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Newsletter of the Mt. Ayr UM Larger Parish
Mount Ayr – 11 a.m. Redding – 9 a.m.
Middle Fork – 10 a.m.

Office: 464-3636 MA Church: 464-0803

For those needing pastoral care contact Pastor Lorinda Hoover
at the Parish Office at 641-464-3636 or 319-330-2220 (her cell)
(Lorinda's Cell may show up as Jim Mossman, her husband)

Email address: lorinda.hoover@iaumc.net

Office Hours – 10 a.m.-Noon Monday & Tuesdays
in the Parish Office. On most Wednesdays (roughly) 8:00-9:30 a.m.
at Jamie's Mill and some Thursdays 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the MA Library

Fridays are her sabbath days – unless an emergency

Sharon Walkup, Parish Secretary Cell 641-234-0059

Sharon's email: sharonw.lparish@gmail.com

September 27, 2023 #16

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"the people complained against Moses" ("Exodus 15:24 NRSV;
see also Exodus 16:2-7, 17:3, Numbers 14:36)

As we wrap up on series "Who is this God" focusing on the first part of the Exodus story, I've been thinking about what happens after the Israelites cross the Red (or Reed) Sea. We end our Sunday morning series at that point on October 1. But the story doesn't end there. If it were a holiday movie or a fairy tale, the ending would be some version of "And they lived happily ever after." I have a sneaking suspicion that Moses and the Israelites themselves expected a happy ending. They had escaped slavery in Egypt. God had performed miracle after miracle to convince Pharaoh and to protect them. They were on their way to the promised land, a place flowing with milk and honey. Certainly everything was looking up.

But the perfect happy ending never really comes. Change is hard. Moving is hard. Learning to trust God in this midst of constant change is hard. Over and over again in the stories that follow the crossing of the Red/Reed Sea is the refrain "and the people complained against Moses." Sometimes Aaron is also the target of complaints. The Israelites miss the food in Egypt. They are afraid they are going to die in the wilderness. They are struggling to learn to live in a new environment.

The wilderness experience of the Israelites has much to teach us if we spend time with their stories. We may not be physically moving from place to place, but the world around us is changing at an every increasing pace. Life is very different now than it was in our childhoods, not to mention our grandparents' time. It is easy to forget that God is still with us, providing for us and urging us forward. It is easy to long for the past, to look back on it with rosy colored glasses, instead of trusting God to lead us into the future. It's easy to spend more time complaining than exploring what is before us, and looking for God at work in these new ways and new places.

When are you most tempted to complain? What do you most miss about the past? How can you release those things to embrace what God is doing now?

Blessings,
Lorinda



MT. AYR MISSION STATEMENT

We at Mount Ayr United Methodist Church,
Reach Up, Reach Out and Reach In.

- *We reach up to glorify God and to ask for God's presence in life and the lives of all people.
- *We reach out in service to a hurting world.
- *We reach in for personal transformation.

LOOK FOR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MOUNT AYR UMC

Go to...Mount Ayr 1st United Methodist
Look for updates about all Parish Activities and stay connected.

Website for Mount Ayr UMC!

WE ARE LIVE! People can access the church website using the address <https://mtayrfumc.org>



NEW MT. AYR PRAYER CHAIN CONTACTS....

The Mount Ayr Church has 2 Prayer Chains. If you have a prayer request, you can call **Shirley Erickson, 641-464-3676** or **Cheryl Taylor, 641-464-3627**. They will start the prayer chain calling, and your requests will be lifted up in prayer.



PARISH BIRTHDAYS – OCTOBER

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 1 – Ella Waske, Linda McNutt | 15 – Alan Taylor, Casey Willis, Avery Wolfe |
| 3 – James Walkup | |
| 4 – Drew Ingram | 16 – Randy Taylor, Ken Robertson, Harold Crawford |
| 5 – Deb Lynch | |
| 7 – Ron Landphair | 18 – James Saville |
| 8 – Samantha Crawford | 21 – Nick Neitzel |
| 10 – John Young, Will Young | 22 – Deb Robertson |
| 11 – Larry Giles, Jack Main, Janet Glendenning | 26 – Janet Hickman |
| 12 – Dalton Elwood | 27 – Andrea Main |
| 13 – Joan Rinehart | 28 – Adalyn Reynolds |
| | 29 – Dale Walkup |

FYI: If you notice an incorrect birthday date or name spelling, or have a name that needs to be added to the birthday list, please notify Karen Taylor at 515-720-5063 or contact Sharon at the Parish Office, 464-3636.

PASTOR LORINDA WILL BE OUT OF THE OFFICE FROM SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 5 FOR VACATION AND CONTINUING ED.

If you need pastoral care during this time, please contact Mary Jo Dean, pastor of the United Baptist/Presbyterian Church, 443-359-9553.

MT. AYR NOISY OFFERING – OCTOBER 1ST



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM....T.R.I.B.E. - OCTOBER 4

The First United Methodist Church, The United Baptist Presbyterian Church and The First Christian Church are teaming up to offer an after school bible program called **T.R.I.B.E.** Activities and snacks will be provided.

When: Wednesdays that are NOT early outs starting September 20th.

The program will run from 3:30-5:00. See below for all future dates.

Oct. 4th

Oct. 18th

Oct. 25th

Nov. 1st

Nov. 15th

Jan. 17th

Jan. 31st

Feb. 14th

Feb. 28th

March 20th

Apr. 3rd

Where: Elementary Cafeteria. Students need to be picked up by parents at 5 p.m.

Why: We want to build a sense of strong Christ-centered community for our kids, therefore, we came up with **T.R.I.B.E.**

Teach God's word

Reveal His love for you and His creation

Inspire you to become who God created you to be

Bless others by sharing our gifts

Encourage others to learn about God's love, too

Contact Amanda Lynch 641-202-6993 or email at lynch.amandaj@hotmail.com with any questions.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES – OCTOBER 8 & OCTOBER 22

Confirmation Classes will begin **October 8**, following worship in Mount Ayr. They will be held roughly every second Sunday.

Students are required to have mentors. If you are asked to be a mentor, please consider it. Mentors are to attend all the class sessions and to have some contact with students in between sessions.

Please be in prayer for students, mentors, and parents as they begin the confirmation journey.



REDDING HAYRIDE – OCTOBER 8

The Redding UMC will be sponsoring a hayride on October 8.

Meet at the church by 2 p.m. A bonfire with hot dogs and smore's will be held at the edge of the Redding Park at the conclusion of the ride.

Following the hayride (approximately 4 p.m.) a Trunk and Treat event will be held around the Redding Square.



REDDING'S TRUNK AND TREAT – OCTOBER 8

4:00-5:00 P.M. Costumes are optional – Free of Charge (Those providing treats or prizes need to be set up before 4 p.m. around the park.) Need more information – contact Kim Scharfenkamp, 515-229-1909.



WHAT'S HAPPENING OCTOBER 11
MA Committees – 6:30 p.m.
MA Ad. Bd. - 7:30 p.m.
R MACS – 7 p.m. at the Redding UMC
(Bring your kit supplies for the Ingathering in November)

LOOKING AHEAD....REDDING AD. BD. - OCTOBER 12

The regular meeting of the Redding Ad. Bd. will meet on **Thursday, October 12th at 6 p.m.** at the Parish Office to work on Charge Conference Reports!

To the Laity,

*We are writing to extend a special invitation to you, as the laity of an Oasis Network Congregation, to join us for the Fall Laity Day with Bishop Kennetha on **October 14, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** It will be at First United Methodist Church, 516 Kellog Ave., Ames, Iowa.*

This is a time for me to become better acquainted with the laity of the Iowa Conference. It will also be a time for us to join together for learning and inspiration, as we claim our identity together and look to the future as the Iowa Annual Conference. This is especially important for you as an oasis of hospitality for those who want to join in our shared vision to see God's hope made real.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank you for your faithfulness and hospitality. This is an important time for us to reclaim our identity and connection as United Methodist Christians. You have our gratitude and prayers. We hope you will join us. We are looking forward to seeing you. Blessings,

Kennetha Bigham-Tsai
Resident Bishop of the Iowa Area

Margaret Borgan
Conference Lay Leader

MA SPECIAL OFFERING FOR FURNACE FUND – OCTOBER 15
MA UMC POTLUCK – OCTOBER 15 (watch for more details to come!)

MA UMW – OCTOBER 18 – 1:00 P.M.

WE HAVE A DATE – OCTOBER 21

REDDING HARVEST LUNCHEON & AUCTION

We are pleased to announce a date has been found for the Redding Harvest Luncheon & Auction – Saturday, October 21. Auctioneer will be Kelly James. The menu will be Chili, Vegetable & Potato Soup and Hot Dogs/Coney Dogs held at the Redding UMC! Lunch being served from 11-12:30 and

Auction (a variety of baked goods, crafts, etc.) to be held at 1 p.m. Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun and fellowship!!!





LIFESERVE – BLOOD DRIVE – OCTOBER 28

Mount Ayr Community Blood Drive – Saturday, October 28th at the American Legion Hall from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Set up your life saving appointment by **Visiting:** lifeserve.info – **Call:** 1-800-287-4903 or **Text:** LIFESERVE to 999.777.

CHRISTMAS GREENERY ON SALE NOW

The Parish Parsonage Trustees Committee is selling Christmas greenery. The sale will run from October 1 through October 30. For sale are wreaths, garland, door swags, center pieces, and reindeer. We also have all those items as direct mail items that can be sent to family members across the country. **(Watch for a brochure insert for more details on greenery and prices in the next Messenger, October 11.)** Get your orders to Joen Brown, 641-344-0796 or joenbrown@mchsi.com, to a Parsonage Trustee, or the Parish Office, 464-3636 by **Sunday, October 29**. The proceeds go for upkeep of the parsonage.



METHODIST MEN'S LUNCH & AUCTION – OCTOBER 29

Mark your calendars! On October 29th, join us for the annual Methodist Men's meal and auction fundraiser. We'll be serving delicious Chicken Noodle soup and Chili. The proceeds from the auction will go towards providing scholarships for our seniors, supporting church projects, and matching funds for our church camp.

The meal will kick off at 11:00, followed by the auction at 12:15.

If you'd like to contribute items for the auction, we welcome baked goods, home-made items, and craft items. You can bring your donations on the day of the auction or leave them in the church basement.

For any inquiries or to arrange donations, please feel free to reach out to John Young, James Smith, or Harold Crawford.

Save the date, and we look forward to your participation in this wonderful event!

We need Pie's for the meal. Please bake two and help us out!



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY....

To Family and Friends of Dale Walters. Funeral services were held at the Mt. Ayr United Methodist Church on Saturday, September 23 with Pastor Lorinda officiating. Burial in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Mt. Ayr, IA.

To Family and Friends of Elvin Swank. Funeral services were held at the United Baptist Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, September 26. Burial in the Rose Hill Cemetery, Mt. Ayr, IA.

To Family and Friends of Dorothy Saville. Funeral services had not been arranged at the time of this printing.

2023 Aldersgate District Second 6 Week District Wide Book Study

***Join DS Melissa Drake for the Second 6 Week District Wide Book Study of the year!
Five Marks of A Methodist: The Fruit of a Living Faith***

Join DS Melissa Drake and the Aldersgate District as we reclaim the joy and passion of being disciples of Jesus Christ as United Methodists in the world today! Meet others around the district—lay and clergy—and grow in your own faith journey.

We are diving into the 5 Marks of A Methodist by Steve Harper, going deeper into those practices that confirm and help us grow in our identity as genuine and fruitful followers of Christ.

When: October 2nd – October 30th Monday Mornings, 10am

Where: Zoom from the comfort of your own home!

RSVP: Please RSVP to melissa.drake@iaumc.org to receive the zoom meeting and Amplify subscription materials.

Optional: In person: Fellowship and Wrap-up Party: November 6 – 11:30am-1pm

Book Cost: \$6.79

Participant Guide: \$5.99

QUESTION...There has been some question about Christmas Eve Services....

YES...December 24 - Christmas Eve services will be held at Middle Fork and Mt. Ayr. The morning service will be at Redding UMC ONLY at 10 a.m.

Redding Candlelight Service will be on December 17.

ALDERSGATE CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2023

Charge Conferences will be held as Circuit Cluster Conferences.

The Mt. Ayr Larger Parish Charge Conference will be November 12 at 2 p.m.

REPORTS WILL BE SENT OUT IN OCTOBER....PLEASE RETURN

TO PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS YOU CAN!

October 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 MA Noisy Offering Benefit for Weiman's Noon Christian Church | 2 Circuit Pastor Lorinda gone till October 6 th | 3 | 4 T.R.I.B.E. 3:30-5:00 p.m. MA Elem. School | 5 Visitation for D. Saville Prugh Dunfee 5-7 p.m. | 6 Funeral for D. Saville, 10:30 R UMC Pastor Lorinda returns | 7 |
| 8 Confirmation following worship R Hayride, 2:00 Trunk/Treat, 4:00 | 9 Circuit 11:30-1:30 p.m. | 10 Articles due for Messenger | 11 Messenger MA Committees 6:30 p.m. Ad. Bd., 7:30 p.m. R MACS, 7 p.m. | 12 R Ad. Bd. 6 p.m. at MA Parish Office | 13 | 14 Fall Laity Day with Bishop Kennetha, 9:00-3:00 p.m. 1 st UMC in Ames |
| 15 MA Furnace Fund Special Ofering MA Potluck | 16 Circuit 11:30-1:30 p.m. | 17 | 18 UMW 1:00 p.m. T.R.I.B.E. 3:30-5:00 | 19 | 20 Send a Note to your Teacher on/near Conference (October 22) | 21 Redding Harvest Lunch 11:00 & Auction starts at 1:00 |
| 22 Confirmation following worship | 23 Circuit 11:30-1:30 p.m. | 24 Articles due for Messenger | 25 Messenger T.R.I.B.E. 3:30-5:00 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 MA 5 th Sunday 10 a.m. MA UMM Lunch & Auction following worship | 30 Circuit 11:30-1:30 p.m. | 31 Halloween | | | | |

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
301 W. MADISON
MOUNT AYR, IOWA 50854

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MOUNT AYR
PERMIT 27

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



NEXT MESSENGER - OCTOBER 11

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FAITHFULNESS!

MT. AYR UMC
UMC Parish Office
303 W. Madison
Mt. Ayr, IA 50854

REDDING UMC
Lil Rinehart
2072 310th St.
Mt. Ayr, IA 50854

MIDDLE FORK UMC
Bev McGinnis
2976 Co. Hwy. P38
Mt. Ayr, IA 50854

your giving to the appropriate address:

We ask that you continue to give financially to the church as you are able. You may mail your giving to the following addresses depending on where you attend church. Please send

REMINDER.....Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings

lost loved ones or have been hospitalized. responders and medical professionals, men & women in our military, and those who have Kellerton, Beaconfield, Mt. Ayr, Redding and Middle Fork UMC, our 1st

Elliston, Weldon, Leon Loving Chapel, High Point, Davis City, Lamoni, people of Ukraine, OUR COUNTRY, Churches of the Circuit - Tingley, Hayse, Marie Flynn (sister of Marla Crawford going through chemo) the Please keep in your prayers those suffering from Covid/Flu/RSV, Preston

PRAYER LIST.....

