



August 2011

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Dear Friends,

August is upon us – the final month of vacations, fairs, BBQs, and backyard fun before the kids head back to school. It is hard to believe that there are only a few more weeks left of summer! Whether you currently have little ones in your life or not, I'd like to ask you to think about what summer means to a child: swimming, fishing, picnics, bikes, fireworks, and chasing fireflies, to name a few. It also is a time that includes Bible Schools, mission trips, and camps, where many children learn about Christ for the first time and often commit their lives to the Lord. Perhaps you recall a time at a summertime church program or camp that changed your life in this way. As we move into the busy season of fall, my prayer for all of us – myself included – is that we can keep our faith like that of a child who is basking in the joy of summer.

My favorite example of childlike worship has to be Vacation Bible School. God blessed us immensely this year as 70 team members were able to minister to over 100 kids throughout the week. The Sanctuary was full each night of kids and adults alike, freely singing and dancing as we praised the Lord together, celebrating His WILD love for us. I want to keep that celebration going as summer ends. One of the best parts of serving children in ministry is that I am constantly inspired by them and reminded of how my heart should be open and uninhibited like a child's.

We have some great opportunities starting this fall to keep that excitement and enthusiasm of young faith burning. August 5th is our annual Splash Bash and Immersion Baptism Ceremony at the Altoona Aquatics Park. Call the church office if you'd like to have yourself or a family member take part in the baptism. Then beginning in September, 3rd graders will receive Bibles, Jr. High students will begin Confirmation, and Midweek and Sunday school programs will resume for the school year.

The main event of September will be the big Kids Fest 2011 Fall Kickoff with Geddy the Gecko. As a former "top twenty" nationally ranked professional mascot who has aired on NBC with Simon Cowell and Regis Philben and performed with various children's crusades and evangelists since 1995, John Mallory aka "Geddy the Gecko" will present the Gospel at AUMC in a high-energy performance for all ages. On September 11, there will be a presentation in both the 8:30 and 10:45 services, with a carnival beginning at 4:30 that day, followed by evening performances at 6:30 p.m. on September 11th – 13th. I encourage you to join us – you'll feel like a kid again! And when it comes to your faith, that's the best way to be!

In Christ,

Shelene Billups

Kids Fest 2011

September 11 -13 at 6:30 p.m.



Sunday, September 11

8:30 and 10:45 a.m. worship services
 4:30 p.m. Carnival
 6:30 p.m. Geddy the Gecko program

Monday, September 12

6:30 p.m. Geddy the Gecko program

Tuesday, September 13

6:30 p.m. Geddy the Gecko program



Kids Fest Carnival

Sunday, September 11 4:30—6:30 p.m.

*Games *Inflatables *Food *Clowns
 *Spin Art *and More!

Top Notcher News

Please Join Us At the Pizza Ranch!

Tuesday, August 9th at 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Paula Winslow, Master Gardener from Altoona. After her presentation, she will give us a guided tour of the Enabling Gardens behind the Hy-Vee store.



Two Day Fall Bus Tour on October 13th and 14th

Please make plans now to join us for this two day bus tour to the Oregon and

Dixon, Illinois area. Some of the things we will see and do while there are:

- White Pines Theater
- Chocolate Country
- Train Park
- Visit the huge "Black Hawk" statue
- Cruise on an authentic 102 foot paddlewheel boat while enjoying a delicious lunch complete with banjo music
- Ronald Reagan's birthplace
- John Deere historic site

After a full day of sight seeing the accommodation of the Comfort Inn will await you, complete with a full breakfast provided. If you would like to make your reservation now or for more information, please contact Joan Nolin at 515-967-2773 for full details. A \$50 per person deposit is due by August 5th with full payment by September 5th. Price is \$205 per person double, \$185 per person triple, and \$255 single. Please give all payments to Joan Nolin with checks made payable to Travelin' Rose Tours.

Meetings at a Glance

August 9th: 11:30 a.m. meet at Altoona Pizza Ranch (PLEASE notice change of restaurant). Guest speaker will be Paula Winslow, Master Gardener from Altoona.

September 13th: Local Mystery Tour. It is doubtful that many, if any of you, have taken this tour so come and learn what goes on "behind the scenes". Following the tour, we'll enjoy lunch at the Machine Shed in a private room.

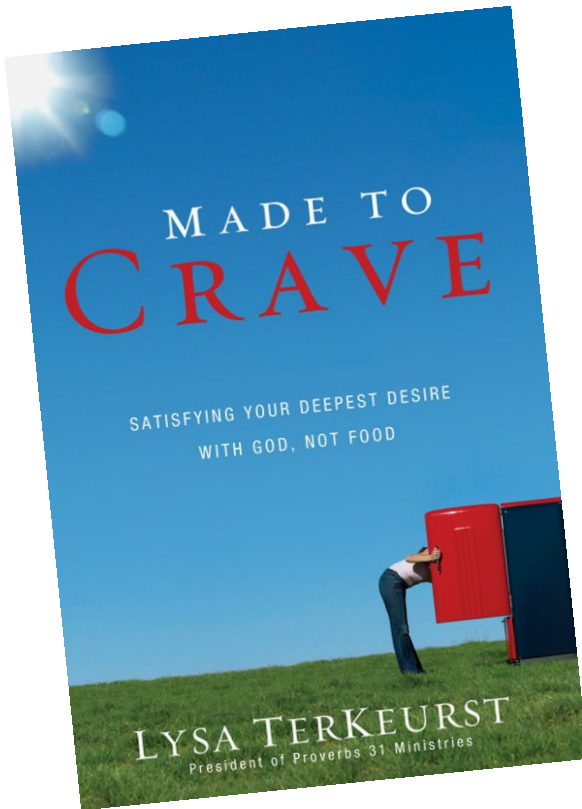
October 13-14th: Overnight Bus Trip to the Dixon, Illinois area. We will attend a log cabin theatre production in the pines, have a boat ride on the river, visit Ronald Reagan's boyhood home, plus much, much more! Full details will be forthcoming.

November 8th: Potluck in the Family Life Center with table service and coffee provided. Guest speaker will be Patrice Peterson-Keys from the Polk County DNR. She will speak on "Owls In Iowa" as well as bring a live owl with her. Donations of food and money will be collected for the local food pantry.

December 13th: Christmas potluck in the Family Life Center. Table service and coffee will be provided. Guest entertainers: Squeeze Box Ministries.

Who are the Top Notchers?

We are an active group comprised of 45-50 people who usually meet the second Tuesday of each month. We have guest speakers and entertainers, travel, and do service projects in the community. The group is open to all people in the community, ages 55 and over. New friends are always welcome. For further information, please call Joan Nolin, Director, 515-967-2773.



MADE TO CRAVE Women's Study is coming!!!!

Has food become more about frustration than fulfillment? **Made to Crave** is the missing link between a woman's desire to be healthy and the spiritual empowerment necessary to make that happen. Author **Lysa TerKeurst** personally understands the battle that women face. In **Made to Crave**, she will help you:

- * Break the cycle of "I'll start again on Monday," and feel good about yourself today.
- * Stop agonizing over numbers on the scale and make peace with your body.
- * Replace rationalization that leads to diet failure with wisdom that leads to victory.
- * Reach your healthy goals and grow closer to God through the process.

This book is not a how-to manual or the latest, greatest dieting plan. **Made to Crave** is a helpful companion to use alongside whatever healthy eating approach you choose — a book and Bible study to help you find the "want to" in how to make healthy lifestyle changes.

Join Lori Anderson as we embark on a 5 week study of *Made to Crave*! On Sunday afternoons from 2:00-3:30 p.m., August 21 – September 25, (taking Labor Day Sunday off) we will learn how to crave God more... and ourselves less.

Please register no later than August 11th by contacting Lori Anderson at loraae@yahoo.com or the church office to secure your \$9.00 study guide. Get ready for a new you!



If you or family member would like prayer support or a hospital visit, please fill out the prayer card or call the church office at 967-2991.



Chancel Choir's first meeting for Fall 2011 is Wednesday, August 24 at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. We will be revealing a few of the plans for the fall and Christmas season.

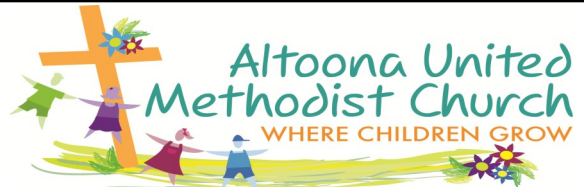


- August 5:** Splash Bash & Baptisms
- August 24:** Children's Ministry Team Mtg.
- September 7:** Midweek Family Social
- September 11:** Bible Presentation, Sunday School Open House, Confirmation Mtg
- September 11-13:** Kids Fest
- September 14:** Midweek KickOff
- September 18:** Sunday School Begins
- September 25:** Family Bike Hike & BBQ



Presentation of Bibles to 3rd Graders

Attention, Parents of incoming 3rd graders! We will be presenting Bibles to all 3rd graders on Sunday, September 11th. We do not want to miss anyone, if you would like your child to participate in the Bible presentation, please contact the church office at 967-2991 by Sunday, September 4th.



Ministry Team Meeting

Who: All children's ministry volunteers for 2011-'12
When: Wednesday, August 24 beginning at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Large Conference Room



June 26th—30th, we went WILD for God at PandaMania with 100+ kids and nearly 70 ministry team volunteers. Our God is awesome! The kids gave a love offering of \$138 toward our local and Latin America mission projects. We brought Psalm 139 to life at VBS!!!

THANK YOU
 for an outstanding VBS!



August Birthdays & Anniversaries

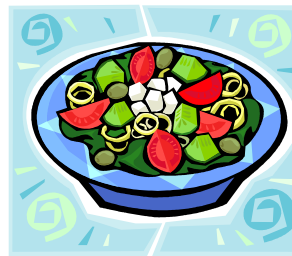
1. Mike & Amy McKibben
2. Isaac Schubert
3. Peyton Moreland
4. Jean Hanson, Jeremy & Signe Hinde
5. Natalie Catron
6. Steve & Char McLellan
7. Everett & Jeanette Stapp, Brian & Andi Cressey, Ross & Connie Ruggless
8. Bruce Bogaards, John Jones, Bob & Pam Sweeney
9. Tim Vlieger
10. Norma Marvin, Herb Phillips, MaryLou Granquist, Marian Collison, Chris & Tracy Gibson, Max & Beverly Bowman
11. Hannah Millard, Helen Phillips, Keith McGahuey, John & Tori Hanson
12. Jerry Carr, Phil & Coleen Sandquist
14. Devon Tekolste, Ron Wilson
15. Olivia Theilen
16. Jeanie Conkling, Courtney Bredlow, Deborah Ruggless, Marv & Mary Wood, Harvey & Jean Koch
17. Greg Hanson, Roger & Donna McKee
18. Paul Mahoney
19. Tracy Gibson, Axel Lybarger, Wayne & Teri Klyn, Ron & Bobbie Manock, Don & Phyllis Barkhaus, Dean & Shirley Rowley, John & Pam Lageman, Tom & Cheryl Smithson
20. Marv Wood, Ali Gibson, Todd Arendt
22. John Hanson, Carol Lockard, Missy Gaul
23. Audrey Dunn, Lincoln Russell
24. David Garrison, Lori Draude, Chad & Amy Kruse
25. Peggy Harmeyer, Pat Aldrich, Chloe Lundquist, Stacy & Deborah Ruggless
27. Joshua Hodges
28. Brianna Douglas, Barbara Rhodes, Dennis & Sharon Creveling
29. Morgan Maher, Dale Hartgraves, Rod & Judy Losh
30. Sophia Rathert, Norman Veldhuizen
31. Beverly Bowman

New Members & Baptism Classes



If you are interested in becoming a member of Altoona

United Methodist Church, our next new members class will be held Wednesday, August 31st and Wednesday, September 7th 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the chapel with the reception of new members on Sunday, September 11th. Please contact the church office at 967-2991 or sarahm@altoonaumc.org for more information or to sign up for these classes.



United Methodist Women Salad Supper

Mark your calendars for Thursday,

September 1st at 6:30 p.m. for the UMW Salad Supper. Please bring a salad to share. You won't want to miss this evening full of fun, food and fellowship.

The guest speaker will be Kathleen Deal.

All women are invited to attend. You don't have to belong to the UMW to attend.

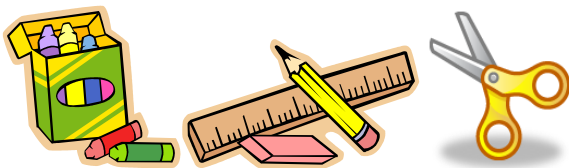
The Mission Committee is again collecting supplies to fill school bags and layette kits. There will be a container located at the Welcome Center to collect your purchases. If you would like the Missions Committee to make your purchases for you, please make your check to AUMC with "School Bag Supplies" or "Layette Kit Supplies" on the memo line. Please visit the Welcome Center in the narthex for donation envelopes.

Thanks to Ann Wilson Quilters of our church who have already sewn at least 100 school bags and other AUMC seamstresses who have sewn many jackets for the layette kits. **Thank you in advance for your purchases of any of the**

below listed supplies, financial gifts and time to make a difference in our world.

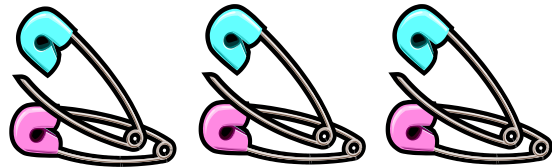
School Bag Supplies

- (3) 70 page wide ruled spiral or bound notebooks, 8.5x11
- (1) 30cm metric ruler
- (1) Box of 24 crayons (24 only)
- (1) 2.5" eraser
- (1) Blunt Scissors
- (1) Hand held pencil sharpener
- (3) Unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers



Layette Kit Supplies

- (6) Cloth diapers
- (2) Gowns or sleepers
- (2) Diaper Pins
- (2) Receiving Blankets
- (2) Shirts or Onesies
- (2) Baby Wash clothes



Registration begins August 1st to package meals on September 1-3 at Hy-Vee Hall. Time slots are 2 hour increments. Jane Burns is our church team leader and will be in the narthex to get you signed up or call the church office 967-2991 to get registered. This is a great way for small groups and families to participate and have fun at the same time.

Please remember to turn in your Meals from the Heartland coin bags by August 15th. Additional coin bags can be picked up at the Welcome Center in the narthex. For more information visit www.mealsfromtheheartland.org or by calling Jane Burns at 967-2991.