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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First United Methodist Church
202 E. Fourth St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501



MARCH 10

The Broadcaster



... the whole body, joined and knit together ...



as each part is working properly,
promotes the body's growth in
building itself up in love.

EPHESIANS 4:16, NRSV



Church Staff:

- Jon Disburg
Pastor
- Julie Vose
Office & Finance
- Michael Philipsen
Director of Music
- Anthony Navarro
Custodian

Staff may be contacted at the church or through the church's email.

First United Methodist Church
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Church Office Hours: 9-12:00 T-F

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Julie's office hours vary. Please call ahead if you need to see her.



The March of the Unqualified

Have you ever tried to convince yourself that God simply can't use you for anything great? You may recognize some of the excuses:

My faith is too small...I don't know what to do or say about Jesus...I'm not qualified...

Christian author and pastor Matt Tullos describes the church as "the march of the unqualified." He backs that up with these Biblical profiles:

- Moses had a speech impediment;
- Jonah ran from God;
- Jacob was a liar and a cheat;
- David had an affair;
- Jeremiah was depressed;
- Timothy was too young;
- Abraham was too old;
- Gideon and Thomas both doubted;
- Peter lacked self-control;
- James and John were self-righteous;

God doesn't call only the perfectly qualified. The history of our faith is a march of the unqualified whose strengths and weaknesses God uses to do his will. Don't wait until you feel perfectly equipped to do something for Jesus in this world...just get in line and join the march of the unqualified.

Peace,

Pastor Jon

Summary of Grace Fellowship Lead Team meeting on February 7th:

The Grace Fellowship Lead Team met with the District Church Location and Building Committee and District Superintendent Paul Smith to receive pre-approval to sell any of our church properties or parsonages if an acceptable offer is made. The District Church Location and Building Committee approved that request. There is no desire to dispose of any properties prior to July 1, but this action means that the Lead Team does not have to contact them every time another parcel is to be sold. A subgroup of the Lead Team is currently evaluating each of our current parsonages to recommend whether the new church should keep any of them or sell them. The District Church Location and Building Committee recommended that if we keep a parsonage that it be relative easy to renovate to conform to handicap accessibility standards. New parsonages have to meet specific handicap accessibility standards; whereas maintaining a current property would be 'grandfathered' in and allowed even if not entirely up to those standards.

Jim Parrish, one of the Lead Team members from Willard Street, was approved by consensus to become the Treasurer.

The Lead Team spent the remainder of the meeting discussing a variety of ongoing logistics including finding legal counsel to deal with several issues. Rich Gaumer has offered to conduct some legal work regarding Articles of Incorporation and applications for the transfer of trusts. However, the three individual churches will also have legal work to be done and will have to consider who they want to hire to conduct that work.

A taskforce made up of two lay members from each church will be setup to consider new locations for a new church office and ministry space. In addition, they will need to search for a worship location that can rented on Sundays. The Lead Team is accepting names of individuals to conduct those searches and make recommendations.

In the meantime, all three churches are still working on inventorying properties and taking Sunday Selfies to introduce themselves to other members.

NOTE: Much progress has been made since this last summary. Watch your email for more updates!

We are wrapping up the church inventory process! Thank you so much to everyone who has helped with this monumental task!! We are a congregation of servants!

GRACE FELLOWSHIP PASTOR ANNOUNCED!

Bishop Laurie Haller, resident Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference is pleased to announce the appointment of Reverend Chris Childs to Grace Fellowship, a congregation of the United Methodist Church, effective July 1, 2019. Pastor Chris will be working with the Leadership Team prior to July 1. Please welcome him, and his wife Melissa, and their daughter Braelyn.

On Tuesday, February 19th, members of the Lead Team held a special meeting and had the opportunity to meet Pastor Chris, Melissa and Braelyn.

Bill Poland shared information that the Iowa Annual Conference had compiled regarding how Chris had scored during the testing and initial interview process. Chris' high scores in the areas of leadership and vision-casting made him the top recommendation from the Iowa Conference leadership.

The members of the Lead Team then had the opportunity to ask Pastor Chris and Melissa some questions about their vision for our newly merged church. We all liked what we heard, and so when we were asked, "Is there a compelling reason why he shouldn't be appointed as your new pastor?"... there was no hesitation. We excitedly offered him the position as our pastor, and he accepted wholeheartedly.

I knew that you would probably have some questions, like where is he coming from, and what are his experiences as a pastor...So I thought I'd take a minute to share a few other things that I learned on Tuesday...

Chris and Melissa are originally from Oskaloosa, and are understandably very excited to be just 30 minutes from their families, especially for 7 month old Braelyn.

Both of them are graduates of Central College (Go Dutch!), and then Chris went on to attend Asbury Theological Seminary in Oklahoma.

He has 12 years of experience as a youth pastor, and he is currently the pastor of Grace United Methodist Church in Marcus, Iowa which is a community about 20 miles east of Sioux City.

Because he does live 4.5 hours away, it does make it difficult for him to attend our weekly Lead Team meetings in person, but he will participate via Skype and he'll attend on occasion when his schedule, and the weather, will allow it.

The Lead Team is VERY EXCITED to have Pastor Chris join us in Ottumwa and be our new pastor of Grace Fellowship. I know that he and Melissa are eager to meet all of you and become a part of our new church family and community.

*—presented by Abby Leonard, Lead Team member, during
Worship on Sunday, February 24th*

Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple

During the month of March, the adult Sunday School class will study Adam Hamilton's new study: Simon Peter: Flawed but Faithful Disciple. The study will trace the life and ministry of Simon Peter by reading the various accounts of his actions in the Gospels. The study is accompanied by a video that was shot in the Holy Lands and shows the sites where Jesus' life and ministry unfolded. The study meets Sundays, 9 am in the Pine Room. All are welcome.

April 18 - Holy Thursday service - 6:30 pm at 1st UMC (all three UM churches invited)

April 19 - Good Friday service - 7 pm at Willard St (all three UM churches invited)

April 21 - Easter

April 28 - Joint service at 1st UMC - Celebration of Life

May 5 - Joint service at Willard St. UMC - Celebration of Life

May 12 - Joint service at Wesley UMC - Celebration of Life

June 30 - Service of Leave Taking



During the month of March, we will be taking donations to purchase books for local elementary students during their upcoming Book Fairs. We have done this the past three years and the students and schools appreciate it so much! Please mark your donations "BOOK FAIR." Thank you!

Also remember the FUMC has a covenant with missionary Doug Williams in Argentina, which requires \$5.00 per member to reach our goal. We would like to send donations quarterly, so please consider giving. Please mark your donation "REV. WILLIAMS." Thank you!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, March 10th. There will be a special Sunday offering for UMCOR, formerly known as "One Great Hour of Sharing." UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) responds to disaster survivors and people in need around the world and shares the goodness of life with those who hurt.

Thank you all for your continued generosity!