

aboutfirst news

February, 2021 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



Love First. Let's Gather, Grow, Go Together



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February, 2021

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613
aboutfirst.com

Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month. Email to: katie.greuel@aboutfirst.com

Leading by Sharing our Story

In March of 2015 I had the privilege to have lunch with Bishop Trimble as he wanted to meet with me personally because I was soon to be ordained. It was a wonderful time of sharing, dreaming, and praying together with him and the 7 other pastors that were being ordained that year. While he had many wise things to bestow upon us, his conversation keep coming back to a message of encouragement and he also emphasized that the church needs good leadership.

After concluding my time with Bishop Trimble, I made my way to the district office in Hiawatha to take part in the district ministry team that supports the District staff, much like a staff/parish relations committee functions in the local church. We were introduced to Rev. Kiboko Kiboko, who had been assigned as our new District Superintendent. Rev. Kiboko also has a message of encouragement, and said something very prophetic, much like what Bishop Trimble had said. He said, "Today's church does not need pastors who will simply provide churches with what they want. The church needs Leaders."

I would have to agree. I believe that the church is beyond the days of providing good ministry "programs" and simply expecting people to come to the church. We live in an age of pluralism where Christianity is not mainstream anymore. The worldwide church is in need of good leadership that is willing to take the Gospel to new places, to meet new people, and proclaim the one who says, "I make all things new." Sometimes, the message that needs to be spoken is not the popular message...but hey...even Jesus was not welcome in his hometown.

The question that I am left with is this: How far am I willing to go to share the Gospel? How far are you willing to go to share the Gospel? Perhaps that is simply over coffee or at the water cooler at work. Perhaps that means sitting down with your children and asking them, "How is it with their soul?" Perhaps that means inviting someone you know to worship with you. How far are we willing to go? The church needs good leadership. Are you willing to step forward in that kind of faith to lead?

I am reminded of Isaiah 6:8—I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

May the Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you this day, and may the Spirit of God send you out to witness the Good News.

Be Bold, Be Strong,
Rev. Matt German



Upcoming CAT Survey for First UMC

As part of our church's process to understand ourselves and to position us for our future ministries, we are employing an in-depth survey and we are asking you to take part!

The Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) provides our congregation objective organizational information that includes energy level, satisfaction, flexibility, and ministry priorities. Every person connected to the church can complete the assessment. The results will provide our leadership with broad and in-depth information about several areas:

- **The Level of Satisfaction and Energy in the Congregation**
- **Critical Success Factors for Improving Organizational Climate**
- **Pinpoint the Strengths of Your Congregation's Culture**
- **Discover Where Members Would Like to Go in the Future**

There are two options for completing the survey: online or on paper.

For the paper option, you may pick up a copy in the church office. Take it home, fill it out, and bring it back before February 22nd. For either option, surveys must be complete to count - you must answer every question.

If you choose the online option, be prepared for the survey to take up to half an hour to complete (you will not be able to stop and restart). Find the survey link at our church website or use the one below. Online surveys must be complete by February 22.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FUMCCEDARFALLS>

FUMC Grief Support

"He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." Psalm 147:3

We will soon be able to resume our grief support sessions to anyone who has experienced a loss in life. There are many different kinds of losses, each of which can carry with them many different emotions. While we cannot always see each other or be together right now, please know that you are not alone. You are in the thoughts and prayers of your church family.



Miss A Sermon?

If you miss a Sunday message from Pastor Scott or Pastor Matt, you'll find it on our youtube channel.

Go to our website at aboutfirst.com and scroll down to the "sermons"



Dying to Live Sermon Series

The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved." 1 Corinthians 1:18
Crosses are iconic. They make great jewelry and tattoos. They also appear to be the focal point of most church sanctuaries. Virtually all Christians across the globe acknowledge it as the symbol of our faith. While some may think the cross is foolish, we believe it has the power to change your life. Join us beginning on February 21 this Lent as we discuss why the cross matters today.

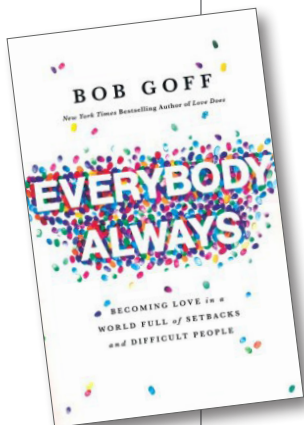
Lenten Study

Following Christ means more than just putting a toe in the water when it comes to loving others. It means grabbing your knees and doing a cannonball! And, as Jesus revealed, it means loving the difficult ones. *Everybody, Always* provides practical steps to help you take that journey.

Join Pastor Matt on Wednesday nights this Lent beginning February 24th at 6:00pm as we get to the heart of living love towards *Everybody....Always!*

Join the Facebook Group

We have created a Facebook group called **First Friends and Family** to allow everyone to interact and share the ways they are finding to Love First. This group was developed so we as a church family could stay connected while we are social distancing. Head over to our church Facebook page, select 'visit group'. You should find the button under the banner. Want to join? Click the member request button and we will be sure to add you, or send a note to Chris or Jenna and we'll connect you.



Girl Scout Drive-thru Cookie Booth

Join us under the canopy at FUMC, as we host our first “Drive-thru Cookie Booth”, on Saturday, Feb. 6, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. It will be easy - a Girl Scout will meet you at your car, (pretend you're at a fast-food drive-thru), roll down your window, and place your order. Your order will be filled and delivered to your car. Troop members will wear masks, practice social distancing, and frequent hand washing for everyone's safety.

The full line-up of cookies include: Lemon-ups, Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Samoas, Tagalongs, Thin Mints, & S'mores - all @ \$5.00/box. The Toffee-tastic (gluten free) are \$6.00/box. Cash, Debit & Credit cards will be accepted.

Feel free to order in advance, to make sure we have your favorite. We look forward to seeing you there!

Any questions, feel free to contact Linda Kennedy - LK@CFU.NET

Thanks for your support!

Girl Scout Troop 6581 - Audrienne Kennedy, Sydney Herzmann, Elise Wehr, McKenzie Adair, and Linda Kennedy, Leader



Welcome Eli Smith to Praise Team

We're happy to announce Eli Smith has joined the Transformation Praise Team. Eli is a guitar player, singer, and all around music-lover. He is currently a senior at Cedar Falls High School, and although he is undecided on a school, Eli hopes to continue studying music next year. Outside of playing worship music, he enjoys playing jazz guitar, listening to vinyl records, and

running. Eli is excited to join the worship team, and continue his faith journey as a member of the First UM staff.

Leading Through a Pandemic Conference

Virtually none of us in local church leadership imagined being movie producers or tele-evangelists when we were called into ministry. Yet during the pandemic, we have had to reimagine how we do everything in relation to ministry. At Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church, we have found some innovative ways to engage in mission and ministry through trial/error, failures, and blessings in new endeavors. We recently had a chance to share some of the strategies we have found fruitful as well as some presentations from other ministry experts in Iowa in a virtual conference, “Leading Through a Pandemic and Beyond.” It was an inspiring time discerning how the Holy Spirit leads in these unusual times. Thank you to everyone who made this event possible and attended!



Newcomers' Coffee with the Pastors - February 21

If you are new or newer to First United Methodist Church, our pastors want to get to know you! Come have a coffee with the pastors on Sunday, February 21 on Zoom to hear about what is happening at First United Methodist Church and how you can begin to take next steps in getting connected. We look forward to seeing you there!

SUNDAY MORNING

8:30 Traditional Worship Service - in-person or join us on the livestream

9:35 Sunday School - virtual Sunday School, join us online!

10:00 Transformation Worship Service - in-person or on the livestream

Children's Sunday School Online

Sunday School will be virtual this winter. You can join us on our Facebook page where we will go live at 9:35. During our time together we will have a mini-lesson and an activity. We hope that you will follow along with us on Sunday morning.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

your church night

Have your mid-week church night online for a quick and easy connection and spiritual pick-me-up. Tune in each Wednesday night at 6:30 on Facebook. Be sure to use the comments to tell us that you're watching, share some discussion, and to say "Hi" to your friends from First UMC.

February 3: Lessons on Jesus' life with Haleigh, Lorrin and Jenna.

February 10: Join us as we Interview a member of our congregation.

February 17: First UMC cooks! Watch from a safe distance (Facebook) as we prepare dishes from the First UMC cookbook. We will post the recipes in advance so you and your family can follow along with us.

February 24: Lessons on Jesus' life told by a few of our youth.

Fusion Tonight: from the Front Lines

Isolation hasn't been an option for everyone in this pandemic: public safety officers, teachers, healthcare workers, grocery store workers, and others have had no choice but to keep working in high-exposure jobs. Beginning in this month, we'll hear stories from these front-line workers at our weekly worship talk show, Fusion Tonight.

Introducing...

youth news 7

SonDay

SCHOOL



We are excited to announce SonDay School!

A new program featuring a monthly newsletter for Sunday school.

Sunday school is such a huge part of our faith building journey. Here at First UMC we are blessed with the best Sunday school teachers. Our teachers miss being in the rooms with our kids every Sunday. With that being said, we also value keeping our church family healthy and safe. Since we cannot meet in person we are continuing to meet virtually. Every month you will receive a newsletter where you will find out what lessons we will be teaching each week that month. You will also be able to find and print the Family Page and any other activity pages for each lesson. We will produce a short Sunday school video on our Church Facebook page. In the videos you will hear a bible story and you will have the opportunity to complete a quick activity or craft.

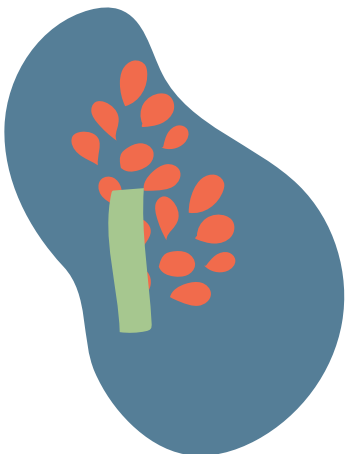
Check out aboutfirst.com/sonday-school to download the newsletter.

Iowa UMC Camps

Iowa United Methodist Camps are open and waiting for campers! They have camps at Lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods. If you are interested in signing your child up to attend a camp contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

3rd Grade Bible School Postponed

We will not be having virtual 3rd grade Bible school this year. Instead we will wait until next January where we will have in person 3rd & 4th Grade Bible School.





Send a Card or Note

Many care facilities are not allowing visitors, even family. Send a card or a letter to our friends who are isolated right now. Phone calls and cards are also much appreciated for those who are staying home. Think of who sits around you in worship or in a group, and give them a call or a card. We still have updated photo directories at our Welcome Center. Pick one up Monday-Friday.

**Doris Crandall, Jeaneene Kemmerer,
Marilyn Pape**
Martin Suites
420 E. 11th St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Marilyn Geesaman,
Virginia Van Tassel**
Nation Cottage
5111 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Marlys Cook, Faye Rohwedder
Stanard Assisted Living
420 E. 11th St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Rudy Grapp, Vivian Hill
New Aldaya Lifescapes
7517 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Wanda Anderson, Marian Christiason,
Ruth Gooden, Mardy Hermann,
Homer Leymaster**
Windhaven Assisted Living
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Darlene Jordan, Perry Thurman
Pinnacle Care
1223 Prairie View Rd
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Ellen Opsal, Lura Treloar
Deery Suites
5307 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Darlene Prashak
Heritage Care and Rehab Center
501 S. Kentucky Ave
Mason City IA 50401

**LaVonne Neese, Irene Raub,
Dotty Rokes**
Thalman Square
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Linda Rundall
Sunrise Hill Care & Rehab Center
909 6th St
Traer IA 50675

Noreen Roth
Good Neighbor Society
105 McCarren Dr
Manchester IA 52057

Pray for all who are being impacted by the coronavirus.

February 7 -

Special Charge Conference

Where: Zoom Meeting

When: 11:00 am

This conference is to consider the ministry and candidacy of Roberta Robbins as a Licensed Local Pastor.

February 17 - Ash Wednesday Worship

Where: Sanctuary, Facebook and YouTube

When: 7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday services are typically quiet times of reflection on our humble, mortal position in God's creation. From dust you came, to dust you shall return. Ash Wednesday worship begins the season of Lent, which is a time to refocus on the significance of the Christ's living, dying, and resurrection, and to reconsider the implications for our lives. Join us for Ash Wednesday worship in the sanctuary and online via Facebook and YouTube. We invite online worshipers to have some dust/dirt/earth on hand to use in the service.

February 22- LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, February 22 from 12:30-6:00. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill, and the need is great. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

February 23 - Crafters' Corner

Where: Gathering Place

When: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Attention crafters! Join us on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00-8:00 in the Gathering Place. This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or volunteer your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade essentials for those in need, or prayer shawls. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

February 24 - Lenten Study

Where: Facebook and YouTube

When: 6:00pm

Following Christ means more than just putting a toe in the water when it comes to loving others. It means grabbing your knees and doing a cannonball! And, as Jesus revealed, it means loving the difficult ones. Everybody, Always provides practical steps to help you take that journey. Join Pastor Matt on Wednesday nights this lent beginning February 24th at 6:00pm as we get to the heart of living love towards everybody....always!

Save the Date!

March 7 - Soup and Chili Cook Off

We are looking into bringing back this beloved event. We are working on making this event COVID safe. Stay tuned for more info!

QUILTS FOR AUCTION



Olive and Purple

The greens and purples of this quilt bring images of summer to mind. At 46 x 46 it fits perfectly on a lap.



Woodworker Tools

Here's a quilt for the woodworker in your life. It features the warm colors of wood, and craftsmen's tools. At approx. 48 x 60, it makes a nice wall hanging, or keep it by the recliner to cover-up and relax after a long day in the shop.

These quilts are available in our February Quilt Auction. Auction is online-only. Bidding opens Tuesday, February 2, and closes Tuesday, February 23. Bid at aboutfirst.com/quilts.

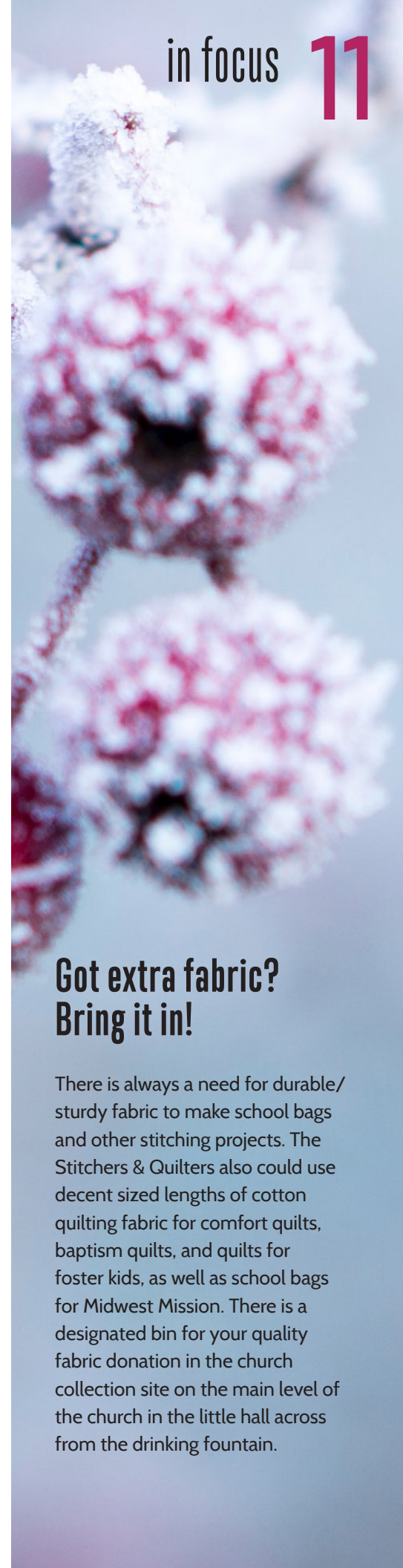


Days for Girls

Another focus of our stitchers is a project called DaysforGirls. The project is nationwide and provides feminine hygiene kits to girls who might otherwise have to miss school for a week every month. These girls may live in remote rural areas or in refugee camps where hygiene materials are not available.

Several women in our group cut, sew and serge three items for the kits: flannel liners, shields, and drawstring bags. These are sent to the Days for Girls headquarters where other items like soap, a plastic bag and directions for use are added to the kits.

Currently there are 500 liners, over 200 bags, and 166 shields boxed and waiting to be mailed to headquarters. We use donated fabric for the bags and shields - that keeps our costs low. Again, many thanks to those who gave the fabric.



Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for durable/ sturdy fabric to make school bags and other stitching projects. The Stitchers & Quilters also could use decent sized lengths of cotton quilting fabric for comfort quilts, baptism quilts, and quilts for foster kids, as well as school bags for Midwest Mission. There is a designated bin for your quality fabric donation in the church collection site on the main level of the church in the little hall across from the drinking fountain.

Mission Witness - Prayer Calendar 2021

Where would we be without our sisters and brothers in Christ? To touch and be touched, emotionally and intellectually. To uplift with spirit and strength. To serve with words and deeds. To love across miles and within arm's reach. This is family. This is Jesus. This is love.

-Debbie Aylmer, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, retired, Black Creek, Georgia

A Creative, Supportive Fellowship

Diane Jackson has been a member of United Methodist Women for 50 years and is now serving as their president. Diane grew up in the Presbyterian Church. She joined the Methodist Church in her early twenties. She became a part of United Methodist Women because her mother and grandmother had been active in their church's women's groups. Upon arriving at the Methodist Church on that very first Sunday she asked if there was a women's group. She attended their Christmas Tea and left that first meeting as a member of their leadership team. The unit's work is to "uplift the marginalized and one another." They support local agencies and hold fundraisers for Pledge to Mission. The church has a heart for the unsheltered and provides funds to organizations that provide homeless outreach. Their biggest project is their Spirit Cafe which hosts a community meal every Tuesday night. Since the pandemic/quarantine began they've changed to a brown bag distribution. Pastor Bell-Kerr states, "The most important thing right now for me is maintaining connections and staying in touch with the unsheltered folks with whom we've had previous relationships."

(paraphrased by Stephanie Buchs, Education and Interpretation Chair)

The complete article and others of interest can be found in the RESPONSE magazine in the church library.

January/February 2021 RESPONSE Magazine

First United Methodist Church, Santa Rosa, California

article by Nile Sprague with Tara Barnes



Bible Verse for February—Mark 6:31

"Come off by yourselves, let's take a break and get a little rest." For there was constant coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat. NIV

Finding Beauty in the Barren Winter

Winter is undoubtable the longest season. At least it can feel that way. But as nature sleeps, awaiting the coming rejuvenation of spring, we can remember that in the barren there is beauty. The beauty of the anticipated. That which lies underneath, sleepily preparing for the work of new life ahead. Join us to celebrate this beauty and share it with each other. Starting February 1st, post photos and art on our Facebook page of "The Beauty in the Barren" of winter. Let's remind each other that every season has a purpose under heaven.

14 monthly mission



Wee Care is our Mission of the Month

Be a Blessing to Someone – Love INC

Wee Care is First UMC's way of showing that we care about the little ones in our community. We've supported and hosted this ministry since July of 2011, and it is one of the most heavily used gap ministries with Love In the Name of Christ. How does Wee Care work?

It begins with a call to the Love INC Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse volunteer assesses the need and sets up an appointment for the parent to come to our church to pick up the items. Most of the families who are helped by our Wee Care ministry are single parent households who are struggling to get by on their small income and keep up with their baby's needs. There is a cap on how many appointments they can have in a given year, and once the child reaches 24 months of age they are no longer eligible for Wee Care assistance.

The Love INC Clearinghouse has an easy-to-use online system for providing a list of requested baby items and for getting appointment and contact information to the Wee Care volunteers from First UMC. On Tuesday, the weekly volunteer retrieves the list of needs and packs up the items from the special storage area for our Wee Care items at the church. The appointments are set from noon until 2:00 on Tuesday afternoons, and the baby items are picked up at the Welcome Center. The Wee Care volunteer is welcome to offer a word of support or encouragement to the parent, and to pray for the wee ones. A struggling parent can always use a kind word.

So, how can you help?

Baby supplies for our Love INC Wee Care ministry are always appreciated. Baby wash, baby lotion, baby wipes, diapers in all sizes, burp cloths, receiving blankets, baby washcloths, bottles (4 and 8 oz) and sippy cups can always be used. Seasonal clothing is also helpful to have on hand, and parents are grateful for the cute new clothes or warm jackets. Of course, if you see a good deal on end-of-season baby clothes feel free to bring them in. We have a place to store them until the appropriate season. We cannot accept baby powder or any baby foods (or formula or pedialyte).

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.

LOVE FIRST
GATHER, GROW, GO
TOGETHER

Disabilities Awareness Offering - February 14

The Conference Commission on Ministry with Persons with Disabilities is thankful that our church supports Disabilities Awareness Sunday each year. This Sunday calls the churches of the Iowa Annual Conference to increase their understanding of the difficulties faced by people with mental and physical disabilities, to celebrate the gifts and graces of persons with disabilities, and to consider how we can better serve all people with Christ's love and care. Your donations help the Commission to give grants to churches working on projects that enhance their accessibility, and to help fund training events. They receive no apportionment funding. Our donations are much appreciated and used to help provide what is needed to see that everyone can participate fully in church activities.

Send a Valentine!

It's not too late to send a Valentine to someone on the list of long-term facility residents in this newsletter. They would love to hear from you! We all should be receiving our COVID-19 vaccines in the near future, but in the meantime, it would be nice to keep those cards or phone calls coming until we can visit in person. Let us be the face and hands of Jesus for others!

Card Making Stats

Thanks to all of our card makers and card buyers. Although we have not been in the church very much lately, last year a total of \$419.14 was given to two local charities. This time, our money will go to Midwest Mission, an agency that delivers much-needed supplies in times of disaster. We have some card makers who continue to make cards to supply the card rack, and we hope to have a session again in March. So far, since we started selling cards many years ago, we have given a total of \$13,507.64 to many worthy agencies. Thank You!



How to Worship Online

Option 1

Facebook Live Stream

Watch Sunday worship live, as it happens on our First UMC Facebook page.
facebook.com/firstumccfmedia/

Option 2

aboutfirst.com

The online worship page at aboutfirst.com has service videos and worship resources including: links to the teaching scripture passage, kids' video, online sign-in, and online offering.

Option 3

Youtube Channel

Go to aboutfirst.com and click the 'sermons' graphic for a link to our channel

First UMC is on Cable TV

We have an hour timeslot on public access cable TV in both Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Our program includes a Sunday School story for children, a devotion from a church staff member, and the teaching session from last Sunday's service.

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channels 18 and 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am
Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:am & 8:pm

Tune In To Evening Reflections

Every evening at 6:00, a church staffer or volunteer will be live on our Facebook page with a reflection for the day. Gather the family and tune in for a word of encouragement and something to think about. Feel free to share comments with others who are watching it's good to hear from each other!

aboutfirst.com



A Letter from the Finance Committee

Dear Friends,

We hope this note finds you healthy and in good spirit! We'd like to thank you for your continued generosity and take a moment to provide an update on the financial health of our church. Despite the challenging circumstances of this past year, we have much to celebrate. We retired our mortgage – a big accomplishment, many years in the making – and raised funds toward two additional building projects: the roof over Scott Hall and replacement of air conditioning units. Also, giving toward the operating budget during 2020 not only kept pace with 2019, it exceeded it by 5%. Great job answering the call!

To manage some of the uncertainty of 2020, we applied for and received a 100% forgivable loan from the federal government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). This relief provided critical support for staff through tight periods and allowed them to remain focused on ministry. As a result of your giving, the PPP loan, and thrift of our church staff, we finished 2020 "in the black", including payment of apportionments in full to the Iowa Conference (an unmet goal in 2019).

We sincerely thank you for your pledges toward the 2021 operating budget and giving thus far. While Finance Committee has tightened the budget to keep us balanced, our church needs your support now as much as ever. We ask that you prayerfully consider making additional gifts this year as you are able. Thank you, again, for your generous support. We truly cannot do this without you and are deeply grateful.

Blessings to you and your family,
FUMC Finance Committee

Give Through Our Website or Your Phone

Online giving is great for you, because you can do it any time, any place, and you don't need to carry cash to church. Recurring (automatic) giving is great for you, because you won't have to try to remember to write the check. Recurring giving is also great for the church because it provides a predictable income stream for budgeting and planning purposes.

Our secure online giving portal allows you to make one-time offerings, or to set up a recurring gift. Check it out today.

<http://aboutfirst.com/giving>

or, download the GivePlus app to your mobile device and give directly from your phone.

GIVE PLUS⁺
A VANCO COMPANY



Thank Yous

My church family has blessed me with many cards, thoughts, and prayers. Doctors and nurses say I'm right on course. The transplant went well and now it is the long road of recovery. It is good to be home and I'm in very good hands (Colleen's) reminding me of the dos and don'ts. At times it is hard to believe I could feel this well, but at the same time have my body extremely compromised yet. The Lord has blessed me every day, and once again thank you for the well wishes and concerns.

Michael Stafford

Thank you so much for your prayers and support while we were recovering from COVID. Paul got to come home from his rehab home on Christmas Day! We would also like to thank Jane Wyckoff for the rose for Paul's birthday, and for the lovely poinsettia for us to enjoy for Christmas.

Paul and Marcia Gardiner

This is a birthday to remember as Jane Wyckoff brought me a beautiful purple rose in a purple vase, my favorite color. I have received 65 cards and many phone calls. To say the least I am really honored as two days before Christmas is not the best time for a birthday as many times I heard that my birthday would be celebrated on Christmas but usually I never got more gifts than the others.

Donna Hoffman

Dear friends at First UMC,

Thank you for the two beautiful red roses you sent for our birthdays. The roses remind us of how faithful our church has always been.

Blessings to all,

Roger & Rosie Uhlenhopp

Thank you Jane for making the long trip out to my place with the beautiful red rose for my birthday. Come back sometime and we can be in the house and have a longer visit. Thank you also to the church staff for their birthday wishes. Miss seeing everyone at services.

Marilyn Teig

Thank you to everyone who came to my drive by birthday celebration on December 31. It was really a huge surprise and it was a blessing to have so many come by and wish me happy birthday.

Sandra Simpson

Thank you for your support and kindness to our family during the difficult time of losing our mother, Ruby Hockey. Ruby had many happy years attending your church. She especially enjoyed being a member of the sewing and quilting group, and was proud of her work making bags and providing school supplies to the children of the world. Being a teacher, it was very important to her.

Sincerely, Thomas Hockey

Thank you to all who expressed condolences to me on the loss of my brother. I appreciate my caring church family.

Jim Peterson

Being members of First UMC is special. The care and concern expressions – greeting cards, phone calls, personal notes, birthday roses, pre-Covid visits and the box of beautiful Christmas cookies – have all been greatly appreciated. Thank you, and God's blessings for all.

Sid & Alvira Morris

The family of Jim Thompson would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our church friends for remembering us with your beautiful cards, prayers, memorials, calls and gifts received during this very difficult time. Special thanks to Carol Dick. We will always cherish your kind deeds. Jim's family

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank everyone from our church family. The cards, phone calls, prayers meant so much to us as we went through the passing of Al Messerschmidt. We would like to extend a special thank you to Lisa Congdon for coming to the house to pray with us and to Jenna and Jan/Dean Hoover for coordinating, preparing and delivering a meal to us. It was wonderful and we are so grateful for all of you.

Sincerely, the family of Allen Messerschmidt

Sympathy

Winnie Clayton and her family on the loss of her sister-in-law and her sister in late November.

Jim Peterson on the death of his brother on December 29.

Susan Whitson and her family on the death of her father, David Lawyer, on December 31.

Kay Messerschmidt and Laura Bruess and their families on the death of Al Messerschmidt on January 7.

Friends and family of former member Fran Lounsberry who died January 7 in Springfield, Missouri. She was about to celebrate her 102nd birth date on Jan. 18. Fran and John Lounsberry left Cedar Falls in 2008 to move to Springfield, so she has been gone from Cedar Falls for 12 years.

Family and friends of Joe Nelson. Joe died January 11.

Doug Behr and his family on the death of his brother, Curt, on January 17.

Jim Schwab and his family on the death of his brother on January 18.

Donna Cuvelier on the death of her sister, Jan, on January 18.

Crystal Wilken and her family on the death of her father, Tom Dailey, on January 19.

Allison Ketter on the death of her sister, Melissa, on December 31.

Family and friends of Gary Pease, in particular his wife, Annette, and daughter, Angela Waseskuk. Gary died January 23

Welcome

Mila Jo Yockey who was baptized on January 17. She is the daughter of Chris and Kim Yockey.

Hospital reminder

Governmental regulations prohibit health care facilities (this includes hospitals, assisted living and nursing homes) from sharing information about their patients and residents, so if you want your church family to know you need our love and prayers, please call the church office.

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2021 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319.266.1713

Fax: 319.266.1715

Email: churchoffice@aboutfirst.com

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Worship

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Livestream on Facebook & in-person

Sunday, noon Video and worship resources at aboutfirst.com

Daily, 6:00 p.m. Reflection and prayers, Facebook Live

Television

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channels 18 or 95.5: Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am

Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 1: Sundays @ 11:00am & 8:00 pm

Our Pastors

Scott Kober, Lead Pastor, scott.kober@aboutfirst.com

Matt German, Associate Pastor, matt.german@aboutfirst.com

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator
sam.barr@aboutfirst.com

Dee Behr, Parish Visitor
dee.behr@aboutfirst.com

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Susan Chizek, Finance Manager
susan.chizek@aboutfirst.com

Chris Congdon, Media Coordinator
chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Lisa Congdon, Office Ministry Coordinator
lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Haleigh Derhammer, Middle School Youth
youth@aboutfirst.com

Carol Dick, Grief Support Coordinator
cdick@cfu.net

Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator
jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

Katie Greuel,
Dir. Communications and Online Media
katie.greuel@aboutfirst.com

Bevan Lucas, Music Ministry Coordinator

Lorin Schofield, High School Youth
youth@aboutfirst.com

Doug Shaffer, Organist
musicman52151@gmail.com

Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor Coordinator