

# The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan  
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

JANUARY 2020



## FAITH SOUND TO LEAD WORSHIP

Faith Sound will help lead 10:30am morning worship on **Sunday, January 5**. As in the past, this will be the kick-off site of their 2020 tour. Please join us.

## NEW SERMON SERIES: "Are Heaven and Hell For Real?"

What do Christians believe about the afterlife, specifically as it pertains to heaven and hell? In this series, we will take a look at the different beliefs Christians have on these subjects. We will see that there is much diversity, both within the Bible and in the Church.

**January 5:** *Faith Sound leads worship*

**January 12:** **A Brief History of Hell** (Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:7-15)

**January 19:** *UMW Sunday*

**January 26:** **What About God's Judgment?** (Romans 8:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 1 John 4:13-18)

**February 2:** **A Brief History of Heaven** (Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 22:22:5)

**February 9:** **God Is Like Jesus** (John 3:16-17; John 10:22-39)



## UMW SUNDAY IS JANUARY 19

**Sunday, January 19**, is United Methodist Women Sunday. Officers and committee chairs will be installed and special recognition pins will be presented during 10:30am worship. The Executive Committee meets Wednesday, January 8, at 9:30am.

## 6 WEEK SUNDAY EVENING CLASSES BEGIN JANUARY 19

Starting Sunday, January 19, three new small groups will start. Join us for a brief worship service at 6:30pm and then a small group of your choice from 7:00-8:00pm. Each group will meet for six Sundays, ending February 23. Class descriptions are below; **please let us know you'd like to participate by January 8**. *Child care available upon request.*

**Is There Life After Stress?** - There's no doubt about it, we live in a stressful world. Job pressures, financial problems, loneliness, family troubles, etc.; in this study, participants will learn creative ways to deal with stress in life.

**Introduction to the Old Testament** - The Bible can be overwhelming and hard to understand. In this small group, participants will get a bird's eye view of the different documents that comprise the Old Testament. This study is a great second step for those who took the "What Is the Bible" course last Fall, but it also works as a good beginning point.

**Fierce: Women of the Bible Who Changed the World** - It's become trendy to use the word "fierce" when describing women at the top of their game, but women have been fiercely changing the world for thousands of years. These women can teach us how we, too, can live into our callings, honor the Lord, and even change the world through our courage, faithfulness, and obedience. In this group, participants will learn the stories of these women and how they can serve as examples of courage for today.



## DECEMBER MISSION GIVING

Thank you to all for your generosity this month! Several bags of food have been taken to the Food Pantry these last two months, many travel size toiletries were taken to the local Women's Shelter in a neighboring county, 86 donated gifts by 29 church families and 2 church committees were dropped at West Central for our twenty Adopt-a-Family recipients, along with gifts for the 6 children the Senior High youth adopted, 12 poinsettias were given to Nursing Home residents and others, and \$1160 was collected during the month to go toward IA Flooding and Bidwell Riverside.



Thank you again for sharing in mission giving all year long and especially this month!

## PAIRS & SPARES GATHERING



The fellowship group for retirees, seniors, and empty nesters will meet Monday, January 6, at 6:00pm for a potluck and program in Fellowship Hall. Stacy Ferry will present a program on preventing and dealing with identity theft. All are welcome to our group.

Contact Dianne Lawson, 755-2001 with interest and/or questions.

## WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

PreK-12th grades are invited January 8, 15, 22 and 29, from 6:00-7:30pm for a meal and activity. ALL groups enjoy a meal before their activity; donations are welcome to offset the church's expenses or you can volunteer to provide goodies; sign up on Sundays or contact the office.



## UMW ANNUAL COOKIE WALK & LUNCH

Everyone enjoyed delicious soup, sandwiches, the many cookie and dessert varieties, and the creative items available in the cupboard at the Cookie Walk. Soup was served to approximately 220 people and 675 dozen donated cookies went into the 126 cookie boxes sold.

THANK YOU to the many individuals who donated cookies and/or desserts, to those who donated items for the cupboard, and to all the volunteers who helped out with preparation and/or the many tasks at hand that day. Special thanks to Nancy Greer for her leadership. There were 52 cookie donators, 21 pie donators, and 45 volunteers helping prior to and during the Cookie Walk. Thanks also to those who helped with Fellowship Hall set-up. *Figures do not include volunteers donating to the Cupboard.* Profits will be used for UMW's budget and mission giving.

## FIRST UMC 2019 FINANCES

The February newsletter will report FINAL 2019 figures, but it's likely we will owe on our apportionment obligation.

Thanks to those who turned in a pledge for the 2020 year. So far 74 pledges have been turned in and 32 of those 74 indicate an increase in giving for the 2020 year. Those pledges, plus giving from those who don't pledge, but who we assume will give the same amount in 2020, indicate a 2% increase in giving. The budget for 2020 is set at \$261,500 for both income and expense, which is the same amount that has been budgeted since 2017. We try to project a very realistic budget each year and usually figures come in close. Copies of the 2020 budget, as well as current financial reports, are available in the office. Thank you for your support of First UMC and it's ministries!



## A MOMENT WITH MIKE

A new year is upon us! The year 2020 sounds like such a futuristic year! In many ways, it is amazing how quickly things change in our world, and even though some of the changes are negative, some of our technological advances are actually quite good. With the new year, we look not only upon the changes in our world, but also the changes within ourselves, including changes we would like to make, whether they are formal resolutions or not. If you are looking to grow in your faith, perhaps one of our small group offerings would be for you. Information on our upcoming small groups and when they start is included within this newsletter. If the times of the small groups do not work for you, we have a few options. If you are unsure you will be able to commit to all the sessions, you are still welcome to come to a small group and participate in discussion or just listen as able, with or without the purchase of a book. You may also purchase a book to read through on your own even if you are unable to go to any of the sessions. We want to be flexible because we know that no time will work for everyone. Just let us know what you would like to do by contacting us or coming into the church office.

## JANUARY WORSHIP HELP

### MONROE CHAPEL

#### COFFEE HOST

05 Judi Doonan  
12 Cathy Noon  
19 Jane Fabian  
26 Jan Curtis

#### BIRTHDAYS

05 Don Hummel  
08 Cheyenne Obrecht  
18 Julie Book  
21 Jon Noon  
23 Greg Madsen

### FIRST UMC

#### COFFEE HOST

05 D/M Kaufman  
12 B/M Lemons  
19 Jo Ann Blair  
26 Jolene Lytle  
**LITURGIST**  
05 FAITH SOUND  
12 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 UMW Sunday  
26 Sandy Clemons

#### ACOLYTES

05 FAITH SOUND  
12 Kenzley Bruck  
19 Camryn/Carleigh Goshorn  
26 Ava Agnew

#### POWER POINT

05 FAITH SOUND  
12 Haley Manz  
19 Elsie Bieker  
26 Brooke Goshorn

#### SOUND

05 Steve Lawson  
12 Chad Manz  
19 Gene Gettys  
26 Brandt Ferry

#### FILMING

05 Kevin Goshorn  
12 Mark Vande Berg  
19 Darren Goshorn  
26 Kevin Goshorn

#### USHERS

05 Craig & Sandy Clemons	19 Paul & Ashley Bruck
Dianne Lawson, Deb Miller	Cade & Kenzley Bruck
12 Charlie Parkhurst	26 Everette Carroll
Kevin & Ruth Pitkin	Rebecca Gough
Sue Thompson	Rita Knights, Jolene Lytle

## THANK YOU'S

- ◆ Thank you to the United Methodist Church for your support with funds and helpers at the Iowa Community Kitchen. It means a lot and helps us keep our doors open. – *Vicki Kuhn, IA Community Kitchen Founder*
- ◆ Thank you for the delicious and variety of cookies you provided for the Blood Mobile in November. There were many nice compliments and the donors really appreciate the treats! – *American Red Cross*
- ◆ Thank you for the prayers, calls, cards, and food during and following my many hospitalizations. – *Connie Campbell*
- ◆ Thank you for your thoughts, prayers, visits, and cards while I was recovering. It really meant a lot. – *Bernice Petersen*
- ◆ Thank you for all of your cards, gifts, and well wishes during the holiday season! – *Mike, Jennifer, and Ava Agnew*

## ADVENT

- ✠ Thank you to those who donated toward poinsettias and special thanks to the 5 volunteers who took time to deliver the 12 poinsettias to Nursing Home residents or shut-in's. We've received several thank you's from the recipients.
- ✠ Thank you to all who helped or were involved with the Christmas Program: MYF teachers, music leaders, the older kids for hosting, and the kids for their wonderful performance! – *Angela Brefogle & Ronda Evans*
- ✠ Thank you to the Chancel Choir for their moving performance of "Candles and Carols".
- ✠ Thanks to all those who helped decorate the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas; to those who assisted with the Advent Wreath: Circle members-Ronda Evans, Deb Miller, Becky Mahoney, Kelli Miller, Nancy Greer, and Susan Hozgett, Cantata Narrators-Mike Agnew, Rob Jackson, and Sam, Jake, Will, and Lauren McLaughlin; and to those providing the special music for Christmas Eve worship: Sharon Davidson, Mary Lemons, the Chancel Choir (21 singers/musicians throughout the year), and the Bell Group (6 ringers).

## SUNDAYS

- ✠ A big THANKS to the individuals who help each Sunday morning with Coffee Time, Ushering, Greeting, Accompaniment, Special Music, Acolyting, Sound, Video, Power Point, Liturgy, Communion, and the Offering. Your efforts help things run smoothly each Sunday! Special thanks to Marian Anliker, Wava Bails, Sandy Carroll, Susan Hogzett, Pat Kleinpaste, Mary Lemons, Phyllis Lytle, Sue Thompson, and Kandi Vande Berg for their assistance and commitment.
- ✠ Special thanks to Laurie Allen for her decorating the Sanctuary with creative altar arrangements and other decor.
- ✠ Thank you to the many **talented musicians and vocalists** we have the privilege of listening to on Sunday mornings and at other church events. To have so many individuals sharing their talents in this area, we tend to forget to thank you for the time and effort you all take to get your selections ready to present. We appreciate you and your gifts!

## ALL YEAR

- ✠ Thank you to all who contribute to our Wednesday programs: to Ronda Evans for her leadership, to all the MYF teachers for their continued dedication to our youth; to Dianne Lawson, Steve Lawson, Denny Lawson, and Dan McElwain for leading a fun music time; to the 22 goodie provider volunteers, and to the 7 awesome Kitchen Crew volunteers for providing great meals each week. We appreciate your dedication.
- ✠ Thank you to the many who serve on our committees or in other groups taking care of the properties, helping those in need, guiding our children and youth, organizing worship, overseeing finances and memorials, comforting those in need with meals, discussing issues and setting church goals, helping to make the church look inviting, planning for the future, presenting church and community events, and offering fellowship.
- ✠ Thank you to the Finance Committee for your dedication and help this past year with our annual events. Thanks also to those who've helped with set-up for events; to the quiet, reliable helper for her assistance with mission activities, etc. throughout the year; to the couple who help with whatever is needed; to the City guy for his help with the parking lot and sidewalks; to the newsletter assembly group for being willing to help each month; to the Monday morning gal for her assistance each week; and to the MANY who help with all the little, behind-the-scenes details! – *Anne Bieker*
- ✠ We want to recognize and thank the **MANY, MANY volunteers** who serve First Church and assist with our many ministries: helping with worship, serving on committees, teaching our children and youth, assisting in the office, calling on those who can't get to church, praying for others, or working in or around our facility. Everyone's lives are busy, but we still have a church full of people that are able to find time for their church, share their talents, help others, and step-up when extra effort is needed.

These thank you's tend to be very similar each year... but please know how **GRATEFUL** we are for your time, effort, and dedication. Also, forgive us if we missed someone! Whatever the issue or need, we never worry, as First UMC is full of **GREAT** volunteers!