

South Central District
Office of The United
Methodist Church

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LOWER LIGHTS

OCTOBER 2011



IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!

LET THE LOWER
LIGHTS
BE BURNING!



JULIUS C. TRIMBLE,
IOWA AREA BISHOP



BILL POLAND,
CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT



PAUL SMITH,
FIELD OUTREACH
MINISTER

District Benefit Meetings

District Benefit meetings will be held starting in September to review the open enrollment process for benefits, a new voluntary dental benefit plan, Wellmark's new benefit portal for participants, and some updates on Wellness.

The tentative schedule is as follows. Please watch for more details or contact your district office for time and locations. All pastors receiving benefits need to attend.

NE – September 19th – Waverly - Heritage UMC 10 a.m.

NC – September 21st – Webster City - Faith UMC 10 a.m.

EC – October 18th – Pictured Rocks Camp 10:30 a.m.

SE – October 19th – Time and Location TBD

SC – October 20th – Chariton UMC 6:30 p.m.

Central – October 26th – Wesley Woods Pine Room 9 a.m.

NW – November 2nd – Primghar UMC 10:00 a.m.

SW – November 3rd – Atlantic First UMC 6:30 p.m.

New Places for New People

This might be an obvious question, but here goes: What kind of people does God love? I ask it not because I don't know, but because sometimes I need reminded. And truth be told so do you. We all do. We get caught up in our own lives and we can become blind to some very obvious things all around us. Nearly every one of us can quote John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life." We know that God loves the world and the people in it: **all the people.**



This brings me to my second obvious question: Do we? Do we love all of the people?

Also in John, Jesus says, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12 NRSV) In this verse Jesus commands us in a love that defines us as his disciples and if we are to make disciples of Jesus Christ we must disciple them in this love. And that means not only do we have to see them, but we have to reach out to them just as God reaches out to us in Christ. We must be intentional in seeking to develop a relationship with them. We must be the ones to take the first step, and perhaps the second, and the third,.... Just as God does with us.



Many of us are worried about the future of our churches and by that we mean whether or not we will have a future. I am more concerned with now. I am worried that we are not reaching out to those around us with the really Good News of God's love in Jesus Christ now. In the Church we are often worried about the people we have lost, and I am not against that, but I wish we were just as worried about the people we have never had: those who have not had a relationship with Christ in his church. Why is it we can't seem to muster as much passion for them as we do for friends who have left? They have after all, had a chance to get to know us and chose to leave. What about those whom we have never gotten to know?

We are trying to rediscover this as United Methodists around the emphasis of New Places for New People. We are being challenged to get outside the walls of our churches to go into new places to begin to create opportunities for relationships with new people and not just people "just like us". Please join us for Charge Conference to begin a conversation on how you might do this in your community. But please join me in prayer as we seek to ask the Holy Spirit to show us who it is around us we are being called to go out to.

Keep Shining,

Bill

Amazing?

I have been fighting a cold the last few weeks and I finally went to the Doctor for help. My Doctor is in Ottumwa and he is leaving the first of November for Atlanta. I was making small talk with the nurse and I asked her if she had to find a new job or would she continue to work for this office. She said, "They have reassured me that a new Doctor is coming and that I had a job."

After a few moments she said, "But I wish I could go to Atlanta also." I said, "You must not have very many connections to this area."

She answered me with a comment that struck me.

"No, but this Doctor has been instrumental in some amazing things with patients and I really like being a part of that!"

I could not but help to think of the call of Jesus, and how the disciples were ready to leave everything, to be a part of something that will be amazing. I wondered how many people outside of the church would ever say that about one of our churches. I want to be a part of that church because they are doing some amazing things!

When was the last time we even thought of trying to do something that was amazing.

I was looking up the definition of Amazing and found that not only does it mean to awe and inspire but it also can mean to befuddle and confuse!

May you and your church do something that will truly inspire and awe others but by its very nature it will confuse and befuddle others. My question is this, "If we try to be amazing we will confuse more of those on the inside of the church than on the outside by our attempt to be Amazing? And if so what do you think Jesus would say?"

Blessings

Paul



Jim Griffith is coming again!!

Save the date! Jim Griffith is coming back to Albia on April 28, 2012 at 10:00 am. This session is about Pastoral effectiveness. Jim would like for the SPRC and the worship committees to be there along with the Pastor. Cost is 100.00 dollars per charge and the cost of lunch per person (which we be announced at a later date). This is session 3 of 3 of Jim coming to the South Central District. You will get a lot of great information and lot to discuss!

UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

October

Oct. 3 ~ Interviews—District Office

Oct. 4 ~ Interviews—Centerville, First

Oct. 5 ~ Interviews—District Office

Oct. 6 ~ Interviews—Corydon

Oct 9 ~ Charge Conference—Knoxville, First @ 2:00pm; Oskaloosa, Central 6:00pm

Oct. 10-12 ~ Cabinet

Oct. 13 ~ Interviews—District Office

Oct. 16 ~ Charge Conference—Ottumwa, Willard Street 2:00pm; Bloomfield 6:00pm

17 ~ Interviews—District Office

20 ~ Fall Benefit Health & Wellness Meeting—Chariton 6:30pm

22 ~ Basic Lay Speaker Training—Ellston 10:00—3:00

23 ~ Charge Conference—Winterset @ 2:00pm; Green Plain @ 6:00pm

24 ~ Bill to speak @ Creston UMC on South Africa trip @ 5:30pm

28-29 ~ UMW Mission Ed Event—Marshalltown

29 ~ Basic Lay Speaker Training—Ellston 10:00—3:00

30 ~ Charge Conference—Creston 2:00pm; Mt Ayr 6:00pm

The Worship Service of the Encuentro Latino is an experience that will inspire and uplift you whether you are a Spanish-speaker or not! Please read the following and consider attending all activities or the worship service.

The Hispanic Ministries Standing Committee extends you an invitation to the Encuentro Latino scheduled for October 15; 10:30-3:00 at Oakwood UMC in Pleasant Hill. This event brings together Spanish-speakers from communities of faith across the Conference to worship, learn from each other and celebrate their faith journeys.

The morning is focused on breakout sessions for children, youth and adults. Followed by lunch 11:45-1:00 and worship service at 1:00-3:00pm.

Please let me know if you would be able to participate in any part of this event. Many good things are happening with Hispanic/Latino ministries in the Conference, and your encouragement and support would help continue these efforts.

Thank you very much for your attention to this invitation.

En Fe,
Nitza Dovenspike
Chair, Hispanic
Standing Committee



This event is your opportunity to gather with other youth and discover how your faith in Jesus Christ can guide you through the processes of forgiveness and reconciliation!

Learn how to choose the path of forgiveness and strengthen your relationships with others through:

- Stories of forgiveness in the Bible and in the Lifetime movie, "Amish Grace."
- Peacemaking/Listening Circles from the Native American tradition
- Music, drama, art, journaling, play, and hands-on mission work

Who: Open to girls and guys ages 13-19 years old (who have completed grades 7-12)

When: 5:00 pm, Friday, October 28 – 3:00 pm, Sunday, October 30

Where: Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, Hwy 14, Marshalltown, IA

Cost: \$115 registration fee (which includes 4 meals) plus the cost of your housing

NEW Form I for 2012

The Form I for 2012 has been added to the website at the following: <http://www.iaumc.org/forms>. There are some changes as we simplify the process for collecting information necessary for direct billing local churches, administering and enrolling participants in health insurance, HSA's, FSA's, UMPIP, etc. The pre-tax election section has been removed from the Form I. All participants will have an opportunity to choose their 2012 pre-tax elections through a simplified process. Please plan to attend one of the district benefit meetings scheduled for this fall. You may attend any meeting if the date in your district is not convenient.

PLEASE see the [September Treasury Notes](#) or copy and paste this link in your browser <http://www.iaumc.org/pages/detail/952>.



Social Phonics Boot Camp for Pastors, Ministry & Non-Profit Leaders

Thursday, October 13
9am - 4pm
\$115

Wesley Foundation
2422 College Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Join Social Phonics for one day, and you will learn how to best use **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **YouTube**, a **podcast**, and a **blog** for your ministry. And, most importantly of all, you'll develop a philosophy of social media engagement that will fit in your own mission. Plus, you'll have fun!

More Info: <http://socialphonics.com/boot-camp>
register: <http://socialphonics.com/?ee=19>



Don't know what this is?
Find out at the Boot Camp!

MUMMS UPDATE

we painted.

Summer is over and now it is fall.....MUMMS is busy as ever. We just completed a work project at the ZION UMC (Pershing, Ia) God gave us glorious weather....willing volunteers and a congregation FILLED with HIS LOVE. Oh, what fun we had as

October 16th will find us leaving for southwest Iowa to do flood recovery work. As one of our volunteers said "if you can bend over, scoop, or swing a hammer to demolish, THEN THERE IS WORK FOR YOU!!!" The MUMMS trailer will be ready TO ROLL!!!! Come and work for a day or the entire week.....for questions call Peg at 641-919-1533.

November will find us distributing potatoes once again. The semi load will arrive on Nov. 19 at Prairie View UMC. Please let me know how many you want.....we ran out last year and I expect the same this time! Remember, GOD calls us to be among the lest, lost and lonely....POTATOES are a great way for you to share GOD'S LOVE!!!!

AND....the holidays are drawing near. MUMMS ALWAYS does EXTRA giving such as groceries and warm clothing. If your congregation, UMM, UMW or mission group want to "adopt" a MUMMS family, PLEASE CALL ME!!!! Help others to come to realize that CHRISTMAS is for giving!!!!

AND don't forget In-Gathering. What a wonderful event to bring us all together and celebrate the BLESSINGS we have from God. I will be speaking at the southeast site this year!

Just last night I was guest speaker at a UMW salad supper. My request is ALWAYS the same.....PLEASE PRAY FOR MYSELF, OUR BOARD and the many VOLUNTEERS!!!! It is an awesome thing to serve our Lord.....may HIS WILL BE DONE!!!!

Peg Egbert, director of MUMMS

641-919-1533

YOU ARE INVITED....

Bishop Julius C. Trimble and Mrs. Racedler Grandberry-Trimble extend to the laity and clergy of the Northeast District an invitation to travel on the 2012 Holy Land Trip., leaving on February 3, 2012. It is a 10-day trip to Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, and will include much more.

Brochures are available from the district office. If your pastor has been recently ordained it would be a once in a life time opportunity for them. The local church will also be the benefactor of the experience. Encourage your pastor and the laity of your church to consider participating.



NOVEMBER 5, 2011

JOIN UNITED METHODISTS
IN A DAY OF FUN, FELLOWSHIP,
EDUCATION AND CELEBRATION
AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GIVING

Greenfield United Methodist Church

108 SW 5th Street, Greenfield, Iowa

November 5, 2011

Rolls and Coffee begins at 8:00 a.m.

*Silent Auction of quilts begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 12:30 p.m.

Worship Service begins at 10:45 a.m.

Lunch begins at 12:00 p.m.

*Live Auction of quilts begins at 1:00 p.m.



Advanced Lay Speaking Class

Saturday, November 5th and Saturday November 12th

Leon, Loving Chapel UMC

201 W 1st St

Leon, IA 50144

Title: *Leading Small Groups*

Book: *Christian Small Group Leader*—Author: Thomas R. Hawkins

Led by: Rev. Lyle Ball

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$30.00 — Books have been ordered for 15 people. Please bring a sack lunch for both days.

Registration: by contacting the district office—sue.booth@iaumc.org.

Basic Lay Speaking Course

Saturday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 29th

Ellston UMC

101 S Sherman St

Ellston, IA 50074

A Basic Lay Speaking Course will be offered at Ellston United Methodist Church in Ellston on Saturday, October 22nd and Saturday, October 29, 2011 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm.

Facilitator for this course will be Rev. Robin Thomas. The Basic Lay Speaking program has been revised in recent years and focuses more on Lay Leadership Development and helping the laity discern their call to ministry in the local church.

The fee for the class is \$30.00.

Registration forms will be e-mailed to all churches and pastors in the district. Please contact your local church to get a form. The District Office has purchased the book, *Lay Speaking Ministries: Basic Course Participant's Book*.

The course is limited to 15 participants.

If you have questions concerning this Basic Lay Speaking Course, please contact Sue at the District Office at sue.booth@iaumc.org or 641-342-1644.

It's Hot Now But Not On January 27, 2012

Sweltering in the 90 degree temperatures with the heat index over 100 degrees? These hot summer days will give way to cooler fall temps with anticipation of cold weather, blowing and drifting snow and icy roads headed our way. Then you will long for warmer climes!

Why not consider a winter getaway with a work component? This mission trip will be to Dominica, the "Nature Island" nestled in the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean from January 27 - February 11, 2012.

The Iowa work team will partner with Zion and Wesley Methodist Churches to construct an addition accommodating restrooms and classrooms. The Zion Church Preschool needs painting with a variety of carpentry jobs on the "to do" list for the team. An after school program for church and community children is being planned. Assisting the local women with their sewing and craft projects will be organized. All skills are welcome.

The trip cost is \$1,500 per person from Des Moines and includes insurance, sightseeing, meals and transportation on Dominica and two overnights in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Contact Beverly Nolte, 515 266 4186 or e-mail: bnmedical@aol.com for information and application.

"Carving Out" Time for Self-Care

"I don't have enough time!" This is what I hear most regarding self-care issues. The reality is **not** that we don't have enough time, but the issue is how we allocate or spend the time we do have. Those issues, events, things, and people who are important or **have** a priority in our lives is what we spend our time on.

The ministry profession is a "people-orientated" profession. Therefore, the working hours of our ministry professionals stretch across all hours of the day and night. Many of our church meetings and events are held in the evening "off-work" hours so that church members can participate. Our clergy are expected to be in the office in the mornings and many afternoons are spent doing pastoral care duties. What part of the day is available for clergy-persons to focus on **their** self-care needs?

The answer is *understand your personal energy rhythms and to make self-care a priority*. Because I am an evening-type person, I choose to work at the hospital from 3-11 pm. Much of my wellness preparation and writing is done during evening hours. Since my work hours are in the evening, morning hours are my self-care time. This is when I exercise, practice my spiritual disciplines, and take care of the tasks that help my life go smoothly.

If my morning time happens to get scheduled or filled with something else, I make a **commitment with myself** to do my physical activity or meditation at another time. This may be later in the day or an intentional choice for the next day. I don't just forget about taking care of myself, but am constantly revising as the schedule in my life changes. *What part of the day is your high-energy time and what part is the time that you need to "withdraw" to take care of yourself?*

Another important component of self-care is that ministry professionals consider other people's needs greater than their own. One of the most important concepts to remember is **God values my well-being**. Therefore, **I also need to value my well-being**. The self-care needs of our clergy persons should be considered just as important as the needs of the congregation. This means a regularly scheduled day-off that is honored by **both** the pastor and the congregation. It also means that the clergy-person needs to look at his/her day-to-day schedules and be "smarter" in how they schedule meetings and appointments. Does his/her daily and weekly schedules include an "appointment" at the YMCA, a meal date with their spouse, or personal spiritual time? Making time for self-care means doing a mental-attitude adjustment, setting priorities and controlling how and where you spend your time.

"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go;... those who discover these words, live, really live; body and soul, they're bursting with health." (Proverbs 3: 6, 4: 22 The Message)

I invite you to evaluate your schedule, events, time, and energy. Make a pledge to yourself to carve out time for your self-care needs. Both your body and soul will benefit.

Kae Tritle, RN

Wellness Coordinator

Monthly news 10/11

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We are on the web!

www.iaumc.org/districts/detail/17

Iowa Conference of United Methodist Women.

Mission Education Event

October 28-30, 2011

*(Classes at MEE will be offered in 3 languages: English, Korean,
and Spanish and a teen class, too! Child care available at both
sessions)*

Location: Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center – Marshalltown

Theme: All Things Made New

Scripture: Revelation 21:3b-5a “...See I am making all things new”

Theme Song: “This Is a Day of New Beginnings” (UMH, #383)

For more information visit <http://www.iaumc.org/pages/detail/1717>

