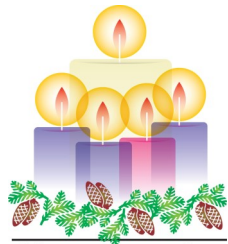


THE MESSENGER

Gladbrook United Methodist Church

December 2022



Dec. 24 - Family Christmas Eve Worship (The Light of Love) at 7:00 PM

Then the light of Godly love came into the world to dwell here with us. This is the time to light the candles and worship.

Christmas Eve

For God sent his only son into the world that who so ever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. This family-friendly service has been prepared to incorporate scripture, story, music and all the sights and sounds of Christmas. In this way we will fully worship and honor the Messiah. Join us.

Angel Tree Gifts need to be returned, wrapped, to the church by Dec. 14th at noon.



Advent Readers...

Dec. 4- Grant & Susie Strohhenn

Dec. 11-Children's Program

Dec. 18- **Needing a Volunteer**

Thank you to all the families who are serving their church family by being Advent Readers this year. We appreciate this service.



Children's Christmas Program



Sunday School Program

The Sunday school children with the assistance of several youth and adult recruits will present a traditional Christmas pageant during

worship on December 11. We invite you to join us as we recount the story of Jesus' birth through drama, scripture, and song.



Lions Soup Day

Sat., Dec. 10th in the Memorial Building.

Free Will Donations

There will be homemade chili, potato, and ham & bean soup, hot dogs, and pies. Dine in, carry out or call Jeanne @ 641-751-2039 for deliveries.

Senior Citizens Dinners

Dec. 2nd at 11:30 is the senior dinner in the Festival of Trees, upper level of the City Center. It will be a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. You will enjoy seeing the beautiful trees and receive a Christmas favor and your Santa Sack.

Call Jeanne to make reservations: 641-751-2039





10th Kids Shopping Day Is Here!



Kids' Christmas Shopping Day is right around the corner. On Saturday, Dec. 10, our hometown folks will once again open the doors of Gladbrook's Christmas Store, and also open their hearts a little bit wider to share their love with the children and families in our community. We hope you will be able to be a part of our efforts again this year and generously donate gently used or new items that will fill the tables of our Christmas store. Please take your donations to the Gladbrook UMC or Peace Church anytime, but please have your items to Peace Church by Dec. 6th AND, OR share some of your valuable time on Sat., Dec. 10 and volunteer to wrap gifts, usher the youngest children around the store, keep the tables neat, or answer questions. Your presence really *does* make a difference. Our area children, age 3-12th grade will choose gifts for their families (at no cost) from the articles you donate. No family member will be allowed in the social hall. The younger children will have a volunteer to help them shop. We are expecting another big crowd this year. Please call Jeanne Paustian-641-751-2039 if you are able to help on Saturday. Thanks to everyone we can make this a very special Christmas for so many!

Calling the Men: Anyone that would like to help haul gift items and tables please be at Peace Church by 8 a.m. on Tues., Dec. 6th.

**"We will, "Go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!" May each of us forever treasure our Savior Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem on Christmas day.*



Gifts of Hope

Christmas Offerings: In honor of the birth of Jesus, the Gladbrook UMC will accept an offering for three mission projects. Your gift will be recognized in our Christmas bulletin. Order forms are available in the office or are located on the table in the lobby. They are due to Dana by Dec. 9th.

Church World Service \$5 Blankets -

This is a project selected by the Sunday school department. One blanket will be purchased by each contribution of \$5.00. Blankets are distributed where lives have been disrupted by fire, hurricane, earthquake and violence.



2022 Mission Trip(s) for Hurricane relief and reconstruction

The Mission and Out-Reach Committee is going to announce opportunities for adults and families to travel to hurricane or fire decimated areas in the USA and assist in their recovery. These funds will help with preparation.



Self-Help International Children's Nutrition Program

The Self-Help International is a widely known mission, based in Waverly. The C.N.P. offers a free meal to school students in various African nations. The meals encourage students to remain enrolled in Christian schools where they are taught the love of Jesus and agricultural practices that can establish food security.



“KING AND MESSIAH

Consider the words of the hymn, “The exaltation of the Cross,” in the orthodox Church:

O Cross of Christ, the Christian Hope.
Guide of the wanderers, haven of the storm-tossed.
Victory in warfare, firm foundation of the world.
Physician of the sick, resurrection of the dead.
Have mercy upon us.
The Cross is the guardian of the whole earth.
The Cross is the beauty of the Church.
The Cross is the strength of kings.
The cross is the angel’s glory, the demons’ destruction.

Did you know that this is the hymn sang in orthodox Churches during the Christ the King Sunday? Very strange! The proclamation is very clear: **“Today is a day of glory, exaltation and majesty!”**

Paul writing to the Colossians describes Jesus as “...*the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,* ¹⁶ *for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him (Colossians 1:15-16).* The absolute fullness of divinity resides in Jesus. JESUS IS THE FULL EXPRESSION OF WHO AND WHAT GOD IS. The world of reconciliation and salvation have been accomplished by Jesus. Jesus brings God’s true peace as the Messiah or Anointed One.

Easily lost in in our time is the kind of King and Messiah we have in Jesus. Paul clearly indicates that Jesus defeated powers of darkness and brought peace “through the blood of his cross” (Colossians 1:13, 20). Redemption and forgiveness of sin did not come easily. Jesus had to lay down his life for us. There can be no talk of crown and glory without the cross and humiliation. There is no resurrection and empty tomb without the agony of Gethsemane and the cross of Good Friday. Jesus is the King and Messiah who is rejected by the elders, suffers and is put to death. We are able “to share the lot of the saints in light” because Jesus through his death and resurrection offers us the Light of Life. This is meaning of the birth of Jesus.

In Luke 23:35-43, the reaction of the crowd to Jesus on the Cross continues throughout history: “*The people stood there watching, and the leaders kept jeering at Jesus, saying, ‘He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, the chosen one.’*” People continue to jeer. We have always had trouble with a messiah who would suffer and die. Maybe it is the “Peter-complex.” That is, we are comfortable with the Messiah of glory, but not with the Messiah who is the Suffering Servant. We like Jesus on Mount Tabor, but we find it hard to follow him to Calvary. We are with Jesus as he makes the rounds healing, preaching, and working miracles. But we find it hard to remain in his company when we must keep fellowship with him in the Garden. We too fall off to sleep because our spirit and flesh are weak.

We want a Messiah who is King. We want a Messiah who is never found on the Cross in the first place. So why do we have a King from the Cross? Again, the gospel of Luke 23:35-43 provides a powerful response. Jesus is not on the Cross because we need him to be. We find both thieves within us. We want Jesus to get off the Cross and make everything alright. We want the quick fix and the bold display of power. At the same time, we also realize that Jesus must remain if we are to hear these words: “*I assure you, this day you will be with me in paradise.*”

As we enter into the depths of Advent Season and looking forward the Christmastide Season, we are called to proclaim the Jesus is King-the Messiah that was promised by God in the past, is indeed a King. But remember that he is a King who rules from the Cross with the power of suffering love.

He comes as a child in a stable.



Gladbrook United Methodist Church
715 Lincoln St.
Gladbrook, Iowa, 50635
641-473-2025 gladbrookumc@windstream.net

November 21, 2022

BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST:

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

We just received a response from our District Superintendent Rev. Moody Colorado with regards to our request for Special Charge Conference on Disaffiliation. He provided a schedule for us on **Sunday, January 8, 2023**.

For the past year we have been discerning and have been talking about the direction that the UMC has been taking after the 2019 Special General Conference. Beginning this year, our Bishop and her cabinet, continue to violate the Book of Discipline and even by action, construed as *Ultra Vires*, defied the decision of the General Conference and failed to implement provisions of the Book of Discipline that relates to same-sex marriage. This coming January 8 during worship, we will settle this dividing issue.

Further, we need to ask what matters in the heart of faith and what matters to our Lord Jesus, if Jesus indeed is Lord and God. Two questions emerged from our discerning process:

**CAN THE CHURCH SANCTION SAME-SEX MARRIAGE?
OR
WHY CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE IS ONE MAN-ONE WOMAN?**

Remember that true faith is “**that which has been believed by the Christian Community everywhere, always, and by all.**” The traditional doctrine that marriage is **man-woman monogamy** meets the classic criteria of Biblical Faith:

IT HAS BEEN BELIEVED EVERYWHERE (universality), 2) ALWAYS (antiquity), 3) AND BY ALL CHRISTIANS (consensus).

Because we have to take the **PRIMACY AND RELEVANCE OF THE BIBLE WITH UTMOST SERIOUSNESS**, we have to take into consideration the following:

JUSTIFICATION IS RESPONSIBILITY OF JUSTIFICATION

Meaning, “IF YOU ARE CHANGING SOMETHING, YOU HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO JUSTIFY.”

Because sanctioning same-sex union would require substantially revising biblical faith, I assume that advocates of innovation bear the responsibility of justification.

What we confess about who Jesus is, matters to how we think about what marriage is.

Thus, because we are dealing with what matters most in our faith, I encourage you to pray hard. Pray hard because on the ballot is not just simply disaffiliating or remaining in the UMC but on the ballot is Jesus, the primacy of the Scripture and the traditional faith of the Bible.

Only you can discern with the help of the Holy Spirit.

In His Service

Pastor Gideon Gallo

Administrative Council Minutes

Administrative Council Minutes

November 28, 2022

Thirteen members of the Ad Council met November 28, 2022, at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall of the GUMC.

Members in attendance were Susan Beichley, Dana Brown, Becky Fish, Gideon Gallo, Cornell Gethmann, Dave Koester, Lisa Koester, Paul Koester, Roger Luehring, Carolyn Moe, Grant Strohhahn, Susie Strohhahn and Kevin Williams.

Lisa called the meeting to order. Paul provided our devotional. The past minutes were read and approved.

Susan provided the Treasurers Report. The report was read and approved. Connectional or apportionment money is still being kept in a savings account. Congregational giving is lower than this same time last year.

SPPRC, Dave K. –Met on Nov. 7th. The plans for our Charge Conference being held January 8th were discussed. Next meeting will be Dec. 5th.

UMW, June reported goody bags for the area homebound and nursing home residents were made during our working meeting. The next meeting will be December 21st at noon. This will be our Christmas get together. Each member is asked to RSVP by Dec. 14th and to bring a guest.

Kids' Club, No report given

Mission Outreach, Carolyn M No report given

Trustees, Paul reported the furnace and boiler have both been broken. Both are currently working but parts for the thermostats for some of the classrooms have been ordered to replace some of the old ones. Insurance rates are likely to be going up this next year.

Finance Committee, No report at this time.

Memorial, Lisa reported the sound system has been paid in full thanks to extra memorials being received.

Good Samaritan, Dana– We helped an elderly couple pay their electric bill and water bill.

Food Pantry- Dana- We are helping an average of 10 families every month. We are still open 3 times a month, the first Saturday of the month at 9-11am, the second and fourth Mondays at 4-6pm. We are becoming low on our meats that we can offer from the freezer.

Pastoral Report, Gideon G. –He led Thanksgiving worship service at Westbrook Acres and has made several home visits. He has made 6 separate home visits this month. He is planning to continue to hold Prayer meetings every Wednesday evening of December beginning at 7pm. He read from the Book of Discipline about the definition of marriage, the views of human sexuality and the Chargeable Offenses pertaining to a pastor performing same sex marriage.

We will be having a Charge Conference January 8th to discuss and vote on possibly disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church and join the Global Methodist Church. District Superintendent, Moody Colorado will be here to facilitate the discussion and vote.

Gideon made a 2 part motion. 1 That Gladbrook UMC will disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church

2 that the Gladbrook UMC will join the Global Methodist Church if the disaffiliation is approved.

He also asked Dana B., Dave K., Lisa K., and Kevin W. to count the votes on January 8th. All parts of the motion were approved

There was some discussion to clarify that this vote will take place during the Sunday morning worship service. All members of the church are strongly urged to attend that Sunday to participate in the vote. There will be no early voting or absentee voting. If you, as a member of the church, want to vote you must be at the service on January 8th. The motion to disaffiliate must pass by a 2/3 majority. The vote to join the Global Methodist church needs a simple majority to pass.

New Business: 1. Angel Tree Giving is open. Angel tags with a child in need are available on the front lobby table. Please fill out the information on the clipboard next to the tags. All gifts must be returned to the church before noon on December 14th.

2. **On the agenda for January** will be the approval of nominated officers for 2023 year. The nomination lists were submitted to the office this afternoon. Dana has not had time to organize the lists into one cohesive form for our approval before this evenings meeting.

Joys 1. Susie's sister, Ann, is doing well. She will be having radiation every Monday through Friday for 30 days.

2. Lisa's brother and family have decided to remain in Iowa. He and his wife are currently looking for a job. They had both worked at the now closed Tyson facility.

3. Susie is recovering wonderfully from her cyst surgery. She will be having thyroid testing soon to determine any future treatment. She said she is feeling very well.

Concerns 1. Please pray for the congregation as we prepare to decide face the future as a family.

Becky closed with a prayer. Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting scheduled for January 23, 2023 at 7:00pm. Lisa K. will supply the Devotional.

Respectfully submitted, Dana Brown





December

- 2 Dan Bruene
- 2 Lisa Flamme
- 11 Jeni Junge
- 12 Noel Strohhahn
- 14 Terri Luehring
- 16 Chuck Bearden
- 19 Jeff Bruene
- 19 Kendra Beierschmitt
- 21 Cornell Gethmann
- 23 Hillary Purvis
- 28 Marilyn Brekke
- 28 Owen Koester



To everyone who participated in our many events and services this past month. We appreciate everything you do for your family, your church, and your community.

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Thanks to those who took an angel to make someone's Christmas a little merrier this year. The food boxes and gifts must be back by **Dec. 14th** at noon. Please put the wrapped gifts in the fellowship hall.

December

- 1 Kevin & BJ Williams
- 2 Scott & Jackie Stephenson
- 4 Bud Locke & Priscilla Crumley
- 6 Al & Janell Gienger

- Sign your name when taking an Angel and checking it off when bringing the gifts to the church.
- The boxes will be picked up at Peace Church on **Dec. 16th**.

The Angel Tree is a project of the area churches and the Northwest Tama County Food Pantry.

You are invited to read these scriptures each week before the Worship service:

Lectionary Readings for Advent and Christmastide Season

December 4, 2022

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

December 11, 2022

Isaiah 35:1-10 James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11 Luke 1:46b-55

December 18 2022

Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25

December 19, 2022: Las Posadas

Psalm 80 Malachi 3:1-6a
Mark 1:1-8

December 21, 2022 Blue Christmas

Psalm 22, 23 Isaiah 40
Luke 2:1-7

December 24, 2022 Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96
Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2022

Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) John 1:1-14

December 31, 2022 Watch Night

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8 (UMH 743)
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Psalm 119:105

¹⁰⁵ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



December

- 1 Kevin & BJ Williams
- 2 Scott & Jackie Stephenson
- 4 Bud Locke & Priscilla Crumley
- 6 Al & Janell Gienger

- Sign your name when taking an Angel and checking it off when bringing the gifts to the church.
- The boxes will be picked up at Peace Church on **Dec. 16th**.

The Angel Tree is a project of the area churches and the Northwest Tama County Food Pantry.

Gladbrook Community Kids' Club Family Night

The next meeting of Kid's Club (2nd,3rd,& 4th graders) will be Thursday, December 14th at Gladbrook United Methodist Church. This will be a Christmas family meal of a variety of pastas.

For Reservations, call Dana at 641-473-2025 or text Barb at 515-360-3513. Follow Facebook page: Gladbrook Community Kid's Club for more updates.



UMW Minutes

November 16, 2022

Linda opened the meeting with a prayer. Linda served a breakfast casserole and tea and coffee on beautiful Thanksgiving decorated tables to the seven members attending. Those in attendance were Linda S., Kay L., June K., Dana B., Becky F., Carolyn M., and Joan S.

Linda Schneider, president, opened the business meeting by giving thanks to all who helped with the past months activities. She asked what each member's favorite Thanksgiving food or what is served at their feasts.

Minutes of the last meeting were not available but had been recorded in the previous month's newsletter for all to read.

Treasurer report was given by June K. Money was spent on Ingathering shipping costs, hot dogs, chips and buns for Halloween sack supper.

Dana B. gave a report on the Ingathering. 45 School kits, 15 Personal dignity, 10 Layette and 3 Feminine hygiene kits were completed and delivered to the United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls on November 5th.

140 meals were served at the Halloween sack supper on October 30th. The committee had planned on serving 100. Linda S. had to get more supplies from Hometown Family Market.

The "No Soup" fundraiser is still continuing until November 20th. There was no election night fundraiser this year due to rising costs and lack of extra workers. Instead, the congregation was asked to donate the cost of the items they would have otherwise donated to the event.

Charge conference was held October 23rd. Coffee and cookies were provided. These were served to the eleven visiting churches.

Christmas luncheon will be held at noon on December 21st. All women of the church are invited. We would like RSVP before December 14th. Call the church 641-473-2025 to leave a message. Call Dana at 641-750-2219 or Linda at 319-610-3535. Please invite a guest to attend. The guest does not need to be a member of our church.

Carolyn M. offered our Devotional. Kay L. led us in a working program. We filled gift bags for the nursing home, independent living, and community members.

Submitted by Dana B., substituting for Pauline F.



Herb Butter Thanksgiving Turkey Recipe by Dana Brown

Ingredients

- 14-16 pound turkey thawed
- 3 stalks of celery cut into 2 inch chunks
- 2 carrots cut into 2 inch chunks
- 1 medium onion cut into wedges
- 1 lemon cut into wedges
- 1 orange cut into wedges
- 1 apple cut into 2 inch chunks
- 8 tablespoons butter (1 stick) softened
- 3 cloves minced into paste
- 1 tablespoon Poultry seasoning
- kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 cartons of turkey or chicken broth

1. Remove turkey neck and giblets. Pat turkey dry, inside and out and season inside liberally with salt and ground pepper.
2. Place in a roasting bag in a large roasting pan.
3. Cut veggies and fruit into large chunks. Combine in one large bowl.
4. Fill turkey cavity with the chunks of veggies and fruits. If you have fruit and veggies left, place them inside the roasting bag around the turkey.
5. Combine softened butter with poultry seasoning, 1/2 teaspoon of freshly ground black pepper, garlic that has been minced into paste.
6. Gently loosen skin from turkey breast and turkey legs and spread garlic herb butter under the skin.
7. Tuck wing tips under and use extra skin at base of backbone to tuck turkey legs together. You can also use cooking twine for this step, if preferred. Spread remaining softened butter all over outside of turkey and season liberally with kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper.
8. Pour broth into the roasting bag.
9. Roasted at 450 degrees for one hour, then decrease temperature to 350 degrees and roast for another 2 to 3 hours depending on size of turkey. Begin checking turkey for doneness at the 3 hour mark. Turkey is done when breast meat registers 165 degrees and thigh meat is 170-175 degrees. IMPORTANT - Let turkey rest one hour before carving.
10. If cooking the day before serving, let the cooked turkey cool for 1 hour before refrigerating overnight. Day of serving, carve the cold turkey, return turkey to the roaster bag, discard the cooked fruits and veggies. Retain the broth for an excellent gravy. Heat turkey. ENJOY!



The Gladbrook United Methodist Messenger
715 Lincoln Street
Gladbrook, Iowa 50635



DECEMBER WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTES

Dec. 4 Beau DeWitt
Dec. 11 Clay Koester
Dec. 18 Cael Carlson

PROJECTION

Dec. 4 Jhona Lyn Gallo
Dec. 11 Roger Luehring
Dec. 18 Kyle Koester
Dec. 24 Steve Moe
Dec. 25 Kyle Koester

LITURGISTS

Dec. 4 Sean Williams
Dec. 11 Paul Koester
Dec. 18 Dave Koester
Dec. 24 Lisa Koester
Dec. 25 Carolyn Moe

COMMUNION STEWARDS

December 4– Scott & Kathy
Vavroch

ADVENT READERS

Dec. 4 Grant & Susie Strohbehn
Dec. 11 Children's Program
Dec. 18 **Need a Volunteer**

USHERS

Jeff and Cheryl Bruene,
Bob and Marcy Knaack

GREETERS

Dec. 4 Dave & JoAnn Ruopp
Dec. 11 Al & Ann Vibbard
Dec. 18 Larry Pieper &
Kristy Carlson family

The Messenger

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715 Lincoln St., Gladbrook, IA
50635

Pastor Gideon Gallo
Office hours are

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or by appointment

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Facebook:
Gladbrook United Methodist
Church