

The Messenger

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

October 25, 2023 #18

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Practices of the faith: Reading Scripture, part one.

In a recent confirmation class, I asked the students what is necessary to participate in a sport, band, or choir. How does one become a better athlete, player, singer? Their immediate answer: practice! The same is true of our faith. To be a disciple of Jesus means continuing to grow and strengthen our faith. That means practicing what John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, called "the means of grace." There are practices that deepen our relationship with God, and through which we experience God's grace.

One such practice is reading Scripture. Wesley recommended that Methodists read two chapters a day: one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. Or, at minimum, one chapter a day. That's certainly one way to approach it, and one I am trying to adopt myself. If that seems too much, there are other ways to begin. One simple way is to use the Daily Reading suggestions provided in the bulletin insert each week. They are shorter than a chapter, and relate to the sermon topic that week. Some Bibles have reading plans, and Bible reading calendars can often be found online. If you aren't already a regular Bible reader, I encourage you to take up this practice of the faith, using whatever guide or pattern feels like a good fit.

Here are some tips for getting started:

1) Read a Bible that you can understand. I'll go into more detail about translation options in the next Messenger. But also please feel free to ask me. I'm happy to help you find a translation that fits your needs.

2) Start small. The daily reading suggestions provided in the bulletin take only a few minutes to read. If you want to stick with reading from one book of the Bible instead of skipping around as the daily readings sometimes do, start with a shorter book, and one that doesn't require a lot of background knowledge to understand. Two good options are Ruth in the Old Testament and the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament.

3) Spend a little time reflecting on what you read. Consider keeping a journal where you note your observations and questions. Some questions you might ask yourself:

What words or phrases stand out to me?

What questions do I have about what I read?

How is God speaking to me through this passage?

Some days you may not be able to answer some (or even all!) of the questions, that's o.k. Other days, you may find you have lots to think or write about.

4) Be gentle with yourself if you forget or fall behind. Startup where you left off, or figure out a new plan, and start practicing again.

Blessings,
Pastor Lorinda

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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.



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.



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!



CHRISTMAS GREENERY ON SALE NOW

The Parish Parsonage Trustees Committee is selling Christmas greenery. **The sale ends 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. 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.



PARISH BIRTHDAYS – NOVEMBER

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1 – Nicole Smith | 17 – Karly Elwood, Kerrigan Willis, |
| 2 – Sandy Main | Don Hove, Colvin Schuitema |
| 3 – Bessie Parker | 18 – Patty Stark, Thad Sreit, |
| | Becca (Pennington) Clymer |
| 4 – Tracy Giles | 20 – Cindy Morgan |
| 5 – Brett Cannon | 21 – Gavin Smith |
| 7 – Alisha Link | 22 – Kristen Roudybush |
| 8 – Chris Elwood | 25 – Jake Dailey, Jody Fox, Kay Hove |
| 9 – Malinda Swank, Keye Willis | 26 – Jim Pedersen, Shay Schuitema |
| 10 – Jill Weehler, Richard Swank, | 27 – Jerry Overholser |
| Jodi Haley | 29 – Tammy James |
| 11 – Katie Routh | 30 – Julie Neas |
| 13 – Kaelyn Schafer | |
| 15 – Natalie Ingram, Ryann Cannon | |
| 16 – Doris Drake, Peggy Drake, Aaden Breneman | |

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, 464-363



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM...T.R.I.B.E. - NOVEMBER 1

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.

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.**

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

INGATHERING – GREENFIELD UMC

NOVEMBER 4

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS – NOVEMBER 5

REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 5

An ancient celebration of the lives of loved ones that were lost in the previous year. During morning worship, we will be lighting a candle and reading the name of the loved ones that were lost in the previous year.

Mt. Ayr UMC

Wayne Kemery (father of Deb Lynch), Leroy Wood, Carolyn Schumann (mother of Wanda Pennington), Paul

Brand, Jessie Woollums, Wilma Messina (family of Max Smith), Clell Beason (brother to Callie Weehler), Dale Walters, Abbi Overholser, David Perry (son of late Merrill Perry), Kay Drake and Norma Mossman (mother-in-law of Pastor Lorinda.

Redding UMC

Don Snethen, Dianna Walkup, Abbi Overholser, Bob Andrew, Ann Cordell, Maggie McBrayer (sister of Vickie Jeanes), Anthony Stewart, Paul Brand, Gaylee Abarr, Helen Hunt, Colman Phillips, Leonard Cracraft (brother-in-law of Dick Snethen), Jane Schnoor (Jackie Goodale Schnoor's mother-in-law), Dorothy Saville, Sister Madonna Lang (Bill Scharfenkamp's Aunt) and Elizabeth Fountain (Kim Scharfenkamp's Aunt) and Norma Mossman.

Middle Fork UMC

James Kerwin (brother-in-law of Bobbi Bainum), Madalynn Stewart (granddaughter of Lila Stewart), Helen Hunt and Elvin Swank (brother of Lila Stewart) and Norma Mossman. **If there are others....please let the parish office know.**

COMMUNION – NOVEMBER 5

The Parish Churches have resumed serving communion as we did pre-COVID.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES – NOVEMBER 5

Confirmation Classes will follow worship on November 5 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 AD. BD. - NOVEMBER 6 – 6 P.M. - REDDING UMC



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOVEMBER 8

MA Committees – 6:30 p.m.

MA Ad. Bd. - 7:30 p.m.

R MACS – 7 p.m. at Kathy Comer's

ALDERSGATE CHARGE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2023

Charge Conferences will be held as Circuit Cluster Conferences.

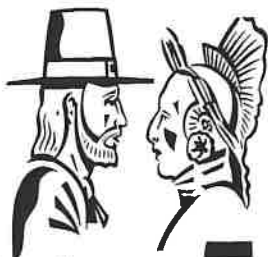
*The Mt. Ayr Larger Parish Charge Conference will be
November 12 at 2 p.m. at the Ellston UMC.*

**REPORTS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT. PLEASE RETURN TO PARISH
OFFICE BY OCTOBER 30TH.**



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – NOVEMBER 15

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on November 15 at the 1st Christian Church in Mt. Ayr. Contact Bev McGinnis to make an appointment.



Thanksgiving Day

HELP PURCHASE THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR A LOCAL FAMILY IN NEED ONLY \$10.00 PER DINNER

Pay cash or swipe your credit card at the register.

THANK YOU FOR CARING!

Sponsored by HyVee, Matura Outreach Center
and Ringold Ministerial Association

THANKSGIVING MEALS FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

If you would like to donate to the Neighborhood Center for Thanksgiving meals, there are 2 ways the Mt. Ayr church will do that this year:

- I. Write a check made out to MATURA, **note on your check that it is for Thanksgiving meals**, and deliver it or mail it to Neighborhood Center, 306 So. Garfield St., Mt. Ayr.
- II. Or you can donate when you shop at Hy-Vee.

We will not collect food for the Thanksgiving meals that the Center distributes.

However, you can still donate food by bringing items to the church on the first Sunday of the month.

NEWS FROM THE METHODIST WOMEN

The Mount Ayr United Methodist Women met on Wednesday, October 18, with 14 present: Margaret Bishop, Joen Brown, Carol Cason, Jo Cook, Shirley Erickson, Janet Hickman, Lorinda Hoover, Kay Hove, Nancy Roe, Patty Freeman, Mary Swank, Cheryl Taylor, Lynne Wallace, and Sally Young. We shared joys and concerns, prayed, read our Pledge and Purpose, and took care of business. Due to a bit of fun and challenge from the United Methodist Men, we have now donated \$506 to the Furnace/AC Fund! We also donated money that will furnish snacks for many weeks of TRIBE. **We will celebrate UMW Sunday on November 12.** We will recognize people who have been involved in ministry involving women, children, and youth, with a special pin or a gift to mission. Upcoming activities include the annual "mitten tree," where we hang clothing items for the school, and adopting a family for Christmas through the Neighborhood Center. **Our next meeting will be Wednesday, November 15, in the church basement.** Please join us!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In December there will be a Christmas tree in the League Room where you can put items needed by the Elementary School. **The school nurse requests** just 2 items this year:

Sweat Pants in sizes 4-5, and especially 6-8 or 10-12

Deodorant in no larger than travel size, to give to the students during their growth and development talk

The school can also use tissues (like Kleenex) **and wipes** (like Clorox). If you would like to donate those, you can put them under the tree, too.

THANK YOU for your donations! They are appreciated!

NEEDED....A REDDING COMMUNION STEWARD....

Cindy Snethen has volunteered to be Redding's Communion Steward for the remainder of 2023. The Redding UMC is looking for a volunteer who would like to be Redding's Communion Steward beginning January 2024. Please contact Sharon at the Parish Office, 464-3636.

**Administrative Council Meeting – Mt. Ayr United Methodist Church
October 11, 2023**

Call to Order: by Deb Robertson at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Pastor Lorinda (via Facetime), Janet Hickman, Deb Robertson, Nancy Roe, Samantha Crawford, Cheryl Taylor, Lucan Triggs, Katie Still and Mark Hickman.

Secretary's Report: approved by Katie Still. Seconded by Nancy Roe

Treasurer's Report:

Furnace Fund raised \$3,132.00

Building Fund – Building Fund Balance for September was \$17,321.99

Operating Account – Fund balance for September was \$14,465.03 at GWB and \$6,866.22 at USB for a total of \$21,331.25

Expenses – usual expenses for September

Janet motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Cheryl seconded the motion.

Committee Report

Trustee Report: No Report

Membership: No Report

Memorial: No Report

UMW: Money for Furnace Fund; money toward snacks for TRIBE

UMM: Methodist Men's Sale - 5th Sunday of October

Education: Dissolving Committees

Worship: No Report

Finance: No Report

Missions: Dissolved

Lay Leader: Thankful for the remarks for the Sunday service

Nancy approved reports. Mark seconded the report.

Parish Committee Reports

Staff/Pastor Parish: No Report

Parish Council: No Report

Parish Parsonage: No Report

Old Business: No Report

cont.

Mt. Ayr Ad. Bd. cont.

New Business: Lynne Wallace moving to Chair of Membership; need a Chair for Worship, Samantha Crawford is serving on Worship; Shaun Kniep moving to Chair for Memorials; UMM will elect a Chair; Trustees will elect a Chair in the beginning of the year.

New list of instructions for Ushers on bright yellow cardstock under the shelf by the Usher's chair.

Worked on updating the Ministry Action plan. We decided to keep the vision the same. Continue to support our after school program called TRIBE (Teach Reach Inspire Build Encourage)

Priorities: Outreach - nursing homes and assisted living bible studies, Faith walk; supporting TRIBE; getting equipment for safety and the filling out grant.

Concerns:

Adjournment: Closing prayer by Lorinda

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BIG THANKS....



To everyone who supported the Redding Harvest Luncheon & Sale on Saturday, October 21. A successful and beautiful day of fun and fellowship that was enjoyed by many!! A special thanks to Kelly James for being our Auctioneer and Kevin & Jacob Wimer for assisting him, Lori Wimer and Ginny Quick for clerking, Lil Rinehart (potato soup), Peggy Overholser (vegetable soup) and Sharon Walkup & Cindy Snethen (chili soup) and those who donated desserts for the lunch and items for the sale and the **BUYERS.** It takes all of the church family and friends to pull off this special event!

REDDING SOCK ANGEL

You might notice an "Angel" at the Redding UMC. The Redding MAC's decided to not give individual gifts to each other this year for Christmas and Ginny Quick came up with the idea and made the "Angel" for donating socks. Everyone can join in in donating new socks and dropping them into the "Angel". Socks will be given to schools or wherever they are needed this winter.

GOING SOUTH FOR THE WINTER.....Please let the Parish Office know if you'd like to receive the Messenger at your winter address. They do not forward bulk mail.

November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 T.R.I.B.E. 3:30-5:00 p.m.	2	3	4 Ingathering
5 All Saints Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends Confirmation	6 R Ad, Bd. Circuit 11:30-1:30	7 Articles due for Messenger	8 Messenger R MACS MA Committees & Ad. Bd.	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12 Charge Conference 2:00 Elston UMC UMW Sunday	13 Circuit 11:30-1:30	14	15 T.R.I.B.E. Red Cross Blood Drive MA UMW	16	17	18 Special Session Annual Conf.
19 MA Furnace Fund Confirmation	20 Circuit 11:30-1:30	21 Articles due for Messenger	22 Messenger R Bake Sale Courthouse	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 United Methodist Student Day Offering	27 Circuit 11:30-1:30	28	29	30		



PRAYER LIST.....

Please keep in your prayers those suffering from Covid/Flu/RSV, Preston Hayse, Marie Flynn (sister of Marla Crawford going through chemo) the people of Ukraine & Isreal, OUR COUNTRY, Churches of the Circuit -Tingley, Ellston, Weldon, Leon Loving Chapel, High Point, Davis City, Lamoni, Kellerton, Beaconsfield, Mt. Ayr, Redding and Middle Fork UMC, our 1st responders and medical professionals, men & women in our military, and those who have lost loved ones or have been hospitalized.

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

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 your giving to the appropriate address:

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

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

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

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED FAITHFULNESS!
NEXT MESSENGER – NOVEMBER 8**



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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