

THE MESSENGER

Gladbrook Methodist Church

February 2025

Super Bowl Sunday



Join us on Sunday, Feb. 8th
at 11:00am for a Super
Bowl party potluck.

Wear your favorite team
spirit to church.

Bring your favorite party foods to share.



We will also ask you to bring a canned
food item to donate to our local food
pantry.

Gladbrook American Legion

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, Feb. 1st

9am-12:30pm

Gladbrook Memorial Building

Menu includes sausage, pancakes
French toast, scrambled eggs, biscuits
& gravy , coffee, milk, and juice



Gladbrook Lincoln Fire Dept.

Omelet Breakfast

Sunday, Feb. 15th

7:30am -12:30pm

Lincoln Amvet Hall



*Food
Pantry* The North West
Tama Co. Food
Pantry will be open
Monday, February
9th and Monday, February 23rd
from 4pm until 6 pm.

If you need help with food security,
we are here to help.

Sons of American Legion Fish Fry

The SAL will be holding its Fish Fry on
Friday, February 13th at the Memorial
Building from 5-7 p.m.



“Agape Love”

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another:
just as I have loved you,
you also are to love one another.

-John 13:34 ESV-

When Drummond Henry was twenty-three, he sat with a group of friends before a glowing fireplace one Sunday evening and began to share thoughts about I Corinthians 13-the great love chapter of the New Testament. Eventually his thoughts were published in the little book, *The Greatest Thing in the World*.

The Apostle Paul writes, using 194 Greek words of the transforming power of love. His words were addressed to people who grossly confused love and sex. Eventually, his words became a benchmark that helps us understand what love really is.

Paul had a choice of using three different words, all of which are translated as love. The first word EROS was something the Corinthians knew a lot about-a sensual love, the kind driven by lust that feeds the multi-billion-dollar pornography market all over the world. But this word was used by neither Paul nor other New Testament writer.

A second word was the Greek word PHILEO-a kind of brotherly or sisterly love; and God knows we need a lot of this today. Yet this was not Paul’s word of choice.

Paul took a word which had been commonly used by the Greek writers, AGAPAO, and put a new spin on it. Paul defined it in a different context, linking you to God and giving you the transforming strength to love your enemies, the unlovable, and allowing you to reach across the distance that separates you from them. The power of AGAPE love makes you a stronger person. A song put it, *“What the world needs is love”*- this kind of love. Is it the kind of love you have? If not ask God to pour it in your heart starting today.

God bless you always!

Pastor Gideon Gallo





- 1 Ashley Bruene
- 4 Taylor Flamme
- 5 Linda Schneider
- 6 Katie (Knaack) Raska
- 7 Bruce Appelgate
- 8 Shannon (Williams) Dirks
- 12 Kelly (Fish) Peterson
- 14 Pete Surber
- 15 B J Williams
- 18 Zachery Pierce
- 23 Kay Purvis
- 24 Rhett Williams
- 28 Jodi Kelli
- 28 Mandy Koester



19 Doug & Ashley Bruene



We ask that you keep these people in our prayers...

PRAYER CORNER: Pray for God's peace and reconciliation to overcome all hatred, conflict, and war, people under persecution everywhere, and our many unspoken concerns, our military families, our law enforcement and safety professionals, those experiencing mental health concerns.

Pray for comfort and healing for all those in its need:

Paul Koester, Alannah McHenry, Don & Carolyn Anker, Kari Groth, Janell Gienger, George & Galene Groves, Dale Haack,

Lectionary Reading for the Month of February

February 1

Micah 6:1-8 Psalms 15

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

February 8

Isaiah 58:1-12

Psalms 112:1-10

1 Corinthians 2:1-16

Matthew 5:13-20

February 15

Exodus 24:12-18

Psalms 2

2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9

February 18

(Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Psalms 51:17

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

February 22

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalms 32 Romans 5:12-19

Matthew 4:1-11

Psalms 119:105

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



Administrative Council Minutes

November 24, 2025

Susie Strohbehn called the meeting to order at 7:00 with 12 members present. In attendance were Dana Brown, Cheryl Bruene, Becky Fish, Gideon Gallo, Cornell Gethmann, Dave Koester, Roger Luehring, Carolyn Moe, Steve Moe, Grant Strohbehn, Susie Strohbehn, and Kevin Williams.

Susie led a devotion, and discipleship moments were shared. The October minutes were read and approved after corrections (Dave K motioned, Grant seconded). The treasurer's report was discussed and approved (Carolyn motioned, Cornell seconded).

Finance Committee – The 2026 budget was proposed. After some discussion, Cornell moved to accept it as presented, with a revision option in January when 2025 totals are available. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed.

Food Pantry - Dana noted increased pantry usage recently, as expected with winter nearing. She is coordinating with local groups for November and December food drives and will share a list of needed items in the next newsletter.

Gladbrook Methodist Women – Met on Nov. 20th. Trunk or Treat meal served between 120 and 140 people. Dec. 18th will be our Ladies Christmas meeting. We invite all women of the church to attend. We are also inviting the women of Chapel church to attend as our guests.

Good Samaritan Fund – Our account balance is getting low. It was suggested Dana put a basket in the Fellowship for donations on Sunday Nov. 30th. The Wednesday Coffee Ladies take up a weekly collection that is given to the Good Samaritan fund monthly.

Memorial – Money has been transferred from the savings account to the checking account to cover the cost of purchasing two 85 inch TVs for the sanctuary.

Mission Outreach – Gideon reported that 23 people attended the Harvest Supper Nov. 21st. The committee would like to continue holding community suppers in 2026. The next Free Movie Admission is Nov. 28 for Sarah's Oil.

Pastoral Report – Gideon made 12 home visits and two at Creekside Living in Grundy Center, and continues leading weekly Bible studies for women, men, and discipleship, as well as attending monthly district meetings. Confirmation classes are ongoing. He co-led the Thanksgiving service and another worship event at Westbrook Acres in November. Several members attended the Annual Charge Conference on Nov. 10th at Chapel Church.

Gideon presented leadership committee nominees; Roger motioned to accept them, Steve seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Gideon also introduced new Welcome Packet folders for visitors and is seeking suggestions for their contents.

SPPRC- Dave reported a meeting was held Nov. 3rd. Michael Lamb covered as custodian when Deb Quisberg took a vacation. He did a good job. There will be no meeting in December. The next meeting will be January 5th.

Technology – Roger confirmed two 85-inch TVs are ordered. Steve noted a learning period will occur as we switch from projection to wireless TVs. There was talk of adding two smaller TVs, one for the pastor's lectern and one for the Worship Leader's lectern.

Trustees – Gideon reported some work on the hot water valve had been done at the parsonage.

Other business – 1) Roger stated that First Interstate Bank requires two signers for the new CDs: the Treasurer (Roger Luehring) and the Financial Committee Chair (Grant Strohbehn). Dave moved to approve them as signers; Steve seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2) Dana noted a concern about the oven: a pilot light went out, causing natural gas fumes to fill the kitchen and fellowship hall. Mark Lowry, Austin Gehring, and Mike DeWitt investigated, relit the pilot, and aired out the building for several hours.

Joys & Concerns – **Joys:** A donation had been made to UnityPoint Health in Marshalltown in the name of our church. Carolyn explained this money came from the closed BeFriends account.

Concerns: Paul continues chemo treatments.

Gideon closed with prayer.

Next Meeting: January 26, 2026

Devotions: Gideon

Respectfully submitted, Dana Brown

Upcoming events for 2026 to remember

Feb. 8 Super Bowl Sunday potluck–

Bring your favorite party food to share and wear your team colors.

Feb. 21– GMW will serve our community by volunteering at the Gladbrook Theatre Concession stand. Volunteers need to be at the theater at 6:30pm.

Feb. 21– The Mission Outreach Committee is paying the admission fee for the evening movie at the Gladbrook Theater. The scheduled movie is “Buffalo Kids”.

March 13– GMW will serve the Senior Dinner @ 11:30

March 29– Palm Sunday

April 5– Easter Sunday

April 12– Spring Fling potluck– kick off to our Spring Shower for the church.

April 16– GMW meeting @9:30am

Gladbrook Methodist Women

We are beginning to plan for our 2026 season. If you have an idea for a program or would like to learn more about a specific topic, let Joan Surber or Dana Brown know.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 19th at 9:30am

Terri and Kay will provide the breakfast

Deb will provide the Devotional and

Lisa Koester will be provide our program.

2026 Booklets will be available.



Join us on Feb. 21, 2026 at the Gladbrook Theater. The Mission Outreach committee will be paying the admission fees for everyone who attends the 7pm showing of the “Buffalo Kids”.

All concessions will be available for purchase as usual.

Two Irish orphans journey by train across America, encountering villains and heroes. They make an extraordinary friend and search for a new home, facing adventures and dangers along the way.

A few things are changing at church...

- 1) Starting Feb. 1, the greeter and usher roles will be combined into a single position. Ushers will now also be responsible for keeping an eye on the front lobby to assist anyone who needs help with the door, finding a spot for their coat, or welcoming newcomers who may be looking for a new church home, in addition to their regular duties in the sanctuary. A general instruction sheet can be found in the usher's binder on the usher's table in the sanctuary.
- 2) The stove's pilot lights have gone out several times over the past few months, so to avoid the risk of this happening when no one is at the church, the gas has been turned off. A replacement stove is on the way, and the Gladbrook Methodist Women are hard at work finishing the kitchen project. If the stove or ovens are needed before the new one arrives, the pilot lights can be temporarily relit.
- 3) We're ready to order our new hymnals! We currently have pledges for 45 but need a total of 64 to place two in each pew. If you've pledged or would like to, please complete the form below and return it with your cash or check to Dana or Gideon by March 1, 2026. Each hymnal costs \$30.00.

Please use this form to order hymnals. Each hymnal costs **30.00** please have money or checks to Dana by March 1st.

How many will you be ordering _____

In Honor of 1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

In loving Memory of 1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Presented by (Your name) _____

You do not have to dedicate a hymnal to anyone if you don't want to. This is a personal option. We will place a sticker at the front of every hymnal to correspond with the dedication.



The Gladbrook Methodist Messenger
 715 Lincoln Street, PO Box 176
 Gladbrook, Iowa 50635



FEBRUARY WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

ACOLYTES

Feb. 1 Tate Koester
 Feb. 8 Michael McHenry
 Feb. 15 Charlette Bruene
 Feb. 22 Cade DeWitt

WORSHIP LEADERS

Feb. 1 Roger Luehring
 Feb. 8 Carolyn Moe
 Feb. 15 Dave Koester
 Feb. 22 Kevin Williams

ORGANIST

Feb. 1 Ann Vibbard
 Feb. 8 Sam DeWitt
 Feb. 15 Ann Vibbard
 Feb. 22 Sam DeWitt

COMMUNION STEWARDS:

February 1
 Logan & Emma Koester

PROJECTION

Feb 1 Jhona Lyn Gallo
 Feb 8 Steve Moe
 Feb 15 Steve Moe
 Feb 22 Roger Luehring

USHERS

Feb. 1 Steve & Marcia Koester
 Feb. 8 Logan & Emma Koester
 Feb. 15 Grant & Susie Strohbehn
 Feb. 24 Linda Schneider & Tim
 Pierce

The Messenger

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