

The Messenger

Volume 1, Issue 12

December 2010

Advent Happenings

So many inspirational events are happening during Advent at GUMC. Please invite a person who may need special care during this season:

November 28th –

6:00 – Christmas

concert by musician, Brian Hanson. This hour long concert will be unforgettable. A free will offering will be taken for the musician.

December 2nd –

12:10 – 12:55 – An

Advent Study led by Deacon Diane begins. It will continue on December 9th, 16th and 23rd. Bring your own lunch!

December 2nd – 6:00

– 8:00 p.m. – The

Confirmation Class will be reenacting a

Live Nativity on the corner of 4th and Broad Streets. Come and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas! No Room at the Inn Nativity Display at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

December 5th –

Second Sunday in Advent

and Communion Sunday – Bishop Trimble, 10:30 service only. Alt. gift market

December 12th –

Children's Christmas Program during the 10:30 worship service. 8:00 worship will be held as usual. Alternative Gift Market

December 17th–

The UMW Christmas Tea at 1:00pm

December 19th–

Third Sunday in Advent Worship Service

December 21st –

Blue Christmas/ Longest Night Service held at First Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m.

December 24th –

Christmas Eve Worship Services at 6:00 and 9:00 p.m. Bring a friend to hear about the greatest story ever told!

December 26th –

Come to sing your favorite carols at 10 a.m. **One Christmas Sunday worship service** will be held on this day at 10:30. (Please note there will be no 8:00 service.)

Advent Study

Deacon Diane will be leading a four week Advent study beginning on Thursday, December 2nd during the lunch hour. Please come to the Wesley Room at

12:10 and bring a lunch, if you wish. We will be done by 12:55 so you can return to the workplace. Email Diane at deacondiane@iowatelecom.net

or call the church office to register. Or just come and bring a friend! The study is entitled "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"... Intriguing, huh?

Inside this issue:

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Breaking news...

Special points of interest:

- Breaking news!! Exciting news! Bishop Trimble to preach on Dec. 5, see p. 3
- Can't wait to help out with the annual Christmas dinner? See p. 4
- What is the deadline for purchasing Christmas Share gifts? See p. 5
- When does the Alternative gift market and gifts for Jesus start? See p. 9
- Youth Strike for Christ info on p. 7



Len's Letter

Dear Mom and Dad,

Every Christmas has its surprises. My "surprise" came six weeks early in the form of a right hip replacement on Nov 9th. I had another "surprise" on Saturday, Nov. 13th. While standing with my crutches, leaning against the back of our sofa, talking on the phone, my hip slipped out of place! OUCH!!!! Fortunately I was able to get to the Grinnell Regional Medical Center ER where it was put back in place. I may have lost a few days of recovery time, but the healing is going remarkably well. I'm just going to have to be even more vigilant until everything settles down. I wonder if the Leg-

islature is going to add talking on a cell phone while on crutches as something one can't do?



I'm still home recovering while writing this but hope to be present in worship on the first Sunday in Advent to officiate at three baptisms. After that it's my hope to work part time as energy permits. I'm so grateful for the GUMC Staff and our retired clergy in the congregation who have willingly stepped up to assist as needed. It's not a surprise to experience the generous caring of the congregation because of the ways I've witnessed the folks practice their

faithful stewardship in the past, but the outpouring of this extravagant generosity does continue to amaze me!

I've had many expressions of support, prayers and kindness. Clearly ministry is a team effort. The GUMC family is proving that again during this period. One area I will be needing help with is driving. If anyone is interested in helping out, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to seeing you around Christmas.

Love,

Len



Confirmation Comments



Confirmation

During November, the Confirmation class visited St. Mary's Catholic Church. Father Nick Adam answered questions for the group following the service. Upcoming events include the Jingle Bell Holiday on Thursday, December 2nd in downtown Grinnell. The Confirmation youth will be portraying the Live Nativity in front of the UCC-Congregational Church from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Come

and support the youth!

Faith Friend Sunday is December 19th at 9:15 a.m. There will be no Sunday school on December 26th, just a hymn sing at 10 a.m. Also, there will be no Sunday school on January 2nd. Mark your calendars for January 9th, when we visit Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines!!

Great Meeting Night

Most committees are not meeting in December. Thanks to all of the dedicated volunteers who have served this past year. The Church Council will be meeting sometime in December to adopt a budget. Watch your email and bulletin for the date and time.

Bishop Trimble to preach Dec. 5! 10:30 service only

Resident Bishops have limited preaching engagements, and Bishop Trimble is much in demand! So we are delighted and excited that he will be in Grinnell with us! He will only be able to preach at the 10:30 service on December 5th and we want to encourage everyone to hear him. This is a rare opportunity for us, so we hope everyone will come! **Please note we will not offer an 8:00 a.m. service that day.** For those who cannot be pre-

sent at 10:30, we will have a half hour communion and carol service in the Chapel from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Bishop Julius Calvin Trimble was born and raised in Chicago. He graduated from Illinois State University, received his M. Div. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and received the Doctor of Ministry from Ashland Theological Seminary. He served churches in Northern Illinois and Ohio. He was elected to the Episco-

pacy and assigned to the Iowa annual Conference in 2008. He is married to Racelder Grandberry-Trimble, and they are the parents of three young adult children.



WMMW News...

December Verse of the Month:

But the angel said to them,
"Do not be afraid, for see, I
am bringing you good news
of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day
in the city of David a savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:10-11

Isn't it refreshing to get some good news?! And here's some more good news. We met our district officers' challenge by raising over \$1000 for Bidwell Riverside with our soup lunch on Oct. 31st!!! We all made it happen together, and we had FUN!

The other good news is that Janet Collison's harp music was wonderful at our Spiritual Bazaar! It was soothing and inspiring. Now we know why

harpists were such comfort to stressed-out ancient kings.

We also celebrated the good works of Earl Kinnaird and Darcy Kline by honoring them with Special Mission Recognition. We are so fortunate to have them in our congregation, along with all of you other past Special Mission honorees. Thank you all, for the big and little things you do to live God's plan.

So, what's next? The Christmas Tea, Friday December 17, 1:00 p.m. Roger Henderson will bring the high school choir to sing for us in our sanctuary. All are welcome, and we'll have refreshments after the singing. Following the refreshments, we will have our annual Memorial

Service and Installation of 2011 officers in the chapel.

Executive Board will meet on December 1st, at 12:15 p.m.

December Circle meetings:

- Lydia: MONDAY, Dec. 13, 7:00, at Kim Gilbert's home
- Rachel: Monday, Dec. 13, 6:00, dinner for church staff
- Trinity: No meeting in December.





Deacon Diane's Corner

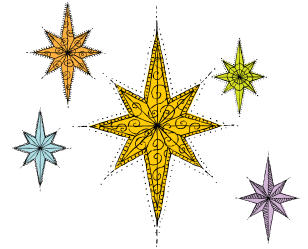
I am a big fan of "Dancing with the Stars", and as I write this article a new champion is about to receive the coveted "mirror ball trophy". I enjoy watching people with little or no formal dance training struggle to learn and perform. Some are much more fun to watch than others.

As Advent begins, I think that we can be dancing with the stars--not the stars that are

famous for sports, music, or acting accomplishments. I am talking about those celestial mirror balls in the sky -- the ones who shine in the darkest of nights. These stars provide light in a season that may be dark to some for various reasons. These stars shine over the manger in Bethlehem to lead the poor shepherd and the rich wise men to the newborn babe. The stars remind us that Jesus is the light of the world!! Why not make a special point

to come to the various activities during Advent where you can dance with the stars showing the way to our savior and king, Jesus.

Serving with you,
Deacon Diane



Christmas Dinner December 25

The 13th annual Christmas dinner will be held Dec. 25 at 1:00pm in the Friendship Center. Our church extends an invitation to the whole community to join us as we celebrate Christ's birth. We hope you can come to share in this time of fellowship. A dedicated group of volunteers will be helping

out in a variety of ways: donating time in serving, meal preparation, clean-up, contributing pies, relish trays, cheese and cracker trays, Jell-O salads, and doing many other behind the scene activities to pull the dinner together. We are fortunate to have so many people in our congregation whose generos-

ity in sharing their time and talents makes this hospitality possible.

Please RSVP to the church by Monday, Dec. 20th (236-3757) if you are attending the dinner. If you can help in any way, please see the insert in the newsletter and return in to the church.



Christmas In a Box

Christmas

In A Box

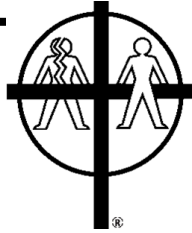
Hey everyone! Do you want to see what's in the box? Then make your way to the 10:30 service on December 12th for our Children's Christmas program, "Christmas in a Box." The Sunday School classes involved in Sunshine Singers and God's Choir will be shar-

ing a short play with a familiar story line and Christmas carols. The unusual part will be the use of some very fun and interesting props that are found in "the box." The On a Mission for God band will also play before the service for our listening enjoyment, so there is sure to be

something for everyone. We hope to see you all on the 12th when you can see the youth of our church really shine!

Darcy Kline, Melissa West, Jill Harris, Jill Hulsing - children's music directors

Stephen Ministry



Do you have gifts for caring, encouragement, and listening? If so, please prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. GUMC will be training another class of Stephen Ministers soon. Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce,

grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness. To find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister or how you or someone you know could be matched with a Stephen Minister, please talk to one of our Stephen Leaders: Deacon Diane Eberhart, Barb Norman,

Margaret Niswander or Judy Arendt.

The Church office will be closed on Friday, Dec. 24 and Friday, Dec. 31. Thank you!

Schedule Change

Advent Offering



The Missions Committee has selected the following groups to receive money from our annual Advent Offering: \$900 to MICA's Project Home Mission, which works to help a family to be able to stand on its own financially, and the

rest will be divided between

Kids Against Hunger (for packaging meals sent overseas to those in need), Grinnell Ministerial Association Local Needs Funds, and our partner congregation, Trinity UMC in Des

Moines. An envelope is included in the snail mail version of the newsletter. Other envelopes or folders are available by the Big Screen T. V. Thanks to Donna Muntz and the Missions Committee for their work this year.

Christmas Share



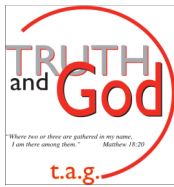
Christmas Share

Grinnell UMC is again participating in Christmas

Share. This program helps provide Christmas gifts for those in need. Names were distributed starting on Nov. 21st. December 5th is the deadline to pick up the

names. All gifts must be returned to the church office no later than Thursday, December 9th. Celebrate the reason for the season by giving to others in the name of Jesus Christ. If you have questions, please contact Dona Hendrickson. This event is sponsored by the Church and Society

Committee, Ellie Arseneault and Sally Smith, co-chairs.



t.a.g. News 5th—8th Grade

**Join us every
Wednesday**

6:30-7:45 pm

Here's a recap of last month:

- * Toilet Bowl Hockey
- * Trivia Races
- * Minute to Win It
- * Relay Races
- * Live Brainteasers
- * Christmas Celebration

Join us next month for....



Wednesday Adventures K-4th Grade

Join us on December 3rd for our Caroling adventure!!!

Bundle up tight and get those voices ready! We'll meet in the Fireside room on Wednesday, December 1st at 1:15 pm. If you are interested in

coming along, sign up in the office or by the large screen tv.

Things to look forward to....

**January:
Movie Day**

February:

Bowling

Interested in helping?! We have room for chaperones and snack providers, sign up with Ashley or by the large screen tv.!

Book Club to start in 2011!

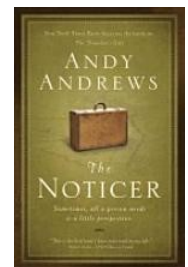
We're starting a GUMC book club in January 2011! Our first book will be The Noticer by Andy Andrews. This is an inexpensive and quick read, but it will launch us into some great discussion.

We'll begin reading in

January and meet at the beginning of February. Contact Ashley in the office or at toot-sie0013@gmail.com for more information and dates that will work!

If you have any other ideas about classes or groups for

the New Year, let us know!!!



Attention Graduating Seniors...Scholarships Available...

The online scholarship application process for our United Methodist Dollars for Scholars, General Named Endowed Scholarships and United Methodist Leadership Scholars programs will open on January 1, 2011. Application deadlines vary by program.

Visit us at www.UMHEF.org and learn more about receiving scholarships and giving to the Foundation's scholarship funds so you can help prepare the next generation of United Methodist leaders!

Senior High

Last month, our Senior High volunteered for Kids Against Hunger, baking cookies for college care packages, and helped get the candles ready for our Christmas Eve services. Check out all the activities our Senior High are doing this month!

Homework Night

**December 12th at 7 pm,
Fireside Room**

Join us for a



LIVING OUT LOUD!

February 4-6

Grades 7-12

Come enjoy bands (Thousand Foot Krutch & praise band Inner Rain),



time of fellowship and homework sharing-help. Bring any homework you might need help with.

Volunteering Opportunities

Make sure to keep your eyes and ears open for our upcoming volunteer options in December!

Mission Trip Presentation **THANK YOU!**

Last month, the Senior High invited all youth, Sunday school classes, and adults to our mission trip presentation. We'd like to thank all of those who were able to join us! We pray that our stories and testimonies blessed you in the way this trip has blessed us!

*** If you missed our presentation, ask the office for a DVD of the presentation and powerpoint!

Youth Strike for Christ!

Join us for a weekend of

speakers (Brian R. Riecke, Bishop Trimble, and more), mission (packaging with Meals from the Heartland), and great friends! www.youthstrike.com

Sign up with Ashley in the office; scholarships avail-



able. **ADULT CHAPERONES** needed!

Stained Glass!

If you are a crafty person and would like to use the leftover stained glass from our most recent window, you are more than welcome to it! Please contact Annie Jensen at 236-6380 or 990-2070 or Jack Allgood at the church.

Advent Devotionals!

The Spiritual Nurture and Outreach Committee, chaired by Terry Burkhead, has put together and Advent Devotional entitled, Season of Miracles. You may pick one up by the large screen T.V. Thanks to all in the congregation who contributed your Advent testimonial!!

GIVEBACK

Sunday School News!

Holiday Schedule!!!

November 28: We're kicking off our Gifts for Jesus Tree to benefit MICA!

December 12: The Sunday school time will be used for our Sunday school classes to practice for their Christmas program.

December 12: The Sunday school classes will present

their Christmas program "Christmas in a Box."

December 26: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

January 2: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

November "Giving Back"

The response from our "Give Back" challenge has been INCREDIBLE! Our Sunday

school classes have taken on such a variety of activities and volunteering efforts! We've also seen a huge response from our congregation as they support our challenge with their time, talents, and prayers. THANK YOU! Our congregation is blessed, and we're blessing others with our abundance!

GUMC....Please welcome our new members:

Jamie Cranston is joining by profession of faith. Jamie works as a cook at McDonald's. He enjoys walking, hanging out and spending time with his family and nephews. Jamie lives in Grinnell. His BASIC companion is Ramona

Mitchell.

Marilyn Iverson is transferring her membership from the Ewart Presbyterian Church in Montezuma, IA. Marilyn is retired and resides in Malcom, IA. She enjoys quilting and

sewing. Marilyn's BASIC companion is Doris Lowry.

John and Gwen Budding are transferring their membership from St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids. They are both retired and reside at the Mayflower.

What a Blessing!

Have you ever stopped to think how wonderful our GUMC staff is?! With the fast pace of life, it is very easy to fall into the trap of taking persons for granted. After all, very few things in life move smoothly with no effort or planning. On December 5, 2010, our congregation has the opportunity to show our heartfelt appreciation as a part of Staff Appreciation Day. Our

GUMC staff will be recognized during the 10:30 worship service. Please join the Staff Parish Committee as we recognize, **show our appreciation**, and thank:

Pastor Len Eberhart, Deacon Diane Eberhart, Ashley Risting, Shannon Reding, Jennifer Cogley, Jack Allgood, Cindy Pollock, Kathleen Heffner, Larry Robertson, Ann Orton, Monique Shore, Jen

Nevins, and Diana Springer.



Blue Christmas Service– Tuesday, Dec. 21, 7pm

“Blue Christmas” is a simple, ecumenical service for those who are feeling less than merry as Christmas approaches. The “Blue Christmas” service offers a message of comfort and hope to help us through times of struggle during the holidays. It acknowledges the pain and sadness many people feel at Christ-

mas time, due to the loss of a love one, struggles with illness or loneliness, financial struggles, or painful family dynamics that surface at Christmas time.

“Blue Christmas” is a time for people to gather in community, to reflect and pray, to worship and to share in a time of fellow-

ship with one another. All are warmly invited to attend this special service, Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Officiating will be Father Nick Adam, Pastor Len and Deacon Diane Eberhart, Rev. Kristen Klepfer, and Chaplain Susan Leathem Sanning.

Gifts for Jesus

The 2010 Sunday School Giving Tree "Gifts for Jesus" is about to begin.

MICA our Local Grinnell Food Pantry continues to need non-perishable food and other items.

We have a goal this season within ALL Sunday school classes to collect 250 items to show our support.

Here are some of the items

on the shopping list: cereal, mac and cheese, hamburger helper, canned tuna or chicken, vegetables, pancake mix and syrup, spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter. Also toothpaste, bath soaps, shampoo, paper towels, toilet paper. Hats, scarves and gloves are welcome too.

Items may be brought during Sunday School or they may be placed at the "Gifts

for Jesus Tree" in the overflow area of the church beginning November 21st through the month of December.

Let share the spirit of giving within our community.

Blessings,

Christian Education Comm.



Alternative Gift Market



Gift Market

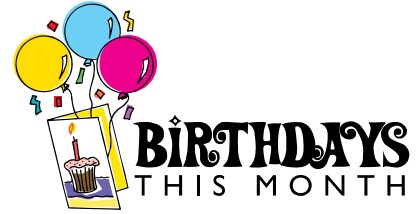
The Alternative Gift Market will be open in the Friendship Center, following each worship service on November 28, December 5, and December 12. Bring your Christmas shopping list, and do some

real feel-good shopping for Heifer Project International and Church World Service. A variety of animals and life changing products will be for sale, including tools, soccer balls, and vitamins for malnourished children.

Did you know that just \$12 can provide necessary vita-

mins for ten children for a year?! Do you have someone on your list who would be touched to receive a card telling them you helped provide clean water in their honor? Come check out the possibilities and show your children a different kind of giving.

December Birthdays and Anniversaries:



Birthdays:

1-Karla Cornish, Jerry Grosenbach; **2**-Paul Nelson, Drew Petersen, Wendy Ramsey, Paul Swick, Kim Wallace; **4**-Marilyn Kennett, Larry Kunce, Alex Nevins-Snook; **5**-Lynn Mawe, Chris Wray; **6**-Tyler Gade, Floyd Heishman, Chuck Johnson, Alex Mitchell, Marly Wooster; **7**-John Breeden, Sam Burt, Jack Hendrickson, Loma Pinkerton; **8**-Ron Huth, Amanda Lincoln; **9**-Trudy Asplund, Marilyn Vogt; **10**-Larry German, Clay Harris, Donna Johnson, Todd Robbins, Bessie Tedrick; **11**-Carlyle Phipps; **13**-Dan Sicard; **14**-Karol Bair, Kim Blunk, Stan Stewart; **15**-Rhonda Brennecke, Jamie Lloyd; **16**-Carson Haines, Molly Wray; **17**-Rodney Allen, Kim Beck, Morgan Sharp; **18**-Jennifer Ashing, Andrea O'Connor; **19**-Sally Grosenbach, David Krumm, Lynnnda Risting; **20**-Eleanor Osland, Matt Wray; **21**-

Kenneth Johnson, Halee

Means, Cody Sicard, Justin Sicard; **22**-Patrick Bergmann, Meghan Stewart; **24**-Lenna Halstead, Chris Marsho, Mary Lou Neumann; **26**-Dwight Dufoe, Mindy Uitermarkt; **27**-Karin Jones, Jan Nevins, Danny O'Connor, Mardene Schultz; **29**-Steve Blom, Jordan Ely; **30**-Jan Mitchell, Abby Reding; **31**-Mary Grosenbach

Anniversaries:

4-Richard & Norma Brignon; **5**-Bob & Marilyn Vogt, Bob & Louise Wilkins; **9**-Percy & Rosetta Willer; **10**-Jim & Carol Ahrens; **18**-Phil & Carol Arnold; **20**-Alan & Lora Cline; **23**-Ray & Clara Bulens; **28**-Terry & Kathy Peters; **29**-Eric & Mary Jo Bailey; **31**-John & Kim Huth

Prayer Corner:

The Holidays bring out many emotions. Love, Joy, the spirit of giving, thankfulness. It can also bring sadness, loneliness, and disappointment.

The birth of Jesus gave the world new hope. The star led the shepherd and the wise-men to the lowly stable where they found that a miracle had taken place. They came with

joy and excitement to find this Babe, the son of God. They knew the birth of this child would bring new light into the world. The light of peace, hope, joy and love. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ let us pray for...

- The miracle of His birth
- Our Church

- For Gods love to keep the sad and lonely in His loving arms
- Safety for those in harms way
- For peace in our world
- For our children to be surrounded in the love of Jesus

No Room At the Inn-

Be sure to check out all of the nativity sets during the Jingle Bell Holiday. They will be on display at the basement of St. Mary's Catholic Church from noon and 8pm on Thursday, Dec. 2. Enjoy a cookie and some hot cider and be sure to make a donation to help the homeless in Des Moines and those in need in our community.



Thank you notes...



Dear Deacon Diane,

It's difficult to express, in words, the deep sense of gratitude I feel for my "home church's" ministry of care to my mother and me at this challenging time in our lives. The prayers, the *beautiful* prayer shawl, and loving words of support have truly lifted our spirits over the past couple of weeks. It is a great comfort to me, here in Cedar Rapids, to know that Mom's church family is available for the extra love and support she needs now.

Would you please share my words of thanks, as well as news of my exceptionally smooth recovery from eye enucleation surgery, with all my friends at GUMC? I have returned to my church, Faith Lutheran, Marion, and my piano and keyboard activities. I take immodest satisfaction in being able to "play with one eye closed!" Yes. My sense of humor is intact.

My life flows on in endless song;
Above earth's lamentation
I catch the sweet though far off hymn
That hails a new creation:

No storm can shake my inmost calm
While to that rock I'm clinging;
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
How can I keep from singing?

In His Love,

Barbara Noe Koch (daughter of Elaine Noe)

Thank you...

To all of the meals-on-wheels drivers!! Your time spent on this project is much appreciated by the community and the individuals benefitting from the meals.

Rainbow Connection



The Missions Committee last January, asked persons to consider giving at least \$1 a week to Missions through the Rainbow Connection. Can you help us fill the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Proceeds go to Women at the Well (our sister congregation in Mitchellville Prison), MICA Milk Vouchers (to help people in our community), Justice for Our Neighbors (Helping those who need immigration legal advice from a lawyer), and United Methodist Committee on Relief for disaster response. \$52 goes a long way to help someone who needs a hand. \$5,525 has been donated so far.

A letter from Brian Tukamushaba...

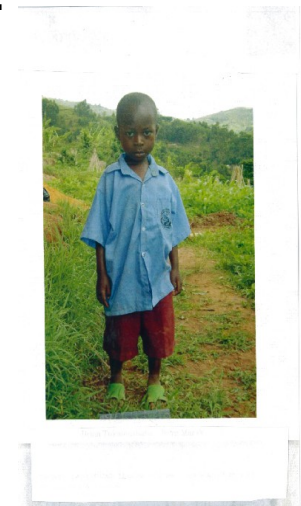
Dear Grinnell Youth Group,

I greet you in the name of Jesus Christ our helper. I like playing football.

How is your country? Do you like soccer? Are there trees and hills?

Please pray that I don't fall sick and that I study and finish.

I thank God for my



teachers and my friends.

Financial Corner: What's happening at GUMC through Oct.?

Financial Information

The 2010 operating budget

- Total giving in Oct. \$ 44,210.89
- Total giving YTD \$358,921.55
- Budgeted Expenses YTD \$420,278.70
- Giving minus budget exp. YTD -\$ 61,357.15

Attendance

- Total attendance this Oct. 1612
- Total attendance last Oct. 1229
- Avg. attendance YTD 298
- Avg. attendance last YTD 296

Actual Spending YTD Approved Budget

- Local Ministry \$ 16,476.91 \$ 36,033.34
- Missions \$ 72,181.40 \$ 72,264.17
- Building \$ 41,444.12 \$ 56,250.00
- Staff \$238,210.91 \$255,731.12

Total YTD \$368,913.34 \$420,278.63

Actual Deficit through Oct. 2010 -\$10,032.21

Amount raised YTD toward 2009 apportionment shortfall: \$14,834.77

Amount remaining to eliminate 2009 apportionment shortfall: \$6,174.11

Other giving YTD beyond the Operating Budget: \$117,663.10 (This includes window restoration, Good Samaritan, and other mission projects, love gifts, etc.)

Altar Flowers

Flowers needed!! The 2011 altar flower calendar is now available!! We have many spots open.....We especially need flowers for **JANUARY!** Please call, email or stop by the church office to let us know your special date! 236-3757, officegumc@iowatelecom.net



Jingle Bell Holiday– Dec. 2

The congregation and friends are invited to come to the corner of 4th Ave. and Broad Streets to see the Confirmation youth depict the Live Nativity, complete with animals on Thursday, December 2nd from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Come and support our youth as they present the real meaning of Christmas.



December 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 * UMW exec. Board 12:15p; Wed. Adv. 1:15	2 * Jingle Bell Live Nativity 6-8p	3	4
5 * No 8:00am service.	6 Scouts PLC 6p	7	8 * Finance 6p, Trustees 6p; Evangelism Care pkg. 5:30	9 *	10	11
12 * Christmas Program 10:30a; Stephen Ministry 4p	13 Boy Scouts 6:30p; Rachel Circle Staff dinner 6p; Lydia Circle 7pm Kim Gilbert's	14	15 *	16 * Foundation 7a	17	18 Trinity UMC Mission Work day
19 *	20 Boy Scouts 6:30p	21 Blue Christmas service 7p 1st Presbyterian Church	22	23 * No Empty Nest	24 Services at 6p & 9p; Church office closed	25 Christmas dinner
26 Carol Sing 10am; Worship 10:30am No Sunday School; No 8a Worship	27	28	29	30	31 Church office closed	

Recurring Events:

- Sunday:** 8:00am Worship
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Worship
- Wednesday:** 5:30pm Radiant Ringers
6:30pm Carillon Choir
6:30pm t.a.g.
7:30pm Chancel Choir
- Thursday:** 12:10pm Advent Study
7:00pm Divorce Care
7:00pm Empty Nest

Work of Human Hands Sale

Work of Human Hands Sale will be held on Thurs., Dec. 2 from 5:00—8:00pm at St. Mary's Religious Education Center. This is a fair trade sale featuring house wares, jewelry, coffee, and chocolate. Proceeds will benefit the Catholic Relief Services and SERRV. Every purchase made enables an artisan or farmer to better provide for the basic necessities of life, to educate her or his children, and to work in a safe environment. The sale will continue on 12/4 6:30-7:30pm and 12/5 10:00am- 1:00pm.

Getting Out Of The Boat – It's a Business and a Faith Factor

At our last Ad Council meeting on 11/16/10, the Finance Committee proposed the 2011 Grinnell United Methodist Church budget. The small number of members present wrestled for nearly an hour with no motion brought before the Ad Council to reject or accept the 2011 budget. Both a business factor and a faith factor were considered.

First of all, the Finance Committee must be thanked for their diligence in developing a realistic, barebones budget for 2011. Each line item had been carefully considered by them before it was delivered to the Ad Council this month.

Secondly, the bottom line business facts are as follows: Total proposed budget \$515,828.

The four (4) basic categories in the budget are:

- Staff: \$316,650
- Building: \$66,120
- Apportionments: \$89,730
- Ministry: \$39,240

Currently, 33% of the possible pledge cards (142/430) have been turned into the church office with the total pledged of \$314,290. That means 67% have not pledge anything to date and 38% of the budget (\$197,537) has not been covered by pledges. Consequently, there is a large budget shortfall based on pledged giving to date.

Good business practices to operate a budget deficit are numerous. Meeting this shortfall involves my simplified formula: Generate more revenue or cut spending. So, more people need to return their pledge cards and/or each need to pledge more. Furthermore, cutting spending requires cutting expenses in one or more of the four categories noted. Practically, we have enough money pledged to date to pay staff but have no money for building, apportionments, or ministry for 2011. Or, we have enough money pledged to operate the status quo until September 1st. Then, we close our doors (i.e., no staff, no church building, no ministry, no paid apportionments) for the remainder of the year 2011. The bottom line: The business of our

Grinnell United Methodist Church cannot function as we know it without funds in hand.

Besides the business factor, there is another factor to consider. **We, as a body of Christ, have the faith factor.** This factor is paramount for church function. The faith factor is less tangible. Are we giving joyfully out of gratitude for God's tremendous generosity? Are we willing to risk more dollars to discover what God has in store for us and for God's kingdom? Are we accepting Christ's invitation to get out of the boat to see Jesus (Matthew 14:22-33)?

Business factor and faith factor! Both are necessary to further God's kingdom on earth. I have great faith that God will provide for our needs and for God's kingdom . . . but only if we are willing to get out of the boat.

Jerry Wehr

Ad Council Chairperson



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**We faithfully participate in the ministries of the church
by...**

Prayers for those traveling, under & unemployed, our troops, & peace.

Presence UMW, meetings & practices, Bible study & support groups, World Communion Day, Coffeehaus, Turlachur Pipe Band, Thanksgiving Ingathering, Rethink Church, Spiritual Bazaar, Sr. High Youth activities, t.a.g., Kids Against Hunger, Prayer vigil, St. Mary's Mass, Brian Hanson Christmas Concert & Trinity UMC work day.

Gifts Building fund, 2009 apportionments, CROP Walk, Rainbow Connection, Memorials, Window repair, Christian Ed. Sunday, Compassion Intl, Good Samaritan, World Communion, MINE, School kits, Ingathering, MICA, and Bidwell Riverside.

Service Thanksgiving Ingathering, Trinity UMC work day, Kids Against Hunger, Cookie baking, prep for Christmas services, Prayer vigil, Christmas Share, 3rd grade gifts, adopt a special friend, visit Mayflower, PB cup for prayers, and MICA gifts for Jesus tree.

Witness this month by inviting a friend to the Advent Study or to one of the Christmas Eve services.

Hospitalized Paula Porter, Erma Lincoln, Len Eberhart, Bill Gilbreath, Rick Ferch, Karol Bair, Lindsey Stewart, Keith Bailey, Avis Tone & Tiffany DeNooy.

Births Davis Michael DeNooy, parents of Marcus and Tiffany

Deaths Gordon Halverson

Baptized Payton Bowlin, daughter of Teri & Brad, Hayden Leigh Isenberg, daughter of Tom & Kathi, & Elissa Anne Cook, daughter of Matthew & Anne.