

Hello everyone! Happy 2019!

It seems so very early to begin thinking of Easter, but practices are approaching! I sure hope you all find time to share your talents again this year. It takes so much time and work, but it is such a joy in the end to share God's greatest story of all time with each other and our communities! I so appreciate being a part of this, sharing time with all of you! We are so blessed to be given the opportunity to come together!

This year's Cantata is "Lead Me to the Cross; The Road to Easter" and it's my turn to direct! It is arranged and orchestrated by David T. Clydesdale and it is beautiful! You can listen to it at this site: <https://brentwoodbenson.com/Choral/Easter/Lead-Me-to-the-Cross/0021H051A0AF> The first song does have some pretty 'up in the trees' notes, which we can easily get around if they're too high sopranos, don't let that scare you off!

Practices will begin Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at St. Paul UMC in LPC, tentatively at 4:00. We will alternate locations as we have done in the past.

I would like to have a good concept of how many will commit to being a part of this so books can be ordered, so if you wouldn't mind letting me know if you're in or not and what part you prefer to sing, I sure would appreciate it. And, please let me know if you would like a parts CD. You can contact me using any/all of the information below. We also have a FB page under 'Cantata Group'. If you have email, let me know your email address. If you prefer texts, let me know your cell number and I'll add that information as well. If you are on FB, add me as a friend and I will add you to the group! I will communicate through all avenues so that we can stay in touch!

I encourage you to take a listen to it; it is a beautifully-written version of the Easter story, narrated by Mary, Thomas and Cleopas that weaves together their perspectives to tell of Christ's great sacrifice.

And, invite everyone to join us; we all know the great joy we feel being a part of this yearly tradition!

Thanks, looking forward to this!

Peg

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## *Thoughts from your Lay Leader*

Here we are once again into the second month of the new year, 2019!

My hope is that everyone had a safe and blessed Christmas with family and friends.

"Help me, Lord to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church...nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Thy Presence". This quote comes from Susanna Wesley (Mother of John Wesley).

Our church is more than just a building, the church is a place to belong and feel welcome. It's a family of believers, brothers and sisters in the Lord, who imperfect as they are, seek to love, forgive, connect, and serve together. Prayer is an important part of this, if you are not sure how to lift up prayers of praise, our prayers don't have to be perfect. God considers the attitude of the heart. When your intention is to honor Him He is pleased. I want to close with this scripture from Romans 8: 38-39.

*For I am convinced that either death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

My blessings to my church family, Cindy Morse



## Outreach Opportunities

The Prayer of Jabez was studied and prayed by many a few years ago. It started, Bless me, O Lord, and enlarge my territory." Our congregation is truly blessed and has become such a blessing to others. Our territory has been local, Iowa, National, International, and special emphasis on Hunger and Relief. See the listing that was sent to the Conference.

Now as we start 2019 we will again be handing out grocery bags in February. The label will tell needed items. These will be given to our local food pantry and to the Salvation Army Men's Shelter in Waterloo. The bags will be distributed on February 3. We ask that you return them on the 10th or 17th. Thank you for your generous heart.

The Outreach committee will be making Valentines for local members at our meeting on February 5, If you would like to help, come at 6:00. If you know of members that need to be remembered, please let Colleen know.

The Christmas Offering had \$659.00 for Women at the Well, \$659.00 for KNWS, and \$659.26 plus 207.61 from the children's quarter collection for Heifer Project. May God continue to bless you.

### Outreach Committee

## Outreach Giving in 2018

First Mile - Conference Missions	6323.00
Second Mile (The goal is \$1 per member, except see Hunger.)	
Special Sundays	
World Wide Communion	125.00
World Communion Sunday	105.33
Human Relations Day	70.00
OGHS (UMCOR)	150.00
Iowa Annual Conference Parish Development	
Women at the Well #305	557.00
Iowa Annual Conference	
Bidwell Riverside #209	568.00
	250.00
World Hunger and Poverty (They ask \$6 per member.)	
Heifer 982532	577.44
Feed My Starving Children	1,178.00
Operation Shoebox (@12)	1,212.00
Shipping	909.00
UM Committee on Relief	
Disaster Response 901670	568.00
136 School Bags	1,164.00
Shipping	272.00

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### United States

Henderson Settlement 77365 577.44

### World

Kelly's Water 250.00  
Malawi Orphanage 200.00  
Thailand Orphanage 700.00

### Third Mile

Missionary  
Larry Kies in Africa from Jesup 500.00

### Local and Institutional

House of Hope 500.00  
Clothing (675 items) 2,025.00  
Heart Walk 100.00  
Kelly's College 2,960.00  
Jake Wilson search 108.58  
Cancer Association 446.00  
New Life Church  
Marshalltown Tornado 300.00  
Salvation Army  
Marshalltown Tornado 300.00  
After Prom 50.00  
Back pack 2,839.63  
Sing Me to Heaven 250.00  
Family emergency 200.00  
Kleenex for nursing home 66.25  
Gift Cards at Thriftway 150.00  
Hunger Blitz 270.00  
Family emergency 250.00  
Christmas Gifts for 27 540.00  
Ronald McDonald house 63.50  
Peanut Butter 92 276.00  
Food Pantry 240.00  
Children's books 53x2 106.00



### Education Calendar of Events

**Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>:** Valentine's Day, Extra HUGs for your child(ren)!!

**Sunday, February 24<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Choir sings at Church service (10:00)

**Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>:** Children's Choir sings at Church service (10:00)

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>:** "Senior Sunday" (recognize our seniors)

**EASTER Sunday, April 21:** NO Sunday School

**EASTER Cantata Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>:** NO Children's choir singing

**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>:** Confirmation Sunday



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

“We love because He first loved us.” February is the month when we take a little extra time to make sure everyone who is special to us knows it. Maybe it will be a special Valentine Card or a special gift. Sometimes the best gift we can give is our time. Spending quality time with your special someone or someone’s can be the best gift ever. Perhaps you have a friend or relative you haven’t spoken to in a while. Call them up and spend some time with them if possible.

Pastor Charles Stanley expresses God’s love and the Fruit of the Spirit this way.

*JOY IS LOVE ENJOYING.*

*PEACE IS LOVE RESTING.*

*PATIENCE (OR LONG SUFFERING) IS LOVE WAITING.*

*KINDNESS IS LOVE REACTING.*

*GOODNESS IS LOVE CHOOSING.*

*FAITHFULNESS IS LOVE KEEPING ITS WORD.*

*GENTLENESS IS LOVE BEING ABLE TO EMPATHIZE.*

*SELF CONTROL IS LOVE BEING IN CHARGE.*



### **Our Mission Giving for 2018 is as follows.**

District UMW Giving	\$1,339.00
Bidwell Riverside	250.00
Educational Support for Kelly Ngwira	250.00
House of Hope	250.00
Scholarship for local high school senior	250.00
Shoe Box Ministries postage	200.00
Sing Me to Heaven	25.00
World Day of Prayer	28.00
School Bag Supplies	43.63

Our Bible Verse for February is found in 1 Corinthians 13:3.

*“Three things will last forever-faith, hope, and love- and the greatest of these is love.”*

Celebrate the “Love Month”, celebrate God’s Love!

Pat and Charlene

### **JANUARY REVIEW**

Date	General Budget
December 30	\$5,852.00
January 6	\$2,920/00
January 13	\$1,558.00
January 20	\$2,812.00
January 27	\$1,455.00
Needed monthly:	\$13,352.00



# February

Sunday	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Fitness @ 8 am
3 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship 10 am	4 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	5 Outreach 5:30 pm  Trustees 7 pm	6 Prayer 9:30 Chimes 4:15 pm Jubilation! 5 pm Finance Mtg. 6:30 pm Education Mtg. 7 pm	7 Fitness @ 6 pm	8	9 Fitness @ 8 am
10 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am	11 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	12 Council 6:30 pm	13 Prayer 9:30 Chimes 4:15 pm Jubilation! 5 pm	14 Fitness @ 6 pm	15	16 Fitness @ 8 am
17 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am	18 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	19	20 Peace Circle 9 am Prayer 9:30 am Chimes 4:15 pm Choir 5 pm	21 Fitness @ 6 pm	22	23 Fitness @ 8 am
24 Sunday School 8:45 am Worship Service 10 am	25 Office Closed Fitness @ 6 pm Shawl Ministry 7 pm	26 Meekness 7:00 pm	27 Chimes 4:15 pm  Choir 5:00 pm	28 Fitness @ 6 pm		

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# NEWSLETTER