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> Steve Pudinski, Pastor stephen.pudinski@iaumc.net

Church Staff

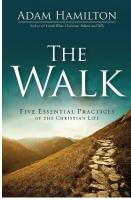
Pastor - Steve Pudinski Administrative Ministries Coordinator - Greg Brown Custodian - Don Griffith **Chancel Choir** Director - Luke Johnston Piano/Organ - Jo Brown & Dee Wallace Little Friends Preschool Director and Teacher - Amber Brown Xn Chaos Director - Greg Brown Bishop of the Iowa Annual Conference - Laurie Haller East Central District Superintendent - Kiboko Kiboko Ministers of Jesus Christ in the World - All the People of God!

United Methodist News

February 2020

Lenten Study The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life

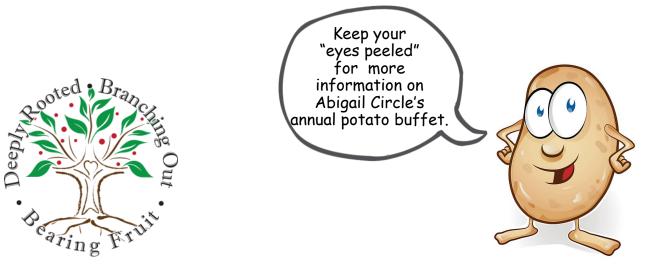
We are starting our Lenten Study, *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life*, on Sunday, March 1st at 6:30 pm, and conclude on Passion Sunday, April 8th. Additional classes will be Tuesday at 1 pm, Thursdays at 10 am and Wednesday at 6 pm. If you would like to be a part of this study, please contact the office so we can add you to a class. It is never too late to start. Sign up today!



Facing Our Giants is just some of the things we have been talking about in Sunday school this year. Through scripture and stories the kids have been exposed to "the faith like Daniel", "the strength of Moses" and "the heart like David". If that all sounds familiar, your correct. These are some of the lyrics from a song the classes will be singing for the congregation in early May. Check it out! There's a really great message in this song, *Confidence* by Sanctus Real.

We have about 10 more weeks of exploring and learning about those great heroes, who were just ordinary people like you and I, given extraordinary confidence to go and do great things. Does Jesus' 12 come to mind?

See y'all Sunday for a little more confidence building!



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

"The only thing constant in the church is change."

In past sermon you may recall that I have said, "The only thing constant in the church is change." That is definitely holding true as we begin this new month. If you recall, on January 12th I shared with the congregation about my retirement. That brought speculation and wonder. On Sunday, February 9th, we learned from our SPRC Chair, Joyce Slach, the new pastor for Tipton UMC will be Jay Amundson. He will be coming to Tipton from Guthrie Center UMC on July 1st. Then, on the very next Sunday, February 16th, we learned that Melinda Stonebraker will be heading to Greenfield UMC in Greenfield, IA, to become their new pastor also on July 1st.

"The only thing constant in the church is change."

General Conference 2020 is right around the corner. Not only is this the quadrennial meeting (once every four years – 2019 was a Special General Conference) but this year is also going to be focusing on the future of the UMC. Since 2019, there has been much talk, many meetings, and a number of proposals prepared to counter the decisions made at the conference last year. The one proposal that is receiving a lot of attention is the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation. If you have not had an opportunity to read it, there is information on where to find it elsewhere in this newsletter. In this season of Presidential politics, stay informed on what is happening in our church. Take a few moments to read the Protocol so you will be aware of the underlying issues.

"The only thing constant in the church is change."

Change is not only happening at the national level of our church, but also at the Conference level. As you have probably heard, the conference did not receive the expected apportionment dollars it was anticipating to meet the conference budget. There have been many discussions on cost savings measures to work within the framework of dollars received. It seems what is going to happen is changing monthly, if not weekly. The latest, which will be a topic at Annual Conference in June, is that the Iowa Annual Conference will realigning from eight districts to five. One District Superintendent will be leaving her position and it will not be refilled. Two other DSs will become "floaters," moving around the Annual Conference to conduct training for churches, clergy and laity alike. The district offices have closed and the District Admin Assistants are working from their homes. Again, this is something that will be discussed and voted upon at Annual Conference Session, unless something else comes up between now and then.

"The only thing constant in the church is change."

The plan is to start grouping churches into circuits or clusters, small groups of churches that can reach out to each other for mutual support. In the East Central District, it has been proposed that the district be divided into 13 circuits. The six churches in Cedar County would become one of the circuits. The purpose of the circuit is to help with the dissemination of information from the Conference level through the DS to the churches. Lay leaders from each church and the clergy are encouraged to meet (separately) as circuits. However, with the reduction of districts, the plan for the circuits is in question.

"The only thing constant in the church is God."

However, the only real constant in the church is not change, it is God. Our Creator is the one true constant in the church universal and in our specific, local congregations.

The Apostle Paul writes in his letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil."

Let's remember to pray for our church, not just Tipton United Methodist Church, but let us pray for our Annual Conference and our denomination, the United Methodist Church. Let us pray for all the delegates gathering for the General Conference. Let us pray for all the delegates gathering for the Annual Conference. Let us pray the Holy Spirit will guide all those representing our churches to do what is right and just.

Between Sundays continued

But let's not forget to pray for Pastor Jay as he leaves his congregation in Guthrie Center to become your new pastor here in July. Pray for Kelley and I as we start a new journey in the call God has placed on our hearts. Pray for Melinda and her family, Ryan, Zoe, and Lea, as they also embark on a new adventure. Serving our God, no matter how we do it, is an adventure. We do not know exactly where it will lead (look at the adventures Paul had in his ministry) but we can be sure of one thing.....

"The only thing constant in our lives is God."

Until next month, Shalom.

Pastor Steve

We Hear God's Word . . .

Prayers

Here are the sermon titles and scripture reference for the month of March (subject to change):

- Feb. 2 Jesus and Mosquito Bites Matthew 4:1–11
- Feb. 9 Plot Twists Genesis 12:1–4a
- Feb. 16 Worship That Heals John 4:5–42
- Feb. 23 Learning To See and Unsee John 9:1–41
- Mar. 29 A Tin Can Filled With Hope John 11:1–45

<u>Have You Ever Thought About Praying the Lectionary?</u> Have you ever thought about praying for focusing your Bible study on the weekly lectionary readings? Remember, the Lectionary is recommended scriptures for each week. Try reading and/or praying these scriptures for the week beginning each Sunday:

- 3-1: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- 3-8: Genesis 12:1-4a; Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 3-15: Exodus 17:1-7; Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- 3-22: 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

3-29: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45he Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God. Hospitalized/Procedures: Rhonda Waugh

Healing: Jo Ann Beers, Nick Brown, Denise Cartwright, Glenn Eaton, Jerry Ferguson, Bob Gould, Sylvia Gould, Erma Lyle, Lynn McIntosh, halfbrother, and nephew of Deb Lowry, Deb McKay, Chris McKinney, Jeff McKinney, Randy Nau, Mavis O'Morrow, Barb Rickard, Jim Theile (Lois Salmonson's brother), Barb Valenti (Lois Salmonson's sister)

Prayers for those in Life Transitions: Alice Ann & Lisa Gallagher, Sylvia & Ken Gould, Ryan & Melinda Stonebraker & family

Individuals & Families experiencing loss: The family of Gary Eichhorn, The family of Red Davis

In Treatment: Kandi Allison, Ron Burroughs, Clara Italiano, Karen (Gail Fleming's sister), Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey's granddaughter), Dorothy Theile (Lois Salmonson's sister), Chris Ward, Brian (Bert Wagaman's nephew)

Hospice/Palliative Care: Bill Brown (Greg's father), Joe Cheshaeck (Gail Fleming's brother-inlaw), Dennis O'Morrow

Armed Services: Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-inlaw), Steve Eiler, Kyle Marchik, Kaitlyn McKinney, Corey & Alexa Ormsby, Mike Ploeger & Daniel Larson (McKinney's nephews)

Mabaan Flood Relief

Iowa is home to over 500 Mabaan from the newest country in the world – South Sudan. We have the South Sudan United Methodist Church congregation which meets at First UMC in Des Moines and a large number of Mabaan who live in Storm Lake and the Council Bluffs/Omaha area. All of these people have family and friends who remain in South Sudan. In

July, 2019, heavy rainfall from a weather phenomenon known as the Indian Ocean Dipole flooded Mabaan County displacing hundreds of thousands. We in Iowa know the ravages of flooded land and homes. We know how the infrastructure is damaged, often for a long period of time. Now the Mabaan in South Sudan are facing those same challenges – thousands of acres of cropland destroyed, scores of livestock lost, roads made impassable, and contaminated drinking water. The United Nations sets the need at \$61 million to save lives and to ensure the continuation of response to flood victims. In support of our Mabaan neighbors here in Iowa and to respond to the needs of their kinfolk in South Sudan, the Iowa Conference seeks to raise \$200,000 to provide tents, mosquito nets, medicine, and food. Please donate online to www.iaumc.org/mfr or send your gift of support to Iowa Annual Conference Treasurer's Office, 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA 50321. On the memo line please note #53321-MF.

We are doing this through June 30. This info is also on the <u>IAUMC.org</u> website.

Will you help?

Kiboko

Takin' A Little Break

It's usually about this time of year that we start asking you to start collecting up your "rummage" for the annual church garage sale. However, the Missions group has decided to take a break this year and not have the sale.

If there is another group in the church that would like to take on this big project feel free to do so. Otherwise, watch for articles next year; who knows, it might be back.



Donuts!

An Excuse To Eat Cake For Breakfast

First Friday Donuts! Which this month happens to be March 6. Meet at the United Church of Christ of Tipton to meet, greet, and serve donuts and juice to the high school students. 8 to 8:30 am in the UCC parking lot. Reach out to the office or Pastor Steve to add your name to the list.



Changing our Community with Compassion

Saturday, March 14 Saturday, March 28 11:00 am till noon





HACAP Mobile Food Truck Friday, March 6 3:30 — 4:30 pm Tipton United Methodist Church

Questions? Call the HACAP Food Reservoir (319) 393-7811 or Church office (563) 886-2331

> Income Eligibility Guidelines Apply

www.hacap.org

www.tiptonumc.org

Sunday Schedule

8:00 am – Prayer, meet in the Gathering Place
9:00 – 9:50 am Sunday school and GIGS*
9:50 – 10:00 am – Fellowship Snacks, Gathering Place
10:00 – 11:15 am Worship
11:15 am – Fellowship Coffee

*Classes and GIGs are

located in various places throughout the building. Children, Preschool-6th grade meet in the Sanctuary for opening and then go to their classrooms in the Education Wing.

Give Online

Who: Anyone wanting to give who has a bank account, credit card, or debit card.

What: Give securely online as a one-time payment or automatically recurring payment.

When: Anytime, and especially when you'll be gone for vacation, family events, athletic tournaments, etc.

Why: Why use online? It is simple, convenient, no checks to write, can be one-time or automatically recurring; Why give? Financial stewardship is a spiritual discipline, partnering with others to do God's work in the world.

Where: <u>http://www.tiptonumc.org</u> How: Click the Give Now button, setup an account, and submit your gift.



If you missed the live-stream discussion of the Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation, it has been archived on the United Methodist News Service website. Go to <u>www.umns.org</u> and search for the Protocol. The question and answer period is 1 hour and 12 minutes. The

program outlining the amical separation of the United Methodist Church, if passed at General Conference 2020.

College Connections

Thanks to all that participated in our 2nd Annual Crockpot Challenge in October. In addition to enjoying many tasty crockpot dishes, we received \$548 in donations. Funds raised have been used to cover postage for monthly packages to our college students.

Although our monthly packages continue to remind these young people that they are loved & thought of by their church family, please continue to pray for our students: McKenna, Madison, Daniel, Kristin, Maggie, KiaLeigh, Laura, Erica, Sam, Alec, and Kenzie.

In early May we would like to send personal notes to these young people as they face the stress of final exams & projects for the year. Please forward a favorite scripture, a joke, or words of encouragement to the Office, Heidi Shumaker, or Bobbie Lieser. We will make copies & share with all in their final package of this school year.

Here is one of our winning crockpot challenge recipes from Melinda Stonebraker:

Recipe for Don't Be a Dip Dip

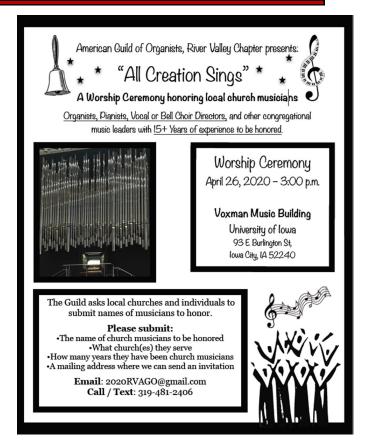
- 16 oz. hamburger, cooked and drained
- 16 oz. cream cheese, cubed
- 16 oz. sour cream
- 16 oz. salsa
- 4 oz. green chilies, drained

Heat in crockpot, on high, until cream cheese is melted. Serve with tortilla chips.



Providing Quality Education

Faith Formation



Sylvia Gould's name was submitted and she will be honored at this wonderful ceremony that honors church musicians. Congratulations Sylvia!

> A quiet morning with a loving God puts the events of the upcoming day into proper perspective. –Janette Oke

Rejoice evermore.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16

Check This Out ...

Spring

by Jan Wehde Isn't it funny that every year You look for the same signs that spring is here.

The first red robin you happen to see Is the most exciting thing that there can be.

The little flower buds poking through the ground, The warm spring breeze whipping around.

The grass turning green everywhere, The leaves appearing where trees were bare.

Tractors passing back and forth out in the field, Turning the earth to produce the yield.

Kids running around with their arms all bare, Presenting the picture that they haven't a care.

To be able to open your windows wide, After all the months of being shut inside,

It really seems to warm your heart To see that the earth awakening with a brand new start.



Were there no God, we would be in this glorious world with grateful hearts and no one to thank. -Christina Rossetti

Leadership Council meeting is March 17 at 6:45 pm.

www.tiptonumc.org

 Jeff Ormsby, Kathy Vance Eldon Beers, Franklin Bierman, Jack Shipley, Merlyn & Helen Timm Phil Seydel, Hannah Smith Katie Shaull Ken Gould, Alexander Wright Blair Nebergall Mary Kathryn Gault-Allen, Robert Glick, Mary McKinney 	January: Worship attendance: 291 January Giving: General Fund Upper Room Shared Blessings LFP Teacher Salary Missions
 10 – Kevin Anderson, Betty Elijah, Dorie Kordick-Wanek, Rich Urban & Kiaya Rickard-Urban 11 – Caroline Wright 	Copper Kettle Kitchen Fund Grand Total
 12 – Katie Rippentrop 13 – Alaina Butler, Ellen Fear, Lily Johnson, Todd Smith 	February (as of Feb. 2 Worship attendance: 258
 14 – Sherry Schmidt 15 – Jesse Lieser 16 – Cortney Curry, David Waugh, Kevin & Dawn Spickermann 18 – Lynn Gallagher 	February Giving General Fund Remodeling Fund Upper Room Apportionments
 19 – Garry O'Leary, Nicole Paul, Marc Weaver, Rick & Judy Rouse 20 – Jason Brown, Erik Eisele, Lynn & Josh Hubler 21 – Roberta Gesling 22 – Lesley Puffer, Craig & Kimberly Regenitter 23 – Adam Fitch, Judy Linder, Michelle Smith 25 – Dave Fetterman 	Gig Books LF Preschool Teacher Sal Missions Copper Kettle Kitchen Fund Grand Total
26 – Chase Timmerman 27 – Carmen Hoffman 28 – Amelia Cundiff 29 – Carly Puffer	Year-to-Date Giving: Year-to-Date Genera
30 – Blake Beck	

31 – Alvin & Mary Wright

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

Wherever you are, be all there. Live to the hilt every situation you believe to be the will of God.

-Jim Elliot

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

January Giving: General Fund Upper Room Shared Blessings LFP Teacher Salary Missions Copper Kettle Kitchen Fund Grand Total	\$16,395.25 14.10 40.00 1,309.02 75.00 137.83 <u>400.00</u> \$18,371.20
February (as of Feb. 24) Worship attendance: 258	
February Giving General Fund Remodeling Fund Upper Room Apportionments Gig Books LF Preschool Teacher Salary Missions Copper Kettle Kitchen Fund Grand Total	\$11,887.67 1,800.00 20.00 130.00 1,309.02 75.00 140.81 <u>275.00</u> \$15,639.50

ving: \$ 34,011

eneral Fund Giving: \$28,283

Why I'm not leaving The United Methodist Church

There has been a lot of material written in the past few months about the possibilities of a schism, churches leaving the denomination, what it will take to separate, etc. However, I found a letter from a United Methodist pastor in Alabama, who says he is not leaving the United Methodist Church even though he considers himself a traditionalist. This is a very interesting and thought provoking read. It is too long to print in this newsletter but be found on the United Methodist News Service webpage at https:// www.umnews.org/en/news/why-im-not-leaving-the-united <u>-methodist-church</u>. We can also email it to you.

Please note that there have been some changes in the March calendar. The confirmation class is taking over some of the duties for the month and your name may have been removed.

Liturgists

- 1 Danica Rippentrop
- 8 Boo Waltz
- 15 TBD
- 22 Alyssa Mente
- 29 Gwen VanScoy

Power Point (run)

- 1 Lea Stonebraker, Gwen VanScoy
- 8 Adam Heil, Danica Rippentrop
- 15 Ryan Stonebraker, Boo Waltz
- 22 Adam Heil, Meredith Coppess
- 29 Lea Stonebraker, Alyssa Mente

Fellowship Coffee Barb Rickard, Coord

- 1 Bonnie Swick & Maddie Swick
- 8 Volunteers Needed
- 15 Heil Family
- 22 Volunteers Needed
- 29 Volunteers Needed

Greeters

- 1 Dusty Johnson family, Meredith Coppess, Alyssa Mente
- 8 Chris & Gwen VanScoy, Alyssa Mente
- 15 Les & Leanne Boots, Danica Rippentrop
- 22 Karen Strefling, Danica Rippentrop, Vivian Shontz, Boo Waltz
- 29 Chris & Joyce Slach, Boo Waltz, Meredith Coppess

Nursery

- 1 Abby Cummins-VanScoy
- 8 Kris Clark
- 15 Mary McKinney
- 22 Cheryl Person
- 29 Mary McKinney

<u>Acolytes</u>

- 1 Justin & Brooke Boedeker
- 8 Noah Johnson & Lea Stonebraker
- 15 Emmett Steinman & Anton Slach
- 22 Volunteers Needed
- 29 Alicia & Jenae Walter

<u>Ushers</u>

- 1 Larry & Kathy Houstman, Chris & Kiley Schultz, Boo Waltz
- 8 Judy Ohrt, Larry Hanon, Meredith Coppess, Steve & Cheryl Person
- 15 Dusty & Jen Johnson, Alyssa Mente, Adam & Amy Colander
- 22 Sherry Willey, Candi Dusenberry, Ron & Lois Salmonson
- 29 Dee Wallace, Karen Strefling, Mary Vang, Barb Rickard, Danica Rippentrop

<u>Communion Stewards</u> – Donna Gault, Coordinator

1 – Confirmation Class, Adam & Katie Rippentrop

We often need last minute substitutes. Please contact Becky Young, <u>bbyoung49@gmail.com</u>, 563-357-1245 or Lois Salmonson, <u>sron263@aol.com</u>, 563-886-2315 if you would like to participate. If you immediately or eventually see a conflict, please try to trade with someone else on the list. If you need a phone number or email address, please look in the church pictorial directory or contact the church office at <u>office@tiptonumc.org</u>

USHERS – We have a detailed outline of instructions on the back table in the sanctuary. Please arrive 25 minutes early to check instructions and usher. There are a couple recent changes:

- 1. Make sure there are 4 offering plates on the altar. For the general offering, all 4 ushers go down the center aisle to pick up plates from the minister. The two on the outside go left or right, the other two up the middle starting at the FRONT. Copper Kettle Offering: Three ushers will go forward, one down the middle and two on the outside aisles moving toward the back. When all is collected two ushers bring the plates and the Copper Kettle offering forward and place them on the altar. On Communion Sunday the plates should be placed on the pedestals on each side of the sanctuary for people to place their offering in them as they pass by.
- 2. Acolytes light the candles after the Pastor has gone forward and the Prelude has been played. They light candles at the beginning of the first hymn. When the acolytes return they should ring the church bell SEVEN times.

GREETERS – Please arrive 30-45 minutes early. Your name tags will be on the radiator in the entry. Please be aware of newcomers. If they have children make them aware of the nursery, activity bags, restrooms, changing tables etc. Make sure the ushers are aware they are newcomers too. More detailed instructions are on the table in back of the sanctuary.

LITURGIST – You will receive a copy of the scripture for the service by email. There will also be a copy of the scripture on the lectern you may use. Feel free to sit in the chair behind the lectern or with the congregation.

NURSERY – Please be available at least 15 minutes before the service. If no children arrive, please be aware that children may want to go to the nursery after the children's sermon.

POWER POINT – If you have been assigned to help run the slides for the PowerPoint, please arrive in the balcony several minutes before the service begins. If you have questions or want some training contact Brian Heil, <u>bheil@ezrasoft.com</u>

March Calendar

Every Sunday 8:00 am Prayer 9:00 am to 9:50 am Children's Sunday School and Adult GIGs 9:50–10:00 am Fellowship in the Gathering Place 10:00–11:15 am Worship 11:15 am Fellowship

Dates and times are subject to change. Go to our website for current information.

Monday, March 2 6:45 pm Missions Meeting

Tuesday, March 3 1:00 pm GIG

Wednesday, March 4 6:30 pm SPRC Meeting 6:30 pm GIG 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 5 9:30 am Communion @ Cedar Manor 10:00 am GIG 6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Friday, March 6 3:30 pm–4:30 pm Mobile Food Pantry Saturday, March 7 11:00 am Bridal Shower (Host: Sandy Ohrt)

Sunday, March 8 6:00 pm Dominoes

Tuesday, March 10 1:00 pm GIG

Wednesday, March 11 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm GIG 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 12 10:00 am GIG 6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Saturday, March 14 11:00 am-12:00 pm Shared Blessings

Monday, March 16 3:00 pm Circle of Friends

Tuesday, March 17 1:00 pm GIG 6:45 pm Leadership Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 18 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 pm GIG 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal Thursday, March 19 10:00 am GIG 6:30 pm Trustees 6:00 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Monday, March 23 6:00 pm Girl Scouts

Tuesday, March 24 1:00 pm GIG 2:00 pm Prairie Hills Worship

Wednesday, March 25 8:00 am Holy Folders 1:30 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm GIG 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 26 10:00 am GIG 6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Saturday, March 28 11:00 am-12:00 pm Shared Blessings

Tuesday, March 31 1:00 pm GIG

Can't Make Worship? Visit the Website.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are posted at <u>tiptonumc.org</u>. If you miss worship, catch up at the website <u>tiptonumc.org</u>.

If you want to give online, that is available at the website too. FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 607 LYNN TIPTON, IOWA 52772

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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March Events

Mar. 6 — HACAP Mobile Food Pantry Mar. 8 — Dominoes Mar. 14 — Shared Blessings Mar. 16 — Circle of Friends Mar. 16 — Circle of Friends

<u>Mission Statement:</u> Tipton First United Methodist Church

"To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."