



The Stidham Story

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Message from Pastor Mike

Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We ought always to thank God for you.” 2 Thessalonians 1:2,3, NIV

Today is July 1, 2016. That means I am officially the Senior Pastor of the Stidham United Methodist Church.

My first act as pastor is I want to thank all of Stidham United Methodist Church for their genuine and gracious hospitality, which has been extended to Julie and I. Without knowing us personally, you have demonstrated a love and respect for your new pastor.

So much has been accomplished in the upgrade of the parsonage. Every room has been painted. New carpet has been installed. New medicine cabinets in both bathrooms have been put up. New flooring in kitchen and laundry room is on its way. Landscaping has improved the outward appearance of the parsonage.

While we have been trying to settle into our new home, we have received so many gifts. We discovered a new K Cup coffee maker that was donated to us. Lunch was provided for the moving crew and us. A beautiful bouquet of flowers was delivered. Fruit was given to us. We have been taken out to eat.

I want to thank both Judy and Paula for their helpfulness as I begin this new partnership of ministry. They are doing so many things to help me. What impresses me is their spirit of serving Christ together. I appreciate it so much.

In my many years of pastoral ministry, I do not remember any time when a congregation has done so much to welcome us. Thank you. This all helps to motivate me to be the best pastor possible.

Earlier this spring, I met with 4 persons from our congregation at a seminar put on by the Indiana Conference Of the United Methodist Church. At that meeting, the five of us set some preliminary goals for the first year of my ministry at Stidham UMC.

One goal I have is to meet with each family unit. I want to establish a solid pastoral relationship each person in our church. I have asked for help in setting up appointments to make this happen. We are in the process of developing this plan.

Another goal I have is to make pastoral visits with shut-ins. I have been given a list of several shut-ins from our congregation.

I desire to have a fruitful, Christ honoring relationship with each of our ministry teams and committees. I will be meeting with them at their regular scheduled meetings. I want to understand each of the various ministries we have. I want to pray with each committee and team.

Pastor Mike's Message—Cont. from Page 1

I will be talking and praying with the bible study groups within the church. My desire is to be helpful in spiritual development and growth in our walk with Jesus.

I want the entire congregation to know that for the last several months I have been praying for each of you. With my morning coffee and prayer time, I opened up the on line pictorial directory and prayed over every listing.

I will be taking Fridays as my day off. This works best for Julie and I, especially when she is working. I guard this day.

I do not appreciate phone calls after 10:00p.m. I do understand legitimate emergencies happen. Life is not always predictable. Most things can be dealt with before 10:00 a.m. and after 7:30a.m.

I use a variety of platforms to keep in touch. I am on Facebook. My primary email account is - mike.dillon@inumc.org. I do texting. I also can do Facetime. My cell phone is 260-503-1561. I enjoy having fun and socializing. Julie and I are willing to consider requests to attend various events. This might also include possible Friday dinner, or other functions. Due to Julie's work schedule, she is not always able to accompany me during the week.

We have blocked off the 3rd Sunday of the month to be available for a wide variety of activities. There is now a sign up sheet for this. This is not the only time we will be willing to socialize. Like most of you, we have a full and busy life. We want to make sure anyone can have the opportunity to be with us.

"My love to all of you in Christ Jesus." 1 Corinthians 16:24

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE FOR AUGUST 21ST.
THANK YOU**

JULY CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Helping Hand—The first Sunday of each month. Mark the pew envelope “Helping Hand”

Adopt A Road—Tuesday July 5, 9:00am Sign-up sheet with instructions in Fellowship Hall.

Lighthouse Prayer Group—Thursday Mornings July 7,14,21,28

Reception for Pastor Mike & Julie—Sunday July 10, following Worship Service – Light Lunch, Cake & Punch furnished.

Trustee Meeting Tuesday Night—July 26, 7:00pm

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS FOR THE GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

JANUARY—CASH DONATIONS

JULY—MACRONI & CHEESE

FEBRUARY—CANNED OR TUNA

AUGUST—PAPER PRODUCTS

MARCH—SPAGHETTI SAUCE OR NOODLES
(NO GLASS JARS)

SEPTEMBER—CASH DONATIONS

APRIL—PAPER PRODUCTS

OCTOBER—PEANUT BUTTER

MAY—CASH DONATIONS

NOVEMBER—SOUP & CRACKERS

JUNE—CANNED FRUIT

DECEMBER—OATMEAL OR CEREAL

PRAYER LIST

Everyone needs prayer every day. Let us give thanks and ask God to be with those who are on our prayer lists and those going through personal struggles, health issues and other worries that they may have. Let us share our faith and show love to one another each and every day. Amen

Quinn Miller, Josh Morlan, Dick Watts, Pat Baugh, Matthew Smelcer, Larry Henderson, Lucy Keller, Patricia Tooley, George & Doris Carlton, Neve Bowden, Karen Fridlin, Roy Becker, Frank Airhood, Cindy Lindstrom, our military, our world leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

During each stage of my journey, God will be with me.
What can I do to exercise my spiritual muscles?
Today and every day, God's love and grace will sustain me.
When we serve others, we are serving the Lord.

Independence

Every way I turn I see flags and other decorations in red, white, and blue. We are celebrating Independence Day on July 4th. The latest issue of 'The Magazine of Colonial Williamsburg' is also full of patriotic information. The president of the magazine greets us at the beginning of each issue with a thoughtful message. This time it really struck a chord. He dealt with the coming election and used quotes from other sources. The Wall Street Journal, the New York Times, and the one that hit home to me was a quote from the New York magazine which said "America has never been so ripe for tyranny." Tyranny! I needed more information. I went to the dictionary and found this explanation – "tyranny – (1.) the government or power of a tyrant; harsh and unjust government; (2.) very cruel and unjust use of power". Then I searched for a definition of independence – "the state of being independent; freedom from the control of another or others." Complete opposites. How could I get from Independence Day to tyranny without me having a clue it was happening?

Have I been giving my freedom away piece by piece? Every time the government gives me what looks like a freebie, it takes away from my independence. Freebies have to be paid for. Someone is assessed financially and I sign away some freedom. The federal government would take control of my life saying it will take care of me. There is a price to pay. Rules governing my day would appear. I could only possess so much property. It would monitor my spending of what I was allowed to keep. Is this just a step away from tyranny? Every time I give up a right I make my world more restricted. I must not turn a blind eye to independence. There have been too many lives given to preserve it. Too many have dedicated their being to protecting this country for me to forgo being vigilant in living my life. I feel we are all selfish and make ourselves number one. I need to direct my goals to protecting my freedom – not lining my pockets with freebies that have a hefty price tag while stripping away my freedom. Are we, as a nation, becoming lazy? Thinking 'everything will be fine. It always winds up okay – after all we are America!'

I have a bible titled, "The American Patriots Bible"; the general editor is Dr. Richard G. Lee. On page 1346 is an article titled, "Freedom Requires Bravery." The last paragraph is quoted here – "when the authors of the **Daily American Told the Truth** took polls in the early 1990's asking people which belief they would die for, 48% said 'none'. Only 30% would die for God and their faith under any circumstance, and fewer would die for their country." The quotation is, "Can America restore courage to its soul?"

'A call to action' has a statement in the preface of the same bible and says this, "A clear and honorable pathway that any generation of Americans can use to protect that which is right and change that which is wrong within our great nation can be procured by **prayer** for God to be merciful and intervene with His grace toward America. **Process** America through the pathway of moral, social, and political change. **Persevere** through George Washington's example, "We won our independence from the British and became a free people. Let us bend our knees and humble our hearts and pray. God wants to come and bless us, forgive our sins, and heal our nation."

"God Bless America, Land that I love. Stand beside her and guide her through the night with a light from above!"

Have a thoughtful Independence Day!

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene



One Nation Under God!



4– Ray Coogle

5– Glenda Bauer

7– Gary Standiford

9– Brenda Hardesty

**11– Betty Greene
Joy Dietz**

16- Jakob Kanaby

20– Diann Robinson

23– Dave Brown

27– Bill Byers

28– Arletta Brown

1- Mike & Marcy Helms

11– Paul & Joy Dietz

18– Pat & Lee Yoder

23– Connie & Gary Standiford

26– Dick & Judy Benedict

**Shelby Brown and Kyle Coomey
will be married here Saturday
July 16th at 3:30 pm**

Congratulations to them!

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

During each stage of my journey, God will be with me.

What can I do today to exercise my spiritual muscles?

Who is the Lord calling me to help today?