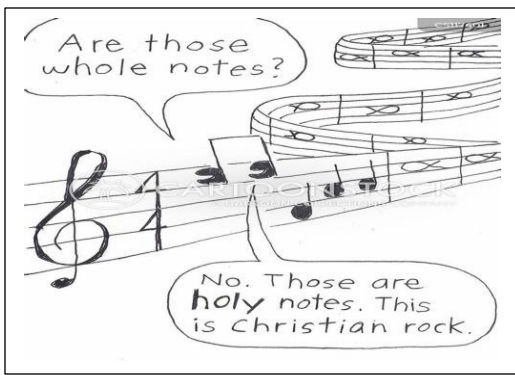


CONNECTION
February 2025
MONTEZUMA
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Our Mission in Ministry Together:
*Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world starting in
Montezuma, Iowa*



Ephesians 5:19 ESV - Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart.

A young boy is listening to the radio in the car with his father. "Dad, what music did you like growing up?" "I was a huge fan of Led Zeppelin," the father replies. "Who?" the son asks. "Yeah," the dad responds, "I liked them too."

As we gathered last Wednesday night for choir practice (which I encourage anyone to join us), we were lead by a devotion that kind of hit home for me. In our new music books "Scripture Hymnal" (which can be purchased off Amazon) the following was read to us which I would like to pass along to you today. In the summer of 1984, I hopped the few fences and walked along a sea wall to our pastures yard where "Brother Bill" taught me how to throw his 12-foot cast net into a canal. I remember his patience as I tangled in that around the skinny 6th grade frame. I remember the taste of salt water and seaweed as a crunched the nylon rope between my teeth, and I remember the measured praise and they hauled into small. But I don't remember any of his sermons. I do however remember every word of "Because he Lives", "Amazing Grace" which we will talk about on February 16th "Victory in Jesus", "Great is thy Faithfulness", "Holy Holy Holy", "How great thou art", "It is Well with my soul", and "Leaning on the everlasting arms". From youth group I remember "Great is the Lord", "He has made me glad", "Seek ye 1st", and the "Father, I adore you". My college Methodist Chapel taught me "Come thou fount of every blessing", "Rock of Ages", and "Be thou my vision", because of my childhood pastor I can toss a cast net in a pretty circle. But I know the gospel because I remember the songs. (Randall Goodgame 2024). There is part of this statement I agree with. Over the years even I don't remember all the sermons I've ever heard, or even all that I have ever written since 1996. I do however remember most of the songs that I have learned most of my life. When I sang my first solo song in grade school at a funeral which was "On Eagles Wings", or my grade school play days when I did church program and was King Melchior "Follow a Star", or in 8th grade and was Kurt Von Trap from The Sound of Music. When I was in College taking Applied voice and my semester test final song was "Music of the Night" from Phantom of the Opera. And then when I finally got to see my first concerts. So many Michael W. Smith, and when I finally got to see Journey a few years ago and heard "Don't Stop Believin". Church music is important because it helps people connect with God, express their love for God, and unite with the church. Connecting with God Music can help people feel a direct connection with God. Singing can help people express their love for God with their whole being. Music can help people remember their faith. Expressing love for God Music can help people express their love for God through song. Music can help people express their response to God and the church. Uniting with the church Singing together can help people feel a sense of belonging and unity. Music can help people develop a unity of mind and heart. Teaching the gospel Music can help people learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ. Music can help people memorize the gospel. Other benefits Music can help people improve their mood. Music can help people find meaning in their suffering. Music is something we both here and sing when we worship. This is related to the fact that worship is both call and response. The call of God reaches the depths of our hearts with special power through music, and our singing expresses with special power the deepest response of our hearts to God. The music makes a difference in how everything else in the service goes. When we all have been lifted to the heights through music, the pastor and others who lead worship are inspired to preach and lead with greater freedom and power. Those who worship in the pews find their hearts and minds opened to hear more clearly and receive more fully the good news that is the gospel.

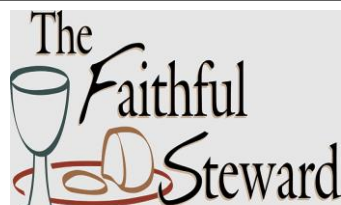
Blessings Y'all Pastor Brian



01 Henry Williams
01 Norma Williamson
02 Nancy Allen
07 Julie Lageveen
07 Gaige Arendt
08 Rita Damery
09 Karon Johnson
09 Sherri Spain
12 Wendy Geiger
14 Bill Moore
15 Jean Griffin
16 Marie Boulton
19 Amanda Latcham
25 Brian Stockman
27 Haileah Eichenberger



05 Vince & Karon Johnson
58 Years



**Roger &
Nancy Allen**



February 2nd

Greeter: Howard & Jacque Johnston
Fellowship: Dennis & Vera Latcham
Liturgist: Vera Latcham
Childrens sermon: Carrie Stockman
Communion Steward: Roger & Nancy Allen

February 9th

Greeter: Shirley Linn & Robin Bolen
Fellowship: Brigitte Van Roekel & Sherri Spain
Liturgist: Melissa Foels
Childrens sermon: Pastor Brian Cushman

February 16th

Greeter: Mike & Melissa Foels
Fellowship: Al & Denise Rabenold
Liturgist: Phyllis Freeborn
Childrens sermon: Vera Latcham

February 23rd

Greeter: Al & Denise Rabenold
Fellowship: Kristie & Denny Williams
Liturgist: Mark Lageveen
Childrens sermon: Terence Blain - Herrera

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.
- English Proverb



Happy Groundhog Day!



February 2nd is Communion Sunday.
Wednesday, the 5th is Communion delivery in Montezuma.
Thursday, the 6th is Communion delivery in Grinnell.



United Methodist Women are Meeting Friday the 14th @ 1:00 PM
For a business meeting hosted by Bonnie Cox

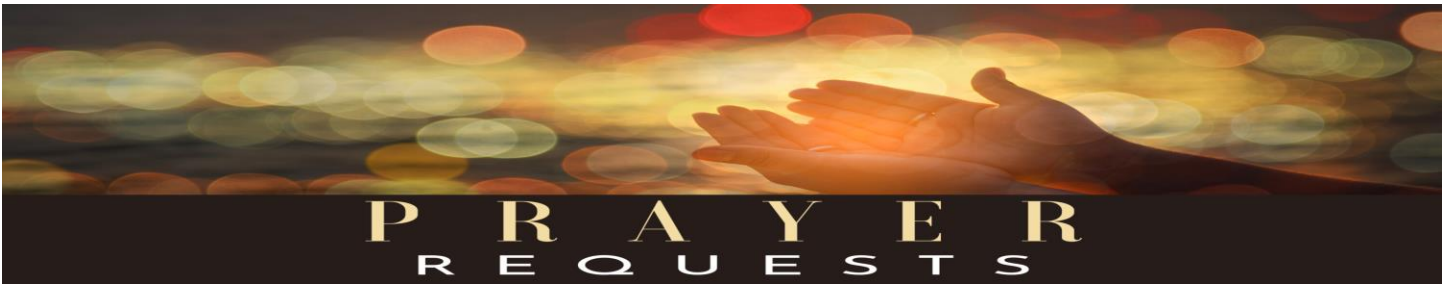


Quarter Sunday
February 16th
CWS Blanket Sunday

Mark your calendars: the Montezuma Fire Dept. Sweetheart Breakfast is Sunday, February 16th.



Pastor Brian is gone Thursday Feb. 26th from 9-12 for Circuit Meeting in Newton.



Prayer Request – Lacreacia Heiman, Greg Floyd, Sally Moore, Rhonda Farwell, Dawn Manns, Joyce Hester, Nadine Brower, Our fire department, Our police officers, Our first responders, Our healthcare workers, Our military, Our community, Our church, Our elected leaders, The state of Iowa, The United States of America.

Valentine's Day

Word Search

Name: _____

A large heart shape containing a word search grid. The grid consists of 15 rows of letters. The letters are arranged as follows:

X	L	H	E	P	V									
T	P	C	F	B	V	V	L	G	E					
L	I	K	E	J	F	D	O	F	A	N	C	M	N	
H	D	Y	K	K	L	R	L	S	R	L	Y	U	B	P
A	E	W	U	I	O	O	K	W	I	E	X	P	R	K
A	R	A	B	S	W	M	L	E	E	N	O	I	A	K
P	F	Y	R	S	E	A	I	E	N	T	C	D	C	V
Z	X	F	B	T	R	N	O	T	D	I	R	R	E	M
P	D	E	E	S	T	A	H	S	N	A	P	F		
C	A	C	G	I	H	E	H	E	Z	X				
G	T	T	C	U	A	I	N	Y						
H	E	I	G	R	P	K								
P	C	O	T	F										
V	K	N												
A														

Word list:

- | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| AFFECTION | FLOWERS | LIKE |
| CRAZY | FRIENDSHIP | LOVE |
| CUPID | HEART | ROMANTIC |
| DATE | HUG | SWEETHEART |
| EMBRACE | KISS | VALENTINE |



Lectionary Readings for February 2025 C

February 2 (Green)

- Jeremiah 1:4-10**
- Psalm 71:1-6**
- 1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
- Luke 4:21-30**

February 9 (Green)

- Isaiah 6:1-13**
- Psalm 138**
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11**
- Luke 5:1-11**

February 16 (Green)

- Jeremiah 17:5-10**
- Psalm 1**
- 1 Corinthians 15:12-20**
- Luke 6:17-26**

February 23 (Green)

- Genesis 45:3-11, 15**
- Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40**
- 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50**
- Luke 6:27-38**



FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2 10:00 Service Communion	3	4	5 Communion delivery in Montezuma	6 Communion delivery in Grinnell	7	8
9 10:00 Service	10	11	12	13	14 UMW @1:00 Valentine's Day	15
16 10:00 Service QTR. - Blanket Sweetheart Breakfast	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Circuit Meeting Newton 9-12	27	28	1

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES: 14: VALENTINE'S DAY, 17: PRESIDENTS' DAY

Put your best foot forward as we hop, skip and jump into the new year by donating your new or gently worn shoes. We need shoes of all sizes and styles: walk, run or dance them on in. Shoes can be dropped off at the church anytime from now until May 1st. **WHY???** This shoe drive supports micro-entrepreneurs to break the chain of systemic poverty all while helping the environment. **HOW????** 70% of the global population uses repurposed shoes and this fundraising event not only raises funds, it also helps kick start economic growth in developing nations. In addition, 3,000 pounds of CO2 emissions are saved with every 100 pairs of reused shoes and discarded shoes can take up to 30-40 years to decompose.

