
THE LINK



STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH...PUT IT IN TO PRACTICE

First United Methodist Church

JULY 2015

This summer I hope you are finding leisure to renew your mind and body. As you are doing such, I pray that you do not forget to also renew your spirit. I want to suggest that you might try a new spiritual practice.

Lectio Divina is Latin for "divine reading," "spiritual reading," or "holy reading" represents a method of prayer and scriptural reading intended to promote communion with God and provide special spiritual insights.

The practice of *lectio divina* begins with a time of relaxation, making oneself comfortable and clearing the mind of mundane thoughts and cares. Some *lectio* practitioners find it helpful to concentrate by beginning with deep, cleansing breaths and repeating a chosen phrase or word several times to help free the mind.

The article that follows is the best short introduction I have found. I hope and pray you give it a try. Remember that it usually takes a person a few tries at anything until it becomes beneficial.

Guide to *Lectio Divina*

Choose a word or phrase of the Scriptures you wish to pray. It makes no difference which text is chosen, as long as you have no set goal of "covering" a certain amount of text. The amount of text covered is in God's hands, not yours.

Read. Turn to the text and read it slowly, gently. Savor each portion of the reading, constantly listening for the "still, small voice" of a word or phrase that somehow says, "I am for you today." Do not expect lightning or ecstasies. In *lectio divina*, God is teaching us to listen, to seek him in silence. God does not reach out and grab us but gently invites us ever more deeply into his presence.

Ponder. Take the word or phrase into yourself. Memorize
(continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
Pastor's Corner	1-2 & 4-5
Volunteer/Donation Opportunities	2-3 & 8
Church Family News	4
Calendar	6-7
VBS	5 & 8
Lectionary Scripture	7
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(continued from page 1)

it and slowly repeat it to yourself, allowing it to interact with your inner world of concerns, memories, and ideas. Do not be afraid of distractions. Memories or thoughts are simply parts of yourself that, when they rise up during *lectio divina*, are asking to be given to God along with the rest of your inner self. Allow this inner pondering, this rumination, to invite you into dialogue with God.

Pray. Whether you use words, ideas, or images—or all three—is not important. Interact with God as you would with one who you know loves and accepts you. Give to God what you have discovered during your experience of meditation. Give to God what you have found within your heart.

It is not necessary to assess the quality of your *lectio divina*, as if you were "performing" or seeking some goal. *Lectio divina* has no goal other than that of being in the presence of God by praying the Scriptures.

—Fr. Luke Dysinger, OSB, is a Benedictine monk of Saint Andrew's Abbey, Valyermo, California. Taken from [Give Us This Day: Daily Prayer for Today's Catholic](#) Nov. 2014 edition. Grace & Peace,

Pastor Lane

MONDAY MORNING PANTHER PROGRAM NEEDS



Iowa UMC Bishop Trimble's Literacy Initiative/ Changing a Child's Story One of the exciting ideas from this year's Annual Conference was the need to increase reading proficiency of our state's school children. Here are some facts:

- 61% of children in poverty have no books in the home.
- 8, 947 is the number of 4th graders not proficient in reading on 2012 state tests
- 3rd graders not proficient are 4 times more likely to be school dropouts
- 86% of children with parents who didn't graduate live in low-income families
- Iowa's rank when it comes to improving reading scores over past 19 years LAST.

We at FUMC have an opportunity to "Change a Child's Story" by helping the Knoxville School District. The Superintendent has reached out to the community seeking programs for students for Monday morning late starts. The Literacy Initiative and the District's request happened at the

same time prompting us to form a Task Force and fill a community need.

Members of the Task Force are Johnna Kincaid, SPRC; Katie Bishop, MSPS Director; Pat Whitlatch, Laity; Anita Martin, UMW President & Laity; Pastor Lane, and Pastor Brent.

We are asking for volunteers to be at the church on Mondays from 7:15 am to 9:30 am. This is the time the students will be arriving, having a light breakfast, meeting in small reading groups with adult leaders, participating in a devotional time, and enjoying activities to get rid of their 'wiggles'. We will be working with K-5 students.

The program requires two things---books and time. As we begin this community outreach program we will be assessing any further needs. We don't have to worry about transportation, as the school district will provide a school bus to transport students to their respective schools.

If you are interested in helping, please, contact Anita Martin at 641-218-4699. Or send an email to Heather.

MISSION SUNDAY, JULY 26

Don't miss joining us July 26 for a special service and celebration on Mission.

As Methodist, mission has always been an important activity as we strive to live out our faith expressing our love of Christ and all God's children. First Church has continued this legacy and will be celebrating this with hands and heart in a unique and moving way Sunday, July 26th. We will alter and condense our worship to incorporate hands on mission activities and fellowship. The abridged service will be structured around our Back to School mission project that is now in its third year, there will be presentations, testimonials, and witness to the impact and blessing this program has on the giver and receivers. After which, we adjourn to the fellowship Hall to assemble and organize material for our distribution night at the school the following Wednesday night, July 29th. This year we will be building upon these efforts by writing appreciation and prayer



cards to the teachers of school district. Along with other activities in the planning stage, we will then close our time together with a special fellowship time with goodies and treats. There is a special joy that comes with giving and serves to others but we won't be able to accomplish this important work nor will you enjoy that special joy of service if you don't attend. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for this unique celebration.

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

We are offering a Back to School Event Wed, July 29th from 4:00-7:00 p.m. in the air



conditioned Knoxville High School commons. Workers are needed as well as money to buy school supplies. We have secured back packs and shoes. We are providing a meal. This is an excellent mission opportunity to the community helping families in need. 40-50% of the students in the district are receiving free or reduced lunches, an indicator of the financial needs of a large number of young people.

Financial contributions are needed by all and in any amount. Please mark your gift to the church with "**Back to School Event**". Thanks for doing your part!

NATIONALS PANCAKES VOLUNTEERS AUG 12-15



We serve from 8:00 a.m. to noon on Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat at the National Guard Armory (across from the Hall of Fame). We do "on the job" training with offering hospitality to locals and visitors. Proceeds go to the Knoxville Chamber and our church. **Signup sheets are in the church Narthex.** If you have questions, call Kay Jensen at 842-5325.

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR FUNDS NEEDED



One of our local missions First United Methodist church helps to support is Neighbor Helping Neighbor. As a congregation we have for several years now pledged \$4000 per year.

(continued on page 4)

This is paid each month from the funds given to our Neighbor Helping Neighbor Mission. Gifts to Neighbor Helping Neighbor this year are not meeting our pledge. Through God's grace and your support of Neighbor Helping Neighbor we help many people as they struggle with job loss, payment of utilities, and many other issues. Please consider a gift to this important mission. Please mark your check memo and/or envelope to identify this purpose. Starting this July to help support this ministry – we will be taking up **a special collection on the 2nd Sunday of each month** as we do for the Heifer Project on the 4th Sunday of each month. Moving forward we will do these offerings 2nd Sunday a local mission (Neighbor Helping Neighbor) and 4th Sunday a global mission (Heifer International). With our special offering we hope to impact the world at home and in the developing world with the love and care of Christ.

CONDOLENCES



Condolences to the family of Rev. Art Hill on his passing.

THANK YOU

We want to thank everyone at the church for all the kindness that was shown to our family during the past few difficult months. I am finally starting to feel better and have been able to get out of the house for things other than doctor visits. Each week I feel stronger and heal more. Thank you does not seem sufficient in expressing our gratitude in all the support we received. We are forever thankful for all the prayers, cards, calls and to everyone that filled in at the preschool for me. Hollie and Chris Murphy & Family



I would like to thank my church friends and Pastor Lane for the calls, cards, and prayers while I was in the hospital. They meant so much. May God bless you all. Peg Stevenson

Dear Members of Grace Notes, Thank you for sharing your special music selection with our church last Sunday. There were many favorable comments afterwards and I want you to know how much I appreciate your contribution to our

service. (Our mutual friend Geoff Shultz would be so proud to know you are carrying on!) Thanks again, Janet Westberg

Dear Bonnie, Thanks to you and the "Grace Notes" for your part in our worship with one of my favorite songs. I certainly enjoyed it and I hope you come again. With Much Appreciation, Dorothy Borchert

Thank you to the FUMC church family for the support and prayers as we went to Indianapolis! It was a great week of being filled with the Spirit and serving others. Again we thank everyone for their support, love, and prayers!! Katie, Courtney, Taylor, Bailey, Paige & Pat

JULY WRITINGS...

No doubt, writing is a skill. Not only the carpentering of words, but also the physical "putting the pen to the paper." I often wonder what penmanship will look like as we continue to evolve in the texting age. I also wonder about our writing of sentences and their structure. The Apostle Paul was a prolific writer, with letter after

(Continued on page 5)

letter to the various early churches. Sometimes, with Paul's run-on sentences, I have to stop and re-read parts of those long sentences we find in Paul's letters. It is exciting to dig into the early accounts of what the Church was about and to see how freely the Holy Spirit moved in Paul's life, and in the lives of all the people of God's church. What a fresh and exciting time it was when every aspect of Church life was new.

As I listen to sump pumps run, and as I pray that the bent over corn and the debris-covered soybeans revive from our flooding streams, I think that in some ways, it would be nice to go back to those early Church days. It would be awesome to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in the same way the early believers experienced tongues of fire and speaking native languages. However, that is not possible for us. I am also afraid that they had just as many problems as we have in 2015. Paul wrote his letters usually when there were problems in the Church. That may be one reason that they speak so powerfully to us in Knoxville today. The faith of the church is shown in how we deal with our struggles.

It is in dealing with our struggles that we discover how close we are with our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the hearts of Christians today. Of course, we all have our struggles to work through. Like the rest of us, I am prayerfully concerned about the murder that our county is facing. Christ is our peace in the midst of the storms this life brings to us and it is the love of God in Christ that carries us through our situations. Praise be to God!

Paul's prayer for the church at Ephesus was that they be rooted and established in love, that they understand the love of Christ and to be filled with the fullness of God. Our Father is able and willing to do far more than that with us. Paul's prayer is also our prayer for today's church. The more we are filled with the love of Christ, the better we will be able to do the ministry and service that God desires the Church to do. Allow God's Holy Spirit to fill you with the love of Christ and serve one another in His love. Also, as we practice our writing skills, may the grace of Lord Jesus be with you all. Pastor Brent

Registration for VBS 2015

Child's Name _____

Age _____ Grade Completed _____ Birthdate _____

Friend to be grouped with _____

Parent(s)/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Emergency Contact _____

Allergies _____

For Church use:

Navigator Group _____

Group Leader _____

JULY 2015

Wednesday July 1, 2015

Noon Wings – Conf Rm
 1:00-3:00p NHN- Act Cntr
 7:30p Al-Anon – Act Cntr

Thursday July 2, 2015

10:00p Fall Planning Mtg – Conf Rm
 1:00p UMW Exec Mtg – EFH

Friday July 3, 2015

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

9:00a-4:00p Almost Free Shop
 Noon AA – Act Cntr

Saturday July 4, 2015

Heather's Birthday

COMMUNION
 FOOD DONATION
 5:30p Chapel Service

Sunday July 5, 2015

Katie's Birthday

COMMUNION
 FOOD DONATION
 8:30a Homebuilders Adult Sunday School

10:00-10:30a Children's Church
 10:30a Faith Forum Adult Sunday School – Music Rm
 10:45a Sunday School – Music Rm
 1:00-4:00p XI Alpha Tau Sorority Mtg – Act Cntr

Monday July 6, 2015

1:00-3:00p NHN – Act Cntr
 3:00-6:00p Almost Free Shop
 7:00p Junior Opt – YR

Tuesday July 7, 2015

7:00a Earlybirds – Hardees

9:00a-Noon Almost Free Shop
 9:30a Staff Mtg – Conf Rm
 6:00-8:00p Drama Camp – WFH & EFH
 7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Wednesday July 8, 2015

9:30a Naomi Circle – Homestead Assisted Living
 Noon Wings – Conf Rm

1:00-3:00p NHN- Act Cntr
 6:00-8:00p Drama Camp – WFH & EFH

6:00p Finance Mtg – Cnf Rm
 7:30p Board Mtg – Balcony Class Rm

7:30p Al-Anon – Act Cntr

Thursday July 9, 2015

6:00-8:00p Drama Camp – WFH & EFH

Friday July 10, 2015

9:00a-4:00p Almost Free Shop
 Noon AA – Act Cntr
 6:00-8:00p Drama Camp – Sanctuary & WFH & EFH

Saturday July 11, 2015

NEIGHBOR HELPING
 NEIGHBOR
 7:00a Methodist Men – Mr C's
 5:30p Chapel Service
 7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Sunday July 12, 2015

NEIGHBOR HELPING
 NEIGHBOR
 8:30a Homebuilders Adult Sunday School
 9:30a Worship

Service
 10:00-10:30a Children's Church
 10:30a Faith Forum Adult Sunday School
 10:45a Sunday School – Music Rm
 4:00-6:00p Youth Group – YR/WFH

Monday July 13, 2015

HEATHER OFF

1:00-3:00p NHN – Act Cntr
 7:00p Jr. Optimists – YR

6:00-7:30P Free Clinic – Act Cntr

Tuesday July 14, 2015

7:00a Earlybirds – Hardees

9:00a-Noon Almost Free Shop

9:30a Staff Mtg – Conf

7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Wednesday July 15, 2015

Noon Wings – Conf Rm

1:00-3:00p NHN- Act Cntr
 7:30p Al-Anon – Act Cntr

Thursday July 16, 2015

Friday July 17, 2015

9:00a-4:00p Almost Free Shop

Noon AA – Act Cntr

Saturday July 18, 2015

5:30p Chapel Service
 7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Sunday July 19, 2015

8:30a Homebuilders Adult Sunday School

9:30a Worship Service

10:00-10:30a Children's Church

10:30a Faith Forum
Adult
Sunday School
10:45a Sunday School
– Music Rm
11:30a-3:00p WFH Reserved
– WFH

Monday July 20, 2015

VBS

1:00-3:00p NHN – Act Cntr
3:00-6:00p Almost Free
Shop
5:30-6:00p VBS Meal –
WFH
6:00-8:30p VBS – Church
7:00p Junior Opt –
YR
7:30p Historical
Society Mtg –
Act Cntr

Tuesday July 21, 2015

VBS

7:00a Earlybirds –
Hardees
9:00a-Noon Almost Free
Shop
9:30a Staff Mtg –
Conf
5:30-6:00p VBS Meal –
WFH
6:00-8:30p VBS – Church
7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Wednesday July 22, 2015

VBS

Noon Wings – Conf
Rm
1:00-3:00p NHN- Act Cntr
5:30-6:00p VBS Meal –
WFH
6:00-8:30p VBS – Church
7:30p Al-Anon – Act
Cntr

Thursday July 23, 2015

1:30p Sarah Circle –
Knoxville
Rehab
1:30p Mary Circle –
EFH

Friday July 24, 2015

9:00a-4:00p Almost Free

Shop
Noon AA – Act Cntr

Saturday July 25, 2015

HEIFER PROJECT
5:30p Chapel Service
7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Sunday July 26, 2015

HEIFER PROJECT
SPECIAL MISSION
SUNDAY

8:30a Homebuilders
Adult Sunday
School

9:30a Worship
Service
10:00-10:30a Children's
Church

10:30a Faith Forum
Adult
Sunday School

10:45a Sunday School
– Music Rm

Monday July 27, 2015

HEATHER OFF

1:00-3:00p NHN – Act Cntr
3:00-6:00p Almost Free
Shop

6:00-9:00p Habitat for
Humanity Mtg
– EFH

6:00-7:30p Free Clinic –
Act Cntr
7:00p Junior Opt –
YR

Tuesday July 28, 2015

7:00a Earlybirds –
Hardees
9:00a-Noon Almost Free
Shop

9:30a Staff Meeting –
Conf Rm
7:30p AA – Act Cntr

Wednesday July 29, 2015
Noon Wings – Conf
Rm

1:00-3:00p NHN- Act Cntr
4:00-7:00p Back to School
Event –
Knoxville High
School

7:30p Commons
Al-Anon – Act
Cntr

Thursday July 30, 2015

Friday July 31, 2015

9:00a-4:00p Almost Free
Shop
Noon AA – Act Cntr

**JULY 2015
LECTIONARY SCRIPTURE**



July 4-5, 2015

2 Sam. 5:1-5, 9-10 Ps. 48
(UMH 782) 2 Cor. 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

July 11-12, 2015

2 Sam. 6:1-5, 12b-19 Ps. 24
(UMH 755) Eph. 1:3-14 Mark
6:14-29

July 18-19, 2015

2 Sam. 7:1-14a Ps. 89:20-37
(UMH 807) Eph. 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 25-26, 2015

2 Sam. 11:1-15 Ps. 14 (UMH
746) Eph. 3:14-21 John 6:1-
21

You are invited to First United
Methodist Church
For Vacation Bible School



Monday, July 20 through
Wednesday, July 22
6 pm to 8:30 pm

Dinner served each night from
5:30 until 6:00

Dress up events for the week:

Monday - Come as you are & bring
a Friend!

Tuesday- Crazy Hats

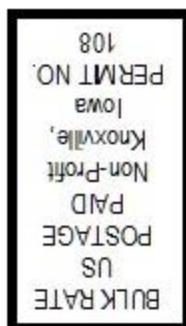
Wednesday- Silly Shades



Volunteers still needed!! We are still
in need of many volunteers,
especially crew leaders to take the
kids from station to station. If you
are available even one night
(July 20, 21, & 22) and would be
willing to help, please contact
Katie, Lori, or Heather.

Name
Address
City, State Zip

ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED



First United Methodist Church
313 E. Montgomery Street
Knoxville, IA 50138