



DISCIPLE EXPRESS

Vol. 24, No 8 August 2015 A Newsletter to Inspire and Celebrate Oakland United Methodists

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Worship Service Time:

10:00 Worship

11:00 Koinonia

11:15 Adult Sunday School

September thru Mothers' Day

9:00 Children's Sunday School

9:00 Choir Practice



July 4th Celebration—Parade and Worship Service in the Park



Merlin, Andrew & Veva & leading hymns during July 5th combined church worship in the park.



OUMC float—Best Over-All in parade!



Deb Kester of the Christian Church gave the message.

Pastor Charles Pleak from the Congregational UCC Church serving communion.

"We seek to grow in Christ and to share our love of God in Word and Deed."



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The theme of this year's Vacation Bible School Program was "Home-town Nazareth." The children had a great time learning and experiencing what life was like for Jesus growing up. They visited several marketplace shops such as the carpentry shop, the farmer's field, the dye shop, and the barnyard. They also visited Mary's House every day to hear stories about Jesus.

The children were encouraged to think about ways God is active in our everyday lives, like in a laugh, a kind word, or a tasty snack. We call those things God Sightings.

In ancient Nazareth, a large flock of sheep was a sign of wealth or blessing. A pasture was created on a wall in Fellowship Hall. God Sightings were written on paper sheep and then hung on the pasture wall for all to see the evidence of God in our world today. The God Sightings are a visual reminder of the bountiful blessings God continues to pour out on us today and the ways that God still "shows up" in our lives.

I thought maybe you would enjoy reading what the children saw as evidence of God in their lives. They are listed below:

- kitty cats
- the sky
- Jesus
- hugs
- flips in the pool
- dogs
- babies
- food
- tree sap
- sunset
- worms
- on the 1st day of school
- when you drop something and pick it up before it hits the floor
- cool breeze
- root beer floats
- VBS songs
- birds singing
- seeing real lambs
- seashells

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- being alone, but not feeling lonely
- deer in the cornfield
- tractors
- when the sky is really dark and the sun pops out right in the middle
- shooting star
- flowers
- the cross
- when I pray
- when the water brushed on me
- riding bikes
- church
- clouds
- family
- during bad weather
- when I'm sad
- when I'm happy
- playing outside

What about you? What would you add to the list? We encourage you to "watch for God," too. You might even want to make your own pasture of sheep!

And All God's Children Said,

"Amen."

Pastor Karen



Pastor Karen will be on vacation August 10th thru 20th. While she is gone Pastor Brody Tubaugh will be available for any emergencies. Carson UMC phone #712-484-2247.



BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY

The children are encouraged to bring their backpacks to church on Sunday, August 23. Pastor Karen will pray a blessing for the backpacks and the children as they begin a new school year.



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Administrative Board Minutes **OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH** Wednesday, June 17, 2015

Members Present: Bernie and Norma Bolton, Skip Applegate, Pastor Karen Hoff, Veva Larson, Lyle Bentley, Dick and Louise Merkle.

Bernie Bolton called the meeting to order and Pastor Karen opened with prayer.

Secretary's Report was read. Norma moved to approve, Skip seconded. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report was discussed. Skip moved to approve, and Lyle seconded. Motion approved.

Staff-Parish Relations Team: Pastor Karen will talk to Dick Kates about the dead trees in the garden.

Pastor's Report: Karen reviewed her calendar for the coming month.

Tasty Tuesday will be June 30th. There will be a community worship service in the park July 5th.

Ministry Team Reports:

Adult Education: Kristy Rieken will start a 9 a.m.

Blessings Sunday School class in August.

Memorials: Lyle showed us a quote for \$19,598.38 for window and door replacement. We have \$484.00 in the elevator fund. He can find funding in the Memorials for the 150 years Memorial Book.

Old Business:

Karen has invited past pastors to return and share memories on September 13, 20, 27. No responses.

4th of July Float—Lyle can furnish the trolley. Discussion of theme and décor followed. Riders are needed. Lyle has the old Methodist Church sign that we might be able to use on the float.

150 year celebration—Jean Hart knows of a music group we might ask to entertain us. We could also ask "Reconciled"—Mike Harvey group. There is a gospel quartet in Council Bluffs.

New Business:

Closet Space for banner hanging. Memorial money can pay for materials. Robin and Trevor will make the closet. Dick moved to allow, Skip approved. Motion carried.

The Gazebo needs repairs from vandalism. Authorities have been notified.

East Window Repair. The trustees need to look at this with Dick Kates and decide method of fixing. Lyle moved and Dick Merkle seconded to authorize whatever work needs to be done. Motion carried.

The Bishop's mission project for the year is **Change a Child's story**. Churches are encouraged to collect monies for NEW books for children and develop a formal reading program of volunteers to read to lower elementary children. The school's Back Pack Program and Food Pantry would be good ways to get books to the children that need them most.

Lyle moved that we **adjourn the meeting**. Meeting Adjourned.

Our next meeting will be Thursday July 30, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting closed with prayer.

Veva Larson, Board Secretary

150th Anniversary—Help us celebrate.

Help us celebrate 150 years of Praise, Blessings and Worship during the month of September.

September 13th, 20th and 27th during our 10 a.m. worship service.

Adult Study to start August 9th

As life becomes full of activities and obligations, conversations with those closest to us often falter. Perhaps there have been occasions when you have felt you would like to go back and redo or resay something to someone. Maybe you remained quiet for fear of saying or doing the wrong thing at other times.

Starting August 9th, you are invited to participate in a 6 week DVD/book study group to learn how to give the gift of unconditional love and acceptance. Topics covered include: It's your choice to bless, the power of your touch, the most valuable word you'll ever say, picturing a future and a hope, when you've missed the blessing, and bringing the blessing home and beyond. We will meet at 9:15, Sunday, August 9th; the group will decide when to meet for following sessions

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Our deepest condolences for Richard, Joan, family and friends of Troy Shanno. Also to Joretta Johnson, family and friends of Jim Johnson. And to the family of Carl Stempel.



Community Meal

A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP

Bring a friend
Come join us for a light meal.

August 25th

5:30 p.m.

Last Tuesday of the month



**7th/8th and 9th-12th
Ecumenical Youth Groups
Begin on Wednesday,
September 2**

Youth in grades 7th -12th are invited to come to the Oakland UMC on Wednesday, September 2nd at 6:30pm for our first youth group this school year. We will eat supper at 6:30pm (please bring \$1.00 for the meal). Following the meal we will have a time of fellowship and fun. We will end at 7:45pm.

The youth groups will meet most Wednesdays, with a few exceptions.

We look forward to seeing you on September 2nd!
And as always, you can bring a friend!

THANK YOU'S

**Vacation Bible
School 2015**

Special thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make VBS such a success. It takes many hands to provide such a ministry. We are grateful for all of the ways you have helped, whether that be giving of your time, talents, and/or resources. Thank you to all the parents for sharing your children with us. It has been a joy to be able to share the love of Jesus with your children. We have been blessed!



College Addresses

If you have a student heading to college and they do not receive this newsletter, please forward their address to us. We would love to keep in touch. Or if they will have a change of address please let us know

August Calendar of Events

Sat, 1st 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
Sun, 2nd 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Sun, 9th 9:15 a.m. Adult Study
10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
10th-19th Pastor Karen on vacation
Sun, 16th 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Sun, 23rd 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
Tue, 25th 5:30 p.m. Community Supper
Sun, 30th 10:00 a.m. Worship
11:00 a.m. Koinonia
6:30 p.m. All Church Birthday Party

August Birthdays

1 Lorraine Hackett
1 Janelle Schnack
1 Trae Colvin
2 Anita McMartin
4 Joan Bartlett
4 Peggy Henry
4 Gia Jacobsen
6 Sharon Jones
6 Karalyn Stott
10 Anna Hildebrand
11 Carolyn Clark
11 Lynn Grobe
11 Jodi Gute
11 Shea Anderson
12 Dianne White
13 Jody Danker
15 Sherri Blanchard
15 Melinda Thompson
18 Anna Duhachek
19 Conner Rankin
20 Lori Nisley
21 Mychal Cleaveland
22 Mischa Martens
22 Lauren Schueman
25 Reese Gute
26 Aaron Ehmke
28 Meg Haines
28 Mattie Haines
31 Robert Pitt



Letters to the Pastor

Dear Pastor, I would like to go to heaven someday because I know my brother won't be there. Stephen. Age 8, Chicago

Dear Pastor, I know God loves everybody but He never met my sister. Yours sincerely, Arnold. Age 8, Nashville.

Dear Pastor, Please say in your sermon that Peter Peterson has been a good boy all week. I am Peter Peterson. Sincerely, Pete. Age 9, Phoenix

Dear Pastor, My father should be a minister. Every day he gives us a sermon about something. Robert Anderson, age 11

Dear Pastor, I'm sorry I can't leave more money in the plate, but my father didn't give me a raise in my allowance. Could you have a sermon about a raise in my allowance? Love, Patty. Age 10, New Haven

Dear Pastor, My mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette. Age 9, Albany

Dear Pastor, I think a lot more people would come to your church if you moved it to Disneyland. Loreen. Age 9. Tacoma



BIRTHDAY BANNANZA!

All-Church Birthday Party

August 30th

6:30 p.m.

Everyone has a birthday! Let's all celebrate together. The All-Church Birthday Party is August 30th at 6:30 p.m. There will be ice cream and cake, and pretty table decorations.

But we need volunteers to make cakes (decorated or undecorated) and to decorate the tables. All months will be represented together. You can decorate a cake or table for a specific month but not necessary. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the office to make arrangements.

But don't forget Tasty Tuesday, Community Meal. August 25th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (The last Tuesday of every month.)

GODLY HUMOR

How To Get To Heaven

A teacher asked the children in her Sunday School class, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would I get into heaven?"

"NO!" the children all answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would I get into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "NO!"

"Well," she continued, "then how can I get to heaven?"

In the back of the room, a five-year-old boy shouted out, "You gotta be dead!"

The Fatted Calf

Over at Fortitude Holiness Tabernacle, Dexter Rice, the Sunday School teacher, was telling his class the story of the Prodigal Son. Wishing to emphasize the resentful attitude of the elder brother, he laid stress on this part of the parable.

After describing the rejoicing of the household over the return of the wayward son, Dexter spoke of one who, in the midst of the festivities, failed to share in the jubilant spirit of the occasion. "Can anybody in the class," he asked, "tell me who this was?"

Nine year old Olivia Crombie had been listening sympathetically to the story. She waved her hand in the air. "I know!" she said beamingly. "It was the fatted calf."

Letters to the Pastor

Dear Pastor, I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money but I still want a raise in my allowance. Sincerely, Eleanor. Age 12, Sarasota

Dear Pastor, Please pray for all the airline pilots. I am flying to California tomorrow. Laurie. Age 10, New York City

Dear Pastor, I hope to go to heaven someday but later than sooner. Love, Ellen. Age 9, Athens

Dear Pastor, Please say a prayer for our Little League team. We need God's help or a new pitcher. Thank you. Alexander. Age 10, Raleigh

Dear Pastor, Who does God pray to? Is there a God for God? Sincerely, Christopher. Age 9, Titusville

Dear Pastor, How does God know the good people from the bad people? Do you tell Him or does He read about it in the newspapers? Sincerely, Marie. Age 9, Lewiston

Daily Bible Readings

1 Exodus 1.1-22

2 Exodus 2.1-25

3 Exodus 3.1-22

4 Exodus 4.1-31

5 Exodus 5.1—6.1

6 Exodus 6.2-27

7 Exodus 6.28—7.13

8 Exodus 11.1-10

9 Exodus 12.1-28

10 Exodus 12.29-51

11 Exodus 13.1-22

12 Exodus 14.1-31

13 Exodus 15.1-27

14 Exodus 16.1-36

15 Exodus 19.1-25

16 Exodus 20.1-21

17 Exodus 33.1-23

18 Exodus 34.1-35

19 Leviticus 19.1-18

20 Numbers 9.1-23

21 Deuteronomy 31.1-29

22 Deuteronomy 34.1-12

23 Joshua 1.1-18

24 Joshua 2.1-24

25 Joshua 3.1-17

26 Joshua 4.1-24

27 Judges 4.1-24

28 Judges 5.1-31

29 Deuteronomy 7.1-26

30 Deuteronomy 8.1-20

31 Deuteronomy 11.1-32

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NURSERY

VOLUNTEERS

- 2nd Carrie Bane
- 9th Kyra Martens
- 16th Sheila Applegate
- 23rd Gloria Gleaves
- 30th Norma Bolton



Oakland Manor

- Margaret Alff
- Audrey Hartje
- Lucille Bentley
- Erma Cleaveland
- Joan Turner



Oakland Heights

- Janice Harris
- Pat Burgett
- Neunia Timberman
- Anita Killion

USHERS,

GREETERS,

CANDLELIGHTERS

Ushers & Greeters



- 2nd Terry & Cyndy Haines
- Marvin & Carolyn Clark

Candle lighters

Aiden Bell & J J Wilson

- 9th Lyle and Peggy Bentley
- Craig & Lisa Hummel

Candle lighters

Camryn & Allyee Pierson

- 16th Dave Applegate & Andrew Jones
- Paul & Debbie Rollins

Candle lighters

Emma & Aaron Ehmke

- 23rd Dana & Tami Palmer
- Terry & Amy Gleaves

Candle lighters

Claire Harris & Eric Duhachek

- 30th Grant & Alison Henry
- Sid & Tami Skank

Candle lighters

Calvin Duhachek & Kyler Rieken

ACOLYTES



KOINONIA

- 2nd Lucia & Sandy
- 9th _____
- 16th Gloria G
- 23rd Mary W, Mary Lou, Nichole K
- 30th Terry & Cyndy



Coffee Fellowship

Pray for Our Military Family



Kristie Copenhaver, John & Mary Lou Copenhaver's daughter; **Jared Myers**, son of Robert Myers and Sid & Tami Skank; **Sonja Husz**, Niece of Butch & Velda Husz; **Lucas Smith**, Addie Mae's grandson; **Brian Thornton** from Avoca; **Tyler Clark**, Marvin & Carolyn Clark's grandson; **Brad Grosvenor**, Cathey Grosvenor's son stateside, and other area service men and women. **Landen Pedersen**, son of Tab and Lorie Pederson

If you have a loved one in the service and wish to have them listed on our prayer list, please contact the church office.



July Trivia Answers

1. Who was famous as an eater of locust? *Matthew 3: John the Baptist*
2. What four faithful young men refused to eat the rich foods of the king of Babylon? *Daniel 1: 3-16 Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, & Abednego*
3. Who traded his bread-and-lentil stew for his brother's birthright? *Genesis 25: 29-34 Jacob*
4. Who had a baker who made pastries for him? *Genesis 40: 16-17 The pharaoh of Joseph's time*
5. What incident in David's life caused people to bring him all manner of foods to eat? *2 Samuel 17: 22-29 His flight from the rebellious Absalom*
6. According to the law, what was the Passover meal to be composed of? *Exodus 12: 3-10 A cooked lamb, unleavened bread, and bitter herbs*
7. What old man was deceived when his son dressed in goatskin gloves and presented him with a meal of cooked goat? *Genesis 27: 14-18 Isaac*
8. Who served cheese, milk, and veal to the Lord when he made his appearance in the form of three men? *Genesis 18: 1-18 Abraham*
9. What did Ezekiel's edible scroll taste like in his mouth? *Ezekiel 3: 3 Honey*
10. What judge of Israel cooked an angel a meal that included a pot of broth? *Judges 6: 19 Gideon*

August Trivia with Hints

From *The Complete Book of Bible Trivia* by

J. Stephen Lang

Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. Copyright 1988

1. In what book of the Bible is Canaan first described as a land flowing with milk and honey?-
2. What prized animal was killed for food when the Prodigal Son returned home? *Luke 15*
3. In what country did the Hebrews feed on cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic? *Numbers 11*
4. When Jacob's sons made a second trip to Egypt, what food did they bring with them as a gift for Joseph? *Genesis 43*
5. What prophet, who was a herdsman and fruit picker by trade, had a vision of a basket of ripe fruit? *Amos 8*
6. Who ate honey out of a lion's carcass? *Judges 14*
7. What miraculous food resembled coriander seed? *Exodus 16*
8. What prophet purified some deadly stew and a water supply? *2 Kings 2 & 4*
9. Who ate a book that tasted like honey? *Ezekiel 2 & 3*
10. According to Jeremiah, what kind of grape sets the children's teeth on edge? *Jeremiah 31*

Sad but True

Unfortunately many homes, yes even so-called Christian homes, are like the one in which the little girl pointed to the Bible on the mantle that was never opened, and said to her mother, "Whose book is that?"

Her mother quite startled by her daughters question replied, "Why honey, don't you know? That is God's book!"

The child demonstrating that she had a very practical turn to her mind said, "Don't you think that we had better give it back to him? No one around here ever reads it."

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See us at:

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[Facebook.com/oakiamethchurch](https://www.facebook.com/oakiamethchurch)

Vacation Bible School program
Thursday night, July 23rd, wearing their
tie-dyed t-shirts.