



First United
Methodist
Church

607 Lynn Street Tipton, IA 52772
563.886.2331

office@tiptonumc.org

Jay Amundson, Pastor
jay.amundson@iaumc.net

Church Staff

Pastor - **Jay Amundson**

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 - **Doug Cue**

Ministers of Jesus Christ

in the World - **All the People of God!**



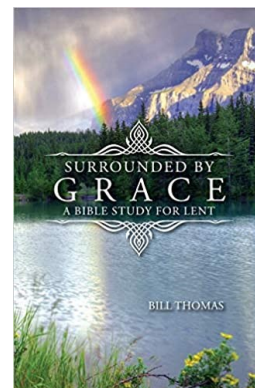
United Methodist News

February 2021

Lenten Study

Surrounded by Grace: A Bible Study for Lent

Bill Thomas' *Surrounded by Grace: A Bible Study for Lent* is a tool based on the Gospel of John to help answer the question of what grace is in a modern context. From the story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana to his conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well, Thomas uses John's words to affirm that the Lord's favor extends to all no matter how insignificant we see ourselves or our problems.



February 17, 2021 at 7 pm

Due to Covid restrictions we will not be having the pancake supper before the service.

Worship 

To watch the live service, or the latest recorded service, visit the church website at tiptonumc.org and click on the [Latest Worship Video](#) link on the left side under the logo (or under the logo on your mobile phone). You can also click the WorshipLIVE icon. Past services are available by choosing Live Worship from the Worship menu. Spread the word if you know someone who would like to worship with us!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Between Sundays

Dear Friends,

It seems that if there was ever a time that we needed Ash Wednesday and Lent it is now. Ash Wednesday this year is February 17th with Easter coming on April 4, and Lent is everything in-between. Ash Wednesday is the day that we confess before God that we are sinners and in need of God's grace. If you can't feel that need for yourself as an individual, you can certainly feel it for humanity. Humanity is a mess and we need God – period. Lent is the time, 40 days, not including Sundays, when we determine to be and live closer to God and God's desires.

We have said it before – 2020 was a tough year. A year that for most of us we would gladly remove from our memories. We looked forward to a New Year and a new start and then the violence at the nation's capitol happened and we couldn't help but yell, "Come On! What next?"

My sermon on January 17th was titled Come and See. I think I could have easily made it, Come On, Come and See. The two Come Ons are very different, however. The one is a cry of desperation where we wonder when and if all this will ever end. The other Come On is the early disciples crying to their friends, Come On we have found the Messiah.

So as Lent approaches let us work on moving from an exclamation of Come On, what's next to an invitation of Come On, I've Found the Messiah. To help us in that effort I offer you two opportunities,

1. A Bible Study that explores the Book of John as it pertains to Jesus and his ministry. Books are available in the breezeway and in the church office. If you wish to contribute to the cost, that is \$16. We will meet in person, starting on Monday, February 15th at 6 pm.
2. An Ash Wednesday service will happen on February 17th at 7 pm. I don't know exactly what it will look like due to Covid, but we will have some sort of service. I really appreciate this service as it tends to be peopled by people who really want to be there – I hope you are one of them.

I look forward to working through this Holy season with you as we strive to be the people God wants us to be. May we all find blessings in this new year.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jay





Come join us Sunday mornings at 9 am
Preschool through high school!

Can't Make Worship?
Visit the Website.

Weekly sermons are posted at
tiptonumc.org.

You can also give online,
at the website.

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: <http://www.tiptonumc.org>

How: Click the Give Now button, setup an account, and submit your gift.

Hospitalized/Procedures: Grace Boynton

Healing: Jo Ann Beers, Les Boots, Nick Brown, Denise Cartwright, Barb Cawiezell, Glenn Eaton, Tom Ehresman, Jerry Ferguson, Bob Gould, Erma Lyle, Lynn McIntosh, half-brother and nephew of Deb Lowry, Deb McKay, Randy Nau, Judy Ohrt, Rhonda Waugh, Mary Wright (Lois Salmonson's sister)

Prayers for those in Life Transitions:
Alice Ann & Lisa Gallagher

Individuals & Families experiencing loss:
Kandi Andersen Allison family

In Treatment: Ron Burroughs, Clara Italiano, Karen (Gail Fleming's sister), Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey's granddaughter), Dorothy Thiele (Lois Salmonson's sister), Chris Ward

Coronavirus: Twyla LaMaack family
(Alberta Wagaman's sister)

Hospice/Palliative Care:
Carrol Amundson (Pastor Jay's father), Bill Brown (Greg's father)

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

Thursday Morning GIG

The regular Thursday morning 10:00 am GIG will start meeting in person in the Gathering Place on Feb 4. They will be participating in the Lenten Bible Study using the book "Surrounded by Grace". Books are available through the office.

Thursday
GIG

Faith Formation

This article originally run in last year's newsletter but bares repeating after the year we've had.

The Kind of Christian I Refuse to Be

I am a Christian.

Actually, it's more accurate lately to say that I am *still* a Christian.

I now say this with much trepidation. I say it with great fatigue. I say it somewhat begrudgingly. I say it with more than a good deal of embarrassment—not of Jesus, but of so many of his people and so much of the Church professing to speak for him.

Looking around at too much of what represents my faith tradition, it's become a daily battle to make this once effortless declaration, knowing that it now automatically aligns me with those who share so little in common with the Jesus I met when I first claimed the name *Christian*.

I know the kind of people making this declaration now aligns me with in people's minds. It now aligns me with bathroom bullies, politicized pulpits, white privilege, and overt racism; with bigotry toward so many groups of people who represent the "world" I grew up believing that *God so loved*.

There are things that used to be a given as a follower of Jesus, that no longer are.

For far too many people, being a Christian no longer means you need to be humble or forgiving. It no longer means you need a heart to serve or bring healing. It no longer requires compassion or mercy or benevolence. It no longer requires you to turn the other cheek or to love your enemies or to take the lowest place or to love your neighbor as yourself.

It no longer requires Jesus.

And so the choices are to abandon the idea of claiming Christ altogether to avoid being deemed *hateful by association* in the eyes of so much of the watching world—or to reclaim the name Christian so that it once again replicates the love of Jesus in the world.

I am trying to do the latter.

Yes, I am a Christian, but there is a Christian I refuse to be.

I refuse to be a Christian who lives in fear of people who look or speak or worship differently than I do.

I refuse to be a Christian who believes that God blesses America more than God so loves the world.

I refuse to be a Christian who can't find the beauty and truth

in religious traditions other than my own.

I refuse to be a Christian who uses the Bible to perpetuate individual or systemic bigotry, racism, or sexism.

I refuse to be a Christian who treasures allegiance to a flag or a country or a political party, above emulating Jesus.

I refuse to be a Christian who is reluctant to call-out the words of hateful preachers, venomous politicians, and mean-spirited pew sitters, in the name of keeping ceremonial Christian unity.

I refuse to be a Christian who tolerates a global Church where all people are not openly welcomed, fully celebrated, and equally cared for.

I refuse to be a Christian who speaks always with holy war rhetoric about an encroaching enemy horde that must be rallied against and defeated.

I refuse to be a Christian who is generous with damnation and stingy with Grace.

I refuse to be a Christian who can't see the image of God in people of every color, every religious tradition, every sexual orientation.

I refuse to be a Christian who demands that others believe what I believe or live as I live or profess what I profess.

I refuse to be a Christian who sees the world in a hopeless spiral downward and can only condemn it or withdraw from it.

I refuse to be a Christian devoid of the character of Jesus; his humility, his compassion, his smallness, his gentleness with people's wounds, his attention to the poor and the forgotten and the marginalized, his intolerance for religious hypocrisy, his clear expression of the love of God.

I refuse to be a Christian unless it means I live as a person of hospitality, of healing, of redemption, of justice, of expectation-defying Grace, of counterintuitive love. These are non-negotiables.

Yes, it is much more difficult to say it these days than it has ever been, but I still do say it.

I am still a Christian—but I refuse to be one without Jesus.

<https://johnpavlovitz.com/2016/10/21/the-kind-of-christian-i-refuse-to-be/>

That One Big Game Sunday

Believe it or not, there was a football season this past year. And to finish off the season that “One Big Game” will be played on February 7 and billions of dollars will be spent on food, spirits and merchandise.

At the same time, 48 million Americans are struggling with food shortages. What can we do to share God’s love amid the parties and indulging around this yearly event? How about buying cans of soup or other non-perishable items for the food pantry?

Bring your soup cans, cans of fruit, and other non-perishable items to the church on Feb. 7 (and through the month of February) to help stock the food pantry at the Calvary FourSquare Church in Tipton. There will be a box in the Gathering Place to collect the pantry items.

Thank you so much for caring!

Mobile Pantry Distribution Changes

The Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled to be at First UMC Tipton on Friday, February 5, 3:30–4:30 pm. We are still following the procedures listed below because of the COVID-19 virus.

It reads in part: For the foreseeable future, we are making changes to our mobile pantry distribution to protect your health and the health of the clients.

- We will be distributing pre-boxed food rather than setting up tables for clients to “shop” from.
- Clients will be asked to wait in their vehicles and just drive thru for pick up. If clients do not have cars, ask that they social distance. Calling one person at a time up to receive their pre-boxed and bagged items.
- Check in should be done by one person, if they are new and need to sign a TEFAP form, please keep contact minimal. Gloves are available from HACAP to wear.

Brothers and sisters,
I do not consider myself yet
to have taken hold of it.
But one thing I do:
Forgetting what is behind
and straining toward what is ahead.

-Philippians 3:13



**Changing our Community
with Compassion**

Saturday, February 13
Saturday, February 27
11:00 am till noon

Meals will be “to-go” only.
Please wait in the breeze-
way and a meal will be
brought up to you.



HACAP Mobile Food Truck
Friday, February 5 Church

Questions?
Call the HACAP Food
Reservoir (319) 393-7811
or the Church office
(563) 886-2331
Income Eligibility
Guidelines Apply
www.hacap.org

- 1 – Todd & Hannah Smith
- 4 – Teri Baird, Arlo & Barbara Petersen
- 5 – Sandra Corbett
- 7 – Bev Ehresman
- 8 – Stephanie Voss, Skyler Winekauf-Schmidt
- 9 – Lisa Gallagher, Traci Ormsby, Chris & Joyce Slach
- 10 – Eric Clark
- 11 – Lonnie Nebergall, Bert Wagaman, Jacob & Amanda Paul
- 12 – Shane Boeve
- 14 – Hadley Calonder, Nathan Smith, Brandon Stark, Wayne & Ann Neville
- 15 – Kerilynn Battey, Larry Houstman
- 16 – Nicki Aikman, Mary Vang, Bob & Ginny Cummins
- 20 – Sheryl Yerington
- 21 – Ken McKay, Ron & Nancy Burroughs
- 22 – Alex Anderson
- 23 – Glenn L. Eaton, Ronald Wingert, Ted & Deanna Licht
- 25 – JoAnn Brennan, Jerry Elijah, Randy Nau, Arlo Petersen
- 26 – Jaclynne Driscoll
- 27 – Brad Kirkpatrick
- 28 – Dee Wallace
- 29 – Brock Huston

Audio System Operators Needed!

If you've ever been interested in learning about the church sound system and have some time to volunteer during the worship hour, we need sound board operators! I'm usually in church during Sundays when Chaos plays (2nd and 4th Sundays) to run the board so I'm looking for 2 or 3 people to potentially handle operation of the sound board on the other Sundays throughout the month. I can either do 'one on one' training sessions (Thursday nights during Chaos rehearsals) or I can schedule a time when everyone can attend at the same time. Contact me (bheil@ezrasoft.com) if you are

First Friday Donuts!

We are teaming up with the United Church of Christ of Tipton to meet, greet, and serve donuts and juice to the high school students on the first Friday of every month. What about you? Can we put you down for February 5, 8-8:30 am in the UCC parking lot. Reach out to the office to add your name to the list.



www.tiptonumc.org

interested and please include times when you'd be available for training – I should be able to schedule any weeknight (except for Wednesdays), or Sunday after church). A 24 channel sound board may look intimidating at first glance, but it's really not a hard job!

Volunteering for worship service duty typically involves turning on and off and adjusting the volume of specific audio channels (microphones) as needed. I'm usually around to power up the system, but in those cases where I'm not in church it would be necessary to be at the church 10-15 minutes before the service to power up the system, check microphone batteries, and work with the pastor or worship leader to coordinate any special audio needs.

I'm also interested in finding one or more people who would be available weekdays to operate the board during funerals.

To appreciate
the beauty of a
snowflake
it is necessary
to stand out in the cold.

-Aristotle

Financials

All bills and apportionments for 2020 have been paid. YAHOO!! We started the year with a balance of \$15,245.69. Our income to the general fund (the fund that pays salaries and general operating expenses) was \$209,048.24. Expenses for the year were \$213,173.37. Balance to start the new year will be \$11,120.56. Thank you everyone who made this a successful year.

February Calendar

Every Sunday

9:00 am to 9:50 am

Children's Sunday

School and Adult GIGs

10:00–11:15 am

Worship



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

Monday, February 1

6:45 pm Missions Meeting

Wednesday, February 3

6:30 pm SPRC Meeting

6:30 pm GIG

Thursday, February 4

9:30 am Communion @

Cedar Manor

10:00 am GIG

6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

Friday, February 5

3:30–4:30 pm Mobile Food
Pantry

Sunday, February 7

9:00 am Sunday School

Classes

10:00 am Worship

Wednesday, February 10

1:30 pm Bible Study

6:30 pm GIG

Thursday, February 11

6:30 pm Trustees

6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

10:00 am GIG

Saturday, February 13

11:00 am–12:00 pm Shared
Blessings

Sunday, February 14

9:00 am Sunday School
Classes

10:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Dominoes

Monday, February 15

3:00 pm Circle of Friends

Tuesday, February 16

6:45 pm Leadership Council
Meeting

Wednesday, February 17

Newsletter Deadline

6:30 pm GIG

7:00 pm Ash Weds Worship

Thursday, February 18

6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

10:00 am GIG

Sunday, February 21

9:00 am Sunday School
Classes

10:00 am Worship

Tuesday, February 23

2:00 pm Prairie Hills Worship

Wednesday, February 24

8:00 am Holy Folders
(tentative)

1:30 pm Bible Study

6:30 pm GIG

Thursday, February 25

6:30 pm Chaos Rehearsal

10:00 am GIG

Saturday, February 27

11:00 am–12:00 pm Shared
Blessings

Sunday, February 28

9:00 am Sunday School
Classes

10:00 am Worship



Can't Make Worship? Visit the Website.

Weekly sermons and bulletins are posted at tiptonumc.org.

If you miss worship, catch up at the website tiptonumc.org.

If you want to give online, that is available at the website, too.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
607 LYNN
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*"With
GOD
All Things
Are
Possible!"*



February Events

**Feb. 5 — HACAP Mobile Food
Pantry**

Feb. 13 — Shared Blessings

**Feb. 15 — Lenten Bible Study
Begins**

Feb. 17 — Ash Wednesday Service

Feb. 17 — Newsletter Deadline

Feb. 24 — Holy Folders (tentative)

Feb. 27 — Shared Blessings

Have Faith

**Mission Statement:
Tipton First United Methodist Church**

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