

The
M
e
s
s
a
g
e
s
e

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

November 8, 2023 #19

**

**

**



**Practices of the Faith: Reading Scripture Part Two:
Choosing a Bible**

Are you looking for a new Bible? Are you trying to read
Scripture more regularly and are finding your Bible hard to understand? Are you
wanting to buy a Bible for a relative? If so, here is a simple guide to choosing a
Bible.

Step One: Choose a Translation

There are so many translations today that it can seem overwhelming! Three
important criteria for choosing a Bible are: Is it the work of a group of scholars?
Does it have a particular target audience or theological bent that is consistent with
what I am looking for? Is it a translation and not a paraphrase?

Note: a paraphrase takes the words and stories of scripture and, rather than
translating them, puts them in the author/paraphraser's "own words." Examples
include the Living Bible, the Message, The Cotton Patch Bible, and the First
Nations Version.

Working through those questions can seem overwhelming. So below are some
suggestions from me (including suggestions of what not to use). If you want to go
more in depth, please feel free to contact me: I'm happy to go more in depth with
anyone who wants to.

Transitions/Paraphrases I do not recommend:
the KJV (the English language has changed considerably since 1611, making
understanding this translation very hard)

The Living Bible: this is a paraphrase, done by one person, and in places he has
added entire sentences that are strongly anti-Jewish. These added sentences are
not in the original language (Hebrew or Greek), but readers have no way of

knowing this if they don't know Hebrew or Greek. If you really love the Living Bible but are willing to think about another translation, consider the New Living Translation, second edition. It is a translation (not a paraphrase) done by several scholars (not just one person), but in the style of the Living Bible, and is very easy to understand)

The Message: this is also a paraphrase, not a translation, and done by one person. While it can be a helpful supplement, it is not a translation.

Translations I do recommend:

The CEB, or Common English Bible. This is what I typically use in worship. It is easy to understand. It does translate some well known phrases and terms differently than many other English translations. Most notably, the phrase that is often translated as "Son of Man" is translated as "Human One" in the CEB. That's a valid translation, but if you are looking for more traditional language, the NIV or NRSV are better options.

The NIV or New International Version. Makes more traditional language choices than the CEB. It is a sound, very readable translation that is widely used.

The NRSV or New Revised Standard version is a good option for skilled readers. It has a much higher reading "grade level" than either the CEB or NIV. It can feel very "formal" or "stiff" because it tries to mirror the word order and grammar of the original languages more than either the CEB or NIV. This is the translation I used as my primary Bible from the time it came out in 1989, until a few years ago when I switched to the CEB for preaching and worship. I still use it as part of my preaching prep and in other settings. While it is a good scholarly translation, readability is definitely an issue with it for many people.

Step Two: Do you want a Study Bible?

While you can purchase Bibles without any study helps, there are also a wide range of Study Bibles out there. Do you want a Study Bible with devotions? With real life applications? With more "technical" notes? I'm happy to discuss possibilities with you, but here are a few suggestions:

The Wesley Study Bible is available in both CEB and NRSV translations. It's a good option for learning more about United Methodist understandings of Scripture, and about John Wesley's thoughts on various Bible passages. (John Wesley founded the Methodist movement)

The Life Application Study Bible (available as both NIV and NLT) is an approachable, real-life application study Bible.

The New Oxford Annotated Bible is a NRSV study bible with notes that focus on understanding what the Scripture means in a more "scholarly" sense. There are not personal application notes. It is a standard in many college and seminary Bible classes.

Blessings,

Pastor 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.

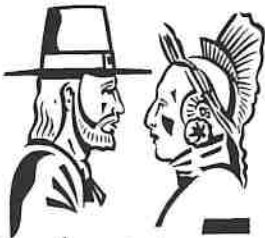
Website for Mount Ayr UMC!

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.



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 Ringgold 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.

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.

NEWS FROM THE METHODIST WOMEN

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!**



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – NOVEMBER 14

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, November 14 at the 1st Christian Church in Mt. Ayr. Contact Bev McGinnis to make an appointment.



AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM....T.R.I.B.E. - NOVEMBER 15

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. 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



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.

BIG THANKS...to everyone who purchased Christmas Greenery. The funds are used for the upkeep of the Parsonage.



THANK YOU....

To those in the Redding congregation that supported the 2023 Ingathering. We were able to send 46 School Kits to Greenfield on Saturday, November 4. A special thanks to Kim Scharfenkamp for delivering our kits to Greenfield. **Our total for Kits, Cash for Blankets and shipping was \$1012.00.** (This was an increase from 2022 of \$850.)



RECENT SURGERY

Former resident Jim Freeman of 34393 SW 103rd Road, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310, recently had hip replacement and is recovering in his home. He'd love to hear from his friends back here at Mt. Ayr as he begins therapy!

MIDDLE FORK'S INGATHERING

Ingathering Hunger Grants	\$125.
Heifer International	\$125.
Self-Help/Feeding project	\$125.
Mobility Worldwide	\$125.
Midwest Mission	\$100.
Cash For Blankets	20.
Undesignated Cash Gifts	<u>\$130.</u>
	\$750.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 5

During morning worship, we lit a candle and read the following names that were lost the previous year. The list included:

Mt. Ayr UMC

Wayne Kemery, Leroy Wood, Carolyn Schumann, Paul Brand, Jessie Woollums, Wilma Messina, Clell Beason, Dale Walters, Abbi Overholser, David Perry, Kay Drake, Halsie Barnes and Norma Mossman.

Redding UMC

Don Sneath, Dianna Walkup, Abbi Overholser, Bob Andrew, Ann Cordell, Maggie McBraye, Anthony Stewart, Paul Brand, Gaylee Abarr, Helen Hunt, Colman Phillips, Leonard Cracraft, Jane Schnoor, Dorothy Saville, Sister Madonna Lang, Elizabeth Fountain and Norma Mossman.

Middle Fork UMC

James Kerwin, Madalynn Stewart, Helen Hunt and Elvin Swank and Norma Mossman.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...to those who set up for All Saints!

NOVEMBER 19 – SPECIAL OFFERING – MA FURNACE/AC



CONFIRMATION CLASSES – NOVEMBER 19

Confirmation Classes will follow worship on November 19 in Mount Ayr. They will be held roughly every second Sunday. Please be in prayer for students, mentors, and parents as they begin the confirmation journey.

MT. AYR UMC WILL DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS FOLLOWING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



REDDING UMC PRE-THANKSGIVING BAKE SALE NOVEMBER 22

Redding UMC will be holding their annual Pre-Thanksgiving Bake Sale on **Wednesday, November 22 beginning at 7:45** at the Ringgold County Courthouse till sold out! Always a nice selection of baked goods!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING – NOVEMBER 23

UNITED METHODIST STUDENT DAY – SPECIAL OFFERING

A special offering will be held on Sunday, November 26 for the United Methodist Student Day. This is to call the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge; offering funds, scholarships and loans.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON NOVEMBER 29

SPRC – 5:00 p.m. Parish Office

Parish Council – 6:00 p.m. Parish Office

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.

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.

Parish Council 9/30/2023

Present were Pastor Lorinda, Linda Hosfield, James Smith, Bev McGinnis, Cheryl Taylor, Lil Rinehart, Deb Robertson, Katie Still and Vickie Jeanes.

Pastor Lorinda opened with prayer

Minutes for the last meeting were approved with motion by Cheryl and second by Bev.

Treasurer's Report

Checking - \$9,179.09

Money Market - \$18,252.87

Withholding account \$1,265.97

\$10,000 was moved from money market account to regular checking to maintain a positive balance.

Report approved with motion by Deb and second by Linda.

Mt Ayr has had one Safe Sanctuary meeting and is beginning background checks.

Fifth Sunday locations

October 29th - Mt Ayr

Dec 24th - Redding (early because of Christmas Eve)

Mar 31st is Easter — will wait until closer to time.

June 30th - Middlefork

Passed around a copy of Form I. Linda explained the 2% raise to Pastor Lorinda and Sharon.

Pastoral salary \$55,488 Travel expense lowered from \$5,000 to \$2,500, other expense \$300 to \$600. The Pastor's percentage for pension has been lowered. The other expenses remain the same as 2023 This lowers the total from \$90,176 to \$87,187.20.

Sharon's salary $\$10,615.37 + 2\% (\$212.31) = \$10,827.68$

Division by Church

Mt Ayr members 179 %76.5

Redding members 42 %17.95

Middlefork members 14 % 5.55

Pastor Lorinda will be gone 9/28 to 10/6 Part education and part personal

She attended training 8/29 Fresh Expressions - Finding ways to connect outside of the building.

Redding Harvest Sale 9/30 (changed to 10/21)

Methodist Men's Sale 10/29 Freewill soup lunch with auction to follow

Charge Conference for Circuit 11/12 at Ellston

SPRC Budget Meeting 11/29

Sang Happy B-day to Linda.

Motion to adjourn by Linda and second Cheryl.



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

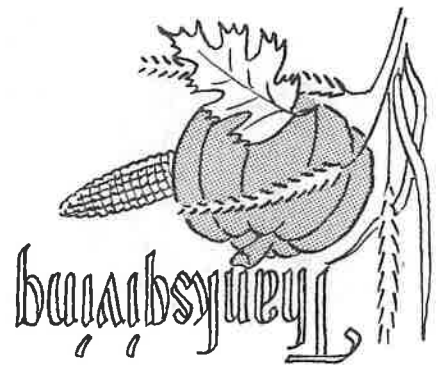
We ask that you continue to give financially to the church as you are able. You may mail your giving to the following addresses depending on where you attend church. Please send your giving to the appropriate address:

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 22



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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