

The Circuit Rider



First United Methodist Church, Harlan
Monroe Chapel United Methodist Church

MARCH 2020

SERMON SERIES:

He Knew Our Griefs – The Human Side of Jesus

As Christians, we believe that Jesus is fully divine and fully human, but we oftentimes emphasize his divinity over his humanity. During the season of Lent, we will look at the more human side of Jesus. Part of the appeal of Jesus is that he knows many of the troubles we face in life, so we can trust him to be with us as we go through them. This series will run **Sunday, March 1, through Easter Sunday, April 12.**

March 1: Jesus Was Tempted to Sin (Matthew 4:1-11; 16:21-23)

March 8: Jesus Grieved (John 11:1-3, 17-38)

March 15: Jesus Got Angry (Matthew 23:1-15, 25-28)

March 22: Jesus Was Troubled (Matthew 23:37-39; 26:36-42)

March 29: Jesus Experienced Loneliness (Mark 14:43-52; John 6:53-69)

April 5: Palm Sunday Choir Cantata, "What Wondrous Hope"

April 10: Jesus Suffered and Died – Good Friday (John 19:1-30)

April 12: Jesus Forgives – EASTER (John 20:1-10; 21:15-19)



PALM SUNDAY CANTATA IN APRIL

The choir will begin working on the Palm Sunday Cantata this month. They will then present, "What Wondrous Hope" at both churches on Sunday, April 5. Mingling traditional and contemporary elements, this cantata tells the story of Christ's ministry, passion, and resurrection with thoughtful narration. We welcome singers who would like to join us for the cantata presentation to **come to rehearsals Wednesday nights at 7:30pm** in the Sanctuary. Also, if you are interested in being a narrator, please let Sandy Carroll know or contact the office.



EASTER FLOWERS



Again you will be able to order an Easter flower in memory, in honor, or in celebration of someone special. Flowers will come from The Flower Barn, will decorate our Sanctuary for Easter worship, and can be picked up following worship.

There will be four flowers to choose from: lily, mum, hyacinth, and tulip.

Call the church office to place your order - or there will be order forms in the bulletins.



2020 LAST SUPPER PERFORMANCES



The living dramatization of Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper" is a recreation of da Vinci's world-famous painting with 13 living characters, portraying Jesus's last meeting with his

Disciples. This is the 22nd year of performances.

Sun, April 5: UCC, Atlantic IA-7:00pm

Tue, April 7: Faith Lutheran, Onawa IA-7:00pm

Wed, April 8: St. Joseph's, Earling IA-7:00pm

Thu, April 9: Altamont Baptist, Harlan IA-7:00pm

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 5: The Chancel Choir will present "What Wondrous Hope" during morning worship.

Palm Sunday Brunch, April 5: Come downstairs for a free-will offering brunch following 10:30am worship.

Good Friday, April 10: 7:00pm worship will focus on the ultimate show of God's love on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 12: Come and celebrate with us the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with singing, special music, and a message of celebration and hope.



UM WOMEN

UM Women Executive Committee meets Wednesday, March 4, 9:30am in the church library.

UM Women offers friendship, support and fellowship, and many opportunities to join with other women in service. There are 3 circles that meet.



The 151st Anniversary of UMW is March 23!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES

PreK through 12th Grades are invited all Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 and 25, from 6:00-7:30pm for a meal and activity.

Kids will be singing in church on Sunday, March 29.



LEAN INTO LIFE GRIEF GROUP

Lean Into Life is open to anyone who has lost a spouse or life partner. It meets every other Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm in the MMC Board Room, Business Center Entrance, 1213 Garfield Avenue. Meeting March 12 and 26, call 755-4312 to register.

PAIRS & SPARES

The fellowship group will meet and attend the matinee movie, "I Still Believe" on Sunday, March 15. Discussion and fellowship will follow at the church. Contact Dianne Lawson with questions, 755-2001.



FIGHT NIGHT - DATE NIGHT



First UMC will host a simulcast marriage event on Sunday, March 22. This will be a fun date night for couples of all ages where couples will learn how to handle conflict in their marriage in constructive ways!

The event is from 5:30-8:30pm and will include pizza and dessert. Consider it and invite other couples! Let us know you'll attend by calling the church office or emailing Pastor Mike at michael.agnew@iaumc.net.

FIRST UMC YTD FINANCES

Our year-to-date balance at the end of February is -\$4500. Even though the balance is negative, we have paid all expenses and are current on our monthly apportionment obligation. Thank you for your support! *Detailed financial reports are available in the office.*

Spring Fund Raiser envelope boards to be displayed soon. The fund raiser will run April 1 through May 4.

FOOD PANTRY

Food is a constant need for many families in the community. Your donations get taken to West Central monthly and go to help the needy right here in our community. In addition to paper products, toiletries, and baby diapers, the Food Pantry could use: pop tarts, cereal, soups, crackers, boxed meals, canned meat or vegetables, and cough drops and/or medicine. Thank you for your caring contributions!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be June 15-19, 9:00-11:45am this Summer. This year's theme is "Light of the World", and the week will focus on Jesus' seven "I Am" statements. We will need volunteers to work in the kitchen, help with crafts or games, be room leaders, or be room helpers.



This is a FUN week with the kids with very little preparation! Please consider it as we'd like to get volunteers in place as soon as possible! Contact the church office or Ronda if you can help.

SUMMER MISSION TRIP

The Missions Committee will again venture to the Tree of Life Ministry on the Rosebud Reservation in Rosebud, South Dakota. We are looking at Summer dates and plan to leave on a Sunday and return the following Saturday. Stay tuned for the trip dates and let Pastor Mike or Sandy Clemons know if you're interested in going!



SOUPER BOWL THANKS

Thank you for contributing to the annual youth Souper Bowl offering! In addition to a donation basket of items - 50lbs, \$500 was collected and was given to our local West Central Food Pantry for the Back Pack Program. Currently the program serves between **14-20 teens** each weekend. **THANK YOU** for your generosity!



A MOMENT WITH MIKE

There has been a lot of talk about the things that are going on in our denomination with the state/conference level budget cuts as well as the worldwide denomination considering different plans for separation. With all of the headlines and news stories, it can be hard to know what is actually true. So what is actually happening, and what will happen in the near future?

For now, nothing is changing. At the last specially called General Conference held in February 2019, the traditional plan was passed, which keeps the traditional views that exclude those in the LGBTQ community from getting married or ordained in our churches. In addition, this plan put in place more severe penalties for clergy who break these rules. These penalties took affect in January of this year. Nonetheless, this is not the end of the matter.

The regularly scheduled General Conference (these are normally held once every four years) will be held in Minnesota in May. At this conference, the whole debate will be taken up again, though the mood has changed. There has been much more agreement that the United Methodist Church cannot remain united on the issue of LGBTQ inclusion and that an amicable separation should be carried out. Multiple plans for separation have been submitted for consideration at General Conference, and more could still come. There are many more plans, and those plans are much more complex, than the previous General Conference that was held in 2019. What will happen at General Conference? Nobody knows. One of the plans already on the docket could be considered and passed, a plan could be passed with amendments, a new plan could be proposed, or they may not be able to agree on any plan. We just don't know.

How does all of this affect us on a local church level? For now, very little. Although you may hear or read headlines that lead you to think otherwise, **nothing will be decided before the General Conference in May**. Delegates who attend General Conference to vote are selected beforehand at Annual Conferences. I am not able to vote at General Conference, and neither can anyone from our congregation. After General Conference, we will have our Iowa Annual Conference in June, and I will be attending that, as well as two lay delegates from our congregation. How our Iowa Annual Conference will respond to General Conference's decision is unknown because we have no idea what will happen at General Conference.

Basically, whatever happens at General Conference, there will probably be something for the Iowa Conference to decide, and then there may be something for local churches to decide, but the timeline for all of that is quite unclear. A lot of that depends on how General Conference goes. So everything hinges upon what happens at General Conference in May. Until then (and after, for that matter), we continue in our ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ as we continue to pray for the United Methodist Church. If you want to keep up on what's happening as we get closer to General Conference, trusted news sources can be found by going to <https://www.iaumc.org/gc2020> or by following the "Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church" and/or "United Methodist News" on Facebook. If you are not on Facebook, you can also find their websites at <https://www.iaumc.org/> and <https://www.umnews.org/>, respectively.

SUNDAYS

MONROE CHAPEL

8:45am: Worship

9:45am: Coffee

HARLAN FIRST

10:00am: Coffee Time in Fellowship Hall

10:30am: Worship (*Nursery Available*)

WEDNESDAYS: Sep-Apr

HARLAN FIRST

6:00-6:30pm: Meal

6:30-7:30pm: Children & Youth Activities

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

TV AIRING of 10:30 SERVICE

10:00am: Mondays, Mediacom #18

7:00pm: Mondays, HMU #15

1:00pm: Tuesdays, FMCTC #48

7:00pm: Wednesdays, HMU #15

CHECK IT OUT

Website: **www.harlanmethodist.com**

Facebook: **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@harlanet.com

MISSION STATEMENT

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