

# aboutfirst news

July, 2020 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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



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issue 237, July 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](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

On July 5th we are planning to extend worship to gathering for in-person worship at 8:30am and 10am. But it's going to be quite a bit different—rather odd actually. Masks, no hand shaking, soloist singing and a lack of coffee fellowship (see pg 4 & 5). Is that even worship?

I don't know who first "discovered" Kierkegaard's contribution to the nature of worship, but I like it. Here's how it goes: Imagine a worship service as a drama, a play on the stage. Who is the audience? Who are the actors? At first glance, most would say that the congregation is the audience, and the minister is the actor. But no—Kierkegaard claims that God is the audience, the worshipers are the actors, and the ministers are the directors. With that in mind, does it matter where we worship? Can that be in the sanctuary, or your favorite seat in your home?

When it comes right down to it, our strategy in gathering for worship is that we are becoming a congregation of people who gather to experience life-changing worship. It's life changing only if it changes our lives through life application, and further if our lives help to change other lives in our community through love first.

Here's another good image for worship—the boat marina. When I've been on vacation to sea shore or a lakeside it's the only time I get to see a marina. I like to walk down the docks and see the variety of the boats gathered in the harbor. You know it's a safe place to have the boats and they each have their spot (which is true for many of us in worship, we have our spots). But here's another truth about the marina, the best looking parts of the boats are above the water.



Tom Berlin in Reckless Love suggests, "boat and ship owners have a number of unwanted marine-organisms that collect on the hulls of their crafts."

Something similar happens when we cruise through life and encounter people. There are disappointments, relational wounds, and bad habits that begin to attach themselves to our once pristine personalities. There are resentments, lack of concern, prejudice, jealousy, bitterness and blame. These are the barnacles on my hull and on yours. They go unnoticed as we gather in worship, but believe me they are present. What is gathering for worship about? Why worship?

To worship God in spirit and truth necessarily involves loving God with heart, soul, mind and strength. As we say around here, "Love first." To love first is in part gathering to remove the barnacles that have gotten hold of us, to gather for life-changing worship.

As one of our core values here at Cedar Falls First states we are welcomed focused—a diverse community welcoming persons of all ages, races, sexual orientations, gender identities, family configurations, economic abilities and mental and physical capacities.

Friends, love first looks like justice for all, and gathering for worship is for all to be welcome here. As we continue to gather for worship online (and some in-person) may we embrace the life changing aspect of gathering for worship.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Scott



## Current Issue: Racism

The 2020 killings of three African Americans – George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, who died at the hands of police, and Ahmaud Arbery, chased and shot to death by two individuals – sparked an international outcry against racism.

### How is the UMC responding?

The denomination's Council of Bishops called for every United Methodist "to name the egregious sin of racism and white supremacy and join together to take a stand against the oppression and injustice that is killing persons of color."

The United Methodist Church has mounted a denomination-wide campaign, "United Against Racism," that urges its members not only to pray, but to educate themselves and have conversations about the subject, and to work actively for civil and human rights.

### What does the UMC say about racism?

The United Methodist Social Principles state: "Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself. ... We commit as the Church to move beyond symbolic expressions and representative models that do not challenge unjust systems of power and access."

The church affirms that "all peoples and individuals constitute one human family, rich in diversity. ... We recognize that religion, spirituality, and belief can contribute to the promotion of the inherent dignity and worth of the human person and to the eradication of racism."

### What is the church's history with racism?

Methodism founder John Wesley was well known for his opposition to slavery, however, Methodism has frequently struggled in addressing its own racism. The UMC's Book of Resolutions acknowledges the church's shortcomings: "... racism has been a systemic and personal problem within the U.S. and The United Methodist Church and its predecessor denominations since its inception."

United Methodist Communications has prepared an in-depth look at racism inside and outside the church. We encourage you to follow the links below to learn more about the UMC's stance and history on the subject of racism. You'll find thought-provoking information and spiritual guidance.

While many of us have not experienced racism, we can agree that ending it is a matter of justice and holiness. Please take the time to think about how your life experience might vary from that of someone of a race different from yours.

[umc.org/endracism](https://www.umc.org/endracism)

<https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-does-the-united-methodist-church-say-about-racism>

[aboutfirst.com](https://www.aboutfirst.com)



## Breakout!

### Escape the Ordinary

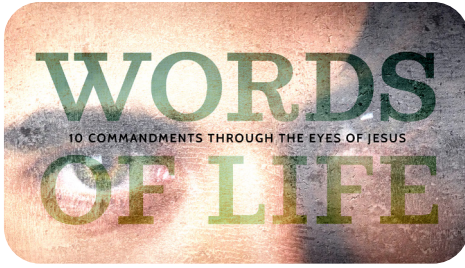
Jenna is in the process of putting together a virtual VBS. Our theme for VBS is **Breakout: escape the ordinary**. God has an extraordinary life planned for you! Be sure to join us and we will learn together how to break out of the ordinary and into the extraordinary!

Virtual VBS is a combination of video and home-based activities. Each participating child will receive a packet containing instructions and supplies.

There will be no cost to participate in VBS this year. RSVP to Jenna to let her know if you need a packet. Jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com.

# VIRTUAL VBS

# 4 Worshipping Together



## Words of Life

### The Ten Commandments Through the Eyes of Jesus

Nearly everyone has heard of the 10 commandments. Most of us learned them as children. They can be found in plaques in some of our courthouses. These guiding commands have become deeply interwoven with the fabric of society.

Jesus saw these commandments, not as burdens, but as guardrails to help us experience a good and beautiful life. Every "thou shall not" points to a life-giving "thou shalt." These ancient words were given by a loving God to protect us from harm.

This July we will continue our sermon series, "Words of Life—The Ten Commandments Through the Eyes of Jesus."

We will spend some time understanding the foundational law of the Old Testament and discuss how Jesus lived this out in his ministry. Even non-religious people who do not affirm Jesus' divinity find that his ethics are compelling.

Though many of us are familiar with the ten commandments, few of us have heard them through the direct teaching of Christ. This series will take you deep into the life and ethics of Jesus, and we believe you will find lessons applicable to your life today.

## GETTING TOGETHER AGAIN

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CEDAR FALLS

### THE CHURCH



will have hand sanitizing stations available



will clean public areas



will screen your temperature and health information as you enter



will adjust worship schedules and formats to promote a safe worship environment



Gathering Place, Nursery, Bus Service are suspended

### YOUR PART



wearing masks is encouraged



maintain social distance



resist the urge to hug or shake hands



Stay home if you haven't felt well, or have symptoms of cold or fever

## ONLINE OPTIONS CONTINUE

watch from home on:  
Facebook Live • aboutfirst.com • YouTube  
cable TV in CF and Waterloo

## 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!

## 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 @ 11:00am & 8:00 pm

## GETTING TOGETHER AGAIN

- 8:30am in the sanctuary + Facebook Livestream
- 10:00am in Fellowship Hall + Facebook Livestream

This is still a transitional time. Think of this as a soft-opening, rather than a Grand Re-Opening. While this in-person option will be available, the livestreams will continue and we will still consider online worship to be our primary worship experience. If you choose to attend in-person, expect

- to submit to a health screening as you enter
- to be asked to wear a mask
- to observe social distancing
- to not have refreshments in the Gathering Place
- changes in how we sing, pray, and offer gifts together

Please make good decisions regarding church attendance based upon your vulnerability to infection, and your likelihood of being a transmitter of the COVID-19 virus to others. Since the middle of March, we have all learned about the dangers of this virus, and we have learned that isolation is our best defense. As First UMC now unlocks the doors on Sunday morning, we're counting on YOU to make good decisions for yourself and for your church family.

We strongly advise people to continue to stay home and watch online. Those who do choose to attend in-person will have an experience similar to being in the live studio audience of a television broadcast.

Your First UMC leaders are listening very closely to Iowa Public Health officials, and to recommendations from our Iowa UMC Conference headquarters and are prepared to make changes to worship services and gathering policies as infection rates dictate.

### Drive-In Sermon - July 26

For those of you who wish to be present for a live sermon, but do not wish the exposure of coming into the First UMC building, Pastor Scott will offer his message outdoors in the parking lot on Sunday, July 26, at 11:00 a.m. (weather-permitting).

Pastor Scott will speak from the church lawn using a low-power FM radio transmitter. You will remain in your vehicle, and tune your radio to 90.3 FM where you should be able to hear him.



### How to Worship Online

Even though we are maintaining physical distance, we are still a family of faith, and we still have good news to share. Here are three options for online worship with First UMC CF.

#### option #1 Facebook Live Stream

8:30 & 10: Sunday service times, and any time thereafter.

If you have a Facebook account, search Facebook for "Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church", and at 8:30 & 10:00 on Sunday morning, a live video stream will start. You can watch in real-time and share comments with others who are watching. The video will remain available on Facebook forever.

[facebook.com/firstumccfmedia/](https://facebook.com/firstumccfmedia/)

#### option #2 aboutfirst.com

by noon Sunday, and any time after

Go to our church website, [aboutfirst.com](https://aboutfirst.com).

Just below our church name near the top of your screen, (or in the menu on a mobile device), you'll see the words "worship online". Point your mouse at those words, and choose a worship date. You'll find that week's worship video, and links to the teaching scripture passage, kids' Sunday School video, and online offering.

#### option #3 Youtube Channel

by early Sunday afternoon, and any time thereafter

Go to our church website [aboutfirst.com](https://aboutfirst.com)

and scroll down until you see the "sermons" graphic. Click it, and you will be taken to our Youtube channel which archives all of our sermons for the past several years.

# 6 Reaching In & Out

## 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, Gean Durbin,  
Jeaneene Kemmerer, Marilyn Pape  
Martin Suites  
420 E. 11th St, Cedar Falls IA 50613

Marlys Cook, Ruby Hockey,  
Richard Hunt  
Stanard Assisted Living  
420 E. 11th St, Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

Gil Hewett, Joe Nelson, Lura Treloar  
Deery Suites  
5307 Caraway Lane, Cedar Falls IA 50613

*list continued on next page . . .*

## LifeServe Blood Drive July 27

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, July 27 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](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org).

They can use callers to help schedule these appointments. Part of our success as a host site is due to the dedication of Lorna Ericson and Cindy Spragg who make phone calls to those who are eligible to donate. Do you know how to use a phone? Are you willing to make some phone calls from a list provided by LifeServe? If so, let Lisa in the church office know and she will get you in touch with the folks at LifeServe.



## Our New Stephen Ministers

Congratulations and thank you to this recent class of Stephen Ministry training for their time and commitment: Laura Bruess, Martha Kroese, Jim Reidy, Terri Rogers, Mary Schliter, Jane Wyckoff and Deb Yankey. They began meeting weekly in early October of 2019 with completion in March, just before the Covid 19 virus world pandemic made its way across our country, isolating everyone. The Stephen Minister's training compass directs the trainee in compassion, trustworthiness, skills and faith with Christ as the center. Their extensive training equips them to help our pastors in caring for members in need, helping people get through major crises and losses, as well as simply walking with those who are trying to cope with the stress of daily life. It also assists them for their own families, jobs, and organizations they are involved in. Thank you to the leaders: Jan Hoover, Dee Behr, and Sandy Noelting. We look forward to their commissioning this fall.



If you would like to talk to someone about the possibility of a Stephen Minister walking through some difficult time with you, please contact Sandy Noelting.

## 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, 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.

## 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.





## We Need More to Adopt a Shut-in Church Member

You may have seen news broadcasts about families “adopting” a senior student in the last month for support as he/she graduates. Maybe this would be a good time to “adopt” a church member living in a long-term care facility. Due to the ongoing concerns of COVID-19, facilities will probably be restricting in person visits for quite sometime. If you as an individual or family would like to support someone who is especially isolated right now with a flower, gift basket, cards or phone call, please call Carol at 277-0711 and we will get you started. Thanks for caring!

## First UMC Grief Support

The FUMC Grief Support Team began in 1998 in order to support individuals and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. We serve anyone who desires this ministry and work in coordination with our pastors to provide intentional support.

Please note there will be no group grief support session in July. We will try to resume our monthly meetings on Tuesday, August 4th unless our current situation with COVID-19 changes and causes cancellation. Please call the church office at 266-1713 with questions or for support.

## Care Packets to Shut-Ins

Your parish visitors will soon be taking small “care packets” to FUMC members in nursing/ assisted living facilities. We will include such things as lotion, sanitizer, etc. Care to donate to the cause? If so, send/bring your monetary donation to the church office or place in the offering plate. Checks may be made out to First United Methodist Church with “care packets” on the memo line. Questions? Call Carol at 277-0711.

... list continued from previous page

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

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

Vivian Hill, Thelma Macheska,  
New Aldaya Lifescapes  
7517 University Ave, Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

Betty O'Brien  
Friendship Village- Lakeview Lodge  
312 Southbrook Dr, Waterloo IA 50701

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

Noreen Roth  
Good Neighbor Society  
105 McCarren Dr, Manchester IA 52057

Darlene Prashak  
Mercy West Campus #224  
910 N. Eisenhower Ave  
Mason City, IA 50401

## Cancellation News

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing many of the events that have been planned for this summer

- Iowa UMW Mission U has been canceled (summer & fall sessions)
- First UMC Rummage Sale has been canceled
- Tuesday Community Meals (until further notice)

## Church Office Hours

We have resumed our standard office hours of

Mon-Thurs - 8:00 - 5:00

Friday - 8:00 - noon.

But, like everything else in this uncertain time, these hours are subject to change. If you have important business in the church office, we encourage you to do it before noon.

## 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.

## Our 50% Goal

Currently, our online and recurring giving is about 25% of our First UMC income. Our First UMC Finance Team would love to see this reach 50 % by the end of summer. Please consider shifting your giving to online and recurring methods.

### Why should you set up online or recurring giving?

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>

**Online Giving:** We use the Vanco Give Plus portal to allow online giving through this website. Vanco provides secure transaction services to thousands of churches in the USA. It's safe and easy.

**GivePlus Mobile App:** This is secure and easy! Want to be able to give to First UMC with four taps of your thumb? Download the GivePlus app onto your mobile devices. You'll have options for one-time gifts, recurring gifts, general offerings and mission projects. Set up an account, or use your phone camera to scan your debit/credit card. GivePlus app is available for both androids and ipeople.



## July 14 - Card-Making

Come and join the fun and help us recycle cards to send to First UMC friends or to sell. Our next session will be held Tuesday, July 14th in the Gathering Place from 1-4 pm. Because of COVID-19, we ask you to please wear a face covering and bring your own beverage/snack. We will be seated at appropriate distances from each other. Each person will not be asked to share materials. This quarter's profits from sales on the card rack will be given to the N.E. Iowa Food Bank.

## July 28 - Crafters' Corner

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. 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](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with any questions.



## Broadcasting “the Game”

When a TV network or production company comes to Cedar Falls to broadcast a UNI Panther game from the Dome, they roll-in in a big way. They bring trucks for satellite uplinks, They bring trucks full of equipment, and they bring a truck with a mobile broadcast control room. They lay miles of cable. They have microphones, audio mixers, cameras, lights, and a crew to operate all of it. It's a big deal.



Now think about this . . . we do all the same things here at First UMC Cedar Falls, every Sunday morning. Yes, we work on a somewhat smaller scale than ESPN does, but all of those same functions that the big networks have to perform to broadcast the big game, are things that we have to do here, to for our church livestream, our TV show, and our recordings that we post on YouTube.

Through this pandemic shutdown we have improved our livestream production, and when we resume in-person worship, we intend to continue the livestreams as well. So a new opportunity has opened for First UMC friends to become “producers” of our live, Sunday morning broadcasts. We will need four people who will be willing to be trained on some pretty cool equipment for the purpose of sending our message out for the whole world to see.

Once trained, you'll be on-duty about half of the Sundays, and can choose your preference of Transformation or Traditional worship.

You'll learn to

- set up and shut down the systems
- start and stop the livestream
- pre-roll and post-roll intros and extros
- send graphics and videos to viewers
- live-switch between appropriate video sources

You'll get the lofty title of “Livestream Producer”, and you'll work in a friendly environment where mistakes are common and forgiveness is the order of the day.

Your pay is learning new (and possibly marketable) skills, and the satisfaction of enabling others to worship with us from wherever they are in the world.

Interested in learning more? Chris Congdon in the media office would love to talk to you. [chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

## 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.

### Q

Can the daily 6pm devotions be seen anywhere other than Facebook.

### A

The short answer is “not right now” - here's why. When we began these nightly devotions, we needed a streaming platform that was:

- A)** easy for our staff members to connect to from their homes,
- B)** accessible to a lot of our members and
- C)** low-cost, or no-cost.

Facebook hits all three of these. Every staff member who is producing an evening devotion already has a Facebook account. Nearly 800 people are already followers of our First UMC Facebook page. Facebook is free - it doesn't cost the church anything to send out these livestream devotions, and it doesn't cost you, the viewer, to watch it. For these reasons, we chose Facebook as our streaming service.

Sending these live devotions simultaneously to Facebook and a second or third streaming platform is possible, but will require a purchase of new streaming equipment and/or a paid subscription to a streaming service. We are pleased with the popularity of the 6:00pm devotions, and, frankly, we didn't expect to still be doing them as July begins! So, now we are looking into how to economically livestream to the non-Facebook crowd, but for the moment, Facebook remains our platform for the 6:00pm devotions.

# 10 Mission of the Month

## Monthly Mission - Personal Care Drive

### 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 over 30 that partner with Love INC..

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](http://loveinccv.org) or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in the next couple of days.

#### the need

An estimated 43,430 northeast lowans struggle with food insecurity. Many of these same individuals also struggle to provide personal care items for their families. Lack of access to personal care items leads to poor hygiene, health issues among both adults and children, impairs one's ability to gain employment, and damages a family's well-being. The Northeast Iowa Food Bank helps these persons by providing personal care items.



You may help by contributing personal care supplies or funding to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, our July mission of the month.

#### how it works #1 (easy online)

Follow this link to the secure giving page of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and contribute funds for NEAFB to purchase personal care items. Providing funds for the purchase of personal care items goes a long way for these individuals. Monetary contributions allows the food bank to be as efficient and flexible as possible in meeting community needs. Thanks to supporters like you, NEIFB will get your gift into the hands of those who need it most, resulting in happy and healthy families.

<https://secure.givelively.org/teams/northeast-iowa-food-bank-inc/virtual-personal-care-drive/cedar-falls-first-united-methodist-church>

#### how it works #2 (actual)

Bring items such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, shaving supplies, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene, baby wipes, TP, etc. to the church and leave them in the green barrels in the Gathering Place. You may also drop off a check in the locked box, or in the church office.



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

## Thank yous

I wish to thank Jane for the beautiful birthday rose. I really like talking to Jane when she comes. Also thank you to all who sent cards!

*Pat Ackerman*

Thank you, Jane for delivering the rose for my birthday. It brightened my day!

*Elaine Chapman*

What a surprise it was to have Jane Wyckoff come to deliver a rose for my 80th birthday. Thanks.

*Dale Stevenson*

Thank you for the cloth masks. They are very nice. I hope everyone is doing all right.

*Gary Zoetvelt*

I barely have the words to express my gratitude for the outpouring of love, concerning and caring following the passing on my Mom, Helen Hannan. I feel so blessed to be a part of the First United Methodist Church family. Thank you so very much for the cards, phone calls, text messages and emails.

*Linda Kennedy*

I wish to thank Pastor Scott for the beautiful service he did for Jerry. Everyone in the family was really pleased with the services. Just before the graveside service there was an Eagle flying around. I also wish to thank everyone who sent memorials in Jerry's name.

*Pat Ackerman and family*

Thank you to my church family for the cards and kind words expressed following the death of my sister-in-law.

*Pat Powell*

A big thank you to all who have called, e-mailed, or sent cards to cheer me on the death of my son, Jerry. 2020 has been a hard year for me and my family, but we are thankful for all the friends who have prayed for us through these difficult times.

*Ruth Tucker*

Thank you to the fantastic staff at First Church. They have done a fabulous job in coordinating everyone into our lives daily with such strong spiritual messages. The music and short clips were superb. I am amazed at their technological skills. You all have been a wonderful connection for me.

*Genny Van Doru*

## Thank You from People's Clinic

Dear Congregation of First United Methodist Church, On behalf of those whose lives will be touched by your generosity, I write to say thank you for your donation of \$1,500 from your Love First fund. We are beyond grateful for the support from community partners like you in helping to bring quality health care to those in need..

Navigating the ever-changing COVID-19 situation has been a trying time for all of us – locally, nationally, and globally. As the weeks go on, it becomes more and more evident that uniting to serve those around us is a large component of getting through this moment in time without losing hope. Everyone's individual actions, big and small, truly make a difference.

Please accept our heartfelt thanks.

*Christine Kemp*  
Peoples Community Health Clinic

## Sympathy to:

- Pat Ackerman and her family on the death of Jerry. Jerry died May 28.
- Robin Darland and her family on the death of her mother on May 28. Robin is a former member of First UMC.
- Ruth Tucker on the death of her son, Jerry, on June 4.
- Pat Powell on the death of her sister-in-law, Eva Jones.
- Family and friends of Dee Voorhees. Dee died June 9.

## Do We Know How To Reach You?

As the volunteer callers have been trying to contact people, they are finding several whose phones are disconnected, probably because they have switched to cell phones. Please remember to contact the church office if your phone number or address has changed.

## Visitation of Loved Ones

Because of the COVID-19 virus, our lives have been changed for an undetermined amount of time. As of this writing, nursing homes have been placed on lock-down and assisted living facilities are restricted to family only. Your parish visiting team will be stopping personal one-to-one visits and communion to all of our members. We strongly recommend that you also do not visit anyone at this time for your safety and theirs. Do keep in contact by phone, e-mail, or greeting card. This will be a particularly lonely time for anyone without family around.



# First United Methodist Church

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# aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



## Worship

**Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.** Livestream on Facebook & in-person  
**Sunday, noon** video and worship resources at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com)  
**Daily, 6:00pm** 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 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 8:00 pm

## Our Pastors

Scott Kober, Lead Pastor, [scott.kober@aboutfirst.com](mailto:scott.kober@aboutfirst.com)

Matt German, Associate Pastor, [matt.german@aboutfirst.com](mailto:matt.german@aboutfirst.com)

## Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator  
[sam.barr@aboutfirst.com](mailto:sam.barr@aboutfirst.com)

Dee Behr, Parish Visitor  
[dee.behr@aboutfirst.com](mailto:dee.behr@aboutfirst.com)

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Susan Chizek, Finance Manager  
[susan.chizek@aboutfirst.com](mailto:susan.chizek@aboutfirst.com)

Chris Congdon, Media Coordinator  
[chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

Lisa Congdon, Office Ministry Coordinator  
[lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

Haleigh Derhammer, Middle School Youth  
[youth@aboutfirst.com](mailto:youth@aboutfirst.com)

Carol Dick, Parish/Grief Support Coordinator  
[cdick@cfu.net](mailto:cdick@cfu.net)

Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator  
[jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

Bevan Lucas, Music Ministry Coordinator

Lorri Schofield, High School Youth  
[youth@aboutfirst.com](mailto:youth@aboutfirst.com)

Doug Shaffer, Organist  
[musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)

Emily Terpstra, Custodian

Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor