

Downs UMC NEWSLETTER

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God is Worthy of Worship and Praise Daily

By *Rev. Kathy George*

Do you realize... that in heaven we will spend most of our time worshipping and praising God? Sometimes, we think of praise and worship as meaning the same thing and that they are something that we do only in church on Sunday mornings. But praise and worship are actually two different ideas and should be done daily. The main difference is that worship is based in who God is while praise is based in what God does. Even though worship and praise are for God, the two acts help build us up spiritually. When we are stronger spiritually, we are able to help others. That's what being a Christian is all about ~ putting God first in our lives, then sharing His love, grace and mercy with others. Sometimes we do not enjoy worship and praise as well as we could. But perhaps if we understood it better, we would.

So what is worship? A good basic definition is properly acknowledging who God is. It is to focus on His Holiness. God's Holiness is the one thing that separates us from Him. We know that God is loving and merciful but anybody can be a little bit loving and merciful sometimes. God is also holy and nobody in the world can ever claim to be even a little bit holy. God is, by His very nature, something that we could never be no matter how hard we try. That's why He deserves our worship.

The really great thing about God is that He doesn't just sit up on His holy stool and do nothing. There's a thing called "immanence and transcendence." It's a theological conundrum (it is a big word that cost me a lot of money to learn). What it means is that God is very near to us, all around us in fact, and we can easily call on Him just by saying His name. That's called immanence. He's also very far from us because we can't touch Him, and short of salvation through Christ, there's no way we can even have a relationship with Him. That's called transcendence. God's holiness is the chief force behind His transcendence; our sin is what separates us from a high and holy God. His love and mercy are the driving forces behind His immanence. He came down to us, took the form of a lowly human who got tired, hungry and frustrated and then allowed Himself to be put to an unjust death simply to allow us a way of entering a relationship with Him. That's how incomparably huge His love and mercy are. This is all in addition to the

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worship He deserves because of His holiness!

Isaiah 57 has a great phrase for God: "The high and exalted One." God is the King of the entire universe. He is the only holy One, the only One who is perfect in love. In fact, He's even worthy of worship because of His position as King. We believe that people who are in high earthly positions deserve our respect. There's not much in all honesty that separates you or me from any given president of the United States. If we were to meet the president, we would be expected to treat him (or her) honorably and with respect, simply because he/she is in a high position. How much more honor and respect belong to the God of the universe, the King of everything that exists? Beyond His holiness, beyond His love and mercy, He deserves worship because He is high and exalted.

Praise, on the other hand is based in how God's attributes ("who God is") impact me in my life. You see, I worship God because He is loving. I praise Him because that love has manifested itself in the form of salvation and in constant companionship and encouragement no matter how badly I mess up. I worship God because He is holy; I praise Him because He has reconciled me to Himself through the death of His sinless Son. I worship Him because of His mercy; I praise Him because His mercy shows itself in the form of forgiveness of all my sins - past, present, and future. See how the two are related, but slightly different? Sometimes they're not even distinguishable from each other. Paul says in Romans 5:8: "God showed His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Worship and praise often go hand in hand, but they're not quite exactly the same.

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FAMILY NIGHT ON WEDNESDAYS 5:30PM-8:00PM

We as a church have many opportunities and a responsibility for passing God’s love on to others. We are also responsible to help mold the children to grow in their faith and understanding on how much God loves them, as well as continuing our own spiritual education, so please consider being a part of this vital program.

Should school be canceled due to weather, Family Night will not take place.

- 5:30-6:45pm Dinner
- 6:00-6:30pm Drama
- 6:00-7:00pm Choir practice in Sanctuary
- 7:00-7:15pm Praise Music in Sanctuary
- 7:15-8:00pm Free2Praise Practice in Sanctuary
- Bible Study for Adults in Old Parsonage
- Sr. High Youth Group in Annex
- Jr. High Youth Group in Fellowship Hall
- PreK—5th Grade in Church with a VBS format which include crafts, games, snack & lesson.



**NO FAMILY NIGHT
MARCH 24TH**



The Youth and Chaperones that attended Winter Extreme at TIMBER-LEE in February would like to thank the church for their continued support of this event. It has been spiritual growth time for everyone involved. Thank you to Carrie and Dave Cobstall for spear-heading this event for 15 years!

The Youth also appreciate the opportunity to share about their experience at TIMBER-LEE in the 10:30 service on February 21.

The Youth also want to thank Pastor Ron for building the Carpet ball game that is now in the LOFT. Thank you Pastor Ron!

**ANNUAL CHILI/POTATO SOUP SUPPER
SUNDAY, MARCH 7
4:30-7:00PM
SPONSORED BY OUTREACH**

This is the only fund raiser the Outreach Committee has to bring monies into the Good Sam Fund. There is no set ticket price. There will be a free-will offering.

Items and workers are needed. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Sanctuary.

There are tickets available that act as a reminder and are great to give to people to advertise the event. See Ginger Campbell or the office to get your tickets.



Mission Minutes by Ginger Campbell

Our Mission Buckets for February were \$118.69. We sent Living Alternatives \$150. Other gifts for February have been as follows:

Home Sweet Home Mission	\$200.00
Clare House	\$175.00
Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen	\$175.00
Baby Fold	\$150.00
Salvation Army	\$150.00
Living Alternatives (listed above)	\$150.00
Financial Need	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$1,800.00

We are looking forward to our Chili/Potato Soup Supper on March 7th. Please come and enjoy the fellowship and taking part in this important fund raiser for Good Sam; and again thank you so much for helping us be able to help others by your contributions to the Good Sam Fund.

Here's Biblical proof for what I'm talking about. We read in Psalm 29:2: "Ascribe the Lord the glory that is due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of His holiness." See the two key themes. David talks about "the glory that is due His name," the idea that God deserves worship simply because of who He is. And what is it about God that deserves the worship? "The splendor of His holiness." Psalm 99:5 puts it this way: "Exalt the Lord and worship at His footstool; He is holy." Worship is grounded in who God is.

Praise is also addressed in many of the Psalms. In 139:14, says, "I praise You, O God, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." It reads: "I praise You because." Praise is grounded in what God does. Psalm 9:11: "Sing praises to the Lord, enthroned in Zion; proclaim among the nations what He has done." Once more we see praise is directly connected to "what He has done."

It is important to worship and praise God; that should be a crucial distinction. There may be times in each of our lives when there doesn't seem to be a lot to praise God for. You know the temptation in those times: to get bitter and angry with God and to start complaining; to ask Him where He is and what He's doing. Even in those times when it seems you don't have much to praise God for, you still have plenty of reason to worship Him. He is still completely holy and completely loving regardless of your present life circumstances. He is still the high and exalted One, the King over the entire universe and the only reason that you presently exist. You know that you will have reason to praise Him in the future because He is faithful. He has never abandoned you before and this is not about to be the first time. No matter what the temporary circumstances might be, God is still worthy of honor and respect and worship. That's why it's so important to understand praise and worship as two separate concepts.

The temptation for a person to link their faith to what's presently happening in their life is understandable but misguided. It basically amounts to selfishness, asking God, "What have you done for me lately?" Worship is the best way to take the focus off of me and place it onto God where it belongs. It keeps my eye on my goal, becoming more like Christ and keeps my eye off of all the temporary present distractions. That's why worship is absolutely central to any believer. That's why it's not just something you do on Sunday mornings when the music is playing, prayers are being said and the minister is preaching the sermon.

Through this Lenten season I would urge you to meditate on the things about God that are worthy of worship all the time. Ponder His great holiness and how it's even possible for a great, eternal, uncreated being to exist without a shred of impurity in Him. Ponder on His eternal, unfailing love toward everyone, no matter what mistakes they've made or how vigorously they've turned their backs on Him. Ponder His mercy, freely available to anyone who repents and asks for it. Ponder the incredible miracle of salvation, where God removes all the guilt of your sin from you and makes you holy. There's an awful lot about God that's worthy of worship and praise. He is, after all, the high and exalted One.

Blessings!

Trustee Meeting Minutes January 4, 2010

Present: Ron George, Jon Spelde, Dave Wysocki, Dave Back, Jeff Curtis and Brad Weichman

Absent: Andre McNaught, Ricky Hayes, Darla Lanchester, Craig Solvie, Dave Caldwell; Kathy George and Andy Whitted.

Ron George opened the meeting at 6:04pm with a prayer and devotion.

A trustee job description was distributed and discussed.

Old Business:

*The limited use of the old parsonage was discussed. No action taken.

*The bell tower is leaking again. Ron and Rick will inspect and try to pinpoint the area leaking. The bell tower may need more tuck pointing. Repairing the plaster in the church vestibule is on hold until the leaks are fixed.

*The outside motion light on the east side of the loft will be installed by Rick.

*The culvert for the west drive and the alley has been completed. Final grading will be done when the weather permits.

*Craig is working on the hand rail for the loft stairs. Dave Bach and Dave Wysocki are working on the outside hand rails for the annex stairs.

*The five lower porch/overhand roofs on the annex have deteriorated. There have been leaks in the kitchen area.

New Business:

*Thanks to Dave Wysocki for cleaning the carpets in the church and the old parsonage.

*It was suggested that the trustees do a walk through at least once a year on all our buildings. That was scheduled for our next trustee meeting in February.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm

Acting Secretary,

Dave Bach

March Dates to Know

1	6:00pm	Trustees Boy Scouts in Annex
2	9-1pm	Home Extension
3	5:30pm	Family Night
6	8:00am	Moms In Touch
7	4:30-7:00pm	Chili Supper
8	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
10	5:30pm	Family Night
13	8:00am	Moms In Touch
14	7:30am	UMW
	1:30pm	4H Meeting
	6:00pm	Bible Study
15	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
17	10-2pm	Senior Citizens
	5:30pm	Family Night
20	8:00am	Moms In Touch
21	6:00pm	Bible Study
22	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
28	10:30am	Praise Band
	6:00pm	Bible Study
29	6:00pm	Boy Scouts in Annex
31	5:30pm	Family Night

APRIL

1 **Sedar Feast**

Watch the weekly bulletins for details.
Reservations will be taken.



March Birthdays

1	Todd Kelly
4	Heather Miller
5	Janelle Zachow
7	Jared Zachow
9	Blaise McNeese
9	Ryan Walters
11	Mabel Courtney
12	Mike James
16	Madelyne Gelsthorpe
17	Larry Stark
19	Gary Adkisson
24	Tyler Halloran
24	Rodney Kleinlein
25	Karyn Spelde
26	Brandi Hammer
27	Jake Nalley
30	Debbie McNaught
31	Brock Ward



MILESTONES

Someone is turning 10, 45,70
And one couple will be
celebrating their 35th wedding
anniversary

**Congratulations &
Blessings to you all!**

Stewardship report— Giving for 2010

	Month of January	YTD
Tithes & Offerings	10,241.25	21,331.25
Total Need	12,484.00	24,968.00
Difference	-2,242.75	-3,636.75
Building Fund	1,308.15	1,988.15
Mission & Special Project Giving		
Good Sam	1,538.69	3,090.02

2009 UMW Officers

President—Donna Clark

Vice President—Kay Hull

Secretary—Sheri Mushrush

Treasurer—Leigh Hayes

Social Concerns Chair—Ginger Campbell

All women of the church are encouraged and welcomed to be a part of this Mission Ministry. The ladies meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month for breakfast.

The next meeting will be Sunday, March 14th.

Hostesses are: Peggy Stark, Deb Bricker & Carrie Cobstill

EQUIPMENT BORROWING

Should you need to borrow chairs, tables, roasters, coffeepots, etc. please check with the office first. The office keeps a list of what items are borrowed, and when they are needed so we know if

March Anniversaries

12	Todd & Emily Kelly
15	Jim & Marcia Adams
26	Jack & Lyn Edwards
29	Mike & Jean Riordan

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH. They can be faxed to 378-2651 or emailed to officedumc@juno.com. Input is welcomed. It is your newsletter!

OPPORTUNITIES OF FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH

Sunday Fellowship

**Every Sunday after the 8:00am service
Breakfast items are served.**

A freewill offering is taken to cover the cost of the food. Thank you for your support for this ministry, and to everyone that has volunteered to help with this ministry!

We are in need of people that can ‘substitute’ in this area. Please let the office know if you can be a part of this ministry. There are people more than willing to “guide” you in working in this ministry. It would be of great help to have a list of people we can call on in a pinch or a planned absence.

Adult Sunday School Class The Adult Class is now meeting in the LOFT.

This is a fun group and all are welcomed to join at any time.

The month of March they will be studying Easter.



March 14th

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES

Downs UMC has a class for ages 3 and up on Sunday Morning.

Ages 3-5th grade meet in the Sanctuary at 9:15 for music and then go to classrooms in the education wing of the church.

Junior High (6-8th) meet in the Jr. High Room (2nd floor) in the Annex

Sr. High meets on the first floor of the annex and the Adults are meeting in the LOFT

Sunday School is coordinated by Leigh Hayes 378-3008 and Jamie Ward 378-4621

GREETERS are always needed.

Contact Sherry Reed @ 663-2999 if you can serve in this capacity.

March Volunteers~~We Appreciate You!

Power Point Operators

8:00 am Service 10:30 am Service

- | | | |
|----|----------------|---------------|
| 7 | Blaise McNeese | HELP!!!! |
| 14 | Rhonda Nalley | Laura Walters |
| 21 | Kyle Connour | Tom Coulon |
| 28 | Sue Colclasure | Jean Riordan |

GREETERS 10:30 am Service

- | | |
|----|----------------------------------------------|
| 7 | Betty Harvey/Madelyne Gelsthorpe
Kay Hull |
| 14 | Tim Riley Family |
| 21 | Tom Coulon Family |
| 28 | Jon Nelson Family |

NURSERY SCHEDULE

10:30am Service

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 7 | Michelle Forbes |
| 14 | Brian & Janelle Zachow |
| 21 | Jen Nelson |
| 28 | Leanne Sutton |

Fellowship Coordinators

- | | |
|----|----------------------------|
| 7 | Etta Whitted |
| 14 | UMW |
| 21 | Rick Hayes/Michelle Forbes |
| 28 | Jean Riordan |

Downs UMC

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Pastor Ron

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Secretary:

secretary@downsumc.org


Office Hours

Tuesday 1-3pm
Wednesday 8-12pm & 1-3pm
Thursday 8-12pm

2010 Official Role (Positions being Served)

Ad Board Chairperson:	Brent Ward	<u>FINANCE:</u> Bill Erlenbush, Larry Stark, Brent Ward, Janice Cuba, Lyn Edwards, Donna Kleinlein, Cathy Finch, Jon Spelde.
Recording Secretary:	Lyn Edwards	<u>TRUSTEES:</u> Jon Spelde; Dave Wysocki; Rick Hayes, Andre McNaught, Craig Solvie, Dave Caldwell, Kathy George, Darla Lanchester, Dave Bach; Brad Weichman; Jeff Curtis, Andy Whitted.
Finance Chairperson:	Bill Erlenbush	<u>PPRC:</u> George Lewis, Darcie Jones, Kay Hull, Tim Riley, Jon Nelson, Lyndall Cuba, Becky Connour, Jim Finch; Chris Mushrush
Sunday School Super:	Jamie Ward & Leigh Hayes	<u>NOMINATIONS:</u> Shari Riley, Cheryl Bach, Larry Stark, Jamie Ward, Kim Lewis; Sherry Reed; Rhonda Nalley
PPRC Chairperson:	George Lewis	
Lay Leader:	Larry Stark	
Lay Member to Confer.:	Cathy Finch	
Treasurer:	Janice Cuba	
Financial Secretary:	Lyn Edwards	
Nurture Chairperson:	Cathy Finch	
Outreach Chairperson:	Ginger Campbell	
Witness Chairperson:	Etta Whitted	
UMW President:	Donna Clark	
Youth Director:	Peggy Stark	
Youth Group Leader	Michelle Forbes	
Camping Coordinator:	Carrie Cobstill	
Trustee Chairperson:	Jon Spelde	

Should you be receiving this newsletter and wish to be removed from the list, please contact Janice at 309-378-2651 or secretary@downsumc.org.



We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.downsumc.org

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Address Service Requested

