



From the Pastor's Perspective

Dreaming a New Dream

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young will see visions. Your elders will dream dreams." -Acts 2:17 and Joel 2:28

We are dreaming dreams! As a church, we are listening for the dream that God has for our future. We want to be the church that God intends for us to be. And to do that, we are dreaming a new dream.

We expect the new dream to be consistent with our former dreams. We continue as a 50-year-old church, and we affirm that God has invested in us our personality, spiritual gifts, and a legacy that we must continue. We must remain faithful to the Gospel, to our missional calling, to the Great Commission and the Great Commandments. We are a church that has a love for Jesus, a heart for service that makes disciples by connecting generations, and that welcomes people with genuine hospitality and care.

We expect our church to be different in the future than it has been in the past. The Gospel must always be interpreted to the next generations, and that means doing things differently...in ways that make sense to those who do not yet know Jesus. We must engage new people in relevant ways, ways that effectively make and grow disciples of Jesus.

Monthly Church Events

For weekly events see the calendar

August 1	10-4pm YPA
August 2	5-9pm YPA
August 3	10-4pm YPA
August 5	HOLY COMMUNION 11:15am Pot Luck 11:15am Small Group
August 6	10:00am Small Group 5-9pm YPA
August 7	5-9pm YPA
August 8	5-9pm YPA 6:00pm Youth Fun Night at church 6:30pm Small Group
August 9	10-4pm YPA 1:00pm UMW Board Meeting 6:30pm AMT Meeting

Continued on page 2...

Pastor's Perspective Cont'd

We have had a season of pause, and we will not simply go back to doing what we have done in the past. We are now in the season of dreaming, and our first phases of new ministry will begin this fall.

The most important part of dreaming is prayer. It is engaging God through Scripture and prayer, and LISTENING! So, our summer message series is on prayer - "Transformed: Praying in a Way that Changes You." We started church-wide small groups on praying for transformation. We have set up a Dreambox to collect the dreams that you are hearing from God. Please take a moment to share yours in the Dreambox in the church lobby.

We are asking the entire church to pray every day using the "Pocket Prayer." Insert your specific prayers for our church in this simple prayer structure:

Father,

You are good. - Pray ways that you see God is good.

I need your help. - Pray help for our church, for new dreams!

So do they. - Pray that our church would focus on those who do not know Jesus.

Thank you. - Thank God for the blessings of our church and how He has led us.

Amen."

As we come off of our pause, we have discerned we need a church focus on making and growing disciples. We will begin this fall with our ministry to children and youth. Our first big innovation, therefore, is that we are seeking to change our programs with children and youth. We are designing programs that engage the whole family as well as the adults of our congregation. Wednesday evenings will be a time of Christian instruction for children, but it will also be a time of equipping parents and other adults to make disciples of the next generations. Therefore, the Wednesday evening program will be for all ages, and for everyone! See Pastor Andrew's article for a better description.

We are seeking to continue our Sunday morning worship experience for all ages. Children and youth will be invited to stay in worship, and the nursery will continue to be for preschoolers. Confirmation and youth programs, starting this fall, will also incorporate parental involvement and target the home life. Again, see the articles about this in this newsletter.

Small groups will start up in a bigger way in October, as we will offer a variety of groups, topics, and ways to grow as Christian disciples. Please suggest your recommendations for group topics to the church office or Pastor David.

August 10	11:00am YPA Show—Junie B. Jones 7:00pm YPA Show
August 11	11:00am YPA Show 3:00pm YPA Show 7:00pm YPA Show
August 12	10:00am Worship 11:15am Small Group
August 13	10:00am Small Group
August 15	6:30pm Small Group
August 16	6:30pm AMT Meeting
August 19	Hymn Sing 10:00am Worship 11:15am Small Group 6:30pm Lifeline
August 20	10:00am Small Group 6:30pm CMMT Meeting
August 22	6:30pm Small Group
August 23	Youth Outing at Water Park
August 26	10:00am Worship 11:15am Small Group
August 27	10:00am Small Group
August 29	6:30pm Small Group

The focus of our Christian discipleship will be Sundays and Wednesdays. Worship and small groups will be on Sundays. On Wednesdays, we will offer a weekly meal, our children's program (for kids, parents, and all adults), confirmation, youth group, and small groups. There will also be some small groups offered at other times during the week.

We are working hard to dream God's dream for our church. This fall we are making our priority to make and grow disciples for Jesus. This is the "grow" part of our church vision. Later this summer, our church leadership will begin visioning the "serve" part of our church vision. Stay tuned to see how our outreach and acts of mercy will be re-visioned!

Commit to growing as a disciple. And commit to grow disciples. That means using what we do together as a church family to keep yourself growing, and to help others to grow. And by others we intentionally include the next generations and those who do not yet know Jesus.

One more time: please keep praying that we will dream God's dream!

Blessings,

Pastor David

Summer Message Series

Our summer message is "Transformed: Praying in a Way that Changes You." Our church is "Dreaming a New Dream" this summer as our next phase of our HCI journey. As we listen to God for the plan He has for our church, we spend intentional time in prayer. Each of us also needs to grow in our prayer life as we grow and mature in our faith. The message series carries on through August. We will also host small groups to accompany this series. We will be using Max Lucado's book *Before Amen* as our prayer guide.

Summer Small Groups on Prayer!

Simply show up when you can! Groups meet at church on Sunday mornings after worship, Monday mornings at 10 a.m., and Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. They will meet weekly the month of August.

The small groups are following the summer message series on prayer, using Max Lucado's *Before Amen*, on praying transformative prayers.

We know summer is a busy time, but it's a great time to learn to pray in a way that changes your life!

Dreambox

God has a dream for our church! During this Jubilee year, we have committed to pause and listen. We want to sit with Jesus and hear His dreams for us. This summer we are intentionally dreaming a new dream (hearing God's dream) for our church!

We want to "capture" your dream. "Upload" what you hear the Holy Spirit saying to you about our church in the Dreambox (notice the wordplay on Dropbox?) in the lobby. We want to be dreaming together as a church. So, please fill out a dreamcard and put it in the Dreambox. Dreamcards will be available ALL SUMMER in the church lobby, in Sunday bulletins, in the church office, on the church website, and in the weekly emails. We want to collect all of our dreaming, because we believe that when they are all put together, we will discern the dream that God has for our church.



This summer we are connecting, building relationships, and getting to know each other better through monthly potlucks after worship on the first Sunday of the month. This Sunday, August 5th, will be our August potluck. We ask those who remember to bring a large dish to share, so we can then tell everyone to stay and eat even if they have not brought food. Plan to stay, and encourage others to stay as well. Let's keep building community this summer!



Confirmation Starting in the Fall!

This school year we will begin a new Confirmation Class. Confirmation is open to any young person whose family is not a member of another local church. The families need not be members of Forest Hills United Methodist Church. Confirmation is open to any young person who is at least twelve years of age and younger than eighteen, and who is not already confirmed. This confirmation curriculum targets 7th - 9th graders.

The purpose of confirmation is to prepare young people to confirm for themselves the vows to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, which may have been made on their behalf by their parents or guardians when they were baptized as infants. To prepare young people to do this, the class of confirmation will provide a basic and fundamental understanding of the Christian faith.

If you know of a student or family that may be interested in Confirmation, please talk to Pastor David.

AMT (Action Ministry Team) Update

August of last year we made some changes to our Sunday morning worship. We also made the decision to pause "kids church" and have them join us during worship. With staff recommendation, AMT has decided to continue having an intergenerational worship experience on Sunday mornings. You will be glad to know that staff has been working on new fall programming for our children. This programming will be featured starting Wednesday September 12 and will involve the whole family.

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Wednesdays will be an energetic evening starting with our community meal (please invite friends and neighbors) and our new family style program. During the month of September we will be promoting and getting people signed up for our new small groups that will begin in October.

AMT will not be evaluating current ministries at this time; however, we want all ministries to seriously take time to dream about a new future for the group. How do you reach new people coming to our church? What changes could be made to integrate young people into the group? How should the 3 requirements of Love, Grow, and Serve be a part of the ministry? Can we push ourselves out of our comfort zone and dream a new dream? Once new programming and small groups have begun, we will put together a plan for evaluation. As part of the Healthy Church Initiative (HCI) recommendations, we were also charged with decluttering our church building and refreshing our fellowship hall. The decluttering is not yet complete; however, a great start was made last fall and we will continue to ask the whole church to work on this.

In talking about refreshing the fellowship hall space, the AMT leadership team decided to go big. We plan to change the vision of the project. Instead of just refreshing, we want to “sunset” the old look. The space needs to impact and highlight our ministry. Instead of a fellowship hall, we want to transform the space into an Event Center. We want to focus on the purpose of this area, rather than just upgrading a few things. To that end, there has been a task force group created to come up with a concept to present to the church body by Sunday September 9th. This will be a culture-changing project that will continue to move everyone in our church family in the same direction. The design changes will include different wall surfaces, sound-dampening ceiling panels, and removing the bulk head by the window.

So, look for exciting changes to come in the near future! We continue to ask for prayers as AMT moves our church into a new dream for the future.

Christ with us always,

Marilee Leonard
Lay Leader

CMMT (Church Management Ministry Team) Update

The Rule of Christ - Conflict Resolution

Recently the AMT leadership team adopted an updated Rule of Christ covenant. This covenant indicates that we are committed to resolve conflicts and address concerns in a manner guided by scripture, specifically the rules of Christ laid out for us in Matthew 18. With this covenant we call on all members to seek resolution of conflicts through discernment of God’s will, personal responsibility, empathy, open communication, extension of grace, and above all, love. You can find the full covenant on the [church website > Connect > Resources](#). If you have any questions about the covenant, please talk to Teresa Gruber, Gina Lindholm, or Pastor David.

Finance Secretary

We have a service opportunity open for the position of Finance Secretary. This volunteer position is responsible for entering deposits in our finance application, ensuring member contributions are accurately recorded for reporting. This is an extremely flexible position, requiring about 5-10 hours per month. We use a church management software application that is web-based - you can enter information from home, or even while out of town. In addition to learning the software, this position requires a high degree of confidentiality. If interested, please talk to Teresa Gruber or Pastor David.

Do you have a family member at Mayo and need a place to stay?

Christ UMC in Rochester offers a hospitality house for those receiving care at Mayo Clinic. Please contact the church at 507-289-4019 or at email@cumethodist.com. All that is needed is a pastor's recommendation and a free-will donation!

Iowa Tornadoes

On Thursday July 19, 2018 afternoon and evening as many as 26 confirmed tornadoes raced across Iowa. The Communities of Marshalltown, Bondurant, Pella, Keosauqua, Farmington and many others have significant storm damage.



YOU CAN HELP BY:

PRAYING for those affected, those in shelter, those responding

DONATING a financial gift to IAUMC Special Advance #223

MAKING CLEAN-UP BUCKETS and HYGIENE KITS: We have already delivered thousands in Iowa this summer and have plans to deliver more. (Clean-Up Buckets can be delivered to New Hope UMC, 4525 Beaver Ave. Des Moines, IA, or Des Moines Immanuel UMC, 2900 49th St. Go to UMCOR.org for how to make Clean-up Buckets and Hygiene Kits.)

GET TRAINED AND GET A TEAM TOGETHER so that when the time is right you can go and help. (ERT and UMVIM Training will help to prepare you for volunteering. Contact Catie Newman to schedule a training; disaster.response@iaumc.org)

VOLUNTEER: Each community is working on a system to connect volunteers with those who need help, as soon as that information is available we will post it.

PLEASE DO NOT SIMPLY SHOW UP, it is best to have a plan in advance and know where you will be helping. You can also contact one of the churches in the communities affected and volunteer Directly with them.

The Greater Des Moines Area still needs volunteers to help with Flash Flood Clean-up

IF YOU NEED HELP to clean-up your home, call 1-800-447-1985

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, call 1-800-447-1985, they will [connect](#) you to a job or contact a UMC church and offer your help. Please call first, do not simply show up.

Walk to Emmaus

Below are the dates for the Fall/Winter Walk to Emmaus:

Camp Koronis

Men October 25-28 2018

Women November 1-4 2018

Good Counsel (Mankato)

Men January 17-20 2019

Women January 24-27 2019



If you are interested in participating in the walk, or would like more information about it, please contact Teresa Gruber.



Big change for youth group! We will be moving our meeting time to 6:30pm on Wednesdays. This will be immediately following the community dinner. With this move we are looking to work on inviting friends to youth group. This new schedule will also allow us to join in on the M&M Inter-generational Fun days.

We finished up July with a slip & slide night and a bonfire night. We also had a group of us go down to the Mall of America and meet up with Red Rock Camp friends.

Can you believe summer is already coming to a close! The youth group has one last hurrah before school starts with a water park outing August 23rd.

Cassi

Director of Youth Ministries

KID'S CORNER

Have you ever heard the phrase, “Faith is better caught than taught”? It’s a modern version of St. Francis’ dictum, “Preach the Gospel and if necessary, use words.” These phrases highlight the importance of living out our faith and being an example to those among us. Might I suggest however, that Paul trumps these pithy sayings when he writes, “Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Romans 10:17). God’s Word, the Gospel, must be spoken, preached, proclaimed, AND lived out accordingly. A disciple follows Jesus, speaks the Gospel and informs others about it. This is how new disciples are made. We are the church and we are here to make disciples!

Here is how we are going to do make disciples in our kid’s ministries:

We begin by acknowledging that we are entrenched in a spiritual battle. Paul again: “Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but... against the forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:12). It is time to suit up! It’s time to train ourselves and our children to fight! Satan is a lion out to devour (1 Peter 5:8) the hearts and minds of our kids and his job is easier now than it has even been. Our Western culture has become increasingly hostile to Christianity and its claim to truth. Our kids grow up and move out only to become fresh meat in the workplace or on campus. Over and over, they fall prey to competing worldviews and twisted truths. Why? Because we have left discipleship in the realm of optional. It is time to fight this battle on behalf of our kids, to “raise them up in the way they should go” (Psalm 22:6).

Here is the kicker: I cannot do this job. The best children’s program with the biggest budget and the greatest volunteers cannot do this job. God has ordained the family to be the context in which discipleship really happens. Parents have the greatest influence on the lives of their children. We cannot simply hope that our kids will become believers. Disciples are made, they are not born. If you are a parent, if you want to see your children follow after Christ, if you want faith to inform their decisions, then I want to encourage you, resource you, and help you make discipleship a reality in your home. This is a job I can do! Together, we can become disciples as we tackle the task of discipling our own family!

Wednesday nights are going to be a bit of a paradigm shift. We are looking to do something brand-new, something that may be uncomfortable and not so easy. We will still have a normal meal together beginning at 5:30, then from 6:15-7:15 we will focus on family discipleship. This means any and all kids are invited, any and all parents are invited, anyone with kids in their lives; be they grandchildren, neighbor kids, or even kids who live afar. Wednesday night will provide content and engaging activities for kids of all ages, but parents will learn as well. We want to equip parents to do family devotions at home, to be ready to tackle spiritual conversations and to be well-equipped for the spiritual battle that is already in motion.

We need to set our priorities. When it comes to our kids, do we value successful careers, involvement in sporting events, and popularity? Or is our deepest desire for them to know and love their Savior, Jesus Christ? Both can happen, but one must be primary. “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

For the King!

-Pastor Andrew

St. Andrew's Family Shelter

St. Andrew's has opened their doors as of July 31st! Last week, Paulette Johnson and Mary Weaver went to the shelter and put the bedding on the beds for "our" room. There were also quilts that were donated for each of the beds in the shelter! Below are some pictures we took to show off our handiwork!

We will be **volunteering the week of September 9th**, so get your volunteering hats on and be ready to cook, serve, and share stories with the residents of St. Andrew's Shelter in Hugo! **As part of the volunteering process, volunteers will need to participate in the Safe Gatherings training course.** Please contact the office, or Paulette Johnson for further information on this.

In addition, St. Andrew's is looking for van drivers to transport families from the shelter in Hugo to the Resource Center in Mahtomedi. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those who are interested.



Happy Birthday!!!

August babies

Happy Birthday to our August born! We will be putting birthdays for the month in the newsletter from now on, so if you haven't gotten your birthday to the office yet, please do so ASAP so your big day doesn't get missed! This month we celebrate:

Bob Rosenbaum 8/3 Donald Richardson 8/17 Arlene Fredrickson 8/30
Eden Bonsell 8/5 Paulette Johnson 8/21

Happy Birthday to you all, and we hope you have a wonderful day, filled with much love and joy!



Events and Info

Summer Potlucks

August 5th
September 2nd

Summer Small Groups

Join a small group today!
We are following our
Transformative Prayer series
and using Max Lucado's book
Before Amen. There are
groups on Sundays, Mondays
and Wednesday evenings

Lifeline Sunday August 19th at 6:30 pm

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5.

We take these words of Jesus seriously. We depend upon him. Our connection to the vine cannot be ignored. Lifeline is a way for us to come together to be with God. There will be songs to sing and prayers to pray, but you can simply come to enjoy the presence of God. All are encouraged to attend.