



- **Worship**
- **Teaching**
- **Example**



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APRIL 2016



Lovilia Circuit Writer

Our mission at the Lovilia United Methodist Church is to show the love of Jesus the Christ to our community through worship, teaching, example and tangible acts of love.

FROM THE PASTOR

GREETINGS!

With Holy Week and Easter as recent memories, may we each reflect on how we have been blessed by God. I saw a recent posting on Face book from a former pastor of the Baptist Church in Russell, Iowa – Russell Harris. Think about the message: “I find joy in every day, not because life is always good, but because God is.” Pastor Russell Harris has recently been involved in ministries in the Bloomfield area.

We may recall that the Apostle Paul said we need to give thanks in all circumstances – not *for* everything, but *in* everything. It seems to me that this particular saying is much the same message. Yes, life can be hard. It can seem to be unjust. But God is always there, and that is a blessing unto itself.

God is great, **all the time!** All the time, **God is great!** And all God’s children say, **Amen!**

God’s blessings to all!
 Pastor Raymond Doser

"In God We Trust"

- Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
- Count your gains instead of your losses.
- Count your joys instead of your woes;
- Count your friends instead of your foes.
- Count your smiles instead of your tears;
- Count your courage instead of your fears.
- Count your full years instead of your lean;
- Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.
- Count your health instead of your wealth;
- Count on God instead of yourself.

... In This Issue...

Pastor’s Column

Lectionary Scripture Readings

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Thoughts & Prayers

APRIL CALENDER

***BE STILL AND
KNOW
THAT I AM GOD***

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN APRIL

- 3** – Acts 5:27-32; Psal50; Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:19-31
10 – Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19
17 – Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30
24 – Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

KID'S NEWS

We held our after-school activities on three Wednesdays in February and three more in March. There were from one to eleven youth in attendance, and we had from two to four adults present each time. Six to eight students attended most weeks. We focused on Valentine's day and Holy Week, as well as other topics. Three nights were designated as video nights, but included the one time we had only one student, so both videos were presented in their entirety during one night for each (88 & 90 minute videos). One was a story about a young girl and a dog, and the other was an animated version of *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

We are considering having an opportunity for the youth to do a town clean-up sometime in May. It would likely be on a Wednesday, following the school early-out. We would likely offer a meal following the activities. What would be a good date? May 11 or May 18 might be possibilities. If we had inclement weather we would substitute a video night for the clean-up. (This did happen last May!) And, another clean-up may be scheduled for late August or early September. Sadie Dykstra reports that a city sponsored clean-up may be in the works, as well.

We have contacted the Mobile United Methodist Missionaries (MUMMs) for assistance with Vacation Bible School. It seems that it may be a Tuesday – Thursday format, possibly from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with lunch provided. We are tentatively scheduled for June 21 – 23. More details will be shared as they are finalized. .

We invite all youth from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade to participate in our activities that are offered for the younger set.

THE FIVE FINGER PRAYER

Thumb (people who are close to you) These are your close friends and family, often the first you think about when you pray. Give thanks to God and ask his protection on your parents, siblings, friends, and classmates.

Pointer Finger (people who point the way) These are leaders in your life, such as teachers and pastors. Offer God your thanksgiving for them and ask him to help them in their important work.

Index Finger (people in authority) The big people in the world need prayer too. Ask God to give wisdom to our government, military, and police.

Ring Finger (people who are weak) This is your weakest finger. We should remember others who are sick, live in poverty, or are treated badly. Pray that Jesus would give them new strength.

Little Finger (your own needs) God wants to hear your needs too, especially when you put others first. Pray for your own growth in mind, body, and spirit.



APRIL

- 2 Jimmy Hobart**
- 5 Lola Ivins**
- Edith Blomgren**
- 7 Fred Kraber**
- 14 Marilyn Kraber**
- 16 Ron Conner**
- 17 Judy Conner**
- 18 Lorena Bowman**
- 23 Paden See**

LOVILIA UMW by Goldie Kraber

Our Lenten retreat at Wesley Woods was attended by 25 ladies of the South Central district. We studied the book of Ruth being more than a love story, it pictures God's love and caring for His creation.

Our next UMW meeting will be Thursday April 7. Lesson leader & hostess will be Marilyn Kraber. All ladies are invited to attend our fellowship,

Our chicken noodle supper will be Wed. April 13. We need all your help and do appreciate all your efforts.

We are looking for a speaker for our Guest day in October. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

Mission study workshop for the district will be held at Trinity church in Albia on Thursday, April 14. Topics will be "Created for Happiness" and "Human Trafficking". Coffee time begins at 8:00 a.m. with meeting 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

May the garden of your heart bloom with even the smallest of kind acts, giving your life the gift of divine purpose.

Verse for the month: Gal. 6:9

Do not get tired of doing what is good. Do not get discouraged and give up for we will reap a blessing at the appropriate time.

WORSHIP AT NURSING HOMES

Worship service at Monroe Care Center is scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, at 10:00 a.m. Pastor Raymond Doser would welcome anyone who wishes to help with this endeavor.



Nile Cook family, Marina Amos family, Bev Sofranko family, Gloria Owens, Norma Jean See, Karen Pottorff, Sheila Lundstrom, Lyle Kumer, Virginia Weldon, Merlin Newman, Gayle Hastings, Connie Barnes, Angie Geno, Teresa (Conner) Williams, Max Bowman, Frieda Davis, our service men and women around the world, our shut-ins, and their caregivers and our leaders. Remember to offer prayers of thanks for each blessing we receive.

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Jenny Kimball, University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls

Taylor Hastings, granddaughter of **Gayle Hastings**, Indian Hills Community College, Ottumwa.

KEEP THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray daily for Bishop Julius Trimble, our District Superintendent, Rev. Paul Smith, our Field Outreach Minister, Rev. Dr. Jaye Johnson, and your pastor.

Please pray also for our Conference Lay Leader, Margaret Borgen; our District Lay Leader, Sharon Spear, and the lay leadership and people of the church.

Please pray for the ministry of our sister congregation, Women at the Well UMC inside the walls of the Iowa Women's Correctional Institute at Mitchellville and their pastor, Lee Schott.

**VERMEER SPONSORING WORKSHOPS
APRIL 11th and 12th**

On Monday, April 11, a special presentation at the Global Pavilion at Vermeer, in Pella, will be open to the public from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. A nationally known speaker will be present to lead this event. There will be a clergy continuing education event on Tuesday, April 12, led by the same speaker. There will be more information on the church bulletin board and in the bulletins in weeks to come.

APRIL CALENDAR

2 – Men’s Breakfast at Bussey, 7:00 a.m. The women of the church are invited as guests today, the final breakfast until Fall. Rev. Terry Pollard, of the New Sharon U.M.C., and possibly his wife, Rev. Diana Pollard, of Tracy-Harvey, will present a program about some recent travels, possibly Europe or the Holy Land.

3 – *SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER. HOLY COMMUNION*

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship, 10:00 a.m.

Community Choir to perform at Albia Catholic Church, 2:30 p.m. An offering to be taken for music scholarships.

4 – Pastor’s day off.

7 – United Methodist Women, 1:30 p.m.

9 – Pastor’s day off.

“Laity Day with Bishop Trimble” at Urbandale Aldersgate U.M.C., 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Freewill offering, but pre-registration needed for meals, etc.

10 – *THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER* Native American Ministries special offering.

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship, 10:00 a.m.

11 – Pastor’s day off.

Dr. Daniel Block program, “Shepherds After the Order of Christ: A Fresh Look at “Psalm 23” at Vermeer Global Pavilion, Pella, 7 to 8:30 p.m. This presentation is open to the public, and free.

12 – Continuing Education Event with Dr. Daniel Block at Pella: “What in the World is God Up To? Four Studies in the Book of Ruth.” Pastor Raymond Doser is registered, and expects to attend 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

13 – Annual Chicken and Noodle Supper at the Community Building, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

14 – District U.M.W. Mission Study at Albia.

16 – Pastor’s day off.

United Methodist Men Annual Meeting at Boone, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

A free-will offering for the meal, but pre-registration is requested for the meal count.

17 – *FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship, 10:00 a.m.

18 – Pastor’s day off.

19 – Monroe County Ministerial Meeting, Albia, 9:00 a.m.

23 – Pastor’s day off.

24 – *FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER*

FESTIVAL OF GOD’S CREATION / RURAL LIFE SUNDAY

Sunday School, 9:00 a.m.; Worship, 10:00 a.m.

25 – Pastor’s day off.

26 – Worship at Monroe Care Center, 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Raymond Doser plans to work on the May newsletter.

27 – Administrative Board to meet, 6:00 p.m.

28 – Clergy Cluster to meet in Oskaloosa, 11:00 a.m.

30 – Pre-Annual Conference at Chariton U.M.C, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., followed by the District Conference, 10:45 a.m. to noon. (Generally followed by a meal.)

PLEASE NOTE: There are several upcoming events at Wesley Woods Camp which are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

COMING –

- We may try to schedule a town clean-up with the kids in May. What would be a good date? Supper too?
- GENERAL CONFERENCE is May 10 – 20, 2016.
- Pastor Raymond Doser is to be on vacation May 29 (Memorial Weekend) as granddaughter Taylor Doser is to graduate from Southeast Polk High School. George Mosley, Albia, is to be worship leader.
- Annual Conference is June 4-6 in Des Moines. Vickie Parker, Lovilia, is to be the worship leader on Sunday, June 5. (Clergy Session is Friday, June 3.)

***WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU COME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL ==== 9:00 A.M.
ALL AGES ARE WELCOME. COME HELP US STUDY THE WORD OF GOD.
WORSHIP SERVICES FOLLOWS ==== 10:00 A.M.***

NEWS FROM CAMP WESLEY WOODS

2016 is the 60th anniversary of the ministries of Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center, near Indianola, Iowa. Numerous activities have been planned throughout the year. This is a partial listing:

The Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, in Africa, is to be present on Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. This group is on a tour of many areas of the U.S. The children are orphans and the choir was formed in 1994. They witness to the difficulties faced by orphaned children in Africa. There will be an opportunity to provide a "love offering" to this group for their presentation.

A Spring clean-up weekend is planned for April 15th and 16th. Call 515-961-4523 for more information or to tell them you plan to participate.

Wesley Woods Homecoming is June 3 and 4. The camp now includes 344 acres and access to Lake Aquabi. Friday, June 3 will be an All-Staff Reunion, beginning at 2:00 p.m. On Saturday, June 4 the Summer Kickoff and 60th Anniversary Program will be held. Festivities begin at 1:00 p.m. with many activities, including canoeing, archery, high ropes, swimming, a slip-n-slide, horseback rides, and more. The 60th Anniversary program is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. and a BBQ supper at 4:30 p.m. A worship service concludes the activities, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Dave & Sharron Schar, Art Allen, and Deke Rider are camp directors expected to be in attendance. The meal is for a free-will offering. If you have any memorabilia (pictures, camp t-shirts, etc.) that you would like to share, it can be added to the Memory Wall. Books of camp history and commemorative t-shirts will be available to purchase. Reservations for lodging need to be made by 5/1 and for meals by 5/15. Call 515-961-4523 or go to retreat@wesleywoodsia.org to make those arrangements.

The 8th Annual Men at the Woods will be held on Saturday, June 18, beginning with check-in at 8:30 a.m. This is a free day for any boys or men, including fellowship, and activities including fishing, wagon rides, archery, swimming, the mini-blob with trampoline, the iceberg, horse rides, pontoon excursions, and more. Worship and a hog roasted in the ground will conclude the day. Free will offerings for the meals is the only cost. If you are male, and between 3 and 93, please consider this opportunity.

The MUMMS JOY Camp is to be held on July 17-22. We have several youth from the area who have participated in this camp in the past. Many other camp opportunities are available, for a variety of ages.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDS UPDATE

The educational fund that pays for many of the resources we use in our ministries was pretty much depleted last month. It is funded from offerings from the Sunday School class and other donations that are given during the year. Since last month's report, besides the Sunday School offerings, there have been some donations to help pay the bills that were coming due.

The yearly costs for these resources are as follows: Sunday School materials \$506.40, the UPPER ROOM devotional guide \$214.20, and an inspirational publication that is distributed weekly \$82.00 for a total of \$803.60 yearly. If you would like to give to this fund, you can contact Rev. Ray or Pam Chamberlain, (Sunday School Secretary/Treasurer).

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Remember that Pastor Raymond Doser remains "on call" during the listed days off. When vacation plans take him out of the area, there will be another pastor "on call."

**DEAR LORD,
SO FAR TODAY, GOD, I'VE DONE ALL RIGHT.
I HAVEN'T GOSSIPED,
HAVEN'T LOST MY TEMPER,
HAVEN'T BEEN GREEDY, GRUMPY, OR NASTY, SELFISH OR OVER- INDULGENT.
I'M REALLY GLAD ABOUT THAT!!!!
BUT..... IN A FEW MINUTES, GOD,
I'M GOING TO GET OUT OF BED AND FROM THEN ON,
I'M PROBABLY GOING TO NEED A LOT MORE HELP.
THANK YOU,
IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN.**

The surest steps towards happiness are the Church steps..... Tread them often.

**LOVILIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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**HAVE A BLESSED
SPRING**

