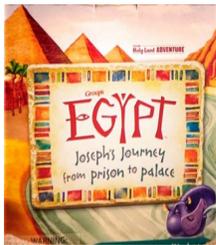


Exploring Egypt at VBS!



July 10, 17, 24, 31 from 5:30-7:30pm

It's just about that time - Vacation Bible School! If you haven't already signed up to participate (either as an attendee or helper), it's not too late. You don't have you be able to attend all nights, sign up for when you are able! Ashley has a place open for you whether it's dancing and singing, acting and inter-acting, doing AV and background things, or leading and shepherding groups.

ALL VOLUNTEERS, join us for our VBS Training on Wednesday, July 6th at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

Haven't donated yet? Contact Ashley if you'd like to offer some help!

If you haven't noticed our friend, Mr. Bones has been checking out all the cool spots in the church leading up to hanging out at VBS. Check for where you can see him next on our Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

Be on the look-out for him in the Fourth of July parade too!!



GRINNELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

Outdoor Worship - Sunday, July 10th

Please bring your lawn chairs or blankets and join us at Krumm Preserve for worship at 10:30am

We are planning a great time of music and worship. After the service there will be a potluck luncheon.

Please bring a dish to share, table service and stay for the fellowship.

Note: There will still be an 8:00am service at the church.



Outdoor Worship

In case of inclement weather we will have the service and potluck in the Friendship Center. Please listen to KGRN or check our social media.

Inside this issue:

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UMW	6
Thank you Notes	7
Birthdays/Anniv	8
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Special points of interest:

- *Discipleship Committee Series See page 3*
- *Summer in the Sun, page 4*
- *UM Youth Day at Adventure land. See page 5*
- *Garage Sale, page 6*

Holy Grounds with Pastor Dave



It's July. The month we celebrate Independence Day. There is a lot of talk about

freedom this time of year. I remember as a kid hardly being able to wait until I was an adult so that I could be free to do what I wanted when I wanted. I remember as a young adult hardly able to wait until I was done with all my education so that I would be free to set my own schedule. And then there were appointments to churches with the Bishop sending me to this community or that one. Kids came along. The responsibilities and obligations continued to accumulate. Would I ever be free? It finally dawned on me that freedom is not something bestowed upon from the outside. It is not being exempt from responsibilities. A government cannot grant it or deny it. Circumstances cannot offer it or remove it. These elements of our lives can shape our lives and choices without a doubt. They can surely

make life difficult or easy. They can add pain to our lives or relieve it. Freedom, I have come to believe, comes from within a person. It is a life view. It is a way of being. The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the church in Galatia,

"But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a custodian. You are all God's children through faith in Christ Jesus. All of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek; there is neither slave nor free; nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ... Because you are sons and daughters, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore, you are no longer a slave but a son or daughter, and if you are his child, then you are also an heir through God."¹

Your station in life does not define you. Your relationship with God does. Freedom is the living out of that relationship, living into your true nature. Yes, there

will always be things that control your options. If that reality determined whether or not we are free, then as individuals and as a nation we have yet to achieve our freedom. What defines our freedom is who we decide to be in light of those limitations. Our faith does in fact set us free.

On July 4th we will celebrate our political independence and the sovereignty of our nation. Those are good things to valued and respected. Every day we can celebrate our independence from sin and death and the sovereignty of our Lord, Jesus Christ. While the two are not the same, we do have the privilege to celebrate both this month. Thanks to the courageous souls to make the first one possible along with all those who challenge the things that would erode our civil freedoms. Thanks be to God for a love that accepted a cross that we might be free to live as children of God.

Be A Lifesaver

About 200 people - including 100 lifeguards - attended a pool party in New Orleans in 1985 to celebrate the first summer in memory that no one had drowned at a city pool. At the end of the festivities, the four on-duty lifeguards began clearing the area and found a fully dressed man in the deep end. Despite efforts to revive him, he died.

Just as swimming with a bunch of lifeguards doesn't guarantee safety, "swimming" with a sea of churchgoers doesn't guarantee peace. People in the pews next to you might be struggling to stay above water physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. Be alert to ways you can serve as a lifeguard. Extend a helping hand, listening ear and encouraging reminder of Jesus' ultimate rescue (see Romans 7:24-25).



You have seen several articles in previous newsletters. You may have even seen me stand up during church and give a preview. And now you are probably wondering, how are we going to be equipped for the transformation to discipleship?

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect.” - Romans 12:2

We are very blessed to have a wonderful Christian Education department at Grinnell United Methodist Church. It is our hope to use our Christian Education to intentionally support the development of maturing disciples. Becoming a disciple of Christ means we have to get “educated” and beyond.

I am constantly telling my students that school is very important, but if they want a more meaningful view of history than they will ever get in class, they need to talk with people who lived it. They need to talk with people who lived through the Depression. They need to talk with veterans. They need to utilize the pri-

mary documents. The same is true of our Christian education. It is important to have disciples who are equipped to share their faith story and to be the presence of Christ in other people’s lives. If you have ever been on a Walk to Emmaus, Women of Faith, Promise Keepers, or similar Christian events, you know that the most powerful moments are those when a Christian opens their hearts and tells their testimony, sharing how God has worked through their lives. It is equally important to share how utilizing our primary document, the Bible, can help us through any situation.

Even if you are just beginning your journey as a Christian, you can be an effective witness to those outside the church. Christian education is not limited to the classroom - though this is an important part of the process. We need to be lifelong learners! People who are in the exploring phase of their disciple-

ship journey have lots of questions. We would like to pair them up with a guide or “faith



friend” from our congregation who can serve in a one-to-one relationship where questions can be answered, concerns explored, and faith shared. If you would like to serve in this role, or if you would like to be paired with a faith friend to help you along the way, please let a member of the Discipleship Committee know.

Let’s move our education and discipleship program from good to great! The kickoff will be on Rally Day in September! See you there!

Discipleship Committee Members: Lynette Lender, Dawn Jaeger, Allan Muntz, Deb Breeden, Ashley Risting, Monique Shore.

A Note from the Trustees

The trustees have retained the services of Tim Olson of Big Creek Design Group Inc.

Tim and his staff will be providing architectural drawings for the sanctuary as well as the office. The trustee goal is to make the worship area more accessible to everyone and to make the office area more work flow friendly. More information will be coming as the trustees complete their due diligence.



Mike Allen
Chairperson

ACES and More!

ACES: Accepting, Connecting, Engaging, Serving

Our Discipleship Committee has officially started the search for ACES (formerly Sunday school) teachers. If you are interested in joining a team of leaders who accept everyone as they are, personally connect with people, lead engaging lessons, and serve each other, contact Ashley!

Coffeehouse! All Ages

If you haven't had a chance to taste the specialty brews in between worship services, we invite you to put your or-



der! We have lattes, cappuccinos, mochas, and more with all kinds of delicious flavors (vanilla, French vanilla, white chocolate, brown sugar cinnamon, caramel, hazelnut, peppermint, and more!). If you're interested in learning how to be our barista and help make and serve coffees, talk with Ashley in the upper level kitchen!

We'd love to have the coffeehouse open year-round!

Don't forget, too, on Wednesday mornings from 9-11am in July, we'll enjoy all the same

yummy drinks plus hands-on worship in the Fireside room!

Heavenly Hop

Wondering when our annual Heavenly Hop will be? Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 11th right after church! Our youth will be grilling up hot dogs and hamburgers, serving root beer floats, chips, cookies, and more! Bring your lawn chair and as you are served a wonderful meal. More information will be in the August newsletter.



Confirmation

You may have noticed that last month's newsletter was missing my traditional article about our Confirmation youth heading off to camp Wesley Woods for Confirmation camp. This year, with a small class and busy schedules, we just didn't have the youth able to attend camp, but we will have a joyful and wonderful Confirmation year this year with

our two youth: Owen Coffman and Andrew Cogley! I'm super excited about all of the really cool, extra options that having a small class affords us, and so we're building a new Confir-



mation experience for these two special young men. We will begin class in September, but don't forget to keep our planning team and youth in your prayers!

In faith and love,
Ashley

Summer in the Sun

Join us for fun "Summer in the Son" discussions between Sunday services in July!

You're invited to grab a coffee or juice and join in lively, informal discussions between services in the **Wesley Room from 9:15-10:00am**. Share your knowledge or thoughts about these fun topics and how they relate to faith. Facilitators

will be there but you will be the heart of the discussion!

July 10: Prayer

"Can you hear me now?"
Diana Buter & Billie Broich

July 17: Gardening

"Planting, pruning and feeding, oh my!"
Monique Shore

July 24: Angels

"Who's there?"

Tracee Van Arkel

July 31: Fishing

"Gotta quit wishin', gotta go fishin'!"

Looking for a fisher/facilitator!

Talk with Billie Broich if you have any questions or suggestions.

Senior High Mission Trip!

Each year, our youth look forward to putting their hands and faith to use wherever they are called. Though we did not get to travel internationally this year, we will be traveling with GROUP Mission trips to Indianapolis, IN, from July 24th-29th. While there, they look forward to putting their hands and feet to use in any or all of these projects:

- Play games, lead craft-making and interact with residents of an elder care facility, while listening to their stories, assisting with meals and going on outdoor walks.
- Work with thousands of local residents cleaning up a neighborhood. Projects include trash pick-up, cleaning out weeds and over-

growth, and beautifying parks and public spaces.

- Participate in community outreach with a local church by leading games with the neighborhood kids.
- Serve alongside food bank workers who diligently get food to the hungry.
- Help at the Boys and Girls club with daily programs that include playing sports, leading crafts, and developing life skills for children ages 5-18, and helping them discover new opportunities for their future.
- Cultivate and maintain community gardens within the city that provide fresh food to inner-

city residents.

- Deep-cleaning, performing simple repairs, and helping clean the yards of senior homeowners.

The youth will use funding from their raising efforts over this past year to help fund each attendee, but if you would like to donate further, please contact Ashley. We are also always looking for eager and loving adults to join us as chaperones and fellow-servants. Let Ashley know if you're interested in attending.



United Methodist Youth Day at Adventureland

Our Youth Mission Day at Adventureland was a great success in 2015! Last year, we had ten parishes report a total of 680 books and 81 hours donated to kids in Iowa. We had an amazing band come lead us in worship, and we enjoyed hearing from Allison Engel about Change a Child's Story. We had prizes, including two pizza parties from Casey's. And, of course, we enjoyed a great day at Adventureland!

September 10, 2016
Cost: \$25 each
for all ages 4 and over
Kids under 3 are free
Open 10am-7pm

***Rally in the Theater**
3:00-3:30pm

Please bring your hours and books donated this year in order to celebrate your youth group's work to Change a Child's Story! Door prizes will be given, along with a random grand prize drawing from all youth groups who show up to report their hours!

This will be a fabulous celebration of mission, of youth, and of you, as well as a great day of rides, attractions, and Iowa fun together!

Please bring a flyer (see Ashley in the office for a printout) when you come in order to receive your discount at the gate. Pass holders, as always, do not have to pay for entrance. Questions? Text to [712-350-0994](tel:712-350-0994)



UMW April Happenings

July 11th - 1PM - Dorcas Circle meets at church

July 17-20 - Mission u (SOCM) Iowa Valley CED, Marshalltown



Thank You Notes

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Words are inadequate to express my deep appreciation for all your cards and memorials given at the time of my mother's death. Each one is special and added to all the others we have received will make a nice memorial to her church she loved and served.

I am grateful for your prayerful concern in these days. May God continue to bless and keep you.

Grace and peace,
Rose Blank

Dear Ashley & Grinnell United Methodist,

Thank you so much for your generous support of Kids Against Hunger this past year.

Your participation has helped further our mission of feeding starving children and their families around the world.

With great appreciation,
The Kids Against Hunger Board

Grinnell UMC,

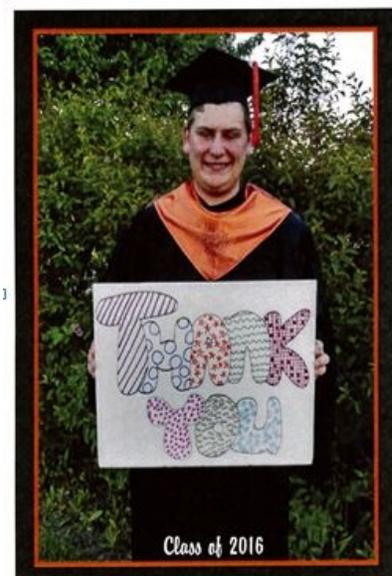
Thank you so very much for all of the great birthday cards, best wishes and gifts. I am very appreciative of everything you did for me.

Thank you!
Sandy Evans

Dear GUMC,

Thank you so much for the bible. I will definitely be using it at UNI next year. This place has been like a second home for me. Thank you so much for all the support and everything the church as done for me.

Mitch Kingery





Serving this Month

	July 3	July 10	July 17	July 24	July 31
8:00am					
A/V Sound	Jerry Lane	Jared Breeden	Meyer See	Chris Risting	Jared Breeden
A/V Slides	Tim Niswander	Tanner Tokle	Chris Risting	Robbie Shore	Dani Ford
Liturgist	Judy Bush	Hulsing Family	Gordon Packard	Ginny Cameron	Carol Jordan
Centering Moment	Dave Van Arkel	Barb Norman	Jeanette Budding	Jack Mutti	Lily/Andy Hamilton
Music	Lora Cline	Juli Bey		Praise Team	
10:30am					
A/V Sound	Jerry Lane	Jared Breeden	Meyer See	Chris Risting	Jared Breeden
A/V Slides	Tim Niswander	Tanner Tokle	Chris Risting	Robbie Shore	Dani Ford
Liturgist	Jill Allen	Ryan Dodd	Debbie Iverson	Suzanne Bunger	Margaret Niswander/Deb Breeden
Centering Moment	Dave Van Arkel	Barb Norman	Jeanette Budding	Jack Mutti	Lily/Andy Hamilton
Music	Lora Cline	Juli Bey		Praise Team	

Grinnell UMC Garage Sale

We'll be open Friday, August 12 (noon to 6) and Saturday, August 13 (8 to 2). Set-up will be Thursday afternoon, August 11. High school youth will be there Thursday, helping us carry items up from downstairs storage. THANK YOU, YOUTH! We need many volunteers, of all ages, to help us organize and price items that afternoon and also to help at the sale.

If you can help in the below areas (it's really fun!), please contact:

Transportation:

Larry Niswander - 236-6897

Publicity:

Betty Ludden - 236-8763

Sports/Tools

Dick Ritter - 236-3001

Linens

Sue Dimit - 236-6230

Household Goods

Karen Voecks - 236-4963

Books/DVDs

Judy Bush - 236-8837

Jewelry/Accessories

Echo Jansen - 236-4255

Coffee & Rolls

Eleanor Osland - 236-5082
Margaret Niswander - 236-6897

Cash Box/Check Out Workers

Dona Hendrickson - 236-9119

Christmas Corner/Seasonal

Carolyn Roudabush - 236-8139



Help is also needed in **Furniture** and in **Children's Toys/Clothing/Furniture**

Many sale items are needed to raise \$3000+ so keep gleaning treasures from your attics and drawers and bring them to the Friendship Center on August 10 or 11. If you need help transporting donated items to the church, please call Larry Niswander. If you need to get them to the church before garage sale week, items may be left in the Time To Grow classroom on the lower level. Remember NO ts nor adult clothing and PLEASE price your items if possible.

(Price tags are available by the TV in the overflow area). WHAT A GREAT WAY TO RECYCLE!

Submitted by Betty Ludden

Financial Corner: What's Happening at GUMC through May 2016

Financial Information

The 2016 operating budget

- Total giving in May \$ 34,065.22
- Total giving YTD \$179,506.60
- Budgeted Expenses YTD \$216,263.56
- Giving minus budget exp. YTD -\$ 36,756.96

Actual Spending YTD

- Local Ministry \$ 12,933.81
- Missions \$ 37,641.85
- Building \$ 26,095.10
- Staff \$131,720.74

Total YTD \$208,391.50

Interest Earned \$0.82
Net Loss through May 2016 -\$28,884.05

Attendance

Total attendance May 2016	1220
Total attendance May 2015	1066
Avg. attendance Jan - May 2016	243
Avg. attendance Jan - May 2015	234

Approved Budget

- \$ 17,030.84
- \$ 37,871.04
- \$ 21,508.34
- \$139,851.34

\$216,263.56



Alanon Meeting

A new meeting time for Alanon will be Mondays at First Presbyterian Church , 1025 5th Avenue at 7pm.

Birthdays and Anniversaries:

July Birthdays:

1-Kim Bailey, Hunter Kinnick ; 3-Macy Laug; 5-Stuart Porter, Laina Small, Jackie Johnson; 6-Leslie Mitchell, Jenna Steffen; 7-Ireland Cranston, Daria Kline, Nichelle Plate; 8-Tia Heishman; 9-Danea Breeden, Riley Ely; 10-Josiah Bailey, Deb Henderson; 11-Andy Knaack; 12-Suzanne Bunger, Tami Ferch, Brent Renaud, Alyssa Rubendall; 13-April Cooper, Jill Harris, Jan Mutti, Teresa Wells; 14-Collin Blunk, Walda Gustafson, Will Hamilton, Connie Phipps; 16-Jill Allen, Carolyn Dawes, Elsie Johnston, Earl Kinnaird; 17-Marsha Bachman; 18-Mike Allen, David Arseneault, Gretta Dodd, Ella Seney, Shamus Wells; 19-Betty Ellis, Carolyn Grosenbach, Brett Hall; 20-Susan Capers, Laurel Ely, Luke Honold, Darcy Noel, Deena Wellborn; 21-Kati Bradshaw, LeeAnn Lane, Brian Mitchell, Nick Wallace; 22-Pam Blagden; 23-Pat



JULY
BIRTHDAYS

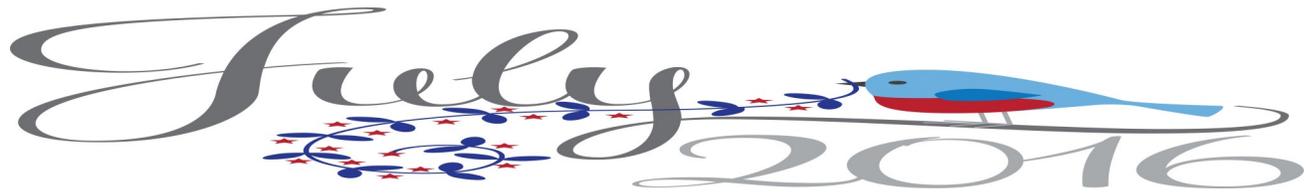
Boyd, John Budding, Clara Dillon, Trish Ebert, Robert Walker; 24-David Arendt; 25-Ian Baumann, Rick Kelling, Aeryn Risting; 27-Nancy Clifton, Tracey Conn, Jerry Lane; 29-Jordan Murphy; 30- Mitchell Kingery, Ryan Plate, Lowell Robinson; 31- Racheal Kinnick

July Anniversaries:

2-Alan & Donna Muntz; 6-Ryan & Kim Dodd; 7- Kevin & Sarah Seney; 9-Leo & Barb Lease; 10-Sackda & Heather Lobban-Viravong; 11-Jim & Ann Chambers 14-Jim & Teresa Johnson; 17-Scott & Delphina Baumann; Jeff & Janet Haley; Mark & Patty Lloyd; 22-Jerry & Phyllis Carpenter , Bob & Jeannette Clark; 24-Bryan & Donna Davis; Larry & Echo Jansen; 25-Mark Burkhead & Peggy Parker; 27- Robert & Doris Shoup; 28-Chris & Ashley Risting; 30-Steve & Kathy O'Connor; 31-Chris & Heather Coffman



JULY
ANNIVERSARIES



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3*	4 	5*	6* 6:30pm VBS Training	7 10am Communion @ Brookside South	8	9
10* 8am Regular Worship 10:30am Outdoor Worship @ Krumm Preserve - Potluck following service 5:30pm VBS**	11 1pm Dorcas Circle	12* 5pm Reading Initiative Mtg. 7:15pm Trustees Mtg	13 5pm Finance	14 10am Communion @ Mayflower	15	16
17* 5:30pm VBS**	18	19* 6pm Great Mtg. Night 7pm Communion 7:15pm Ad Council	20	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7am Foundation Mtg. 10am Communion @ St. Francis	22	23
24* 5:30pm VBS**	25	26*	27	28 10:15am Communion @ Windsor Manor	29	30
31* 5:30pm VBS**						

***Recurring Events:**

Sunday:

8:00am Worship
 9:15am Praise Team
 9:15am Summer in the Son
 10:30am Worship
7/10 is Outdoor Worship

Tuesday:

9:30am Staff Meeting

Wednesday:

9am Coffeehouse (beginning June 8th)

VBS Schedule**

5:30pm Family Dinner

6-7:30pm VBS Activities



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**GRINNELL UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

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916 5th Avenue
Grinnell, IA 50112

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Living, Loving, Sharing God's Word

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Shannon Reding, Office Manager
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Juli Bey
Pianist/Organist

Kelly's Kleaners, Custodian

We Faithfully Participate in the Ministries of the Church by...

Prayers Work as if you were to live a hundred years, pray as if you were to die tomorrow.
Benjamin Franklin

Presence Worship, Meetings, Practices, Coffee House, Senior High Cookout, Library Lunches

Gifts Good Samaritan, Rainbow Connection, Building Fund, MICA Milk Vouchers, Blessed Community, Children's Literacy Program, Memorials, Apportionments, Peace with Justice Sunday, Compassion International, Kid's Against Hunger, E-Waste Donations, Miscellaneous, Builder's Call, Foundation Reimb., MINE, Camp Scholarships, VBS

Service Moving chairs from Grinnell College to the church, Library Lunch Prep and Delivery