Jssue 7

## New Beginnings...

### Notes from the pastor's pen---

Thank you to all who came to church last Sunday and made Kathy and I feel so very welcomed. And how excited I am to be your new pastor! The covered dish lunch was better than any Methodist "eating meeting" I have attended, and I've attended quite a few over the years. Fortunately, the boxes that filled our new home are slowly being emptied and set outside for the garbage collector (he and I are good friends these days).

As you and I begin our new relationship, I encourage us to see this transition as an opportunity to reflect, to look at where we've been, where we are, and where we want to go in our efforts at making disciples and transforming the world in the name of Jesus Christ. I invite us to identify our church strengths, what we do well, and honestly look at those areas where we have room to grow. I would like for us to carefully consider what it means to be a church, to be this church here in Monroe, and to lift up a common vision. It is a process in which many churches engage during times of transition and it makes sense for us to do so now, and in various ways. The goal of this time of reflection is simply this: to have a better idea of what we need to do in order to get to where we want to go. I believe this time will help us plan better, communicate better, and work together better with a common understanding.

I will be asking for your input in the weeks ahead, and as I do, I hope that we may listen to the conversations that occur in the different settings, and appreciate what each of us is saying. I also hope that as we listen to each other, we may also hear what the Spirit is trying to tell us--about us! I'm thinking that the disciples of Jesus did not experience the miracle of Pentecost by happenstance. Jesus led them through a deliberate, three-year experience that brought them to an unmistakable conclusion as to who Jesus was and is, and who they were now empowered to be for the world. The same is true for us in our journey of faith and certainly now as we regroup as a congregation. Blessings to you!

Let the journey begin!

Van



# Introducing the Reverend Dr. John (Van) Dickens

Reverend Dickens grew up in Shreveport, LA, graduating from Centenary College of Louisiana in 1977, earning a B. A. degree in Religion. He then received the Master of Theology degree from Southern Methodist University in 1983. In 1990, he graduated from Emory University with a Doctor of Ministry degree. Reverend Dickens was ordained Elder in 1985 in Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church, serving several churches before transferring to the North Carolina Conference. In August, 1994, he was commissioned Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy (Chaplain Corps), completing the Navy Chaplain's Basic Course in Newport, Rhode Island in October 1994 and reported for duty at Second Marine Division, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina with deployments to Okinawa, Japan and South Korea.

In July 1997, Chaplain Dickens was assigned to United States Coast Guard Yard, Baltimore, Maryland as Command Champlain. In September 2000, he reported to USS Lake Erie (CG 70), participating in theater ballistic missile defense testing in the South Pacific. In September 2002, he was assigned to the United States Naval Academy.

In October, 2005, he was transferred to the First Marine Division, where he deployed with the Third Battalion, Fifth Marines to Al Anbar Province, Iraq, in support of OIF 05-7.1. He was then reassigned as Regimental Chaplain, Eleventh Marines. He was again reassigned as Deputy Division Chaplain, and again reassigned as Division Chaplain, providing supervision, training and assigning for thirty chaplains of various faith groups.

His follow-on assignment was to U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command as Deputy Command Chaplain in January 2009 in Norfolk, Virginia where he oversaw training and policy for over one hundred chaplains. In January 2012, he was assigned Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay Cuba, overseeing, providing for, and facilitating ministry for thirteen different faith groups. He reported to the U. S. Coast Guard academy in New London, Connecticut in June 2013 as Command Chaplain for the Corps of Cadets, faculty and staff.

In addition to his unit and service awards, Chaplain Dickens' personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (gold star in lieu of third award), the Navy Commendation Medal (gold star in lieu of third award), the Navy Achievement Medal (with one gold star), and the Coast Guard Achievement Medal. He is designated to wear the Fleet Marine Force Qualification Officer (FMFQO) insignia.

In 2015, he was selected as the recipient of the Navy Chaplain Corps peer nominated Craven Senior Leadership Award, the Navy's highest award for outstanding service in the Chaplain Corps.

Reverend Dickens retired from the Navy at the rank of Captain in 2016 and moved to Texas with his wife, the Reverend Kathy Clark-Dickens. In 2018 he authored his first novel, *Deployment of a Darkhourse*. Van and Kathy are blessed with two daughters, Emily and Caroline, and one grandson, Milo John Oestreich.

# 2018 Ice Cream Social















Thanks to everyone who helped with and came to this year's ice cream social!

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Sunday July 1, 2018 the Monroe United Methodist Church welcomed Pastor Van and his wife Kathy. Pastor Van lead the service. There was a great time at the potluck following the service with plenty of food and plenty of fellowship!





















### The Healthy Church Initiative

When the District Superintendent came to the first meeting with the SPRC following news that Pastor Kim was being transferred, he had just had a meeting in Marshalltown about Healthy Church. He described the SPRC as a committee that is like the immune system. SPRC sometimes hears complaints that must be dealt with. Ideally, through dialogue, the SPRC can shed new light, and improve communications. The main thing is to make sure that our efforts always include the mission of our church. "To make disciples for the transformation of the world" is the reason and driver of the church. The Healthy Church Initiative was formed to help transform churches and aid in fulfilling "The Great Commission." Matthew 28:16-20 tells of this command. Verse 19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." The mission is official in our Book of Discipline.

This program has been around for at least 14 years. Now, it seems the initiative is gaining ground in lowa as a renewed commitment to "make disciples." The lowa Conference is talking about growing fruitful churches through faith, fruit and fire. The focus is on leadership, communication, outreach and evangelism.

Healthy Church Initiative has been implemented all across Texas and in more that 30 conferences. At First UMC in Colony, Texas, the program was implemented in three phases. Phase one was shared leadership development. They developed leadership skills over eight months. Even if they did not move beyond this phase the experience would help them communicate. Phase two was a consultation and intervention process.

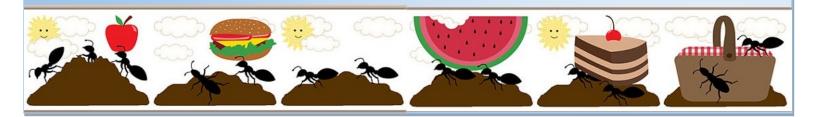
Phase three was implementation of the prescriptions. Implementation teams took two years to complete the plans. There was coaching for the minister, staff and laity to complete the prescriptions to assist with tracking progress and identify barriers and obstacles.

I encourage us to consider this, or a planned, well thought-out approach to ministry like Healthy Church Initiative as we continue to achieve our church mission.

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18

"Be joyful always; pray continuously; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."

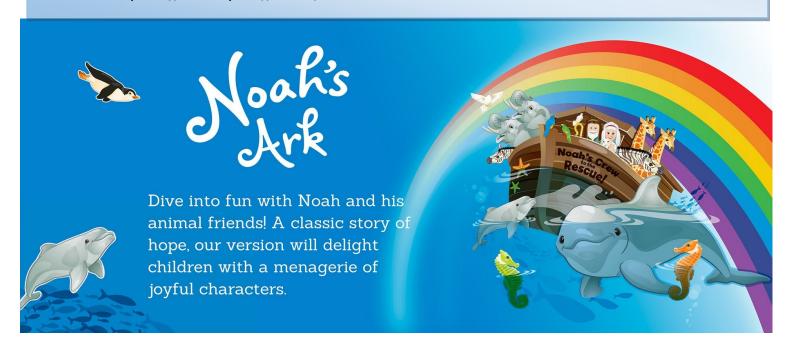
Marvin Steenhoek, Lay Leader



July Community Table, Wednesday
July 18 beginning at 5:00, features
the summertime favorite...The Hot
Dog! You may also enjoy baked
beans, Jell-O salad, dessert and a drink and
some great bluegrass music. Community table
is a FREE meal open to EVERYONE!

Ad Council will meet Wednesday July 11 at 7:00. The Trustees will meet before at 6:30. If you have any agenda items for the meeting, please let the Donna Stravers know.

VBS will be held at the Monroe Presbyterian Church Sunday July 8—Thursday July 12! If you have signed up to donate items please have them at the MPC as soon as possible. And <u>your</u> help is always needed! Contact Lisa Tucker or Monroe Presbyterian Church for more information.













Pastor Kim's final Community Table. Over 100 people came to fellowship at the wonderful ministry started by Pastor Kim and that will be continued in the future!

# Farewell Pastor Kim







































#### July Birthdays and Anniversaries **Amy Ver Heul** Dave & Diana Van Veen Linda Birkenholtz 5 Easton Van Veen **Donna Stravers** Rod Schakel 8 Paul Kane Bailee Lamb **Carley Strovers** 11 Rod & Jeanne Van Genderen July 1 Deb Coulter & Alan Jennings Janna Diekema 12 **Ardythe Timmins** 13 14 John Holdsworth Myra McConeghey Art & Sue Gregerson Erick Ver Heul 15 Week of July 1 Kim Worth David & Bobbie Schrader 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 16 **Doug Duinink** Psalm 130 **Opal Van Der Hart** 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 19 June Hjortshoj Mark 5:21-43 Robert Sheeler **Deb Coulter** 20 Week of July 8 Daryl & Liz Hormann 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 22 Becky Konek Psalm 48 25 **Erik Thomas** 2 Corinthians 12:2-10 27 **Emily Romick** Mark 6:1-13 Diana Van Veen 28 **Greg Duinink** 29 Matthew Peery Mike Nolin 30 **Amy Fagg**

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Rod & Lori Schakel

### July Ushers: 1 Helen Nolin, Sharon Covey, Donna Van Veen July 8 Janice Cook, Patty Duinink July 22 & 29 Jim & Kelly Phillips, Greg & Leslie Duinink July Liturgist: July 1 Kelly Phillips July 8 Dianna Nolin July 22 Donna Stravers July 29 Jeanne Van Genderen Communion:

Hospitality:

22 Shirley McGragor

### **Scripture Readings**

#### Week of July 15

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19

Psalm 24

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:14-29

#### Week of July 22

2 Samuel 7:1-14a

Psalm 89:20-37

Ephesians 2:11-12

Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

#### Week of July 29

2 Samuel 11:1-15

Psalm 14

Ephesians 3:14-21

John 6:1-21



# July 2018



Sun	Man	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		_			I_	1_
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Welcome Pastor Van!			Independence Day	Charge Conference 6:00		
Potluck after Service			Office Closed	0:00		
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	AA 7:00					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	AA 7:00		Trustees 6:30			Banner Quilting
			Ad Council 7:00			9:00-2:00
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Service In The Park			MOMs 9:00			
10:00			Community Table 5:00-7:00			
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	AA 7:00					
22	23	24	ΠΓ			28
			25	26	27	20
	Worship Committee			26	27	Zā
	6:00		25 Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	26	27	26
	6:00 AA 7:00	n Canning		26	27	Zā
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	6:00 AA 7:00			26	27	20
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00	6:00 AA 7:00 <b>Chicke</b> r	n Canning		26	27	26
Boy Scouts 6:30-8:00 29	6:00 AA 7:00 Chicker 30 Bazaar Meeting	n Canning		26	27	26





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Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
8:30-12:30