

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ



“SUMMIT SPARKS”

June, 2017

563-582-5661

Website: www.summitucc.org

Summit Congregational United Church of Christ
2885 J. F. Kennedy Rd.
Dubuque, Iowa, 52002-1081

summit calendar Jun 2017 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9 am - Adult Bible 10 am - Worship	29	30 8 am - Pastor's 7 pm - Barbershoppe	31	1	2	3
4 9 am - Adult Bible 10 am - Worship	5 9 am - Pastor's	6 7 pm - Barbershoppe	7	8	9	10
11 9 am - Adult Bible 10 am - Worship	12 9 am - Pastor's 10 am - Diaconate 1:30pm - Trustees	13 7 pm - Barbershoppe	14 5:30pm - Campfire	15 10 am - Women's	16	17
18 9 am - Adult Bible 9 am - O/M/E 10 am - Food Pantry 10 am - Worship	19 9 am - Pastor's 10:30am - Christian 6:30pm - Council	20 7 pm - Barbershoppe	21	22	23	24 CJ Adams 95th
25 9 am - Adult Bible 10 am - Worship	26 9 am - Pastor's	27 7 pm - Barbershoppe	28	29	30	1

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.***

Today as I write this, I give thanks to God for having been blessed by the witness of what it means to “*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*” through the Life of Gilo Gora Agwa and his family. Today, May 27, 2017 Gilo will be ordained as a minister in the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America in Stillwater, MN. In the Fall of 2014 through the Spring of 2015 we were blessed to be a part of that journey as Gilo served as our student pastor. Yes, we were a part of God’s plan to help equip him for the ministry into which God was calling Gilo, but in that equipping we too received many blessings.

While Gilo was with us, he showed us what it was to truly live out one’s faith no matter the circumstances. He showed us what it was to suffer as a servant of God. The suffering he taught us was not of that of suffering unjustly at the hands of a corrupt government who chose to take lands from the native people and sell them to others who would not share the land with the native people. Like Jesus, no matter the cost, he stood up against those injustices so as it says in Isaiah “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners” When his life was threatened, though Abraham’s life was not threatened, like Abraham he went freely where God led him and trusted that God would provide and guide always.

Though he was an ordained minister in his home land, that ordained status did not transfer to the United States where God had led him. But that did not stop him from following God’s call on his life, nor did the move from his native land keep him from fighting for the people still suffering unjustly as he exposed the injustices to a wider community and continued to work with the church back home. He shared how the church was seeking to not only provide for the needs for those suffering but to get people to work together for a common cause and attack a problem rather than each other.

Gilo did not let persecution, the language barrier, poverty, and the many other obstacles that were thrown his way stop him from pressing toward the goal not only for ordination but more importantly life in Jesus’ name. Where others may have perceived scarcity, he found abundance. In his sermon “Pressing toward the Goal” Gilo shared that we must live our lives differently every day and not just on the day of the race. He also shared these thoughts, “*Paul understood there were many issues that tested Christians ... from their spiritual life, and all challenges, which may push them out and result in disqualification from their faith in Christ.*

... Christians press towards the goal of Christian living and hope in God even when it is difficult to go forward too. ... in worldly race, only the first arrival may get the gold medal, but in Christian race; all who run, and press towards the goal, and reach to the destination, get the same prize. That prize is the heavenly crown of life that we all get from God, that we see the glimpse of it now, but the rest is yet to come as promised by Christ.

You may accidently fall down several times, but if you rise up again and continue your race, the crown is yours. If you drop out, and rejoin the race at the right time, you can get the same prize too. ... “do not give-up running” press towards the goal, by practicing Christian life. ... We can encourage each other to run the race together, but we do not drop out and watch others passing by--- that is not the race, we do it all together. When we cried out in prayer for the health of our brothers and sisters, it is because we want to run this part of race together and Christ is with us. We are not alone.

Brothers and sister, here is the good news, we are not alone, know that while we are on this race, God is with us as the Scripture says, (Isa 41:10), “do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” God is watching over us in our entire race.”

As we celebrate with Gilo, may we also keep pressing toward the goal of life in Jesus Christ each and every day of our lives, both trusting in God and encouraging one another along the way as we share in God’s plan of salvation.

Blessings,

Pastor Karen

Save the Date

In the spirit of the early church who not only worshiped together but ate together, please join us and invite a friend for

Campfire Worship



Wednesday June 14, 2017 5:30 p.m. - @ 8:30 p.m.

5:30 p.m. Words of Welcome and sharing the Story of Jonah through story telling.

Next: Potluck Supper – Brats, Hot Dogs, Juice and Water Provided as well as table ware and S’mores for around the campfire later on. You are invited to bring a dish to share but it is not required.

Next: Various Crafts and Activities (inside and outside) for people of all ages to dig deeper into the story of Jonah.

Next: Retelling of the Story of Jonah, A Time of Prayer, Transitioning into Singing and S’mores around the campfire along with just enjoying the outdoors together.

Feel free to bring your own lawn chair or use a chair from the church

<p>JUNE BIRTHDAYS:</p> <p>4th Steffany King Sarah Tayloe</p> <p>5th Nancy Weiss</p> <p>6th Sanders Cox</p> <p>7th Chester Kamm</p> <p>9th Amy Herber</p>	<p>15th Neil Lawver</p> <p>17th Don Kubitz</p> <p>20th Katie Hansen</p> <p>29th John Kass</p> <p>30th DeEtta Mae Bode</p> <p>JUNE ANNIVERSARIES:</p> <p>21st Dianne & Richard Grace</p>
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Important Calendar Dates:

Wednesday, June 14	5:30 pm	Campfire Worship
Thursday, June 15	9:30 am	Women’s Fellowship

Scheduled Committee Meetings ALL committee and council meetings are open to the congregation.

Monday, June 12	10 am	Diaconate meeting
Monday, June 12	1:30 pm	Trustees meeting
Sunday, June 18	9 am	O/M/E meeting
Monday, June 19	10:30 am	Christian Education meeting
Monday, June 19	6:30 pm	Council meeting

Those who get this issue via email might want to view the calendar online. Simply go to www.summitucc.org and click on the calendar button. The whole year is out there.

Present: Pastor Karen, Marty Wepking, Judy Prochaska, Fran Jones, Carrie Peppmeier, Beth Boleyn, Merlin Green and Flora Brown

Pastor Karen opened the meeting with a devotion.

Minutes from the April meeting were reviewed, Judy motioned to accept the minutes as written, Beth seconded and the motion carried.

Trustees:

The committee met on May 8. They had some discussion on what the supply pastor gets paid and decided it needs to be \$100. Carrie is the B & G chair, so Merlin gave her the information for the front door. Giese is sending an estimate for the roof—there's no problems, just looking into the future. The shelves have been purchased and installed. The back flow check is done. Our copier service agreement is now through Access. Merlin has purchased a new clicker for the bell and the PowerPoint.

Diaconate:

The committee met on May 8. They went over Lenten activities. The committee was very pleased with the donation towards the New Faith band. Looking into getting them in December. Upcoming event: the outside service with Immanuel at the Arboretum on September 10 at 10:30 am.

Christian Ed:

The committee met on May 15. They discussed Campfire Worship activities and who is doing what. They are looking forward to a fun night and hope many can join in. There will be invitations sent out to the inactive members. Their next meeting will be June 19, they will evaluate the Campfire Worship and think about the next one they want to hold.

B & G:

The committee would like to meet on May 26 at 9:30 am.

O/M/E:

The committee is meeting this coming Sunday, May 21.

Women's Fellowship:

The next meeting is Wednesday, May 17 at 10 am at the Salvation Army. There will be a presentation and a short meeting, then going to lunch. Shirley Hansen got information for the road trip to Maquoketa. The committee gathered some information about organizations to look into later.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Karen will be traveling to Lowden on Tuesday, May 16 for the El Assoc. Advisory Council Meeting. A big thank you to all who helped make this year's Lenten and Easter season so very blessed through your presence, prayer and participation in so many ways. As it says in 1 Peter, "And now you are living stones that are being used to build a spiritual house. You are also a group of holy priests and with the help of Jesus Christ you will offer sacrifices that please God." Pastor believes with willing hearts God is continuing to build a spiritual house that will continue to spill out into the world. She also says thank you for her vacation time on April 17-23, 2017. Mostly, she enjoyed time with family and treasured the gifts that they are in her life, as well as, taking some time to drive through the back roads and appreciate the blossoming of nature. Also, a reminder of her plan to take vacation July 18-July 24, as there will be a Candee Family Reunion during that week. Pulpit Supply coverage for July 23 will be Maxine Tone. A Pastor Congregations Committee meeting needs to be scheduled for some time in May or June. A reminder that the committee consists of the Moderator and the chair of the Trustees, Diaconate and Christian Education Committees, as well as, 2 persons of her choosing, who this year will be John Grice and Steffany King.

So far, Kim Kitchen has volunteered to be on the committee to update the church brochure.

Pastor visited with Art Miller from Immanuel about the Arboretum Worship Service on a few occasions. Originally, Bella Musik was set to come on July 9 but then a conflict arose and a new date was set for September 10—so that is the date for our worship and potluck with Immanuel and St. Matthew at the Arboretum. Art will contact us later this summer so that we can finalize plans for the event. She would appreciate a couple of people to assist with the arrangements for that event. Pastor Karen is looking into additional resources from IRMS for both adult and youth curriculum. If anyone has a specific topic or book of the Bible they would like to

study, she would appreciate your requests, as well as, best time of the day and day of the week to meet. She would also like us to look into finding an effective way to set up rides for people who no longer drive but would still like to attend worship.

Old Business:

Council reviewed the Constitution and By-laws. They made the changes to the articles that were not covered at the May 1 meeting. Marty will be calling a meeting with the Endowment Committee to discuss the history and moving forward. We need to start wearing our nametags.

New Business:

No report.

Other Business:

Next meeting is Monday, June 19 at 6:30 pm. Sparks articles are due Friday, May 26. Judy motioned to adjourn the meeting, Beth seconded and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Flora Brown, Clerk

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Summit Women's Fellowship was honored to serve the lunch following Mo's memorial service Saturday, May 20. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PROVIDED THE DELICIOUS DESSERTS AND TO THE GREAT CREW THAT SERVED AND CLEANED. Shirley donated the remaining food to Hope House. They were VERY appreciative. Thank you, Shirley, for allowing us to honor Mo in this way.

UPCOMING ROAD TRIP

All women from Summit are invited to travel to Maquoketa Iowa Thursday, June 15. We will car pool, leaving Summit parking lot at 9:30. Shirley Hansen, our tour guide, has an interesting, educational and fun filled day planned. Included in the itinerary are:

LUNCH - THE DECKER HOUSE

SHOPPING - MAKE A SPLASH, TIMBER CITY TRADING POST, M*COCONUTZ, OLD LUMBER YARD, MAX RAY JEWELERS AND PEDDLERS MARKET

CULTURE - MAQUOKETA ART EXPERIENCE, OLD CITY HALL ART GALLERY, HURSTVILLE INTERPRETIVE CENTER

TOUR - OHNWARD FINE ARTS CENTER

Rose Frantzen, a native of Maquoketa, has an exhibit at the OLD CITY HALL GALLERY. Among the galleries who have shown her work is the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery. She also has a permanent collection at the Dubuque Museum of Art.

The road trip has become an annual tradition for us. PLEASE JOIN US!! We have a lot of fun and see new and interesting things.

Contributors: Rev. Karen Candee, Marty Wepking, Flora Brown (Clerk), Shirley Hansen, Merlin Green (editor).

With deepest gratitude my family and I thank all who attended the service for Mo. The church women did an outstanding job providing luscious desserts and serving the guests. Pastor Karen and Ernie were wonderful in every possible way. Many, many thanks to all who made the church so clean, lawns so attractive or helped in any way. It was a cooperative service and meal lovingly given by the Summit Family.

Blessings, Shirley Hansen



*“To everything there is a season,
A time for every purpose under heaven.”*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

*Congratulations
High School Graduates
Elizabeth “Lizzie” Grace
Jacob Hansen
Aubrey Novak*

*As you continue life’s journey---
“May God bless and keep you.
May God’s face shine upon you
and be gracious to you.
May God look upon you with kindness
and grant you God’s Peace.”*

Numbers 6:24-26

Lizzie Grace, daughter of Rick and Rev. Dianne Grace, is graduating from Dubuque Hempstead High School with academic honors and as a National Honor Society member. She is attending Iowa State University in the Fall majoring in Environmental Science and Animal Ecology.

Jacob Hansen, son of Greg and Lisa Hansen and grandson of Shirley Hansen is graduating from Dubuque Senior High School with highest honors. He will be attending the University of Iowa and majoring in Biomedical Sciences. Thanks! Greg

Aubrey Novak, granddaughter of Bruce Novak, is graduating from Linn Mar High School in Marion.

Diaconate met on May 8th. Would like to thank you all for your generosity that was shown to the "New Faith" praise band. I was overwhelmed by the amount received through the free will offering. What a great response. So nice to help keep their mission and outreach going. Am hoping to get them back later in the year. Will keep you posted.

We are heading into our slower season, but have some up-coming events to share. Summit will again be joining Immanuel in an outdoor worship at the arboretum on Sunday September 10th. More to come on that as we near the date. Another campfire worship is being planned for June. Hope to see you all there. And if you have some extra time stick your head into the last room on the right down the hall and see our new Diaconate storage area. A big thanks to my hubby Terry for getting the shelves put up so quickly. Hope everyone has a blessed summer.

Thank you. Beth Boleyn

From the **Building and Grounds** committee: The B&G committee is normally very invisible and quiet, but here is an update about topics being discussed.

1. We are receiving bids for an automatic door opener for the front door to provide a more "accessible" entrance. We are also considering replacing both doors with new doors that have "bump bars" to open them from the inside, similar to all of the other doors in the building.
2. We are getting bids for roof replacement. Our roof is over 20 years old and has a couple of serious issues. It is NOT in a critical state, but we are getting costs to help us to prioritize our needs.
3. It is a Trustee issue, but we will be re-financing our mortgage in August of this year. The re-finance is part of our total financial picture that we are trying to get a grip on.
4. There are discussions about some repairs and maintenance to our outside sign by the street. Some of the lettering is curling off, and there are some lighting issues that could be changed.

Stay tuned ... there will be some opportunities for targeted giving to support our building maintenance issues!