

•I Timothy 5: ⁹No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, ¹⁰and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord’s people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds . . . ¹¹As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry . . . ¹⁶If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

Can we explore new Mission Partnerships? There are times we want to help meet human need, especially for those impacted by catastrophic events and / or are incapable of caring for themselves. But a strong component of our mission work should be devoted to helping people to gain economic self-sufficiency. Here are some examples to consider:

- Heifer International
- Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center
- International Justice Mission
- Bridges of Hope, Des Moines

What does economic empowerment look like in our own community? Is God calling us to take some bold and creative steps?

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

May 31

- Worship 5pm

June 1

- Worship 9am
- Adult Bible Study 10:15am

June 2

- Blood Drive 12:30-5:30pm
- Hospitality Meeting @ 4:30pm

June 3

- Homestead 9am
- Van Buren 10am
- Prayer Devotions @ 12 noon
- AKTION Club 5pm

June 4

- ELO 9-2pm

June 5

- UWF Executive meeting 11:15am
- General Meeting @ 12 noon
- Office will be closed today.

June 6

- ELO 9-10am
- Office closes @ 12 noon

June 7

- Men’s Breakfast 8am @ Louscher Farmhouse
- Worship 5pm

Announcements

The Mission of the Month is

VBS Registration is OPEN! Paper Form in the office & an Online option is available.

VBS Volunteer Sign Ups are also available. Paper in the office and in back of church & Online.

Items needed for VBS: Pop up tents, small pine Christmas trees(2-5 ft.), lawn chairs, flashlights, small canoe, kayaks.

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship & Opening Prayer

Hymnal #886 “The World Methodist Social Affirmation”

*Song #57 “O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing” Verses 1, 2, 4, 5, 6

Old Testament Reading Micah 6:6-16

Congregational Prayer for Justice
Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love. Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Song The Faith We Sing #2223 “They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love”

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Pastoral Prayer & the Lord’s Prayer

Offering & *Doxology

*Offertory Prayer
God, as we give today, let us do so with compassion. May our offerings be used to help those in need and to spread your love to all. Amen.

*Song #593 “Here I Am, Lord”

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading I Timothy 6:17-19
17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. 19 In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Message “The Wisdom of the Middle Way”

Communion Hymn #292 “What Wondrous Love Is This”

Communion Christ’s Table is Open to All!!!

*Response The Faith We Sing #2108 “O How He Loves You and Me”

*Benediction
Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sermon Notes

An important balancing act:

- Personal responsibility is important! “Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.” Proverbs 13:4
- Helping the poor is important! “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.” Proverbs 19:17

How do we balance these two? Consider the Old Testament law of “gleaning”. Hardwired into God’s law was a way to encourage human responsibility and dignity while ensuring that basic human needs were met:

- Leviticus 19: 9 When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. 10 Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.
- Deuteronomy 24: 17 Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. 18 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. 19 When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. 20 When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.

•21 When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. 22 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

•This is the background of Ruth 2: 2 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” 3 So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters.

The principle of balancing personal responsibility and social ministry is continued in the New Testament: Personal responsibility and family responsibility come first with charity as a back-up:

- II Thessalonians 3: 10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”
- II Corinthians 8: 13 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. 14 At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, 15 as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”
- I Timothy 6: 17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. 18 Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.