



THE MESSENGER

a bi-monthly publication of
Indianola First United Methodist Church

**Making, Growing,
Sending Disciples
into a hurting &
broken world**

VOL 64, NO. 1 - JAN6, 2010

SERVING IN WORSHIP:

Jan 10, 2010 -

Pastor Kay Hooper

Sermon: "My Precious"

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7,

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22,

Psalm 29

Music:

8:30 - Sue Libby

9:45 - Celebration Singers

10:30 - Chapel Bells

Jan 17, 2010 -

Pastor Kay Hooper

Sermon: To Be Determined

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5,

John 2:1-11

Music:

8:30 - Rejoice! Band

9:45 - Celebration Singers

10:30 - Chancel Choir

Coffee & fellowship from 9:15

to 10:45 a.m. Sundays in the

Hospitality Room.

Max Lucado tells the following story - Once there was a man whose life was one of misery. The days were cloudy and the nights were long. Henry didn't want to be unhappy, but he was. With the passing of the years, his life had changed. His children were grown. The neighborhood was different. The city seemed harsher.

He was unhappy. He decided to ask his minister what was wrong. "Am I unhappy for some sin I have committed?" "Yes," the wise pastor replied, "You have sinned." "And what might that sin be?" "Ignorance," came the reply. "The sin of ignorance. One of your neighbors is the Messiah in disguise, and you have not seen him."

The old man left the office stunned. "The Messiah is one of my neighbors?" He began to think, who it might be. Tom the butcher? No, he's too lazy. Mary, my cousin down the street? No, too much pride. Aaron the paperboy? No, too indulgent. The man was confounded. Every person he knew had defects. But one was the Messiah. He began to look for Him.

He began to notice things he hadn't seen. The grocer often carried sacks to the cars of older ladies. Maybe he is the Messiah. The officer at the corner always had a smile for the kids. Could it be? And the young couple who'd moved next door. How kind they are to their cat. Maybe one of them ...

With time he saw things in people he'd never seen; and with time his outlook began to change. The bounce returned to his step. His eyes took on a friendly sparkle. When others spoke, he listened. After all, he might be listening to the Messiah. When anyone asked for help, he responded; after all this might be the Messiah needing assistance.

The change of attitude was so significant that someone asked him why he was so happy. "I don't know," he answered. "All I know is that things changed when I started looking for God."

Now, that's curious. The old man never saw Jesus because he didn't know what he looked like. The people in Jesus' day missed him because they thought they did.

As we enter into a new year, 2010, may God open our eyes to see the Messiah already present, already at work in the world. Then, let us join together with God in the important work of being a healing, holy, and gracious presence in the world. Happy New Year One and All!
Peace,

Pastor Kay

News from the Kies

Dear Friends,

Picture a small, dimly-lit sitting room with sparse, worn furniture. A wedding picture and The Lord's Prayer hanging proudly on the walls. A small collection of memories placed on shelves. Grief hangs in the chilly evening air as we sit with the family, mourning the loss of their 2-year-old son to AIDS. The father, himself unable to walk or work, is crying. His wife, in shock, is unable to shed a tear. It is the elderly and almost toothless grandfather who surprises us with a story.

A 'garden-boy' was given the responsibility of tending the roses in the garden of his 'boss'. He put time and energy into lovingly caring for and nurturing the beautiful flowers. One day the boss had special visitors and cut the blooms to decorate his home. The gardener came to work as usual and was distraught when he saw the bare stalks. He went running into the house and said to his boss, 'Why have you cut my flowers?' The boss explained, 'I employed you as a gardener. It is not for you to say 'Cut' or 'Don't cut'. The flowers are mine to do with as I please. Your responsibility is to care for them.

This testimony of faith amazed and moved us. I related the story to Prisca, the lady who cleans our home. She shared it at a funeral that she attended, and told me that it brought comfort. Maybe it is spreading from funeral to funeral.... In a country where much has been taken away in the past years of turmoil and uncertainty, this expression of trust and faith - related without bitterness by a man who has been a faithful cook in the home of the people who own the farm his house stands on - is the 'fuel' that continues to motivate and inspire people. Mwari anoziva (God knows). It's echoed in a song we often sing in church. You give...and take away...My heart will choose to say Blessed be the name of the Lord.

This season, as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, may we be thankful for all those special people, those relatives and friends whom God has placed in our lives to care for or encourage- what gifts they are, what a gift He is!

Larry & Jane Kies

Sunday, Jan. 17 is Human Relations Day, one of the six church-wide Special Sundays with offerings of The United Methodist Church. Human Relations Day is celebrated on the Sunday before the national observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

The day is intended to strengthen United Methodist outreach to communities in the United States and Puerto Rico, encouraging social justice and work with at-risk youth.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline describes the purpose of Human Relations Day as a call to "the Church to recognize the right of all God's children in realizing their potential as human beings in relationship with each other."

United Methodist Men

The UMM will meet @ the church on Saturday, January 9th @ 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast will be served and then a devotion.

Our quest speaker will be Richard Bishop. He will give a presentation on his trip to Africa. Richard was the Superintendent of Wildlife for the State of Iowa.

+CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS+ Olive Branch

The Olive Branch is a symbol of peace, harmony and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The Olive Branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended. (Genesis 8:11).





FUMC's GOT TALENT

God has blessed our children with many gifts! We are having a fun talent show to feature these gifts, on January 20th. If your child would like to participate please help them in preparing whatever they need for their act. This can be anything from singing, dancing, acting, performing Karate moves or featuring how to do a favorite craft (anything that can be shared in a 3-minute time slot).

*You are also invited to attend Spirit Zone on **January 20th from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.** to watch the show. If necessary, a second "show" will be held on January 27th, to include those that did not perform on January 20th.

Children in Poverty Activity Forms

If your church group (Circle, UMM, Sunday School Class, youth group, etc.) was involved in a lesson or activity for the fall Children in Poverty initiative, please complete an "Activity Report" to help Church & Society evaluate our involvement as a congregation.

The Activity Report forms are available in a file folder on the back counter in the office (behind Barb's desk). We will report on our total activity as a church in January. Please complete the form before the end of the year. Thanks to all who have participated!

New Member Class: Session 1: Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27; or Session 2: March 10, 24; April 7, 14 Rm. 219A, Wednesday during T.G.I.W! (6:30 - 7:30 p.m.)

In this new member orientation, led by Pastor Kay, we will use the book "*What You Do Best in the Body of Christ*" by Bruce Bugbee.

Come and find out how uniquely gifted you are and explore ways you can use your gifts for the glory of God and the building up of the Church. We will also learn or *re-view* some of the basics of The Bible, Christianity, Methodism, and life here at FUMC Indianola.

We will introduce you to our staff and key leaders in the church. This orientation class lasts 4 weeks. We will be happy to offer a day time session in the summer if there is interest.

Volunteer in Mission (VIM) Opportunities...

for the handyman or woman - we have monthly flood recovery work days in Cedar Rapids, supporting the United Methodist Block by Block rebuilding effort:

**Thursday, Jan. 21st
Tuesday, Feb. 23rd
Thursday, Mar. 25th
Friday, Apr. 16th
Thursday, May 27th**

Other Opportunities: Prepare for the shipment of items such as health kits, flood buckets, school desks and other needed items at the Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois. Dates for this trip are: November 28th - December 4th, 2010.

Projects are planned and supported by our Missions work area and have local church leadership. See the VIM sign-up binder under the Missions Bulletinboard.

Happy New Year!



Library News by Bernice Pickup

“Every Sunrise” tells of grandparents raising their grandchildren and the events that surround them and how they need God’s help like never before. This was given in Memory of Jim Cooper by Louis & Carol Kenney.

The following books were given by Michelle & Matt Boyd: **“The Christmas Wish”** tells of an angel that doesn’t want to be put in a box until the next Christmas so makes a wish that comes true. **“Prairie Day”** is a story of the Ingalls family moving to the prairie and the events that occur on the way to their new home. **“Amazon Sun, Amazon Rain”** is all about the animals that live in the jungle and how the rain comes and changes things.

“Gettin’ Old Still Ain’t for Wimps” tells us how to laugh our way through senior moments. This was given in Memory of Doyle Borts by Louis & Carol Kenney.

“The Believer” is a story about the Shaker community and some of their beliefs and how that affects the life of a young woman caring for her brother and sister. This was given in Memory of Arlene Haldeman by Eldon & Joanne Appenzeller.

The following books were given by Kay Whipple: **“Let Me Tell You What Your Teens are Telling Me”** will help you learn how to develop your own life and the life of your teen. **“Why Do They Act That Way?”** is a survival guide to the adolescent brain for you and your teen. **“Give Them Wings”** is a book to help prepare you for the time when your teen leaves home.

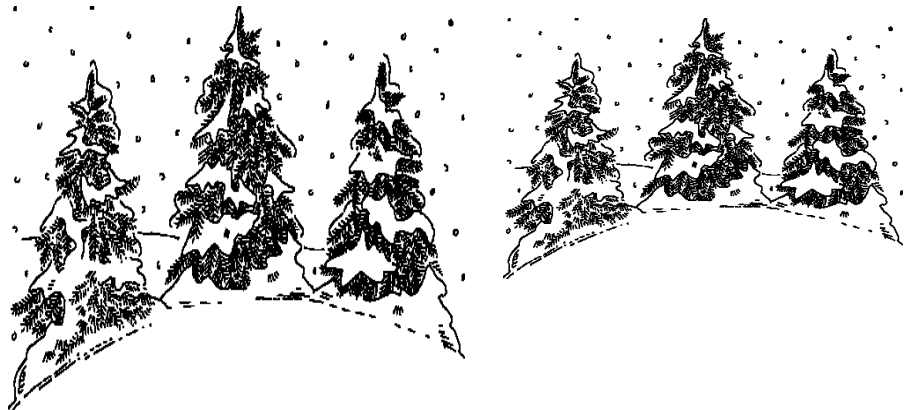
“Half the Sky” shows how you can turn oppression into opportunity for women worldwide. This was given by Lisa Baker.

New T.G.I.W! Class:

Class starts:

“First Persons” by Ronn Kerr is a new concept in a study program for adults. Each lesson evolves around a Biblically-accurate story of a person who witnessed an event in the life of Jesus: a wine merchant who saw the baptism of Jesus; the wife of a potter in Nazareth who saw Jesus get thrown out of the synagogue; a fisherman who witnessed the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John; the wine steward at Cana; the sister of an adulterous woman; the Centurion at the cross, and many others. Each lesson is based on scripture references and filled with detail about life in First Century Palestine. Participants not only talk about the particular events in the life of Jesus, they hear how the people of his time lived, played, worked and worshiped.

Room 204A; Heidi Long; Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.



ADULT T.G.I.W! Classes

“Faith Like Potatoes” is a movie based on a true story of a family searching for faith in desperate times. Pastor Lowell Hoyle leads this class through the movie discussing the kind of faith it takes to trust God when faced with adversity. Upper Level, Albright Room: Jan 6 - Apr 14.

Church & Society will host a series of classes throughout winter and spring addressing issues such as immigration. Classes will be held in Room 217A

Women of the Word is a book group that meets to discuss and share with each other along their faith journey. The leader of this group is Ellen Defenbaugh. Classes are held on the Upper Level, Lamb Room.

UMW Schedule

Unit Meeting

January 9th

9:30 a.m. - Hospitality Rm

Elizabeth Circle - Jan 13 @ 1 p.m.

Veda Johnson, 306 North I

Hannah Circle - Jan 25 @ 7 p.m.

John Wesley Room

Lydia Circle - Jan 20 @ 7:30 p.m.

The Carver Room

Rachel Circle - No Jan Meeting

Ruth - Jan 21 7:30 p.m.

John Wesley Room

Sarah Circle - Jan 27 @ 9:30 a.m.

John Wesley Room

Susanna Wesley Circle

No January Meeting

See the UMW 2010 Yearbook for more detailed info on programs.



Placing flowers on the altar in honor or memory of our loved ones is a great way to enhance our worship service. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Darla Kickbush at 707-5456



Final update on the
"Pastor Kay Challenge"

To date, 127 people have responded for a total of \$19,185. Praise God and thank you for your faithfulness!

T.G.I.W! Food court Menu

- Jan 13: Soup night, Salad Bar
Jan 20: Beef & Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans
Jan 27: Meat loaf, Baked Potatoes, Green Beans
Feb 3: Chili, Salad Bar
Feb 10: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread Salad Bar
Feb 24: Pizza, Salad Bar
Mar 3: Italian or Mushroom Chicken, Mashed Potatoes
Mar 10: Tacos, Refried Beans

Mar 17: NO TGIW! SPRING BREAK

- Mar 24: To Be Determined
Mar 31: To Be Determined
Apr 7: Hot Dogs, Maid Rites, Chips
Apr 14: Sub Sandwiches, Cole Slaw, Chips
Apr 15: Pizza, Salad Bar

News from the Ministry of the Aged Monrovia, Liberia

The 4th Anniversary celebration of this ministry was held September 19 & 20, 2009. The elderly paraded the street of Buchanan with song, ending at the NB Whitfield United Methodist Church. At Whitfield UMC, the "Old Folk's" choir of St. John River and Grand Bassa thrilled our hearts with melodious music praising God. They later shared experiences through storytelling and advice to young people. The Saturday program was climaxed with the distribution of relief items donated by the Liberia National Red Cross.

On Sunday, we had a Thanksgiving service at Charles Aaron White UMC in Upper Buchanan. The program drew a very large crowd, because of the awareness raising activities on Saturday, plus it was the first time seeing the elderly people 70 and up, parading in the streets...singing, dancing and praising God!

Rev. Anna S. Kpaan



MUSIC MINISTRY - T.G.I.W! 2nd Semester Classes begin January 6th

Everyone is welcome to join our musical family. We offer a musical experience for all ages. For more information, contact Janna Booher, Music Director, at 961-5317, ext. 219 or email: Janna@indfumc.org.

CHILDREN

Wesley Chimers - Grades 3, 4, 5 on Wednesday, 5:40 - 6:00 p.m.
Choir Room, 2nd floor. This is a handchime/handbell class for beginners.
No experience necessary. Leaders: Janna Booher & Zach Heater

Spirit Zone - Grades K-5 on Wednesday, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room.
Spirit filled activities including music, worship and creative arts. Leaders: Brooke Gray-Boden

Wesley Choir - Grades 3, 4, 5 on Wednesday, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Leader: Sue Libby

YOUTH

Praise Ringers (handbells) - Grades 6-12, Wednesdays, 5:15 - 5:45 p.m. in the Choir Room.
All are welcome. Leader: Molly Richardson

Rock of Ages - Grades 6-12, Wednesdays, 6:00 - 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.
Join us for our "spring tour" as we rock God's house with the latest in high energy Christian music!
Leader: Mike Hastie

ADULTS

Chancel Choir - Teen through adult, men & women, Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room, 2nd floor. This vocal group is open to all, no audition required. Have fun singing all styles of music! Nursery care is available.
Director: Janna Booher; Accompanist: Annette Kerr

Chapel Bells - Thursday, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. This is an advanced 4-octave handbell group.
Director: Janna Booher

Soloists & small groups - We are blessed to have so much talent at FUMC! There are numerous soloists and small groups who share their talents in worship.
Please contact Janna Booher if you are interested!



Thank You

for your prayers,
presence, gifts and service

thank you

prayers

Congratulations and welcome to new members: Elona & Agron Alla who joined the church on 12/30.

Welcome to the following members who have transferred their membership to FUMC: Jacki Bardole, Tom & Cindy Gillenwater, Linda Ehrhardt, Susie Sher and Ray & Naomi Grimes

Sympathies to Candy Foster and family at the passing of her father, John Moore on Dec 27.

Sympathy to Doug Shull and family at the recent passing of his brother, George.

Congratulations to Jase Bates & Mickey Haddox, who were baptized on December 27.

Recently Discharged: Nick Reinert, Ruth Rasko, Ruth Lanning, Gladys Trotter, Ica Rose Miller, Waunieta McConnell, Fran Drake. Brenda Core, Brandi Larson, John Cowan

presence

Sunday Worship 12/20/09 - (913)

8:30 a.m. - 208

9:45 a.m. - 208

10:45 a.m. - 497

**attendance last year on this date (469)*

Christmas Eve Worship 12/25/09

3:00 p.m. - 245

5:00 p.m. - 327

7:00 p.m. - 434

**attendance last year on this date (1084)*

Sunday Worship 12/27/09 - (339)

8:30 a.m. - 120

9:45 a.m. - 137

10:45 a.m. - 82

**attendance last year on this date (352)*

Sunday Worship 1/3/109 - (417)

8:30 a.m. - 174

9:45 a.m. - 137

10:45 a.m. - 106

**attendance last year on this date (493)*

gifts

Financial Summary

Operating Fund:

2009 Annual Budget	\$775,000
Budgeted Gifts thru Nov.	\$757,500
Actual Gifts thru 12/31	\$744,294

Capital Campaign:

Gifts received in 2009 (both campaigns)	\$330,971
2008 Campaign Totals	
Pledged	\$1,092,326
Received thru 12/31	\$850,937
2003 Campaign Totals	
Pledged	\$1,680,537
Received thru 12/31	\$1,531,122

Angel Tree Project

Three Trinity families' Christmases were truly blessed by the generosity of First UMC individuals. One family was made up of a mother and son, one family was a mom, a son and a daughter and the third family was made up of a mom and four daughters. When the gifts were delivered to Trinity, one of the moms, wanted to personally extend her thanks to Indianola UMC and to all the people who helped purchase the gifts given to her family.

Thank you for brightening their Christmas and for your expressions of generosity, Barb Gould

Thank you to everyone who provided food for Trinity Supper Club. While the crowd may have been smaller due to school Christmas break and questionable weather, the individuals who came to eat enjoyed a hot meal, warm conversation and enough leftovers for take home meals. Thank you to Lisa and Jenna Gray and Kay Crossett for working in the morning to make the cavatelli. And thanks to volunteers, Scott, Dawn, Joe and Nate Sams, Carolyn Fellows and Barb Gould for serving the meal.

We want to thank you for the \$4,713.26 you gave to 2009 Operation Christmas. It helped many Warren County children have a Merry Christmas. Thank you.
Operation Christmas Volunteers

Thank you to the members who knitted the wonderful prayer shawl.
Bill & Dorothy Merrill

On behalf of Visiting Nurse Services of Iowa (VNS), please extend once again my sincere appreciation to the members of First United Methodist Church of Indianola for the contribution of twelve books to the Storybook Project. The women and children served through the Storybook Project appreciate the support they receive from donors like you.

Jen Van Liew
President/CEO

Our thanks to everyone that donated food items for the Christmas Day luncheon. We also want to thank the people who attended and brought food. What a nice afternoon and the selection of items was amazing. A special thanks to Bonnie Miner and Carol Van Aernam, clients of mine who made contributions to the meal. What a blessing,
Malinda Gray

Pastor Kay,
Thank you so much for getting to know a little about our Dad and delivering such a good service. The church ladies put on an excellent luncheon afterwards. Again, thank you!
Marlene Henry, Bill Todd Jr and Bonnie Todd

Roses were placed on the altar in December in memory of Brian & Michelle Pace on the 10th anniversary of their ascension to Heaven by their parents.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Next

Food for the Soul

will be on January 26th.

To provide food or
volunteer to help serve,
contact

**Pastor Andrew
Bardole**

Join us for

Admin/Charge Conference

January 26th, 2010

7:00 p.m. - Hospitality Room

**We will be reviewing/approving
the 2010 Budget.**