



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



CLOVER RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MAY 2017

A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE

Hello God's Saints at Clover Ridge,

If a church wants to grow in today's culture, we need to be reaching out. How does our community know we are here? Many of them don't! There are many things we can do.

1. Say good things about our church to friends, coworkers and family members. This is so important! If they hear us saying good things, they may be prompted to come check us out.
2. Invite friends, co-workers and family members to worship or to a church event. They might say yes! Or they might say no. But if we don't invite, they may not have the opportunity to say yes! Sit with them when they attend. For many people who have never been to worship, it is scary and uncomfortable. They are afraid they might do something wrong or they have no idea at all what to do, maybe they will ask me to come to the front! Or to talk alone! You are there with them to help alleviate their fears.
3. When we have new people visit, we need to be friendly. Watch when you go into the fellowship time after worship. Are there new people sitting alone at a table? Go sit with them and strike up a conversation. Be genuinely interested in them. Say "it was great to have you visit us today. Come back again." And we all need to wear our NAMETAGS every Sunday. If you do not have one, let me know and I will make you one. Also please remember when you sign the pew attendance pads each Sunday morning, to write your Name, Address and phone number. That way when it is passed to a visitor, they might be more apt to write their name, address and phone number so that we can contact them with some follow up. If you just write your name and that you are from Walford and do not write down your phone number, which is probably what they will do also and then we have no way of contacting them to send out a nice card or a phone call! There are getting to be more and more people who don't have a land line phone number and are not in the phone book. Plus new people to the community are not in the phone book yet. So write down your full name, address and phone each Sunday!
4. We need to promote our special events in the Walford, Fairfax, and Amana newsletters. And we are getting more vigilant in doing so.
5. Free publicity can be done by having a float in local parades like the USA Day parade in Fairfax and the Amana Manifest or Oktoberfest parades. We used to do this and have not done so for a couple years now! Our church council is looking to do a float for the USA Day Parade in June. If you can help let Larry Beltz know.

(Continued)

6. We can also send out bulk mailings 3-4 times per year. Reminding people we are here, talk about what we are doing and invite them to worship.
7. Invite those families with children who come to Vacation Bible School to our Sunday school in the fall. This can take the form of a letter with an invitation sent out the week before labor day.
8. Have fellowship fun events from time to time. Our Walford Waddle is an example. Movie Night, Parent's Night Out, Kernel's Games, Hockey Games, Picnics followed by a fun game, Hay Rack Rides, Fall Festival, BBQs, Golf outings etc. People want to come to a church that is busy and Fun. If we are not, they will find a church that is.
9. Most importantly, pray for God's Holy Spirit to move in our communities. Ask God to bring people to Christ and to use our church mightily. Pray for the salvation of friends, loved ones and coworkers.
10. We can do some service/mission projects together. Many younger people are looking for a group that is making a difference in people's lives. They want to help others, and enjoy the group aspect of doing it together.
11. You can share Facebook posts I make about our church or from our church Facebook page. This is a great way to get the word out! And it does not cost a dime but your time. I am disappointed that more of us don't share news about our church with our friends on social media.

As your pastor, I can suggest things we can do. But if we as a congregation are not willing to pick up the ball and get it rolling nothing will happen. We live in a time when it is very hard to be the church. In our area, many churches are shrinking. We are blessed to be growing some again and to have young families in our church. I can't tell you how important it is to have our young families. We need to work together with God to help reach out with the Gospel! And if we do not, our church may not be here in 10-15 years. So let's join together and God will help us!!!

A few more things to share with you...

1. May is upon us. That means the Big Walford Yard Sale Day. It will be Saturday, May 13. Several things will be happening that day-
 - a. Rummage sale for Missions. Bring your items to the church building and ask where you can store them. The Mission Team would like to get your items before the sale so they can start marking prices on them.
 - b. The Women's Group will have their bake sale too! Come and purchase some yummy baked goods, just in time for Mother's Day.
 - c. The Youth Group will be selling food for lunch. Stop buy and support the Youth Group camp fund and by some burgers or brats or walking tacos.

I know the Mission Team could use some helpers and so could the Youth Group. To help with the Mission Team, contact Ruth Phelps. To help with the Youth Group talk to Larry Beltz.

2. The Men of the church will be serving breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on Mother's Day. The breakfast will be free. We would like reservations to know how many to plan for. So look for a sign up sheet to be passed in Worship.
3. The Fellowship/Evangelism Team will be hosting the Walford Waddle Race and Walk again. It will be on July 22, 8:00 a.m. registration, 9:00 a.m. start time and kids carnival during the race.. Helpers are needed. Contact Cari Martin or Ashley Ferry if you can help.
4. Vacation Bible School is coming this summer as well. We will be having a planning meeting on Monday, May 8th @ 7:00 p.m.. If you would like to help contact Melissa Werner.

Also remember that I do not have a phone that has internet. So if you want to reach me with something important it is best to call me or text me. My cell phone is 319-551-3874.

Remember we have a church library with some good reading.

Our Youth Group collects pop/beer cans and plastic bottles in boxes that are between the two sets of front doors.

If you are going through some tough times, ask Pastor Mike or Rick Heller about the possibility of having a Stephen Minister. A Stephen Minister can be a good help to bring God's love and help to you!

May 2017 Calendar - Clover Ridge UMC
Mission Baskets to Mark and Rae Wilson - Africa Missionaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		<u>P. Mike gone to continuing education</u>	<u>P. Mike gone to continuing education</u> No Hour of Power <u>7:00 p.m.</u> Trustees Meet	<u>P. Mike gone to continuing education</u>		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9 a.m Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship			<u>11:00 a.m.</u> Hour of Power Mission Team <u>6:00 p.m.</u> Church Council <u>7:00 p.m.</u>			Rummage Sale Bake Sale Youth Food Sale 8:00 a.m.
14	15		17	18	19	20
8:00 a.m. Mother's Day breakfast (Men serve) 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Worship			<u>11:00 a.m.</u> Hour of Power Prayer			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 a.m. Sunday School (last day for summer) 10:00 am Worship			<u>11:00 a.m.</u> Hour of Power Prayer			
28	29	30	31			
9:00 a.m. Worship for all summer	Memorial Day		<u>11:00 a.m.</u> Hour of Power Prayer			
				Pastor Mike is available by appt. call 319-551-3874		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

YOUTH GROUP: The youth will be serving food at the garage sale on May 14th beginning at 8:00 am. This year we will be serving walking tacos, hotdogs, hamburgers, and brats.

WOMENS GROUP: We will be organizing a BAKE SALE on MAY 13th. We are asking for the congregation to help out with PIES (usually sold out before noon), CANDIES, BARS, BREADS, and KOLACHES, (Usually sold out before noon), ETC... We will also need help on that Saturday. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the board in the narthex closer to the date. We split up into 2 shifts. Your help would be greatly appreciated. Any questions ask Deb Hall or Shirley Lowe.

MISSION TEAM: We will be collecting good new or used items to sell at the rummage sale on May 13th. Place items in the far left Sunday school room. Help is also needed the week before, setting up and pricing items. Help is needed also on the day of the rummage sale. Please let me know if you are willing to help.
The Church Rummage Sale:
May 13th from 8am to 4pm.

Thank you
Ruth Phelps (319-350-7277)

Decorating Team: Thank you to all that helped decorate the Sanctuary during Resurrection Sunday.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER:

“Problems are not stop signs, they are guidelines”--Robert Schuler

This month, the financial news is a little more troublesome. And with Celebration Sunday in mind, we need to rise again to a financial challenge before us. Please evaluate the value of inviting a neighbor to attend Clover Ridge. We need to build our congregation in order to sustain it.

There are many appealing purposeful projects that are presented to you. But, please also consider that as projects are funded, the reality of keeping the basic expenses paid is ever present. We have reached a threatening low in our General Expense account. With pending summer months, the attendance often dips, followed by low offerings. Unfortunately, expenses do not decrease.

Please pray for our Church Family to be strong in their financial responsibilities. You may keep informed of the Purpose Categories project balances by referring to the bulletin board in the Narthex by Pastor's office door. April end of month totals will be posted shortly.

Balance as of March 19 – General Expense	\$ 4,830.76
Offerings: 3/26 thru 4/16	+ 7,081.00
Misc. Inc.	+ 8.07
Expenses for April (complete)	- 10,323.19
Balance to April 16 (Expenses thru April)	\$ 1,596.64

Additional expenses incurred in April—Quarterly property insurance, umbrella insurance, replacement of copy machine. Mortgage Balance \$234,120.32.

Mission Celebration Sunday Baskets \$426; Heifer Project \$110.40; Books for Kids \$93.05
Trustees Roast Beef Supper \$1,473.37

If you have questions, comments, or wish to have something addressed in future newsletters, please feel free to contact me at 641-236-6797. Nancy Newberry

MAY MILESTONES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

4 – Brynlee Barnell
11 – Willa Richey
12 – Nichole Sly
14 – Rick Heller
Kathy Wilson
Kaitlyn Pundt
15 – Charity Cecak
18 – Tom Milligan
22 – Hanna Hatton
29 – Mason Barnell
30 – Chelsea Peterman



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:

2 – Randy & Cathy Hoskins
10 – Rick & Janice Rawson



Mothers Are The Place We call Home

Mothers are the place that we call home.
On them we rest our heads and close our eyes.
There's no one else who grants the same soft peace,
Happiness, contentment, sweet release,
Erasing nighttime tears with lullabies,
Restoring the bright sun that makes us bloom.

Happy Mother's Day to all on May 14th

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST: The Men's Group will be putting together a Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 14th @ 8:00a.m. If you plan to attend please let Pastor Mike know by Wednesday, May 10, so they can plan on how much food to make. Hope you all can make it and don't forget to bring your mother, grandmother, or mother-in-law.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 21: Last day of Sunday school
May 28: Worship time moves to 9:00 a.m.

Bake Sale!

When: Saturday, May 13th, 2017

Where: Clover Ridge United Methodist Church
125 5th St North
Walford, IA
(In conjunction with city-wide garage sales)

Time: 8:00am

Take home and enjoy a variety of:
Homemade pies – Breads – Bars – Candies
Cinnamon Rolls – Kolaches - Cookies -



**FUNDS RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS A STORAGE SHED/
LAWN EQUIPMENT/KITCHEN STOVE**

**PERSONS OF CONTACT: Deb Hall, Shirley Lowe, Nancy Africa,
Dorothy Snell, Betty Smith, Marlene Wasendorf, Sheryl Hein**

**WE WELCOME ANY BAKED GOODS FROM THE CONGREGATION TO BE
TO THE CHURCH BY 9:00 A.M. ON FRIDAY MORNING IF POSSIBLE.**

LAITY IN-SERVICE MAY 2016
MAY MISSION BASKET OFFERING:
MARK & RAE WILSON - MISSIONARIES

MAY 7

Greeters: Gary & Deb Hall
Worship Treats: Deb Hall & Betty Smith
Ushers: Women of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):

MAY 14

Greeters:
Worship Treats:
Ushers: Youth of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):

MAY 21

(Last Day of Sunday School)

Greeters:
Worship Treats:
Ushers: Men of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):

MAY 28

(Worship moves to 9:00 a.m.)

Greeters: Dann & Shari Harwood
Worship Treats: Cari Martin & Lizi Martin
Ushers: Men of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):

JUNE 4

Greeters: Roger & Shirley Lowe
Worship Treats: Shirley Lowe & Dorothy Snell
Ushers: Women of the Congregation
Candle Lighter(s):

If you would like to fill in one of the blanks up above, PLEASE let Pastor Mike know.
Thank You to all that do help!!

Sunday Morning Schedule

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/

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

May 21st is the last day of Sunday school until September

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 June newsletter, please submit it to Pastor Mike or Sharyl Voss (609pershing@gmail.com) by Sunday, May 21, 2017. Thank you!
Please let the church know if you have moved or no longer wish to receive this newsletter.

CLOVER RIDGE CHURCH
PO BOX 87
WALFORD, IA 52351