

# Randy's Ramblings. . . . .



# The Messenger

Over the course of the past few years, a study has been conducted, compiled, and considered. It involved several thousand United Methodist congregations of all sizes from every Annual Conference. They included inner city and rural settings as well as suburban and small town churches. The data was mined for keys to understanding why some congregations seem to be vital while others seem to maintain their presence and others continue to decline. Those pieces of information were aligned with scriptural passages such as Galatians 3:28, Matthew 28:18-20, Micah 6:8, and Luke 4:17-21 as a prayerful process of discernment was conducted.

A few indicators of vitality seemed to surface, including: (a) inviting and inspiring worship, (b) engaged disciples in mission and outreach, (c) gifted, equipped and empowered lay leadership, (d) effective, equipped, and inspired clergy leadership, and (e) small groups and strong children's programs and youth ministry.

In response to the study, our Administrative Council has begun an examination of what it means to be a vital congregation in Hiawatha in 2011 and how we might better plan our ministries around the calling to be the church in this time and place. In addition, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee will be evaluating me based on the "marks of a vital pastor."

I am convinced that our answers to the specific questions will not be as important as the discussions that take place. So I invite you to join the discussion. I have posted the questions we've been examining on the bulletin board outside my office. Come by, find an interesting question and find someone to discuss it with you!

I believe God has some great things in store for us in the years ahead. My hope is that we will have the courage to respond to God's call as we find ways to be in ministry together.

P.S. – for all of those who participated in the surprise card and gift I received for Pastor's Appreciation Month, thank you. It is my great honor and privilege to serve this church at this time in my life and in the life of this congregation. God is good. All the time.

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**Fall back  
November  
6th.**



# Change is in the Air

We have a new Youth Director. After lots of soul-searching and prayer, Debi Farnen decided that she can no longer wear all the many hats she has been wearing and the one that she decided to take off was serving as our Youth Director. She brought lots of energy and creative ideas to our youth program and laid the foundation upon which others will build. Her intent is to continue as a member of our congregation, volunteering in various capacities, but no longer as a paid staff member.

As an interim solution, we have hired Melinda Dakken to serve until the end of the school year. Mindy is a second year student at Highland Community College, who has served as a core counselor at Camp Chippewa for the past two years and will be the Summer Program Director there next summer. We are excited about having her serve us.

Long term, the Staff/Parish Relations Committee will explore the possibilities of a relationship with St. Paul School of Theology in Kansas City, where we hope to find a seminary student willing to serve while they prepare for ordained ministry. The initial thought is that we will expand the job description so that the student will serve as a youth pastor as well as a minister of visitation.



## November Food Pantry Needs



Saltines/Crackers	Pasta Sauce
Canned Fruit	Healthy Soup
Canned Meat/Fish	

***Please make sure that the "use by date" has not past, as they cannot hand out items that have expired.***

Dear Youth from Hiawatha,

You are amazing! On behalf of the board and of the students, I wanted to thank you for your hard work and great spirit during Christians In Action. My prayers are with you!

In Christ,

Eduardo

ICHTUS Washburn Campus Ministry

Love. Mystery. Transformation.



## United Methodist Women's Mission/Bible Study

Rev. Quinn led the UMW's Mission/Bible Study on Tuesday, October 11th. It was entitled, *Joy to the World: Mission in the Age of Global Christianity*. The study provided a look at the changing world; the direction, goals and methods of mission work over the past 100 years.



Our afternoon guest speaker, Bala from Tamil Nadu district, India, shared his personal mission of assisting special needs orphans in his home town, Tamil Cain and the challenges they face.

Seventeen guests representing three churches participated in the day-long study.

Thanks, Rev. Randy for your leadership.

## It's Bazaar Time Again

### Reserve Wednesday, November 9th for Lunch and Supper

Your church needs each and every one of you to help in this annual event sponsored by the United Methodist Women. This is a wonderful opportunity for good food, fun and fellowship for all members of the church (men, women and children) to work together in many different capacities for the benefit of all the projects supported by the UMW.

*Soup and Chili will be served from 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM and then again starting at 4:40 PM. Please pick up a form from the Narthex for more details and to sign up to help.*

**CHILI** - This year as always requests are for a "batch"(es) of chili prepared at home from one standard recipe and then delivered to the church (**NOT FROZEN**) by 8:00 AM on Wednesday, the 9th. The recipe is as follows: 5 lbs of ground beef (please drain excess fat); 3 Tbsp. of onion flakes; 1 lb. roll "Fanestil" Chili. Brown beef and onion flakes and lightly salt, two persons may share the cost of one batch. (Do not add beans nor alter this recipe!) We will need at least 26 batches. This may be prepared ahead and frozen - just make sure it is thawed before bringing it to the church. It would also be helpful if this is in a plastic bag or throw-away container.

**ARE YOU A BAKER OR A CANDY MAKER** - We will need lots of pies (homemade), cakes for the cake walk, all kinds of bakery goods for the Bakery Shoppe including cookies, cakes, dinner rolls, breads, brownies, and candy for the Candy Store. Jams and jellies are great also. The UMW will continue with sales of the cutlery, date books, note papers and Fair Trade Products.

**CHILDREN'S STORE** - The kids can now do their Christmas shopping for the special people in their lives. As before, no adults are permitted to accompany them to the store - there will be plenty of clerks to assist the children making choices and then wrapping these gifts for them.



## The Children's Store

Once again this year, we are collecting NEW items for the Children's Store which will be held in conjunction with the UMW Bazaar and Soup Supper on Wednesday, November 9th. In order for this event to be successful, we need your donations. Below is a list of items that were very popular at our store last year. As we get closer to the date, we will place a box in the Narthex to collect your donations. If you have any questions, please contact Denise Elffner.



### Wrapping Items

Tape

Gift Bags and Boxes

### Men's Gifts

Gum/Mints/Candy  
Wallets  
Nails/Screws  
Wash Mitts/Car Washing Supplies

Socks/Handkerchiefs  
Chap Stick  
Playing Cards

### Women's Gifts

Note Cards/Stationary  
Nail Files/Nail Polish  
Kitchen Utensils

Lotion/Soap/Hand Sanitizer  
Kitchen Towels/Hot Pads  
Pens/Pencils

### Children's Gifts

Books  
Coloring Books  
Notebooks/Paper  
Balls

Puzzles  
Crayons/Markers/Pencils  
Matchbox Cars  
Flashcards

# November Worship Service Assistants



## 8:30 Service

## 10:45 Service

### Lectors

### Lectors

- 6th Susie Tubach  
Revelation 7:9-17, Psalm 34:1-10, 22  
1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12
- 13th Dave Hoffman  
Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30
- 20th George Wilhelm  
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24, Psalm 100  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
- 27th Joan Jacobsen  
Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

- 6th Belinda White  
1 John 3:1-3, Matthew 5:1-12
- 13th Ministry Opportunity  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30
- 20th Kim Nolte  
Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46
- 27th Ministry Opportunity  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

### Greeters

### Greeters

- 6th Betty Kerns
- 13th Lawrence & Lorna Slimmer
- 20th Pavlish Family
- 27th Sharon Mauslein

- 6th Ministry Opportunity
- 13th Betty Albee & Vivian Nolte
- 20th Grant Gladhart Family
- 27th Ministry Opportunity

### Ushers

### Ushers

- 6th Wes Howard & Jim Gibbs
- 13th Pederson Family
- 20th Paul & Susie Tubach
- 27th Ministry Opportunity

- 6th Ministry Opportunity
- 13th Ted & Traci Hinton Family
- 20th Ward & Mary Henry
- 27th Ministry Opportunity

### Acolytes

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- 6th Ministry Opportunity
- 13th Ministry Opportunity
- 20th Ministry Opportunity
- 27th Ministry Opportunity

- 6th Christopher, Daniel & Caitlyn Monhollon
- 13th Brenna Diller, Tyler Boswell & Caitlyn Monhollon
- 20th Brenna Diller & Josie Pierce
- 27th Christopher, Daniel & Caitlyn Monhollon

If you will not be able to serve on the date you are listed, please contact the office with a substitute so we can correct the bulletin. *If you are interested in serving*, please contact the office at 742-7434.

This page, along with the calendar page is kept updated every week on our web site at:

[HTTP://HIAWATHAFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://HIAWATHAFIRSTUMC.ORG)

# November Church Calendar

Nov 1      Worship Committee, 6:00 PM  
 Nov 2      SPRC, 7:00 PM  
 Nov 5      Set Clocks *back* 1 hour  
 Nov 6      Youth Advisory Council, 9:45 AM  
 Nov 7      Vintage Park Service, 11:00 AM  
 Nov 9      UMW Bazaar/Chili Day  
             Trustees, 7:00 PM  
 Nov 15     SPRC, at Horton, 6:00 PM  
             Charge Conference at Horton, 7:00 PM  
 Nov 16     Community Christmas Dinner Planning  
             Meeting, 5:30 PM  
             Ad Council, 7:00 PM  
 Nov 18     Esther-Susanna Circle, 1:30 PM  
 Nov 18/19  Bishop's Roundup in Lawrence  
 Nov 20     Confirmation Class, 2:00 PM  
             Hanging the Greens, 4:00 PM  
             Community Thanksgiving Service at  
             Bethany, 6:30 PM  
 Nov 27     Children's Christmas Program Practice,  
             4:00 PM

Nov 30      UMW Executive Meeting, 5:30 PM

## Weekly Events:

Sunday    8:30 AM Worship Service  
             9:35 AM Sunday School  
             10:00 AM Praise Strings  
             10:45 AM Worship Service  
             2:00 PM Middle School Youth  
             4:00 PM High School Youth  
 Monday   7:00 PM Praise Ringers  
 Tuesday  7:00 PM Lectionary Bible Study  
 Wednesday 3:30 PM Children's Choir Practice  
             6:15 PM Bell Tones  
             7:00 PM Chapel Chimes  
             8:00 PM Chancel Choir

## Birthdays



11-1   Cindy Weinberg  
 11-1   Olena Melnyk  
 11-1   Colby Gilbert  
 11-3   Stacy Wilhelm  
 11-3   Debbie Gamble  
 11-3   Paul Twombly  
 11-3   Ian Schuetz  
 11-4   Christie Lynn Schuetz  
 11-4   Jodi Twombly  
 11-4   Daniel Monhollon  
 11-5   Ruth Wolfe  
 11-5   Barb Mauslein  
 11-5   Ethan Ross  
 11-6   Judy Wegener-Stevens  
 11-6   Gabe Harter

11-8   Cathy Nichols  
 11-9   Caitlyn Monhollon  
 11-10  Robert Vaughn  
 11-11  Ed Hageman  
 11-12  Carol Reynolds  
 11-13  Mary Bowen  
 11-13  Delbert Larson  
 11-13  Diann Schuetz  
 11-15  Kay Andres  
 11-15  Brenna Diller  
 11-16  Charlene Pape  
 11-17  Paul Tubach  
 11-17  Alyssa Monaghan  
 11-18  Carol Speidel  
 11-19  Tony Bebermeyer  
 11-19  Steve Smith  
 11-19  Dawsen Hawks  
 11-21  Eric McPeak  
 11-23  Tyler Lewis  
 11-24  James Gall  
 11-25  Duane Robert  
 11-27  Josie Pierce  
 11-28  Shauna Nye  
 11-28  Liam Farnen  
 11-29  Ted Starr  
 11-29  Kim Nolte

## Anniversaries



Happy  
 Anniversary  
 11-3   Jim & Marylan Gibbs  
 11-9   Craig & Jennifer Monaghan  
 11-21  Ron & Carol Boggs  
 11-21  Bill & Michelle Henry  
 11-23  Harold & Janice Riner  
 11-25  Leonard & Beverly Trundle  
 11-26  Gary & Kathy Howard  
 11-28  Shawn & Robin Loyd

*Please call the church office at 742-7434 if we missed a birthday or anniversary for someone in your family.*

# Accountability for Our Membership Vows

When we joined our church, we made a commitment to support its ministries with our Prayers, our Presence, our Gifts, and our Service. Here is how we are doing in these areas:

## Our Prayers (from October)

Tony Bebermeyer  
Chris Diller  
Larry Gilfillan  
Harley Pierce  
Ray Pavilish  
Stephanie Minner  
Cheryl Stueve  
Annette Wilson's niece's husband, David  
Delayne Bowen  
Heather Maze's father  
Suzie McElroy  
Family of Mike Miner  
Family of Homer Jacobsen  
Family of Chuck McGhee  
Family of Isaac Wieckert  
Family of Tom Mathewson



## Our Presence (in September)

8:30 Service: 47 (60 in 2010)  
10:45 Service: 108 (128 in 2010)

## Our Gifts (for September)

\$15,778 (\$17,303 in 2010)  
*(Not all gifts go toward the budget.)*

## Our Service (for November) . . .

– see list of worship service assistants on page 4!

*There are several opportunities for you to serve!*



"We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds."  
Psalm 75:1, NRSV

## From the Parish Nurse

### Gratitude Practice

by Renée Miller

There are few spiritual practices as enjoyable and fulfilling as gratitude practice for two simple reasons. First, it lets us re-live blessing and grace and in this we have the experience twice. Just consider all the moments and experiences where the presence of God has been felt, the times when grace has hovered like a bank of coastal fog. Those memories are stored in our hearts and etched on our souls. Gratitude is the way we access them again and again. Gratitude practice invites us into the past where we experience those moments anew. Gratitude practice invites us into the present where grace peeks out like a wildflower in winter. Gratitude practice invites us into the future where we are expectant in the promise of grace yet to be revealed.

Second, gratitude builds on itself, and in this we find that even when we thought something had no redeeming value, grace still peers out like a shy child waiting to be coaxed out from hiding. Sometimes it is difficult to find that shy child in the midst of situations that damage our hearts, or leave us in darkness, or sling our joy out the window, or challenge every bit of faith we have. We are so consumed with seeing ourselves through calamity that most of our energy is directed toward "crisis management". We console ourselves with the belief that God is with us, but finding the good and the grace-filled in the midst of it all can feel impossible. Gratitude practice helps us go back and look more deeply for the grace that seemed so distant, but it also helps us develop the skill for spotting grace even in the most dire circumstances.



# The Sunday School Scoop

Since Sunday School started in September, the students have been collecting money and items for flood buckets. By the end of October, we had collected enough money and items to assemble ten flood buckets.

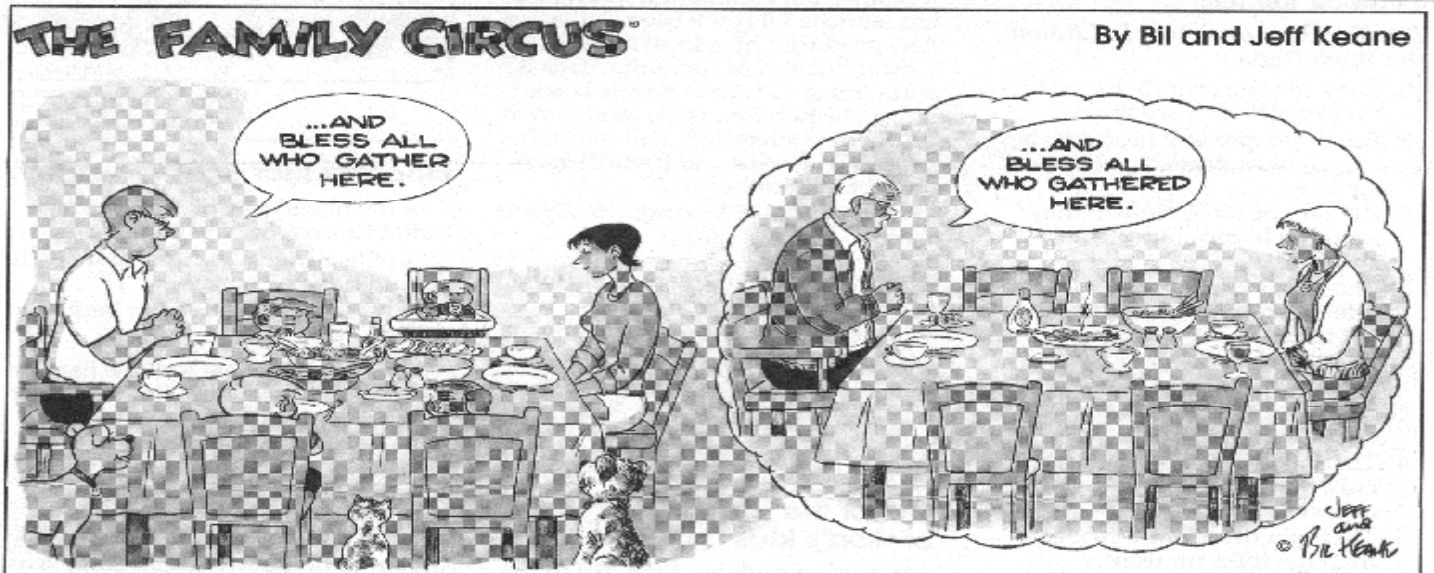
The middle school students worked together with the 4 and 5 year olds to put together the flood buckets. A special thanks to all of the church members,



Let The Little Children Come To Me  
Matthew 19:14

students and youth group kids who donated so generously to this cause. Although ten flood

buckets doesn't sound like much, keep in mind that it costs close to \$30 to fill one bucket with the required supplies. Once again, our church has shown its generosity in helping those in need.



from *The Joyful Noiseletter* Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

## November Youth Calendar At A Glance

- Nov 6 Youth Advisory Council, 9:45 AM in Mindy's office
- Middle School Youth, 2:00 PM
- High School Youth, 4:00 PM
- Nov 13 Middle School Youth, 2:00 PM
- High School Youth, 4:00 PM
- Nov 18/19 Bishop's Roundup in Lawrence
- Nov 20 Confirmation, 2:00 PM
- Hanging the Greens, 4:00 PM





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*Open hands, open hearts,  
open minds*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**The Mission of First United Methodist Church**

*is to Nurture Life-Changing Relationships: with God,  
with one another, and with our community.*

**WE ARE ON THE WEB AT  
[HTTP://HIAWATHAFIRSTUMC.ORG](http://hiawathafirstumc.org)**

And on Facebook/Hiawatha's First UMC

## Church Conference is Coming November 15th at Horton UMC

Our church's annual meeting, commonly referred to as a Charge Conference, will be held as part of the Brown County United Methodist Churches joint conference. This year, Horton UMC will host. *All members of the church are encouraged to participate in our Church Conference as we make plans, elect officers, and set budgets for 2012.*



**Carpooling will be encouraged, leaving our church parking lot at 5:30 PM for those who are members of the Staff/Parish Relations Committee and 6:30 PM for all others.**