



The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2015

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

February 18th at 7:00 p.m.

Hope United Methodist Church, Pocahontas

The God We Can Know

All church Lent Study and Worship Themes
Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, February 22nd
through Easter Day, Sunday April 5th.

The first **Lent Lunch** will be held at St. Peter
Lutheran Church, Pocahontas
Wednesday, February 25th, 12 noon.

Keep in touch with Hope UMC: hopeumcia.org



Hope UMC—Pocahontas, Havelock & Plover

HOPE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:00 am - Plover, 202 Smith St.

Sunday 9:15 am - Havelock, 752 Dean St.

Sunday 9:15 am - Sunday School/ **10:30 am** - Pocahontas, 306 2nd Ave NW

Pastor Jerry Miller email: pastorhopeumc@evertek.net

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Church Office Mon.-Fri. Hours: 8:30-4:30pm

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From Fellowship to Hospitality

The Leadership Team of Hope UMC is reading and discussing the book *Shift, Helping Congregations Back Into Effective Ministry*. We are reading and discussing a chapter each month to discover how we can apply what we are learning about *Effective Ministry Practices*.

Here is a brief introduction to *Shift 1: From Fellowship to Hospitality*. Hospitality is more than fellowship with one another. It's about opening our hearts to others and building relationships, plain and simple. *Why the Shift from fellowship to hospitality?* The Bible clearly shows us that the work of God is not limited to the fellowship of existing believers. In the biblical tradition hospitality was focused on welcoming the stranger. *It's not just about us!*

We love because we have been loved. We welcome others because we have been welcomed. We invite others to discover this grace because of what we have learned about this transforming power of God's love in our own life.

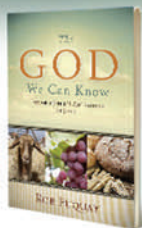
+ Between 60 – 80% of people who visit a congregation come because they were personally invited.

+ Most people who visit a congregation decide within the first 10 minutes or less after they arrive if they will return.

+ Hospitality includes both personal and congregational aspects. Each supports the other.

I am looking forward to this learning opportunity with the Leadership Team as we strive to be *faithful* and *fruitful* for the kingdom of God here in Pocahontas County.

‘Bring a friend with you to worship, *Pastor Jerry*



EXPLORING THE “I AM” SAYINGS OF JESUS

The **GOD**
We Can Know
A NEW 7-WEEK STUDY
FOR THE ENTIRE CHURCH

The **God We Can Know** Worship and Study Series will be our Small Group Lenten study and worship themes starting Feb. 22. There is a response insert in the bulletin for you to indicate your interest to participate or contact the office by email or phone.

You can learn more about this study and watch an introductory video at: <http://www.thegodwecanknow.com/>

We will be exploring the “I Am” sayings of Jesus as our worship themes, February 22 - April 5, Easter Day.

1. Knowing the Great “I Am”
2. “I am the Bread of Life”: Knowing God’s Satisfaction
3. “I Am the Light of the World”: Knowing God’s Guidance
4. “I Am the Good Shepherd”: Knowing God’s Care
5. “I Am the True Vine”: Knowing God’s Power
6. “I Am the Way, the Truth, & the Life”: Knowing God’s Way
7. “I Am the Resurrection and the Life”: Knowing God’s Possibilities

This study is ideal for the season of Lent, a time set apart for focusing on Jesus and knowing God better. Think of this as a journey into the world where Jesus spoke these sayings. Use all of your senses to see, smell, taste, hear and feel the setting of these sayings. These “I Am” sayings of Jesus are meant to be experienced. God is in these experiences.

I invite you on this journey not only to know more *about* God but to *know* God yourself.

‘See you in worship, *Pastor Jerry*



Lent 2015 Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten season on February 18th. with a Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. at the Pocahontas center.

Lent Luncheons Schedule

The luncheon will start at **12 noon and be finished by 1:00 pm** (for those who need to return to work). We will gather, share the meditation, then eat so that people can stay and fellowship at their leisure.

The luncheon is a major way that we add funds to the Pocahontas County Ministerial Account for benevolence. This is an ecumenical effort to **BE** the church in this county.

- † *February 25, Father Bormann at St Peter Lutheran*
- † *March 4, Pastor Joy at Hope United Methodist*
- † *March 11, Pastor Jerry at Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic*
- † *March 18, Father Bormann at Hope United Methodist*
- † *March 25, Pastor Joy at Resurrection of Our Lord Catholic*



Joy Bells will begin practices again in February. We will be working on new (more difficult) music and introducing mallets and new techniques. We are looking forward to the challenges. We

have a busy spring schedule and hope that you will be able to join us for some of the performances. Remember to invite all family and friends to come and listen to and enjoy the bells.

March 15

at Hope United Methodist Church Pocahontas Center 10:30 am service

April 12

at St Peter's Lutheran Church, Pocahontas, 9:00 am service

April 26

at Faith Community Church, Hwy N65, 10:00 am service

May 6

at Arlington Place, Pocahontas, 4:00 pm

May 13

at Pocahontas Manor Care Center, Pocahontas 4:00 pm

12 Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your hearts,
 with fasting, with weeping, and with sorrow;
 13 tear your hearts
 and not your clothing.
 Return to the Lord your God,
 for he is merciful and compassionate,
 very patient, full of faithful love,
 and ready to forgive.

Joel 2:12-13



Members celebrating Anniversaries & Birthdays!

Arnie & Bonita Lubinus	2/11	Roger & Shannon Peters	2/22
Paul & Marge Spear	2/12	Steve & Laurie Westerman	2/27

Bruce Wheatley	2/2	Dale Smith	2/10
Candace Larson	2/2	Carol Hallman	2/12
Heather Sindergard	2/3	Clint Fogde	2/12
Jerry Severson	2/3	Betty Braunschweig	2/15
Ryan Hauswirth	2/3	Bill Sievert	2/16
Ava Kakacek	2/4	Ginger Ernst	2/23
Zacheray Gathers	2/4	Mary Lou Johnson	2/26
Don Ferguson	2/5	Ashley Radig	2/27
Ruger Bunda	2/5	Cliff Cook	2/27
Sue Wasko	2/6	Duane Wiemers	2/28
Jordyn Radig	2/6	Eileen Johnson	2/29



Happy 90th Birthday, Clint!

The family of Clinton Fogde will honor his 90th birthday with cake and coffee on **Sunday, February 15th**, in the Fellowship Hall following church services. Daughters Christina (Rich) Brown, Red Wing, MN and Linda (Rick) Bender, Anchorage, AK; Granddaughters Katherine Bender and Shannon Menard; Grandson Joshua Brown; Great Grandchildren Spenser and Charlotte Menard.

There will also be an Open House at Arlington Place, from 2-4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

Hope UMW : February 2015

Matthew 25:40 NRSV

Bible Verse: *And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."*

1. Pocahontas Center serving, up-date : **Committee # 2** (Carolyn Wheatley & Monica Plantz)
2. February Altar flowers (Pocahontas) : Charity Circle.
3. **Food Pantry (UMDO) Remembrance Day** is February 1 and 8.
4. **February UMW** — will be a **Social gathering** Feb. 19, at 2:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall .
5. Be making plans to attend **World Day of Prayer** on March 6 at Evangelical Covenant Church. If you would like to pool rides, please call Dixie @ 335 -4032 to make arrangements. MARK IT ON YOUR CALENDAR.
6. Stay warm and safe during these "wintery days" !
7. 7. Keep in mind our **next UMW** official meeting will be March 19 at 1:00 p.m.

Closing Thought: If you've got a Bible, read it. If you read the Bible, believe it. If you believe the Bible, live it.

Blessings to you throughout 2015, UMW Pres. Dixie



If anyone has borrowed books, tapes, dvds, cds, etc. from the church library, please try to return them in the next few weeks so they can be included in our catalogue of titles. The library is located on the lower level in the room off the chapel. Thank you!

UPPER DES MOINES FOOD PANTRY

Bring your contributions for the Food Pantry to church with you on February 1 & 8 (*or any Sunday*) or stop out at Upper Des Moines on Hwy 4 North, in Pocahontas, and help to stock their pantry!



Worship Attendance at Hope UMC

DATE	POCAHONTAS	HAVELOCK	PLOVER	TOTAL
January 4	No church due to bad weather			
January 11	78	15	19	112
January 18	72	21	30	123
January 25	63	17	18	98

Lectionary Scriptures

February 1 *Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111;*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

February 8 *Isaiah 40:21-31; Psalm 147:1-11, 20c;*

1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

February 15 *2 Kings 2:1-12; Psalm 50:1-6;*

2 Corinthians 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9

February 18 *Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17;*

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22 *Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10;*

1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS †

Arnold	Brad	Usher	February
Baade	Steve	Usher	February
Brown	Caroline	Acolyte	February
Cook	Brad	Greeter	February 1
Cook	Tim	Liturgist	February 8
Ernst	Ginger	CommStw	February 1
Ernst	Ginger	Coffee	February 15
Ferguson	Don	Usher	February
Ferguson	Doug	Usher	February
Ferguson	Hailey	Acolyte	February
Ferguson	Linda	Liturgist	February 1
Hallman	Carol	Liturgist	February 15
Hallman	Leo	Usher	February
Hull	Donna	Greeter	February 15
Hull	Donna	Liturgist	February 22
Johnson	Darla	Greeter	February 15
Johnson	Leon	Usher	February
Kerns	Nick	Usher	February
Kerns	Vicki	Liturgist	February 8
Lubinus	Arnold	Coffee	February 8
Minkler	Allan	Liturgist	February 22
Minklers		Coffee	February 22
Minklers		Greeter	February 22
Nedved	John & Martie	Coffee	February 15
Nedved	Martie	Greeter	February 8
Phillips	Walt & Mary	Coffee	February 22
Pursley	Judy	Greeter	February 1
Simonson	Audrey	Liturgist	February 1
Simonsons		Coffee	February 8
Sindergard	Cheryl	Coffee	February 1
Sindergard	Cheryl	Greeter	February 8
Speers		Greeter	February 1
Speers		Coffee	February 15
Swanson	Kari	Liturgist	February 15
Timan	Judy	Greeter	February 22
Timan	Judy & Ray	Coffee	February 1
Waterman	Russ & Julie	Coffee	February 8
Wheatley	Bruce	Greeter	February 22
Wheatley	Bruce & Carolyn	Coffee	February 1

Leadership Team Meeting Notes

January 15, 2015 Place: Pocahontas Center, 7:00 pm

Attendance: Pastor Jerry, Allan Frevert, Ray Timan, Carol Hallman, Elaine Cook, Linda Ferguson, Don Ferguson, Sharon Hauswirth, Nick Wiemers, Dixie Gottsch, Moira Hopkins and Judy Pursley.

Pastor Jerry opened by reading from the first chapter of the book Shift and a prayer.

Allan F. lead the meeting. Minutes were read silently and approved as read.

Allan and Sharon gave a combined Treasurer's Report and Finance Team Report. We received \$1,142 more in contributions in 2014 than we did in 2013. Our Expenses were \$8,000 more than in 2013. A letter will be prepared to tell the congregation the particulars. Most line items were under budget enabling us to be 2.5% under budget. The Finance Team will meet with a representative from the Iowa United Methodist Church Foundation to discuss our account. It has been decided not to use Electronic Funds Transfer to receive money from members at this time. Don F. made a motion to accept the report. Dixie seconded. Financial report approved.

Pastor Jerry nominated Carol McClain as Assistant Treasurer whose term runs thru 2017. Don F. seconded. It was approved.

Pastor then called attention to the Church Leadership Team Job Description and read from the Forward and Introduction of the book Shift. It talks about the five key shifts a church has to make to be effective. The first is from Fellowship to Hospitality. It is not easy. We will be reading a chapter a month, discussing it and appropriate teams will be applying pertinent parts of the chapter.

We next looked at a line graph that shows the number of members yearly and the average worship attendance. In 2001 we had 398 members with an average attendance of 213. In 2013 we had 305 members, but the average attendance had dropped to 120. Last year our average attendance was 114. If the trend continues we won't have a church at the end of the next decade.

Ministry Team Reports:

Worship: Carol reported that their meeting was held Jan. 12th late afternoon. They had very good attendance at the meeting. They prepared for the Feb. 18th Ash Wednesday service. The next meeting is March 3 and the team will prepare for Holy Week and Easter. April 3rd is Good Fri-

day and Easter is April 5th.

Education: Moira said that only a few people attended their meeting. For Lent they are planning to use the youth version of The God We Can Know. Camp Sunday will either be the 15th or 22nd of Mar. April 19th will be Confirmation. May 3rd is Senior Recognition and May 10th is the last day of Sunday School. The team is starting to think about VBS.

Evangelism: There was a good turnout to the meeting Elaine said. They are constructing questions for a young members survey. Encouragement cards are in folders and Hope UMC is now a member of the Young Professionals group.

Missions: Dixie told us that the focus for February will be The Heifer Project. We received an update on the Rainbow Covenant. The First Mile is 100% of church apportionments. If a church does not give this they can't go further and be a Rainbow Covenant church. We exceeded expectations with the second mile. The second mile giving was \$12,358. Last year it was \$9,593. We had a grand total of the 3 miles giving of \$20,035. Last year's giving was \$11,678. Be proud of yourself. We plan to do the Crop Walk again.

SPRC: Linda said that at their meeting they did an overview for the year.

Trustees: Don Ferguson is the chairman. John Nedved the vice-chairman. A calendar of projects will be created next month. We still need to landscape around the sign this Spring. There will be a Spring Clean-up day, possibly in June and we need to paint the hallways in the north entrance at the Poky Center.

UMW: Dixie said there wasn't a meeting in Jan. There will be a social in Feb. Two members repainted the kitchen and the windows have curtains now.

Pastor's report: Pastor said the Lenten study book is The God We Can Know. Lenten Luncheons are beginning Feb. 25th, the week after Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18th.

Elaine said that the old 10 ft. Christmas tree is for sale.

Elaine motioned to close the meeting. Don seconded. Approved. Pastor closed with prayer.

Submitted by
Judy Pursley
Leadership Team Secretary