

"Hearing God's Voice In This Challenging Times"

THE MESSENGER

Gladbrook United Methodist Church

February 2023



Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 22, 7:00 p.m.

In person worship,

**Facebook Live @ Gladbrook United
Methodist Church**

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Season Study Group

**Every Wednesday at 7:00pm
following Ash Wednesday**

**Join us for a study of the
Scriptures and how to read them.**

Gladbrook American Legion

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Feb. 5th

9am-12:30pm

Gladbrook Memorial Building

All you can eat for \$10.00

**Menu includes sausage, pancakes
French toast, scrambled eggs, biscuits &
gravy , coffee, milk, and juice**



Souper Bowl Sunday



Join us on Sunday, Feb.
12th at 11:30am for a
Souper Bowl party
potluck.

Wear your favorite team spirit to church.

Bring your favorite party foods to share.

**We will be providing homemade soup
and pork loin sandwiches.**



**We will also ask you to bring a canned
food item to donate to our local food
pantry.**

Omelet Breakfast

Sunday, Feb. 12th

7:30am -12:30pm

Lincoln Amvet Hall

Gladbrook Lincoln Fire Dept.



“Moses’ Choice”

“Hebrews 11:24-26”

²⁴ By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵ choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶ He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward.

Hebrews 11:24-26 introduces us to one of the grandest characters in all history. The Bible provides stories that will serve as witness of how people called by God lived out their faith as they come to the pinnacle of their choices. David could sing more sweetly; Isaiah had a clearer prophetic vision; Ezekiel a more marvelous imagery; Peter, James, and John, each in some respects were greater than the adopted son of Pharaoh's daughter. But Moses towers above them all from the fact that he was great in all respect.

The greatest event in his eventful life is given a powerful commentary by no other than the writer of the Epistle of Hebrews to challenge the young believers of his time and to challenge us also in our time. This single decision shaped his whole life.

Last January 8, we made a decision to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. Our desire to disaffiliate is Biblically grounded and also affirmed by the Book of Discipline. John 15 will be a good Biblical text aside from the Hebrews text. Further, we have to know what the Book of Discipline tells us about why we made this decision.

“The Book of Discipline Paragraph #161, Under Nurturing Community Part C states that “We affirm the sanctity of marriage covenant that is expressed in love, mutual support, personal commitment, and shared fidelity between a man and a woman. We believe that God’s blessing rests upon such marriage, whether or not there are children of the union. We reject social norms that assume different standards for women than for men in marriage. We support laws in civil society that define marriage as the union of one man and one woman.”

“Paragraph 2702 Part 1 states that “A bishop, clergy member of an annual conference (Paragraph 370), local pastor, clergy on honorable or administrative location, or diaconal minister may be tried when charged (subject to the statute of limitation in Paragraph 2702.4) with one or more of the following offenses:

immorality including but not limited to, not being celibate in singleness or not faithful in heterosexual marriage;

practices declared by The United Methodist Church to be incompatible with Christian teachings, including but not limited to:

BEING A SELF-AVOWED PRACTICING HOMOSEXUAL UNIONS; OR PERFORMING CEREMONIES WHICH CELEBRATE HOMOSEXUAL UNIONS; OR PERFORMING SAME-SEX WEDDING CEREMONIES

crime;

disobedience to the order and discipline of the United Methodist Church;

dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of the United Methodist Church;

relationship and/or behavior that undermines ministry of another pastor;

child abuse;

sexual abuse;

sexual misconduct including the use or possession of pornography,

harassment, including, but not limited to racial and/or sexual harassment;

racial or gender discrimination; or

fiscal malfeasance

“Paragraph 2702 Part 3 further states that “A professing member of a local church may be charged with the following offenses, and if so, may choose a trial:

immorality;

crime;

disobedience to the order and discipline of The United Methodist Church;

dissemination of doctrines contrary to the established standards of doctrine of The United Methodist Church;

sexual abuse;

sexual misconduct;

child abuse;

harassment;

racial or gender discrimination;

relationships and/or behaviors that undermine the ministry of persons serving within an appointment; or

fiscal malfeasance.”

With these in mind, I want us to consider the time Moses made his choice. (I firmly believe that if Moses was the one voting last January 8, it would be an easy vote for him.)

“WHEN HE WAS GROWN UP.” Or as in the original text, **“WHEN HE WAS COME TO YEARS.”** There, undoubtedly, came a time when Pharaoh must know the mind and the very heart of his foster son. **“IS HE FOR US OR AGAINST US?”**

Imagine Pharaoh intensely looking at Moses and trying to probe his heart and his mind.

“I have taken him under my wings and trained him from infancy; but he is the son of Jochebed; the blood of Levi flows in his veins; he venerates his ancestors; he glories in Abraham, and Jacob; he worships Yahweh.

Will the crown at my decease be his? Will he, at last, throw off his allegiance, and cast in his lot with the alien race of his mother?

He is notified that on a certain day he must publicly declare himself; he must clear away all doubts. He must be able to say, **“AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE WE WILL BE EGYPTIANS AND SERVE THE GODS OF THE EGYTIANS.”**

It is the crisis of his life. Momentous hour! The hour of destiny! Do you have a deep sense of what is going on with Moses?

Just like Moses, we go through this in our faith walk. We are challenged to face our own predicament and must make a choice imbedded with this declaration: "WHEN HE WAS COME TO YEARS."

ARE WE FOR GOD OR AGAINST GOD?

Are we to throw off our loyalty to this perverse generations and cast our lot with God?

Can we make a declarative proclamation that we will stand on the truth of the word of God even if it leads us to a difficult road of choices and decisions just like what we had last January 8?

Are we for God or against God?

BEHOLD Moses at the evening hour climbing to the top of some high tower overlooking the imperial city, far from the south rises the pyramids. The Nile, the sacred river, flows like a ribbon towards the sea. And there is a palace where dwells his foster mother, and where for forty years he has lived. Moses is on the mount of temptation-the mount of decision and making a choice, of destiny! **Will he choose the allure of the crown of his future throne, or will he be faithful to Yahweh?**

In the midst of all the brouhaha of his life, Moses made his choice!

Like Moses, **every day, as we stand on our own mountain of decision, of making choices, of destiny, WE MUST DECIDE; FOR GOD OR AGAINST GOD; FOR CHRIST OR AGAINST CHRIST.**

Let also us consider what Moses declined. "WHEN HE WAS GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER."

Here we see the FIRST the quality of faith: namely, that it empowers us to put away our fears and to do what is right. Remember, Pharaoh is an intimidating and fearful figure; to defy him would require serious resolve. BUT FAITH SAYS WE OBEY GOD AND NOT MEN. In Acts 5:29, we see the witness of how the Apostles responded their persecutions because of their faith in Christ; because they follow Christ; because they are loyal to Christ alone.

²⁹ **But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than any human authority." (Acts 5:29)**

Hebrews 11:27 pointed out: "By faith he left Egypt NOT BEING AFRAID of the anger of the king."

WHAT ALLOWED MOSES TO OVERCOME HIS FEAR? We are told that he "endured as seeing him who is invisible." Moses believed there was someone greater than Pharaoh, who would protect and deliver his people: THE "INVISIBLE" GOD OF THE UNIVERSE.

In short, Moses overcame his fear of Pharaoh by another, greater fear-THE FEAR OF THE LIVING GOD, who could send a "DESTROYER" in judgement. One fear drove out the other.

THE FEAR OF MAN LAYS A SNARE, BUT WHOEVER TRUSTS IN THE LORD IS SAFE (Proverbs 29:52).

"WHEN HE WAS GROWN UP, REFUSED TO BE CALLED THE SON OF PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER."

The word REFUSED also shows Moses' character. Church, character is the most precious thing in all the world. And like all precious things, character is costly. His decision is costly. In order to be true to God and himself he had to resign. **MOSES RESIGNED TO THE WEALTH OF THE WORLD.** How men long for wealth. How we toil for it; how we become slave for it; how we lie for it; how we humiliate ourselves for it!

But remember this-THERE IS SOMETHING WORTH MORE THAN GOLD-it is our loyalty and faithfulness to the Living God-the molder and shaper of godly character.

MOSES DECLINED WORLDLY HONOR AND APPLAUSE. Tell it in hell among the ambitious angels who fell from their first estate! Tell it to the dwellers in the nether gloom, who bartered the souls for an hour's applause. Tell it among the living of today who seek honor and fame and dread the reproach of the social world.

MOSES REFUSED THE EXEMPTION FROM HIS PEOPLE'S SUFFERINGS. "...choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin." How often he had seen their "afflictions"; how his soul had drawn back from it and them. But his horizon broadens; his face is from the palace; his heart is with his mother and his mother's God, and he exclaims, "Where you go, I will go, your people shall be my people and your God my God."

Moses is saying, "I had rather be the least of them who are the Lord's alone than to wear a royal diadem and sit upon the throne."

For and to Moses, FAITH SAYS NO TO THE WORLD OF SIN. The looming ascension to the throne, the possibility of having enormous wealth, and access to the treasures of Egypt, and the within reach of pleasures available to him-THE FLEETING PLEASURES OF SIN, Moses decided he would rather be associated with the Israelites. He was not going to take part in the treasures of Egypt and chase the pleasures of sin. MOSES says no to all of these. WHY? Because ***"He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward."***

Moses endured as seeing Him who is invisible-invisible! And yet He looks down from every cloud; he glitters in every star; he breathes in every wind; He rides upon the storm and His footsteps are in the great waters. To Moses, "God sees him."

The choice of Moses shaped his life. We are like a ship; without an anchor we drift and is at the mercy of every wind of evil and temptation. We are like a car without brakes, on top of a heavy grade. Once started downward, our momentum constantly increases, and we are powerless to stop. We are like the first trickling waters that break through the dam that holds back the mighty flood; if not arrested, it works, sooner or later, we will be swimming in awful sin and disaster.

This choice was a personal one. Moses chose for himself, SO MUST WE. Choose this day whom you will serve. **Remember, our faith-TRUE FAITH IN GOD- takes us into a life that says no to a broken and sinful world.**

Pastor Gideon



Lectionary Reading for the Month of February

February 5

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Psalms 119:1-8

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Matthew 5:21-37

February 19

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 99

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9

February 22: Ash Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 51:1-17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 26

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32

Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11



Psalm 119:105

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

- 1 Ashley Bruene
- 3 Andrew Scott
- 4 Taylor Flamme
- 5 Linda Schneider
- 6 Katie (Knaack) Raska
- 7 Bruce Appelgate
- 7 Kayla Reese
- 8 Shannon (Williams) Dirks
- 11 Ruby Reinberg
- 12 Kelly (Fish) Peterson
- 14 Pete Surber
- 15 B J Williams
- 18 Zachery Pierce
- 23 Kay Purvis
- 24 Rhett Williams
- 28 Jodi Kelli
- 28 Mandy Koester

19 Doug & Ashley Bruene



We ask that you keep these people in our prayers...

Rob Herink, Duane & Kari Groth, Carolyn & Don Anker, Lucy DeWitt, June Klinefelter, Pauline Flamme, Paul Purvis, Marilyn Brekke, Bud Locke, Priscilla Crumley, Janell Gienger, George & Galene Groves, Tim & Barb Quam (Jennifer Strohbehn's parents)

anyone touched by the COVID-19 pandemic, our military families, our law enforcement and safety professionals, people under persecution everywhere, and our many unspoken concerns.



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



Mailing address here

FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTES

Feb. 5 Ari Pierce & Easton Curtis
Feb. 12 Clay & Tate Koester
Feb. 19
Feb. 26 Tate Williams

LITURGISTS

Feb. 5 Roger Luehring
Feb. 12 Richard Klinefelter
Feb. 19 Sean Williams
Feb. 26 Kevin Williams

ORGANIST

Feb. 5 Ann Vibbard
Feb. 12 Sam DeWitt
Feb. 19 Ann Vibbard
Feb. 26 Sam DeWitt

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

Feb.5 Scott & Kathy Vavroch

PROJECTION

Feb. 5 Jhona Lyn Gallo
Feb. 12 Dave Koester
Feb. 19 Roger Luehring
Feb. 26 Roger Luehring

GREETERS

Feb. 5 Dan & Tawanna Vint
Feb. 12 Bruce & Joan Appelgate
Feb. 19 Jeff & Cheryl Bruene
Feb. 26 Doug & Ashley Bruene family

USHERS

Logan & Emma Koester, Steve & Marcia Koester



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Gladbrook United
Methodist Church

The Messenger

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Gladbrook United Methodist Church
715 Lincoln St., Gladbrook, IA 50635
Pastor Gideon Gallo's office hours are

Mon—Thurs 9 am—1 pm

or by appointment

e-mail: parson_pew@msn.com

Dana Brown is the
Administrative Assistant
Church office # 641-473-2025

Parsonage # 641-473-2816

Pastor's cell 515-468-1173

Dana's Cell- 641-750-2219

church e-mail:

gladbrookumc@iowatelecom.net

web site:

www.umcgladbrook.org