

Tims Tales

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

Pastors Corner

Dear Friends,

One of my favorite emails I receive regularly is called *Tikkun*, a word that means “to mend, repair, and transform the world.” It comes from Michael Learner, a well-known, teacher, writer and rabbi. I want to share with you some thoughts from a recent article of his under the general heading of “Spiritual Wisdom of the Week,” entitled *Jewish Mysticism*:

“The Jewish Mystical tradition has as one of its central motifs the notion that God is in need of human beings, and that we are beings who need to be needed in the way that God needs us.”

“What God needs us for is both to be partner and proxy in healing the world.”

“This (God) love is seen by the mystics not only as sweet and innocent, but also as erotic. ... To be created in God’s image is to be both God’s lover and also completely absorbed in God, one with God.”

“(One) other element in Jewish mysticism insists that though we are part of God, we are a part that needs healing and transformation, or in Hebrew, Tikkun.”

“Our task is to move the world from its current state, in which power and domination of others (what I call The Right Hand of God) runs the world and shapes every institution

and every human being in its image, to a very different reality, in which love, kindness, generosity (i.e. the nurturing energies of the universe, understood as El Shad-dai, the breasted/nurturing God – what I call The Left Hand of God) are running the world and manifest in us. It is only when we become involved in the process to take the world to that place, when we are actively engaged in Tikkun-ing the world, that we actually can be fulfilling our task as God’s partner.”

“The mystery, of course, is how we can both be part of God and yet have our separate identities and separate will, and how we can be a manifestation of God and yet

Inside Tims Tales

Pastors Corner	1, 2
Joys & Concerns	2
Sunday School	4
Coming Events	5
UMW Calendar	5
Wednesday Nights	5
MFSA News	6
Worship Schedule	7
Missions & Outreach	9
CWU Needs List.....	11

so deeply flawed. And this is the meaning of human freedom, which is really God's freedom manifesting through us and through all creation. For those stuck in a worldview emanating from Greek philosophy, God must be perfect, and hence in need of nothing, and certainly not be flawed or imperfect, in any way. So how could humans, who are flawed and imperfect be One with God? But we Jews (and Christians?) are not trapped in Greek philosophy, and our Bible never proclaims God to be the all-perfect, all-knowing, all-powerful god of the Greeks. What makes our God great is that S/He is a lover, a force of compassion, a sustainer of life, a great Mother and nurturing Father. Being a being in need, then, is not seen as a disqualifier for God, because being in need of the Other is for us a central aspect of the love of the universe which is an essential dimension of who our God really is."

And one more,

"(We) in the mystical tradition of Judaism feel that call to create the community that is able to overcome all the things that divide us from each other and from every other human being and animal and life energy on the planet, so that we can together complete the Grand Design, knowing that All Power is in God's hand, and real strength is living in harmony with God, and that we are never separate from God except in our misguided ego-driven fantasies of who we are."

On October 22 I attended a Conference sponsored by the Iowa Dialog Center on Jewish-Christian-Muslim Inter-religious dialogue which issued an invitation and encouragement to all of us from all these traditions to listen to one another and learn from each other. Sharing part of this article from Rabbi Learner is a humble beginning.

Grace & Peace, Dick Clark

Joys & Concerns

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



Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the families and friends of...

K. D. Briner who passed away October 4,

Chuck Thurston, October 25,
and **Phyllis Kittle**, October 26.

Travel with the Trimble's to Oberammergau Passion Play

Bishop Julius Trimble, Racelder Grandberry-Trimble, Gary Demmel and Darline Balm-Demmel invite you to join them on an exciting pilgrimage to Germany and Austria in August of 2010. On this trip we will attend a performance of the historic once-every-ten-years Passion Play in Oberammergau and stay in a historic Alpine village. Other highlights will include a day in Salzburg, Mozart's birthplace; a visit to Innsbruck, where we will tour Maria Theresa's Imperial Palace; breathtaking views of the Tyrolian Alps; a drive through the Brenner Pass, and visits to castles, churches and abbeys in the region.

In the 17th Century, when the village of Oberammergau was spared from the Black Plague, the villagers promised God that they would show their gratitude by performing a Passion Play every ten years. Now, 370 years later, we will have the opportunity to experience this world-famous production. In addition to the nine-day pilgrimage, travelers may choose an Italy pre-tour or extensions to Switzerland, Vienna and Prague, or an Alpine village extended stay.

For further information and registration materials, please contact Darline Balm-Demmel.

Changing Our Footprints



This year's stewardship campaign will offer the congregation additional ways to decrease our carbon footprint by reducing energy use and to increase our compassion footprint by helping others. You'll soon receive, or have received, a stewardship letter that will give you more information. Additional tips will appear in the church bulletins. We'll have a congregation member speak about increasing compassion on Nov. 1 and an energy expert give us more ideas for energy reduction on Nov. 8. Then on Nov. 15 we'll have one-day run/walk/bike/motorcycle within our neighborhoods to gather estimate of giving cards from church members.

As we follow in Jesus' footprints, consider the many ways you can reduce your carbon footprint and increase your compassion footprint. Let's share our ideas and carry on the good work.

Time and Talent Commitment Forms are Due

On October 18 we celebrated the ministries of all our laity by having a service of dedication for our Time and Talent commitments. Many were turned in that day, but there are many of you we haven't heard from yet. Blank commitment forms can be found just inside the main entrance to the sanctuary. There is also a basket there to receive your completed forms. These are very important to us in enlisting the services of our members for many ministries at St. Tims. We feel they are important to you as well in helping you en flesh your response to God's call to serve. Please turn in your completed form as soon as possible. Thanks!

Christian Education News



**Sunday School meets
9:00 to 10:00 a.m.**

Children / Youth

Great News!! We have more opportunities for you to become engaged in the religious education of our children and young adults. As you know we have a group of 3 to 5-year olds, a group of 6 to 9-year-olds, a group of 10 to 12-year-olds, and a group of 13 to 18-year-olds. In addition, we invite the pre-3-year-olds to the Nursery.

For each of these groups of children/young adults we have tried to fashion a team of individuals to work with them. Some of our teams are a little scant at this time and I'd like to invite you to step forward and join a team. One of the advantages of having a "team" working with each group is that, as a team member, you have a little latitude in your participation. Maybe you would like to participate only one, two, or three times a month. Well, as a member of a "team," that can happen. As I reported in the October Tims Tales, we are using a great curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit* which has a plethora of ideas in the curriculum materials so you are not required to "think something up."

Adults

Adults meet in the little conference room adjacent to the office area at 9:00am on Sunday mornings. This semester we have been studying 8th Century Prophecy which is found in the texts of First Isaiah (Chapters 1-39 of the Book of Isaiah), Amos, Hosea, and Micah all of which are found in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). We'll take a little bird walk on Sunday, November, 22, so we can focus our attention on the upcoming Season of Advent (Advent begins on Sunday, November 29). Our "bird walk" will provide the historical, geographical, religious, and political context of the season. Come join us!

Training for Child/Youth Protection Program

On Wednesday, November 4, we are having training for the "Child/Youth Protection Program." This is a 2-part program with Part 1 scheduled for Wednesday, November 4 from 6-7 p.m. and Part 2 scheduled for December 2 from 6-7p.m. (we'll be done in time for choir). If you are working with our children, it is very important for you to participate in this training. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, if you CAN come, please DO come.

Service Work—Here, There, and Everywhere

Last year, the children worked very hard to sponsor two projects: "*Pennies-for-Peace*" and "*UNICEF*". The children were persistent in their pursuit of these charities and the congregation was extremely generous in encouraging the children and supporting their charities. This year we have named our project list: "*Here, There, and Everywhere*." The "Here" part refers to a food collection for our own Northeast Iowa Food Bank; "There" refers to a project in conjunction with St. Stephen's Parish in Minneapolis (more on this later); and "Everywhere" refers to a project with *Nets for Life*, a mosquito net project in Africa.

Coming Events

Dick's Study and Discussion Group

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

Our study groups for those adults who believe in life-long learning continue to be held on Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and Fridays from 10:00 am to noon. In November we will be completing our discussions based on "Living the Questions 2.0."

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

November 5 & 6 – No class

November 12 & 13 – "Creative Transformation"

November 19 & 20 – "Embracing Mystery"

November 26 & 27 – No class - Happy Thanksgiving

In December we will begin our study of *The First Paul: Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church's Conservative Icon* by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The cost of the book is \$16.49. Let Dick Clark know if you wish to purchase a book, sttimsrevdick@cfu.net.

UMW Calendar

November Bible Verse:

Colossians 2:6 (NRSV)

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Thursday, Nov. 5, 9:30 a.m.

Ex. Board Meeting, June Niedert, Chair

Friday, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m.

World Community Day at St. Tims UMC

Thursday, Nov. 12, 9:30 a.m.

Unit meeting on Common Hope Project in Guatemala by Jay and Kathy Agness.



Wednesday Nights

First Wednesday, November 4

Fellowship Meal – 5:45 to 6:30 pm

Finance Committee – 6:00 pm

Christian Education Ministry Team – 6:00 p.m.

Chancel choir – 7:00 pm

Second Wednesday, November 11

Fellowship Meal – 5:45 to 6:30 pm

Reaching and Receiving – 6:00 pm

Chancel choir – 7:00 pm

Third Wednesday, November 18

Fellowship Meal – 5:45 to 6:30 pm

Missions Ministry Team – 6:00 p.m.

Chancel choir - 7:00 pm

Fourth Wednesday, November 25

NO Wednesday Activities

www.mfsaiowa.org

Find information about membership, up-coming events, essays, and articles.
See pictures from 2009 Award Event at Iowa Annual Conference

Methodist Federation for Social Action

Hospitality: The Unopened Gift

January 5-7 at the Comfort Inn, Collinsville, IL

The North Central Jurisdiction Town and Country/Urban Network will hold a conference on hospitality. Keynote speaker is the Rev. Vance Ross, Deputy General Secretary of the General Board of Discipleships of the UMC. Bishop Gregory Palmer will be the preacher for the event. For more information, go to www.ncjumcurban.org.

Confirmation Class

November 15 after worship

Our Confirmation class for seventh and eighth graders will meet after worship (11:30 am until 2:00 pm) on the third Sunday of each month during this school year beginning on Sunday, November 16. Members of the class include Jenna McRae, Naomi Shankle, Lucia McNeal, Karla Krueger, and Kendall Krueger. Dick and Linda Clark are the teachers.

Annual Church Conference

Sunday, November 29, 6:00 p.m.
at St. Timothys

District Superintendent, Rev. Anne Lippincott, will preside. Several other area UM Churches will be having their Charge/Church Conferences with us. All St. Timothys members are welcome and encouraged to attend. All members have voice and vote. All members of the Leadership Council are expected to be present.

from our Christian Education Director...

I hope you know that your insights are very important to me and I value what you have to say; please drop me a note, phone me up, or catch me after worship.

Joan Farstad

Attention, Parents with young children!

We have 2 paid nursery attendants on duty during the Sunday School hour for parents with young children who wish to teach or attend Sunday School. We also have 2 nursery attendants on duty during worship, from approximately 15 minutes before worship until approximately 15 minutes after worship. We hope you will take advantage of these important ministries.

Worship in November

Sunday School—9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

We have classes for all ages

Sunday Worship - 10:15 a.m.

Child care is provided

Sunday, November 1 - All Saints Sunday (Daylight Saving Time ends)

All Saints Remembrance of those who have died in the past year and recognition of memorials given

Chancel Choir – “God Remembers Pain”

Dick Clark preaching

Stewardship Minute – Marlys Hughes,
“Circles of Hope”

Holy Communion

Lectionary readings: Isaiah 25:6-9; Psalm 24; Revelation 21:1-6a; John 11:32-44

Sunday, November 8

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Chancel Choir – “With A Voice of Singing”

Stewardship Minute – Cool Congregations

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary readings: Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17;
Psalm 127 or 42; Hebrews 9:24-28;
Mark 12:38-44

Sunday, November 15

24th Sunday after Pentecost

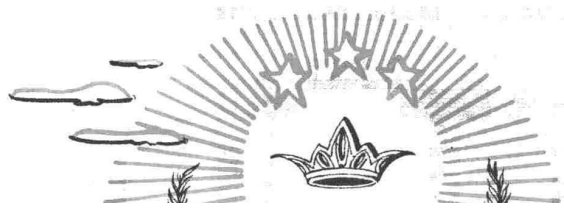
Stewardship Sunday

Ian Abbott, Saxophone solo

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary readings: 1 Samuel 1:4-20;
Psalm 113 (or 1 Samuel 2:1-10);
Hebrews 10:11-25; Mark 13:1-8

We encourage you to read the scriptures before you come to worship as part of your spiritual discipline and preparation for worship. In worship we usually use one or two of the readings listed.



Sunday, November 22

Christ the King/Reign of Christ Sunday

Thanksgiving Offering:

½ Cunningham School for Excellence,

½ Wesley Foundation

Chancel Choir – “A Simple Thanksgiving”

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16,
20-24; Psalm 100; Ephesians 1:15-23;
Matthew 25:31-46

Sunday, November 29

1st Sunday of Advent

United Methodist Student Day offering

Dick Clark preaching

Lectionary readings: 2 Samuel 23:1-7;
Psalm 132:1-12; Revelation 1:4b-8;
John 18:33-37

Special Thanksgiving Service

November 22, 7:00 p.m. at St. Tims

Our annual Cedar Falls United Methodist Thanksgiving Service will be held on Sunday, November 22, at 7:00 pm, at St. Timothys. Steve Williams, new pastor at First United Methodist, Cedar Falls, will be the preacher. Participants in this service include: First, St. Timothys and Washington Chapel United Methodist Churches and the Wesley Connection. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. An offering will be received.

Tips and Tools for Caregivers Conference Planned

Friday, November 6

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cedar Valley Community Church, Waterloo



Are you a caregiver for an older family member or friend? You may not consider what you do as care giving. Do you help with your parents' household chores and finances? Or mow your neighbor's yard? Do you drive an elderly friend to her doctor appointment? If so, then you are among approximately 300,000 caregivers in Iowa who provide 319 million hours of informal care each year. The care you provide allows your friend or loved one to stay independent and in their home for as long as they desire.

But being a caregiver is a great sacrifice. Many times caregivers work with little support. They struggle with juggling work and their own family commitments. Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging understands how stressful care giving can be and wants to help. "Tips and Tools for Caregivers" is a one day conference filled with nationally-known speakers and helpful presentations for people who provide care to family, friends or loved ones age 60 and over.

If you are a caregiver, make plans to attend this valuable conference. Enjoy a much needed break. Interact with others who are also providing care to a friend or a loved one. Learn some valuable information that will help you in your care giving role.

"Tips and Tools for Caregivers" will be held on Friday, November 6 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The conference will take place at the Cedar Valley Community Church located at 3520 Ansborough Avenue in Waterloo. Preregistration is required. The cost is \$10 per person which includes lunch, materials and gifts. For information on registration or respite care call 319-272-1767 or toll free at 877-538-0508. This caregiver conference is sponsored by Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, Active Style, Home Instead Senior Care, Valley Services and KWWL.

HVAAA is a private, not-for-profit corporation. Our mission is to create and provide services for older persons empowering them to maintain their independence for as long as they desire. HVAAA serves a 10 county area including Black Hawk, Bremer, Buchanan, Butler, Chickasaw, Grundy, Hardin, Marshall, Poweshiek and Tama counties. For more information call the Senior Help Line toll free at 877-538-0508.

Missions & Outreach

November Offerings

Sunday School - Hawthorn Hill Ministries - Rainbow Covenant Blue

Hawthorn Hill Ministries operates two programs: New Directions Shelter and Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners. The shelter provides free emergency housing and case management services for homeless mothers and their children. The Friends provides justice advocacy and scholarships for women inmates to obtain GED and college level courses.

November 1 - Honoring All Saints Day

November 29 - United Methodist Student Day - Rainbow Covenant Purple

On November 29, a special offering will be taken to provide loan and scholarship funds for United Methodist college, university and graduate students. Each year \$50,000 is returned to annual conferences for scholarships to their own students. We invite you to come prepared for this sharing opportunity.

November 22 - Thanksgiving Offering - Two Local Missions

1. 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. Our gifts can provide uniforms, school supplies, scholarships for field trips, and many more opportunities of ministry.

2. Wesley Foundation at UNI

Wesley Foundation received significant storm damage this summer and is in the throes of repair now. The International Outreach Project ministers to 60-80% of the international student population at UNI. Multiple programs and services are available. With our help, all of the students will be back into a newly renovated facility.

For Christmas

CASS (Cedar AIDS Support System) Adopt-a-Client Christmas

We invite you to share an offering toward the purchase of Target gift cards for Christmas. A majority of the clients live under the poverty level and by giving gift cards to each family, they then can decide if they would like to purchase gifts for themselves or their children and/or groceries for a family celebration. On December 6 a special offering will be received which will contribute towards making a real difference in their lives at this time of year.

Cunningham School Christmas Adopt-A-Family Project

Watch for the bulletin board display mid November in the Great Hall. The wrapped gifts will be due December 13.

Thanksgiving Ingathering

**Remember to attend the Thanksgiving Ingathering
November 7 at the Cedar Falls First UMC**

- 7:30 to 11:00a Check-in of kits, quilts, bazaar and bake sale items
7:30 to 10:00a Fellowship time with coffee and rolls
8:30 to 9:15a Tour to the kit site at Lincoln School
8:50 to 12:05p Mission presentations
9:00 to 1:00p Mission displays
10:00a Worship with Communion, speaker Beverly Nolte, INP
11:15 to 1:00p Sloppy Joe Lunch (\$5 adults, \$2 for 12 and under, lunch served at site)
1:00p Quilt Auction-Large size and baby quilts, comforters, wall hangings and large wood items



P.I.E. Possibilities

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

St. Timothys is a Partner In Education 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

Please save your grocery receipts from HyVee (groceries, medicines, gas, deli) and bring them to St. Timothys. You can put them in the Capps or Latta's box in the Communi-center or in the "decorated" shoe box just outside of the office. The school can "cash these in" at HyVee for more support.

Other stuff

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 or the shoebox in the west entrance.

Thanks for your support!

Community Meals

Tuesday, November 17 at CF First UMC

St. Timothys will serve Community Meals on Tuesday, November 17.

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 total).

To help, please contact Lois Taylor.

Needs List for Church Women United

Remember to bring items needed for people in the area. Collection bins are in the closet directly across from the main sanctuary door, between the coat closet and the name tag case. Please leave your labeled donations before **November 9**. Contact—Mary Hansen.

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, scissors.

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" x11" 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, magnets, balls & baseball gloves, empty plastic jars with lids, empty thread spools, flowers of any kind (plastic, dried, silk), sea shells, baby food jars.

View St. Tims calendar online
You'll find an online version of our calendar at www.sttims-umc.org.

Submit news for the December 2009 issue of Tims Tales to Sally Yakish
webspinner@sttims-umc.org
by **Friday, November 20**.

Canterbury Forum meets Sunday, November 8

7:00 p.m. Will Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Cedar Falls (doors open 6:30)

Topic: Holy Terror: The Sikhs and Sacred Martyrdom

Speaker: Lou Fenech, Department of History, UNI

Since 9/11 martyrdom seems to have been largely understood as a Muslim phenomenon. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Both Judaism and Christianity have long cherished the memories of martyrs such as the Maccabees and Stephen. But the Abrahamic faiths are not alone in revering holy martyrdom. Overlooked by Westerners, in India there are ancient religious traditions which exhibit an even greater fascination with holy martyrdom. This talk, by religious historian Lou Fenech, will focus on the most prominent of those Indian traditions, Sikhism, the world's sixth largest religion, a faith whose origins lie at the intersection of Hinduism and Islam, and one in which sacred martyrdom plays a central role. There is no cost to attend, but snacks to share are appreciated.

<http://www.canterburyforum.net>

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.