

August 2015
issue 179



ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa



worship on the green, august 30

Thoughts from Steve

One day, as Mark writes in his gospel, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat to get away from the crowds. He said to the disciples “Come by yourselves to a deserted place and rest for awhile.” They departed in a boat by themselves for a deserted place. This isn’t the only time Jesus suggested they escape for a time away to get rest and restore the soul.



The disciples had returned from teaching trips through the villages. They had been out on their own preaching, driving out demons, and anointing and healing the sick. When they returned they gathered around Jesus to report in. They had done good work and they must have been excited about the new authority they held in the name of Jesus. Jesus must have been excited to see the disciples to; he wanted to hear about their experiences, so he invited them to come away and find some rest.

We all need time away to recoup, recharge and renew ourselves. I like to remember the images from Psalm 23 when I am needing to get away for renewal. Psalm 23 makes the Lord himself the shepherd. And, of course, Jesus names himself the “Good Shepherd.” The passage that reads “He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadth me beside the still waters, He restoreth my soul.” brings the image of a gentle shepherd who cares for his sheep.

Let me be clear that Jesus Christ is my shepherd. I do not want to appear “sheepish” about my relationship with God. My time away is not taking time away from God, but to make time to spend with God. When we vacation, we take time away from the church, but we spend much of our time renewing our spirits along the green pastures and still waters. That is why we head for the mountains!



When you receive this Janet and I will be taking our annual trip to the mountains. It is important for me to do as Jesus instructed to the disciples to “Come by yourself to a deserted place and rest for awhile.” Honestly, I need a break. As someone shared with me that “we are a fairly large church, but we treat you like we are a small church.” There are times when my well runs dry from the demands of being a pastor. I need time to recoup, recharge and renew myself.

It is important for my own personal mental and spiritual health, but probably even more important for Janet and me as a couple to have this time together. So we will spend some time together doing the things we love in the mountains. We will be camping, hiking, backpacking, biking and relaxing around a campfire late in to the evening talking about us and where we think God is leading us.

As we continually pray for you, please keep us in your prayers -

Pastor Steve and Janet



Worship on the Green – Sunday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m.

We will be worshipping outdoors on our Green Space this year instead of Overman Park this year. The Worship Committee is going to give it a try. Thanks to Waterloo Tent, we have free use of a Circus Tent that will cover the space with shade. The service is on Sunday, August 30 beginning at 10:00 a.m. The Praise Band will be providing music. The Scouts will be serving our picnic in our air conditioned Fellowship Hall. So come and join us as we praise God under the “Big Top!”

Our Sister Church – Washington Chapel

Our Sister Church – Washington Chapel

We have completed our first month in our partnership with Washington Chapel UMC. Our own Jordan Derhammer is coordinating this effort with her role as worship leader and she also recruits speakers to give the message for Sunday morning worship. If you feel the call to share a message with our new friends, please contact Jordan at jordan.derhammer@aboutfirst.com. Washington Chapel is just north of Cedar Falls at 7035 W Bennington Rd (the corner of Ford and W Bennington Rd). Services begin at 10:30 every Sunday morning. Feel free to join them for worship and to support your friends from First.

Here are the speakers for August:

August 2: Dave Glenn-Burns (communion will be served)

August 9- Chris Congdon

August 16- Jon Cooper

August 23- Sue Ney

August 30 – Jordan Derhammer

August 16 Rural Life offering

You may contribute to the Rural Life offering by dropping your donation in the baskets at the worship service entrances on August 16. The Rural Life offering reminds us of the rural heritage of The United Methodist Church. This offering is used to celebrate and support rural life and rural ministry in Iowa.

Sunday Morning Prayers

7:45 a.m.

All are welcome on Sunday mornings to the chapel from 7:45 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. to pray with the prayer team to lift up all that goes on during the morning. Each Sunday there is a prayer facilitator to guide us. Please contact a member of the team if you have questions: Jim Larson, Sue Ney, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance or Jan Hoover

Prayer Team Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 p.m. parlor. Team Christ set goals to include creating a prayer team ministry, that includes how to communicate important ministries or prayer concerns with the congregation, create prayer resources to support all meeting and activities in the church that they begin and close each gathering in prayer, prepare prayer vigils to utilize our new chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend and share as we continue this journey together: Contact anyone of the group with questions: Jim Larson, Sue Ney, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance or Jan Hoover.

Food Bank Special Crew - August 19

A group from First UMC will be at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on Wednesday, August 19 to get some backpacks ready for the school year. This is a change from our customary first Tuesday of the month date. We'll be there from 5:30 - no later than 7:30 p.m. Can't be there right at 5:30? Show up whenever you can.

Kids third grade and older are welcome with adult supervision. Our specialty is filling backpacks, but sometimes we try other tasks as well. No special skills are needed—a heart for mission, a patient disposition, and a sense of humor does come in handy, though.

Lisa will not be available to take passengers this month, so get yourself to the Food Bank and come into the Volunteer Entrance.



Rummage Sale!

Rummage Sale! August 6, 7, 8

The profits will be donated to the following three groups: Love Inc., Redbird Missions and church upgrades (similar to last year's landscaping project that is in process and a new riding lawn mower). There is a cart available to help move items from the main entrance to each collection room. If you have any questions or you have a large item you would like to donate, please contact John Roy at roygoalie@gmail.com or 989-708-5325.

The sale will be August 6 (5:30-8 PM), 7 (8 AM-4 PM), 8 (8 AM-1 PM). We will need volunteers to fill a 2 hour slot to make the sale successful. You can sign up for your preferred spot at a table in the Gathering Place. We are looking for people to help in the following places: men's and women's clothing, electronics, large items, kid's, holiday & linens, household items, and cashiers, and baked goods. We are seeking people to be room greeters.

Wednesday Nights Are Going to be Great Again!

Wednesday Evening BLAST for P-K - 6th grade will begin September 16, 6:00: - 7:15. A leaders training will be held September 2, 6:30 . If you would like to be part of the planning team for Wednesday evening for the elementary-age children, please contact Jan Hoover. Filling Station begins Wednesday, September 16, Enjoy working in the kitchen? Join one of the teams listed: Meal Prep. Team, Wednesday starting at 2:00 pm. 4:15 Meal set-up and serving team 6:00 - 7:00 Meal Clean-Up Team, if you would be willing to help out one time a month on a team to either cook, serve or clean-up a meal, contact Jan Hoover. Jan says, "I encourage you to pray about where God is leading you to serve at First United Methodist Church. To contact me with questions, or what is involved in any Education Ministry areas, call during the day 266-1713 or at home 277-4033 or email jan.hoover@aboutfirst.com"



Free Swim night at The Falls! -August 21

Back by popular demand:
NE District Pool Party
Friday, August 21, 8:45-10:45 p.m
The Falls Aquatic Center, Cedar Falls

Youth groups, families, Sunday School classes, United Methodists and friends. Enjoy a fun evening to cool off, celebrate summer, and be community. Admission is free! The concession stand will be open to purchase snacks.



Youth: Have Your Best Year Ever, Beginning Aug 26

It doesn't matter if you're in seventh grade or twelfth grade, there's a lot that makes school life difficult - homework, relationships, bullies, and social pressure are just a few.

But here's the good news. The Bible contains ALL of the answers that you need to help navigate through your BEST YEAR EVER. I'm excited to dive into that at our first youth group of the year starting August 26. Dinner will start at 5:30pm with Games and Youth Group from 6:00pm-7:15pm. Here at First United Methodist Church!

For more information please contact Becca Nims (rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com or 515-422-2299 All youth going into seventh grade through twelfth are welcome!

Laura Story at First UMC next July

FUMC has the opportunity to host two exciting events in July 2016. Grammy award winning Christian singer and speaker Laura Story has agreed to appear at FUMC for a Night with Laura Story Friday night concert and an all-day Saturday women's conference called Blessings & Lemonade.

In addition to her Grammy award, Laura has won Billboard Music and Dove Awards.

Laura is also an author. Her first book, "Blessings", based on the song of the same name, has been a great seller. Laura has a new book coming out in September, "When God Doesn't Fix It, Lessons You Never Wanted to Learn, Truths You Can't Live Without" which is sure to be a best-seller.

In order to secure Laura's appearance, we do need a small deposit to submit with the appearance agreement by the end of August. Anyone interested in being a benefactor for this event or contributing to the deposit, please contact Cindi Knox.



Community Meal - big news

To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven. For more than 18 years Becky Hardman and Faye Rohwedder have had as one of their purposes the direction of our Community Meals Program. They, along with many hard-working volunteers, have served literally thousands of meals to grateful people. Now Becky and Faye will be stepping down after November of this year. They are letting us know now so that someone else will step up to continue this important activity. Who knows- this may be the purpose you have been waiting for.

Financial Update

June Receipts	\$58,540.89
June Expenses	\$66,584.67
YTD Receipts	\$434,746.22
YTD Expenses	\$422,634.35

As of July 19-

YTD budget amount needed	\$494,794
YTD general fund received	\$465,754
Mortgage balance as of July 14 -	\$855,305

Consider Automatic Giving

You'll never need to remember to write a check again! It is quick and easy to set up. Contact our Financial Manager, Deb Bernard for details. 319-266-1713 or emailed deb.bernard@aboutfirst.com.

Aug 4 - Grief Support Session

It is not only okay to talk about a loved one who has died, it is essential for healing to occur. Telling your story and sharing feelings helps keep your loved one's memory alive and helps you heal. Monthly support sessions are sponsored by the FUMC Grief Support Team and provide a safe, confidential setting. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, August 4th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the parlor. Please call Carol through the church office with questions. No reservations are required.

Aug 20 - 1st Friends Potluck

Everyone is welcome! Spend some time enjoying good food, card games, dominos, cribbage, etc. Fellowship is an important part of the gathering. Check us out! Come and get better acquainted with others in the church. Couples and singles are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. We meet on the third Thursday of every month from noon until 2 pm in the Gathering Place. Need more information? Phone Arlene Fleming at 266-3322.

Aug 30 - Threehouse Wes-Fest need salad-makers for this!

Let's show our support for our local campus ministry. The UNI Wesley Foundation (now known as Threehouse) welcomes us to their annual Back-to-School Block Party on Sunday, August 30 from 5:00-7:00.

We can help with the Threehouse block party to kick off the Fall 2015 semester. "Wes Fest" will take place on Sunday, August 30 from 5-7pm. Everyone is invited to come and to eat and visit with the students. Also, we have offered to provide salad or fruit or veggie trays to make the party a rousing success. If making a salad is not your thing, donations of cash can be helpful for purchasing charcoal and other picnic supplies. Sign up on the Threehouse clipboard on the Welcome Center.

If you want to know more about this important campus ministry, contact them at 266-4071 or speak to any of the members of Cedar Falls First UMC serving on the Threehouse: A Wesley Foundation board of directors. This includes Steve Williams, Mary Schlicher, Lesley Toma, & Pat Van Hauen.

Every Tuesday - Morning Bible Study

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets in the chapel every Tuesday at 9:30 and reads and discusses the Bible, beginning to end (a little bit at a time!) Bring your favorite Bible translation and join them. You can join in wherever they are. Shirley Bolin is the contact for this group.

Every Wednesday

Women Connected By Prayer

Meets 9:00-10:30 in the parlor. Studies vary. All women are welcome and invited to attend.

Every Thursday - Zumba

Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact mary.friedrich@cfu.net if you have questions. Come and dance...it's never too late to join us on this fun fitness adventure!

Christian Ed Fall Dates:

Plans for fall are underway in Christian Education. If you are interested in being involved in any of these areas of ministry, as a teacher, facilitator, work behind the scenes during the week, or have any new ideas to share, please contact Jan Hoover.

August 12 & 19, 6:30 p.m. Safe Sanctuary Training

for ALL children and youth ministry volunteers. If you are interested in helping in these two areas please plan to attend one of these two times listed. contact Jan Hoover.

Beginning August 24 - Classroom Prep

Time for FALL House Cleaning to get ready for the Sunday School year! Beginning Monday, August 24 we will start in the adult classrooms area and work our way through the church. We will be wiping tables, chairs, cleaning and sorting classroom cupboards, vacuum etc. Goal date to be completed is Friday August 28. Contact Jan Hoover if you could come in and help!

September 13 - Sunday School Begins for All Ages

Every fall we have ministry opportunities in all ages and all areas. The following is a list of ways you can serve:

Children's Ministry: Greeter as the children arrive at Sunday School. Leader: Become part of a team of leaders who will take turns with teaching the lesson. Shepherd one of the classes (no prep needed) You stay with one age group each Sunday, help with attendance. Shepherds are the youth or adults who build relationship throughout the year with the students. Room environment leaders, change the worship area in each room. Help prepare supplies during the week.

Youth: College and Adults are needed to become part of a TEAM teaching group.

Adult Classes: Co-Leaders to teach and or facilitate adult classes. We have seven adult and one young adult class now, but room to grow new classes.

Classroom Supplies: While school supplies are on sale the following items will be needed this year: markers and any size glue sticks. You can bring them in any time to the church office. Thanks for your help.

Recurring Weekly:

Sunday

7:45 prayer in the chapel
 8:30 Transformation Worship
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place
 10:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary

Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast
 9:30-1:00 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, Chapel
 6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall
 7:00-8:00 AA, O55
 7:00-8:30 Men's Group

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 5:15 AA, O55
 6:30 WOW AA, O55

Thursday

7:00 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall
 5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

SATURDAY August 1

Bidwell-Riverside mission daytrip

SUNDAY August 2

10:30 Washington Chapel, David Glenn-Burns

MONDAY August 3

Noon - newsletter labeling and mailing
 6:30 Rummage Sale - move items upstairs
 6:30 Stephen Ministry supervision
 6:30 Fusion Design Team

TUESDAY August 4

rummage sale prep - stop in and help anytime
 2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor
 6:00 Transformation Design Team, library
 7:00-9:00 AA, meet in parlor this week

WEDNESDAY August 5

5:15 AA, meet in parlor this week
 6:30 WOW AA, meet in parlor this week
 6:30 Finance Committee, library

THURSDAY August 6

5:30-8:00 rummage sale
 6:30 trustees

FRIDAY August 7

8:00-4:00 rummage sale

SATURDAY August 8

8:00-1:00 rummage sale
 1:00 - rummage sale clean up

SUNDAY August 9

10:30 Washington Chapel - Chris Congdon

MONDAY August 10

5:45-7:45 Healthy Cooking

TUESDAY August 11

4:30-6:00 Community Meal
 6:30 Prayer Team, parlor

WEDNESDAY August 12

2:00 Communion Service, Western Home
 4:00 CROP Walk planning, Gathering Place
 6:30 Fun & Fellowship, library
 6:30 Safe Sanctuary training, parlor

THURSDAY August 13

6:30 SPRC, O57
 6:30 Rummage Sale eval, Gathering place

SUNDAY August 16

10:30 Washington Chapel - Jon Cooper

MONDAY August 17

6:30 Worship Committee, library

TUESDAY August 18

4:30-6:00 Comm Meal
 5:30 H&H pepper jelly, Karen's house
 6:30 HOME Team, library

WEDNESDAY August 19

9:30-11:00 MOMs group, libr & Fellowship
 11:00 Chapel Service, Windsor Care Center
 5:30-7:30 Methodists at the Food Bank
 6:30 Safe Sanctuary training, parlor

THURSDAY August 20

September newsletter deadline
 12:00 1st Friends Potluck, Gathering Place

FRIDAY August 21

8:45-10:45 Swim Night at The Falls

SUNDAY August 23

Communion at all services
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Sue Ney

MONDAY August 24

CF Schools begin classes
 UNI begins classes
 Sunday School Classroom cleaning
 6:30 Ad Council

TUESDAY August 25

4:30-6:00 FUMC Community Meal

WEDNESDAY August 26

2:00 Communion Service, Windermere
 5:30 Youth Group
 6:30 Endowment, library

SUNDAY August 30

10:00 Worship on the Green
 10:30 Washington Chapel
 - Jordan Derhammer
 5:00-7:00 Threehouse Block party

MONDAY August 31

noon newsletter mailing crew
 7:00 Met Chorale rehearsal

Think About This...

If you're ready

- to step forward in a bold, new way
- to unlock your potential as a servant in the Church
- to explore the history and structure of our United Methodist Church
- to commit yourself to pursue your personal ministry at a higher level

You may be a great candidate for the Iowa Annual Conference's School for Lay Ministry (SLM). SLM is designed to grow Iowa churches by providing a supplemental source of leadership. Some of the ways that SLM graduates serve are: volunteer management, Christian education, care-giving, youth programming, outreach, and the SLM is the pathway to becoming a Certified Lay Minister.

Students devote four weekends a year for three years to this program. Classes are held at the Cornell, Simpson and Morningside colleges. There are reading assignments, lecture sessions, group discussions and activities. It's not for everyone - you have to be serious about this - but if you are, you will end up having one of the most enlightening experiences in your Christian life. Weekend courses will dig into worship, congregational care, Christian ethics, theological perspectives, missions, social concerns, church history, doctrine and polity and strategizing for growth. You will emerge equipped and inspired to see your life as a ministry and to share it openly in ways that suit your strengths and skills. In our congregation, Lesley Toma, Karl Dance, Jan Hoover, Chris Congdon and Jim Reidy are graduates of the program. Lisa Congdon, Padma Templeton and Sue Ney are current students. Ask any of them about their experience, or talk to one of our pastors. Classes start this fall, so it is time to begin the application process. More information can be found at www.iaumc.org.

Your Next Step Could Be a Walk to Emmaus



The Walk to Emmaus is a three-day, short course in New Testament Christianity. Your three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of your life and allow you to focus on what a new life of discipleship might look like. You'll be immersed in a caring Christian community, and will be encouraged and challenged to find ways to live out your faith in your home church and your community.

If you have difficulty walking, don't worry. This walk is figurative and symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible regardless of physical abilities. The name, Walk to Emmaus refers to the story in Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus appears to, and walks with, two men who do not recognize the risen Christ in their midst until he breaks bread with them. In this weekend, you'll learn to see Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience for adults, and there is a similar youth-oriented experience called Chrysalis.

If you have interest in learning more about the Walk to Emmaus, contact the church office, and we can arrange for you to meet someone who has already been - there are many in our congregation. The next Walks to Emmaus are scheduled for this fall. Check out this video at www.vimeo.com/8697255.

Invitation to John Bible Study with Pastor Steve and Janet

Pastor Steve and Janet will be leading a Disciple Bible Study only focused on the Gospel of John. Class is 11 sessions and will begin on September 13 at 6:30 p.m. Experience the magnificent passages in John including the I am statements (I am the truth, the life and the way, I am the living water and more). Revisit stories only told in John's gospel including Nicodemus, Mary Magdalene and the raising of Lazarus.

Participants for this Invitation to John do not have to have an in-depth knowledge of the Bible to enjoy and benefit from participation. Reading just two chapters of John a week, they will discover the life altering stories that will invite them to follow Christ as true disciples. This eleven-week study includes a participant book outlining daily reading assignments for group preparations for use in the 60-90-minute weekly session. The cost for the participant book is \$12.00. Sign up will be at the Welcome Center.

Holy Land Trip Information Meeting: Sunday, August 23, 2:00pm

A trip of a life time to the Holy Lands has been scheduled for March 8 through 17, 2016. To date, we have 6 from our congregation planning to travel together. There is still time to make reservations. If you are interested in going we invite you to attend an information meeting on Sunday, August 23 at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Chapel. You may also contact Pastor Steve or Janet for information. This fall, we will be scheduling meetings in preparation to our trip. These meetings will include Bible Studies that correspond with the sites we will be visiting. The group will be touring biblical sites such as Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Jericho and the Sea of Galilee.



Thanks for Help With VBS

Thank you to everyone who have helped with "G-Force", God's Love in Action, Vacation Bible School by sharing of their time, donating supplies for science, decorating, crafts, scholarships or cash donations. We all had a wonderful time together celebrating and growing in our faith by learning how God calls to Move, Act, Care, Follow and Share.

One of the highlights of the week was decorating "We-Care" Flower Pots in crafts for the 5th & 6th grade class to deliver to all the residents at Willowwood.

Mission Project: We have a great start collecting supplies to help fill school bags during Sunday School in October. In fact they did so great that three of the leaders enjoyed some whip cream pies-in-the-face.

I know I missed several leaders on the closing evening so if you helped before or during V.B.S. please stop by the church office, you have something to pick-up!



UMW schedule of events

No Unit meeting

Aug. 18 – Hearts and Hands Circle,
5:30 pm, Karen Page's home

Aug. 19 – Joy Circle – Village Inn, 11:00

Deborah, Mary, and Miriam circles do not meet in August.

Women of Faith Approacheth

As we cross off the days on the calendar our trip to St. Paul comes closer. We still have some things to take care of to have a successful trip.

We collected for the hotel in June and July. If you haven't taken care of this please do so as soon as possible. The rooms are \$130 which is \$65 each for two/room, \$44 for three/room, \$32.50 for four/room. Checks made out to FUMC, with WOF hotel on the memo.

It is now time to collect for the bus, which is \$60. Some of you have already paid and we thank you.

This year each attendee will need to complete a simple registration form. Denise Barr or Stephanie Buchs will have them in the Gathering Place on Sunday mornings. It won't take long so stop by the table.

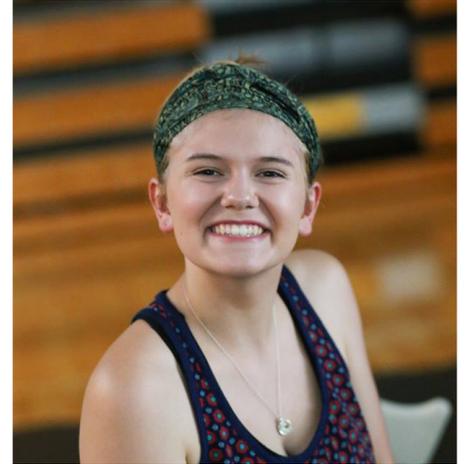
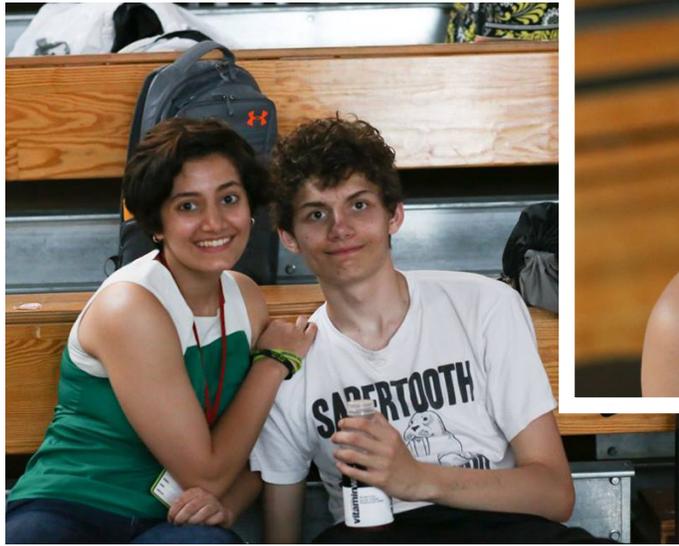
Fellas @ First

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant in North Cedar, Tuesday mornings at 7:00. The devotional is rotated among attendees. We usually finish before eight o'clock. Start your Tuesdays with us. Contact: Tim Houts and Steve Williams.

Tuesday Night Fellas

The Tuesday Night Fellas meet @ 7pm, downstairs in the man-cave. All men of all ages are welcome: punks to geezers. If you're a first-timer, just show up, say "Hi, I'm new", and we'll take it from there. Tuesday nights, 7-8:30 in the church library.



Summer Games Was Great!

Summer Games University is a week long camp for youth in junior high and high school at Grinnell College.

This year our church sent 5 high school students, and 3 camp staff members. The theme was Authenticity. The youth who attended spent time in worship, small groups (called huddles at camp) and time doing fun activities such as going to the waterpark, sports, art and photography. As they went through their daily routine they learned how to live out their faith in an authentic way. Many of the youth who attend camp choose to dedicate or rededicate their lives to Christ! We thank all of our back home buddies for providing a care package and for praying for each of the campers. Please continue to pray for all those who attended that they continue to deepen their faith at home.



Taylor- *This was my 3rd year of Summer Games, and every year I am always reminded that God is with me and can do amazing things with his love for us. Always the best week of my summer!*

Madison- *Before I went to summer games this year I considered myself a Christian because I had accepted God into my life the year before and that was true, I would go to church and pray when I needed God. But after hearing the sermons each day I realized that I wasn't being an "authentic" Christian. After summer games, even though it has only been two/three days, I read the bible twice a day, I do my devotions, and I am becoming more involved with Christ and already I am feeling God work in my life, I am happier and I am more open to hearing other people's thoughts and opinions, summer games is a very life changing camp.*

Last Chance for Summer Camp, First Chance for Fall

The Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church operates three camps, and each of those has something for everyone! Ask Jan for a camp catalog or find it online at iaumc.org.

August mission of the month – Change a Child's Story. Give books. Give time.

One million books and a million hours of reading with children – that's the goal of Iowa United Methodists in the next two years in a new initiative called, "Change a Child's Story."

The academic and economic futures of almost 90,000 young lowans are at risk.

*In 2012, roughly 1 in 4 Iowa fourth-graders scored below proficient level on the state reading test. Research indicates that a quarter of kids who are behind in reading by the 4th grade will eventually drop out of school, making them more likely to experience other hardships, including jail time.

*55% - Iowa children under age six whose low-income parents don't have a high school diploma.

*86% of children with parents who didn't graduate high school live in low-income families.

*61% of children in poverty don't have children's books at home.

Sadly, Iowa's kids are not all developing the reading skills they need for success. We can help by collecting quality children's books and giving them to children, and spending some time reading to or with children.

We will be partnering with Lincoln School and FirstKids by providing quality books and quality reading time for the children. Together, we can change the story of children in

our community and neighborhood. Although the details are still being worked out with the leadership and teachers in these schools, we are being proactive by collecting funds for new books and by asking our church members to let us know if they are interested in reading with kids when the opportunities come.

Do you have fond memories of your favorite children's book? We have a source to purchase quality children's books at a significant discount through a publishing company. Use the "Change a Child's Story" offering envelopes from the display to donate to this. As an added incentive, your monetary donations will be matched 100% through the lone Zach Endowment for Missions!

Do you have fond memories of a parent, grandparent, or favorite teacher who read aloud to you? Sign up on the clipboard at the display and we will contact you when you can share your love of reading with children at Lincoln Elementary, FirstKids Preschool, or with children in our church.

Together we can "Change a Child's Story" by giving books and giving time.



UMCOR School Kits!

The really good sales on back to school supplies are happening now. The First Stitchers have been busy all year sewing school bags, and have an excellent start. Last year we filled over 550 school kits, and hope to at least match that number this year. You can help by keeping your eyes open for good deals on school supplies and bringing them to the church. This is what is needed to fill each school bag:

- 3 - 8 ½ x 11 spiral or top-bound notebooks, 70-80 pgs each, WIDE rules only, no composition books
- 1 - pencil sharpener (hand held - at least 1" long)
- 6 - unsharpened pencils with erasers (plain)
- 1 - box 24 crayons (ONLY 24 count, please)
- 1 - pair BLUNT scissors
- 1 - 2 ½ inch eraser
- 1 - 30 centimeter ruler (hard or flexible)

No need to fill a whole kit, just take advantage if the bargain prices and buy a lot! Right now we are in particular need of rulers, pencil sharpeners, and blunt scissors.

Thanks to the Crushers!

Thank you to all who participated in the 2015 American Cancer Society Relay for Life for the FUMC Cancer Crushers. We raised \$1111.00 through donations along with the sale of t-shirts, angels and jewelry. We were also named Best Team Spirit and received the Rising Star Team Award. If you ordered a t-shirt and did not receive it, please contact Cindi Knox at 319-230-5642 or cindi50701@aol.com. We do still have t-shirts available for those interested in purchasing them for next year!

Toothpaste, Toothbrushes and Hearing Aids

Lisa Congdon is joining a Volunteer in Mission trip to the Holy Land this September. Our group will be visiting several UMC supported ministries in the area. We are encouraged to bring useful items as gifts for some of these organizations. Lisa volunteered to provide a suitcase full of toothbrushes and toothpaste for a residential facility for children and adults with disabilities (Four Homes of Mercy in Palestine).

Although we are not going to Gaza City, part of our task is to collect new, used, and even broken hearing aids to be delivered to the Atfaluna Society for Deaf Children in Gaza. This organization offers audiology and speech therapy clinics, vocational training, and educational opportunities for all ages.

Lisa will be collecting the toothpaste, toothbrushes, and hearing aids all summer. Bring them to the church office anytime.

Collect items for Lincoln School

(Our Partner In Education):

We collect items year-round to support our Partner in Education. Please drop them in the appropriate can on the table outside the church office.

- 1) box top labels from any General Mills products. These are redeemed for 10 cents each.
- 2) Milk Moola caps or labels – also redeemed for 10 cents.
- 3) Campbell soup UPC codes (some other related Campbell products apply, too)
- 4) Hy-Vee receipts from any Waterloo-CF Hy-Vee stores

Back to School Project for Cedar Valley students

Here's an opportunity to support our local community. The Back to School Project is a volunteer run organization that collects and distributes new school supplies to kindergarten through middle school students in our own metro area. They rely on donations and volunteer labor from individuals, organizations, businesses and churches. Last year they were able to help more than 3,000 students begin the school year with fresh, new supplies. The Back to School Project has been helping thousands of local kids since 1994. This is a completely volunteer run project, and you can help in July and August.

Volunteers are needed through August 14 to register the students. This is done at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank at 1606 Lafayette St in Waterloo. Shifts are Monday-Thursday from 9:00-11:30, 11:30-2:00, and 2:00-4:30. Friday shift is 8:00-11:30.

A big part of the process is sacking up the supplies for each grade level and school. This happens in the gym at Lou Henry Elementary School in Waterloo on August 17- 19 from 9:00am-7:00pm (come and go as you wish). If you wish to bring a group of five or more contact Ruth Orth to schedule a specific time.

Distribution of the supplies happens August 18, 20, and 21 at Lou Henry. Contact Ruth Orth to work any of these slots:

Tuesday, August 18	4pm – 6pm
Thursday, August 20	11am-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 5pm-6pm
Friday, August 21	11am-1pm, 2pm-3pm, 5pm-6pm

Contact Ruth Orth at 240-7470 or RNLCComp@mchsi.com to schedule a time to help with registration at the Food Bank, to help with distribution at Lou Henry, if you have questions about the project.

What do a heifer, a water buffalo, and a goat have in common?

They all produce milk! The Milk Menagerie represents a quality-breed heifer, two goats, and a water buffalo – four milk-producing animals that provide hardworking families with the start-up capital to provide a better life for their children. Each animal will produce gallon after gallon of wonderful, life-sustaining milk that can be turned into cheese and yogurt to sell for additional income. Plus, each animal's offspring will multiply the blessings even further by Passing on the Gift.



Check out the display in the church office window for more information about our current Heifer International project and to note our progress on this goal. You have donated enough to purchase two goats, a water buffalo, and half a heifer towards the Milk Menagerie through Heifer International. Help us fill the milk bottles. Offering envelopes are available near the office, or simply make your check out to FUMC with Heifer on the memo. 11 milk bottles to go to complete our goal!



VBS Kids Spread A Little Sunshine

This year, the older children in our Vacation Bible School made friendship flower pots, and then delivered them to residents of the Western Home Communities. You can see by the smiles, everyone had a good time.

Stephen Ministry Helps When Road Gets Rough

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19

Have you ever experienced a difficult time in your life when someone came along and offered support in such a way that you felt a strong connection or bond? This person may have been calming, reassuring, easy to talk to, and – most importantly – understood your struggles. What you were able to experience was the simple gift of another's healing presence. The ability to be present for another requires us as caregivers to develop some useful skills. These skills plus many others are what you acquire when you take the Stephen Ministry Training class. We are hoping to offer a Stephen Ministry training class again in October, 2015 running through March 2016. The skills a Stephen Minister learns prepares him or her for a very high level of Christian Caregiving and we would like to have you on our team!

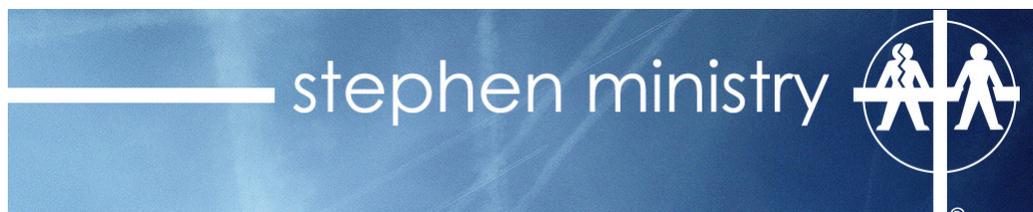
There will be an informational meeting on August 23 and the class itself will begin on Wednesday, October 7. If you have any questions feel free to call any of our Stephen Ministry Leaders - Tim Houts, Sandy Noelting, Janet Williams or Dee Behr at the church office or at 319-269-2135. There are many people in our church who would be great in this ministry.

Reaching Out to the Littlest

"Wee Care" Love INC baby ministry Diapers in all sizes, teething gel, diaper rash ointment, burp cloths, receiving blankets, along with bottles (4 and 8 oz) and sippy cups are needed for the Wee Care Ministry. Baby wash, baby lotion and wipes are the items that are in almost every single client request so a steady stream of these items throughout the year is hugely appreciated. No baby powder, please, and no used items. You may bring baby supplies to the church anytime. If you are not a shopper, you can make a monetary donation and we will purchase the supplies most needed. Checks can be made to FUMC, with "Wee Care" on the memo line. Thank you for your ongoing support of our WeeCare ministry to support mothers with small children who could use a little help.

Where Does the Card Money Go?

The cards that are sold on the card rack outside the office are hand-made by a group of skilled artisans, and every quarter the money raised is contributed to a good local cause. During the months of April, May, and June \$226.37 was collected for Ingathering Postage. Our thanks go to the volunteers who donate old cards and materials, those who recycle them and make new ones, and to all who purchase the cards from the card rack for just \$.50. Money can be placed in the metal box attached to the rack. This quarter, money is being donated to our Community Meals program. Our next card making session will be held on Tuesday, September 29.



Post Cards from Nigeria

Nearly every day I commented to someone that Walt Disney could not duplicate what we were experiencing! One of those moments was while we were riding a ferry across the Benue River. We crossed the river to save us about 3 hours of driving rough roads to get around it. The ferry was so old that it looked like it was made from boards salvaged from Noah's Ark! It was a ride that I will never forget. We went down the river while women were washing clothes on the banks and their children were playing in the shallow water. A few groups were fishing in tiny boats. Merchants were offering their wares on both ends of the ferry ride. I was in Africa, and having a wonderful adventure.



above: our truck backs onto the ferry boat
left: Dave, Titi & Janet enjoy the river breeze

Mission Trips

Are you interested in going out to serve? Check your calendar and save the dates for these opportunities:

Nov 2-6, 2015 Midwest Mission, Illinois
May 2-6, 2016 Midwest Mission, Illinois
Sept 19-23, 16 Midwest Mission, Illinois

Contact Lisa Congdon in the church office if you are interested in knowing more about these trips, or if you have a suggestion for a mission trip that interests you. Rainbow Task Force will encourage and support anyone who wishes to lead a group on a mission or work trip, and scholarships are available to help with costs for any who wish to go and serve.

Women at the Well visit

Six members of First UMC traveled to the Iowa Correctional Facility for Women in Mitchellville on a beautiful July afternoon. We had arranged to worship at the Women at the Well, a UMC congregation within the walls of the prison. With anticipation and maybe a little trepidation, we arrived in the parking lot at the appointed time (6:30) and made our way into the facility.

We were greeted warmly and put at ease by the pastor and several volunteers, our IDs were verified, and we were ushered through the yard and into the religious center. Once there we were encouraged to spread out and sit anywhere we wished as others from within the facility arrived for the 7:00pm worship service. Genuine joy to have us as guests was evident in the welcoming smiles and greetings from those who joined us.

The women were there to worship, and it showed. The service was powerful – the songs were sung with enthusiasm, the prayers were heart-felt, and the message was punctuated by words of encouragement and agreement from those in the congregation. Communion was served, and every week includes a special time of blessing for those who will be released in the next week.

At the end of the service we were presented with a stack of prayer requests that were collected during the service and encouraged to pray over them and for them. We left the prison with a thank you card from the W@W Council, the prayer requests, and an invitation to come back and worship again. We'll go again in August of 2016.

Next month we'll share some of our team's reactions to the experience.

Thank yous

As a Sturgis Falls Parade walker, I wanted to thank you for opening your doors! What a wonderful outreach allowing people to come in to use the restrooms and handing out water! Thank you.

Sharron from Valley Lutheran School

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for coordinating the meal and bathroom accommodations for the Army/National Guard Band that played in the Sturgis Falls Parade. And always, thank you for opening up your church for the parade staging entries to use bathroom facilities. This wonderful event would not exist if not for the time and efforts of volunteers and supporters such as you! I appreciated everything you all do to ensure that the parade is enjoyable for everyone.

Sincerely,

Rose Miller, Parade Director

A sincere thank you to our members who hosted our annual Sturgis Falls open house, June 27th.

Home Team

Thank you for all the sympathy you expressed for the passing of my two sisters recently. You are a caring group. Thank you Pastor Franklin for doing the service for Jean. Thank you Pastor Steve for your visit. We appreciate our many church friends.

Ruth Peterson

I want to thank First United Methodist Church and Jane Wyckoff for the birthday rose. It's nice to be remembered.

Jim McCutcheon

Thank you for the lovely rose bud Jane Wyckoff delivered for my birthday and the hand-made card signed by staff members. I was double blessed! No wonder I know this is the best church ever. I am proud to be a member.

Joy Sires

We wish to thank First UMC Grief Support Team for the sympathy card and prayers during the loss of our sister, Clara Klieman. Also special thanks for the sympathy cards received from Pastor Steve & members of the weekly breakfast group & cards from Jeff & Carol Dick, Al & Kay Messerschmidt, & Dorothy & Jim Schwab. Your cards, support, and acts of kindness were really appreciated.

Dick Halstead

A big thank you to Jane for delivering the beautiful pink rose for my 81st birthday. It is so nice to be remembered by such a caring church family. *Lorna Ericson*

Thank you for all the loving contacts. I had a great birthday.

Betty Goettsch

A big Thank You to Jane Wychoff for delivering the beautiful yellow rose for my 80th birthday even though I was not home to visit with her. My husband and I always enjoy seeing her. And another thank you to the Care Team and the Staff for the lovely birthday card.

Ruth Tucker

Thank you to everyone who helped on our Sunday morning worship tech team while I was in Nigeria: Sarah Jackson, Randy Blackford, Coved Oswald, Jake Sandvick, and of course, thanks to the "regulars" who are here every Sunday: Tony DeBonis, Steve Aries, Greg Grover and Christian Stow. You all add so much to our worship while remaining quietly in the background. Thanks.

Chris Congdon

Sympathy to:

Lee Plagge on the loss of her sister, Norma.

Becca Nims and her family on the loss of her uncle.

Family of Mary Miller who passed away July 5 at age 100.

Homer Sweet on the death of his step-mother, Gladys Sweet.

Congratulations to:

Chuck and Charlotte (Teague) Riehle. They were married July 14.

Welcome:

Eleanor Rose Butler was baptized July 19. She is the daughter of Joe and Emily Butler, and the granddaughter of Mike and Betty Butler.

Birthday Celebrations!

Please join us to celebrate Loretta Dykes 80th birthday. Saturday, August 15th from 12:00-2:00pm at Windridge (5311 Hyacinth Drive). No gifts, please.

Happy 90th birthday to Isabel Cummings!

Isabel's birthday is August 13th. Let's shower her with cards. Mail them to P.O. Box 541, Denver IA 50622

Attendance, week ending...

	7/5	7/12	7/19	7/26
Transformation	-	95	83	65
Traditional 8:30	-	116	116	98
Traditional 10:00	-	91	118	104
Combined service	225			

First United Methodist Church

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Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Traditional services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Transformation Worship

Van rides are available for the 10:00 Sunday service.
Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

Spreading the Word

If you miss a Sunday, or want to hear a message again, find us on the local Public Access cable television channels. If you are unable to receive the television broadcast, weekly dvds are also available, or find the video links for sermons at www.aboutfirst.com

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channel 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am
Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 9:00 pm

Our Pastoral Staff...

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, steve.williams@aboutfirst.com
Franklin Livingston, Associate Pastor, franklin.livingston@aboutfirst.com

September Newsletter deadline is August 20.

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Mary Card, Custodian

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