



# Letters from the Lakeshore



## Northwest District Conference

Sunday, April 25

2:30 pm to 5:30 pm

Alta UMC (218 Prospect St)

### Inside this issue:

The district conference is composed of all clergy, diaconal ministers, church lay leader, president of UMM, president of UMW, and president of UMYF from each local church, lay member of the annual conference from each charge, equalization lay members of the annual conference, the district lay leader, president of District UMM, president of District UMW, the Field Outreach Minister.

There will be reports, Rainbow Covenant Recognition, election of officers and committees, approval of district askings, and other business of the district.

Let's come together for holy conferencing. It's the United Methodist way.

**Please note that the location has been changed from what was previously announced!**

District Superintendent Message	2
Easter Message	3
District Calendar	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Prayer Requests	6
Camp News	7
	8



Message  
from the  
District  
Superintendent

Worship is our main activity in the church. All United Methodists are encouraged to uphold the church with their presence, and we expect very many - if not all - to come to worship every Sunday.

In 2008, United Methodist Churches in the Iowa Annual Conference had an average worship attendance of 33%. Churches in the NW District had 36%. This means that our District's average is higher than the Conference. In 2007, NW District average attendance was 34%. This is an increase of 2%. This is progress and must be celebrated. This means that more members are coming more often to church or that more unchurched and dechurched are joining us in

worship or both.

I like the trend of our worship attendance. I thank the pastors and faithful members of our churches for their creativity and hard work in encouraging and challenging our people to come to church regularly and bring along others.



## A Message from the District Superintendent

(Continued from page 1)

It can not be denied that our relationship with God is strengthened when we observe the ordinances of God (like family and private prayer, public worship, Holy Communion, fasting, reading and studying the Holy Scripture). Therefore, the more we come together, the more intimate we are with God and also with one another.

Worship is a believer's way of responding to God's love. Yesterday and today, worship is always a good way to thank and praise God for what he has done for us. Form of worship may change, but the function will always be the same which is to glorify God.

I think it is okay to come up with different ways to encourage our people to come to church to worship on Sundays. Once they are there, it is up to the Holy Spirit to make it a kairos moment (God's moment) with them.

Lester Seeds of Faith UMC (one of our churches in NW District) is probably the only church in the Iowa Annual Conference which has more worshippers than their actual members. In spite of that achievement, this church is continues to raise the bar and aim for still higher worship attendance.

As unchurched and dechurched see believers who are excited and happy about their coming together, they will surely say, "Something good is happening in that church. I'll check and see." And with our radical hospitality, passionate worship, and powerful preaching, (together with the work of the Holy Spirit), these people may finally say, "I found it."

I encourage United Methodists to increase our average attendance in worship. The more we worship, the healthier we become as a church, and the greater as well is our witness to the community. The source of inspiration and power of our witness and service is in our kairos moment with God in worship and prayer in the church.

*Rev. Bernie Colorado*



**Iowa Annual  
Conference United  
Methodist Church**

**Northwest District  
Office**



**Bishop Julius Trimble**

**District Superintendent  
Rev. Bernie Colorado**

Email: [BColorado@iaumc.org](mailto:BColorado@iaumc.org)

**Field Outreach Minister  
Sarah Stevens**

Email: [Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org](mailto:Sarah.Stevens@iaumc.org)

**District Administrative  
Secretary**

**Judi Calhoon**

Email: [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org)

## LAY SPEAKERS TRAINING



Lay Speaker Training was recently held at Kingsley UMC. Study leaders: Ed Frank – Basic Course; Roger Kurtenbach – Adv. Course in Prayer; Bernie Colorado – Adv. Course in Creating New Faith Communities.



404 E 7th, Ste 2  
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

(712) 732-0812  
(712) 732-0955(Fax)

[www.iaumc.org/nwdist](http://www.iaumc.org/nwdist)

## Easter Message

by Bernie Colorado

John 20:19-31

Jesus appeared in a community. The appearance confirmed that Jesus is alive, powerful and victorious.

When your Lord greets you, he wants to reconnect himself to you. Reconnecting with Jesus is always a joyful moment. Being forgiven from your sins is always a joyful moment. Being with the Lord is always a joyful moment.

Thomas missed the giving and receiving of spiritual life and power.



*Doubting  
Thomas*

Thomas said, “That’s impossible. Unless I see and touch, I won’t believe.” There are many people today who are like Thomas. When people don’t listen, there is really nothing you can do but pray that enlightenment comes someday.

Jesus is going to make a very significant appearance to those who continually reject the importance of our coming together especially to worship and pray, to fellowship and serve. Eventually God is going to show some proof of who he is to inactive believers. It will be something that they will accept as true for themselves.

When Jesus said to Thomas: “Stop doubting”, he was in effect saying “what more shall I do to make you believe.” God shows his love, kindness and goodness to inactive and un-involved members but they find it hard to see them.

We say to the Lord, “You are my Master and my God”. If we really mean that, there is no reason as to why we should not come to church worship because it is our time with your Lord. When people come regularly, faithfully, and joyfully, they begin to bring along others.

Worship is for God. We come to give our praise and thanksgiving.

Healthy and growing churches today changed the mind-set of the church people and those who just joined. The people joined the church not because of what they expect Jesus and the church will do to them but more on what they can do for Jesus and his church.

If we really mean what we promised when we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, there should not be a reason as to why the church must decline, no reason why the ministry of Christ must suffer, and no reason why every pew in a small building like ours will not be filled with people every Sunday.




There is a call for a new mind set.

Important Information

- If you have any articles for the district newsletter, please send them to [Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org](mailto:Judi.Calhoon@iaumc.org) by the 20th of the month.
- April 17 – Confirmation Rally
- April 20 – Open House
- April 25 – District Conference at Alta
- May 1– Small Group Leaders Training
- May 4 – Clergy Mentor Training
- May 6 – Multi Staff Church Workshop
- May 15– Pension Information Meeting and Pre-Conference Training
- June 5-8– Annual Conference

# ▶ April 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1 	2 Office Closed	3
4 	5 School for Ministry	6	7 Cabinet	8	9	10
11	12	13 Cabinet	14	15	16 Conf Parish Dev	17 Confirmation Rally
18 Lay Speaker Training	19 Sarah in Des Moines	20 Open House	21	22 Sarah BHEdCM	23	24
25 District Conference	26	27 Cabinet	28	29	30 	



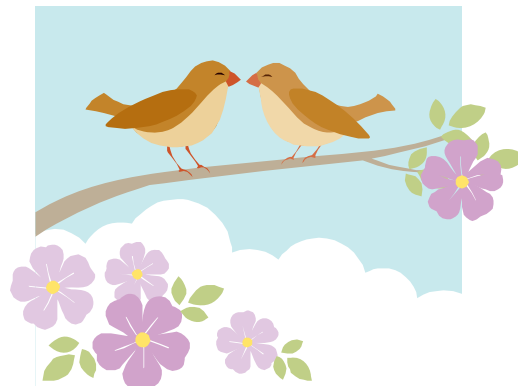
## Bernie's Calendar

### April

- 5 SPRC meeting
- 6-8 School for Ministry
- 8 Board of Ordained Ministry
- 9 Conduct Evangelism Workshop for Ruthven UMC at Camp Okoboji (7pm-9pm)
- 11 Visit a Church  
SPRC meeting
- 13-14 Cabinet
- 16 Conference Parish Development (10-3pm)
- 17 Confirmation Rally
- 18 Visit a church  
SPRC meeting
- 19 SPRC meeting
- 20 District Office Open House
- 21 SPRC meeting
- 22 Joint Task Force Committee 10am
- 24 SPRC meeting
- 25 District Conference at Alta
- 27-28 Cabinet

### Ministry Appraisal Forms Due May 1st

**ALL Pastors under appointment and S/PPRCs are each to return a completed (and signed) copy of the form to the District Office by May 1, 2010. The form is found on the Conference Website under forms.**





April

- 2 Bernie & Linda Colorado
- 2 Chuck Kellogg
- 4 Gail Streiffeler
- 7 Doug and Linda Harding
- 9 Relda Muller
- 11 Dave Finley
- 11 John Rosenberger
- 13 Lynn & Sally Potter
- 14 Norma Brighton
- 14 Cory Flanigan
- 17 Catie & John Newman
- 23 Kris Frank
- 24 Diana Pollard
- 24 Marlene Willey
- 26 Sarah Rohret
- 27 Russ & Karen Burnett
- 29 Christine Miller



Please keep the following in your prayers:

**The family of Ralph Kitterman** who passed away March 12th. Ralph was a retired clergy who had served as District Superintendent in the Spencer District and was the grandfather of Sarah Stevens.

**Joel and Angela Gafford Asmus** as they welcome home their new baby daughter, Isabella Corinne Asmus, born March 21. Angela is the pastor at Onawa-Turin.

**Karen Handke**, pastor at Smithland and her family. Karen's mother, Alma Grace Green, passed away on March 13th.

**Linda Colorado** who had eye surgery. Linda is the wife of our District Superintendent, Bernie Colorado.

**Sarah Stevens** who had sinus surgery. Sarah is our Field Outreach Minister.

**Mary Shultz** who was recently hospitalized. Mary is the pastor at Lakes UMC.

**Jo Watkins** who will be having surgery on April 8. Jo is the pastor at Everly-Royal and her husband, Karl, is the pastor at Harris-Lake Park.

Please keep the following pastors and their families in your prayers as they prepare for changes in appointments. Also pray for the churches as they prepare for new pastors.

**Janice Bennett** who will be retiring from Sioux City, Riverside.

**Russ Burnett** who will be retiring from Ida Grove-Arthur.

**Ron Johannsen** who will be retiring from Galva-Silver Creek.

**Rick Layman** who will be retiring from Quimby-Washta.

**Don Nelson** who will be retiring from Lester, Seeds of Faith.

**Lynn Potter** who will be retiring from Estherville.

**Deborah Wise** who has been appointed to Waverly, Trinity in the Northeast District beginning on June 1st. Deborah has been serving at Spirit Lake as associate pastor.

**Valerie Heller** who has been appointed to Creston-Jerusalem in the Southwest District. Valerie has been serving at Sioux City, Grace as associate pastor and at Sioux City, Rustin Avenue.

**Lynn Elrod** who has been appointed to Estherville. Lynn has been serving at Ames, Calvary in the North Central District.



Please forward all prayer requests to Judi at the District Office. If you would like the prayer request to go out on the District email list, please indicate that.

## APPORTIONMENT UPDATE

The United Methodist Church as a connectional or global church is able to carry out its world-wide mission through connectional giving or apportionment. Methodism spread in the United States and all over the world because of connectional giving of the people called Methodists (or United Methodists since 1968).

AKRON, WESLEY	8%	SALIX	1%	AYRSHIRE	0%
ALTA	8%	HUNTINGTON	0%	SAC CITY	0%
SCHALLER	5%	IDA GROVE, FIRST	17%	SANBORN, ST. ANDREW'S	8%
ANTHON	4%	ARTHUR	17%	SERGEANT BLUFF	17%
ROCK BRANCH	16%	KINGSLEY	8%	SHELDON	8%
ARCHER	0%	LAKES	0%	SIBLEY	0%
ARMSTRONG	0%	LANGDON	8%	OCHEYEDAN	8%
ARNOLDS PARK	4%	SPENCER, ZION	0%	SC, CHURCH ALL NATIONS	0%
AURELIA, FIRST	17%	LAURENS	17%	SIOUX CITY, CRESCENT PARK	0%
CHEROKEE, ST. PAUL'S	17%	LE MARS	14%	SIOUX CITY, FIRST	0%
CORRECTIONVILLE	8%	SENEY	16%	SIOUX CITY, GRACE	5%
CUSHING, FIRST	17%	LESTER, SEEDS OF FAITH	0%	SIOUX CITY, RIVERSIDE	0%
DANBURY	8%	MAPLETON, ST. JOHN'S	13%	SIOUX CITY, RUSTIN AVENUE	0%
DOLLIVER	0%	TICONIC	17%	SIOUX CITY, ST. JAMES	8%
<b>DOON, FIRST</b>	<b>100%</b>	MARATHON	0%	SIOUX CITY, TRIMBLE	8%
EARLY	17%	NEWELL	12%	SIOUX CITY, WESLEY	8%
EMMETSBURG	8%	MARCUS, GRACE	8%	SIOUX CITY, WHITFIELD	0%
ESTHERVILLE	0%	MELVIN	0%	SIOUX RAPIDS	0%
EVERLY	7%	MERRILL, FIRST	17%	REMBRANDT	0%
ROYAL	16%	ADAVILLE, FIRST	8%	SMITHLAND	0%
EXCELSIOR	0%	MILFORD, UNION MEMORIAL	2%	SPENCER, GRACE	13%
FOSTORIA	0%	MOVILLE	8%	SPIRIT LAKE	0%
GALVA, FIRST	0%	NEMAHA	17%	STORM LAKE	9%
SILVER CREEK	17%	ODEBOLT	17%	SUTHERLAND	5%
GRAETTINGER	3%	ONAWA	0%	LARRABEE	17%
TERRIL	17%	TURIN	8%	VARINA	8%
HARRIS	10%	PETERSON	8%	WEBB	0%
LAKE PARK	8%	PIERSON	7%	GILLETT GROVE	0%
HARTLEY	0%	MEADOW STAR	5%	DICKENS	17%
HAWARDEN	17%	PRIMGHAR	8%	WEST BEND	17%
IRETON	2%	QUIMBY	0%	MALLARD	8%
HINTON	2%	WASHTA	0%		
MERRILL, MELBOURNE	17%	ROCK RAPIDS	17%	<b>District Total Paid as of February 29, 2010</b>	
HOLSTEIN	17%	ROCK VALLEY, PIONEER	0%		<b>8%</b>
HOPE PARISH	0%	ROLFE	0%		
HORNICK	7%	RUTHVEN	17%		

## District Asking

The 2010 NW District asking is as follows: 60% New Church Start (Sioux Center); 10% JFON; 10% Iowa Nigeria Partnership; 10% Shessler Hall; 10% Hispanic Ministries. Our new church start ministry at Sioux Center is in progress with Dean Gabhart as our new church planter. We encourage the churches to pay 100% of District Asking. We also encourage donation for Sioux Center new church start.



## New Outreach - Okoboji Camp Ambassadors!

An Okoboji camping experience has been part of countless people's faith stories beginning in 1915. Camping events provide children, youth, young adults and families with an opportunity to learn, play, experience God's love in the outdoors, grow in faith in a safe atmosphere, and to reach their personal best! The activities and opportunities that campers experience at camp will stick with them for the rest of their lives! Camp provides the acceptance and support of a Christian community and positive relationships with caring adult leaders. At Okoboji, Christ is shared in song, word, worship and example. Camp provides an unforgettable summer experience, where campers can discover and explore exciting activities in a carefully supervised, Christian environment. Lives are changed forever!

The purpose of a Camp Ambassador is to help local churches share real-time camping and retreat information with children, youth and families in their local churches and communities, as well as other ways to become involved in this life-changing ministry!

Camp Ambassadors work within their local churches to continue the tradition of sharing the mission and ministry of an Okoboji camping experience! Our goal is to make it easy..even FUN to share this powerful opportunity, rich in tradition and rooted in faith!

An Okoboji Camp Ambassadors information packet will be mailed to your church within the next week.

Included in the information packet:

- ✚ Camp Ambassadors Guide (easy to use, step-by-step guide)
- ✚ DVD with multiple length video clips for worship/youth group, photos and all forms/paperwork needed to share about camp
- ✚ 2010 Catalog & Brochures - please let us know how many more you need! For additional copies, please contact us at camp.

info@okobojicamp.com or 866.856.9862

Thank you in advance for making sure this information finds its way to your local church's Okoboji Camp Ambassador!

Sincerely,

Okoboji United Methodist Camp

To All Clergy Spouses relating to the Iowa Annual Conference

## You are Invited

Saturday, April 10

## Clergy Spouse Gathering

A True Vine Ministry

*Inaugural Event*

**10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

Donation: \$20 Lunch Provided

Location: Iowa Events Center at Hy-Vee Hall Downtown Des Moines

[http://www.iaumc.org/console/files/oFiles\\_Library\\_XZXL CZ/ClergySpouseGathering\\_C7GRFJ28.pdf](http://www.iaumc.org/console/files/oFiles_Library_XZXL CZ/ClergySpouseGathering_C7GRFJ28.pdf)

## CONFIRMATION RALLY

It is time to remind all of our confirmands about the Confirmation Rally on April 17, 2010 (Saturday) to be held at Storm Lake UMC (211 E 3rd St). We begin at 9:30 am for fellowship and followed by presentation about the "Three Simple Rules" and small groups discussions. At 11:30 am, we gather at the sanctuary for worship service. After the meal, the confirmands may go to Kings Pointe for swimming and fun (paid by the District). This will be the 4th time that we do this and we expect all confirmands to come. It is a good opportunity to meet fellow young United Methodists and be in prayer together as they begin their journey new journey as believers and members of the United Methodist Church.

**Reservations are due to Judi in the District Office by April 15th.**



### Small Group Leaders Training

May 1, 2010  
9:30 am to 3:30 pm  
District Office (404 E 7th, Ste 2, Storm Lake)

This training will focus on Early Methodism's Small Group and Covenant Discipleship. Leader: Bernie Colorado.

### Multi Staff Leadership Workshop

May 6, 2010  
West Des Moines UMC

Those **expected** to attend are the following: Lead Pastors ; Associate Pastors ; All paid program Staff (CE Directors, Youth, Music Staff, etc) ; All persons working in TEAM configurations in a Local Church and/or in the context of a Multiple Charge. More information will be coming out soon.



### District Office Open House

**Tuesday, April 20**

**2:00 pm to 7:00 pm**

**404 E 7th St Ste 2, Storm Lake**

Please come and visit our new offices! We are located approximately 2 blocks south of Business 71/Highway 7 on Seneca Street. It is the former Fareway building.

### CLERGY MENTOR TRAINING

Tuesday, May 4  
10 am to 3pm  
Storm Lake UMC (211 E 3rd St)

All certified clergy mentors are encouraged to attend. Ordained clergy who are interested to become clergy may contact Deb Stowers and must attend the training.



Lay members to Annual Conference are to be registered by Wednesday, March 31st. If they did not get registered there will be a delay in receiving a pre-conference manual.

If you are a lay member to Annual Conference and did not receive a registration packet, please have your pastor contact the District Office. Your name may not have been submitted or we may not have had your address. Please make sure we have this info. **All changes to who is attending from a local church must be made through the District Office.**

Clergy were registered at your Professional Interview last fall.