

Summer Service Opportunities

Agape Garden

- Work days: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6pm-dusk, Saturdays 8am-noon
- We are still actively planting the first planting in the garden through May 28th.
- The garden looks beautiful right now, but we need your help to keep it that way by staying ahead of the weeds and keeping up with the harvesting! Yes!, already harvesting several items! Please consider coming out for an hour or so Tuesday or Thursday evening or Saturday morning. Volunteer hours have been down this year, so we really need all of your help!

Sudanese Sunday School

1. How: In January, Pastor Ben Wedeking of Grimes UMC reached out to Pastor Aaron to see how Grimes could help as they started their new church plant. Pastor Aaron shared that one of their greatest needs was to offer a Sunday school program for their children and youth. This congregation has many children but a language barrier divides the adults from the children. Many of the children speak English, whereas the adults still speak their native language called, Mabon (Ma-Bon) and are unable to properly communicate with their children.

Grimes UMC was asked to be the "spearhead" in this new ministry. And, slowly over time a partnership formed between four different United Methodist churches. Each has agreed to send a group of Sunday school teachers to help lead Sunday school and share the love of Jesus with the So. Sudanese children. Those churches are: Polk City UMC, Grace UMC, Ankeny UMC, and Grimes UMC.

2. Who: Pastor Aaron Limmo's congregation of So. Sudanese refugees

3. When: Each congregation sends a group of volunteers to Epworth UMC, once a month, to lead the kids in Worship, Prayer, games & activities, and lessons. Sunday school begins at 1:30 and ends around 2:40.

Week 1: Ankeny UMC

Week 2: Grimes UMC

Week 3: Polk City UMC

Week 4: Grace UMC

Week 5: (For Months with 5 Sundays) Grimes UMC

4. Where: Epworth UMC in Des Moines

5. Why: *"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."* God commands us in Leviticus to show love and respect to those living among us from different lands. Jesus himself taught us to love our neighbors as our selves and to tell everyone about the "Good News!" We started this partnership because not only is it the right thing to do, but because Jesus commands us to. "Do not stop the little ones from coming to me." He says.

Ankeny First will begin providing Sunday School on June 5th. Contact Pat Crownover (Pat.Crownover@ankenyfirst.org) to sign up for a week.

These are just a sampling of summer service opportunities. Don't see what you are looking for? Feel free to contact Lindsay Drake (Lindsay.Drake@AnkenyFirst.org) with questions or suggestions.