



## The Joyful Noise

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### **Iowa Annual Conference – June 4-6, 2021**

#### **“Connected in Christ – Watching Over One Another in Love”**

The Annual Conference of our United Methodist Church was held virtually with delegates facing their device screens and voting on issues and procedures by mouse clicking or screen touching. (Did you know? Iowa has 150,000 United Methodists in 750 United Methodist Churches.) Because I have attended several previous Annual Conferences in person, this year I missed the interaction with other delegates, catching up with former pastors and browsing the displays of books and crafts for sale. However, there was no long drive to and from Des Moines and I was in my own home during the breaks. One constant, regardless of in person or via screen is the presence of the Holy Spirit during all interactions, reports, votes and speeches.

#### **Some organizational changes:**

\* As of July 1, Iowa Conference will be divided into 5 districts instead of the present 8. The new districts are named for Iowa UM Camps that no longer operate and our Northwest Iowa District will become Camp Clear Lake District. This change means that our District Superintendent, Ron Carlson, will supervise 164 churches in 27 counties. He has also been appointed Dean of the Bishop’s Cabinet and is Chair of the Ezekiel Team. (More on that later.)

\* Our Iowa Conference Bishop Laurie Haller, is also serving a temporary two-year term as Bishop of the Dakota Conference. (North Dakota and South Dakota) So now, she has two Conferences in three states with more meetings, more traveling and more virtual screen times.

\* Circuit Ministry is a new organization of small geographical clusters of clergy and laity meeting monthly or bimonthly to help their individual congregations set goals and work toward those goals. Many churches have gone to ¼ or ½ time for their pastors and need laity to step up to leadership roles.

#### **Bishop’s Initiatives:**

\* The Bishop has appointed a group of clergy and lay people to help Iowa Conference become fully antiracist at all levels of ministry. (Did you know? Iowa has 3 Black United Methodist Churches. Des Moines Burns UMC has been strong for over 155 years. Other Black congregations are in Waterloo and Fort Madison.)

\* The Bishop’s Mental Health Initiative has been charged to determine ways Iowa UMC churches can be in better ministry to those living with mental illness.

**Ezekiel Team:**

The Reverend Ron Carlson is leading a group of clergy and laity charged with helping Iowa United Methodists get through the pandemic, move toward the General Conference and to respond to the General Conference. This is the worldwide organization of all Annual Conferences and meets every ten years. Their 2020 meeting was postponed until August 29-September 6, 2022 in Minneapolis, MN.

**Conference Budget:**

The Conference received 2 PPP loans which have helped cover some of the shortfall when local congregations could not fulfill their apportionment askings. During the last three years, the Conference has reduced staff and decreased expenses wherever possible. Local congregations are encouraged to pay their apportionments whenever possible.

**Closed Churches:**

Iowa Annual Conference delegates approved recommendations to close 11 local United Methodist Churches. Those closest to us include Hartley UMC whose members were transferred to Sanborn UMC, Alexander UMC whose members were transferred to Dows UMC and Williams UMC members were transferred to Webster City UMC.

**Retirement Service:**

The Reverend Julie Poulsen led the service for retiring clergy. She is retiring from her career of 40 years in full-time ministry and seven years of part-time preaching. The service included pre-recorded music by Cedar Rapids St. Paul's UMC Sanctuary Choir, Fort Dodge First UMC Praise Band, as well as organ music and several vocal soloists. Thirty-nine retired clergy were recognized.

**Memorial Service:**

Denison First UMC Handbell Choir, Norwalk UMC "The Walk Band" and soloists from Cedar Rapids St. Paul's UMC and Villisca-Grant UMC recorded music for the Memorial Service. The Rev. Dr. Michel O. Lundula of LeMars UMC preached the memorial sermon "The Great Multitude." Forty clergy and spouses were memorialized including Linda Nicholson whose husband, Dennis Nicholson served Rock Rapids UMC 1996-1999. Linda died September 3, 2020 in Indianola, IA.

**Ordering of Ministry Service:**

On July 10, 2:00 P.M. the Ordering of Ministry Service will be broadcast live on the Iowa Annual Conference website: [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org)

**More information:**

Most of the services, reports and proceedings of this year's Annual Conference are available on the website.

Submitted by Evelyn Baldwin, alternate for Conference Delegate, Heather Heimensen.



If you would like to be included in the **Weekly Prayer Partner EMAIL** which includes scripture readings, prayer requests, birthdays, and weekly reminders, please email or call the church;

especially if you have not received these lately. If you have email, but do not receive information from the church this way, please give your email address to the office. We may not have it, and it's important that we do going forward so you can stay updated. Thank you.

**HOSPITALIZED**

Please contact the church office or Travis Remme if you know a member has been

admitted to the hospital. With the new privacy laws being strictly enforced there are many times we are unaware of hospitalizations. We would rather get ten calls than none at all. Thank you. **Prayer concerns** can be called into the office (472-2324) or emailed to the office at [rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net](mailto:rockrapidsumc@premieronline.net) or to Travis Remme at [tremme2@gmail.com](mailto:tremme2@gmail.com) and they will be sent out.

# Joys & Concerns



## Praise God~

- ☺ Iker Michael Moser (Grandson of Lainn & Rhonda Menning)
- ☺ Beautiful weather
- ☺ Life
- ☺ One Way Up
- ☺ Mike & Jackie Austin's oldest grandson Cole has gotten married
- ☺ The birds/cool Sunday morning
- ☺ Festivities of Heritage Days and all who planned or oversaw them
- ☺ The salad luncheon and for Vicki, Bobbie & Nancy who once again organized everything flawlessly.
- ☺ Cooler weather and rain
- ☺ Kids summer activities in full swing



## Prayers~

- ✧ Wayne Grooters
- ✧ Dana Lutmer
- ✧ Judi Sieperda
- ✧ Brenda Olson
- ✧ Bentley Bosch
- ✧ Rita Rice
- ✧ Ed Brown
- ✧ Char DeGooyer

# July Birthdays And Anniversaries



- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 02~ Billie Sieperda         | 13~ Dusty & Krista Bullerman |
| 04~ Helen Boeve             | Dorothy Rockhill             |
| 05~ Heather Stubbe          | 16~ Marceia Techen           |
| Daniel Berg                 | Alexis Selken                |
| Laurie Herman               | 17~ Jodi DeGooyer            |
| 06~ Rebecca Metzger         | 21~ Holly Spitler            |
| Dan Vander Zee              | Robert Vander Zee            |
| 07~ Larry Kracht            | 22~ Jason Engleman           |
| Marie McCormack             | 23~ Deb Molitor              |
| 08~ Lance & Jill Schlumbohm | Shirley Harms                |
| 09~ Rita Rice               | Dave & Char Krahling         |
| Ed Sindt                    | 24~ Carmen Stratton          |
| Jay & Jamie Kelly           | 25~ Steve Sieperda           |
| 11~ Quinnlie Engleman       | 27~ Becky Rydell             |
| Jamie Kelly                 | 28~ Randy & Kim Waagmeester  |
| 12~ Kurt Huisman            | 30~ Elaine Birkey            |
| Eric Selken                 | 31~ Tom & Colleen Wall       |

\*We apologize for any omissions or incorrect information. Please contact the office with the correct/missing information. Thank you!



Everyone is invited to participate in our county's Bible Reading Marathon in front of Lyon County Courthouse. The whole reading of Genesis through Revelation will launch immediately following the **Nationwide Bible Reading Marathon on Wednesday July 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:14 am-4:00 pm.** We will continue to offer these dates to

complete the full reading of Genesis-Revelations: **Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 3pm-7pm, Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> 3pm-7pm, Saturday July 24<sup>th</sup> 8am-4pm, Tuesday July 27<sup>th</sup> 8am-2pm.**

Bring your Bible and lawn chair. Join us in reading the Bible out loud, we do not use a microphone but ask you to read out loud with your group or find a quiet place on the lawn.

## REVISED SALAD LUNCHEON UPDATE

The correct number of guests served was 152 and our profit was just over \$2000!! How awesome is that? Of course thanks to ALL of you is why again, we had a successful luncheon! We can't express our appreciation loud enough for how everyone comes together so we can pull this off every year. It truly is ALL of us pulling together - thanks again Rock Rapids UMC -YOU ROCK!!!

Nancy, Bobbie and Vicki

PS

If you signed up to donate \$25 and have not done so, you may leave a check in Judy Griesse's church mailbox - please make it out to UMW - thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*



Newsletter B. 21,  
Mutambara Mission Hospital  
Nhedziwa, Manicaland, Zimbabwe.

[EMefor@umcmmission.org](mailto:EMefor@umcmmission.org), [FMefor@umcmmission.org](mailto:FMefor@umcmmission.org)

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

We send you greetings from Mutambara, Zimbabwe, trusting God that you are all doing well in your various locations. We continue to thank God for your support both financially, Spiritually and through Prayers. Your funds through the Advance have been of tremendous assistance to our work. May God continue to bless you all and replenish your resources.

Weather wise, we are now in the middle of dry season or winter. It has been chilly with occasional mild showers in certain parts of the country and frosts in other parts. We try to keep warm both with sweat clothes and heating the home at fireplaces.

Covid-19 new cases have been on the increase in the past weeks leading the Government to initially impose lockdown on the affected areas but it went on last two weeks to put ban on gatherings including church Services among other measures. In our hospital we are experiencing daily Covid-positive admissions. Over the weekend, we have four patients in the Isolation Ward. One asymptomatic pregnant lady delivered shortly after admission in Isolation. We thank God she was tested before she could find her way to the Waiting Mothers Home. Coming into contact with other women in there would have been a disaster. We continue to pray for God's protection from all hidden dangers and deadly diseases.

Florence's efforts of sustainability for the feeding of the women in the Waiting Shelter is paying off with your support and those from the Norway UMC. In this harvest season she and her team realizing about 3 tons of maize. We hope they will do much better in the forthcoming planting season.

#### Family News

Our family is doing well and we thank God for his mercy and favor. We give special thanks to God for Anulika's successful first Semester (Spring Semester) examinations. Her school has approved that the Fall Semester academic session will no more be by Online. Students are required to be on Campus at the beginning of the Fall, therefore she is getting ready to return to the USA to continue with her studies. Chukwuebuka and our grandchildren are all doing well. Osita is also doing well.

#### **Prayer Request:**

Join us in praying for God's mercy and favor in all our undertakings.

For God's protection on all countries and patients suffering from the third wave of the Covid-19.

For God's guidance on Anulika's preparation for return to Campus.

For your continued Support for our Ministries.

Yours in Christ,

Florence Mefor Advance #13991Z

Emmanuel Mefor Advance #13990Z

Mutambara Mission Hospital #3022286Z

## July 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Julie Taylor Head Usher: Terry Van Berkum Acolyte: Brody De Groot Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson	<b>5</b> Amber out of the office	<b>6</b> Amber out of the office  1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>7</b> Amber out of the office	<b>8</b> Amber out of the office	<b>9</b> Amber out of the office	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Terry Van Berkum Acolyte: Jessa Vande Weerd Sound: Sonya Peterson Powerpoint: Sonya Peterson	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Marilee Schleusner Head Usher: Terry Van Berkum Acolyte: Brendin Sprock Sound: Elaine Birkey Powerpoint:	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Ms Fits Movie night	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:30 a.m.- Worship Organist: Holly Moeller Head Usher: Terry Van Berkum Acolyte: Ellie Docker Sound: Powerpoint:	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 1:30 p.m.- Quilters & Crafters  6:30 p.m.- Meal Ministry- prepare food	<b>28</b> 6:00 p.m.- Bread of Life	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>