



Monday Musings

November 21, 2011

Rose M. Blank

Conference Superintendent

Southeast District

319-986-2095

Greetings,

Psalm 136 begins and ends with these words: “O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.” Throughout the psalm, the author lists events that have been part of the history of the people of Israel and for every phrase the response is “for his steadfast love endures forever.” In this season of Thanksgiving, it is good to give thanks to God whose ‘steadfast love endures forever.’ And so I give thanks to God for all of you, clergy and laity who so faithfully engage in the ministry of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we have completed this year’s Charge Conferences, I thank God for churches who hosted them and other district events throughout the year – your hospitality is most appreciated. I give God thanks for the ways in which you support mission giving through the payment of your apportionments which provide the means for the sharing of Christ’s gospel to happen in multitudes of ways in the Conference and throughout the world.

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday and move into the beginning of our Advent season I pray that you will reflect on the steadfast and enduring love of God who calls us to be in ministry to a world that longs deeply for a word of hope and comfort in the midst of the fear and angst that seems so prevalent in these days. How might God be calling you and your church into deeper practices of gratitude? How might you be called to greater intentionality in regard to making new space for new people? There are people hungry for the peace of Christ in their lives and people searching for meaningful purpose to their work. Will we be the people and the places that welcome them as they come with questions and uncertainty about what it means to be a follower of the One who comes to be God with us? Will we be visible signs of God’s steadfast love as we build relationships with those who seek a place of welcome and belonging?

As we ponder these and other questions, may we reflect on this steadfast love of God that endures forever so that we might embody this love in our lives and in our ministries.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving holiday.

Peace and all good,

Rose

December 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 RSVP for Holiday Party	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas 	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 

Upcoming Events

November 29, 2011 – Brian Hansen Concert -- Calvary United Methodist Church, Walcott, IA will again be blessed with the great music and humor of Brian Hansen. He will be performing his "Peace On Earth Christmas Tour" concert beginning at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. All are invited.

December 4, 2011 – **Iowa Wesleyan Days** -- Help celebrate the College – Church connection on Iowa Wesleyan College on Sunday, December 4, 2011, which will be IWC Sunday. Churches throughout southeast Iowa are invited to celebrate and share the long heritage and important future of Iowa Wesleyan College with the United Methodist Church. Iowa Wesleyan staff and

alumni are available to give a brief (5 minute) presentation during church services on December 4. If you are interested in having a representative of Iowa Wesleyan College share in your church service(s) that day, please contact Dawn Dunnegan in the Institutional Relations office at Iowa Wesleyan College at dawn.dunnegan@iwc.edu or by calling 319-385-6238.

2012 Events

January 16, 2012 – District Clergy Holiday Party –Mark your calendar. You will not want to miss it. It will start at 6:00 PM and will be held at the Social Hall, Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant, IA. The entertainment will be the Southeast Iowa Players. For more information, contact Jean Carpenter in the Southeast District Office. Be sure to RSVP as soon as possible so the college can order the party food before they go on their Christmas break.

January 30, 2012 – Orders of Elders, Deacons, Fellowship of Associate Members, Local Pastors and Diaconal Ministers –First UMC in Marshalltown.

February 26, 2012 – New Places for New People. The Conference Leadership Development Team is planning this event which will be held at First UMC in Fairfield. It will be from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM. We will give you more details as we receive them.

April 22, 2012 – SE District Conference – Wapello UMC. More details later.

Announcements

Garrison Doles will be on our district in December. He would be available to share his music ministry in your church on Friday evening, December 2 or on Sunday, December 4 in the late afternoon or evening. If you are interested in having him come to your church, please contact him directly at his website, songchapel.com or call him at 407-625-9219.

Kingston UMC has a mission project they thought might be of interest to you. Every Friday, they bake cakes and banana bread in canning jars and send to military overseas. We have both recipes in the district office. If you are interested, please contact Jean Carpenter.

Joys and Concerns

If you have any joys or concerns you'd like to submit for the next Monday Musings, please contact Jean Carpenter at the SE District Office. You can reach her at 319-986-2095 or jean.carpenter@iaumc.org.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

December Birthdays

12/05 Rich Pippert
12/06 Jeff Bixby

12/11 JoAnn Orthel
12/16 Dong Jin Choi (wife of Dong Hun Shin)
12/16 Trevor Davis
12/31 Leo Brokken

December Anniversaries

12/06 Donna and Steve Olinger
12/13 John and Diane Abraham
12/19 Jim and LuAnn Roth
12/22 John and Judy Hembry
12/30 Mike and JoAnn Orthel

We wish you a most blessed Thanksgiving holiday.