

Newsletter

Sigourney United Methodist Church
John Hembry, Pastor

From Pastor John...



July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence for the thirteen colonies from English rule marked the beginning of "These United States." It was a grave thing that these people did, and the stakes were very high. They concluded the document with these words, "**And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence,**

we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor."

They had drawn a line in the sand, and there could be no turning back!!! That Declaration led to the Revolutionary War which ultimately set the colonies free from England, but the cost was high in terms of finances and human life. The oppressive rule of England over the colonies was finally finished. The struggle was over!! Or was it?? It seems to me that a battle still rages over the political control of this nation. Freedom is a rather tenuous thing and requires constant vigilance and determination.

The decision to become a Christian is a type of Declaration of Independence. The person declares that he will no longer serve under the oppression of the world, the human nature, or the devil. He will surrender his life to the Risen Christ Jesus and receive from His hand that which is necessary to win the battles that are sure to come.

I have discovered that the battle for freedom from the oppressive forces of the world, the human nature, and the devil is a lifelong struggle. The good news is that we have a Risen Savior who has promised to never leave us or forsake us. We can depend on the Word of God for guidance in our battle and the power of the Holy Spirit for strength.

It is important to draw a line in the sand, as did the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and boldly proclaim with Martin Luther, "Here I stand. I can do no other. So help me God. AMEN." The world, the human nature, and the devil need not keep us from growing in our capacity to love as Jesus loves. John Wesley often talked about being perfected in love. It grows as we continue in the Spiritual Disciplines of prayer, worship, scripture study, generosity, service, etc.

I pray that your independence is becoming increasingly evident in your life as time goes on. May the world, the human nature, and the devil have less control as your New Life in Christ develops. Join Paul in saying, "**Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.**"
Philippians 3:12, 14

*Peace & Blessings,
Pastor John*

Please be sure to see page 3 of the Newsletter for information about an important all-church study that will be offered this fall.

In This Issue

<i>July & Beyond</i>	2
<i>Financial Peace University is coming to Sigourney UMC</i>	3
<i>Bev's Mission's Page: Any takers for UMVIM?</i>	4
<i>The Buschmanns Return from a Great Adventure</i>	5-6
<i>Don Borts: Annual Conference Review</i>	7
<i>Women's Highlights/Youth News</i>	8
<i>A Loss in the Family</i>	9
<i>Personal Expressions</i>	10



Upcoming In July

Printed below is a list of meetings and other events taking place in July & early August. Please post this list at home. Ladies, please see also the

Women's Page for activities of interest to women.

Friday, July 1:

- VBS Closing Program & Cookout.

Sunday, July 3:

- Ecumenical Community Service at 9:00 a.m. in the Sigourney Square. No services at Sigourney UMC.

Monday, July 4:

- Ministerial Alliance fundraising breakfast at Senior Center beginning at 7:00 a.m.
- All Church Sale of Homemade Ice Cream and Baked Goods. West lawn of the church 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, July 13:

- NO Trustees meeting this month.

Sunday, August 7:

- Concert Pianist Toby Waldowski will minister in both Sunday morning worship services.

UMYF Youth Group Schedule
No Youth Group meetings in July
 but watch upcoming bulletins and
 the August Newsletter for an
 important announcement about
 our big **BACK TO SCHOOL**
 kickoff event
 on Sunday, August 28.

Video Projection Operators

After serving faithfully in our video projection ministry, Julia Mohr and Lincoln Schmidt will be leaving soon to go to college, and Kristy Kirby will be moving with her family to the Grinnell area, where Jeff has taken a new job. We thank these people for their service to our congregation.

Their departure leaves some holes in our video projection ministry team, and we are looking for additional volunteers. If this is something you are interested in learning, please contact Bev Bucklin at bucklin@iowatelecom.net or call the church office.

4th of July Ice Cream Social & Baked Goods Sale

Monday, July 4

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

West lawn of the church.

Rain location: Education Addition.

Proceeds go to Thanksgiving Ingathering.

Questions?

Please see Bev Bucklin or
 Marian Swearingen.

We're Collecting Christian Material! Do you have any to donate?

Sigourney UMC is assisting with a mission project of the youth group at First Christian Church in Washington by collecting gospel materials for the Love Packages organization.

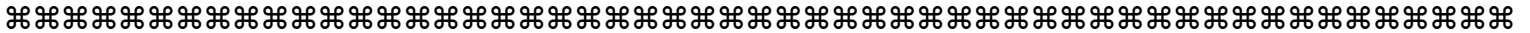
A few of the items being collected include Bibles, gospel booklets, tracts, reference books and commentaries, Christian books and magazines, daily devotionals, Christian tapes & children's materials. Do not send: Guideposts, busy work papers from Sunday School or Secular books.

A complete list of acceptable materials is printed on page 10 of this Newsletter. Please look over the list, and if you have items to donate, bring them to the church office no later than July 16.

Church Financial Report 6-24-2011

At the end of June we will be 50% of the way through 2011 and will have spent 55% of our 2011 budget. With one Sunday remaining in June, budget income received to date is \$97,476.20 or 45% of income anticipated for the year and 90% of income anticipated through the end of June.

	Attendance/Giving for June		Budget Income
	S. School	Worship	
May 29	20	120	\$2297.00
June 5	21	123	\$5050.75
June 12	30	133	\$3877.50
June 19	34	116	\$2364.50
June 26	---	----	-----



Missions Updates

By Bev Bucklin

Monticello, IA 52310. For more info, their phone is 319-465-4194.

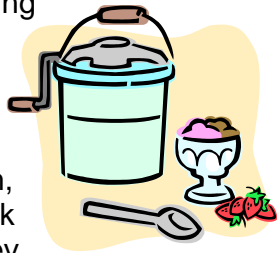
Bev Bucklin



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

& BAKE SALE on the 4TH of JULY ☺

Homemade ice cream and baked goodies will again be sold on the 4th of July by our church to raise money for the Thanksgiving Ingathering Mis-sion Project. We will be grateful for any donations of homemade ice cream or baked goods. If you are willing to donate ice cream, baked items, or your time to work this event please notify Bev Bucklin at 641-622-2762 or bucklin@iowatelecom.net or Marian Swearingen at 641-622-2104.



We will set up between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and begin selling at 9:00 a.m. Thanks in advance for all your help ☺

Bev Bucklin, Missions Chair

Mission News Notes. . .

Have you ever thought about going on a missions trip? In Iowa, in the United States, or in another country?

UMVIM (United Methodist Volunteers in Mission) is the short-term mission agency of the United Methodist Church. It offers many opportunities to serve and exists to promote, encourage, and enable Christians to exemplify "Christian Love in Action" through short-term mission service at home and abroad.

If you are interested in the ministry you can check out their website at <http://www.umvim.org>.

There will be an IOWA UMVIM ROUNDUP AUGUST 19 – 21, 2011 at Pictured Rocks United Methodist Camp. Everyone is welcome at Roundup – old, young, those who have been on a VIM mission and those who would like to know more about Mission Volunteering. It is a time to renew friendships, meet new people, and share our stories and our visions. It is a gathering experience for work, worship, learning and fellowship. The camp address is Pictured Rocks, 12004 190th Street,

While it may seem early to begin working on the Thanksgiving Ingathering kits, we have found that if you watch for sales you can complete more kits with less cost ☺

What is the Thanksgiving Ingathering? The Thanksgiving Ingathering is a way for local churches in the Iowa Conference to help alleviate problems in **Iowa** and around the **world**. Churches put together kits for the UMCOR Depot and Iowa-Nigeria Partnership.

Our church is going to focus on preparing School Kits and Health Kits again this year. Our goal will be to prepare 200 kits before November 5, 2011 ☺ Anyone and everyone is encouraged to help with this project. In the next column are lists of items needed for each kit that we will be making.

Health Kits help disaster victims reclaim their dignity and self-respect and are used as teaching tools with children. When people can maintain personal hygiene, their overall health improves.

- ___ 1 new hand towel
- ___ 1 new washcloth
- ___ 1 bath sized bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. or larger)
- ___ 6 band aids (3/4")
- ___ 1 large, sturdy comb
- ___ 1 new toothbrush in original sealed wrapper
- ___ 1 nail file or fingernail clipper

Fold the towel and washcloth and lay the other items on top. Place in a Ziploc bag with \$3 to cover shipping & cost of toothpaste.

School Kits provide tools for education, which changes lives. In countries where children don't have books, school supplies or classrooms, a school kit may be their only educational resource.

- ___ 3 Notebooks (8x11 wide ruled, spiral or bound)
- ___ 1 blunt scissors
- ___ 1 30cm ruler (metric)
- ___ 1 box of 24 crayons (ONLY 24)
- ___ 1 hand pencil sharpener
- ___ 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- ___ 1 2 1/2" eraser

Place all items in a **sturdy cloth bag . . . we will provide the cloth bags**☺



Buschmanns Complete Trek to Mt. Everest Base Camp

After participating in numerous RAGBRAI bike rides across the state of Iowa and completing the remarkable 100-day Iowa-150 Cross-Country Bike Ride during the summer of 1995, Phil and Cyrena Buschmann undertook an even more challenging adventure this

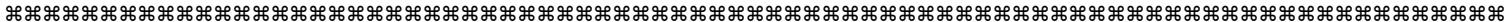
past year when they successfully trekked to the base camp of Mt. Everest in April.

They left Des Moines at 1:35 p.m. on April 9, flew to Chicago, then to New Delhi, India and on to Kathmandu, Nepal. After a day and a half in Kathmandu, they took a small plane to the Himalayan village of Lukla, where they landed at the most dangerous airport in the world. It was from Lukla that they began their 14-day trek to Mt. Everest base camp (elevation 17,500') and back to Lukla. The day before completing their climb to the base camp, the Buschmanns summited Kala Pattar (elevation 18,200'). The next day, April 22, they reached Everest base camp and were met with greetings and hugs from their good friend Charlie Wittmack, who was making final preparations to climb to the top of Mt. Everest. At base camp, Phil and Cyrena spent a cold night (12 degrees below zero) sleeping in a tent outdoors and then spent several days retracing their steps to Lukla, where they had begun their trek.



The picture at the top of this page was snapped as Phil and Cyrena took their final steps on the trail back to the village of Lukla, from where they had started 14 days earlier. The other picture on this page is of one of the several suspension bridges they had to cross on their trek to the base camp. If you look closely, you...

continued next page



can see several yaks – pack animals – who used the same bridges. Pedestrians were expected to step to the side to allow the animals to pass by them. In an email written before their departure to Nepal, Cyrena shared a humorous incident relating to these suspension bridges:

“As we were visiting our family in Leon two weeks ago, our 7-year-old granddaughter, Elly, presented Phil with a small beaded bracelet, which she had made. The beads spelled out her name, and she asked her grandpa to wear it as he goes up the mountain as a reminder of her. A short time later, [our son] Kyle discovered a photo on the internet of the long, high and rather rickety suspension bridge that we will be crossing during our trek. I had already seen the photo but I hadn't shared it with Phil



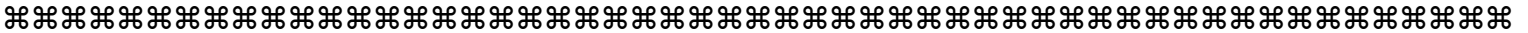
because I wanted him to be "surprised." Being fearful of heights, he was a little apprehensive when he viewed the photo. Then [our other grandchild] Joe -- almost 5 -- added his thoughts, "Hey, Grandpa, if you fall off that bridge, how will Elly get her bracelet back?" Kyle's response: "Joe, if Grandpa falls off that bridge, we'll have bigger problems than getting Elly's bracelet back!"



Needless to say, Phil did not fall off of any suspension bridges, and Elly's bracelet, along with both Buschmanns, made it back safely to Iowa.

On June 12, Phil and Cyrena gave a very entertaining presentation at Sigourney Public Library about their adventures on the other side of the world. An overflow crowd was present to hear them talk about their trip. They gave a second presentation at the library on June 26 to accommodate those unable to attend their first presentation.

All of the pictures shared in this article were taken by the Buschmanns on their trip. The one above shows Phil dressed for another day of climbing. The lower picture is Namche Bazar, commercial hub of the mountains and actually built on the side of the mountain.



Annual Conference Report

Pastor John and Judy Hembry and Don and Dortha Borts attended the 168th United Methodist Church Annual Conference at the HyVee Hall in Des Moines from June 4-7. The theme of this year's conference was RADICAL HOSPITALITY OF JUSTICE.

Up to 1800 clergy and lay people attended. They represented 180,000 United Methodist members in 808 churches. Bishop Julius Trimble chaired the Conference for the third year. Bishop Trimble, an African-American, is a strong and well-liked Bishop.

Some statistics shared at this year's conference included: total average weekly attendance of 58,212, (*down 1000 from the previous year*); total membership of 180,000 members, (*down 3500 from the previous year*); total income of \$112.4 million, (*up 5% from 2009*). 537 congregations paid 100% of their 2010 apportionments (*an increase of 12 over 2009*).

37 individuals were ordained and commissioned into the ministry in an impressive ceremony led by Bishop Peggy Johnson of the Philadelphia Area.

A memorial service was conducted in honor of 21 clergy, 19 clergy spouses, and 2 deaconal ministers who died the past year. The memorial service also included a special time of remembrance for Bishop James S. Thomas, who died in October, 2010. Bishop Thomas was Iowa's Bishop from 1964 to 1976 and was the first African-American to lead an annual conference in the Central Jurisdiction. His widow, who was born and raised in Iowa, attended the conference.

Seven congregations closed their churches this past year, and no new congregations were started.

Almost half a day was taken to elect delegates to General Conference, delegates to 2012 North Central Jurisdictional Conference, and 6 to serve as alternates. Both lay members of conference and the clergy members had to elect their own delegates.

127 legislative items were addressed and voted on. Most of these dealt with budget.

Thirteen petitions were proposed and discussed. Four of the thirteen were passed, and nine were defeated. Seven of these proposals dealt with homosexuality – seeking to reduce the language that “The United Methodist Church does not condone the practice of homosexuality and considers this practice incompatible with Christian teaching.”

Two of these petitions were approved and five were defeated, all by very close margins. I will say that I voted against all the petitions seeking to relax the language on the current teaching of the church on homosexuality.

Conference missions increased by 7.9%.

Total expenditures approved for 2012 will be down 1.97% from the past year.

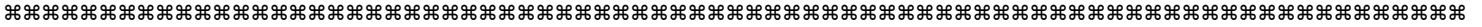
My thoughts are that it was a very good conference – long and tiring, but well-conducted by Bishop Trimble. I guess conferences of the past sometimes were disrupted by demonstrations. That did not happen this year.

The motions to resolutions were long and tiring. The days went from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The devotional, prayer and praise times were very inspiring and well conducted.

Don Borts

Sigourney UMC Lay Member to Annual Conference



We express our condolences:

To the family of
Ena Aline Disney
who went home to be with the Lord
on May 21, 2011.
Ena is the mother of Richard E. Disney



**DO NOT LET YOUR HEARTS BE
TROUBLED.
TRUST IN GOD; TRUST ALSO IN ME.
IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE ARE MANY
ROOMS;
IF IT WERE NOT SO, I WOULD HAVE
TOLD YOU.
I AM GOING THERE
TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU.
AND IF I GO AND PREPARE A PLACE FOR
YOU,
I WILL COME BACK AND TAKE YOU TO BE
WITH ME
THAT YOU ALSO MAY BE WHERE I AM.
YOU KNOW THE WAY
TO THE PLACE WHERE I AM GOING.
JOHN 14:1-4 NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION**

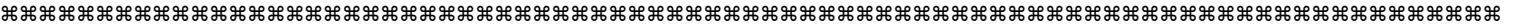
Beyond time...

What's better than the first day of a long-awaited vacation? The excitement of reaching our destination, the anticipation of fun-filled adventures, the freedom to relax and lay down our burdens for a while – we'll pay good money for that.

But it's a fleeting pleasure. Before our bags are even unpacked, the clock has already begun counting down to when we'll have to return to the pressures of everyday life.

It won't always be so. One day, we'll lay down our burdens for good. When we reach our ultimate destination, God our Father will welcome us. Our loved ones, long gone, will gather to celebrate. And every day of this breathtaking adventure will be like the first because time will no longer rule over us.

The best vacations are just a shadow of what God has in store for his children.



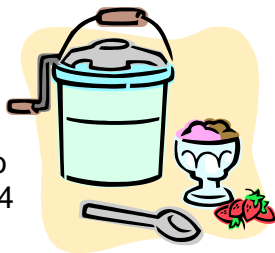
"I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us."

Romans 8:18 (NRSV)

July Scripture from UMW Bible Verses for 2011

SUMMER SCHEDULE

There are no UMW General Meetings or Martha Circle meetings during the months of June, July and August, but women are encouraged to donate goodies for the July 4 All-Church Ice Cream Social.



DIAPERS FOR HAITI WORKSHOP

The next Diapers for Haiti Workshop will be Wednesday, July 13 at 1:00 p.m. at Sigourney UMC. Come to work or for information. Questions? Please contact Hazel Wheeldon at 622-3077 or Linda James at 622-3341.

TOWELS & SHEETS COLLECTION

UMW is also collecting old sheets and towels for a different mission project. You may leave your donations on the small table at the back of the sanctuary. Questions? Please see Hazel.

All-Church ICE CREAM SOCIAL

& BAKE SALE on the 4TH of JULY

The church will again be selling homemade ice cream and baked goodies to raise money for the Thanksgiving Ingathering Mission Project. We will set up at 8 a.m. and sell from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon on the west lawn of the church. We will be grateful for any donations of homemade ice cream or baked goods. Please see Bev or Marian Swearingen to offer donations of ice cream, baked goods and time.

JESUS LIVES!
 The Victory Is Won!
 Hungry for Christ
UMYF YOUTH GROUP NEWS

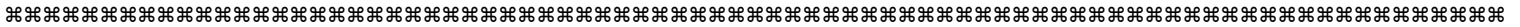
What a year the youth group has had! After all of the many events we've sponsored, helped with or attended we're taking a SHORT break. So there will be no meetings in July.

But watch the August Newsletter and upcoming church bulletins for:

**Our BIG Kick-Off
 "Back to School" Event
 Sunday, August 28.**

We hope to be outdoors – weather permitting – with a band, a special speaker or two, food and other interesting items.

Youth – begin getting the word out to your friends that we hope they'll join us at Sigourney United Methodist Church on the afternoon and evening of Sunday, August 28.



*Congratulations to
Megan Frank & Kevin Morrison
who were united in marriage
Saturday, June 25, 2011.*

Megan is the granddaughter of
Wayne & Judy Frank,
And Kevin is the great nephew of
Marsha & Terry Steinhart.

**UMW IS COLLECTING OLD SHEETS AND
TOWELS FOR A MISSION PROJECT. YOU
MAY LEAVE YOUR DONATIONS ON THE
SMALL TABLE AT THE BACK OF THE
SANCTUARY.
THANK YOU.**

**Farmers Markets: Tuesdays
beginning at 4:30 p.m.
on the Sigourney Square.**

The Kids Against Hunger and Ministerial Alliance
service committees are selling sandwiches at
many of the Tuesday Farmers Markets in
Sigourney to raise funds for their organizations.
Sandwich sales on the following nights will
provide funds for the organization listed:

- June 28:Ministerial Alliance
- July 12: Kids Against Hunger
- July 19:Ministerial Alliance
- August 2: Kids Against Hunger
- August 16:Ministerial Alliance
- August 30: Kids Against Hunger
- September 13:Ministerial Alliance

**CHRISTIAN MATERIALS
FOR THE THIRD WORLD**

Sigourney UMC is assisting with a missions project of the youth group at First Christian Church in Washington by collecting Christian materials for the Love Packages organization.

Please look over the list below, and if you have items to donate, bring them to the church office. Deadline: July 16.

Needed Materials. *What kinds of materials do they send overseas?* If what you have falls under any of these categories, they will take it.

- **Bibles (new or used):** All Bibles, New Testaments, Bible portions,
- **Individual Gospel booklets**
- **Tracts:** All tracts
- **Reference Books & Commentaries:** dictionaries, Bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries, etc.
- **Books & Paperbacks:** All Christian books - adult or children, fiction or nonfiction. Remember, **NO** secular books.
- **Magazines:** Any magazine from a Christian publisher. e.g. Discipleship Journal, Decision, Voice, Aglow, Christ for the Nations, Pentecostal Evangel, Message of the Cross, Leadership, Bread for the Children, etc.
- **Sunday School Supplies:** We accept adult quarterlies and all teacher manuals in any amount from all publishers. We accept children's quarterlies if you have the teacher's manual and at least 8 student manuals. Please **DO NOT SEND** any handiwork, craft, or busy work papers.
- **Daily Devotionals:** Upper Room, Daily Bread, In Touch, etc.
- **Tapes (cassette & VCR), CD's, DVD's, Records:** Christian music, Christian movies, Christian teaching
- **Puppets, Noah's Ark, Bible games, Nativity sets, biblical puzzles:** most anything that helps to present the gospel especially to children

DO NOT SEND THESE ITEMS:

- Guideposts
- Handiwork or busy papers from Sunday School materials
- Secular books (other than dictionaries)

Since its beginning in 1975, the Love Packages organization has been able to send over 1000 tons of Christian literature overseas. The group has seen thousands of people saved, healed, and delivered as a result of this mission. It is estimated that each piece of reading material shipped overseas is read by 20 different people.