

# The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan  
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER 2020

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

**8:45am at MONROE CHAPEL UMC** in Fellowship Hall

**10:30am at FIRST UMC** in the Sanctuary

At First UMC:

- ◆For everyone's safety, we respectfully ask that all wear masks to worship.
- ◆Please sanitize your hands upon entering the building;  
hand sanitizer is available at all the entrances, as well as disposable masks.
- ◆Please sit in the marked areas in the Sanctuary.
- ◆The congregation is invited to speak prayers quietly and hum along with the hymns.
- ◆If you want to visit with others, please do so outside either before or after the service.

We do know all of this is difficult and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation!



### FIRST UMC WORSHIP PROTOCOL

The Administrative Council has made the decision to follow the local school as a guide for in-person and virtual gatherings. *See Pastor Mike's article on Page 2.*

### VIRTUAL WORSHIP

For those who might feel uncomfortable attending worship in person, or are unable to attend worship, you can watch the recorded service via:

Facebook: **Harlan First & Monroe Chapel United Methodist Churches**

Website: **[www.harlanmethodist.com](http://www.harlanmethodist.com)**

Local Cable: **10:00am: Mondays, Mediacom #18**

**7:30pm: Mondays, HMU #15**

**1:00pm: Tuesdays, FMCTC #48**

**7:30pm: Wednesdays, HMU #15**

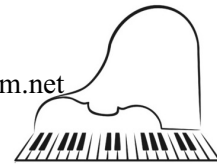


*Contact us if you'd like a DVD copy of the service with a printed bulletin mailed to you.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC at WORSHIP

Choir rehearsal is suspended at this time.

Please contact Sandy at 712-343-2492 or at [carrolls@iowatelecom.net](mailto:carrolls@iowatelecom.net) if you're able to offer SPECIAL MUSIC during worship and/or SING ALONG with the HYMNS.



## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH

The tentative start date for Wednesday night activities for children and youth is **Wednesday, September 23**. Even though things will be different this year, plans are to offer activities for all grades as well as some sort of a meal. To do this and to keep all safe, we are in need of **TWO TEACHERS**. You can also volunteer to be a classroom **HELPER**. Meeting time will be shorter this year at 30 minutes. **FULLY PREPARED LESSONS** and activity options are provided to all teaches to use, if they wish, to eliminate any prep work on the part of the teacher. Please contact Ronda at

[fumchcec@harlannet.com](mailto:fumchcec@harlannet.com) with questions and/or interest in teaching or helping. Final details are still being worked out and will be communicated as soon as they are finalized. Thoughts and ideas on the Wednesday night program are always welcomed!



## A MOMENT WITH MIKE

It has been a long while, but we are back to having in-person worship services in both churches with modifications for safety. Since we are learning to worship in new ways, we may be changing things as we go and experimenting with new ideas. For instance, at Harlan First, we are going to experiment with having the congregation text their joys and concerns to me to read aloud during the joys and concerns portion of the worship service. It is certainly an interesting time! Thanks to all of you for your flexibility, understanding, and cooperation, whether you worship in the sanctuary or at home.

As we end summer and begin the fall season, our fall adult small group is starting up. Two groups are meeting with one on Zoom and the other meeting outside. In addition, our education coordinator, Ronda Evans, has been thinking and planning safe ways to be in ministry to our children and youth. We are still unsure what form this will take or what will be possible this year, but we will keep you informed.

Confirmation normally would be starting up pretty soon for eighth grade students. At this point, the fate of confirmation for this year is still unknown. Confirmation usually includes group meetings with students and mentors and field trips. With the pandemic, field trips are not possible, and it may be difficult to meet in person while being socially distanced and masked. Possibilities include having confirmation online, waiting until January to see how things are going, or postponing until next year and having it for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. There are many unknowns right now, but we will keep you updated as we figure things out.

As we continue through these uncertain times, I am extremely grateful for our staff and volunteers who do what they can week in and week out to keep things going, including all the work it took to record services, the work it took to get the buildings ready for in-person worship, and the extra planning and creativity it has taken to keep ministries going in some form or fashion when doing things in person has become more complicated. I am also extremely thankful to those on our administrative council. They have met monthly throughout the summer to discuss whether or not we should have worship and to create protocols for knowing when to resume and cancel ministries for this upcoming year. To sum it up, we on the council have decided that we will follow the local school for guidance. When our schools go all online, we will go back to recorded services.

As we continue through this year, remember that just as God was with the Hebrews and led them through the wilderness, God is with us and will lead us through this wilderness and to the promised land.

God bless,

Pastor Mike

## SERMON SERIES

We are in the series "Open Mouth, Insert Foot: The Controversial Writings of Paul". Some of the most controversial passages of scripture come from the letters that Paul wrote to the churches in the first century. Sometimes he seems to lose his temper. Many times, he is misunderstood so that what he wrote is not what we hear today. What did Paul have to say about women in the church, marriage, or the role of government? Join us as we explore these topics and more.



**September 6:** That's Not What I Said!

(Romans 2:1-16; 5:12-21)

**September 13:** Silence! - Paul's View of Women

(1 Cor. 11:3-16; 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:8-15)

**September 20:** Redefining Relationships

(Ephesians 5:21-6:9; Colossians 3:18-41)

**September 27:** Paul and the Government

(Acts 5:27-33; Romans 12:18-13:7)

## ONLINE STREAMING SERVICE

Amplify is a streaming service that offers videos from different Bible studies and speakers on many topics.



Check it out at:

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/harlanfirstandmonroechapelum>

Once there, enter **JNLGKX** as your access code. Once you do, you can set up your free account and begin watching. There are videos for adults and kids! Contact the office if you have issues.

## PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

**Please continue to let us know** if you or someone you know is in the hospital, dealing with medical issues, or would benefit from communication with Pastor Mike. Even if you think we know, give us a call or shoot us an email anyway! *Prayer concerns or joys can also be shared at worship.*



## UM WOMEN

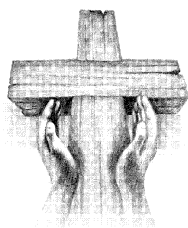
United Methodist Women meet Wednesday, September 2, at 9:30am in Fellowship Hall for Executive Committee. Circles will be informed of their upcoming gatherings and the Southwest District Annual UMW Meeting will be conducted via Zoom on Saturday, September 12.

We will continue to plan for the annual Cookie Walk and Lunch on December 9. Please be thinking of items you can contribute to the cupboard and let Sandy Clemons know.

## THE POWER OF PRAYER

There can never be too many people faithfully lifting up the concerns of the those who request special prayers! PRAYER CHAIN: Call Sharon Donlin, 755-5580 or the church office, 755-5172 if you would like to serve on the Prayer Chain. *Updated lists are provided weekly.* PRAYER GROUP: You are invited to participate in our prayer group ministry that meets each Thursday at 9:30am. Mutual support, fellowship, laughter, and learning guide each of us in this important ministry for Christ.

*Call Dianne at 755-2001 with questions and for meeting locations.*



## FIRST UMC YTD FINANCES



All expenses are paid and we have a positive balance in the checking account. Although we are not current on our apportionments, we will wait to catch up until later in the year. Giving has been steady, showing the dedication and faithfulness of members and friends!

Remember you can mail donations (Box 28), drop donations at the office, give via the church website, or set up monthly auto-withdrawal. Thank you for your gifts and graces and continued support!

*Thanks!*

◆Thank you for the many years of service that you provided my Father. He truly enjoyed the family that the church provided. – *Dennis Hibray*


◆Dear Church family - We would like to thank all of you for all the cards, phone calls, concern and especially all the prayers while Rich fought Covid-19. It was a rough couple of weeks, but we truly believe that all the prayers helped us get through the tough times. Rich is doing very well now - God is Good!

*Thank you again, Rich and Bev Goshorn*

◆We've also received thank you's from the various mission projects we've donated to this year.

## HELPING OTHERS...

### Iowa Storm Recovery

On August 10 severe storms raced across much of Iowa with damaging lightning and thunder, heavy rain, and high winds, gaining strength as it moved across the state. If you'd like to help, please PRAY for those affected by the storms and CALL friends and loved ones in storm-affected areas. If you'd like to donate, *make donations payable to First UMC* and indicate "storm" in the memo. Gifts will support recovery efforts in effected communities. 

### Local Food Pantry

The Pantry continues to provide services by appointment and donations are greatly needed and appreciated at this time. You may drop donations at the church and they will be delivered to the Pantry.



### Ingathering Kits

Ingathering is a way for Iowa United Methodists to address humanitarian problems of hunger, poverty, and disaster. Every year we collect the two most requested kits: Student Kits (formerly School Kits) and Personal Dignity Kits (formerly Hygiene Kits). *You may call/email the office for descriptions of other kits.*

**CHANGES** for 2020 are in bold.

### PERSON DIGNITY KITS "PDK"

- 1 new bath hand towel (no kitchen towels)
- 1 new washcloth (no kitchen dishcloths)
- 1 bar of soap in wrapper (3-4oz)
- 1 large sturdy comb (no rattail or picks)
- 1 new toothbrush in original sealed pkg (no child size)
- 1 fingernail clipper or toenail clipper (no emery board)
- 10 band aids (3/4"x3")
- 1 toothpaste (2.5oz or larger)**
- 1 shampoo (15-18oz)**
- 1 deodorant (2-3oz stick, roll on, or pump)**
- 1 razor with guard**



*Place items in a 1 one gallon size re-sealable bag*

### STUDENT KITS

- 3 notebooks (1 subject each, spiral 8"x10.5")
- 1 ruler 12" long with metric
- 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)
- 1 2" or larger eraser
- 1 round tip scissors (metal blades)
- 1 hand pencil sharpener (1" or larger)
- 6 unsharpened pencils
- 1 box of 12 colored pencils**



*Bring items in a plastic grocery bag*

We have several items left over from last year, so you can also give a monetary donation and we will order the necessary supplies to complete the kits!

## SUNDAYS

### MONROE CHAPEL

**8:45am:** Worship

**9:45am:** Coffee *-not at this time*

### HARLAN FIRST

**10:00am:** Coffee Time, Fellowship Hall *-not at this time*

**10:30am:** Worship

## WEDNESDAYS: Sep-Apr

### HARLAN FIRST

**6:00-7:30pm:** Meal, Children & Youth Activities

→ *Final Details Are Being Worked Out...*

**7:30-8:30pm:** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

→ *Rehearsal Is Suspended at This Time...*

## TV AIRING of 10:30 SERVICE

**10:00am:** Mondays, Mediacom #18

**7:00pm:** Mondays, HMU #15

**1:00pm:** Tuesdays, FMCTC #48

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## CHECK IT OUT

Check the church's website or Facebook page:

**[www.harlanmethodist.com](http://www.harlanmethodist.com)**

**Harlan First & Monroe Chapel**

**United Methodist Churches**

✓ STAFF CONTACTS & WHAT WE BELIEVE

✓ WORSHIP & MUSIC ACTIVITIES

✓ CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

✓ MISSIONS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

## QUESTIONS, CONCERNS, COMMENTS?

**Stop By:** 1202 9th Street, Harlan

**Write:** PO Box 28, Harlan IA 51537

**Call:** 712-755-5172

**Email:** [fumch@harlannet.com](mailto:fumch@harlannet.com)

## MISSION STATEMENT

***Making Disciples of Jesus Christ  
for the transformation of the world.***

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*"Where Joy Is Shared and Love Is Lived"*

9th & Durant PO Box 28

Harlan IA 51537

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Harlan IA 51537

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