

theVine

Strength for the Day

Pastor Jamie

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And He told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen! (Matthew 13:1-9)

If you've been living in Iowa for more than a year, you know it's planting time. If you've been watching the news in the last week, you know Iowa farmers are not happy. That's because they are behind in their planting! Nine days behind last year and three days behind the five-year average. How are seeds supposed to grow if they aren't planted?

That's a good question. A question Jesus didn't bother to address. He explained several reasons why the seeds that were planted in some soils did or did not produce a harvest. "Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the Word of the Kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures

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Easter Balloons....

Editor Ellen

Pastor Jamie shared some history behind the Book Of Mark at our Easter Sunrise Service. Scholars agree Mark's account of the Resurrection is the oldest and most accurate, and that Matthew and Luke based their Gospels on Mark's.

The original book of Mark ends with verse 16:8, which says the women who found Jesus' tomb empty, "...went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." In other words, they shared the Good News with nobody.

That's not how the Easter Story most of us have come to know and love unfolds. We learned how the Risen Christ met Mary crying in the garden, surrounded by the Good News and Easter Joy. That's a powerful, happy ending but it was added after Mark finished his Gospel.

Biblical scholars later added details about how things played out, such as the disciples staying awake at Gethsemane, attending Jesus' trial and crucifixion, and following the women to the grave. There are two versions of this added text, aptly called *The Shorter Ending to Mark* and *The Longer Ending to Mark*. *cont page 5*

Contacts & Times

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UMW: Mid-Week Fellowship

All women who attend WUMC are members of our United Methodist Women (UMW), by default. UMW has no joiner fees, membership dues, dress code, or registration hoo-haw. Simply come to any meeting(s) that fits your schedule.

Regular UMW meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month. These ladies gather in our fellowship area at 9 a.m. for devotions, a program, and fellowship. Additional meetings are held throughout the year as needed to support UMW activities.

This month's meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10. Pastor Jamie will kick-off the meeting with devotions at 9:00, followed by a program about Iowa weather, presented by Brenda Brock.

Mark your calendar(s) for this blast of mid-week Christian fellowship.



Summer Singing & Ringing

If you'd like to share your musical talent but dread the commitment, start small. Join us for the summer. Our choir will sing the first and third Sunday each month, with the bells playing each second Sunday.

Join us at 9:00 any Sunday morning(s) you're available for a quick practice/warm-up. We'll put something nice-and-easy together for that day's worship. We'd love to have you join us sometime.



Sunday School Summer Break

The last day of Sunday School for this school year will be Sunday, May 21. In keeping with tradition, we'll celebrate with ice cream sundaes that day.

Musical Season Finale

Sunday, May 14, will be your last chance to hear our Sunday School singers and tone chimers until this fall.



Summer Mix Returns

During the upcoming summer months, all WUMC attendees will gather together at 9:30 a.m. to praise and honor God together. Following this celebration, you're invited to stay for brunch each Sunday.

Our Summer Mix schedule will begin Sunday, May 28, and continue until the beginning of the 2017-18 school year.

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only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the Word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the Word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the Word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the Word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:18-23)

What Jesus did not do, is question whether the farmer actually planted the seeds! Jesus taught his disciples, saying "When" anyone hears the Word, not "If" anyone hears the Word. Jesus expected his disciples to tell everyone the Good news about God's love for them as shown in the life, death, and resurrection of His Son, Jesus, the Christ. To not be so careful and planful and exacting with it that they never got around to sharing it with anyone. Jesus taught them that God's power to multiply resources and results --- 30 fold, 60 fold, 100 fold, is only limited by our willingness to share the invitation to accept it with others. That's true for our church's ministries, and also for our individual, daily discipleship.

Friends, it's spiritual springtime. Let's not get behind in our planting. Invite someone to come to church with you. Today! Peace ~ Pastor Jamie Cutler

Flowers for Your Special Day

If there's a special day you'd like to share with our church family, now you can do that with flowers. Deanne Caudle has arranged for Classic Floral to bring flowers to the church at your request for the bargain price of \$15.

Your bouquet can be in honor of any day that's memorable to you: a special anniversary, birthday, or anything-you-choose.

After church that Sunday, you can take the flowers home to enjoy.. Please leave the vase at church for others to use.

Please sign-up for your flower day(s) at the connection counter (C.C.) beginning May 14. Remember to give \$15 to Deanne for each day you reserve. If you have questions about this opportunity, contact Deanne.



F.I.R.E. Youth Ministry* Update

Pastor Jeff Rodman

The focus of our Lenten season studies was the G-O-S-P-E-L (God. Our. Sins. Paying. Everyone. Life.) and the impact of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made. To help illustrate the sacrifice, we watched a short video called Most (Czech for The Bridge). We spent another evening retracing Christ's Journey to the Cross on His last days on earth: the trial, His crucifixion, and glorious resurrection. Our studies ended with the Good Friday Service; I'm very proud of the youth and their involvement in the service.

GOD created us to be with Him.
OUR sins separate us from God.
SINS cannot be removed by good deeds.
PAYING the price for sin, Jesus died and rose again.
EVERYONE who trusts in Him alone has eternal life.
LIFE with Jesus starts now and lasts forever.

Our year-end celebration will be held on Wed, May 31. Please mark the date on your calendars now and watch for more details soon. It's hard to believe our year together is almost over.

Lastly, our long-awaited Youth Service is scheduled for Sunday, June 4. Come join in this celebration of our youth and Pentecost.

As a reminder, if you ever have questions about what our youth are up to or you'd like to get involved in F.I.R.E. in some way, please contact me. You're always welcome to stop by the Green Room for a visit, too. Thanks for all of your support and prayers. Pastor Jeff

F.I.R.E. Youth Ministry is a ministry of Waukee United Methodist Church that exists to help students Love God, Love Others, and Serve. By doing those things, we can better reach generations in need of a Savior (Jesus Christ). Our hope and prayer is that, through the many resources that we are so richly blessed with, we can reach out to the students of Waukee and the surrounding area in a loving and caring way, so that they will know that they have a safe place to come to and a leadership team who not only cares for them, but also loves them. While we gather to teach them to be more like Christ today than yesterday, we gather to focus on them Knowing Christ and Living Like Christ.

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Sign-Up for VBS

Our **Hero Central** Vacation Bible School will be held July 9 – 13. Those who participate in our VBS this summer are sure to discover their strength in God.

Central program takes kids on awesome adventures alongside some of their favorite Bible heroes, helping them to discover qualities that make them truly heroic in God.

Hero Central uses epic music, spectacular science, crafty crafts, heroic recreation, and fantastic Bible stories to help kids (and leaders) discover their strength in God.

VBS will meet from 6:00 – 8:15 each evening from July 9 through 13 (Sunday - Thursday).

Cost: \$10.00/person

To register a kid(s) or offer to serve, visit www.waukeechurch.org/children

If you have VBS questions, contact LuCinda Beltman.

May 2017 Calendar

- 1 (M) Mission Quilters 6:30
 2 (Tu) Imagineering 6:30
 3 (W) KoG, 5:30-6:30 @ Vince Meyer
 F.I.R.E., all grades, 7:00-8:00 @ Vince Meyer
 Music practice: see Wed. Line-Up below
 4 (Th) Women's Small Group 7:00
 7 (Su) Communion
 ● Senior Recognition
 9 (Tu) Prayer Shawl 6:30
 10 (W) ● UMW 9:00 am
 See Wednesday Line-Up below
 11 (Th) Finance 7:00
 14 (Su) ● Sunday School Singers 10:00 am
 Tone Chimes 10:00 am
 15 (M) Trustees 6:30
 Mission Quilters 6:30
 ● Book Talk 15
 16 (Tu) SPRT 6:30
 17 (W) KoG, 5:30-6:30 @ Vince Meyer
 F.I.R.E., all grades, 7:00-8:00 @ Vince Meyer
 Music: see Wednesday Line-Up below
 18 (Th) Lunch Bunch 11:30 am
 Ad Board 7:00
 22 (M) Prayer Shawl 6:30
 24 (W) Music practice: see Wed. Line-Up
 28 (Su) ● Summer Mix starts
 ● Stroke Awareness presentation, 11:15
 31 (W) ● F.I.R.E. year-end picnic

Wednesday Line-Up

Activities below are held at WUMC.
 KoG 5:45-6:30
 Fire 6-8 grades 6:50-7:25
 Fire Snack all grades 7:25
 Fire 9-12 grades 7:45 - 8:30
 Bells 6:30
 Chancel Choir 7:00
 Testaments/Treble on the Mount 8:00
 Praise Team 8:30

Food Pantry Needs

The Waukee Area Christian Services Food Pantry consistently needs more:

- pancake mix and syrup
- pizza sauce and mix
- 100% fruit juice
- diapers, size 3 & up
- laundry soap



Congratulations Seniors

Our high school graduating seniors will be recognized during both worship services on Sunday, May 7. Those graduating in May are: Brianna Blackford, Anna Clowser, Payton Dykstra, Libby Husske, Parker Larsen, and Emma Tyrrell.

Join us in congratulating these young adults at a reception in their honor between worship services.

Serve God by Serving Others

If you'd like to serve our church family as a greeter, usher, or communion server, please contact LuCinda.

May 7 - 8:30	May 7 - 10:00
Greeters: David/Judy D	Greeters: Bob/Martha Ward
Ushers: Ann Allen Family	Ushers: Showalter Family
Communion: Sue S, Berta S, Ellen P	Communion: Joel M, Kay M, Kelly S
May 14 - 8:30	May 14 - 10:00
Greeters: Renee M, Chuck L	Greeters: Carol G
Ushers: Dave/Cindy B	Ushers: Sue Ellen K, Dave W
May 21 - 8:30	May 21 - 10:00
Greeters: Lloyd/Rosie R	Greeters: Jerrad/Jenna K
Ushers: Allan/Gina G	Ushers: Dennis/Kelly S
May 28 - 9:30	

Please sign-up to serve at the first day of our Summer Mix. Visit the C.C. or contact LuCinda.

Trinity Meals Continue

Our support of Children and Family Urban Movement continues.

With loving contributions from our generous congregation, Lauren Kratz will continue to coordinate Trinity Supper Club meals for another year.

WUMC will be providing meals to approximately 200 grateful people on Monday:

May 8, July 10, Sept. 11, or Nov. 13

Please contact Lauren if you have any ideas to improve our current system of sign-ups, reminders, preparation, serving, and delivery.

Time for Church Camp Plans

It's time to start thinking ahead to church camp. The full camp catalog is available online at <http://www.wesleywoodsiowa.org/camp/campbook.html>. WUMC will pay 50% of any single camp so be sure to take advantage of that benefit.

If you need additional assistance, please ask LuCinda for information about conference campership funds.



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Mark's original text ended with a powerful beginning, drawing us into the Resurrection Story, leaving it up to us to decide how and when that Story ends...or continues. Modern day disciples travel Jesus' journey with Him, discerning God's ways when others don't, accepting Jesus' teachings, and committing (or not committing) to share our belief in the Resurrection with others, even to the death.

Basically, Mark 16:8 calls us to resolve the Resurrection Story. Will you flee in silence like the disciples at the tomb, or proclaim the Good News boldly in spite of fear...even death? Each day of our life as Easter People, we can choose to enter the story of Easter by sharing the Good News through our thoughts, words, and actions. That's how we give the hope of new life to those drowning in a sin-sick world.

Or, we could ignore the rights and responsibilities of being Easter People. We could keep silent about Easter, maintaining a safe distance from others. Clearly, that would write a different ending to the Good News.

The same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead gives us the opportunity to truly celebrate the joy of Easter and lead others to experience new, resurrected life in Jesus Christ. That's how we can enter the Easter Story.

At the end of our Easter Sunrise service a member of each family received a balloon with a card attached, briefly explained the Good News plus a blank line. Jamie asked those holding a balloon to write their phone number in the blank, then we released the balloons and watched in awe as they floated away.

Who knows where they landed? Which cards were found? Who knows if the finder read the card? Did they call the number listed? Only God knows the answer to these questions. And someday, you or I may meet someone who says their Salvation was prompted by a balloon.

Revelation 22:21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

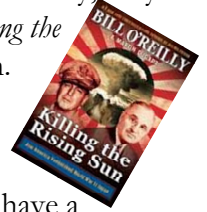
We want to thank our church family for their prayers, cards, and other gestures of kindness shown following my mother's death. We were comforted and strengthened by your support as we were dealing with this loss.

Ann and Greg Ruble

Thank
You

Book Talk

The next Book Talk will be held at Ann and Greg Ruble's home (4 Sugar Creek Lane) on Monday, May 15, at 7:00. Bill O'Reilly's bestseller, *Killing the Rising Sun*, will be the topic of discussion.



Noah's AARP

Our group of 50 and over folks will have a guided tour of Hoyt Sherman Place on Friday, June 16, at 10:30 a.m. Be watching for a sign-up with more details on the C.C.

3rd Thursday Lunch Bunch

The Third Thursday Lunch Bunch will be meeting at the Pizza Ranch, May 18. We'll gather in the north party room at 11:30 for a table blessing, a trip (or more) through the buffet, and fellowship throughout.

Everyone is invited to join the bunch for lunch.

Happy, Happy May Days

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 ~ Allan & Gina Graham | 14 ~ Steve Bramble |
| 2 ~ John Jackson | 14 ~ Lauren Kratz |
| 2 ~ Peyton Krohn | 15 ~ Jim & Angie Gearhart |
| 2 ~ Carley Larsen | 16 ~ Cooper Hanson |
| 3 ~ Conner Butler | 16 ~ Marilyn Miner |
| 3 ~ Grant Jensen | 17 ~ Sandy Swallow |
| 4 ~ Olivia Berger | 18 ~ Randy & Debbie Lauer |
| 4 ~ Paul Clowser | 18 ~ Makenna Mason |
| 4 ~ Karen Fitch | 18 ~ Michael Schrodt |
| 6 ~ Katie Morrison | 20 ~ Natalie Felt |
| 7 ~ Leonard Gutshall | 20 ~ Deanne Lee |
| 7 ~ John Larsen | 21 ~ Katie Wempen |
| 8 ~ Matthew Graham | 23 ~ Craig Showalter |
| 9 ~ Emma Barnett | 24 ~ Kevin & Shari Butler |
| 9 ~ Jessica Vaught | 24 ~ Kailee Allen |
| 11 ~ Jennifer Corrigan | 24 ~ Kristin Larsen |
| 11 ~ Don Hartley | 24 ~ Carol Guttenfelder |
| 12 ~ Austin Lyons | 24 ~ Alida Timmerman |
| 12 ~ Cassidy Lyons | 25 ~ Garrett Slaybaugh |
| 12 ~ Braden Menz | 27 ~ Amy Showalter |
| 13 ~ Sydney Berger | 28 ~ Jenna Kemp |
| 13 ~ Jarett Butler | 29 ~ Dillon Minshall |
| 13 ~ Karen Henderson | 29 ~ Larry Reed |
| 13 ~ Jerry Steele | |

Libraries Need Love, Too

If you adopted a Little Library last fall, it's time to spruce it up for spring. Select some new books from the cupboards just inside WUMC's front door and replace some of those in your library. If the books you replace are still in good condition, please return them to the cupboard.

As a regular early bird at the Waukee Family Y, Ellen can tell you the Little Library there gets many visitors. Here's her friend, Rosie, leaving a book she's read and taking a new one.



Stay Connected



Curious about upcoming events at WUMC? If so, check-out any of these information sources:

- **Facebook** – be sure to “like” Waukee United Methodist Church while you’re on Facebook.
- **Weekly church bulletin**
- **The Vine**
- **Waukee Wire** – to subscribe send an email to info@waukeechurch.org
- **Twitter** - search for @waukeechurch
- **WUMC website** - www.waukeechurch.org

Celebration Times

8:30 – Traditional
10:00 – Contemporary
10:00 – Sunday School (for all ages)

Contact Info



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