine Arts Concert Sunday January 19, 2014 at 2:00 pm in the Perry High School’s Performing Arts Center, 1200 18th St Perry, IA. Grace Alone, a local women’s ensemble will be performing, both as a fundraiser for the Perry Fine Arts Concert Series and as an opportunity to share faith through music. Fine Arts concerts are free (donations accepted) and open to all. The Performing Arts Center is handicapped accessible. For further information please contact Duane Griffin (515-465-4782), 1802 West 2nd St, Perry, IA 50220.

Granger Church Chicken Noodle Dinner

On January 18, 2014 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm there will be a Chicken Noodle (home made noodles) dinner at Emmanuel UMC in Granger. The funds raised from this dinner will go for the mission trip that some of their people will be taking to Tijuana the end of February and first part of March.

