



# Carson/Mt. Hope News

September 2016



## MY STORY

1 Peter 3 says that we are to be ready to speak about and defend our hope, which we know is in Jesus Christ. We must do this with respectful humility, maintaining a good conscience. In other words, we need to know how to tell people why we are followers of Jesus Christ.

No matter how long you've been a Christian, the thought of sharing your faith can be somewhat overwhelming. We suddenly start to fumble with our words, worry about offending someone, and become aware that we don't know the Bible as well as we probably should. So we clam up and use this saying or some variant as our out; "Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words."

Yes, we want to live out our faith, but we must also be ready to give an account of that faith! The world needs to know what God has done for them and you might be the person that can share that with them. So, what do you say? For the month of September, we are going to be learning how to share our faith. It is going to be both personal and all about the grace of Jesus Christ.

Here's a sneak peek. You have a story of what God has done for you. Instead of spew out some canned answer about Jesus that people won't quite understand yet, tell them YOUR STORY. By telling someone what God has done for you, you will draw their attention and then get to tell them the life-giving story of Jesus; that he died on the cross to forgive us of our sins and has risen to defeat death! Your story is really the story of God's power working through you, and it will help the listener understand the power of the cross.

We will spend four weeks breaking our stories down section by section and by the end of September you will be able to speak about and defend the hope you have in Jesus Christ. Someone might be thinking that we should let the story of Jesus' life stand alone. You are right, but our Lord is alive and active in the world through the Holy Spirit. That Spirit is changing our lives, and we can give testimony to that AND tell people what Jesus did on the cross. Your testimony is further proof of the power of the living God.

There are small group opportunities happening at Carson and Mt. Hope UMC. The small groups will provide you with your own journal and walk you through even more detail about how to write the story of your faith. When we are done you will have something to share with the world that will help you be a light to the power of the Risen Lord. Small group times include Sundays @ 9:30 & 10:00AM, Mondays @ 10:00AM, and Tuesdays @ 6:30AM.

In the book of Acts we hear of men and women who escaped prison, were healed, gave their lives for their faith, had God-inspired visions, were born again into a life of faith, and even stories of surviving shipwrecks and snake bites. Why? Because all of those things show us, and every listener, the power of the living God. Those stories have been changing lives by pointing to Jesus for centuries, and that same Holy Spirit is alive in our world and has changed us (or can, if we let it). So let's learn how to tell what our God has done for us. Your story just might help someone understand the love of God that was shown perfectly in Jesus Christ on the cross.

Here's the schedule:

Week #1: Where You Came From.

Week #3: How the Lord Continues to Provide.

Week #2: How Jesus Found You.

Week #4: What Jesus Has Done for All of Us.

## NEW SCHOOL MEANS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

When I walked into the new Riverside High School on Thursday, August 18, I couldn't believe my eyes. Every hallway I turned down and classroom I saw left me more and more amazed. It is a beautiful building that presents us with all kinds of opportunities to educate and form young people.

Notice that I used the pronoun "us" when it comes to educating and forming young people. Society has started leaving it to teachers alone to instruct young people about every facet of knowledge and life. That includes how to be

selfless, kind, and motivated to make the world a better and more peaceful place. Most teachers do an amazing job, but it isn't their task alone to educate the next generation. Do you remember your elderly neighbors teaching you how to fix your bike or yelling at you to stay out of the street? How about family friends supporting you in sports or going to the county fair to watch you show your animals? Raising young people and teaching life lessons and skills is best done by a community, not isolated individuals. Hebrews 12:1 says, "So then let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us."

What if we, as followers of Jesus, made it our task to be an active part of the lives of the young people in our school district? As Christians, and specifically United Methodists, we are called to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Being there to teach, encourage, and cheer young people on is a major step in living out the call to make disciples. They just might feel the love of God through us and make a choice to explore faith for themselves. You can be a part of the great cloud of witnesses in this community!

How do we do this? There are countless opportunities. I met with Dr. Timothy Mitchell, the new Riverside District Superintendent, a couple weeks ago and he shared how open he is to community/church help with school functions. Here are a few ideas that I can think of at 6:41am on a Saturday morning writing this article; staff the concession stand so that no parent has to miss one of their children's games, clean up the lunchroom after lunch once a week, make breakfast once a month for teachers, adopt a sports team and never miss a game, start a choir or band fan club and let these students know how valued they are in our school, join the weekly reading group that already visits the elementary school once a week to read with the children, help restart the Faith and Fitness program that existed a couple years ago, or form a group that walks the school grounds once a week in order to pick up trash/pull weeds (praying as you go).

There is one other major opportunity that is going to be presented at Riverside. Beginning soon you will be able to volunteer to be a mentor in the Teammates Mentoring Program. This program was started by Coach Tom Osborn and his wife Nancy in 1991 and currently serves around 7,500 youth through partnerships with school districts. Teammates' mission is to *positively impact the world by inspiring youth to meet their full potential through mentoring*. It involves a commitment to meet with your mentee regularly and be a support system that encourages them to be their best. For more information, you can visit [teammates.org](http://teammates.org), and keep your eyes and ears open for the chance to sign up as a mentor.

A new school has created positive momentum in the Riverside District, but it means nothing if we don't follow it up with relationships and the presence of positive, encouraging people. Why not you and why not now? Let's find our way to educate and form the next generation and in doing so make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Also, if you are receiving this newsletter and aren't in the Riverside School District, it still applies to you! There are ways you can get involved in the schools around you. Start by checking into reading programs and/or mentoring programs. If there isn't any, find a teacher and ask if you can stop by and read with a few students. They just might welcome some one-on-one attention with a few struggling readers.

-Pastor Brody

### **ABUNDANT SIGNS OF LIFE**

When I was growing up I remember paying attention to an old church that sat at an intersection in Centerville. The only sign of life that I ever noticed was a change of the words on the sign out front and mowed grass. I loved church and was at ours all the time, so I couldn't understand why that one was always dark. Where were all the people? That church is now an empty building.

Mt. Hope UMC is a landmark that many people recognize as they drive Highway 6 to and from Council Bluffs, but it is much more than a landmark. It has signs of life, and it is changing the world with the power of Jesus Christ! On July 30 we hosted a yard and bake sale and the parking lot was full of cars. People asked to tour the church, asked about service times, and hung around for conversation. Sure, it was a successful sale but an even more successful evangelism event. Mt. Hope UMC is alive with the power of the Holy Spirit!

Sunday morning worship is filled with the sound of children and heartfelt worship. There are mission breakfasts every other month to help support the Care and Share House in Council Bluffs and Bible study every Thursday. Members of Mt. Hope UMC work at Care and Share multiple times each week and aren't shy that they love the Lord. A church is more than just hymns on Sunday. A church is people who are filled with the Holy Spirit, living their faith each day.

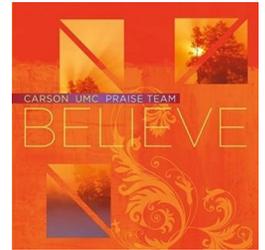
On behalf of Mt. Hope UMC, thank you to everyone who helped with the yard and bake sale and all who attended. I can't wait to see how God is going to continue to grow the Kingdom of Heaven through Mt. Hope UMC.

-Pastor Brody

## CARSON RODEO WORSHIP

For the third year in a row Carson UMC has held worship at the Carson Community Building on Carson Rodeo Weekend. It is a wonderful opportunity to worship in a community setting outside the sanctuary. What better time to invite a friend to church who might feel a little overwhelmed at walking into a church building? And we had a few visitors at this year's service, which was held on August 7. It takes a lot of work to have the service in a different location, so thank you to all who helped.

The Carson Praise Team provided wonderful music, and they had the opportunity to sing some of the songs from their new CD. If you haven't gotten your copy of the CD, please call the church and make arrangements to get yours. They will be for sale before and after church for the next few weeks. I've heard some stories of people unable to get out of their cars because they want to hear the next song. You'll love it! Paul Hart and the other members put in a lot of work and the result will have you singing along and maybe buying extra CDs for friends and family.



## OPEN DOOR MISSION SERVICE DAY

On Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> two groups of people from Carson UMC met at Open Door Mission in Omaha to help people in need. The groups worked in the Timberlake Outreach Center stocking the clothing racks, bagging diapers, and getting the area in shape for the following day. We had ten volunteers combine to put in about 24 hours of work.

If you're interested in spending some time helping out, you are definitely needed. There is more work to do than there are volunteers to get it done. Let Pastor Brody know if you're interested. Once you get set up as a volunteer you can go anytime.



## NEW VISIONS VOLUNTEERS

Carson UMC still sends volunteers to New Visions in Omaha, where previously homeless veterans and people in need have permanent housing. We go every Sunday evening to help serve supper. If you are interested, you can call the church office and get more information.

## Mt. Hope Soup Supper

Alright, the nights are getting cooler and football season is in our midst. Harvest is creeping up quickly and soon enough we will see pumpkins on doorsteps and leaves in yards. Do you know what else that means? You will be craving some good SOUP; chili, chicken noodle, or maybe some broccoli and cheese. Mt. Hope UMC can sure help with your soup craving!

On Sunday, September 25, Mt. Hope UMC will host its second annual Fall Soup Supper from 4-7pm at the McClelland City Hall. There will be a silent auction with some very nice items and plenty of tasty desserts. There is no need to rush because we plan to have some entertainment and all the time you would like to visit with friends and meet new ones. Put this on your calendar right away.

**United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF)** will begin on Wednesday, September 21 at Carson UMC from 6:30-7:30pm.

### DISHES!!!

If you have brought a dish for potlucks or funeral dinners, please look in the pew by the front door of Carson UMC. Take what is yours, please. If dishes are left after **Sunday, September 11**, they will find a new home or be taken to Care and Share or Mohm's Place in Council Bluffs. Thank you.

### ***Mt. Hope Thank You***

*Mt Hope Church would like to thank everyone for the support that was given for their Yard Sale in July. It was a huge success for the church. They sincerely appreciate all the blessings they received during this occasion.*

**Mt. Hope United Methodist Church  
Soup Supper and Silent Auction.**

**AT: McCLELLAND TOWN HALL**

**McCLELLAND, IOWA**

**Sunday**

**September 25<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00PM-7:00PM**



**Come and join us for some delicious food, great entertainment and warm fellowship!**

**We will be serving chili, chicken & noodle soup, broccoli & cheese soup, dessert, and drinks. Proceeds will go to support the ministries of Mt. Hope United Methodist Church.**

**Free will donation for the supper.**

## SUNDAY SCHOOL FLOAT UPDATE

The Carson Rodeo Parade is over and the Sunday School float supplies are put away. So now it's time for thank-you's.

Thank you to Mark & Susan Beedle for transporting the hay rack and the many float builders. On Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> sixteen church members showed up to help at the Keith McClain home. They included Donnie & Kathy Hendricks, Dave & Darlene Pilling, Jennifer Elliott, Nathan & Katelyn Smith, Bill & Cheryl Waggoner, Rodney Wahle, Richard & Kayleen Smith, Aubrey Lopez, Linda Perdue, Ethan Rankin and his 3 friends. Thanks everyone. It was a fun evening. Keith said "thanks".

Saturday morning helpers to get the float out of McClain's garage were Donnie & Kathy Hendricks, Ashley Lopez, Jeremy Harker, Pastor Brody, Andrew Felton, Brennen Tubaugh, and Cheryl Waggoner. That was fun, thanks guys for your muscles.

We made it to the parade on time. Float driver was Donnie Hendricks & helper Bill Waggoner, thanks guys.

We had 22 angels & cowboys riding the float. You guys did great. They were Kathy Hendricks, Cheryl Waggoner, Gracie Bluml, Ashlyn Amdor, Ella Hensley, Stacy Bentley, Delany Murphy, Elyssa Amdor, Brett Feuring, Emma Gordon, Lydia Erikson, Becca Cody, Aubrey Lopez, Sarah Cody, Lanie Rice, Maebry Rice, Rilyn Moore, Harley Sauser, Teagan Ewalt, Ryliegh Ewalt, Pastor Brody and his nephew Bentley.

This year we had a team of "tear down the float" people show up. Big help – thanks. Kathy Hendricks, Joyce McClain, Keith helped a little, Becky Carrick, Emma & Jaxon Gordon, Teagan & Ryliegh Ewalt, Ashley & Aubrey Lopez and Jeremy Harker.

The theme of our float was "Angels Riding With Our Cowboys". As you can see it takes a host of angels to put a float in the parade. Hope to see you all next year as the Carson Rodeo celebrates 40 years.

Thanks again to all. Kathy & Joyce



### THANK YOU

The church would like to thank Joyce McClain for the donations of some beautiful plates, "Teen's of the Bible", and Skip Raney for building the plate holder for them. They are located in the Youth Room off of the Sanctuary.

Please stop in and enjoy them!

### Thank you

Keith McClain would like to thank the church family for all of the love, concern, prayers, food, cards, and visits that were given to him during his convalescence.

He and Joyce appreciated every act of kindness! God Bless!



# Carson / Mount Hope United Methodist Church



September 2016

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<b>4</b> <i>Small Groups @ 9:30 &amp; 10:00AM</i> Jon Fenn Vicki Lorenz	<b>5</b> <b>LABOR DAY</b> <i>Walking Group 9:00AM</i> <i>Bible Study 10:00AM</i> Jarred Newill M/M Craig Canoyer	<b>6</b> <i>Small Group @ 6:30AM</i> <i>UMW - 9:30AM</i> <i>Community Garden 6:00PM</i> David Pilling Jake Brammer Sara Kephart	<b>7</b> Daniel Pilling	<b>8</b> <i>Mt. Hope Bible Study 1:30PM</i> <i>Women of the Bible 7:00pm</i> Jacob Houser Ryley McKeown	<b>9</b> Eula Green	<b>10</b> Matt Wilber Sylvanus Miller																																																																																																											
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<b>18</b> <i>Small Groups @ 9:30 &amp; 10:00AM</i>	<b>19</b> <i>Menu Masters 4-H 3:00-6:00PM</i> <i>Walking Group 9:00AM</i> <i>Bible Study 10:00AM</i>	<b>20</b> <i>Small Group @ 6:30AM</i> <i>Community Garden 6:00PM</i> Charlie Schilling M/M Bradley Lopez M/M Wendell Hotze	<b>21</b> <i>UMYF 6:30PM</i> <i>Carson Admin Board Meeting 7:15PM</i> Beth Ford Skye Bentley	<b>22</b> <i>Mt. Hope Bible Study 1:30PM</i> <i>Suzanna Circle 7:00PM</i> <i>Women of the Bible 7:00pm</i> Bailey Faxton Savanah Cudaback Tanner Todd M/M Jim Schmit M/M Kyle Rannels	<b>23</b> Debra Hendricks Kaiden Hendricks Robert Jenkins	<b>24</b> M/M Aaron Gordon																																																																																																											
<b>25</b> <i>Mt. Hope Annual Soup Supper 4:00PM</i> <i>Small Groups @ 9:30 &amp; 10:00AM</i>	<b>26</b> <i>Walking Group 9:00AM</i> <i>Bible Study 10:00AM</i> M/M Rodney Minssen	<b>27</b> <i>Small Group @ 6:30AM</i> <i>Community Garden 6:00PM</i> Lavonne Boege M/M Herman Moheng M/M Jon Fenn	<b>28</b> <i>UMYF 6:30PM</i> Sue Graves Vicki Kvall	<b>29</b> <i>Mt. Hope Bible Study 1:30PM</i> Shawn Miller M/M Michael Flood  Pastor Brody will be out of town.	<b>30</b> Devyn Moore Joyce McClain																																																																																																												

Carson & Mt. Hope United Methodist Churches  
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