



the Messenger

October
2017

Mark Your Calendar

- 10.1 All Church Birthday Party
- 10.2 CE Board / Bible Study
- 10.4 Awana / Elevate
- 10.9 Bible Study
- 10.10 Deacons / Missions
- 10.11 Awana / Elevate
- 10.12 ABW Women Breakfast
- 10.11 Awana / Elevate
- 10.15 Pack Away Hunger
- 10.16 Bible Study
- 10.17 Deaconesses / Trustees
- 10.18 Awana / Elevate
- 10.22 Business Meeting
- 10.23 Bible Study
- 10.24 Advisory Board
- 10.25 Awana / Elevate
- 10.29 Trunk or Treat
- 10.30 Bible Study


A First

I had a first today...and unfortunately it is not one that I am proud of.

When I pulled up to the church building after having run home for lunch there was a dark van sitting under the awning. I've been around long enough now that I know all of the vehicles and drivers who frequent our building and this van was not one I knew. It was littered with rusty joints, had a beaten up body and literally had duck tape holding the window of the sliding door in place. There were four adults in the van, at least two kids that I could see and not a car seat in sight. As I approached the van no one got out, but through an open window in the front, a person in the back asked if we helped with gas vouchers.

After a short conversation and a check of our assistance records, I could see that we had not helped these people before and proceeded to the gas station to put some gas in the van so that they could continue on their journey. But all the while my heart was hard.

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Church Board Meetings

DEACONS

- Reviewed shut-in list; Reach cards
- Discussed Pastor's report
- Discussed requests for help

MISSIONS

- \$25 given One Great Hour of Sharing
- \$200 given to Hurricane Relief
- \$300 given for 2 tables @ Pack Away Hunger for Mercy Meals
- \$100 given for Christian Cross Festival shortage for 2017 concert

DEACONESSES

- Continue to make contact with the women of the church

CE BOARD

- Children's Church now meeting 2 times a month for 4-6 yrs old
- Awana off to good start
- Plans for Trunk or Treat, Oct 29th, 4:30 - 6 pm

UNSUNG SERVANT

Our unsung servant for the month can not only be seen serving in our church family, but there are many times she can also be heard. This unsung servant is active in a variety of ministries and just a few weeks ago, began the process of breathing new life into a ministry that used to happen during the sermon for our kids. When not ministering at church she can be found carting grandkids or vegetables around town or substitute teaching at one of the schools in town.

In case you have yet to guess, Darlene Wolff is our Unsung Servant for the month of October. Darlene is a longtime member and faithful servant of our church family. Every other Sunday Darlene can usually be found sitting behind the piano helping lead our church family in worship through playing the piano. She also is here every Wednesday night as Director of the T&T group at Awana. Just recently Darlene has begun spearheading the effort to begin a Children's Church time during the Sunday morning message.

Darlene has a kind and generous heart that is as big as they come and we are grateful for her presence. If you see Darlene anytime soon, make sure to encourage her and thank her for all of the hard work she does for the Lord and our church family.

Darlene, from a grateful church family, thank you for serving!



"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back."

NORFOLK FOOD PANTRY

FBC is helping stock the pantry shelves this month by collecting canned or boxed dinners. Please bring to them the church lobby and put them in the shopping cart. Thank you!

October 29th 4:30– 6pm



Candy donations may be brought to church and left at the display.

AMERICAN BAPTIST WOMEN

Breakfast 9 am at Hy Vee West...all ladies are welcome!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church will meet the first and third Sunday of each month. This class is for kids 4-6 years old to take place during the Sermon time.

PACK AWAY HUNGER

We will be sponsoring two tables at the event held at the DeVent Center on October 15th from 2-4 pm. You can sign up at the Connection Center. You'll need to stand for all 2 hours.

BUSINESS MEETING

October 22nd directly after the worship service. Church Board Chairs please have your reports into the church office by Wed, Oct 11th so they can be made available to the congregation by the 15th.

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Even as we pulled up to the gas station, I had to ask someone to get out of the van to help pump the gas, because by that point I was really feeling taken advantage of. Not so much me personally, but as a church and as a follower of Jesus.

Often times I'll ask to pray for the person, either as they are in my office or as we stand at the pump, but this time I just wanted to be done. While this scenario is a relatively common occurrence here in town and at our church building, what was uncommon was the hardness of my heart. If I'm honest, helping was the last thing I wanted to do and I had a difficult time not judging these people throughout the entire experience.

As I reflect back on this experience I hear these words of Christ reverberating deep in my heart, *"But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."* (Luke 6.35)

While these people were by no means an enemy, they were definitely an unwanted intrusion.



My heart was hard towards them and if this direction applies to people we actively dislike, then it surely applies to the many unknown people who cross our paths daily. Our job, our responsibility, our privilege as followers of Jesus is to reflect His love of us to the world. It is a love that is shared regardless of the expected response. It is a love that is given to the ungrateful and even those who appear to be ungodly. As the Body of Christ, we don't get to judge, we get to give. To give freely because we have received freely. My hope is that this will not only be the first, but that it will be the last.

Little Bit of This & That...

MONDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY @ 6:30 pm

SPARE CHANGE SUNDAY October 29, this special offering goes toward reducing the debt on our building

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD coming Nov 12th, plan to come to the packing party or/and party a box to send

HARVEST OFFERING this special offering is a chance to offer back to God thanks for His blessings. This offering will be taken Nov 19th, the same day we have our All Church Thanksgiving meal.

