When someone asks me “what’s your favorite holiday?” it is often considered proper to say the correct answer which is – EASTER! But, I really do love EASTER.

I love the smell of Easter lilies. The large trumpet shaped flower is inextricably connected with spring, but the smell is my favorite. I love that when I sit down in church, I can smell the lilies up front. I like poinsettias at Christmas, but they don’t give off a scent. Whenever I smell an Easter lily, I always think of Easter morning.

I love the music surrounding Easter. A few of my all-time favorite hymns are O, Sacred Head Now Wounded, and What Wondrous Love is This? that we typically only sing for Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services. Maybe it is the mournful minor key with the powerful words, but these hymns seem to capture the weightiness of Holy Week. They are, of course, followed with the classics from Easter morning, Christ the Lord is Risen Today, and Up from the Grave He Arose (which I and other young pre-confirmed always changed to “up from the gravy he arose…with a chunk of beef on his nose…”) that celebrate Christ’s resurrection. After the meditation on our sins and Christ’s suffering during Holy Week, by Easter morning, the weight is gone, the tomb is empty, and Christ’s people are ready to rejoice and celebrate.

But, Easter isn’t about candy, egg hunts, lilies or just music, of course.

I love Easter because it is counterintuitive, this rising from the dead. Yet, that resurrection is the very foundation of our faith. I love Easter because it is unexpected, the two men in “dazzling clothes” asked them “why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.” That is pure HOPE! That is pure EASTER!

But, what I really love is that Easter provides an opportunity to rejoice in this HOPE. In a world where “the good” don’t seem to win, “the wise” are often ignored, “the kind” are ridiculed, and “the poor” are dismissed or oppressed, “the truth” of EASTER restores my HOPE. “He is not here, but he has Risen. Come and see! GO and tell!”

**Iowa Conference United Methodist Church**

**Monday School:**
Children meet Sept. - May: 9:30 - 10:30 am
Adults meet year-round: 9:45 - 10:30 am

**Worship:**
10:45 - 11:45 am

**Youth Fellowship:**
2nd Saturday of every month

**CONNECT:**

**Pastor Dicks:**
515-418-0807

**Church Office:**
641-363-4229
(to leave a message)

**Email:**
info@mingoumc.org

**Web:**
www.mingoumc.org

**Facebook:**
Mingo United Methodist Church

**Address:**
Mingo United Methodist Church
202 W. Main St. • PO Box 9
Mingo, IA 50168

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**WHY SHOULD I CONSIDER COMING TO ALL THE EASTER EVENTS?** If all you attended was Palm Sunday and waved palms and then came the next Sunday and celebrated the Resurrection…Easter might be just one giant celebration. Celebrations are great but they can be even more! This Easter season, it may be time to take the “whole journey” and to experience the “whole story” of what makes Easter the Greatest Celebration of All! Here is a “brief” on what is happening on Holy Week:

**PALM SUNDAY (April 14) –** It begins with the waving of palms and shouts of hosanna, but it ends with Jesus, a reminder of the final days and our preparation of his disciples.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY (April 18 – Mingo) –** “The Living Last Supper” where 12 persons will “bring to life” the painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci. Each of the disciples will share their brief story about following Jesus and asking if they would be the betrayer of Jesus in these final hours. “Is it I?” Communion will culminate the service as each person in attendance actually takes communion from the Last Supper table as the disciples strike the pose of the famous portrait.

**GOOD FRIDAY (April 19 – Farrar) – A service of darkness and ends in Hope! The veiled cross, the “tenebrae” service of extinguishing candles one by one, the sounds of hammers and nails brings the crucifixion into reality. Iron nails will be given out as a reminder of this service which will end in Hope. It is Friday, but Easter is coming!**

**EASTER SUNRISE – (April 21 – Farrar) - 7:30 AM with breakfast to follow.**

**EASTER SUNDAY MORNING – (April 21) –** Easter in all its splendor and hope! Music, lilies, “Christ the Lord is Risen Today!” Kids and the Easter tomb! Sharing the story! Chimes and bells! Hear the bells ringing...really ringing! Easter egg hunts for children at both churches. You bring the family (especially kids) and we will tell the story. A faith-filled memory maker!

It’s all about THE GOOD NEWS! GREAT EVENTS for the entire family! So SHARE IT! Spread the WORD as much as the disciples shared it that first Easter! Invite your friends & family so they don’t miss this Easter Story but experience it to the fullest! Faith-filled memory makers!
SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Join us at 9:30am on Sunday mornings for Sunday school. MARK YOUR CALENDARS for Sunday, April 14th - we’ll wave the palms for Palm Sunday! Sunday, April 21st will be Easter Sunday. We’ll celebrate with our annual egg hunt at the end of Sunday school. Everyone is welcome!

Faith Power Assembly Church & MISSION HARVEST MINISTRIES SCHOOL IGANGA, UGANDA Keep our sister church & school in your daily prayers for safety & provision.

The Newton Christian School is excited to announce that it is offering PRESCHOOL for 3, 4 & 5 year olds beginning this FALL 2019! To learn more, contact Jolene Brady at 515-508-9009 (text or call).

Administrative Board Meeting Minutes March 2019

The Administrative Board met at the church on Wed., Mar. 20th at 6:00 pm with Janice Gregerson, Julie Warner, Rodney Altes, Bill & Theresa Berriman, Carol Kimberley, Chubb Borts, Lowell Halfhill, Jan Borts, Jolene Brady, Chairman Bob Leonard, and Pastor Phil.

Pastor Phil opened with a prayer. Janice moved to accept last month’s secretarial report. Motion was seconded by Theresa and passed.

Treasurer Theresa presented the financial report for approval. Balance on statement of $x,xxx.xx minus outstanding checks of $xxx.xx equaled $xxx.xx balance in check book as of February 28th. The motion to approve the report was seconded by Carol K. Approval given.

Julie, Bill & Rodney reported that “phase 2” of the carpet installation project has been completed. The carpet has been professionally cleaned in the basement fellowship hall & Sunday school rooms, as well. The kitchen & bathroom floors were also cleaned.

A Skinner Family Appreciation dinner will take place after church on Sunday, Mar. 24th. Bill has invited several of the contractors who have worked on the various church projects to attend. A list has been compiled of all the various projects, aid, and assistance that the memorial has funded since it was gifted to the church. This list will be shared with everyone at the luncheon.

On Sunday, Mar. 31st, Jeri Heffelfinger has invited everyone to stay and “Create Your Own Masterpiece” painting project, as a fundraiser for our sister church & school in Uganda. A light meal will be provided. We are asked to bring a snack or dessert to share. UMCOR Sunday is also Mar. 31st, so envelopes will be put out with the bulletins.

Pastor Phil reminded us that on Maundy Thursday (April 18th), the service will be held at Mingo with a “Living Last Supper” reenactment at 7:00 pm. (Clarification was made that this will not be a Seder Supper.) Good Friday service will be at 7:00 pm at Farrar on April 19th. The churches will hold the traditional 24-hours of uninterrupted prayer on that Saturday before Easter. Palms and Easter lilies will be ordered as usual. The children’s Sunday school will have their annual Easter egg hunt at the end of Sunday school on Easter day. The church bell will also be rung several times to make a “joyous noise” on Easter morning.

Pastor also shared his idea to include the children in an Easter “dress-up / reenactment” during Children’s Time on Easter.

Pastor Phil also shared some ideas that the Farrar UMC is undertaking with local advertising and how we might also survey our circle of friends and also openly advertise within our community. Signage was discussed. We are asked to pray that our Mingo church will gain at least 3 new people in 2019. He would like us to focus on Easter as being a “target” date to invite others into our church community.

Jolene shared that the youth Sunday school had their pizza party and VBS meeting after Children’s Time on Mar. 17th. The VBS program is undergoing significant changes for this coming summer. Instead of a week-long event, they are planning on holding a special weekend event that will include people of all ages -- individuals, couples, children & families within our churches and the community, as well. The dates have been scheduled for Fri., June 28th from 6-8:00 pm and Sat., June 29th from 10:00 am - 7:00 pm. The Mingo UMW will help with the snacks and meals. More info will be coming soon. Jolene also noted that Youth Sunday will be Sunday, May 5th, when the Sunday school children and youth group will lead the church service that day.

Pastor will not need to make bulletins (for Mingo) on that day, as the youth will do that. We will also be honoring our graduates that day -- this year, there is only one from our church - Ethan Brady. May 12th will be Mother’s Day and mothers will be honored in some way that day. Pastor shared his idea for a Mother’s Day donation request, where funds could go towards purchasing a flower, shrub, or even a tree for the church in memory of mothers. Pastor will be gone on May 17th for a family graduation and memorial service. Jolene also shared that children and families will take a break over the busy summer months, so the last official day of youth Sunday school will be Sun., May 19th, when they will celebrate with a party.

Bill stated that another church clean-up day will be planned soon. He suggested looking at a Saturday in June, avoiding other planned activities. He also reminded us that the Block Party is scheduled for Sat., Aug. 3rd.

This month’s Local Mission Giving in the amount of $100.00 will be given to Clearview Recovery Center in Prairie City. Janice moved that the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Bill. All joined hands and prayed “The Lord’s Prayer” together in closing.

Jolene Brady, Recording Secretary
RUSH Youth Fellowship

RUSH YF’s March Madness: March 3, we attended Faith and Family Day with the Iowa Wolves. Coincidentally, C-M’s choir and band performed that day! They were to perform at an earlier date, but was postponed due to weather. The night ended with a performance by Colton Dixon. Sunday, March 10, we were given the opportunity to deliver meals and supplies to homeless camps in Des Moines. Joppa volunteers guided us to all sorts of hidden areas throughout the city. It was quite eye-opening and heartwarming to fellowship with them. We also delivered 13 blankets made by the Sunday school kids. This was very much appreciated as most of their things were soaked with all the rain and flooding they have been experiencing. Our April meeting will be on the 13th - 3:30-6:00 pm. RUSH YF is open to all youth 7-12 grades. If you have any questions please call Dawn or Kent at 641-363-3299.

TRISHA Hobbs Benefit

On July 16, 2016, Trisha Hobbs was diagnosed with stage 3 kidney cancer which resulted in the removal of her right kidney and surrounding area affected by the cancer. During her most recent 3-month oncology visit, her CT scan showed several spots on her lungs that resulted in her having to undergo a lung biopsy to reveal that the cancer has now spread to her lungs and is considered stage 4. They are overwhelmed with doctor bills, travel expenses and offset medical costs. Kory Hobbs (her husband) is actively working two jobs and is an avid member of the Mingo Fire Department as a Firefighter, EMT and Treasurer. However, Trisha is unable to work due to this diagnosis. They have 4 children: Madison Barnes (19), Zachary Barnes (16), William Barnes (13) and Kennedy Hobbs (4). Please join us for a benefit to help this family out in such a time of need.

Saturday, April 13, 2019
Benefit Fundraiser will be held at Colfax-Mingo High School (Commons Area) 4-8 PM • 204 N. League St., Colfax, IA

* Freewill donation supper (5:00 PM)
* Silent Auction
* 50/50 Raffle
* Baskets
* Many handcrafted items
* Event tickets
* Much more to follow
* Pictures of items will be posted on Facebook

Follow: TrishaStrong on Facebook
Contact Cherie Walker for more information: 641-799-1673
Farrar & Mingo prayer requests may be initiated by contacting either our Pastor, Warren Nielsen (Farrar) or Jolene Brady (Mingo). At that point, a text and email will be sent out, and a phone call. Both church’s have options on their website’s for the public to send/post their prayer requests.

When a prayer request is initiated that might need a follow-up, we will ask the recipients if it might be ok for us to contact them again in a week or two for an update on their condition, or outcome of the situation, etc.

The Prayer Chain committee plans to meet about twice per year. Members will be contacted when the time is closer. If you’d like to join this special ministry team or would like more information, please contact Warren Nielsen or Jolene Brady.

Mingo Contact:
Jolene Brady
jolene@bradyworks.com
515-508-9009

Farrar Contact:
Warren Nielsen
nielsenwl72@gmail.com
515-707-4967

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN:
The Mingo UMW met on March 13, 2019 at the Mingo United Methodist Church. Those who were present included Janice, Betty, Mildred, Donna, and Ione. Janice opened our meeting with all reciting “Our Purpose.” Dues were paid and Bidwell donations were collected. The secretary’s report was read and approved. The treasurer’s report was read and approved. Cards were sent to several past members. Discussion was held on what each person was to bring for lunch on Sunday after the dedication of the Norma Skinner memorial. Mildred gave an interesting lesson on fingers and what they represent in prayer, a story on a rescued man on an island, eight year olds explaining God, and on all the stuff we have. A delicious lunch was served by Donna Beals.

New book for April reading:
THE CASE FOR EASTER - A Journalist Investigates Evidence for the Resurrection by Lee Strobel

Did Jesus of Nazareth really rise from the dead? Of the many world religions, only one claims that its founder returned from the grave. Since the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the very cornerstone of Christianity, you may wonder how this question can even be asked in a church newsletter in the midst of Lent!

But it was interesting to read how Lee Strobel, atheist-turned Christian, interviewed renowned medical doctors, theologians, philosophers, archaeologists, and historians, for evidence to answer his questions: “Was Jesus’ death a sham and his resurrection a hoax? Was Jesus’ body really absent from his tomb? Was Jesus seen alive after his death on the cross?” The author asks the experts about discrepancies among the Gospels, for example, who discovered the empty tomb and what they did next. Also, he does not shy away from quoting avowed atheists’ positions on several key beliefs and refuting those with reason.

This small inexpensive paperback book is an excellent resource for people new to the faith who might be questioning what appears to be an unbelievable story of a dead man coming back to life. It also provides the faithful with information helpful in evangelical endeavors. The Case For Easter is available on the church bookshelf of the Mingo Public Library.
**OUR CALENDAR ~ APRIL 2019**

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**NOTE:**
The Campbell’s Soup label program has been discontinued. We do still collect Box Tops for Education coupons for Newton Christian School. Thank you!

**OUR CALENDAR ~ APRIL 2019**

- **Sunday, May 5 YOUTH SUNDAY** - The Sunday school children and youth will lead the service that day. We will also celebrate our high school graduate, Ethan Brady. The last day of Sunday school will be Sunday, May 19th. We will be having a party that day during Sunday school time!

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**ADVANCED PLANNING**

- **24-Hr. Prayer Vigil**
- **RUSH YF meeting 3:30 - 6pm**
- **Trisha Hobbs Benefit - Colfax-Mingo High School 4-8 pm**

**BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:**

- **April 3** — Diane Matthews Riesburg
- **April 5** — Bailey Pease
- **April 6** — Melany Vry
- **April 8** — Brian Rumbaugh
- **April 10** — Sarah Burns, Jerry & Luanne Heffelfinger (Anniversary)
- **April 12** — William Gregerson
- **April 14** — Marshall Jackson
- **April 18** — Craig Warner
- **April 28** — Kevin Altes
- **April 30** — Colton Harder

Send all newsletter entries to Jolene by the 20th of the month. Thank you! [jolene@bradyworks.com]

**REASONS TO CELEBRATE**

- **April 3** — Diane Matthews Riesburg
- **April 5** — Bailey Pease
- **April 6** — Melany Vry
- **April 8** — Brian Rumbaugh
- **April 10** — Sarah Burns, Jerry & Luanne Heffelfinger (Anniversary)
- **April 12** — William Gregerson
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**Reason for the Seasons**

GIFTS, HOME DECOR AND MORE!

Owner Margot Udelhoven

Visit us on Facebook or “The Worx” Salon
2501 1st Ave. E., Ste. C., Newton. Altoona location coming soon!
IT'S ALL ABOUT HELPING… As they struggle with the effects of war, combat witchcraft and navigate everyday challenges, our sister church & school in Uganda strives to be the light in their community, shining brightly to guide others to the TRUE LIGHT of Jesus Christ. It is our mission to provide support & hope through the donations of individuals and our church. Help us provide them with a gift beyond their wildest dreams — a generator to provide a different kind of light. As they share the True Light within the surrounding darkness, let us help them literally light the way.

Help us reach (or surpass!) our base goal. Diesel generators range from $1,300 to $4,200, depending on quality & longterm durability.

• $375 collected to date
• $1,300 base goal

Cash or check accepted. If writing checks, please make out to: “Mingo UM Church School” with “Uganda” in the memo.

Thank you!