



***The Newsletter of the West Branch
United Methodist Church***



**WORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES**

**SACRIFICIAL
SERVICE**

GIVING

**TRANSFORMING
AND
NURTURING**

WHAT I AM READING/LISTENING TO/WATCHING



Hi! This is a monthly section where I am going to lift up something I have taken in and think it's good enough to suggest.

This last month I read Mothers, Daughters, and Body Image: "Learning to Love Ourselves as We Are" by Hilary L. McBride. This book is laced with stories of women who are trying to fight against the cultural norms of beauty and combat the shame that comes with comparison. This book also included steps on how to train our brains to do better at avoiding those shame spirals we get so easily trapped in. I am recommending this book for all women, whether you have a daughter or not. We could all use help learning to love ourselves better.

I would also recommend this book for men. It is an intimate look at some thoughts and feelings that a woman you love is probably struggling with but may not be able to articulate.

Blessings,

Rev Alexis

SPECIAL SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS May 20th and June 3rd

Because of the transition, we have moved Confirmation to this spring. Well! We have a huge class so we are going to confirm students at two different worship services, at one service (by their request!)

Sunday May 20th - 9:30 am. We will have baptisms and confirmation, and a celebration of Pentecost. The choir and Refuge team will help lead worship. The service will be followed with cake!

Sunday June 3rd - 9:30 am. We will have baptisms and confirmation. The choir and Refuge team will help lead worship. This will be Rev. Alexis' last Sunday preaching. The service will be followed with cake!

MAY SCRIPTURES

May 6

Communion

"Astonished at the Gift"

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 13

Come hear

*Pastor Mark Johnson
at both 9am and 10:30am
services!*

John 17:6-19

May 20

Pentecost

ONE SERVICE

9:30 am

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

May 27

Trinity

Isaiah 6:1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Worship Opportunities

***SPECIAL
SUNDAY
CELEBRATIONS
May 20th and June 3rd***

WORSHIP ON-SITE

9:00 am Sunday worship

Blended worship featuring liturgy, hymns, praise music, a choir, and a message. Communion is offered once a month.

10:30 AM SUNDAY REFUGE

Flexible worship style primarily featuring acoustic praise music with our Refuge Band. There is usually some kind of experience tied into a message that is more conversational in nature.

WORSHIP OFF-SITE

You Tube Search for our channel WBUMC Iowa, or follow the link from our website or Facebook page. Services are usually posted by Thursday of that week.

WORSHIP AT CRESTVIEW

2 pm, May 3, 2018

All welcome to this 30 minute worship time.

The next anticipated date is June 7, 2018

Note: a local church provides a worship experience @ Crestview each Thursday @ 2 pm.
(FYI: Ruth Blayer will lead Worship @ Crestview on May 10, 2018 representing the WB Friends Church.

Beloved,

As was announced on Sunday April 15th, Mark and I have been appointed to serve at Broadway UMC in Council Bluffs, IA starting July 1. We did not ask for a move, but the invitation to serve this church is a call we could not say no to. It is a chance for us to be together on Sunday mornings and it will be the first time in 15 years that I will be living less than 4 hours away from my mom and sister.

It is hard to know the timeline of when the new pastor will be announced. On Tuesday April 17th, Rev. Kiboko met with members of the Single Board to hear their hearts for our church. The church has been presented to the Cabinet sometime April 23-25th (8 District Superintendents, the Bishop, and the Bishop assistants.) After the Cabinet prays and discerns a person to come here, that person is called and given a chance to pray. If they say yes, an Appointment Introductory Meeting (AIM) is arranged with our Single Board. This is like the one date before an arranged marriage. Both parties have a chance to say it won't work but there have to be some very compelling reasons and honestly? That usually doesn't happen. After the AIM, the date for the announcement is that so that all the churches involved receive the news of the move on the same day. It may be that by the time you see this letter, an announcement has been made or will be made shortly.

My plan is to work as hard as I can to make this transition as smooth as possible. You will hear (and see) shortly about some technology updates to this end. As of the writing of this letter, I do not have my moving date yet. The transition policy of the conference is that I get a week off before the moving truck arrives, and the week after they drop my stuff off. For planning purposes, COM has helped me to set my last Sunday preaching for you as June 3rd. The weekend of June 8-10th I will be in Des Moines for Annual Conference. For June 17th and June 24th Ryan Russell, Licensed Local Pastor and Associate at First UMC, Iowa City will be here preaching.

Please do not hesitate to let me know how I can help you transition well. My prayer is that you will be able to receive your new pastor with even more love than you might imagine. My prayer is also that while there may be grief at this time, there will also be joy and rejoicing.

Blessings,

Rev. Alexis Johnson

Spring is a good time to review our Care Ministries activities of the past several years- and look towards future efforts. As meetings are hard to schedule...Ruth Blayer will be asking to meet with varied persons to review and vision future efforts. If you have input (something that worked well, an idea, or to volunteer) please contact her.

Thank You! Ruth Blayer: pstrblayer@msn.com; 319-530-6648

I want to say a huge thank you to all of our teachers and volunteers who are making Church School possible. It takes so many people investing in our young disciples, for this work to be successful. The disciples are growing toward God and it is inspiring to see.

Blessings, Rev. Alexis

THE LAST DISCIPLESHIP EVENING UNTIL FALL WILL BE WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH. JOIN THE KIDS, TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS FOR PIZZA AND ICE CREAM!

FAMILY CHURCH (DISCIPLESHIP) NIGHT SCHEDULE

6:00 pm PreK-4th grade

Every Wednesday night our church is filled with excitement and enthusiasm. Our lessons have ideas based on our Bible, God and Jesus.

- Show respect to God because He is in charge of everything.
- You respect God when you respect the people God made.
- Friends love.
- Friends accept each other.
- Remember everything belongs to God.

6:00 pm Confirmation Class (7-8th grade)

6:30 pm Community Meal

7:00 pm J8:11 Jr. (5-6th) & Confirmation Class (7-8th)

7:30 pm J8:11 Worship

7:45 pm J8:11 Sr. (9-12th)

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Sharing the Weight Blanket Party

The blanket party in April was another success. 23 blankets were made!!

The next 'party' is October 15th and 16th, 2018.

Contact Carolyn Anderson at 319-530-8021 or ande5800@gmail.com for questions. Invite your friends to join us. Remember there are many jobs that do not require being able to sew.

It is an inspiring project.



The Mental Health Support Group

The next meeting will be *September 12, 2018*
at 7:00 pm at WBUMC

This information and support group is open
to the entire community.

Contact Lisa Kofoed (facilitator, 319-936-2051)
for additional information.

Prayers & Squares

**This small group meets regularly the fourth Tuesday
of each month at 1:30 pm
in the WBUMC Fellowship Hall. Please call Gloria Scharnweber at
643-2872 for more information regarding Prayers & Squares.**

***"Coffee & Devotions"* at Crestview**

11 am, Monday, May 7, 2018

The next anticipated date will be **@ 11 am on June 4, 2018**

MAY LEADERS / VOLUNTEERS

Worship Leaders

6th: Lori Waters

13th: Margaret Wick

20th: Jim Keele

27th: Martha Luke

Fellowship

6th: Peg Anderson

13th:

20th: Costco Cake ~~~

Confirmation

27th: Birthday's Celebration

Check the weekly bulletin for more leaders and volunteers.

United Methodist Women

Recycle for a Cause! Why should we recycle? Are there alternatives? Can we as individuals really make a difference? The United Methodist Women will meet **Monday, May 14 at 7:00pm** in the church library to hear about Recycling, Reusing, Reducing and Refusing. Barb Wilcox will present the program, and has invited Iowa City's Director of Recycling, Jane Wilch to speak to us about local options.

Please join us to learn about how we can each make a difference for our lovely Planet Earth, and how we can protect and heal it for future generations.

Executive Committee Meeting, 6:00pm.

C.U.P.S.

Connecting & Coffee
Understanding faith &
WBUMC news
Prayer
Sharing Fellowship

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am, Room UL25
May 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

All welcome, come when you can.

*We intentionally pray for the
prayer list, and others.*

We also share a time when the Bible is read and discussion can be shared.

Know that you are welcome to add to the discussion, or just take it in quietly.

Fellowship time beginning @ 10:00 am each Sunday.

Those attending either the 9:00 am worship or the 10:30 am worship can enjoy fellowship and refreshments together.

NOTE: the 10:30 am fellowship time on May 20 following the one 9:30 am Worship service.

*“Make us one, Lord, make us one;
Holy Spirit, make us one, Let your love flow so the world will
know we are one in you.”*

The Faith We Sing (TFWS) # 2224

This song is based on the passage from **John 17: 20-23** (especially v. 22-23) where Jesus is praying for future believers (us).



24 people gathered on April 24th for a special fellowship time sponsored by CUPS. A wonderful time was had by all studying scriptures, getting to know one another better, and must mention all enjoyed the delicious cinnamon rolls!!

Mary Martha Fellowship

will meet Thursday, May 10 at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome.

Hostesses will be Martha Luke & Millie Verlo.

*You're Invited to the
W.L. United Methodist Women's
Ladies Night Out Salad Supper*


*May 9, 2018 at 6:00 pm
113 East 5th Street*

*Come join us for our annual fun evening for women
as we celebrate women in our community!*

*Enjoy some great fellowship
and an awesome Salad Buffet.*

*Program: A presentation by Christine Knuckles
On the Redbird Mission in Kentucky, as well as
door prizes & party favors that will top off
the fun evening.*

*So we may better plan,
please RSVP how many plan to attend from your
church to Cindy at WLUMC 319-627-2780*



Prayer Shawl Ministry: If you would like more information about our Prayer Shawl Ministry or care to join this informal small group contact Jan Mather at 319-643-5581, or by email at jm799@aol.com. Printed information about our Ministry and instructions is available in our WBUMC library or by contacting Lynn in the office.

Prayer Shawl or Prayer Quilt

You are welcome to take a shawl or quilt for someone you know who needs a hug and prayer, whether for an illness, grief or life crisis, or whatever you feel the need. If you take one, please give us the recipient's Name/Date by recording in the Prayer Quilt/Shawl Journal. We hope to track to whom and where they go. Just let the recipient know that the shawl or quilt represents our love and care. We hope to enfold them with God's love and our prayers. There is no cost. Please give them the Note Card with the gift.

ELEVATOR PROJECT UPDATE

- Total Pledged \$293,511
- Total Project Cost: \$625,000
- Loan Balance: \$133,012

We are pleased to announce that West Branch United Methodist Church has been established as a charitable organization eligible to receive Thrivent Choice Dollars.. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to WBUMC. We plan to use Thrivent Choice grant funding to help with our Accessibility Project.

This year's statistics:			Last year's statistics for the same weeks:		
Week	Attendance	Giving	Week	Attendance	Giving
4/01/18	152	\$4989	4/02/17	96	\$3521
4/08/18	93	\$3854	4/09/17	152	\$4251
4/15/18	116	\$2097	4/16/17	188	\$2923
4/22/18	96	\$2456	4/23/17	103	\$2443
YTD AVG	102	\$3609	YTD AVG	85	\$3473



Prayer Chain

Thank you to those who have kept the church informed of prayer concerns and provided updates and kept us aware of hospitalizations. Please know

we would rather have three calls from family/caring friends than miss a need. Please contact the church office with prayer requests or to join the prayer chain. 643-5489 or youbelong@westbranchumc.org

Kent Campbell, husband of Dale Thomas' sister Sue Ellen of Springville, MO. He fell and broke his arm and leg on April 24th. He is also dealing with metastasized cancer.

Peg Anderson

Our Church family.

Joan Lewis

Volunteers: school, community, and church.

Camie Kelley

Amanda Polson-Tinebra, Lynn and Shirley Patrick's granddaughter

To the Crestview residents including:

Joan Jamison

Darlene Lenz

Mary Phelps

Audrey Rex

Byrdetta Wehrman

Those struggling with mental health.

Jim Blayer

Christi Musgrave, battling cancer, cousin of Katie Herring.

Madi Nargang, niece of Phil and Amanda Rushton; cousin of Gabby.

John Wilcox.

Larry Meyer, Lynn Patrick's brother-in-law.

Kathy Fountain, a friend of Dale and Carol Thomas.

Jim Smith, Deb Fiderlein's dad.

Dakota, a friend/student of Andy Corr.

Karen Fieseler.

Barb Dinnen, Connie Laughlin's cousin.

Rusty, Kathy Harmon's cousin's son.

Carsten, son of Paul and Jessica, friends of Rob and Jenni Herring.

Sebastian, son of a co-worker of Andy Corr.

Nicki Hesseltine, friend of Tracy Schutte.

Brady Verlo.

Erica Hoover, cousin of Tami Streinz.

Nick Holbrook, friend of Matt & Kris Brack.

Will, Gina Cousin's brother.

Family members going through transition.

Those who are caregivers.

Those walking the road of recovery.

Missionaries in the United States and around the world.

For all those caught in the middle of the conflicts around the world.

May Birthday's



- 3 Emily Slach
- 3 McKenna Lentner
- 3 Glen Waters
- 5 Mike Colbert
- 6 Kris Perks
- 8 Konnor Myrvik
- 9 Jim Wick
- 9 Mitchell Moon
- 12 Laura Slach
- 14 Derek Leith
- 14 Bria Yeggy
- 17 Todd Myrvik
- 17 Jennie Pine
- 18 Mick Beeler
- 18 Trey Schutte
- 19 Tristan Roehrig
- 19 Skylor Maxson
- 21 Rob Rushton
- 25 Taryn Hoffman
- 26 Mitch Warden
- 26 Gloria Dorr
- 26 Ben Shortt
- 27 Joan Lewis
- 29 Makayla Slade
- 29 Elizabeth Slade

Your Church Staff & Contact #'s

Office #: 643-5489

Pastor: Reverend Alexis Johnson 430-0700

Care Ministries Pastor: Ruth Blayer 530-6648

Office Admin/Ministry Assistant: Lynn Freed 800-3654

Music Director: Dale Thomas

Refuge Musician Leader: Ben Colbert

Pianist: Maggie Mowery

Custodian Becky Knoche

youbelong@westbranchUMC.org

revalexis@westbranchumc.org

WestBranchUMC.org

May 6

"Astonished at the Gift"

Communion

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

May 13

Come hear Pastor

Mark Johnson

at both Services!

John 17:6-19

May 20

ONE SERVICE

9:30 am

Pentecost

Confirmation

Acts 2:1-21

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27

John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

May 27

Trinity

Isiah 6:1-8

Psalm 20

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Sorry if we don't have your birthday on our list; please contact the office so we can add it on for next year!

