



THE STIDHAM STORY MARCH 2018

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MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MIKE

I have been a United Methodist pastor since 1988. That means I have been serving United Methodist Churches for 30 years. I have served a very diverse group of churches. Most have been rural. Most are conservative. They have varied in the philosophy and practice of ministry. Some have appreciated my style of ministry. Some have not. I have had two lengthy pastorates. I have had a couple of very short tenures. I still remain committed to the ministry of the United Methodist Church. It is my covenant with the United Methodist Church that allows me the privilege of serving Stidham United Methodist Church.

Why am I a United Methodist? What has kept me in United Methodist Ministry all these years?

I believe that the United Methodist Church offers the best hope for the world and America. I believe that for several reasons. Our denomination and its predecessors have made a strong influence upon American culture. That influence still continues today.

United Methodists believe in the Bible. We love and study the revealed word of God. We have a high view of scripture. A key doctrine is that we do not need anything except what is revealed in the bible. John Wesley said, "At any price give me that book."

At the same time, we seek to be interpreters of the bible. All of our beliefs are built upon the primacy of scripture. It is our guide. We use tradition to interpret scripture. What have Christians through the ages believed? We use reason to interpret scripture. God has given each of us a mind. We are to use our mind to understand what the original audience of the bible heard. We use experience in our interpretation. Does this understanding ring true within us?

Our understanding of the bible leads us to celebrate the grace of Jesus Christ. It is lavishly poured out upon all persons. We believe grace has been given to us from the time we were born until the time we die. Grace is possible because of the atoning sacrifice of Christ. We are saved through grace. We are kept by grace. We are called to live a life of grace.

We celebrate the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit leads us and guides us. When we become stuck in our faith the Holy Spirit unsticks us.

We are orthodox in our theology. We believe in the trinity. We seek to balance love of God the Father with the Grace of Jesus Christ, and communion of the Holy Spirit. Our faith is an ancient faith. It dates back to the time when the bible was written. We have a deep, rich understanding of the Christian faith.

We celebrate worship. Worship is the way we experience God. Some have a High-Church sacramental worship experience. Others have a very free flowing worship service. We celebrate the sacraments of the Church. Corporate worship is uplifting and empowering in our everyday lives.

We celebrate the priesthood of all believers. Not just ordained persons do ministry. We believe that all baptized persons have a function and role in building up the kingdom of God. We believe that all Christians are gifted and necessary for a church to be what God wants. While a pastor is important in a local church, much of the ministry in a local church depends upon lay people who seek to honor Christ.

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We believe and practice acts of mercy and justice. It was Methodists who abolished slavery. It was Methodists who gave women the right to vote. We established hospitals. We established schools and universities. We seek the good of our community. We speak out on issues affecting our world.

Because churches are made up people, there is no such thing as a perfect church. Because denominations are made up of churches, there is no such thing as a perfect denomination.

The Council of Bishops (this is all of the United Methodist Bishops, retired and active, from all over the world.) met this past month. They have begun to consider 3 options for the future of the United Methodist Church structure from the Commission On The Way Forward. When the Bishops receive and act upon the final report, I will be sharing that with our congregation.

My personal commitment to the United Methodist Church remains firm. I pray regularly for our Bishop, Julius Trimble. I pray for our Indiana Conference. I pray for our Northwest District.

I pray for Stidham United Methodist Church. I ask God to help us to become fruitful in ministry to all the world for the sake of Jesus.

I pray for myself. I ask the Holy Spirit to make my life to be the best witness I can to the grace of Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Mike

LOOKING AHEAD INTO APRIL FOR IMPORTANT THINGS COMING UP

Easter Sunday Service on April 1

Sunrise Service 8:00am

Easter Breakfast 9:00am

Regular Easter Worship Service 10:30am

Easter Egg Hunt– See page 8 in March Newsletter

Monday April 2– Benefit for the Children’s Summer Camp Fund sponsored by Hot Box Pizza. See the last page in the March Newsletter for details.

Saturday April 21– There will be a Craft Fair here at Stidham to benefit the Children’s Summer Camp Fund from 8:00am-12 noon. If you want to rent a booth register by messaging Stidham on Facebook or talk to Jen Carmichael.

Ad Council Meeting Tuesday April 24, 7:00pm

5th Sunday Meal April 29– More details to follow as they come available. They will be in the Sunday Bulletin and the April Newsletter.

THINGS GOING ON IN THE CHURCH IN MARCH 2018

Helping Hand Sunday March 4. Please mark the pew envelope (“Helping Hand”)

Holy Communion -Sunday March 4

Yoga Stretch & Praise- Monday Mornings March 5, 26 & Friday Mar. 23, 8:00am

Bible Study - Monday Nights March 5, 26, 6:30pm

Choir Practice - Wednesday Nights March 7,14,21,28 7:00pm

Lighthouse Prayer Group -Thursday Mornings February 1,8,15,22,29 10:00am

Palm Sunday Sunday March 25

Lighthouse Prayer Group Prayer Day– Thursday Mar. 29, 8:00am-8:00pm– See more info on Page 9

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FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED FOR OUR GROCERY CART EACH MONTH

Your help is greatly appreciated for your donations each month for the food pantry to help feed the hungry in our area.



JANUARY-CASH DONATIONS

JULY-MACARONI AND CHEESE

FEBRUARY-CANNED MEAT 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



MARCH 2018

2- Bruce Rose

16- Jim Walters

5- Steve Plantenga
Carol Rose

19- Mary Butler

10- Mary Ezra

22- Jeannie Plantenga

15- Judy Henderson

30- Marcy Helms

16- Jim Walters



MARCH 2018

27- Ed & Lucy Keller

31- Bruce & Cheryl Parker

Patient 'Patience'

March first is just around the corner, so to speak. It is time to prepare a conversation with you. I missed last month because of illness. The editor chose an old one from a February of a past year. Now I need to bring myself up to date. It is two weeks into Lent. I have not devoted myself to improving my soul in any area of giving to Christ or giving up anything for Christ during this preparation for Holy Week, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Assentation Sunday.

It has rained incessantly for days. I felt the rain was God's tears for me. I need to devote time to reading the words of Jesus as he teaches me in preparation for the excruciating pain I cause him when I stumble. He is divine, He goes to the cross for me time and time again.

How can I become worthier of his love? The words patience and impatience keep coming to my mind. I am not a patient 'patient'! The adverb and the noun are spelled the same. Thank-you Mr. Webster! I become ill with what was determined a very bad cold in a ninety-two, year old body. I used a cold remedy that caused my blood pressure to shoot upward and I pushed the 'panic button' I wear around my neck. After a six hour visit to the emergency, they sent me home. I also needed an antibiotic to treat an infection they discovered.

Now you would think a couple of weeks would have me back on my feet. – No way! The cough would not go away. I had no energy. I became an impatient 'patient'. I have things to do and places to go. I am having to develop patience. Patience with this old body. It is very difficult to slow down. To sit and watch the world go by at a fast pace.

I keep testing my body for endurance. I look for the day I don't loose stamina around 4:30 pm. I remind myself I must have patience. The old saying "Rome wasn't built in a day." is true for me today.

March is a month full of change. I keep looking for the warm, sunny days of spring. I know

there may be snow. The basketball tournament usually has snow. The wind will blow away the left-over debris of winter. There will be many cloudy rainy days. I will be patient.

Scripture discusses patience in both the Old and the New Testament.

Psalm 37:7 says, "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him."

Proverbs 14:29 tells us, "A patient man has great understanding, but a quick, tempered man displays folly."

Revelation 13:10 assures us, "If anyone is to go into captivity, he will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, he will be killed. This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of the saints".

I enjoy using the concordance, a list of topics covered in the Bible by book, chapter, and verse. It is found on the last pages in two of my Bibles. I am blessed for the opportunity to use this advantage and share it with you today.

Have a wonderful month – See you in April!

Love and Prayers,

Betty Greene

Scripture is found in the NIV translation.

Patience
is a
virtue
that i wish i had more of

TIME CHANGE

**ON SATURDAY NIGHT MARCH 10, BE SURE TO SET YOUR
CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!**

CHURCH CAMP FOR KIDS

A team is working on several projects be able to send our children to camp in the summer. The goal for sending our children to camp is \$3,000.00. Please see the information in Fellowship Hall as to where we are on the chart. If you wish to donate put your money in a pew envelope and put in the offering plate and mark "Camp Fund" Your donations and support are appreciated!! The children are an important part of our church! As fund raisers become available they will be in the bulletin and the newsletter. The children thank you for your support!!

CLEAN-UP DAY HERE AT STIDHAM



**SATURDAY APRIL 14
TIME: 8:00AM-1:00PM**

It is that time of the year again to come help spruce up the church.

There will be cards on a table in Fellowship Hall for things that need to be done.

Let's all work together to make our church welcoming to others!

Your help will be greatly appreciated.

PRAYER LIST

Dear Heavenly Father,

We ask that you be with all that are on our prayer list, those who are going through health, issues, personal struggles, and other worries they may have. Let us show our faith and our love to one another each and every day. Amen

Rachel Miller & Family, Arletta Brown & Family, Pastor Mike & Family, Kevin Fry and Family, Chuck a friend of the Carmichael Family, Wilma Osterhoff, Jen Carmichael's Father and their Family, The Tim & Lorrie Powers Family, Doris Carlton & Family, Chris Jacobs-Newman, Judy Gainey, Mary Ezra, The Springer Family, Kay Hurst, Gina Boyd, Mariam Brown, Noble Kizer, Jim Withers, Lucy Keller, Darrell Wethington, Bonnie Watts, Virginia Perkins, Don & Jan Plantenga, Pat Baugh, Al Cummins, Our Military and Our World Leaders and those who are prayed for silently.



THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

In every moment , God can bring us hope and peace.

Jesus is with us at every stop on life's journey.

Even in difficult times, I will remember God's faithfulness.

Today I will serve God with a joyful heart.

Deadline for the April Newsletter is Thursday, March 22

Please have all articles in the office by the above date!!

Thank you!!



EASTER EGG HUNT

SUNDAY APRIL 1, FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERVICE
FOR AGES 1-12
PRIZES WILL BE GIVEN
PLEASE BRING A BASKET TO PUT YOUR EGGS IN



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**THE CHURCH STAFF WOULD LIKE TO THANK
THE CONGREGATION FOR YOUR GIVING TO THE
LOVE GIFT ACCOUNT. WE APPRECIATE YOUR
CARING AND KINDNESS SHOWN TO US.
GOD BLESS ALL!!**

Day of Prayer—Holy Week

The Thursday Prayer Group is sponsoring a Day of Prayer during Holy Week

Come and join us Thursday, March 29th between 8 am—8 pm
Sign up for a 1/2 hour time slot on the sign-up sheet
located on the table in Fellowship Hall

Don't miss an opportunity to have a one-on-one talk with God
in the inspiring Stidham UMC sanctuary

Begin your Holy Week journey on Thursday and continue
all the way through Good Friday and Easter Sunday

Would you want more time with our Heavenly Father?
Consider signing up for a second 1/2 hour time slot

John 3:16 NIV



**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,
that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**