



Strength for the Day

Editor Ellen

Q: What's Your Raison D'être?

A: We'll get there, but first some background:

- Jan. 30 is my Stroke Anniversary. It's now been 17 years since a stroke **almost** killed me, but ended up saving my life.
- The sole reason I took French in high school was to meet Iowa State's foreign language requirement for new students. Graduating high school at midterm left me one semester short so I had to take a year of French at ISU. With 4½ years of French under-my-belt, I'd still be at a loss to ask simple questions such as, "Where's the bathroom?" in French.

One phrase, however, has always stuck with me: *raison d'être*. This beautiful French phrase has no equal in English. Translated literally it means, "reason for being." Most of us would probably resort to calling this the meaning (or purpose) of life. Many brilliant minds have pondered, "What is the meaning of life?" not to mention countless not-so-brilliant ones who've bandied it about over various beverages...

Far too many people die before realizing why they ever existed. These folks often trudge through life scrambling to find fulfillment by garnering more money, more fame, more success, more knowledge, more fun, more power, and/or more stuff.

Thank God (seriously) He provided the opportunity for me to find the answer to this question. Somehow, the time and quietness provided by my stroke, and ongoing recovery, prompted a 180° shift in my perspective. It was the afternoon of May 30, 2006, when He brought some verses of Scripture to my mind, arranged in a way that suddenly struck a chord with me. **cont page 2**

February -- The Month of Love

Editor Ellen

We know God is love, and that love is a many-splendored thing. Even early translations of the Bible refer to different types of love.

Agape is the Greek word describing the highest form of love. God has Agape Love for each person and each person should have Agape Love for Him. Unlike other types of love (see below), Agape Love is universal, unconditional, and obliging -- regardless of the circumstances.

Phileo Love ~ Philadelphia, PA, the City of Brotherly Love, is named for this type of love. Friends often feel this type of love for one another. It may also exist among siblings and other family members but is most often associated with deep, abiding friendship that exists by choice, rather than birth.

Ideally, members of a church family will have Phileo Love for one another. **cont page 5**


Contacts & Times

When an article says to contact someone for more information, see *Contact Info* on the insert. Also, times listed in *The Vine* are p.m., unless noted otherwise.

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Talk about your major  moment. Suddenly, I realized life isn't about me. My life is God-given, including my time, talents, and treasures (T³). In gratitude, I should invest my T³ in glorifying God and sharing His Good News with others. That's my *raison d'être*. Call me crazy, but I believe that's the meaning of life for each person God created.

Does this mean we should each sell everything we own and live like paupers? That's not the inkling I've gotten. Based on my conversations with the Big Guy, I believe He expects each of us to meet our own needs so we can better focus on our Marching Orders. Those are recorded in Mark 12:30-31, in what I think of as Jesus' Two Commandments.

How does all that relate to our *raison d'être*? After using your T³ to meet earthly needs and responsibilities, prayerfully invest what's left to glorify God and share His Love with others. That's how you glorify God and edify others. As an added bonus, realizing your *raison d'être* provides fulfillment. You can never accumulate enough of the stuff in the box shown earlier.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 28, for our annual pancake supper. We'll be serving from 5:45 – 7:00. This event is free to all, so please bring a friend with you.



Service

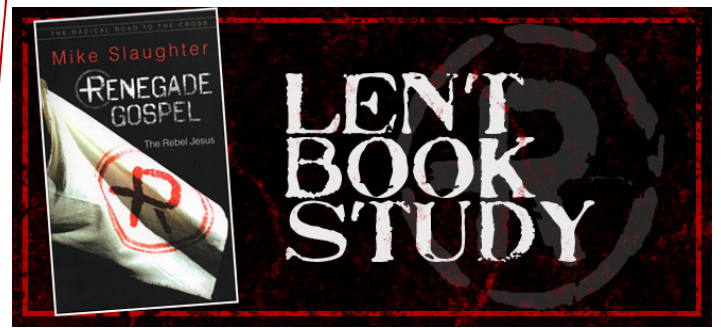
Our Ash Wednesday service will be held on Wed, March 1, at 7:00. Childcare will be provided.

Devotional Reading for Lent

Many of you got a copy of Sue Mink's daily Lenten readings last year. This year's Lenten devotions were written by Donald McKim.



Copies will be available on the Connection Counter beginning Sunday, Feb. 19, on a first-come, first-served basis. Ash Wednesday is March 1, so be sure to get your copy by Feb. 26.



Renegade Gospel

During the season of Lent (the weeks leading into the celebration of Easter) we'll be studying Mike Slaughter's *Renegade Gospel – The Rebel Jesus*.

“Jesus didn't come to start a religion. The rebel Jesus came with a renegade gospel to start a revolution.” Pastor and author Mike Slaughter presents Jesus and his challenging message to inspire us during Lent, Easter, and through the year. Read the red letters and discover Jesus all over again.”

If you're not part of a small group, or have yet to participate in one, these five weeks will provide a way for you to “dip your toe in the water.” The discussions will help you connect with others in our church while also challenging you to follow Jesus more closely in life.

Books will be available for purchase beginning Feb. 12. Several small groups are available; if you'd like to join one; contact Deanne.



Order Early ~ Dine Later

Our United Methodist Women will be taking pre-orders for their delectable chicken and noodles before and after our Feb. 5 celebrations. Your order will be available for pick-up on Feb. 12.

A very limited amount of this ever-popular comfort food will be available for purchase that day, on a first-come-first-serve basis. In other words, it's best to pre-order....



Don't Delay ~ Enroll Today

Our Joyful Noise preschool is currently enrolling for the 2017-2018 school year (see form on back of mailing panel).

If you're thinking of enrolling a child(ren), call Sydney soon to set-up a tour.



Think Heat Index...and VBS

Preparations for VBS 2017 are already in the works. Our Vacation Bible School will be held in the evenings from July 9 – 13 (Sunday – Thursday). More details will be provided soon, but please mark your calendars now.

As you know, VBS is an awesome event that requires lots of volunteers to help prep, plan, and provide. If you're interested in helping, please contact LuCinda.

It's Winter -- Kind of...

Our church policy is that if Waukee Community Schools are cancelled or dismissed early because of inclement weather, all church functions will be cancelled for that evening.

Cancellations will be posted on our church website, and announced on KCCI and WHO TV.

New Life for Old Bags

It's time for a "mini food drive" in support of the Waukee Area Christian Services food pantry.

Be sure to get one or more grocery bag(s) at church on Feb. 5 and return it – filled with items from the list provided – by Feb. 12.



"Soup"er Bowl Sunday

Hey, hey, hey...it's almost Super Bowl Time. Thanks to our Church Family Ministries (CFM) team, you can enjoy our annual "Soup"er Bowl party on Feb. 5.

Whether you enjoy football or not, you're invited to join others in our church family for a soup contest, food, prizes, and the big game on our BIG screen. Please sign-up at the C.C.

Doors open at 4:30; game starts at 5:30.



Save the Date

Waukee Area Christian Services recently announced their First Annual Gala will be held Fri, April 28. Opportunities to get involved include: event sponsorship, silent auction donations, and planning committee roles. If you'd like to know more about the festivities, or get involved, please contact Melissa Stimple.

Winter Book Talk

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

7:00 Monday, February 20

Ann and Greg Ruble's home
(4 Sugar Creek Lane)



Festive February Days

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 ~ J.R. Johnston | 21 ~ Katie Jensen |
| 1 ~ Chris Wanned | 22 ~ Mark & Cyndi Craigmile |
| 2 ~ Madelyn Stevens | 22 ~ Roger Kerndt |
| 5 ~ Dixie Indra | 23 ~ Randy & Kim Olson |
| 6 ~ Weston Schrodt | 23 ~ Kibby Sparks |
| 8 ~ LuCinda Beltman | 24 ~ Alyssa Kunath |
| 8 ~ Fletcher Kemp | 25 ~ Brenda Brock |
| 11 ~ Maddie Allen | 25 ~ Debi Rodman |
| 11 ~ Theresa Swaim | 25 ~ Jennifer Senne |
| 15 ~ Lee Walrod | 27 ~ Colton Suhr |
| 17 ~ Lucy Hovda | 27 ~ Scott Baumeister |
| 20 ~ Madeline Chilton | 28 ~ Amy Schrodt |



3rd Thursday Lunch Bunch

We'd LOVE to have you attend the February Lunch Bunch at the Pizza Ranch, so mark your calendars for 11:30 Thursday, Feb. 16. As always, bring your coupons, use the senior discount (if you qualify), and be ready for a great lunch and fellowship with members of our church family.

***We'll probably be seated on the north side for a little extra elbow room. (Thank you, Pizza Ranch.)



Noah's AARP Game Night

Hey, 50-and-older Wauke UMC attenders. You're invited to attend an evening of fun, Friday, Feb. 3, at 7:00 at Char and Darwin Beichley's home (190 Parkview Dr., Wauke). Bring a snack or appetizer to share, and be ready for an evening of fellowship and laughs with members of our church family.

Please sign-up at the C.C. or contact Ann Ruble if you'll be part of the fun.

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Eros Love ~ This type of love is about sex; note eros is the root word for erotic. You won't find this word in the New Testament but there's nothing sinful about Eros Love, when expressed within the confines of marriage.

Storge Love ~ You may not be familiar with this type of love, but have probably experienced it. This is the strong, empathetic love among siblings and other close family members. It may describe the love between a parent and child, among siblings, or among other close family members (aunt, uncle, grandparent, cousins, etc.). Most people around the world have this type of love within their family relationships.

Agape Love ~ This Greek word represents the ultimate type of love. Agape Love is much stronger than Phileo, Eros, or Storge Love. It's also the most self-sacrificing type. Agape Love is what God has for His children. This is the type of love Jesus Christ displayed on the Cross.

Consider John 3:16, which says God loved the world so much He gave His only Son to die in our place so that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.

Agape Love is always associated with the Love of God and rarely occurs in a relationship between two people. The word agape was rarely used in Greek-speaking societies but appears more than 300 times in the New Testament. In addition to John 3:16, consider the following verses:

I John 4:8 ~ Romans 5:5 ~ John 10:17 ~ II Peter 1:17 ~ John 21:20 ~ Romans 5:10

The final verse listed above says, "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life."

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for His enemies, us, while we were still sinners. That's not something the average human does; Agape Love is a God thing. God loved us first and took the initiative to restore fellowship between Himself and us.



A Day for WUMC Women

Lavender Springs Spa is a relaxing spa-themed retreat the women of our church are doing together. It includes worship, Bible study, and time for laughter, as well as time for quiet reflection. We'll be focusing on the book of Psalms and will be encouraged by God's faithfulness and love.

Set the date of Saturday, March 4, on your calendars. We'll meet from 8:45 -- 4:45 at Deanne Caudle's home. Cost is \$20. Registration begins Sunday, February 19.

Registration is limited. Bring your friends.

New Staff Member

Jodi Pasker, our new Administrative Assistant, is on-the-scene. She started "learning the ropes" with Cyndi Craigmile (our beloved long-term, yet temporary, admin) on Jan. 25.

Jodi is a native of Redfield, where she attended Dexfield schools, before heading to Hoover High School in Des Moines. She has a degree in accounting from Upper Iowa University and a degree in information technology/computer forensics from DMACC.

She has 20 years experience in the accounting field. **Most recently**, Jodi was handling the accounting side of the family's plumbing business.

Jodi and husband, Shane, have four children: Dillon (21), Carter (13), Landon (9) and Miranda (2).

Please take the time to welcome Jodi and offer belated (January 6) birthday wishes, and to thank Cyndi for supporting WUMC (AKA keeping pace with Pastor Jamie) since last May. Cyndi will be easing back into semi-retirement as Jodi gets up-to-speed.

Trinity Supper Club Update

Lauren Kratz

My sincere thanks to each of you who contributes and volunteers for this outreach mission.

For those of you who haven't helped yet, Gordon has become the first face folks see as they pick-up their dinner tray and I'm usually the lucky duck who hands out ice cream at the end of the line. They recognize and remember us ... well, probably Gordon more than the rest of us. But, they do smile and wave when they see "Waukee United Methodist Church" written on the white board above our menu for the evening.

Last time we served, six or eight people said, "Oh, we just love when we see you guys here because we know the food will be good." The chocolate milk is always a big hit. And pickles, my goodness, almost all of them love pickles.

I'm very proud to be part of such a nice thing to do for people who have far less than us.

An especially big THANKS to those of you who contribute cash for the Trinity Supper Club expenses. You might notice there are a limited number of cash request slots on the sign-up sheets. That's because I only want to collect as much as I need for each meal. Rest assured that all the money collected goes toward feeding the people who attend the Children and Family Urban Movement meals.

Our next meal will be served on Monday, March 13. Watch for the sign-up sheets and consider getting involved.

United Methodist Women

Our UMW will meet on Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 9:00 a.m. Hostesses for this gathering are Marilyn Taylor and Marilyn Anfinson.

Trudy Black will lead the devotions, before a program about Book Talk, provided by Bonnie Kirk.

Serve God by Serving Others

If you'd like to serve our church family as a greeter, usher, or communion server, please contact LuCinda. Your February opportunities are shown in yellow below.

Feb. 5 – 8:30	Feb. 5 – 10:00
Greeters: David/Judy D Ushers: Chuck/Trudy B Communion: Dar/Char B, Tamie H	Greeters: Roland/Jeanine M Ushers: Kevin/Mindi S Communion: Marilyn A, Kevin/Shari B
Feb. 12 – 8:30	Feb. 12 – 10:00
Greeters: Dixie Indra Ushers: Joyce B, Maureen B	Greeters: Kevin/Shari B Ushers: Tope Family
Feb. 19 – 8:30	Feb. 19 – 10:00
Greeters: Bonnie K, Ushers: Michal B, Mary D	Greeters: Sue Ellen K Ushers: Bob/Martha W
Feb. 26 – 8:30	Feb. 26 – 10:00
Greeters: Menz Family Ushers: Scott/Peggy G	Greeters: Kathy K, Ushers: Dave W, Kelly S
March 5 – 8:30	March 5 – 10:00
Greeters: Ron/Karen M Ushers: Jim/Pam R Communion: Don/Deb M, Ann R	Greeters: Gordon/Lauren K Ushers: Kevin/Shari B Communion: Tyler D, Gordon/Lauren K



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



Church office: 987-4531

Rev. Jamie Cutler: jamie@waukeechurch.org, ext. 202

Pastor Jeff Rodman: jeff@waukeechurch.org, 515-707-7339

Jodi Pasker: jodi@waukeechurch.org, ext. 201

Deanne Caudle: deanne@waukeechurch.org, ext. 203

LuCinda Beltman: lucinda@waukeechurch.org, ext. 204 or 987-7710

Ann Ruble: ann@therubleproject.com, 987-1439

Cyndi Craigmile: mcraigmile@aol.com, 987-1973

Pat Gutshall: 515-223-1133, pat.gutshall@mac.com

Jennifer Senne: jennifersenne@gmail.com

Prayer Request: pray@waukeechurch.org

Lauren Kratz: lauren.kratz@wellsfargo.com

SignUpGenius: www.signupgenius.com

WACS: info@WaukeeChristianServices.org

WACS Director (Melissa Stimple): 987-5523

Waukee United Methodist Church

650 Ashworth Dr., Box 26

Waukee, IA 50263





Please contact our Director,
Sydney Henderson, at
jndirector@waukeechurch.org

Call Today!

515-987-4531

Joyful Noise is a mission of the Wauke United Methodist Church. We are a non-profit center, so all tuition money is put back into our program in the form of salaries, teacher materials, educational toys, etc. We strive to keep our tuition as low as possible to reach as many children and families as we can.

The Iowa Quality Rating System
has given Joyful Noise Preschool a
4-star rating!!

Joyful Noise Preschool provides a safe, fun, respectful, and Christian-based environment for three to five year old children.

We promote self-esteem, spirituality, and motivation to learn through enriching daily activities.

Joyful Noise emphasizes developing social skills and promotes Christian principles for all children to become well-rounded individuals.

We believe that providing a positive learning experience will create a motivation for academic, behavioral, and spiritual life-long learning.

Perks of enrollment...

- Schedule flexibility
- Low-cost tuition
- Safe, home-like environment
- Loving, knowledgeable staff
- Christian principles
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum

The curriculum at Joyful Noise is filled with hands-on, age-appropriate, educational activities. The educational experience will also include prayer, teachings about God and Jesus, Bible stories and songs. Each lesson plan will contain the following components:

Art Exploration
Music
Math Concepts
Science Discovery & Experiments
Cooking Projects
Social & Emotional Skills
Language Arts & Literacy
Large Group Time
Handwriting Without Tears
Letters of the Alphabet
Large and Small Motor Skills
Sensory Exploration
Spatial Skills
Intro to Technology



Please contact our Director,
Sydney Henderson, at
jndirector@waukeechurch.org

Call Today!

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