

# Tims Tales

July/August 2009

St. Timothys United Methodist Church ☎ 266-0464 ✉ info@sttims-umc.org 🌐 www.sttims-umc.org

## St. Timothys Hosts Block Party - Thursday, July 30

Thursday, July 30, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

We are going to express our open minds and hearts and, especially, our open doors on Thursday, July 30, with our fourth annual Neighborhood Block Party. We want as many of you as possible to be present that day from 6:00 to 7:00 pm when we welcome our neighbors who live in our neighborhood. We're going to extend an invitation to them a couple of times beforehand by hand-delivering invitations. We'll cook hot dogs and hamburgers on the grill and turn on the hospitality. We will eat indoors to avoid the bugs and enjoy the air conditioning. This activity is happening in conjunction with a nationwide emphasis on having porch parties on August 1, but since August 1 falls on a Saturday, we decided to go with July 30.



### You can help!

#### Distribute Invitations

We need your help. Diane Schupbach is designing an invitation leaflet which we will distribute on July 23 and again on July 29 at 5:30 pm. If you are willing to distribute invitations in the neighborhood, contact Jane in the office at 266-0464.

#### Bring a dish to share

We also need you to be present and bring a dish to share to complement the hot dogs and hamburgers. It takes all of us to be hospitable and create a welcoming environment.

#### Plan to attend

Please mark your calendar for July 30 and plan to help us open our hearts, minds and doors! We had a great turn-out the last three years; let's see if we can do even better this year!

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**Dear Friends,**

I always look forward to summer and the change in routine it brings. I seem to stay just as busy even with the reduction in the number of meetings, but it is a different kind of busy – a welcome change of pace. Linda and I try to take some vacation which provides physical and spiritual rest and renewal. I hope your summer is renewing for your body and soul as well.

I hope you will make every effort to be in worship on Sundays. Our attendance usually drops in the summer, but it doesn't need to. We all need spiritual nourishment and corporate worship just as much in the summer as during the rest of the year. You are missed when you're not here, and my guess is you miss us or worship when you're not here as well. Good spiritual practices (disciplines) keep us in shape spiritually year round.

I've just started reading *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass. Early in the book she draws a distinction between churches that see themselves as "the gathering of the saints" and those that see themselves as "a hospital for sinners."

"Such communities [gatherings of saints] must maintain clear boundaries of who is 'in' (the saved) and who is 'out' (the unsaved). Saints believe specific things about God and morality, allowing for no ambiguity or questions, and demonstrate their faith by resisting everything they deem idolatrous or evil. By its very nature, this version of Christianity must extend its reach in a quest to eradicate all forms of sin that threaten the purity of the church. In American history, the church as the gathering of saints has been a persistent form of Christian Community."

Bass says that the other form, the church as hospital for sinners, has been sometimes less obvious in our national life. She describes that option like this:

"This vision does not emphasize personal salvation in terms of heaven and hell. Rather, this kind of church recognizes that all human beings are sickened by sin and need healing. Faith is a matter of trust in God; morality is enacting God's justice; salvation is God's wholeness or shalom. This kind of church comprises a variety of folks – some with a variety of ills and some at different levels of spiritual wholeness – all pilgrims together on a Christian way. The comprehensive church is a fundamentally modest body, and it makes few grand claims about eternity and salvation. Rather, these communities emphasize life in this world. They offer ways of being Christian, also called practices, that enable people to live better and more faithfully to God."

*Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass, page 36

Which kind of Christian community are we? Which kind should we be? I'd love to hear your reflections!

Have a great summer! And be sure to attend worship on Sundays when you're in town. Worship begins at 10:15 am throughout the year.

*Grace & Peace, Dick Clark*

## St. Tims to Host Clergy Meeting on Marriage Equality

On Wednesday, July 1, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm progressive clergy from the Cedar Valley will gather at St. Timothy's for a sharing and strategy meeting on marriage equality. This gathering is being co-hosted by Interfaith Alliance of Iowa and Rev. Dick Clark of St. Timothy's United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls.

The Interfaith Alliance of Iowa works on many issues that place either religious freedom or the separation of church and state in jeopardy. One issue the organization is working on currently is supporting civil marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. The organization's Faithful Voices project works to educate, organize and empower clergy and congregations across Iowa to effectively stand up for marriage equality. An organized and equipped progressive faith community is vital to balancing the conservative religious voice that gets much of the public attention on marriage equality and many other issues.

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### Methodist Federation for Social Action 2009 Iowa Annual Conference:



A highlight of Annual Conference for over 400 people was MFSA's Awards Event on Saturday, June 6, 2009. Awards were presented to Sol Varisco and Jeff Abbas for their outstanding work with immigrants following the raid at Postville a year ago. Two churches, St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Postville and First United Methodist Church in Decorah were recognized for their tireless work in the community of Postville. A third award was given to Sharon Malheiro, who was instrumental in the case that ultimately led to the Supreme Court's decision on marriage equality. The keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Jeremiah Wright was received enthusiastically with frequent applause from the audience. His message was simple but powerful. To the award recipients and to MFSA he said, in essence, that our work fulfills scripture; it's not in vain and does make a difference, and it's not over. He called the recipients "prophets," and admonished everyone to keep on working.

The Constitutional Amendments didn't fare well over all. Those related to the World Wide Church were soundly defeated. All the other amendments passed, including the three MFSA opposed, but also including Amendment I, which states that all persons are eligible to attend worship, participate in programs, receive sacraments, and upon baptism, be admitted as members of the church. MFSA had strongly supported this amendment, and its passage is an important victory.

Other highlights of Conference were the Rainbow Communion Service, attended by well over 80 persons, and the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON).

*(Continued on page 4)*

(*MFSA News*, Continued from page 3)

## United Methodists Do Not Torture

Campaign Against Torture (NRCAT) has designated June as "Torture Awareness Month." In conjunction with this observance the General Board of Church and Society has launched a campaign to collect signatures on a petition urging President Obama and the U. S. Congress to open an inquiry into whether persons should be held accountable for what have been termed "enhanced interrogations." The theme of the campaign is "The Truth Shall Set Us Free." The 2008 Book of Resolutions speaks clearly to this issue, "Our commitment to human rights is grounded in the conviction that each and every human life is sacred. Therefore the United Methodist Church endorses legislative and judicial remedies for the use of torture and illegal detention...such as the appointment of special counsels [and] appropriate investigations." #6120, 2008 Book of Resolutions. For more information or to sign the petition, go to: [www.umc-gbcs.org/UMsDoNotTorture](http://www.umc-gbcs.org/UMsDoNotTorture).

## Upcoming Events

### Mission Camp 2009—July 5-10 and 12-17

This summer, the *Matthew 25 Ministry Hub* will offer an amazing learning opportunity to youth in 6th-12th grade. Our summer mission camps will not only give you a chance to help people who have experienced the worst natural disaster in Iowa's history, they will also be hands-on learning experiences. Youth will learn about how a community responds to a natural disaster and the unique role communities of faith have in disaster zones. We will also have time for team building and fun. The cost is \$200 per person and groups must bring one adult for every 5 youth. Space is limited, so don't delay. Contact Matthew 25 at [info@hub25.org](mailto:info@hub25.org) for more information or call them at 319-362-2214 with questions.

### Fall Statewide Gathering – October 31 at Epworth UMC in Des Moines

The program will focus on prison issues, as a follow up to the regional gatherings held last fall, "...For I Was in Prison." Watch for details in the coming months.

### National Reconciling Convocation

#### September 4-7 at the YMCA of the Rockies, Estes Park, CO

The 10<sup>th</sup> National Reconciling Convocation theme this year is Justice and Joy! For more information, go to [www.rmnetwork.org/convo2009.asp](http://www.rmnetwork.org/convo2009.asp).

## MFSA Website is

**[www.mfsaiowa.org](http://www.mfsaiowa.org)**

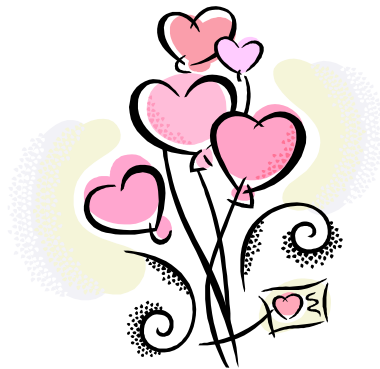
*Find information about membership, upcoming events, essays, and articles.*

### View St. Tims calendar online

You'll find an online version of our calendar at [www.sttims-umc.org](http://www.sttims-umc.org). Find the "Calendar" link on the left side. Click on an event to see the details.

## Celebrations

Please contact the church office to obtain a list of July and August birthdays and anniversaries. They are not published here to protect privacy of the individuals.



## Coming Events

### United Methodist Summer Camp

Now is the time to register yourself or your child or youth for a summer camp experience at one of our Iowa United Methodist camps. There are many camping experiences available. Our Endowment Committee pays 2/3 of the cost. Joan Farstad, our Christian Education director, has some camping catalogues. See her for information about our summer camps!

*Sunday School takes a break during the summer. We'll start meeting again in September.*

### UMW Calendar

#### July Bible Verse

*Psalms 46-1 (NIV)*

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble.

**Sun.-Wed. - July 19-22,**  
School of Christian Mission

#### August Bible Verse

*2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)*

Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

**Thurs. Sept. 3, 9:30 a.m.**

Board Meeting, Esther Hogenkamp, Chair



### Dick's Study and Discussion Group

**Current Study Series:** *"Living the Questions 2.0, An Introduction to Progressive Christianity."*

There are 21 sessions divided into three main sections: Invitation to Journey, Reclaiming the World, and Call to Covenant. This study will take us into next October.

#### July and August Schedule:

Classes are held on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.

July 2 & 3 – *Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians*

July 9 & 10 – *Restoring Relationships*

July 16 & 17 – *The Prophetic Jesus*

July 23 & 24 – *Evil, Suffering & A God of Love*

August 13 & 14 – *The Myth of Redemptive Violence*

August 20 & 21 – *Practicing Resurrection*

August 27 & 28 – *Debunking the Rapture*

Dick Clark is the discussion leader. These classes are open to everyone, including senior high youth and adults. They are to help youth and adults grapple with faith questions and issues and to grow in faith. They are part of our program of adult theological re-education. Feel free to invite friends and acquaintances.

## Worship in July & August

**Summer Sunday Worship - 10:15 a.m.**  
Child care is provided

**Sunday, July 5**

**5th Sunday after Pentecost**

Holy Communion

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary Readings\*:

2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10; Psalm 48;  
2 Corinthians 12:2-10; Mark 6:1-13

**Sunday, July 12**

**6th Sunday after Pentecost**

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19; Psalm 24;  
Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:14-29

**Sunday, July 19**

**7th Sunday after Pentecost**

The Sacrament of Baptism

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a;  
Psalm 89:20-37; Ephesians 2:11-22;  
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

**Sunday, July 26**

**8th Sunday after Pentecost**

Lectionary Readings: 2 Samuel 11:1-15;  
Psalm 14; Ephesians 3:14-21;  
John 6:1-21

**Sunday, August 2**

**9th Sunday after Pentecost**

Holy Communion

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a; Psalm 51:1-12;  
Ephesians 4:1-16; John 6:24-35

**Sunday, August 9**

**10th Sunday after Pentecost**

Lectionary Readings:

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33; Psalm 130;  
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

**Sunday, August 16**

**11th Sunday after Pentecost**

Josh Cooper preaching

Lectionary Readings: 1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3  
-14; Psalm 111; Ephesians 5:15-20;  
John 6:51-58

**Sunday, August 23**

**12th Sunday after Pentecost**

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary Readings:

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43;  
Psalm 84; Ephesians 6:10-20;  
John 6:56-69

**Sunday, August 30**

**13th Sunday after Pentecost**

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary Readings:

Song of Solomon 2:8-13;  
Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 (or Psalm 72);  
James 1:17-27;  
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

\*We continue to include the Lectionary Readings for each Sunday. We encourage you to read the scriptures for a given Sunday before you come to worship as part of your spiritual discipline and preparation for worship. In worship at St. Tims we usually use one or two of the readings listed.

### For Parents with young children

We have 2 child care attendants on duty during worship, from approximately 10 minutes before worship until 10 minutes after worship.

|                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>Missions &amp; Outreach</b> |  |
|--------------------------------|--|

**Community Meals**

**Tuesday, July 21 at CF First UMC**

St. Timothys will serve Community Meals on Tuesday, July 21.

We welcome and encourage volunteers for:

- Food preparation at 12:30
- Servers at 4:15
- Dishes, run dishwasher and clean up at 5:00
- Provide a pan of bars (We'll need 8 pans.

To help, please contact Pete and Sharon Wetrich.

**2010 Matthew 25**

**Grant Applications Available**

Application forms for 2010 Matthew 25 grant funds are available from the district office. Matthew 25 funds are offered to support local church, ministry action team, and institutional ministries that address the needs of the poor and marginalized in their communities. Application forms and guidelines are available by calling or e-mailing the district office. Completed grant applications, including all necessary signatures and approvals are due in the district office by September 15, 2009.

**P.I.E. Possibilities**

**Our Partner in Education --  
Walter Cunningham  
School for Excellence**

St. Timothys is a Partner In Education (P.I.E.) with the Walter Cunningham School for Excellence in Waterloo. This school is located in an area of need. Here are some opportunities for us to be in ministry.



**Hy-Vee Grocery Receipts**

Cunningham was one of the top winners in the 2008-09 Hy-Vee Receipt promotion, placing second behind Blessed Sacrament School. Cunningham was awarded \$2,750.59. Thanks to everyone who helped with the collection of Hy-Vee receipts.

Please start saving all your Hy-Vee receipts (groceries, medicines, gas, deli) dated since June 1, 2009. Hy-Vee is continuing their gift-matching program in 2009-10.

You may put them in the communi-center boxes for Lattas or Capps.

**Save other items too**

Also, save empty computer printer cartridges, box tops for education (General Mills), Betty Crocker points, Milk Moola bag or bottle tops, Swiss Valley milk and juice caps. These can be put in the Capps' or Latta's boxes as well.

Cunningham School appreciates your support .

## Food Bank requests Garden Surpluses

*Note: This plea came in too late for the May-June Tims Tales. But you may still have late-summer garden produce to share, and will want to keep it in mind for next spring.*

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank in conjunction with Cool Congregations, The Blackhawk County Extension Office, The Northern Iowa Food and Farm Partnership, Grace Gardens and The Blackhawk County Union Council is launching **Fresh Food for Families**. We are getting the word out to the local community about Community Gardening, Home Gardening, and planting and/or giving extra produce to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. We need your help to succeed.

In these difficult economic times, growing some of your own food makes good sense. Garden produce is safe, fresh, nutritious, economical and easy to share with your neighbors and those in need in your community.

We ask that if you are growing a garden at your congregational meeting place or even at home, to consider planting extra and donating excess produce to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank to help support the hungry in this area.

The mission of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank is to provide nutritious food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations and individuals in Northeast Iowa, while offering hunger education programs to the area and those in need. The Northeast Iowa Food Bank envisions a community in which hunger is alleviated and all persons have adequate access to nutritional food. We will strive to accomplish our mission so that food security is ultimately achieved for all households. Our website is [www.northeastiowafoodbank.org](http://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org).

For more information about...

**Fresh Food for Families,**

contact Sheri Huber-Otting at [shuber-otting@feedingamerica.org](mailto:shuber-otting@feedingamerica.org).

**Planting a garden or about community gardens,**

contact Julie Evenson at the Blackhawk County Extension Office at 319-234-6811 or [jeverson@iastate.edu](mailto:jeverson@iastate.edu).

**Grace Gardens**

contact Sarah Webb at [coolcongregations@iowaipf.org](mailto:coolcongregations@iowaipf.org).

**Buy Fresh Buy Local Program or the Northern Iowa Food and Farm Partnership,**

contact Andrea Geary at [andrea.geary@uni.edu](mailto:andrea.geary@uni.edu).

Please help support Fresh Food for Families. Thanks,

*Sheri Huber-Otting  
Food Solicitor, Northeast Iowa Food Bank  
106 E. 11th Street, Waterloo, IA 50703  
319-235-0507, ext. 114, 319-235-1027-fax  
[www.northeastiowafoodbank.org](http://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org)*

## Women at the Well

### After Care Ministries

After a person has served prison time, the re-entry into society is difficult. After Care teams are "opening doors" and successfully building bridges of communication and support empowering those re-entering society to find jobs and lead successful lives. After Care teams are making a difference in lives all across Iowa and in several other states.

St. Timothys is partnering with Kimball Ave UMC to provide support and ministry to the women leaving the Mitchellville prison.

### Going Home Kits

Going Home Kits, for the Women at the Well prison ministry at Mitchellville, are needed, and will include the following:

Personal products: Shampoo, conditioner, comb, hairbrush, tweezers, bar soap, liquid hand soap, washcloth and towel, deodorant, hand/body lotion, Q-tips, compact mirror, laundry soap, fabric softener, sanitary napkins, nail file and cuticle stick, (or little manicure kit), toenail clipper, nail polish and remover, perfume, phone card, wallet or small purse, small pocket calendar, inexpensive watch.

Household products: Paper towels, Kleenex, toilet paper, wet wipes, toilet bowl cleaner, cleaning rags, dish soap, all purpose cleaning spray (like 409 or Mr. Clean) dish towels and dish rags.

Please place all items in the designated blue tub in Fellowship Hall for the women leaving the Mitchellville prison.

## Shady Rest

The rebuilding project at Shady Rest is in process.

Volunteers and welcome and needed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. A site supervisor will be available each day, and will teach and supervise the project.

The first of the new windows was installed this past week and the heating system is being installed.

Outside cleanup is also needed. The Reverend Maureen Doherty, at (319) 415-5747, is the volunteer coordinator. If you are unable to volunteer but want to be a part of the rebuild, you might consider a donation.

## Summer office hours

**Mon & Thurs, 9:00 to 3:00 pm**

The bulletin will be printed on Thursday, so if you have an article you want printed in the announcements, please have it in by Thursday morning.

Tims Tales is published by  
St. Timothys United Methodist Church  
3220 Terrace Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

|                 |                              |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Rev. Dick Clark | Pastor                       |
| Linda Clark     | Director of Music Ministries |
| Jane Graham     | Administrative Assistant     |
| Joan Farstad    | Christian Education Director |
| Kate Kitzman    | Youth Program Coordinator    |
| Sally Yakish    | Tims Tales & Website Editor  |

Tims Tales is available for download from the website [www.sttims-umc.org](http://www.sttims-umc.org)

## Needs List for Church Women United

Remember to bring items needed for people in the Cedar Falls area. Collection bins are in the closet directly across from the main sanctuary door, between the coat closet and the name tag case. If you have questions, contact Carol Butler at 232-4991. Please leave your labeled donations before **Sept. 14**.

**ALTERNATIVE PREGNANCY CENTER:** Girl's clothing up to 12 months, baby wipes, newborn diapers, diaper bags, newborn sleepers, new bibles, new car seats, garbage bags, toilet paper, personal care items for mothers, 45-gallon totes, disposable camera, greeting cards, cribs, newborn-6 month clothing.

**GREENWOOD, MS. MISSION SCHOOL:** Canceled stamps.

**CEDAR FALLS HEALTH CARE CENTER:** Items for crafts, Bingo prizes, all stuffed animals, miniature candy bars, large print word find, sun catcher crafts.

**CEDAR VALLEY CHILD CARE:** Campbell soup labels, 100% juice, napkins, Kleenex, paper towels, toilet paper, fresh fruit, beads, pipe cleaners, poster board, disposable camera, blankets, construction paper, ream of manila paper.

**COUNTRY VIEW:** Bingo prizes, stationery, writing tablets, legal pads, Search-a-word books, crayons, markers, colored pencils, coloring books, magazines for men (sporting/fishing), microwave popcorn, wrapped individual snack treats, small cans of Pringles. Things for seasonal decorating: things for room decorations, small wall hangings, outdoor games.

**1ST KIDS FOR 1ST METHODIST:** Napkins, Kleenex, construction paper, glue, fabric softener sheets.

**HOUSE OF HOPE:** Household items (glasses, silverware, dishes, pots & pans), cleaning supplies, things with which to decorate, diapers (size 4 & 5)

**LUTHERAN HOME:** Everyday napkins, gardening gloves, large print playing cards, Play-Doh, 8 1/2" x 11" colored computer paper, fun-sized candy bars, Little Debbie snack cakes, Pringles, Avery Marks-A-Lot permanent markers in red and black, small bottles of Elmer's glue, house plants, seed & flower catalogs, plastic bud vases, lap blankets, used greeting cards, every occasion, need entire card, teacups with saucers, buttons.

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF:** Fabric for quilts, old sheets, flannel, wrapped soap, drapery fabric, old drapes, mattress pads, spools of thread (any color), wide-toothed combs, gently used wash cloths and hand towels.

**NEW CITY MINISTRIES:** Laundry soap, Diapers, toilet paper.

**NORTH STAR COMMUNITY SERVICES:** Bingo prize items, CD's of big bands of 40's and 50's, large books, arts and crafts materials, old issues of Reminisce, Depends, holiday decorations, cookie cutters, rolling pins, Bundt loaf pans, muffin pans, cooling racks, Kitchen-Aid mixer.

**RIVER HILLS SCHOOL:** Plastic grocery bags, apple-sauce, instant pudding, cake brownie and muffin mixes, muffin pan liners, Cool Whip containers with lids, any snack items, baking mixes & frosting, Hy-Vee receipts, Instant Jello Packs, juice, cake, and cookie mixes, flour, sugar, chocolate chips.

**RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE:** Pop can tabs and Scott bar codes.

**SEEDS OF HOPE:** Cleaning supplies, diapers, toiletries.

**WINDSOR CARE:** Small Bingo prizes, jewelry, word search books, stuffed animals.

**Y'S KIDS:** Any crafting odds and ends such as lace, ribbon, buttons, or beads, back pockets from old blue jeans, used calendars, magnets, balls & baseball gloves, used Mylar balloons, empty plastic jars with lids, empty thread spools, flowers of any kind (plastic, dried, silk), sea shells, baby food jars.

Submit news for the  
September 2009 issue of Tims Tales  
to Sally Yakish  
[webspinner@sttims-umc.org](mailto:webspinner@sttims-umc.org)  
by **Friday, August 21**

## **Stewardship Reminder**

Our attendance tends to be lower in the summer than during the school year because many of us get away to family reunions, vacations, and other activities. Please be sure to send in your pledges and offerings when you are not here so that the many important St. Timothys ministries can continue. Be sure to send in your "Fulfilling the Possibilities" contributions as well.

Being half way through the year is also a good time to evaluate our giving. Is my pledge up to date? Can I make an increase in my giving now so that St. Timothys can meet all of her obligations and fund vital local, national and global ministries? One last word: be sure to attend worship at St. Timothys at 10:15 am every Sunday you are in town. We miss you when you're not here!

### **Our Witness of Inclusion**

The congregation of St. Timothys United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls celebrates God's gifts as a faith community built upon the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We are called and strive to be an open, loving, and caring congregation; to proclaim Jesus' love and justice to all; and to live out God's unending love through the inclusiveness and welcoming of all persons, including those of all sexual orientations and gender identities.