

CLOVER RIDGE CHURCH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2017



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

Please call first in case he has been called away.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE

A Welcoming Church is a Growing Church!

Let me share a little history for some of you who are new to our church.

I believe Clover Ridge UMC was founded in 1996. Bruce Ough, District Superintendent at the time came to the Walford and Fairfax UMC's and urged them to join into one church and build a new building. Rev. (Now Bishop) Ough thought that the area was going to grow. Rev. Burr Bryant was Pastor of Fairfax and Walford UMCs and the congregations considered the proposal and did decide to join together. They were considering a name for the church. It ended up that Gordon Sevig who developed Clover Ridge housing division donated the 5 acres that our church building is on today. So it was decided to name the church after the housing addition and we became Clover Ridge United Methodist Church. The church worshiped in the Walford City Hall for over a year while the new building was planned and built. The first worship service in our building was Resurrection Sunday (Easter) 1998 and the building at that time had no carpet or pews, no sheet rock on the walls that first service.

Then in July 1, 1998 the Bishop appointed a new couple to pastor Clover Ridge UMC. Their names were Paul and Sue Meade. Paul and Sue had been the pastor's of a congregation in Amana that was 5 years old. So when Paul and Sue were appointed to lead our church, the Colony UMC from Amana came with them and became a part of Clover Ridge UMC. In August of 1998 we moved into the new building. There was a lot of excitement in the church and community when the new building opened. It was really a miracle that things worked out to build the new building. About this time Walford started to grow and many people came and checked out the new church building and congregation. It was lots of hard work by many to get this all accomplished! In the fall of 1999 Pastor's Paul and Sue Meade announced they were leaving. And an interim pastor was appointed by the Bishop, and his name was Dr. Dendy Garrett.

I was appointed by the Bishop and came to start as your Pastor in January 1 of 2000. When I came we had two worship services - one traditional and one contemporary. Our worship attendance grew at one time was about 2004 was around 120. It took a lot of work to get there. Since then we have had people drop out of the life of the church, some moved, some left to go to other churches with more programs. As time goes by some of our workers have aged and passed on to glory. Some have burned out. But as time passed, the fever of a new church and building has died down. Also there has been a general cultural shift in many areas of the country where fewer and fewer people are attending worship as often. We have seen that here. People drop out or come less often. It used to be that the definition of steady worship attendance was 3-4 Sunday's a month...now many people don't come that often...maybe once a month or every other month.

Our worship attendance now is in the 50-60 range. My prayer and hope is that we can work together to help our church grow! Work together? That is how the church grew before and I believe it can grow again. **Here are some things we need to be doing:**

1. Praying to reach new people. Ask God to help us to reach new people. Pray regularly that the Holy Spirit would work in our communities of Walford, Fairfax, The Amana Colonies all around us!

Over my 27 plus years as a Pastor, I have seen God's Holy Spirit bring people into the church and into the faith. We need to be praying for our church to grow! A praying church is a Powerful church!

2. Look back at what we did right in years past. How did we reach people before?
 - a. We used to do some mailings at Christmas and Resurrection Sunday, inviting people to worship, maybe we need to do this again?
 - b. We had a lot of excitement about this new church and all that was going on so we probably talked favorable about our church to our friends and neighbors. Yes even today, let us tell your friend's good things about our church! This is something we still can do!
 - c. We invited our friends and neighbors to worship or church events. When was the last time that we invited someone who was unchurched to worship? They tell us that 82 % of people, if they were asked, would probably say yes!
 - d. We need as individuals and as a congregation to develop a good welcoming system when we get new visitors. This does not mean standing up and introducing the visitors during worship! Most visitors want to remain relatively anonymous. What we do need to do is to pass down the attendance pew pads each Sunday and make sure you all sign your name and address and phone each week. Then when the pad is passed to the visitor in worship they will be more apt to put down their name, address and phone number, SO THAT we can contact them with a visit or phone call or dropping off a welcome gift to them. Also remember when you go into the fellowship hall after worship, to search out the visitors and be sure someone is sitting with them. We would not seem friendly at all if our visitors came to the fellowship time after worship and sat ALONE! Most would NOT come back!
 - e. And we need to make sure we are welcoming, no matter who the people may be, or what color their skin is, or what they are wearing! **God loves them and so should we!**
If you volunteer to be a greeter, make sure you great everyone with a big smile and a cheerful attitude! Try to imagine coming to church sometime as a visitor, and notice what you would see?

I think we all, each and every one of us, should be working to see people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, Lord and Friend! We need to ask God to infill us with HIS LOVE toward other people. And God help us to share Christ! Help us to be positive about our faith and church! Help us to be loving people! We pray for our church we much love, we want to add people, many people to be a part of us, the church of Jesus Christ at Clover Ridge United Methodist Church.

Walk with Christ!
Pastor Mike

Clover Ridge UMC - February 2017
Mission Baskets: General Mission Fund

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00 a.m. Hour of Power 7 p.m. Trustees?	2	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Congregational Worship 11:10 a.m. Choir Practice	6	7	8 11:00 a.m. Hour of Power No Church Council scheduled this month	9	10	11
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Congregational Worship 11:10 a.m. Choir Practice 5 p.m-7 p.m. Chili Cook-off!	13	14 Happy Valentine Day 	15 11:00 a.m. Hour of Power	16	17	18
19 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Congregational Worship 11:10 a.m. Choir Practice	20	21	22 11:00 a.m. Hour of Power	23	24	25
26	27	28				

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Group News: The Women's Group is doing Valentines for Vets in Cedar Rapids and also taking them to the Amana Nursing Home. They collected the valentines on Jan. 22 and Jan. 29 from the congregation. Thank you all who participated.

Thanks to all who helped take down the Christmas decorations. A big job well done!

**Thanks Again
Nancy Africa**

Clover Ridge Annual Chili Cook Off

WHEN: February 12, 2016

**WHERE: Clover Ridge
Fellowship Hall**

SET UP TIME: 4:30 p.m.

COMPETITION TIME: 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

What to Bring:

- \$1.00 admission
- Tip money to vote for your favorite chili cook
- **BIG APPETITE**

Who will be our 2017 Chili Cook off Champ? You are all invited to come out to try out the different soups (Yes there will be other soups not all Chili). We are looking for folks who will enter their soups, there is a signup sheet at the church lobby or you can contact Cari Martin to enter. It is really a lot of fun! The public is welcome, so invite a friend. And spoons and bowls are provided.

Contestants: be there at 4:30 p.m. to set up. Doors open to everyone else at 5:00 p.m., Sunday, February 12.



2017 MISSION BASKETS OFFERING

JANUARY

General Mission Fund

FEBRUARY

One Great Hour of Sharing (Whole Month)

MARCH

Food Baskets for Easter

APRIL

Books for Kids

MAY

Mark & Rae Wilson (Africa Missionaries)
May 13 – Walford Garage Sale/Rummage Sale

JUNE

Josh & Tammy Hunt (Asia Missionaries)

JULY

General Mission Fund

AUGUST

General Mission Fund

SEPTEMBER

Imagine No Malaria
Coats/Hats/Mitten Collection
(Sweaters & Blankets)

OCTOBER

General Mission Fund

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

DECEMBER

Christmas Food Baskets
Deliver Food Baskets and
Holiday gift bags to Shut- Ins

We could do special offerings in case of Natural Disasters. Thank you for your support of Missions. IT FEELS GOOD TO GIVE DOESN'T IT?



FEBRUARY MILESTONES



Happy Birthday To:

2: Scott Williams Nikolai Turk	18: Tanner Lennon Mindy Wilson
3: Chelsey Voss	19: Tyce Hoskins
4: Joanne Beltz	21: Dennis Wilson Lewis Wasendorf
6: Samuel Palmer	24: Rich Pash
7: Dann Harwood	25: Molly Cavalier Gary Albers
11: Carolyn Dillinger James Ferry	28: Corbin Becker
12: Ruth Phelps	
15: Jane Graesser Bill Graesser	

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

14: Joe & Krista Barnell



If you have a Birthday or Anniversary to add, Please call the church office @ 319-846-2349 and leave a message with your information.

Thanks!

L, is for the Laughter I give to you every day
knowing you'll never go away

O, is for the Options we'll have when were together
knowing our love couldn't get any better

V, is for the Visions I have of you
knowing I'll never find anyone quite like you

E, is for Everything that's true I've ever said
especially when I said "we'll be together forever"

LAITY IN SERVICE - FEBRUARY 2016

WE NEED YOUR HELP!
PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR MIKE IF YOU CAN FILL IN ANY OF THE BLANKS

February 5

Greeters: Louie & Sheryl Hein
Worship Treats: Sheryl Hein
Ushers: Women of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):
Snow Shoveling Sidewalks: Martins

February 19

Greeters: Roger & Shirley Lowe
Worship Treats: Shirley Lowe & Joanne Beltz
Ushers: Men of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s): Aiden Gross
Snow Shoveling Sidewalks: Larry & Spencer Beltz

February 12

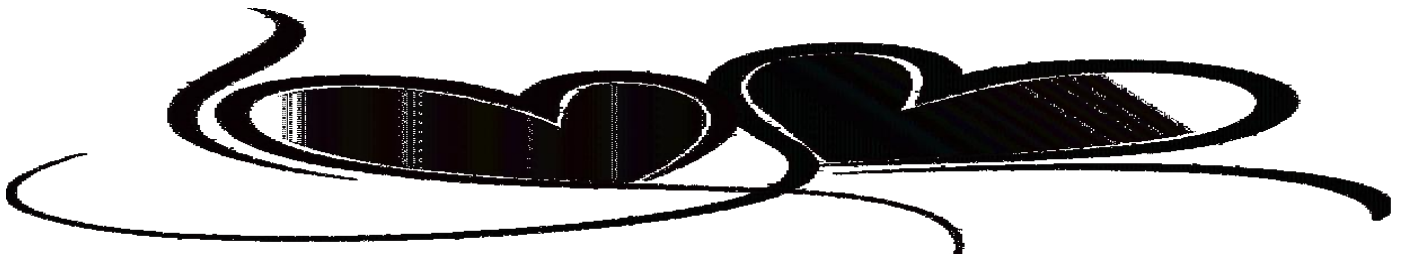
Greeters: Nancy Africa &
Worship Treats: Doni Thompson & Nancy Africa
Ushers: Youth Group
Candle Lighter(s): Aiden Gross
Snow Shoveling Sidewalks: Larry & Spencer Beltz

February 26

Greeters: Randy & Cathy Hoskins
Worship Treats: Cathy Hoskins
Ushers: Men of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s): Aiden Gross
Snow Shoveling Sidewalks: Martins

MARCH 5

Greeters: Terry & Sharyl Voss
Worship Treats: Jan Larson & Ruth Phelps
Ushers: Women of the Congregation
Candle Light(s): Aiden Gross
Snow Shoveling Sidewalks: Jan Larson



If you have changed your address or your phone number, please let us know for the Clover Ridge directory. You may call the church @ 319-846-2349 and leave a message.

Sunday Morning Schedule

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

Clover Ridge United Methodist Church

125 5th Street North
PO Box 87
Walford, IA 53251

PHONE:
319-846-2349

PASTOR MIKE E-MAIL:
crumc@southslope.net

We're on the Web!
Find us at:
www.cloverridgechurch.org/

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, The 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 March newsletter, please submit it to Pastor Mike or Sharyl Voss (609pershing@gmail.com) by Sunday, February 26, 2017. Thanks!

**CLOVER RIDGE CHURCH
PO BOX 87
WALFORD, IA 52351**