

Southeast District

Monday Musings

January 22, 2019



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Lilian Gallo Seagren ~ District Superintendent

Sherry Swanson ~ District Administrative Assistant

OFFICE HOURS ~ Monday – Thursday 8am-4:30pm, Friday 8-Noon

Phone ~ 563-293-1361

Homepage ~ <https://southeast.iaumc.org/>

Conference Vision ~ God's hope for the world made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people.

Conference Mission ~ Inspire, equip, and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.



Robert Robinson captured something so familiar about us: “O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be! Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee. Prone to wander. Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love, here’s my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.” (v. 3 of the hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, UMH p.400).

It is just the 21st day of the year and as much as I would like to believe that I am closer and loving to God compared to last year, my experience is telling me that the new year seems to be this problematic reality for me not completely embracing the possibility of being and doing something new in 2019. If I let the days pass by I may completely miss the opportunity and before I am awakened to live 2019 in a different way 2020 begins.

One of the thoughts that I have entertained is to move away from paying too much attention to what is not happening and what is missing in my life, in the circle of Jesus-loving disciples and in the life of the church. We are prone to think only about the sadness of not having young families in worship and we are missing the opportunities to celebrate our commitment and joy of being able to worship and being in the company of our aging and wobbly faithful

friends. So many of us are prone to think only about our decline and financial distress in our churches and conference and we are missing the opportunities calling us to deploy generously and radically God's number one resource for our communities which is our transformed lives. We are prone to think only about the possible tragedy of this denomination being split after next month's decision and slowly being consumed by our fears and we are missing the opportunity to celebrate our commitment and utilize our strengths of being able to shape a future with God's Spirit yet to be known.

Our human minds and hearts are prone to wander and to leave the God we love and the church we nurtured. To put a break on this will be the hardest work for each of us in 2019 and will also be the most difficult work of the Lord. Let us continue to pray for each other.

In God's name ~

Lilian



➔ **Charge Conference~** Even though Charge Conferences are done, I am still in need of paperwork from the following churches. **Please get this into me by February 1st.** Thank you. **Burlington,Asbury-West Burlington~Resolutions, Crawfordsville~Leadership Worksheet, Douds-Lebonon-Selma ~ Resolutions, Mount Pleasant, First~Leadership Worksheet, Muscatine, High Prairie~Minutes & Leadership Worksheet, Muscatine, San Pablo~Leadership Worksheet, Trenton~Leadership Worksheet.** If you have any questions please contact Sherry Swanson.

➔ **Statistical Reporting ~** Statistical reporting is due on **Feb. 14, 2019 this year and not the end of February.** Mark your calendars as this date is very important. Letters have been sent to all Pastors, Treasurers, Finance Chairpersons and Church Secretaries. If you did not receive this letter you can go to the web page of: <https://www.iaumc.org/2018stats>

➔ **Fund Balance Report~** This report is on the District Homepage under forms. This form is to be filled out and turned into the District Office by **March 1st!** This form is by the GCFA and is a very important document for the Church file as during an audit this is the form they will need. You can send a copy to

the District Office and keep the original with Church. If you have any questions please contact Sherry Swanson.

➔ **Lay Servant Training~** The brochure will be out by the end of this week with information on times and who will be teaching. Also there will be book information. Once the brochure is out it will also be on the District Homepage under Lay Servants.

March 16 & 17- Basic, UM Polity, Called to Preach

July 20 & 21 – Basic, Leading in Worship, Lay Servants as Christian Transformational Leaders

October 27 & November 3 – Basic, Spiritual Gifts, Leading Bible Study

➔ **Praying Our Way Forward~** Praying Our Way Forward is a movement in response to the Council of Bishops initiative. We are called to a posture of prayer, praying for God's leadership to guide us effectively in fulfilling the mission of the church. We invite you- clergy and laity, conferences and congregations – across the denomination to pray for God's guidance. For more information please go to this link.

<https://www.iaumc.org/prayingourwayforward>

➔ **Annual Conference ~** Annual Conference 2019 will be held on June 8-11, with Clergy and Laity Sessions on Friday evening, June 7. Hotel registration is open. **Please be sure to book your hotel room as soon as possible, as there are several events scheduled in Des Moines the same weekend as our conference.**

Please use the following link to access the list of hotels for which we were given group rates:

[2019 Annual Conference Hotel Information](#)

Grand View dorm housing information will be available at a later date in 2019.

➔ **Ingathering Hunger Grants~** Each district in the Iowa Conference has been given \$2000 to be used in that district for grants to various hunger projects. Then only stipulations are that the money is used in the district and that the money is used only for hunger causes. **Last year we had \$6250 to distribute and this year that has been dropped to \$2000.** That means that projects will receive less money than last year and not all applications will be funded. New projects that have not received funding in the past few years will receive priority. That doesn't necessarily mean that previously funded projects will not be funded this year but will be put at the end of the list and will not receive as much as in the past. The Ingathering did not receive as much

undesigned money this year as last and that is why there is not as much to distribute. Please fill out the application that is on the District Homepage under Thanksgiving Ingathering and then Hunger Grant Application and return it to Judy Brotherton, Southeast District Ingathering representative. Her address is 2512 Mulberry Ave., Muscatine, IA 52761 or you can email it to judyb@machlink.com. Be sure to include contact information for the person filling it out so she can get back to you if there is a question. The deadline for these applications is **FEBRUARY 15**. Applications received after that date cannot be considered. Getting the application in before that date is much appreciated. New projects not connected with a United Methodist Church will need to fill out a W-9 form if the organization has not received Hunger Grants in the past; contact her for this form.

If you have any questions about the Hunger Grants, please contact her at her email address (above) or call her at 563-264-5372.

➔ **Disaster Response Information**~ If Disaster happens... Contact Your District Disaster Response Coordinator or the District Office.
District Disaster Response Coordinators (DDRC) ~Southeast – Don and Mary Timmermann – mtimmermannclm@aol.com , 563-381-4848



+ **Budget Information Meeting**~ The Budget Team sent out an email that outlined their recommendations for the budget last Friday, November 30. They have set aside times for feedback and listening sessions. There are three dates and locations and they are as follows:

January 20, 2019 ~ Carroll, First UMC from 2:00pm-3:30pm

January 26, 2019 ~ Ames, First UMC from 10:30am-12:00 noon

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to communicate with the budget team you can contact them at this temporary email address, budget@iaumc.org

+ **January 23, 11am-2:00pm**~ Clergy only prayer and discussion at the District Office with Lilian. Please RSVP to the District Office by January 14 so that we may look for a different location in a timely manner if there is more than 25 of you.

+ **January 27, 2:30pm** ~ Nominations Committee Meeting at the District Office.

+ **February 5, 2019**~ **Clergy Day Apart** ~ 10am – 2pm at Crawfordsville. Creating stronger connections with fellow clergy and God through Worship & Song, Art, Play, Prayer, Story Cards, Rest, and Food. Please RSVP to the district office by **January 25**. If you have any questions please email Melanie Greengo at melaniegreengo@gmail.com

+ **District Wide Church Officers Training** ~ Administrative Council/Board, Trustees, SPPRC and Finance

February 9 ~

Wellman, Asbury – 9am-11am – Shannon Pascual

Columbus Junction – 9am-11am – Marsha Gerot

Burlington, Asbury – 9am-11am – Elizabeth Bell

Birmingham – 9am-11am – Beth Harbaugh

February 16 ~

Mount Pleasant, First – 9am-11am – David Morris

Muscatine, New Hope – 9am-11am – Tom Berryman

Davenport, Faith – 1pm-3pm – Tom Berryman

Keokuk, Trinity – 9am-11am – Elizabeth Bell

February 17 ~

Sigourney – 2pm-5pm – Shannon Pascual

+ **Youth 2019** ~ YOUTH 2019 IS FOR ALL UNITED METHODIST YOUTH, GRADES 6-12, AND THEIR LEADERS. Join thousands for 4 days of discipleship, worship, Bible study, service opportunities, and life-changing fun! Expect inspiration, support, and challenges to grow authentically as a world-changing disciple of Jesus Christ. The YOUTH Event is the National Gathering for United Methodist Youth, it will be in 2019 and traces its' roots all the way back to the first YOUTH event of 1988. YOUTH 2019 will provide youth and their leaders with chances to connect with each other, denominational leaders, and connectional agencies to help them discover the wide variety of ministries of the United Methodist Church. Click on this link for more information and registration. <http://youth2019.com/>

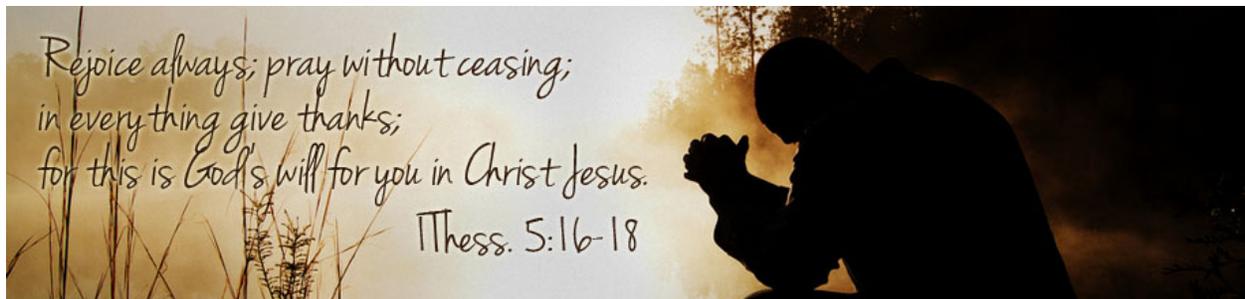
January



5- Vincent Garza	19- Dorothy Henson
7- Margaret Klink & Terra Amundson	23- Thomas Berryman
11- Kristina Roth	24- Kiboko Kiboko
15- Steve Braudt & Lilian Gallo-Seagren	28- David Wittmann
16- Heather Dorr	31- Bruce Smith



10- Charles & Margaret Klink	12- Ron & Beth Carlson
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- Please pray for Steve Lamb as he lost his wife, Kathleen Lamb. Please pray for this family and give them comfort through Christ.
- Please pray for Judi Calhoon, Northwest District Administrative Assistant and her family as she lost her father.
- Prayers for the government workers who are struggling while the government is on shutdown. May God give them what they need to survive and take care of their families.
- Prayers for the family of Pastor Kathleen Moore for the death of her Step-Father.
- Prayers to the families of Pastor Jason Collier and his sister Christina Collier as they come to terms with the death of their sister.
- Prayer for Melisa Bracht-Wagner as she continues to fight the cancer that is in her body. May God give her strength and the love needed to fight this disease. Also pray for her family as they watch her go through this. May God give you strength and comfort.
- Prayers for Pastor David Mixon as he recovers from hip surgery.
- Prayers for the husband of Pastor Dawn Butler as he is dealing with health issues.
- Prayers for Pastor Gerry Kahler as he is dealing with some health issues.
- Prayers for Christine, the daughter of Mary Timmermann who continues to battle cancer.
- Prayers for Elizabeth Colorado, wife of Pastor Moddy Colorado, as she continues her fight with cancer. She continues to do well with treatments.
- Continued prayers for the guidance of our General Conference as they make the upcoming decisions that will be difficult.

- Continued prayers for our military who are active, reserves, and veterans. May they find peace and understanding with their daily struggles and try to understand.
- Continued prayers for our police, firefighters and first responders who answer the call without hesitation for the safety of their communities.
- As always, prayers to the ones who may not ask for prayers but need them. May they feel the love of God wrap around them during their time of need.