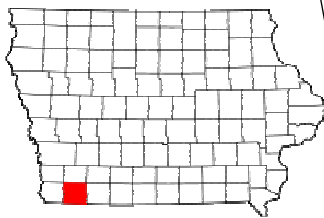


THANK YOU NOTES



Stories of Connectional Giving

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FAITH AND HOPE CIRCUIT, PAGE COUNTY

This Heritage Sunday we celebrate a group of United Methodist churches in southwest Iowa have gone "Back to the Future."

Blanchard, Braddyville, Coin, Locust Grove, Northboro, Norwich, and Shambaugh were all anticipating new pastors in the spring of 2008. Superintendent Brian Milford and Field Outreach Minister Ed Kail, conference leaders supported by apportionments, drew on the frontier heritage of United Methodism and proposed forming a circuit of churches to be served by a full-time lead pastor and a team of lay speakers for providing worship ministry.

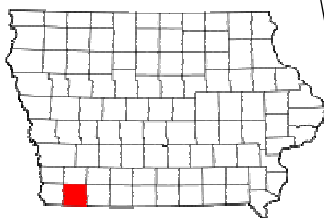
The Rev. Jim "Buck" Buckhahn was appointed to the circuit that July, and within a few weeks, the churches had chosen the name "Churches of Faith and Hope Circuit" to describe their new venture. Much like the early American frontier, local laity provide for the ministries of their churches shepherded by their circuit team.

The Circuit has become known in the area for their sponsorship of Angel Food Ministries, providing low cost nutrition to area families. Learn more at www.angelfoodministries.com.

These churches have moved beyond concerns about survival to a time for growth and expansion of mission, demonstrating that some of the "old ways" can be good ways.



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