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Contact us

Phone: 515-967-2991
Fax: 515-957-8284

Pastor John Gaulke
 johng@altoonaumc.org

Shelene Billups
 Children's Ministry Director
 sheleneb@altoonaumc.org

Sarah Millard
 Administrative Assistant
 sarahm@altoonaumc.org

LeAnn Gaulke
 Director of Small Groups,
 Assimilation, & Youth Director
 leanngaulke@hotmail.com

Jane Burns
 Financial Manager
 janeb@altoonaumc.org

Steve McLellan
 Director of Creative Arts &
 Pastoral Care
 stevem@altoonaumc.org

Heather Mahoney
 Visual Arts Director
 heatherm@altoonaumc.org

Dear Friend,

Years ago, before malls, internet, and cable TV, Christmas wish lists were often formulated by young children laying in their beds while gazing at the Sears toy catalog. My three brothers and I literally wore that catalog out, scouring the pages in search of our perfect gift. When wrapped presents started arriving they were placed on top of the upright piano – out of the reach of inquiring hands – our excitement was building; after all, Christmas was all about us – what we would be getting – and it felt good.

Fast forward too many years – time has a way of changing us – maturing us. The excitement of opening presents on Christmas is still in my heart, but it's different now. For me, the joy begins as I watch my children open gifts that LeAnn and I have searched to find. The smiles and the words, "Just what I wanted," melt me every time. I believe that the reason giving warms our hearts is because it is a reflection of God's sacrificial gift to us – Jesus.

I believe this holiday season will truly be a season of joy at our church. The Turkey Mission Dinner is now a dinner that keeps on feeding. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 dollars so we can purchase food supplies to feed 50,000 people – yes, you read that right 50,000! 100% of the freewill offering we receive for the Turkey Mission Dinner will go to feed the hungry. On February 11th & 12th we will package the meals in the same room where we held the Turkey Mission Dinner – how cool is that! I encourage you to sign up to help and/or purchase supplies for this miracle meal. By participating in this meal, not only will your stomach swell from the great food, but your heart will as well because this year it is all about giving.

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It is also exciting to announce to you that on Sunday, November 6th we will have 300 Joy Boxes on the altar ready to be filled. A list of the needed items is enclosed in each box. All of these boxes are distributed through our local food pantry, Caring Hands, to hurting families in our area. They have had a record number of requests for food this year, and the Joy Boxes will be a special blessing to families in need during the Christmas season. Joy Boxes are perfectly named – they bring joy to the families that receive them, and they bring joy to the families that give them. Pray about how many Joy Boxes the Lord will lay on your heart to fill this year.

This year may we open God's gift of joy by giving to those in need.

Giving with you,

Pastor John

Stay Connected!

If you would like to receive our weekly updates via email, please go to the church website.

<http://www.altoonaumc.org>

Under the Resources tab, choose E-newsletter signup. Enter your email address when prompted, and you will begin to receive our weekly newsletters on Thursday afternoons in your email box!



Poinsettias

It is time to order poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service! The cost this year is \$8.00 per poinsettia. Envelope order forms are available at the Welcome Center. Please deposit a completed form with your payment in the designated box located at the Welcome Center. Please make checks payable to the church. You may pick up your poinsettia after the Christmas Eve service.

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide the altar flowers for a Sunday in 2012, please contact Sarah in the office at 967-2991 or sign up at the Welcome Center.

Top Notcher News

The Top Notchers Group had a wonderful trip to Illinois in October. The play, paddle wheel boat ride, food, historical sights, color, and fellowship were all just great! We will have a spring bus trip in May, and you will want to join us! Information will be forthcoming after the first of the year.



Our November 8th meeting is a potluck in the Family Life Center at noon. Table service and coffee will be furnished. The guest speaker will be Patrice

Petersen-Keys from the Polk County DNR. The topic is "Owls in Iowa," and a live owl will be part of the program. The Senior College of Greater Des Moines will also be speaking. The Hutzels and friends are hosting. Come join us for an informative and fun afternoon!

Meetings at a Glance

November 8th

Noon potluck
Family Life Center
Guest Speakers:
Patrice Peterson-Keys from Polk
County DNR and The Senior College
of Greater Des Moines
Hosts: Hutzels and friends
*Please bring food or a monetary
donation for the local food pantry

December 13th

Christmas potluck
Family Life Center
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.

Youth Scoop

Jr. & Sr. High School Teens

Sundays 5:30-7:00 pm

Family Life Center

Please bring \$2.00 for your meal.

“TO SAVE A LIFE”

Youth Group Study

November 6th and 20th



We will continue our study *To Save a Life* based on the movie released in theaters last year. We'll discuss what it looks like to reach out to the hurting in our schools and learn how important it is for all of us to encourage one another to keep living for God, even when it's tough.

Youth Group at a Glance

November 6th: *To Save a Life* study 5:30-7:00

November 12th: Service Project—Turkey Mission Dinner

November 13th: No Youth Group due to Turkey Mission Dinner service project

November 20th: *To Save a Life* study 5:30-7:00

November 27th: No Youth Group

November 12th—Service Project

Turkey Mission Dinner *Saturday, November 12th

100% of the donations received for the Turkey Mission Dinner will be used to purchase food for packaging meals here at the church for Meals from the Heartland. To help serve at the Turkey Mission Dinner, please look for the sign-up sheets posted online (www.altoonaumc.org) or at the Welcome Center.

Youth Group will not meet Sunday, November 13th or 27th.



Midweek News

We will *not* meet on
Wednesday, November 23



See you on the 30th!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for our 2011 Christmas Worship Celebration on Sunday, **December 18th** featuring Sunday School Children's Choirs (preschool - 6th Grade), and a live nativity. Attend Sunday School (9:40 a.m.) in November to participate!



Kids Can Help! Classroom Joy Boxes



Let's get the kids involved in our church-wide Joy Box mission project for Caring Hands Food Pantry! In each of the children's program classrooms beginning Nov. 6, there are designated donation tubs as well as a sign-up sheet listing each item to be included in the Joy Boxes. Please help your child sign up and participate in this important community outreach and mission opportunity! Donations are due to classrooms by December 4th. Thank you!



Turkey Mission Dinner

Sat, Nov 12

4:30-7:30 p.m.

The annual Turkey Mission Dinner will have a new twist this year! It was decided to present this event as a free will offering meal. In other words, tickets will be free but are required. You can pick up advance tickets now. Tickets will also be available the evening of the dinner up to the number of people that we know we can serve. Diners will be asked to make a donation that will go toward AUMC's sponsorship of a Meals from the Heartland February mobile packaging event.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Please consider helping on November 12. You can make a donation of time, food, supplies, or money to purchase turkeys and other groceries. Specific tasks are listed in the Narthex each Sunday through November 6th, or you may sign up online by going to the church website.

<http://www.altoonaumc.org>.

Roll making days are October 28 and 29. Please contact Tori Hanson TODAY at 967-6984 if you are interested in helping.



Do you make jewelry, paint, sew, crochet or knit? Could you make a themed gift basket or something else to donate to the SILENT AUCTION?

Our goal is to raise \$1,500 to give to United Methodist Missions. For more information, please contact Jane Burns at 967-2991.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- Take a packet of tickets to give to family and friends.
- Make a donation of food, supplies, or money. Bring grocery items to the church kitchen by Friday, November 11th so we are sure we have everything we need.
- Help set up and get organized Thursday and Friday night.
- Roast one or two turkeys. The turkeys WILL BE DELIVERED to your home on Tuesday or Wednesday evening. You will need to thaw, roast and return the COLD TURKEY to the church on Saturday morning, November 12th by 8 a.m.
- Work in the kitchen on Saturday preparing, serving, or cleaning up after the meal.

****Sign up for any of these opportunities in the Narthex on Sunday mornings.****

CARRY OUT IS AVAILABLE!

Remember shut-ins and loved ones that cannot make it to the dinner.

There will be a bake sale during the Turkey Mission Dinner. We need baked goods donated for this sale. Make your favorite cookies, cake, candy, bread, etc. to sell. Please pre-price your items and bring them to the Narthex by 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 12th. Proceeds will go to Caring Hands Food Pantry.



AUMC Missions

Ingathering Thank You

The Missions Committee would like to thank the congregation for its generosity in bringing items for Ingathering kits. With the help of many, our “in-kind” gifts for the Thanksgiving Ingathering totaled \$3,124. On November 5th, the Missions Committee will be delivering the following kits. For UMCOR: 95 school kits, 38 layette kits, 4 sewing kits, 75 baby jackets, and 39 school bags, and for the Iowa-Nigeria Project: 4 layette kits and 2 knitting kits.



Please join AUMC's Joy Box project by filling a box for a needy family in our community. 300 paper boxes have already been wrapped and will be available starting November 6th in the Sanctuary or at the Welcome Center. Once your box has been filled, please deliver it to the Welcome Center in the Narthex. The boxes will then be delivered to the Food Pantry. Please include the following items:

- (1) Women's Deodorant
- (1) Men's Deodorant
- 3 Pack Bar Soap
- Package of 3-5 Disposable Razors
- Hair Shampoo
- 4 Pack of Toilet Paper
- (2) 18.6 oz Cans of Chunky Chicken Noodle Soup
- (1) 38 oz Can of Beef Stew
- (1) Package of Oyster Crackers
- (2) 16 oz Packages of Spaghetti
- (2) 26.5 oz Cans of Spaghetti Sauce
- (2) 12 oz Cans of Tuna or Chicken
- (1) Package of Fun Size Candy bars
- 25 oz Bottle of Dish Soap (put in a plastic bag to prevent spills)
- 32 load/50 oz Non HE Laundry Detergent (put in a plastic bag to prevent spills)

***AUMC will provide a devotional and card for each box.**

UMW



Special Recognition Pins Awarded

At the September salad supper of UMW, special recognition pins were awarded to MaryLou Grandquist and Shelene Billups. Each year the UMW awards a pin to someone who has done a lot of mission work. Money is given to the mission work of the UMW in honor of the one receiving the pin. This year two were awarded. MaryLou was honored for her years of service on the Turkey Mission Dinner, and Shelene was awarded a pin for her work with children's ministry.

November Meeting

The November meeting will be November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. The programs will be given by Gwenn Norris and Sheryl Ebert. Sheryl will speak about the Thank Bank program. All women are welcome to join us at any time!

Please remember to bring your offering. Every time we are thankful for something throughout the year, money is put in a collection jar. This is then collected in November and sent to mission work.

The mission items we will be collecting this month are copy paper, toilet paper, and/or paper towels for New Directions at Hawthorne Hill Ministries in Des Moines.

Meetings for November

November 3rd
7:00 p.m.
Conference Room

Abigail Circle

November 15th
7:00 p.m.
Marla Carr's home

The Power of
Praying for Your
Adult Children

Martha Circle

November 17th
9:30 a.m.
AUMC

November

Birthdays & Anniversaries



1. Connie Jones, Katie Smithart
2. Gary Bos, Chris Sandquist
4. Atticus Palmer, Rick TeKolste, Steven Henn, Adam McCann, Roger McKee, Kylene Wentland
5. Sherry Schlundt, Jim Dunn, Brian & Amy Arpy
6. Cameron Draude, Janice Hartgraves
7. Betty Becker, Ryan & Christine Moreland
8. Rob Timmins
9. Travis Stout
10. Sheryl Zwaschka, Jerry Weber, Dennis Aldrich
11. Niki Rathert, Leona Jacobs
12. Sara Bennett, Samantha Forristall, Dean Rowley, Manya Phillips, Todd & Kris Arendt
13. John Gaulke, Maverick Harter, Riley Dickerson
14. Rosemary McClain, Norman & Sherry Veldhuizen
15. John & LeAnn Gaulke, Paul & Carrie Forristall
16. Nathaniel Malaise
17. Wayne Klyn, Aaron Decamp
18. Amber Schubert
19. Mike McElree, Amy Earhart, Nolan & Evelyn Long
20. Lori Tam
21. Katie Garrison, Grace Lundquist
22. Nicky Bos
23. Terry Coughlan, Judy Losh
24. Jaisa Boos, Kevin Snetselaar, Dan & Sheryl Dales
25. Marilyn Cowell, Craig Long, Jay & Amitie Keuning
26. Christopher Billups, Bonnie Gibson, Barb Cassler, Keith & Shirley Silver, Patrick & Marian Collison, Kevin & Tracy Snetselaar
27. John Bergeson, Tricia Chodur
28. Fern Harter, Dixie Hutzal, David & Sharon Robison
29. Larry & Dixie Hutzal, TJ & Jennifer Voss
30. Gary Dillow, Elijah Hanson, Lauren Schossow, Joseph Schossow, Scott & Michelle Sloan