

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT



Rev. Paul Wilcox
Conference Superintendent
paul.wilcox@iaumc.org

Karen Wersinger
District Administrative Assistant
karen.wersinger@iaumc.org

2302 W. 1st St., Ste. #2 | Cedar Falls, IA 50613 | T. 319.268.7502 | F. 319.774.5524 | www.iaumc.org/nedist

NED – North East District

July 18, 2019

Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Closed 12-1 pm

A NOTE FROM HOME

“And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire’ and after the fire a still small voice.” 1

Kings 19: 11-12

Being able to visit people in their homes is one of the more rewarding and fun parts of ministry. But occasionally even home visitation has its minor irritations. My biggest “pet peeve” is when I sit down to talk for a while and my host doesn’t turn off the television set. Now you may think I am being picky but try to maintain a meaningful conversation above the din of exploding cars, ax murders, and raids, and I think you’ll understand my feelings. I have discovered, however, a way to get the boob tube off – or at least turned down – without having recourse to physical violence: I just talk softer. Rather than raising my voice to be heard over the noises, I lower my voice so that, if they want to hear me, they’ve got to turn off the TV. It’s kind of a sneaky trick, but it works!

I think God knows that trick too, because when God Speaks it’s usually not in the strong wind or the earthquake or the fire, but in a still small voice. And if we want to hear that voice that brings peace and wholeness to our lives, then I suppose we need to tune out all the distractions that speak so much louder than God.

Summer is here! Remember when you said in the midst of your busiest times, “I can’t wait till summer than I’ll slow down a notch.” Now is the time for slowing down and taking time to listen, to your family, to your own heart, to your God. Make quiet time with God a part of the daily routine, today, while new habits are still forming. Because God has come to visit us. And the question is, will we tune out the distractions long enough to hear what God’s quiet Word has to say?

In Christ, Paul.

Cell Phone Scam Targets Church Members – see article from Waterloo Courier [here](#).

EMAIL SCAM: Bishop Laurie Haller stated emails are going out with her name on it requesting EBAY gift certificates. Please ignore this email as it is a scam.

BoOM Candidacy Retreat – need to register before July 22, 2019 – click [here](#) for more information.

Women at the Well coming to Cedar Falls in August!

You're invited to join Women at the Well, our United Methodist church inside the Iowa women's prison in Mitchellville, IA, as its pastors visit Cedar Falls on the weekend of August 17-18.

Right Next Door: Women at the Well Workshops

Saturday, August 17, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

at First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls

Join Women at the Well for an afternoon of learning around issues of justice, incarceration, and welcome. We'll meet in a worshipful opening time, all together, and then grab some snacks and break into two groups:

Reentry Team Training, led by Pastor Paul Witmer, Minister of Reentry and Congregational Care. This training will inspire and prepare participants to work as part of a team with women coming out of prison, accompanying them during that first year.

Workshop "Welcoming Home: How the Church Makes Room," led by Pastor Lee Roorda Schott. We'll consider how the church can become supportive community for those who themselves or in their families are dealing with incarceration, addiction, sexual violence, mental illness, poverty and more. Will we make room for this kind of diversity? What will that call from us? How will it enrich us?

Words & Music for Foolish Church

Saturday, August 17, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

At Threehouse, a Wesley Foundation, 2422 College St., Cedar Falls

Join author Lee Roorda Schott, along with Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, a gifted singer and songwriter from Strawberry Point, as we spend an evening of sung and spoken words about life, the church, foolishness, and more. Lee is the pastor of Women at the Well, a church inside the women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa, and recently published her book *Foolish Church: Messy, Raw, Real, and Making Room*. She'll share her story and some readings in between selections from Richard's amazing repertoire that is both faithful and beautiful. Light refreshments will be served. We hope you'll join us! We'll take a freewill offering to support Richard's presence with us, and Lee and Richard will have books and music, respectively, available for purchase.

Women at the Well Preaching Engagements

Sunday, August 18, 2019

Cedar Falls, First UMC (718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls)

Service Times: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Paul Witmer, Minister of Reentry and Congregational Care will be preaching the *Hard and Promising Story of Return*, in which he will explore the familiar biblical story of prodigal sons and

daughters, especially focusing on the hard work of coming home. Paul will explore the concepts of self-awareness, repentance and confession; forgiveness; reconciliation and the challenging work of restoring broken relationships.

Jesup, First UMC (455 6th Street, Jesup)

Service Time: 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Lee Roorda Schott, Pastor of Women at the Well UMC, will be preaching about *Making Room*, in which she'll ponder whether we can be foolish enough to welcome the broken and needful into our churches, and make room for their healing, as well as their celebration.

If you would like additional information, or would like to plan to attend one of the Saturday events, please RSVP to Pastor Paul by e-mail at wellreentry@iaumc.org, or by phone at 515/313-6916.

In Christ's Service-

Daniel Schott – Administrative Assistant

Women At the Well UMC

P.O. Box 33

Mitchellville, Iowa 50169

515-822-4599

womenatthewell@iaumc.org

Office Hours: M: 8 am – 5 pm

W: 8 am – 5 pm

Th: 8 am – 1 pm

Support Women at the Well!

To donate directly, click: <https://iaumc-reg.brtaapp.com/watw> for one-time credit/debit gifts.

Greetings, All!

Below are links to the new report form, which replaces the one for the Rainbow Covenant. One version of the form is online, and the other you can print out.

For the online form, go to <https://www.iaumc.org/inmissiontogether> . If you scroll down, you will see the form for the Northeast District. This page also provides guidelines for filling out the form, links to United Methodist projects, etc.

A version to print out is at <https://www.iaumc.org/forms> . It's near the top of the list.

On the report forms, we'd love to have as many churches as possible tell us more about their giving, serving, and partnering. Also, do let us know if you have any questions or if there is any other way we can help.

Ken and Barbara Bazyn 641-489-2315 kenbazyn@netins.net



NED letting his hair blow at Fairbank

UPCOMING DATES:

Save the Date: Fall 2019 Orders & Fellowship event will be October 1 & 2nd at the Ankeny, First UMC Christian Life Center. See flyer [here](#).

Iowa Five-Day Academy for Spiritual Formation – for Laity and Clergy – see flyer [here](#).

Tuesday July 30 – New Clergy to NE District meet at District Office

Expectation Meetings currently going on with new Clergy and SPRC Committee members.

Check the NE District Web Page to make sure you know where your “Professional Interview with DS” is and the place you need to meet him at. ** Email will be coming with link to “People Dashboard” to fill out your form PRIOR to your interview. Check your spam and trash if you do not get this email by Friday. Contact the NE District office on Monday if you have not received this email.

CHURCH CHARGE CONFERENCES are being set up now. Elders will be meeting either August 27 or Sept. 5th at the NE District office for training. IF you have not responded, check your email as they were sent already with the invitation to attend.

CHURCH DASHBOARDS are getting updated right now and should be ready as you read this email, with this year’s fall charge conference forms. If you have trouble signing into the church dashboard, please email the NE District office to get assistance.

Check the NE District web page in the next few weeks to see when your charge conference is scheduled if you have Paul Wilcox coming to complete your church’s charge conference.

UPDATE ON DISTRICT OFFICES:

We have already merged the NW and SW District offices and they will be moving next week into their new "home". The SC and Central offices merged in February and will be moving to their new location soon. We just received word that the SE District office and the East Central office will be combining here at the end of this month. Sherry Swanson is leaving us as the DAA in the SE District office.

What this means to you? Please make sure you check your emails as information will be coming to you this way. Check out the District web pages as updates are posted here. You might not get to speak with someone right away as the DAA's that are remaining are packing up the offices that are being closed. We have some office furniture in the NE District office that will be available once we get ready to close – but you will need to come to the district office and pick it up. The other districts also have furniture available if you are looking for desks or chairs.



NED at Dunkerton – Aren't these windows beautiful?