



# The Meeting House

Washington United Methodist Church

November 2019

## Inside This Issue

Pastor's Message	1
Meals on Wheels/Saturday Kitchens/Christmas Adoption/Growing Hope	2
Meeting House email/ Address Change reminder/ Vacation and Snowbirds/ Stephen Ministry/Reminder	3
Calendar/Financials/ Giving Tree/Christmas Poinsettias	4
Birthdays/Anniversaries	5

## Contact Us 319-653-5446

Office hours:  
Mon. - Fri.: 8:30-4:00pm

Pastor Kwang Song  
kwang.song@iaumc.net

Financial Secretary  
Tim Johnson  
officewashumc@gmail.com

Church Secretary  
Melody J. S. Merritt  
churchofficewumc@gmail.com



washunitedmc

"Brothers and sisters, I myself have not reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus."  
(Philippians 3:13-14)

On October 17, Ad. Council had a meeting to recommend our ministry goals for 2020 to charge conference. All council members came to an agreement that our ministry has to be focused on helping the congregation to grow to the full likeness of Jesus Christ. Here are the goals:

1. Develop small group ministry helping the congregation to grow into Christ: Hire a new ministry paid staff person who takes charge of youth and small group ministry.
2. Improve communication avenues, such as church website, Facebook, and the Meeting House, to draw the seekers and better connect to shut-ins and inactive church members.
3. Create worship environment: welcoming diversity; led and inspired by the Spirit; connecting all generations together; lay leadership participating.
4. Develop and implement an intentional pathway of making disciples.

As finance committee shared with us in a letter on October 20, commitment Sunday, that we have a shortage of money to cover operating expenses and pay apportionment to Iowa conference. However, here is a promising thing: it is you who are faithful in following Jesus, passionate for ministries and missions, and hopeful about the church to get on a thriving path again. Above all, we are not the people who keep complaining and are trying to make changes.

As Paul says, we've not yet reached there. We are on the race toward the goal. We just try to keep up the race no matter what gets in the way because there is the prize of God's upward call in Christ Jesus.

What kind of church are you dreaming of? What do you want to see here in this church? Remember you are the church. You are the one who pursues the goal. I encourage you to take steps toward growing to the full likeness of Jesus Christ as his disciple who is willing to help others grow.

If you didn't have an opportunity to pledge for the ministries in 2020, please use the commitment card inserted in this newsletter.

God's Blessing and Loving Care to All  
Kwang



The Church office will be closed  
November 28th and 29th.



# MISSIONS

## Meals on Wheels



Washington UMC can help in this mission by delivering meals to people who can't get out or have difficulty in preparing their own meals. We will be delivering meals from Dec. 9 through January 3rd. Please contact the church office at 319.653.5446 if you can help.

## **saturday kitchen**



We will be hosting three Saturday Kitchens in 2020 at the United Presbyterian Church. The dates are January 25th, March 14th and April 18th. For additional information or if you would like to help, please contact Ann Williams at 319.461.2511.



## Christmas Adoption

Started by WUMC over 20 years ago as a project to adopt one family for Christmas and provide them with food and gifts, the response was so encouraging that it has grown into an annual event that helps several families.

In 2018 WUMC raised \$1733 to help families and children. Each family receives a cash card for food and wrapped gifts. The families selected are screened by HACAP and HACAP gives us clothing sizes and needs (individuals are not identified). Our youth do the shopping and gift wrapping. The need has always been great and this year is no exception, so please be generous with your gifts.

Christmas Adoption will be our Thanksgiving offering this year. Donations can be put into the offering plate or mailed to WUMC. Checks should be made payable to WUMC but marked on the memo line "Christmas Adoption", and cash should be put into envelopes and marked the same. For additional information please contact the church office at 319-653-5446.

## GROWING HOPE GLOBALLY (fka FRB - Foods Resource Bank) as of Nov. 2018

With harvest now underway, it's time to think about our Growing Project and grow our donations and contributions to help others. Growing Hope Globally (GHG) is an ecumenical Christian answer to world hunger.



**GROWING HOPE**  
GLOBALLY

Money raised is sent to third world countries to help them become self-sufficient by producing their own food. This is done by buying tools, seed, fertilizer, etc. and giving it to third world farmers under Growing Hope Globally supervision. One Hundred percent of our donations go to the project.

This is the 2nd year we are partnering with the Washington School FFA under the direction of FFA advisor, Trent Steinhart. The students are raising money and researching third world country projects and they will decide which project from the list the funds will be designated to receive the money. If you would like to make a donation to this project, please make your tax deductible donation to the United Methodist Church and be sure to indicate Growing Hope Globally (GHG) in the lower left hand corner of your check or envelope so labeled. Donations are needed by December 20, 2019, so your donation can be included in our year-end report and you can be given credit for your contribution. Remember we have all been blessed, so consider your gift to this project.

This is our 15th year in helping relieve world hunger. Thank you in advance for your support. If you have questions, please contact Dave Birney at 653-4713 or 461-3232.

Dave Birney Washington Growing Project Co-Coordinator

October 20, 2019

Hello everyone,

As many people are aware, our church and the entire United Methodist Conference have been going through some trying times. Over this past year this church has been struggling with a shrinking membership and attendance, which in turn has led to a reduction of available finances. To let you know where we are currently, as of October 17th we have had a total received income of \$201,275, but we have had total expenses paid of \$217,540. This has led to a current net loss in our general budget of \$16,265. We have used up all our general budget cash reserves.

The church's staff, Finance Committee, and Trustees have cut back on the budgeted expenses to the point where the church, as of August, has stopped paying the apportionments to the Iowa Annual Conference. Apportionments are a monthly obligation that each church pays to the Iowa Conference to support ministries and missions. Our normal monthly apportionment obligation is roughly \$5,200. If we do not catch up these payments by the end of the year, we will owe a little over \$26,000.

With all that said, plans have been developed to bolster and revive the church. A strategic planning committee has been developed and is moving forward with starting a small groups ministry, helping to expand our local missions, and grow our youth ministry (i.e. recently restarting Kids Klub). God gives us struggles to help us grow and Washington United Methodist Church is in a prime position to start growing!

So how can you help?

1) Obviously the church needs finances to help with the ministry. If you do not pledge, consider pledging. If you already give on a regular basis, consider giving a little more. Jesus spoke numerous times about giving freely to further the kingdom of God. If you cannot, consider giving your time to help with programs.

2) More importantly, invite people to come to church and church functions with you. Invite friends, family, neighbors or anyone to come with you. As Christians we are charged to help spread the gospel and the love of Jesus. Invite someone and stick around after the service for some coffee and fellowship. And do so with excitement! Your invitation could absolutely change somebody's life! In Matthew 22:39 Jesus commanded "You must love your neighbor as you love yourself." What better way to love others than to share the word of Jesus with them!

If you have question about the finances or what you can do to help, please feel free to contact the Financial Secretary, Tim Johnson, at the church office.

Thank you,  
The Finance Committee

## Message from Missions/Outreach

In July, we explained changes in the program formerly referred to as the “backpack” program. In that article, we explained that the schools are now getting food delivered every week from the Hiawatha food reservoir—the same source of food delivered to the local HACAP food pantry. What we hope to accomplish, as church outreach are the following:

1. Monetary donations, labeled as school backpack program, to purchase perishable foods to supplement what comes from Hiawatha. These items will include things such as loaves of bread, hot dogs, milk, fresh fruit, and other things that a child can easily use to fix a meal on the weekend. These items will get delivered to the schools once a week by the grocery stores. Students, identified by the school as needing assistance, are allowed to choose some foods to take home on Friday afternoon.
2. Donations of items with longer shelf life that the committee can deliver to the schools. These items can be brought to the church. Examples of things members could bring to the church are cereal, crackers, energy bars, or dry fruit.
3. Contact Dianne Gray if you are interested in forming a small focus group in the church that would focus on other ideas for helping with this program as well as spiritual commitment to the cause.

Another goal of missions and outreach is to provide personal hygiene supplies for students at the high school (and perhaps the middle school). There are a significant number of students who do not have access to these items at home. Examples of items church members can bring to church are: shampoo, soaps and body wash, and deodorant.

If you have questions regarding anything in this article, contact Dianne Gray at 653-4816 or email at [idgrayteach@gmail.com](mailto:idgrayteach@gmail.com).



Get the monthly **Meeting House** via email instead of regular mail, it's faster and saves the church money on postage. Just call or email the church office and the change will be made for you. If you are receiving both email and regular mail copies, call the office to stop the regular mail issue.



Please advise the church office if you move, change or drop a landline or cell#, have a new email address or change your name. Do not hesitate to call or email to make sure the office has your correct information.

**Vacationers and Snow birds!!** - please let the office know what your departure and return dates are. The database can be programmed so that you will automatically continue to receive the Meeting House and any other mailings, without interruption, at your winter and/or summer locations. If you choose not to receive any mailings while you are away, please let the office know so that mailings can be stopped until you return.



**"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other."**

1 Thessalonians 5:11

We all experience challenges in life - times when we could benefit from the support of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers are ready to provide the emotional and spiritual care we need when faced with a crisis or difficulty such as hospitalization, loss of a loved one, divorce, aging, relocation, job loss and more.

Stephen Ministers are laypeople - Christian men and women - trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life. They come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. A Stephen Minister begins a caring relationship when he or she is matched with a person experiencing a life crisis. The Stephen Minister then meets with that person on a weekly basis to listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support. The caring relationship lasts as long as the person is in need of care.

A Stephen Minister receives 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care, and meets with his or her care receiver for about an hour each week, for as long as there's a need. Men are matched with male ministers, and women are matched with female ministers and it is completely confidential. All who serve become part of a team that helps people win life's toughest battles.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, or if you'd like to find out more about becoming a Stephen Minister yourself, go to [stephenministries.org](http://stephenministries.org), contact Jean Macenski at 319-653-6949.



**Sunday Bulletin Announcements** - Due in the church office no later than the preceding Wednesday afternoon.

**Meeting House Articles** - Due in the church office no later than the 15th of the month (for the following month), regardless of what day the 15th falls on.

**All announcements and articles are subject to Pastor approval.**

**Church Office hours:**

Monday through Friday, 8:30am - 4:00pm  
319-653-5446



**Just a friendly reminder!!**

Pastor Kwang:	319-541-2631	(Friday is Pastor's day off)	<a href="mailto:kwang.song@iaumc.net">kwang.song@iaumc.net</a>
Financial Secretary:	Tim Johnson	12:00pm - 4:00pm	<a href="mailto:officewashumc@gmail.com">officewashumc@gmail.com</a>
Church Secretary:	Melody J S Merritt	8:30am - 12:30pm	<a href="mailto:office@washingtonumc.com">office@washingtonumc.com</a>

# November 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	
3 8am & 10am Services 10am Children's Sunday School Day Light Saving Time Ends 	4 9am Quilters	5 11:30am Staff Meeting  7pm Mission/ Outreach Meeting	6 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 7pm Chancel Choir	7	8 12.00pm UMW	9
10 8am & 10am Service 10am Children's Sunday School	11 6:30pm Worship Committee	12 11:30am Staff Meeting  6:30pm Children's Ministry	13 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 6:30pm SPRC 7pm Chancel Choir	14 11:30am WAMA  6:30pm Trustees	15	16
17 8am & 10am Service 10am Children's Sunday School	18 9am Quilters	19 11:30am Staff Meeting	20 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 7pm Chancel Choir	21 6:30pm Finance 7:30pm Ad Council	22	23
24 8am & 10am Services 10am Children's Sunday School	25	26 11:30am Staff Meeting	27 3pm-5pm Kidz Klub 6pm Praise Team 6:30pm MYLIFE 7pm Chancel Choir	28  <b>Church Office Closed</b>	29 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	30

**\*Not every committee meets every month, your committee chair-person will advise you of scheduling.**

### Giving Tree

Sometime in mid-November, Dianne Gray will be contacting the area care facilities of UP Home, Halcyon House, McCreedy and Pearl Valley to advise them to provide names of recipients, and their requests for Christmas, to the church office through email. Dianne will give them a deadline by which time to respond to us. Once we receive all of the requests, we will put up the pallet tree in the Sanctuary and request that the congregation purchase, wrap and return the packages, with the tag on the outside of the gift. Please note - you will only have about a week to return your packages. Thank you!!

### Christmas Poinsettias

The church will be ordering poinsettias for the sanctuary to celebrate the birth of Christ. They also serve as a meaningful act of honor and remembrance of loved ones. The deadline to order poinsettias this year will be December 1, 2019 and the cost will be between \$7.00 and \$8.00 each. We will put additional information and the order forms in the bulletins starting in mid-November.

### Year-to-Date Financials Through October, 2019

General Fund	Actual Income	Actual Expenses
This month	8,973	10,650
Year to Date	201,275	217,154



### Standard Time!

Saturday, Nov. 3  
Turn your clocks  
back one hour  
tonight!



Financial Commitment  
to the Ministry of  
Washington United Methodist Church

**2020 General Budget Pledge**

My/Our pledge to the General Budget will be:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
weekly monthly quarterly annually electronic

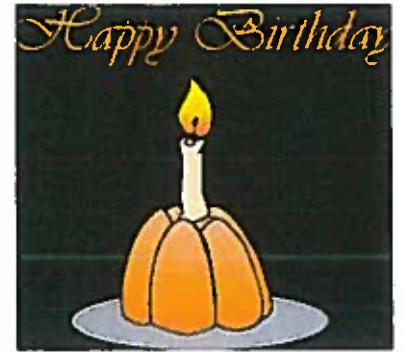
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please place your completed Pledge Card in the offering plate.

By taking this pledge I/we promise to support Washington UMC's ministry with prayer, presence, gifts, and service.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information regarding Trust, Estate, Life Insurance, Endowments, and other asset giving.

# November Birthdays!



1  
Duane Van Winkle

10  
David Ross

19  
Ty Stender

2  
Kayla Beatty  
Noah Enfield  
George Moore

11  
Collin Murphy  
Tanner Murphy

20  
Karen McFarland  
Oma Munn

3  
Eric Schoonover

12  
James Kennedy  
Judy McCarthy

21  
Dana Crawford

4  
Lyle Thomas

14  
Jeff Crone

22  
Mark Bohr  
Cathy Ross  
Abby Threlkeld

28  
Stanley Bauer

5  
Lisa Carr  
Jeff Lueck

15  
Shannon Powers  
Bruce Watson

24  
Michelle Sisco-Ortiz

29  
Kenneth Hanson

6  
Connie Bauer

16  
Jack Greiner  
**\*Jim Schmidt**

25  
Fran Darbyshire

30  
Shawn Loy  
Blakley Williams

8  
Ryan Loy

17  
Jim Logan  
Corrine Phelps  
Jennine Wolf

26  
Linda Sturdevant

**\*Bold names  
indicate  
90+ birthdays!**

9  
Barbara Wehr



# November Anniversaries!



1  
Don & Jackie Wells

7  
Jim & Oma Munn

12  
Robert & Donna Koehler

26  
Paul & Sally Beezley

4  
David & Toni Adrian

19  
Lester & Barbara Wehr

27  
Rick & Pam Murphy



NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
WASHINGTON, IOWA  
PERMIT NO. 104



## Meeting House

Washington United Methodist Church  
206 West Second St.  
Washington, IA 52353-1925  
319-653-5446  
churchofficewumc@gmail.com

Sunday Worship  
8:00 & 10:00am



Washunitedmc



washingtonumc.com

Washington United Methodist Church  
206 West Second Street  
Washington, IA 52353-1925  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED