



RISK—TAKING MISSIONS

First United Methodist Church-Newton entered a Chabadza covenant partnership with Hilltop United Methodist Church in Mutare, Zimbabwe, February 17, 2011. "Chabadza" is a Shona word that means, at least according to one interpretation, "working together." It is "a clarion call used by families working in the fields when they need help. Chabadza can also be initiated by people who are willing to offer help to a family engaged in any other agricultural work." The Mutare District is located in a mountainous area in the eastern part of Zimbabwe. It has 25 circuits, 13 rural and 12 urban. The district's churches are challenged by unemployment, HIV/AIDS, droughts, and distances between congregations for pastors to travel.

Other mission partnerships

Serving meals at the Homeless Shelter

Circles™ of Hope

Weekday Bible School

Doing Faith Promise Pledge



Inspiring•Inviting•
Including•Instructing

First United Methodist Church
Growing disciples to reach others for
Christ

“MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENTS EARLY AND WISELY”

May reminds me of many things. Spring is here and summer is coming. It also reminds me of mothers, graduations, a school year drawing to a close, getting one year older (me), making summer plans, vacation, people who have died and gone on to be with the Lord.

I usually spend more time looking at the calendar in May than I do at other times of the year. It's time to plan out the summer. It's time to make some appointments. It's time to schedule my yearly physical. It's time to visit some familiar places and a few unfamiliar places. It's time to connect with old friends and family members we haven't been with for awhile.

I hope that in our summer plans we will all make appointments to deepen our relationships with Jesus Christ and with one another. My next preaching series will cover that very theme. “It's time to make an appointment” and take a deeper look at our goals, to evaluate life in comparison with eternity, to help someone in need, to have a spiritual vision exam, to study the Word of God, to daily look for where God is working, to rest and reboot. My prayer is that our spiritual appointments with Christ will be just as majestic and “awe” inspiring as a drive through the mountains of Colorado.

This summer we will also be calling for pictorial directory photo appointments. It will be wonderful to have a new directory so plan ahead and schedule a time to get your pictures taken. This summer will include a mission trip to South Dakota for our youth. Pray for safety, love, open hearts and minds.

May the Lord have first place in our appointments this summer. May Christ bless our lives with mission, purpose, vision, filling, refocusing, and peace as we make our summer plans and journey with an eternal purpose.

God bless each of you as you come and go.

Pastor Doug
Pastor Doug Tofteland

“If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”
John 14:14, NRSV

Homeless Shelter Meals

Our time to serve the meals is coming in May. We will be serving on May 11, 14, 15, and 16. If you or your group can help this time please let Lois Anderson know which evening and what you are serving. You may contact Lois at 284-0940 or email loisand@southwind.net

GLOBAL IMPACT CELEBRATION SUMMARY

It was a great weekend at our church with many things happening. There were 9 wonderful speakers/guests/missionaries of which 3 were international, 2 were national, 3 were Newtonians, and 1 special speaker that was both international and serves in Wichita. We heard some great preaching and lots of interesting stories and life experiences, worshiped, ate a lot, yelled Yea Gods! sang, got to know missionaries one on one and in small groups, ate lots of good food, felt the Holy Spirit's presence, were challenged to commit – our lives, our finances, our time and energy, and ate some more. We also painted, pulled weeds, played games, ate, watched the pageantry of a flag procession, and celebrated. We learned about God's work here and around the world as well as how we can be involved in that.

We all worked together to make this happen and with God's help the results were awesome. There were three people who gave their lives to Christ, 1 person who expressed interest in a career of mission service, 3 who are interested in career ministry, 16 committed to short term mission service, 36 who want to do local mission work, 45 who promised to pray consistently for missions, and 28 who want to help others go on mission trips. Praise the Lord! There was also an opportunity for people to make a Faith Promise to God to give to missions as He provides over the coming year. The sum of those pledges was \$20,498.00. Do we hear another “Praise the Lord!”

May everyone continue to pray for God's leading as we strive to be his hands and feet in the world – whether that be here in Newton or someplace far away. And please remember to pray for the missionaries we got to know and for the work they are doing. Thank you one and all for your involvement in the Celebration we experienced. —LaRita Claassen for the GO Team



YOUTH GARAGE SALE

YOUTH NEWS

Saturday, May 14 Youth Group Garage Sale and Pulled Pork Lunch.

Start sorting through your closets, garage etc. You may bring items anytime and they will be stored in the 3rd floor Sr. High room. Pre-priced items will help us out. We will accept clothing in good condition. This is also a fund raiser for the mission trip

Connect, Serve, & Grow ~ ~ *By Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries*

²¹Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.'
²²And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" John 21:21, 22 (ESV)

It is still April as I write this. What a wonderful month it has been. We began it with the Global Impact Celebration when we delighted in God's mission right here in Newton to the ends of the earth. We will end the month celebrating Easter when we rejoice for God's redemption through Jesus Christ and the gift of his divine life in us. We enjoy the assurance of God's love and the hope to which he has called us. Through Christ our stories are merged into the story of God reconciling all things unto himself in Christ.

He not only calls us, he sends us to share our story/his story with others. In other words, each of us is called and sent on mission. We are to share and show Christ Jesus to others. Everyone has a story to tell. (If you don't have a story to tell you need to find out how to get one.) Ed Stetzer said, "A vibrant church is everyone living on mission for God's agenda." All are called and gifted to share the life God gives us. The only question is with whom and where. Through our telling the story we invite all to join the community of fellowship in the life God gives us in Christ Jesus.*

*Jesus said, "On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you." John 14:20 (NIV, 2011)

MISSION MOMENTS ~ ~ *by Jay Anderson*

What was planned for, for over a year came together at the Global Impact Celebration on April 8-10. I want to thank Kay Ediger, Edna Hanzlicek, and LaRita Claassen for their excellent leadership in planning this event. And thanks, too, to all those who volunteered to help make it happen. Everyone I talked to thought this was a great experience for themselves and for our church. Here are some of their responses.

"Wow! It was so good to see our church come together for this missions celebration. The Holy Spirit was really present."

It was great to see the youth involved (thanks to the Holvers and the Bartels). It brought me a greater awareness of missions local and beyond."

"It was inspiring and enlightening. It helped me to understand what missions is all about."

"It was really special. I enjoyed meeting and talking to real missionaries."

"The people were really energized. It was amazing to see so many people volunteering and making commitments."

I would just have to say "Amen" to all of the above.

BAZAAR WORKSHOP

The hand quilted quilt, "Crown of Thorns" is ready for our 45th Bazaar. Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 5.— We are planning and working on many new projects and pray that you are also. The May Workshop is scheduled for the 18th at 1:30 p.m. We welcome and appreciate your presence, help and input. —It is not too early for you to start looking through your **jewelry** and sharing the treasures you no longer wear. The jewelry is such an important part of our Bazaar and brings so much interest plus helps fund our Mission programs. Let your friends and family know about our need for jewelry so we can help others. Thanks for caring and sharing.

YEA GOD!

The Holy Spirit was moving mightily among our congregation last weekend and many of you felt led to make a GIC Faith Promise Commitment. 44 pledges were turned in and anyone can still turn one in at any time. There was a total of \$20,498.00 promised to mission support over the next year. For those of you who did make a commitment this can be given weekly, monthly, quarterly, or in one sum. Please designate on your check or envelope that it is for GIC Faith Promise. We must now trust God to be faithful in this promise. He may provide unexpected income. He may lead you to raise funds in a creative or innovative way. He may ask you to adjust your lifestyle so you will have additional monies. Throughout the year we would love to hear your stories of how God provided for your GIC Faith Promise – whether it was by an unusual gift or by simple obedience to better stewardship. Please share those testimonies with Roy Pumphrey, Pastor Doug or LaRita Claassen. Thank you all for your prayerful consideration of this and your responses. YEA GOD!

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This newsletter has been prayerfully prepared for:



Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Dr. Doug Tofteland, Lead Pastor
Jay Anderson, Missions Pastor
Roy Pumphrey, Minister of Ministries
Roxie Truan, Office Secretary
Beverly Stigge, Choir Director
Barry Fulmer, Praise Team Leader
David Portlock, Custodian



NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Two memorial fiction books:

Almost Forever by Deborah Raney, is a story about a terrible fire, death, and new life rising out of the ashes, forgiveness, and love. It is a memorial book for Arlene Broadfoot, given by the UMW.

The Atonement Child, by Francine Rivers is also a book given in memory of Marjorie Price by the UMW. This book tells about a rape, an unwanted pregnancy, a family torn apart, and then shows the power of God's forgiveness and his grace.

Three More books with True Stories of Extraordinary Answers to Prayer, all are Guideposts books: **The Desires of Your Heart, Praying Together, and In Times of Change.**

Three Non-Fiction Books:

Operation World is the completely revised 7th edition of the definitive prayer guide to every nation. There are interesting and perhaps surprising facts about every nation in the world. For instance Zimbabwe has only 38% urbanites and life expectancy is

43.4 years.

The Birth Called Death by Kathie Jordan is the remarkable story of one woman's journeys to the other side of life with her deceased brother as her guide. Very interesting, yet hard to believe.

Cure For the Common Life; Living in Your Sweet Spot by Max Lucado. "...Max Lucado hits the nail on the head when he reveals in chapter after chapter that people cannot be anything they want to be, but they can be everything God wants them to be. Read, discover, and rejoice in your sweet spot, out of which you are intended to live." quoted from Millard Fuller, founder, Habitat for Humanity.

