

The
Simpson United Methodist Church
Messenger

2600 Capitol Avenue

Des Moines, Iowa 50317

simpsonumc-desmoines.org



October, 2019

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**Understand of ‘Creation Story’
under my context.**

When I read the book of “The Genesis Meditation” written by Neil Douglas-Klotz¹, He mentioned the diversity of the Creation story related to Jews and other races. In fact, during my several years of ministry, I read many

¹ Neil Douglas-Klotz grew up in a multicultural family. His grandparents (on both sides) were refugees from Europe with German, Jewish, Russian, and Polish blood in their veins. From 1986 until 1996, Klotz served as a faculty member of the Institute in Culture and Creation Spirituality. He has been a member of the Core Faculty since 1990. Since March 1999 he has lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, another multicultural arts and music center where he started the Edinburgh Institute for Advanced Learning (www.eial.org).

books on Genesis, and imagined the Creation scene. But, it is a very unclear scene to me. So, I searched for answers and I seem to understand.

When I was a child, I heard and learned my country’s founding myth. We called it “Dangun myth”. The story is about 5000 years old. There was Hwan-in, king of heaven, and Hwan-woong. Hwan-woong liked the human world rather than heaven. So his father gave him 3,000 servants and gods who control wind, clouds, and rain and sent him to the human world. Hwan-woong became king of the world and helped them.

There were a bear and a tiger where Hwan-woong came to. Bear and tiger begged Hwan-woong to make them human. So Hwan-woong gave them a handful of artemisia and 20 garlics and said "If you eat this and stay in the cave without coming out for 100 days, then you will be human." Like Hwan-woong

(Pastor's Message, Con't)

said bear stayed in the cave and became a beautiful lady, but tiger couldn't stay and couldn't become human.

Bear who became a lady is named Woong-nyu. But Woong-nyu prayed for marriage and a baby. So Hwan-woong became human for a moment and married her. So she gave a birth to a boy, Dangun, who is the founder of Korea,. After Dangun became king, he named the country 'GoChosun'. And he ruled the country well for 1,500 years.

Dangun is still respected as the founder of Korea. For example, there is a temple that serves Hwan-in, Hwan-woong, and Dangun's souls; there is a religion which respects Dangun as a god. In present time, Korean is celebrating Oct. 3rd as the national foundation day of Korea, the day when Dangun first founded the country.

I accepted Korea's myth easily. But, the Bible's creation story is a little stranger to me because of my religious background and cultural context. Nevertheless, I know that storytelling is a very useful methodology in explaining each creation story.

In my personal opinion, all of the people who lived on earth have their own cultural background and religious context. If we can deeply understand our own context, we can find the matching point in which different religions and cultures meet.

If we try to find the reasons behind the Genesis Creation story and Korea's founding country myth, we can see similar interests about human beings and their view of creation. Peoples who lived in that period had the desire to explain the origin of earth, heaven and human beings. This is the religious spirit that has never changed even in the present.

Blessings, Pastor Paul

IMPORTANT MEETINGS

October is a very busy month with many activities.. However, we have two important church meetings which we should all make an effort to attend.

Sunday, Oct. 13, 1:30 pm – Cross Cultural /Cross Racial Workshop here at Simpson for Epworth, & Simpson/Burundi.

This is a mandatory workshop and will be led by a District minister, required of all congregations receiving a new appointment of a minister of another ethnicity. We hope to have a good attendance.

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6:00 pm – Annual Charge Conference at Staves UMC.

This too is an important meeting as we review our accomplishments of 2019 and make plans for 2020. This is YOUR church and it is important that your ideas be included in the plans for the new year.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Oct. 8 Sara Renaud
 9 Bailey Savage
 14 Christopher Rockwell
 Tony Etcher
 15 Elsie Wade
 19 Christy Hayford
 23 Marilyn Helm
 26 Andrew Prather
 Jackson Davis
 30 Angie Rice
 31 Lennis Allen
- Nov. 3 Sofie Davis
 4 Lauren Savage
 7 Dennis Mentzer, II
 9 Dick Huitt
 Denise Jones
 Larry Smith

Do we have your birthdate? If not, we'd sure like to have it so we can include you when your birth month rolls around. Give the church office a call, or drop the information in the offering plate.

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OUR PRAYER & CARE LIST: **HOSPITALIZED:**

Broadlawns:

Alicia Pencoock – Broadlawns Sans Unit

Our Simpson Family: **Alecks Clark** – Pray that YMCA housing opens up for him, also he needs financial help purchasing winter clothing; **Georgete Ndikumana** – she is pregnant. Please pray this pregnancy goes well; **Pastor Paul and our churches** as the three churches work together; **Shwilima Ezinoel** – Suffering with back pain caused by work injury;

WE CONTINUE IN PRAYER

Our Members In Care Facilities:

Trinity Center, Luther Park – **Pam Vance**

Urbandale Healthcare – **Peggy Evans**
Valley View Village (Memory Care) – **Irene Lettington**
Courtyard Estates, Bondurant – **Madeline Harne**

Our extended church family: **Jadyn Etcher** (Phyllis & Dick Huitt's granddaughter) – Struggling with anxiety; **Michelle Jackson** – Pray for good results in job hunt; **Jane** (Mike Macrides' sister) – Surgery on a kidney; **Dave Rice Sr.** (David Rice's father) – Home, recovering from heart procedure;

Congratulations to Betty

Prather, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Sept. 3rd.

CONGRATULATIONS TO Jille Irakoze (Elam's brother). He became a citizen of the United States on Sept. 13th.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY to Jack Salsbury and Family in the death of his brother, James Salsbury, on Sept. 20th. James lived near Dallas, Texas.

JOINT CHURCH PICNIC

The **joint church picnic** held on **Sept. 15th**, at the Ding Darling Shelter in Birdland Lagoon was a great day. Thanks to Fred Plum for having the doors open by 10:00 am. We had a combined worship service with our Burundi Congregation providing the joyful music. Members of Simpson and Epworth even got up and danced with them. Pastor Paul gave the message and Agnes Vyizigiro translated it into Kurundi. Pastor Paul gave grace, and then we heard the words all had been waiting for, "Let's Eat!" At least 3 or 4 tables were loaded with delicious food. Thanks to all who pitched in and cleaned up, and again, thanks to Fred Plum for getting the shelter locked up.

It was a delightful day. Plan to come and join us next year for good fellowship and good food, enjoyed with good friends.



United Methodist Women

Sunday, October 27th, 2019

Potluck Lunch: 11:45 pm

Unit Mtg: 12:45 pm.

Program: “Women Expanding the Table of Inclusion”

Presenter: Judy Somers

CIRCLE MEETINGS

Faith: TBA

Mary/Martha: Oct. 28, 9:30 am.

Hostess: ???



DISTRICT ANNUAL MTG.

Sept. 13, Aldersgate UMC

The District Annual Meeting was very interesting. Bernadine Cotten, Marilyn Helm, Phyllis Huitt and Carla Prather attended.

Simpson UMW achieved the 5 star status by giving to 5 different categories. We also received the Platinum Iowa Mission Today award, the purpose of which is to fulfill the PURPOSE of United Methodist Women. In order to receive the Platinum Award we had to complete at least 12 of the 24 listed criteria. Carla and Phyllis also received certificates for participating in the reading program. Congratulations to our “small but mighty” UMW. They are a group of women truly dedicated to

helping make this a better world for women and children. **All the women in the church are welcome to join.**

Paris to Pittsburgh

Carla Prather and Phyllis Huitt went to Aldersgate UMC for the showing of this National Geographic movie, which was sponsored by Iowa Interfaith Power & Light; and locally by Aldersgate UMC and United Methodist Women.

This excellent movie is about actions around the country on climate change after the US pulled out of the Paris Accord and features Iowa efforts and a positive message. If you get the chance, please go and see this movie.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct. 4 & 5

UMW members, we have a great opportunity this fall – **The UMW Conference Annual Meeting** will be held at Staves UMC, right here in Des Moines, on **Oct. 5th** (Most years we have to drive to far corners of the state!) Theme: “Continuing Our Legacy” Guest Speaker: Rev. Dionne P. Boissiere, MDiv. Chaplain of the Church Center for the United Nations. The day before the meeting, Friday, **Oct. 4th**, we’re going to have a **Ubuntu Day** of work. In lieu of a Mission Study Day, this year, we will be learning about our missions here in D.M. first hand. We’ll meet at the Food Bank of Iowa

(UMW Conference Mtg con't)

warehouse at 10 a.m. to learn more about this agency and help sort donated food.

At noon we'll gather at Staves UMC for lunch, then proceed to Bidwell Riverside Center and Hawthorn Hill. At Bidwell we'll see the Child Development Center and work in the distribution center. Meanwhile, from 10 am to 5 pm craft stations will be set up at Staves UMC for **Crafts for a Cause**. You will be led in making simple crafts that will be donated to missions at home or abroad.

So, there is something for everyone! (Be sure to get these dates marked on your calendars NOW!!)

RUMMAGE/BAKE SALE
Oct. 10 & 11, 9:00 am-5 pm
Oct. 12, 9 am – Noon

It's time - the **Rummage and Bake sale starts next week!!**

We will be setting up for the sale on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 8 & 9. This is going to be a HUGE sale with a lot to put out, so if you can spare some time, it would be much appreciated.

Of course, we also need help throughout the sale, and donations of baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. It is helpful to have fresh goodies to start each day!! Food for the workers' lunches will be available at the church each day.



“JOY” Activities

On Friday, Sept. 20, Judy Jennings, Jack Salsbury, Dick & Phyllis Huitt and Carla Prather went downtown to enjoy the World Food and Music Festival. We had fun and enjoyed tasting many different foods as well as some yummy ice cream!.

Saturday, Oct. 26th will be our next outing - we will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 am and drive to Cantrell, IA, located in the southeast corner of the state. There are several small towns in the area, each with cottage industries - a pottery shop, huge Amish grocery/dry good store, cheese factory, etc. It is an interesting area to explore. Why not come and join us. If you are interested, contact Judy Jennings for more information.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

As we've mentioned, our church does not have emergency contact names/ phone numbers (family member/ neighbor, etc.) on file.

This article has run for two months, and we've had no comments either way on the subject. So, it is up to each person individually. If you wish the church to have your emergency information on file, contact the church office.

VOLUNTEER READERS

No word on when our volunteer readers will start.

We do know, however, that we will be serving a meal to the teachers at Willard on **Tuesday, Oct. 29th, 4:30 pm.** The menu is not planned yet, but we will need help preparing, transporting and serving.

whY WouLDN'T yoU?

It's October – pumpkins are everywhere, leaves are just beginning to turn, and mums are gorgeous – must be fall! AND the calendar is filling up with many opportunities to claim your time and talents.

So, YWLDNTU...

- Donate items for one (or more) In-gathering kit(s);
- Help Marilyn Helm prepare a meal for the Willard teachers;
- Volunteer to do some cleaning at the church;
- Join the Bell Choir;
- Help with Trick or Treat;
- Just because our sign says people are welcome won't necessarily get them in the door. Invite, invite, invite. People want to be invited in.

C'mon, YWLDNTU?

Phyllis Huitt



CALLING ALL DING-A-LINGS!!

The Bell Choir rehearses each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. We can use some new members, as I've mentioned before.

If you think it looks like fun, come and see how much fun it really is!. As we often say, You don't have to read music, but you do have to be able to count to 4!!!

Contact Phyllis in the church office (262-7518), or talk to any of the choir members, or just show up on Wednesday evening, 6 pm!!!

INVITATION FROM EPWORTH

Our friends at Epworth are inviting Simpson and D.M. Korean Churches to join them for dinner at the Pizza Ranch in Ankeny on Thursday, **October 17, 5:00 pm.** We enjoyed lunch with the two churches back in August, and look forward to doing so again.

All are invited. A sign up sheet will be in the narthex if you choose to attend, or call the church office (262-7518).

INGATHERING KITS

The Midwest Mission kits - School Kits (instructions were in the September Newsletter) and Layette Kits - are distributed in response to requests within and beyond the U.S. You also may make UMCOR Hygiene Kits (which are distributed following disasters within the U.S.) are also listed below. Please have all completed (or partial) kits brought to the church by **Oct. 27th**, to allow time for sorting and packing.

Layette Kit

6 cloth diapers 2 gowns or sleepers
2 undershirts or onesies
2 infant size washcloths (NO adult washcloths)
2 receiving blankets – 28”x28” to 32”x32” (NO crib blankets)
2 diaper pins – must have protective plastic closures
1 sweater, sweatshirt or jacket – must open down the front, may be hand-knitted, crocheted, sewn or purchased.
Bundle the items inside one of the blankets and secure with diaper pins.

Value - \$45 plus \$2 shipping

Hygiene Kit

1 new hand towel (15”x15” up to 17”x27”) 1 new washcloth
1 large, sturdy comb (at least 6 inches of teeth)
1 toenail or fingernail clipper – no emery boards or metal nail files
1 bath-sized bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. or larger) No Ivory or Jergens

1 new adult size toothbrush in original sealed wrapper
10 adhesive bandages (3/4” by 3”)
common household bandages acceptable
1 - one gal. re-sealable bag.
Lay out hand towel and lay washcloth flat in center. Place rest of items on top of washcloth. Fold sides of towel to cover items. Grasp the bundle tightly and roll over the remainder of towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in plastic bag, remove air and seal.
Value \$12 plus \$2 shipping

Several kits are completed, but we need a few more items to complete Layettes and School kits - Infant size washcloths, gowns or sleepers, receiving blankets (28”x28” to 32”x32”), cloth diapers, boxes of 24 crayons, one subject spiral 8” x 10 ½” notebooks, unsharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners. All items for Hygiene kits are needed. Again, please have items to the church by **Oct. 27th**.



WE NEED YOU!!

The Administrative Council meetings are open for everyone to attend. As activities increase with the fall/winter season, it is important for the whole church to share ideas and help in planning activities. Chairpersons of all our committees should be holding meetings once a month (or maybe every two months) and reporting the information back to the Administrative Council. Only by being involved, can you truly feel you belong!

BOO!!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Wed., Oct. 30, 6-8:00 pm

This is a very successful activity for Simpson – we served 250-300 people last year. We need folks to back their cars into the circle in our parking lot to dispense candy out of their trunks. We also need more folks to help with the community meal (hot dogs and/or cups of chili, chips and drinks.) Please contact Judy Childress or the church office if you would like to help.

We need donations of individually candy. We will also need donations for the meal. There will be a list of other needed items posted in the narthex



NEXT TIME WHEN I PREACH ON TITHING,
DON'T SING 'JESUS PAID IT ALL' AS OUR
INVITATIONAL HYMN

COMMUNITY NEWS

Oct. 5 & 6 – Flea Market. It will be held in the Varied Industries Bldg. this month.

Oct. 13, 11-1:00 pm – Chicken/Beef & Noodle dinner will be served at the American Legion, E. 42nd & Easton Blvd.

Fairground Neighbors Assoc. will meet on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, 6:30 pm. Due to Rummage Sale, they will meet in Koinonia Room in the basement. Chris Coleman, President of the Better Business Bureau, will share insider tips on how to spot scams, fakes and cons.



PICTURES FROM THE PICNIC

Recognize anyone??



When down in the mouth, remember Jonah. He came out all right.

An ad for a Church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, “For fast, fast, fast relief, take two tablets.

When you are headed in the wrong direction, God allows U-turns.



Did you know – people are like tea bags – you have to put them in hot water before you know how strong they are.

