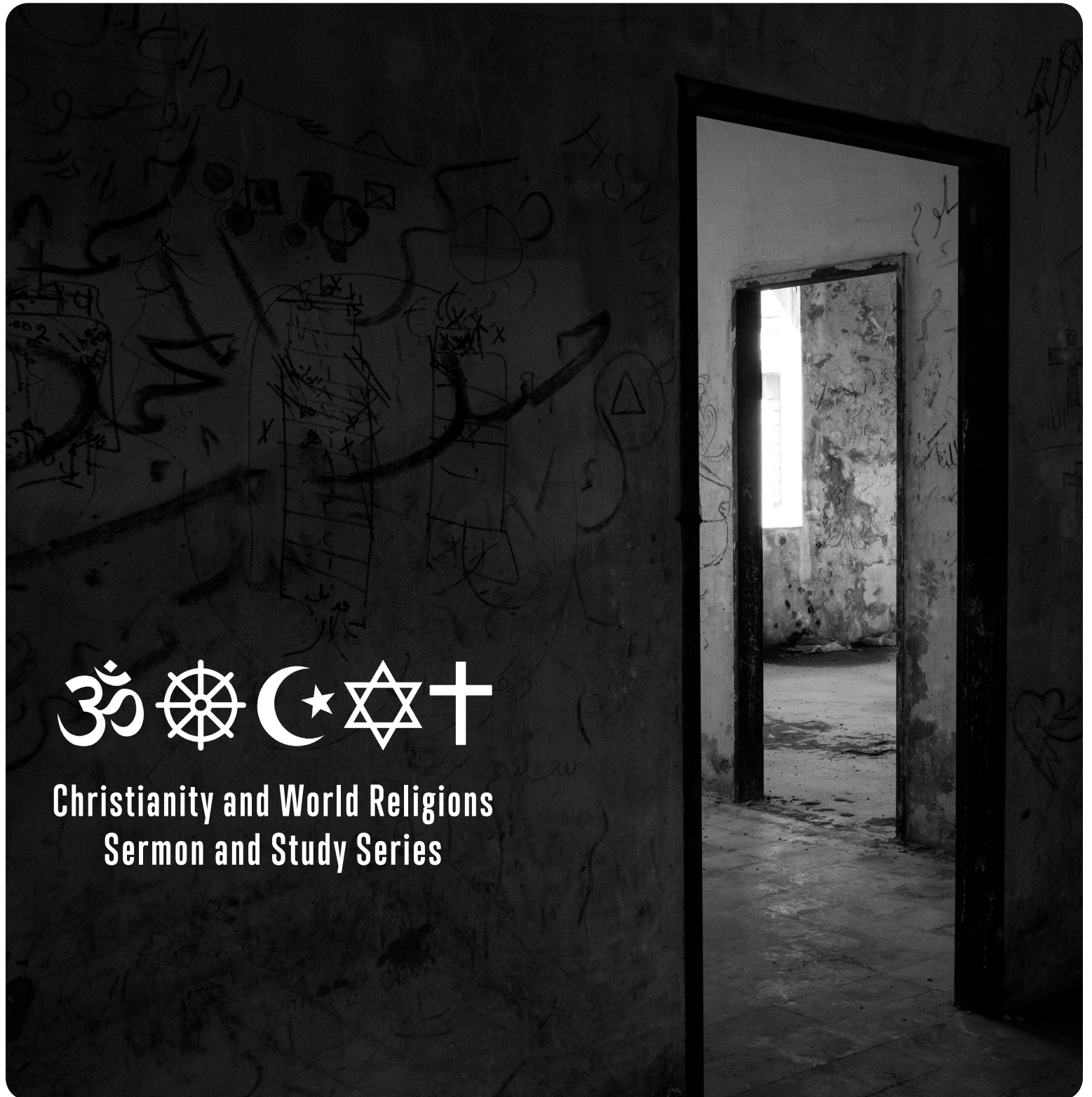


aboutfirst news

January, 2020 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



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



Christianity and World Religions
Sermon and Study Series

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issue 231, January, 2020

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: chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Our Pastor's Response to Traditional Plan

Beginning January 1, 2020, the Traditional Plan, as adopted by the global United Methodist Church, will be in effect. Your pastors believe these policies to be harmful and unjust, and this is their response:

We have always left room for conversation in the midst of disagreement. We have modeled that and have invited you to participate in crucial conversations over the past year. These new policies of the United Methodist Church, if enforced, would leave little room for open dialogue.

The Traditional Plan policies are particularly concerning to your pastors as they discriminate against LGBTQ+ persons becoming pastoral leaders, and would punish clergy who provide pastoral care in the form of celebrating all marriages. The new policies now elevate a perceived sexual sin above any other sin in our Book of Discipline, and further, for clergy who officiate a wedding of same-sex, consenting and loving adults, the automatic result is a one year suspension and the second time, the clergy's credentials are removed. While the Book of Discipline says that all are created with sacred worth, not all are allowed to participate fully in the sacred ministry of the church.

What do the new global policies mean for us at Cedar Falls First UMC? Our vision is simply: Love First. Let's gather, grow, go...together. Nothing about the way we do ministry here at First UMC is changing. We are a church that extends radical hospitality to everyone. When we say "all are welcome here", we mean ALL. We will continue to stay on-mission by making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

The two of us will be leading a prayer service on Sunday, January 5th at 10am in our sanctuary. It will be a time of expressing our lament, and naming our resistance to harm. Please consider joining us for this prayer service.

Love First,
Pastor Scott Keele Kober and Pastor Matt German

Christianity and World Religions

The pastors will be leading a 6 week look at 4 major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism and will compare the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. We will deal and honestly and openly with questions people ask about other faiths such as:

- Why are there so many different religions?
- How should Christians view other religions?
- How is God at work in other religions?
- What is the fate of those who earnestly pursue God through other religions?

In examining these major world religions and the beliefs of their followers, we will be encouraged to build bridges with others so that we might grow in our faith, seek peace in our world, love our neighbors, and find positive ways to share the gospel.

Sunday Sermons begin Jan 5. Wednesday classes begin Jan 8, 6:00 in the library.



Newcomers' Coffee with the Pastors - Jan 5

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, January 5 at 9:45 in the chapel 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!



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" graphic, which will link you to all of our sermons and public videos.

LOVE FIRST
GATHER, GROW, GO
TOGETHER

LOVE FIRST BY THE NUMBERS

120+

The Quilters and Stitchers wish to thank everyone who has supported our quilt missions this year with monetary donations and fabrics. We have made and distributed 120+ comfort quilts; youth quilts to Adoption Day, Lincoln School Christmas, and Cedar Valley Angels; Black Hawk Veterans Christmas baskets; Ingathering Auction. We've also made 450 school bags; and Baptism quilts. We greatly appreciate the contributions and support to our projects. Want to know more about what we do? Pay us a visit on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 to noon in Room 060.

WANT MORE NUMBERS?

Watch the video at

<https://vimeo.com/374413506>

- WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE -

Sunday, 8:30 am Contemporary & Traditional

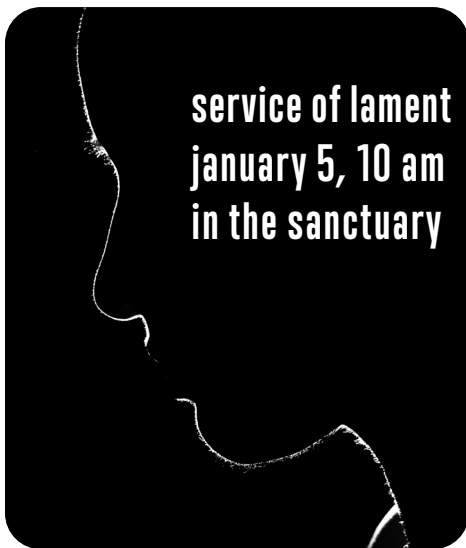
Sunday, 11:00 am Traditional Worship

Wednesday, 7:15 pm, Fusion Tonight Worship Talk Show



Worship Talkshow Resumes January 8

Fusion tonight is our weekly worship talk show. Fusion is fun and it's serious and we'd love to have you in the live studio audience. Join us upstairs in the theater, Wednesday nights at 7:15. We'll have you outta there by 8:00 and we guarantee you'll go home encouraged to be Christ for one another.



Christianity and World Religions

People of other faiths are our neighbors, co-workers and friends. If we are to Love First, we should know something about their faiths, and consider how to discuss faith with them in a respectful way. Join us for this fascinating sermon series

- Jan 5: Epiphany, we remember that the magi were foreign travelers
- Jan 12: Hinduism
- Jan 19: Buddhism
- Jan 26: Islam
- Feb 2: Judaism
- Feb 9: Christianity

Three Ten Connect

Here's an easy way to welcome our guests in Sunday worship: **3 • 10 • Connect.**

It's simple: in the **first three minutes** after a worship service has ended, look around in a **ten-foot radius** and see if there's someone you don't know. If so, stick out your hand and say "hi". Make a little conversation. Ask them if they have any questions about our church, and if so, volunteer to introduce them to a pastor, a staff person, or someone you know to have the answer. Then, be sure to say that you, personally, are glad that they are here, and that you hope to see them again. It's that easy. **3 • 10 • Connect.**

First UMC Live Online

The whole world - including you - can watch our Sunday sermons live, online at our First UMC facebook page. The video stream for Transformation worship starts around 8:55, and the Traditional worship stream starts around 10:25. Please, if you can't make it in-person, consider watching on Facebook!



Also, be aware that this means there are live cameras in our worship spaces. Our cameras are usually positioned to show only the morning's speaker, but it is possible that the congregation may also appear in the livestream. If, for any reason you wish to ensure that you do not appear on-camera, please ask our camera operator for a safe place to sit.

First UMC Recycles - a Win - Win - Win

For years, our church office has collected waste paper for recycling, but that has been limited to the office, only. Now, we're rolling that option out to the rest of the building. You'll find small, blue recycling bins in the foyer outside of the sanctuary, and near the exit to Fellowship Hall. Use these for the pieces of your church bulletin that you do not wish to take home. Also, in the Gathering Place, you will find a three-bin recycling station for waste paper, aluminum beverage cans, and plastic beverage bottles.



This recycling effort is a small piece of good stewardship to return these waste resources to the production stream, rather than simply throwing them into the landfill. And, it's not just First UMC who benefits from our recycling. Our waste paper is collected by River Hills School, which uses it as a fundraiser, and our beverage containers will be collected by our Troop 44 Boy Scouts who are already hosting can/bottle drives here once a month. So, First UMC recycling is a win for all three organizations, as well as this beautiful planet we call home. Thanks to the HOME Team and Trustees for implementing this new program.

Equip Yourself for Better Service

Where: here at First UMC CF

When: Sunday, January 26, 2020 2:30-4:45pm

Who: church committee members, leaders, anyone interested

You're invited to this training event to learn from some of the Iowa UMC's best leaders. If you serve on a church committee, or have a leadership position, invest this afternoon to learn from someone who had been there and done that. You'll get to choose two of the following workshops:

- How to run a meeting that matters
- Different committee structures
- Worship technology
- Starting a Wednesday night program for young families
- Church office software
- Missions: ideas and opportunities for hands-on mission
- Nominations & personnel: the key to a healthy church
- Stewardship: do not ask and you shall not receive
- Ad Council: visioning for your congregation
- SPRC: all your questions answered
- Circuit Ministry: the future of our churches
- Trustees: how to make a 3-5 year projection
- Finance: trust, but verify
- Education: confirmation, Sunday school, VBS, and how connecting with neighboring churches can help

These training sessions are organized by the Northeast District of the Iowa UMC, and all Iowa United Methodists who wish to improve their churches are welcome and encouraged to come. You can reserve your spot in any of the sessions by emailing the district office at alanna.warren@iaumc.org by January 20.



Now Hear This

Here's some help for those who find it difficult to hear in the sanctuary. We're equipped with a set of listening-assistance devices. They are little radios that pick up the pastor's microphones and amplify the signal for you. The radios plug into a provided earpiece, or you may bring your own headphones (standard mini-plug). Also, those with telephone-enabled hearing aids may request a wire "necklace" that transmits the signal directly into the hearing aid - no headphones necessary! If you'd like to try one of these devices, ask an usher and they will get one for you and show you how to use it.

Financial Update

as of Dec 31 - numbers not final EOY

YTD Received:	\$749,047
YTD Expenses	\$805,636
EOY Budget Needs:	\$843,154

Mortgage Balance	\$22,526
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Mobile Giving Options Available

First UMC Cedar Falls is now able to accept financial contributions through the mobile giving apps Venmo and Shazam Bolt\$. Both apps are available for Android and Apple devices. The apps are free to download, and after you link your bank account, transactions are handled much like debit card payments. Don't carry cash or a checkbook? No worries - just use your phone! Send contributions to contributions@aboutfirst.com

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 for details. 319-266-1713..

Did You Know?

Since its founding in 1853, the ministries of the First United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls have been sustained by the commitment and vision of generous donors. With the establishment of an operating Endowment Fund, many have chosen to permanently strengthen the Church with gifts to the Endowment. These gifts are both restricted and unrestricted.

All gifts to the First United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls provide the donor with the personal satisfaction of contributing to a worthy cause. But gifts to the Endowment Funds can give the donor even more in return.

Each gift is making a lasting contribution by providing ongoing assets for the Church to forward its mission: "Making New Disciples of Jesus Christ For The Transformation Of The World."

Having a planned giving program not only strengthens the future of the Church but is a way for you to say that you believe in the future of our Church. A gift to the Church Endowment Fund is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

First United Methodist is grateful to all the individuals whose thoughtful planning has helped ensure a vibrant future for the Church for generations to come.

If you would like to know more about the Endowment Funds or how you may make a gift to the Funds, please contact a Pastor or a member of the Endowment Committee.

Not only will you be giving a gift that lasts, but you will be giving praise and honor to God for all that he's given you.

Bishop's Vision 2032

During the Fall of 2019, Iowa Bishop Laurie Haller held listening sessions in all of the Iowa districts of the UMC to hear ideas for the future of the church.

The Vision 2032 sessions were broken up into three sections: Visioning, Context and Framing. In the Vision section, Bishop Laurie shared her hope for the United Methodist Church in 2032.

Follow up conversations, sharing the outcomes of those listening sessions are now scheduled and there's one here at First UMC CF on Saturday, January 11 from 2:30 to about 5:00. Everyone is welcome and invited, and we'll be the host site for the Northeast District.



Jan 7 - Grief Support Session

Where: church parlor

When: 2:00-3:30 pm

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 memories helps keep your loved one's memory alive and helps you heal. This time after the holiday season is over can be especially difficult. Monthly support sessions are sponsored by the FUMC Grief Support Team and provide a safe, confidential setting. Our first meeting for 2020 will be held on Tuesday, January 7th from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the parlor. If you have questions, please call the church office at 266-1713.

January 14 - Card Making Party

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00-5:00 pm

Beat the January blahs! Come in from the cold to the Gathering Place on Tuesday, January 14th anytime between 1:00 and 5:00 pm for a card making session sponsored by the CCT ministries. This is a come-and-go event with no experience necessary. Bring a snack to share if you'd like. Cards will be used to send to members of the congregation or for the card rack just across from the office. More information will be coming next month with amounts we have given to various agencies during 2019. This quarter the money will go to Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity.

Jan 16 - First Friends Potluck

Where: Gathering Place

When: noon - 2:00

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.

Jan 27 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30 - 6:00

They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate blood at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

We also need hosts and cookie bakers. Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to let Lisa know if you can bring cookies, or hang out and chat with the donors for an hour or so.

Would you like to help coordinate these blood drives? Let the church office know. It's pretty easy to find people to provide cookies and to host - often as easy as an email to some of the faithful who almost always plan on it.

Jan 28 - Crafters' Corner

Where: church parlor

When: 6:00-8:00pm

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. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

Winter Weather Policies

Worship

This is Iowa and winter weather happens. When winter weather gets bad, the pastors will decide if changes should be made to the worship schedule.

Weekly Activities

Cedar Falls Schools will be our guide. If Cedar Falls Schools have cancelled classes or dismissed early then church activities will also be cancelled for the rest of the day and evening.

Cancellations will be broadcast on both KWWL Channel 7 and KCRG Channel 9 and posted online at aboutfirst.com. We'll also try to get the word out on facebook and twitter. We also ask that you use your best judgement and do not venture out if it is dangerous to do so.

Boy Scout Can Drives

Our chartered Boy Scout Troop is planning monthly can drives to raise money for troop activities. The plan is to collect cans the last Saturday of each month from 9:00-noon in the north parking lot of our church. Save your cans to support the scout programs of our church.

8 Calendar

Recurring Weekly:

Sunday

8:00 prayer in the chapel
8:30 Transformation Worship
8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary
9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place
9:45 Sunday School for All Ages begins Jan 8
9:45 King/Reidy GPS, chapel
11:00 Traditional Service
6:30 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary

Tuesday

9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
6:30-8:00 Tuesday Night Fellas, O59
7:00-9:00 AA, O55

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
5:15 AA, O55
5:00-6:00 Filling Station, Gathering Place
6:00-7:00 World Religions class, library
6:00-7:15 More than Moms, parlor
6:00-7:00 BLAST Fellowship Hall
6:00 Youth Group, 3rd floor
6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary
6:30 WOW AA, O55
7:15 FUSION #1
7:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir room

Also Scheduled....

WEDNESDAY January 1

Happy New Year - church office closed

THURSDAY January 2

10:00-12:00 Renovare group, chapel
11:00 Clyde Berger funeral
6:30 Trustees, library

SUNDAY January 5

World Religions series starts
9:45 Coffee with the pastor, chapel
10:00 service of lament and resistance, sanct
6:00-7:30 GS Troop 1871, chapel
7:00 Pack 44 parent meeting, library
7:00-8:00 Troop 44, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY January 6

5:00-7:00 Stephen Ministry training, O58
6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision, lower level

TUESDAY January 7

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor
6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall
7:00-8:00 AA, O55

WEDNESDAY January 8

2:00 communion service at Stanard Care
CRAZFUNBUSY WEDNESDAY resumes

THURSDAY January 9

2:00 Clergy group, library
7:00 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY January 10

5:30-7:00 Daisy Troop 4029, library
8:00 Boy Scout Lock-in

SATURDAY January 11

2:30-5:30 Vision 2032 w// Bishop Laurie
2:30-5:30 Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY January 12

World Religions series - Hindu
9:45 3rd grade Bible class, parlor
After church - Grief Support potluck, library
6:00-7:30 GS Troop 1871, chapel
7:00-8:00 Troop 44, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY January 13

5:00-7:00 Stephen Ministry training, O58
6:00 HOME Team, chapel

TUESDAY January 14

1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place
6:30 Finance Meeting, library
6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY January 15

2:00 communion at Windhaven

THURSDAY January 16

10:00-12:00 Renovare group, chapel
10:30 Threehouse personnel, parlor
Noon-3:00 First Friends potluck, Gather Plac

SUNDAY January 19

World Religions series - Buddhism
7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY January 20

Newsletter deadline
Martin Luther King Jr day - no mail
5:00-7:00 Stephen Ministry training, O58

TUESDAY January 21

5:30-6:30 Worship Committee, library
6:00-8:30 Farmer's Market meeting, Parlor
6:30 Administrative Council, library
6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY January 22

11:00 service at Pinnacle Care

THURSDAY January 23

6:00-8:00 Girl Scouts robotics event,
Gathering Place
7:00 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

FRIDAY January 24

5:30-7:00 Daisy Troop 4029, library

SUNDAY January 26

World Religions series - Islam
9:45 3rd grade Bible class, parlor
2:30-4:30 District Leadership workshops
6:00-7:00 Bear Den library
6:30 Cub Scout committee meeting, library
7:00-8:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY January 27

12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
5:00-7:00 Stephen Ministry training, O58
6:00 Pack 44, Fellowship Hall

TUESDAY January 28

6:00-8:00 Crafter's corner, parlor
6:30 In Mission together, library
6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY January 29

Regular CrazyFunBusy Wednesday

FRIDAY January 31

Noon Newsletter labeling



The Childrens' Christmas Program was our Sunday School kids' gift to you. They had a lot of fun and loved having you join us.



CrazyFunBusy Wednesday Nights Resume January 8

Everyone is welcome and invited because Wednesday night is your church night.

5:15 Filling Station, a meal for all
6:00 BLAST (for kids)
6:00 More Than Moms
6:00 Youth Groups
7:15 Fusion Tonight

Filling Station: If you would like to donate food items to help make this meal possible contact Jenna Engel.

B.L.A.S.T: Bible Learning And Serving Together. Please join us Wednesday nights. BLAST is for students turning 5 this school year -6th grades. This semester we will be leading kids to stand firm in their Faith!

Third Grade Bible Class

It is a long-standing United Methodist tradition to give 3rd-Graders their very own Bibles. Here at First UMC CF, we have a six-session class for students and parents to attend together, at the end of which, the students will receive their Bibles.

If you and your child will be participating in our 3rd grade bible class, please let Jenna Engel know and which service you would like to receive your bible in. The first class will be held on January 12th during the Sunday school hour.



Explore God's Heart for the World

Experience God's heart for all people and encounter the momentum of the World Christian Movement. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement will open your eyes with fresh understanding of God's unchanging purposes and why they're so relevant to your life.

Perspectives is a 15 week course for believers from all walks of life. Hear how God continues to work throughout the world. Learn more about God's kingdom and His glory. Find out what your part is in this exciting movement. Perspectives will help you learn how to live for God's Kingdom

This year the class will be hosted at Nazareth Lutheran Church on Monday evenings, Jan 20-May 5, 6:00-9:00pm. First UMC is also offering \$100 scholarships. Register at perspectives.org. For more information, email CFPerspectives@gmail.com or call Maureen Hanson at (319) 988-4492

10 Mission of the Month

Human Relations Day

- January 19

The United Methodist Church celebrates Human Relations Day to further the development of better human relations by involving congregations in community and youth outreach through Community Developers Programs, United Methodist Voluntary Services Programs, and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs. Your offering is designated to support ministries of social justice and outreach to at-risk youth.

Did You Know 57% of giving on Human Relations Day supports Community Developer Programs? Did You Know your gifts on Human Relations Day help train over 125,000 volunteers? Did You Know your gifts on Human Relations Day help at-risk youth and youth offenders? Did You Know giving on Human Relations Day has supported a volunteer program since 1976?



January Mission Focus Church World Service Blankets +

January is great month to appreciate a warm blanket. Contributions to CWS Blankets and CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement. What's more, they'll be there to help people gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to build - or rebuild - sustainable lives and communities.

Imagine the possibilities:

- \$250 can provide warm blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado.
- \$450 can provide refugees resettling far from their homelands the gardening tools and materials to build six small raised beds for vegetables.
- \$750 can provide sewing machines and training for three women, empowering them to earn an income and feed their families.
- \$1,100 can provide 10 displaced families with emergency food packages that will feed a family of five for one month.
- \$2,500 can provide 250 blankets to an agency serving homeless individuals and families in the U.S.

Check out the display of blankets in the Gathering Place to see just what kind of blanket your \$10 donation will provide. Use the offering envelopes at the display to contribute to this mission.

A Thank You from In-Mission Together

2 Corinthians 9:7 King James Version (KJV) 7 *“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.”*

During my childhood this is the bible verse my pastor recited every Sunday before the offering was taken. I hadn't thought about it in years until I became a part of the In-Missions Together committee, now I'm in awe of the “cheerful” givers at Cedar Falls FUMC.

Generous donations to the Angel Tree provided 39 children with gifts and every family a gift card this Christmas season. The November Mission Tree provided over 500 bus rides for low income men and women in local shelters, more than 90 Bibles for the Women at the Well* and lots and lots of diapers and supplies for families using Wee Care. Our quilters donated 17 quilts to give to foster children in the Cedar Valley and many of you walked and packaged food to help the hungry. The list goes on and on.

You will see some changes in our First UMC missions this year. First of all, our name has changed from Rainbow Task Force to In Mission Together. The United Methodist Church has challenged us to find more missions that go beyond simply donating money, and to invest our members' time and efforts, providing a physical presence to assist in programs that help spread the word of God and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

There are some new faces on our missions committee and Lisa who has been the heart of missions at First UMC has stepped down as chair to allow more time for her duties at Washington Chapel. In Missions Together is looking forward to supporting our congregation's missions on local, conference, national, and international levels, through giving, sharing and partnering, to fulfill Matthew 25 and Matthew 28.

Matthew 25:40 *“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

Matthew 28:19 *“Go into the world and make disciples...”*

- Julie Fee, In Mission Together chair

*It seems we're always sending Bibles to Women at the Well, and last year I asked Pastor Lee how many they hand out in the course of a year. She didn't know the exact number, but she knew it was over 400! That's 400 women who wanted their own Bible badly enough that they asked for one, and because of the generosity of people like you, Pastor Lee and Pastor Paul are able to give a Bible to every woman in the Mitchellville prison who wants one. - crc



LOVE FIRST BY THE NUMBERS

14

Families in the Lincoln and North Cedar school areas had a Merry Christmas because of your generosity through our Angel Tree.

90

Bibles for Women at the Well

500

bus rides for people who have no vehicle of their own

WANT MORE NUMBERS?

Watch the video at

<https://vimeo.com/374413506>



Putting Love Into Action

Many years ago, Joanne, the young mother of an infant child, was devastated by the unexpected death of her husband. In the months that followed, she tried several ways of dealing with her grief and pain, but found very little help. As a result of her own experience, a seed was planted in her heart – a desire to be there for others who faced similar circumstances.

Be a Blessing to Someone - Love INC

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That's not a failure of the churches – at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches and agencies to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 29.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with Love INC as a Clearinghouse or Community volunteer. If you're interested in serving with Love INC, fill out a volunteer form found at loveinccv.org or call 266-1264.

A few years later, Joanne saw a notice in her church bulletin inviting people to serve as Stephen Ministers. She responded. In her decade of service as a Stephen Minister, Joanne has had the opportunity to care for people with a variety of needs, including a recent care receiver who was a young widow. Joanne said, "It was very satisfying to be able to give her the kind of help I didn't have."

Currently we have several members of our congregation who are serving as Stephen Ministers and others who are now taking the training to become the next group commissioned. After being trained, this group will be assigned to meet weekly with a person of the same gender and help the person walk through the stress of bereavement, terminal illness, single parenting, long-term illness, job loss, etc.

We ask you to pray for our Stephen Ministry program and those who serve. If you are going through a stressful time yourself, please do not hesitate to call the church office and you will be directed in confidence to someone who can help.

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.

email Prayer Chain

If you would like to be on the church "eprayer" list, please let the church office know by emailing Lisa at lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com. We send out prayer requests by email as they come in, and also include prayer requests noted on the attendance slips. Remember, to ensure privacy, please make sure to get permission from the party that you feel needs prayers.

Help the Wee Ones

Donate to our Wee Care closet. Grateful parents of wee ones come to our church every Tuesday afternoon to pick up a supply of much needed baby goods. This gap ministry through LoveINC helps struggling families in our own community stretch their dollars. Diapers of all sizes are always appreciated, along with wipes, baby wash, baby lotion, 8 oz bottles and sippy cups. 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.



UMW Celebrates 2019 & Inducts New Officers

The UMW annual Christmas luncheon was held on December 12, 2019. Those attending included UMW members, their guests, the church staff, and fifteen men from the church who served, totaling over 50 people. Pastor Scott provided the table grace.

After the luncheon Christmas music was provided by the Lincoln School 5th and 6th grade chorus under the direction of Mrs. Shelley Droe, vocal music instructor. An invitation had been extended to families and friends of the students to join us in the sanctuary for the program. The sanctuary was full, and the music was enjoyed by all. This year's program featured a ukulele ensemble and bass guitar soloist!

Stephanie Buchs was awarded a Special Mission Recognition pin by Chris Werling in recognition of her three years of service as UMW Board Secretary, service with Community Meals and the Rummage Sale as well as her many talents which allow her to fill in wherever a need arises.

Installation of officers for 2020 was performed by Pastor Scott.

President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Social Action
 Spiritual Growth
 Program Resources
 LCR (Local Church Responsibilities)
 Membership
 Committee on Nominations
 Circle Chairs (Mary)
 (Joy)
 (Deborah)
 (Hearts & Hands)
 (More than Moms)

Maxine Kehret
 Chris Werling
 Stephanie Buchs
 Harriett McMahill
 Donna Hoffman
 Arlene Fleming
 Marlys Simpson
 Maxine Kehret, Gayle Bruene
 Ruth Tucker
 Pauline Harding
 Lorna Ericson
 Donna Hoffman
 Sandy Simpson
 Karen Page
 Nancy Fransdal



Dear First United Methodist Church,

Thank you very much for letting us use the church for Girl Scout meetings, Overnight Events, and Fundraising Events for our trip to Savannah, GA in June of 2020.

It is ALL very helpful and we sincerely appreciate it.

THANK YOU!

Elise Wehr,
 Sydney Herzmann,
 Audrienne Kennedy,
 McKenzie Adair
 (Senior GS Troop 6581)

14 How To Help

Some people might think of these ministry opportunities as the “little things”, but little isn’t the right word.

These are the needs of the church that are on-going in our weekly and monthly cycles of ministry.

These are the support roles that need to be filled and the easy contributions that we all can make to enhance the worship experience for others and to ensure that our ministries are well-equipped and well-staffed.

How can you help?

Worship:

Prayer Team

Everyone is invited to join the prayer team any Sunday morning as we lift up worship in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. Contact one of the prayer team members if you have any questions: Jim Larson, Genny Van Dorn, and Jan Hoover.

Sunday Morning Hospitality

How many people does it take to make a Sunday morning happen at First UMC? A lot! We have greeters, Welcome Center hosts, refreshment servers, ushers, chair-setter-uppers, communion stewards, bus drivers, musicians, Sunday School teachers, camera, sound and tech operators and more. Everything happens because someone makes it happen. How can you help? Contact Jenna Engel to fill one of these slots!

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2020 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.

Outreach & Missions:

Community Meal

This is a great ministry of feeding and fellowship and you can be a part of it. Once a month - the fourth Tuesday - we plan, prepare, and serve the meal. Meals are served from 4:30-6:00, and the prep work begins early afternoon. If you would like to help with meal preparation or serving, contact Maxine Kehret or Stephanie Buchs. We can use donations of desserts, too. We welcome new faces. There are opportunities for everyone.

Remember, while our team only serves on the fourth Tuesday, other churches are here cooking and serving every Tuesday of the month. You're always welcome to come and eat - the community meal is completely free and open to everyone.

Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for fabric to make school bags and other stitching projects. The Quilters & Stitchers are looking for durable/sturdy material for school bags. They also could use decent sized lengths of cotton quilting fabric for comfort quilts, baptism quilts, quilts for foster kids, and of course - for the beautiful items they make for the quilt auction each November. 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.

Ongoing Wish Lists

For those who like to shop, we have an opportunity for you! There are several in-church groups that can always use supplies to support their ministries. For your convenience, we have compiled the wish lists for Wee Care, UMCOR School Kits, FirstKids Daycare & Preschool, and Sunday School all on one sheet. And, we have also compiled a list of items that you may have at home that could be repurposed for another use by Lincoln School, our Cardmakers, and River Hills School.

Pick up the Wish Lists sheet on the literature rack outside the church office, or at the donation collection site in the little hallway near the drinking fountain on the main level of the church.

Thank You

Thank you to Pastor Scott and Pastor Matt for the visits during my hospital stay. Thank you to Carol Dick for your visit, also. I am grateful for my church family.
Pat Powell

Many thanks to the Congregational Care Team for the beautiful rose. It helps to receive one each year. And, Jane – loved your visit, too.
Donna Mincks

Thank you to Jane for the birthday rose for my 81st birthday, and to the church staff for the card. I also want to thank Carol Dick for the quilt that I got when I was hospitalized.
Jerry Ackerman

We are so appreciative to you for letting us use your Gathering Space for our annual mail campaign assembly. It was so wonderful to have enough space for this large project with many volunteers. Blessings,
Cedar Falls Schools Foundation Board Members

Thank you to our church family for all the prayers and cards we received during our nephews illness and passing. We are blessed to be members of FUMC!
Larry & Sharon Petersen

Thank You Jane for delivering the beautiful rose for my nonagenarian birthday. Truthfully it does not feel any different than being an octogenarian. Thank you staff for my card.
Jo Ackman

Thank you to Jane for delivering the beautiful birthday yellow rose. It's so enjoyable to have a visit from a church friend.
Joan Dnea

Thank you all for remembering my birthday on December 23. I felt honored to be remembered this close to Christmas.
Donna Hoffman

Thank you so much for adopting families for the holiday season. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you for providing extra cheer to our North Cedar families.
With gratitude,
Heidi Guse, North Cedar Elementary School Counselor

Thank you so much for hosting us for the annual fundraiser to help people around the world.
The World's Window

The Arc of Cedar Valley, JV's held their 30th annual Cookie Walk Dec. 14. We raised over \$3000 for the North Star and EPI agencies for the people with disabilities. A special Thank You to the Bernard family, Jerry, Laurene, Lisa, Jeff and the Bernard Cookie Brigade (many from First United Methodist church). This group has been making Christmas cookies for us for over 17 years. We could not have reached the success we have without you.

The funds raised are used for activities and needs of the clients served by these two agencies. The Halloween Dance and tickets to the Bucks were the highlights this year. We have pizza parties, special parties for all the Holidays and support the North Star Plays.

Blessings to all involved,
The JV Committee of the Arc

Sympathy to:

- Family and friends of Richard Aschenbrenner. Richard died November 27.
- Family and friends of Jack Scott. Jack died December 2.
- Betty Goettsch on the loss of her daughter, Theo, on December 21.

Welcome:

Welcome to Ryan Lockhart, who joined our church on Dec. 22.

All the UMC News

We encourage you to be informed of what is going on the the United Methodist Church beyond Cedar Falls.

Get Iowa UMC news at iaumc.org.

Get global UMC news at umnews.org.

Attendance- week ending

Attendance- week ending	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22
Fusion (Wed.)	x	14	x	x
Transformation	69	54	70	52
Traditional 8:30	141	124	143	119
Traditional 11:00	90	242	139	106
Christmas eve 4:30				162
Christmas eve 7:00				363
Chhristmas eve 9:00				86
Dec 29, 10:00 combined				217

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319.266.1713

Fax: 319.266.1715

Email: churchoffice@aboutfirst.com

www.aboutfirst.com

aboutFirst (USPS 671-710)
is published monthly by
First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613.
Periodical postage paid at
Cedar Falls, IA. **POSTMASTER**
Send changes to:
aboutFirst
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Transformation Worship

Bus rides are available for the 11:00 Sunday service. Our bus is wheelchair-accessible.
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 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, Parish/Grief Support Coordinator
cdick@cfu.net

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

Bevan Lucas, Music Ministry Coordinator

Lorri Schofield, High School Youth
youth@aboutfirst.com

Doug Shaffer, Organist
musicman52151@gmail.com

Emily Terpstra, Custodian

Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor