



**Pastor Mike is available to meet by appointment and can be contacted on his cell phone: (319)551-3874**



## CLOVER RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH DECEMBER 2017

### A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE

Matthew 2:1-2 NKJV

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."

Isn't it interesting that these wise men came from afar to worship the new born King, Jesus Christ? These wise men were Gentiles, not Jews. They came bringing rich gifts! They traveled many miles, for the wonderful purpose to worship HIM. It probably took them 28 days to get to Bethlehem (at least) if not more. And think of our little drive to our worshipping together!

We are all called to worship Him. It is at the root of who we are to be as a disciple of Jesus. But this fact seems to be lost with many who claim Christ today. Many people who name Christ have gotten out of the habit of regular worship attendance. And do not see the importance of it. If that is you I invite you to come back and to get regular weekly worship attendance again!

Some people say, "Well I don't get anything out of worship," let me remind you. Worship is not about what we can get out of it, but rather what we can give to Him. The wise men came to the baby Jesus to give. Worshipers are together directed in action to our Triune God. We are gathered to give our praise, our thanksgiving, our minds, our voices, our feelings, our worries, our fears, our attention, our very being to God. We do it together...as Christ's body. This is God's design; this we know for His word tells us so. We see it in the Old Testament; we see it in the Church in the New Testament. It is a gathering together, of God's covenant people. We are in covenant together with God. There is no such thing as a lone ranger Christian.

Worship is to bring glory to God. The songs are directed toward God. The prayers are directed toward God. Our gathering is directed toward God. We listen to God's word expressed in a Bible teaching sermon. We respond by leaving together to out in Mission for God!

Our weekly gathering together is modeled in the New Testament in the book of Acts, and in many other parts of the Bible. The writer of Hebrews said in the 10th chapter.....

"24) And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25) not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

**There is an expectation that the disciples of Jesus are to assemble together. The Day approaching is the day in which Jesus Christ will come back to this Earth. So God is telling us, let us think about one another, let us care for each other, to stir up love and good works, not skipping our gathering together for worship and learning, but let us exhort one another (exhort or to gain especially by ingenuity or compelling argument, like I am trying to do with you now!) that we would be gathered together in worship of God, because we know the day of His coming when we will have to give an account for our life is coming soon!**

**There is a great benefit to God in our gathering together! It is what He commands us to do, it makes Him pleased, and it is what we were created to do and what we will do forever in Heaven!**

**It is our duty**

**It is a time of renewal.**

**It is a time to give to God.**

**It is a time of fellowship with God.**

**It is a time of fellowship and support with the other disciples.**

**I submit that it is a reflection of our dedication to Christ.**

**It is a time of learning and being urged to be about the mission of God together!**

**It is a time and place where the Holy Spirit meets us together.**

**I know it is a time in which we get stirred and called back to where we need to be with the Lord.**

**So I ask you, what is keeping you away from gathering with your brothers and sisters on Sundays?**

**Some of us have walked away from the Lord. We have wandered. And we don't know how we got far away. But know this, God is calling you back. Back to Him, back to worship, back to being a part of the Body of Christ.**

**Billy Graham went to see a man who used to come to church. Billy was invited in to the house and they both sat by the fire place. The man who had not been to worship for quite some time was saying he didn't know why gathering with the saints on Sunday's for worship was so important. Billy got up and took one of the tools they used to tend the fire and he took it and separated a coal from the rest of the fire. Then Billy asked, "What will happen to that coal?" The man said "It will go out." And Billy said, I think you know why you need to get back to being with the body of Christ in worship each week.**

**Come back to the gathering of your brothers and sisters in Christ each week.**

**We miss you. God misses you.**

**In Christ's Love,  
Merry Christmas!  
Pastor Mike**



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**NEW DIRECTORY:** A New Church Directory is underway. If you have had an address or phone # change since 2015, please let Deb Hall know of the change. Also if you do not want an address or phone # published let her know too.

**DECEMBER 10, 2017 – HAM DINNER** following the Christmas Program. ALL kids eat FREE. There will be a free will offering for the Adults. Everyone is welcome. Come join us!

**Mission News:** Mission Team will be asking for donations for Christmas food baskets. The baskets will be delivered on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your donations.

Thanks,  
The Mission Team

## **Christmas Pageant At Clover Ridge: December 10, 2017.**

On Sunday December 10 we will have our Annual Christmas Pageant during the morning worship service at 10:00 a.m. The title of the program is, “How the Grinch Found Christ in Christmas.” This will be good! Don’t miss it! If you would like to be in the Adult choir for the program, please come to choir practice after worship on December 3.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP -** The Church Council decided that we will have one worship service on Sunday, December 24 at 10:00 a.m. Invite your families and friends. We will light candles and sing. It is always a beautiful service.

## **NOTE FROM THE TREASURER:**

“May God grant you His peace and love at Christmas and throughout the New Year.” As unbelievable as it seems, the Christmas season is approaching. Never forget the Reason for the Season. I will make comments quickly, as it is press time.

Balance to 10/31/2017	\$5,298.05
Offerings 10/22 – 11/12	\$6,329.77
Interest Income	\$ 2.88
Expenses thru November	\$8,940.59*
Balance 11/20/2017	\$2,690.11

\*The Women’s Group, with great dedication, gave the bake sale proceeds from the fall supper towards payment of apportionments at the conference. That amount was \$916.23. Also with a little handy work and direction of the trustees, the kitchen was freshened up with a coat of paint. Supplies expensed were \$258.34. The current mortgage balance is \$228,371.50. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to give me a call at 641-236-6797.

Nancy Newberry

## DECEMBER MILESTONES

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

- 3 - Catherine Hoskins / Kasi Hayes
- 4 - Mary Stearns /Shealeigh Phelps
- 6 - Terry Voss
- 7 – Ron Lown
- 10 – Mark Carter
- 12 – Marna Dahlstrom
- 14 – Allison Ward/Daryl Cavalier
- 15 – Shirley Rammelsberg /Kelsey Stewart
- 18 – Macy Donahue
- 19 – Jason McAllister
- 20 – Benjamin Hatton
- 21 – Suzanne Beltz
- 28 – Abigail Rawson
- 29 – Tracy Lennon / Tracy Arbaugh
- 30 – Samantha Sjobakken
- 31 – Dustin Wilson



### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

- 19 – Rich & Kristy Pash
- 24 – Don & Jan Larson



## FACTS ABOUT DECEMBER

**Birthstone:** Turquoise

**Flower:** Poinsettia

Winter begins in December on the 21 or 22. Some people call it “the frosty month” and is the warmest month of our winter. The later part of December has long been a holiday season. The Romans honored Saturn, the god of agriculture, with a festival called Saturnalia. Today, Christmas is the main holiday of the month in many countries. Christians celebrate it as the birthday of Jesus Christ. Mistletoe is hung to be kissed underneath for “good luck “. Many birds have flown south to warmer climates as do people who are called “snow birds”. But there are also many animals that are active during the winter but their furs change color to their environment to camouflage them. A star on top of a Christmas tree symbolizes the Bible story of how the star of Bethlehem guided the wise men to a place where they found the Christ child. Iowa was admitted to the union on December 28, 1846.

## **LAITY IN SERVICE – DECEMBER 2017**

Thank you to all who helped during 2017

### **DECEMBER 3**

**Greeters:** Nancy Africa/Marlene Wasendorf  
**Worship Treats:** Jan Larson/Cathy Hoskins  
**Ushers:** Women of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighter(s):** Aiden Gross  
**Nursery:** Stacy Pasker/Marlene Wasendorf  
**Clearing Sidewalk:** Don Martin

### **DECEMBER 10**

**Greeters:** Becky & Shane Palmer  
**HAM DINNER AFTER SERVICE**  
**Ushers:** Youth of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighter(s):** Aiden Gross  
**Clearing Sidewalk:** Don Martin  
**CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**



### **DECEMBER 17**

**Greeters:** Roger & Shirley Lowe  
**Worship Treats:** Shirley Lowe/Dorothy Snell  
**Ushers:** Men of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighter(s):**  
**Nursery:** Stacy Pasker/Ashley Ferry  
**Clearing Sidewalk:** Don Martin

### **DECEMBER 24**

**Greeters:** Terry & Sharyl & Chelsey Voss  
**Worship Treats:** Ruth Phelps/Jan Larson  
**Ushers:** Women of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighter(s):**  
**Nursery:** Stacy Pasker/Ruth Phelps  
**Clearing Sidewalk:** Don Martin  
**Christmas Eve Worship Service:** @ 10:00 a.m.

### **DECEMBER 31**

**Greeters:** Joanne Beltz/Dorothy Snell  
**Worship Treats :** Joanne / Dorothy  
**Ushers:** Men of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighters:** Aiden Gross  
**Nursery:** Stacy Pasker/Melissa Werner  
**Clearing Sidewalk:** Don Martin

### **JANUARY 7, 2018**

**Greeters:** Sheryl & Louie Hein  
**Worship Treats:** Sheryl Hein/Cathy Hoskins  
**Ushers:** Women of the Congregation  
**Candle Lighter(s):**  
**Nursery:** Stacy Pasker /  
**Clearing Sidewalk:**



**December 2017**  
**Clover Ridge UMC Calendar**  
**Mission Baskets: Christmas Care Baskets**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Each Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship					1 6 p.m. Alpha Course	2 9 a.m. Alpha Course
3 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Adult Choir Practice after Worship	4	5	6 11 a.m. Hour of Power 6 p.m. Alpha Course 7 p.m. Trustees Meet	7	8	9
10 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 am Christmas Pageant Ham Meal After Pageant	11	12	13 11 a.m. Hour of Power 6 p.m. Alpha Course	14 7 p.m. Church Council	15	16
17 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship	18	19	20 11 a.m. Hour of Power	21	22	23
24 No Sunday School today. 10:00 a.m. Christmas Eve Worship Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26	NO Hour of Power	28	29	30
31 9 a.m. Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship-Wesley Covenant Service						

**Clover Ridge United  
Methodist Church**

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**PASTOR MIKE E-MAIL:**  
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**We're on the Web!**

*Find us at:*

[www.cloverridgechurch.org](http://www.cloverridgechurch.org)

**Sunday Morning Schedule**

**Sunday School 9:00 am**  
**Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am - 11:15 am**  
**Wednesday Prayer 11:00 am**

**About Our Organization...**

**Clover Ridge is a United Methodist  
Congregation in Walford, Iowa. Our  
church is made up of people from  
Walford, Fairfax, Cedar Rapids, Norway,  
Amana Colonies, Marengo, and other  
places too! We are an evangelical Bible  
believing church who loves Jesus  
Christ!**



If you have anything to contribute to the January Newsletter, please submit it to Pastor Mike or Sharyl Voss ([609pershing@gmail.com](mailto:609pershing@gmail.com)) by December 24, 2017. Thank you!  
Please let the church know if you have moved or no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

**CLOVER RIDGE CHURCH**  
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