

aboutfirst news



July, 2021 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls
Love First. Let's Gather, Grow, Go Together

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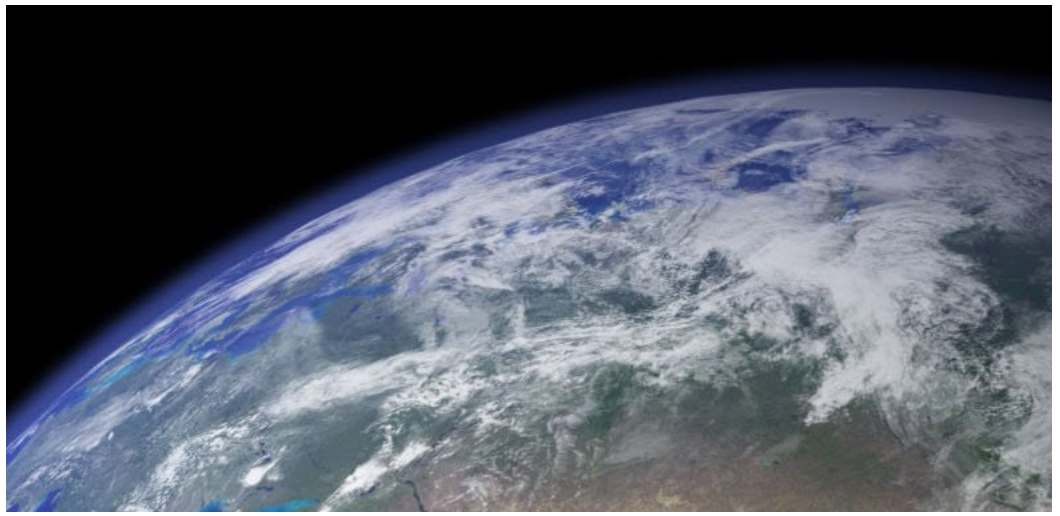
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Issue 249,
July, 2021

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

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“In the beginning when God...” (Genesis 1:1 NRSV)

Dear Members and Friends of First UMC,

On my first Sunday leading worship here at First, I explored Genesis chapter 1 and our beginnings together. I continue to be curious about how God began and what God had to work with in the beginning. Did God begin with nothing?

There is a long-standing notion in the Christian faith that God created out of nothing. It is found in the early church writings of the New Testament. Paul writes in his letter to the Romans “God ... calls into existence the things that do not exist.” And in Hebrews chapter 11, we read, “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.” However, in the second verse of Genesis we read “the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep.” It seems from this that creation is an ordering out of an already existing chaos. There was something, it was chaos. Beginnings can be chaotic, can't they?

Friends, in many ways we are in a beginning together again, and I take my hope from those first words of Genesis. They convey to me that God is already with us in our beginnings. I am so looking forward to beginning with Rev. Dr. Karen Nelson as our new Associate Pastor. She has a collaborative leadership style and generosity of spirit that is contagious. Our welcome reception for her is July 11 and she will share the message in worship on July 18th.

Further, in this new beginning I am guided by the words of Jesuit priest Pedro Arrupe:

Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do with your evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love. Stay in love. And it will decide everything.

May we place our confidence in God, the source of hope throughout all that life brings us. I pray that we can join together in pursuit of falling in love and staying in love with God.

Blessings,

Rev. Scott Kober

Welcome Patricia Harkin

We are pleased to announce that we were able to locate and hire a capable new finance manager to replace Sue Chizek, who left us on June 30. We wish Sue well and thank her for her excellent service. Effective July 1, Patricia Harkin will begin work. Patricia has a significant amount of experience providing bookkeeping and financial reporting for churches, including a United Methodist Church. We are lucky to have her join our staff. Welcome, Patricia! Please greet Patricia when you are able.

First UMC is Seeking Technical Assistant

We have created a new church staff position of Technical Assistant. This is a part-time position intended to address the current vulnerability we face having only one person fully versed on our audio/video/broadcast systems. This new Technical Assistant will work with our current Technical Director to ensure the quality and reliability of live worship experiences, recordings, and live stream broadcasts. This is a hands-on position of operating audio and video equipment and offering guidance to volunteers. Read the full job description at <http://aboutfirst.com/tech>.

First UMC is Seeking a Worship leader

First United Methodist Church is seeking a highly skilled Modern Worship Leader with a passion for music, leadership and ministry. The qualified applicant would provide strategic vision and leadership for the contemporary worship service/s, overseeing the weekend experience, providing leadership and guidance for the church in conjunction with pastoral leadership, as well as vision and strategy for growth and expansion of music/worship ministries. This position is salaried at 10-15 hours a week and starting annual pay would be competitive depending on experience and proficiency.

Chancel Choir Resumes

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.” After a year of uncertainty, Psalms 100 gives us a clear command, “serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.” For several months, I have had the wonderful opportunity to lead you in worship. Recently, I have counted it a great joy to hear so many in our congregation lifting their voices to the Lord. I often think why aren't they in choir? Consider this your open invitation. Now is the perfect time to consider singing with the Chancel Choir. You do not have to commit to singing with the choir weekly. You don't even have to read music; we will help you find your voice. Junior high to senior citizens and every age in between is welcome to fellowship and serve the Lord with gladness and singing. Choir rehearsals will resume on August 11th at 7:30pm



4 learn & grow

Introduction to Circuit Ministry

“The Mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” (The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church, ¶120). Circuit ministry seeks to accomplish our mission as United Methodists in Iowa. The local church remains the primary point of disciple-making even as we shift to circuit ministry.

Specifically, “the Purpose of Circuit Ministry is to develop a circuit of missionally effective clergy and laity leading together in partnership through 1. Leadership Multiplication, 2. Missional Accountability & Oversight.” Circuits bring together churches to grow in our ability to “make disciples of Jesus Christ” and “transform the world.” Ministry best happens as passionate and gifted clergy and laity collaborate and partner together. As this happens, we expect generative leadership: leaders who are growing in their likeness of Christ and cultivating others in faith and leadership (“leadership multiplication”). Likewise, churches gain clarity of their expectations and plan of intentional ministry that can be communicated and supported (“missional accountability and oversight”).

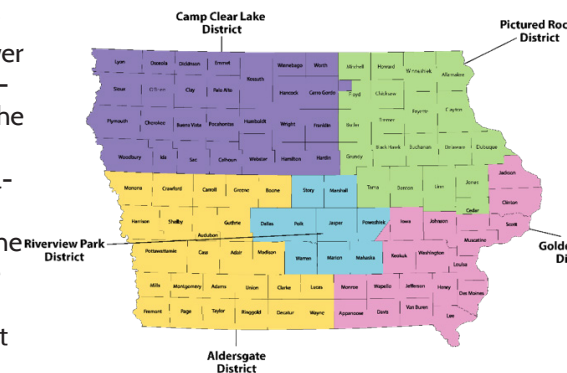
Several factors prompt the shift to circuit ministry. First, people shared in the Vision 2032 listening sessions that they wanted to be better connected through authentic and faith-filled relationships. Also, isolation and stress have amplified the need for clergy to be able to come together to support and to pray for one another. Lower apportionment receipts accelerated the pace of the transition, as the Conference reduced the number of superintendents and staff available for support, resourcing, and guidance. Many conferences in the United Methodist connection see a similar reality and are currently adopting a strategy such as Circuit Ministry.

Circuit Ministry seeks to be a framework from which fruitful, collaborative, and creative ministry can happen in the Iowa Conference. Each circuit will use a similar “framework” and “canvas” yet create its own picture of ministry that fits its unique context.

Within each district, the district superintendent assigns each church or charge to a circuit. Circuits, then, become the basic unit of connection for the Conference with a goal of healthy collaboration in regional, District, and Conference ministry and leadership development. Working in partnership within each circuit, clergy and laity, in communities of faith, will engage in fruitful ministry to fulfill our Mission.

For six-to-eight hours a month, pastors will gather in a “circuit meeting,” where they engage in a comprehensive Loving-Learning-Leading process of personal and communal transformation. These meetings are led by an appointed Circuit Clergy Leader and Circuit Laity Leader. While each Circuit Meeting will have a similar process (Loving-Learning-Leading) and include essential elements (such as Covenant, Ministry Action Plans, some Conference-wide learning, and a Reflect-Adjust-Do process), circuits will adapt these Circuit Meetings to their needs, opportunities, and context. Every pastor appointed half-time or greater is expected to participate in these circuit meetings, while those appointed less than half time are invited. If a church does not have a pastor who can attend, the Staff Parish Committee will work with the district superintendent to name the church’s participant.

Leaders in the local church will continue to collaborate with the pastor to identify the primary goals for ministry. Uniquely at the change of appointment, the district superintendent will work with Staff Parish Relations Committee to establish those primary goals, called Missional Expectations. Through the Circuit Ministry process, the local church leaders, including the pastor, will utilize tools of the Ministry Action Planning process to become more missionally effective locally, across the circuit, and beyond.



Miss A Sermon?

If you miss a Sunday message, 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.



Stephen Ministers, Here When You Need Them

Job loss, illness, bereavement, loneliness, we all experience struggles like these and more as we journey through life. You don't need to go through these things alone. Stephen Ministers are persons trained to be there with you in your time of trouble. The Stephen Ministry program is a part of our congregational care ministry. All Stephen Ministry contacts are strictly confidential and your personal privacy will always be respected. You may call the church office for a referral to one of the Stephen Minister Leaders.

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CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Making a Joyful Noise

Throughout this pandemic, one thing we miss the most is our music! As we ramp-up toward a full re-opening in the fall, our music team leaders will be re-starting our long tradition of excellent music in worship. Now would be a great time to consider singing with the Chancel Choir, ringing with a bell choir (we'll teach you!) or playing in the Transformation Praise Team. There's a place for every voice and every instrument. We guarantee you'll have a good time with other good people, and praise God in the process. Watch for start-up info as we get deeper into summer.

Greeting

As a greeter you are our guest first encounter. You will be responsible for welcoming all who enter our doors. We need greeters at the First and Second Services. Greeters will be placed at the main doors to Welcome our guests as they arrive.

Welcome Desk

Here you will be a point person to help answer questions about the church. When we have a visitor you will hand out our Welcome gift.

Coffee & Fellowship

We need volunteers to help serve our baked good, make coffee and drinks. This position starts 8:00am and ends at 11:00am.

Money Counters

We will need volunteers to go around and pick up Sunday school folders. Then you will count up attendance for Children's Sunday school and count money from the Adult classes.

Ushers

We need ushers to Welcomes those that enter the Sanctuary or Fellowship Hall. Ushers will pass the offering plate and pick up attendance pads.

B.L.A.S.T. Volunteers

Email jenna.engle@aboutfirst.com for more information,

Worship Tech Team

We'll train you to operate the video and audio systems to enhance the worship experience for those who attend in-person and those who watch online. The Worship Tech Team is a fun way to be a valuable asset to your church. Any adult or youth over 14 yrs. More information at aboutfirst.com/tech

Virtual Greeters

Help us connect with more people in our digital sanctuary!
During the sermon, log on and say hello! You can then engage with people as they log on or comment, and help identify visitors and interact with them. Let's treat our Virtual space as a home and welcome people in!

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Send a Card or Note

Send a card or a letter to our friends in care facilities and unable to attend church. 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, Marilyn Pape
Martin Suites
420 E. 11th St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Rudy Grapp, Vivian Hill
New Aldaya Lifescapes
7511 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

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

Marian Christiason, Sharon Krebs, Homer Leymaster, Chet Starr
Windhaven Assisted Living
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Betty O'Brien
Friendship Village Lakeview Lodge
312 Southbrooke Drive #39
Waterloo IA 50701

Ruth Gooden, Harold Krebs, 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

Mardy Hermann, LaVonne Neese
Thalman Square
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

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

Noreen Roth
Good Neighbor Society
105 McCarren Dr
Manchester IA 52057

John Stater
CountryHouse Residences
3720 George B Lake Parkway Apt 12
Elkhorn NE 68022

Pray for all who are being impacted by the coronavirus.



Bus Service Rides Again!

We are now picking up for the traditional service in the sanctuary (usually 8:30, except for July 4 at 10:00). We are offering this ministry for people that have been vaccinated and are willing to wear their masks on the bus. To allow for social distancing, only six passengers will be allowed. Call Steve and Janet MacTaggart at 319-404-0077 to let them know you are interested.

July 6 - Grief Support Session

When: Tuesday, July 6th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Where: Church Parlor

It is not only okay to talk about a loved one who has died, it is essential for healing to occur. Telling your story and sharing feelings helps keep your loved one's memory alive and helps you heal. Monthly support sessions are sponsored by the FUMC Grief Support Team and provide a safe, confidential setting. No reservations are required.

July 13 - Card Making Session

When: Tuesday, July 13th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

Where: Gathering Place

Come join the fun and help us recycle cards to send to First UMC friends or to sell. Bring a friend and a snack to share if you'd like. We train you! If you haven't purchased cards yet, check out the card rack just outside the church office. The cards cost only \$.50 each, and they are beautiful! So far this year, over \$225.00 has been received and will be sent to Midwest Mission. We hope to see you on the 13th.

July 19- LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, July 19th 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.

July 12 & 26 - Crafters' Corner

Where: Parlor

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Get your crafting project lined up and join the group on second and fourth Monday of the month, from 6:00-8:00 in the Parlor. If you are looking for a project to do at home, Crystal Wilken is looking for people to do one or more of the bag "processing" steps at home to help with our surplus of plastic bags that are used to make sleeping mats. This might

be simply cutting the bags into strips, or looping the strips together to make "plarn" (plastic yarn), or even crocheting the plarn into the mats. She will provide all the materials with step-by-step instructions. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

VBS Volunteers Needed

We are so excited to be opening back up.

This means we need help.

Here are the areas we need volunteers in:

- 2nd & 3rd Grade Group Leaders - Need 2 volunteers
- Adventure Time Leader- Need 2 volunteers
- Science Leader- Need 2 volunteers
- Water Games Leader- Need 1 volunteer

Please contact Jenna Engle at jenna.engle@aboutfirst.com for more information,

Midwest Mission- Not canceled, just delayed.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, Illinois, is still taking pandemic precautions by limiting guest rooms available in their dormitory. This meant added cost for our group for motel rooms for the 4 nights we would be there. That, and hesitation from some from our group to travel, has led to the decision to delay our mission trip this Spring. FUMC has reserved space for 4 missionaries to travel to MMDC in May of 2022. It is not too early to reserve your spot with Jan Benson for that trip!

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.

Update from Mutare

Dear friends and family,



We live on the campus of Africa University, and have been enjoying visits from our neighbors' children. Delani and Adriel spend hours piecing together the Lego that has survived years of making and breaking. They move on to ever more creative

designs which involve trial and error, patience and starting over. It has reminded me that we are always God's work-in-progress, and our own efforts to live with the times involve trials, successes, failures, and moving on.

We have come to the end of our online academic year, and feel there has been a lot of trial and error, patience... and learning involved! As we walked past the student dormitories last week, there were festivities as students celebrated final-years passing their last semester at Africa University. Dancing, blowing vuvuzelas and making phone calls home - marked the end of 4 or 5 years of study. Most will go home and attend graduation online in July. The July 3rd ceremony will be available for public viewing on both YouTube and Facebook. See www.Africau.edu. We trust the new graduates will carry the lessons learned and new skills into their careers and callings.

We are thankful to God for so many highlights over the past months:

- new developments on the AU farm
- students completing and passing their online courses
- few cases of Covid 19 on campus
- opportunities we had to meet with our students on campus
- worshipping together on campus, both in chapel and on the farm
- online Bible study and discussions with our English students exploring the theme of Covenant
- our students' positive responses to new skills gained through online learning.



Anglebert Nderimana is a first year student in Agribusiness Management from Burundi, and in his words: "On one hand, studying online gave me the chance to research various topics, especially those connected with my future career. It was easy to have time to use the internet for the purpose of research and learning. Links to

websites provided by my lecturers helped me to get

extra simplified notes besides the lecturer's notes. I was also able to listen to different course recordings more than once. At the same time, the period was a time of loneliness and self-dependence.... I profoundly thank God for providing me with the technology and friends so that despite all the challenges I pulled through."



AU Farm Fish Project

The ceremony for the dedication of the fish farm included hopes that eventually, like Jesus did, it will provide fish for the 5,000...and more! During the ceremony, Larry was given an opportunity to catch a fish with his fishing rod, but in the end

had to declare (with some embarrassment) that the AU fish were too clever to be fooled into taking the bait! Farm workers scooped up 350g Tilapia in nets, and filled buckets to share with special visitors. Our Congolese students, used to frequent meals with fish in their own country, look forward to tasting them at the University dining hall. The farm manager has worked hard to promote farm successes in terms of the overall development at AU.

Zim News

Control measures have helped keep covid-19 cases low except for a January spike. Unfortunately, the country has experienced a recent surge in Covid cases and deaths which has led to a partial lockdown. This may delay AU plans to go back to on campus classes next semester. The country awaits a fresh supply of vaccines. We both feel a bit safer after we received two jabs in April.

Family News

Larry and I have booked tickets to travel to the US in July to see family members. I am excited as I haven't seen our boys for 3 years. We are flying a route that avoids the red zones of South Africa and Britain. We look forward to spending a few days in Cape Cod with Ben and Ada (with a dip in the ocean!!!??), a long weekend in Boulder with Pule and Christine, plus time with Michael and others in Iowa and Wisconsin. This short trip we will be focused on catching up with family and taking care of personal issues. Hopefully next year we will be able to speak with you in churches!

Thank you, thank you for your continued support and ministry with us at AU. Please let us know how you can feel more connected to all that God is doing here.

con't next page

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 or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in the next couple of days.

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.



School supplies for School Kits

School supplies are needed for school kits. Midwest Mission Distribution Center collects and disperses these kits all over the USA and even overseas. You can help by keeping your eyes open for good deals on school supplies and bringing them to the Gathering Place. This is what is needed to fill each school kit:

- 3 - 8 x 10 ½ spiral-bound one-subject notebooks, 70-80 pgs each (wide OR college rule)
- 1 - pencil sharpener (hand held - at least 1" long)
- 6 - unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 - box 24 crayons (ONLY 24 count, please)
- 1 - box of 12 colored pencils
- 1 - pair BLUNT scissors (rounded tip metal blade)
- 1 - 2 inch or larger eraser
- 1 - 12 inch/30 centimeter ruler (hard or flexible, must be flat and have metric markings)

In particular need right now are crayons, colored pencils, and notebooks, so watch for the sales and buy a shopping cart full!

Mutare Con't

We ask that you consider:

- continuing your support of Jane. (Advance Special number: 10739Z)
- providing scholarship support for a student: (Advance Special: 3021028)

Please Pray with Us

- prayer for wisdom for AU administration as decisions are made for next semester
- safe travels for all making long journeys, including AU students crossing borders to get to the campus.
- continued protection from Covid-19

Yours and His,
Jane and Larry Kies

RESPONSE Moment

Learn - Necessity of a Periodical

The Women's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church was founded on March 23, 1869, in Boston, Massachusetts. Two months later, the society published its first magazine. During the society's second official meeting on March 30, "the necessity of a periodical to represent this missionary work was soon discussed. Some feared it may not be sustained, but friendly hands were ready to support it, among the rest was Mr. Lewis Flanders, who offered to aid the experiment to the extent of \$500, if necessary. So encouraged, the first number of the "Heathen Woman's Friend" was issued in the month of May, under the editorship of Mrs. Wm. F. Warren, and it has since proved its great value to the enterprise. It now ranks as one of the first missionary papers of the world."

The United Methodist Church is a culmination of at least 10 different denominations and about twice as many women's groups affiliated with them - many of whom published their own periodicals. "The Light Along the Way" by previous "Response" editor Carol Marie Herb lists 17 predecessor magazines to "Response", published by various mission and women's groups of United Methodist predecessor denominations. The magazine you're reading continues this important history of women in mission telling the story of women in mission.

The march/april issue of "Response" 2021 shares a Bible study titled, "The Passion of Christ". The article was originally published in a "Response" 31 years ago. The article is an Easter Meditation that invites us to reflect on Jesus' path from the Last Supper to the Resurrection. It's a meditation that can provide encouragement, give us courage, hope and reliance on God every day of the year. The magazine is in the church library and would be an inspiration to anyone who reads it.

Quoted and paraphrased by Stephanie Buchs Education and Interpretation Coordinator



July Bible Verse

All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and creatures of the sea are being tamed and have been tamed by man.

James 3:7

Mission Witness

Through my work, I am constantly reminded that I am a servant. I may help set the table, but I am not the host. Neither do I have authority to decide who is invited to the table. My job is to serve.

Denise Walling, Order of Deaconess and Home Missioner, Ellis Medicine and Shenenhowa/Jonesville United Methodist Churches, Clifton Park, New York

UMW Reading Program

There is a shelf in the FUMC library dedicated to the United Methodist Women's READING PROGRAM

So here is the challenge - begin with PLAN I: 5 books this year. Choose one book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

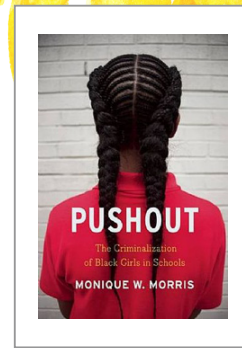
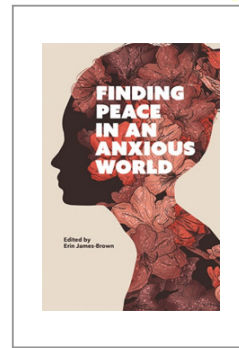
Good luck and joy in your reading!

UMW Statement on Renewed Israel-Palestinian Violence

NEW YORK – United Methodist Women Director of Public Relations and Marketing Yvette Moore today noted that the organization “grieves for the continued loss of life and opportunities for just peace in Israel and the still Occupied Territories. We pray for peace with justice in Jerusalem. We condemn the eviction threats and abuse against Palestinian families in East Jerusalem that preceded this current wave of violence and call for an immediate cease-fire. The United Methodist Church’s “Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Lands” resolution was first adopted in 2004 as a call for a just peace in this area, and it was reaffirmed in 2008 and 2012. We reiterate the United Methodist Church’s call for the U.S. government to work with the United Nations to end Israeli confiscation of Palestinian land and resources. We call on the United States to end all military aid to the area.

Opposition to Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Lands
 Excerpt: Moore referred the media to this earlier organizational statement: “The United Methodist Church opposes continued military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, the confiscation of Palestinian land and water resources, the destruction of Palestinian homes, the continued building of illegal Jewish settlements, and any vision of a ‘Greater Israel’ that includes the occupied territories and the whole of Jerusalem and its surroundings. We urge the U.S. government to end all military aid to the region, and second to redistribute the large amount of aid now given to Israel and Egypt; to support economic development efforts of nongovernmental organizations throughout the region, including religious institutions, human rights groups, labor unions, and professional groups within Palestinian communities.” (from The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016.)

United Methodist Women is the nation’s largest denominational organization for women. Members turn their faith, hope, and love into action raising more than \$10 million annually to support community centers and other programs empowering women, children and youth in the United States and around the world.



Ignited for Justice - Mission u 2021 From the comfort of your homes – a Virtual experience

Mission u, like many activities in our lives, has moved online. While virtual, we are still creating spaces for spiritual community, lifelong friendships, lessons that change us and our communities, and spiritual practices that arrive when we need them most.

Will you join us?

Participants of Mission u 2021 are encouraged to lead small group, book club discussions in your respective district/ local area. Please contact Linda Blazek Garvin (lindabg27@aol.com) for website to discussion guide for each study, if needed. Virtual Mission u has no registration fee to attend.

Our 2021 Mission u will offer the following studies:

Finding Peace in an Anxious World

-edited by Erin James-Brown (umwmissionresources.org)

On Zoom platform each Tuesday evening of July 2021 starting at 6:30 PM and ending at 8:00 PM Central led by Rev. Laurel Capesius

Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools

-by Monique Morris (through any bookseller)

On Zoom platform each Wednesday evening of July 2021 starting at 6:30 PM and ending at 8:00 PM Central led by Rev. Paul Witmer

RSVP: Email Sally Barrett, Mission u Registrar, with the following information: (barretts@mchsi.com)

Name, mailing address, and local church

Name(s) of class wish to attend

Link to Zoom platform will can be found on our website:

aboutfirst.com/missionu

SUNDAY MORNING

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

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

Children's Sunday School Online

Children's Sunday School is on break for the summer. Previous months worksheets are always available at aboutfirst.com/sonday-school.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT - your church night

Our Wednesday night program is suspended through the summer. We'll see you back in September. Have a great summer!

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

Facebook devotion

A devotion is offered on Facebook each Tuesday at 6:00pm with a rotating cast of characters.

On Fridays about noon one of our pastors will give a preview of next Sunday's message.



Newcomers' Coffee with the Pastors - July 25 - 9:30 am

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, July 25 at 9:30am 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!

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. Available for androids and i-people.

Or use our handy new QR Code!



GIVEPLUS⁺
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Vacation Bible School Registration Form

August 4

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in church office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613.

Participating Child

Child's Name _____ Child's Date of Birth _____

Age _____ Grade in Fall 2021 _____ (must turn 3 years old by September 15 to attend this year)

Names of Parents and adults authorized to pick up children. _____

Child's Home Address _____ City/State _____

Contact Information

Primary _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional _____ phone _____ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Health information

Please indicate any information about your child that we should know, I.E. allergies, medication, special restrictions, special needs, special friendships we should encourage, etc. _____

In the event of emergency, I authorize the First United Methodists' VBS Staff consent to appropriate medical treatment for my child _____ (signed)

If you are helping and will be here during VBS you do not have to complete the physician information.

Child's doctor's name and phone are listed below:

Physician _____ Physician's Phone _____

media release

First United Methodist Church may use photographs and video of my child's participation in VBS activities. I understand that photo and video images will NOT be labeled with children's names. circle: yes / no initial: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ date _____

Thank Yous

Thank you Jane for the beautiful rose for my 86 birthday. Also appreciated the card from the UMC staff. They made the day special.
Jerry Fogleman

I was so happy and grateful when Jane Wyckoff came to my door with the beautiful rose. On May 24 I turned 89! Oh, my! That sounds so old! Well, it IS old!
Jean Pierce

Thank you First UMC and Jane for the beautiful rose for my 80th birthday! Also thanks to Jane for the visit and good conversation.
Carolyn Hess

I want to thank you for the nice cards from the church staff and the Congregational Care Team on my birthday. It is always nice to be remembered every year. It was my 95th birthday. The Lord has really blessed me. God is good.
Bonnie Ling

Thank you for the birthday rose delivered by Jane Wyckoff, and card sent to me. I appreciate being remembered by my church family.
Elaine Chapman

We want to thank you and the church family for all the cards, calls and prayers for Mitch and us during his surgery and treatment time. He is in remission at this time, so we are hoping it's a long one, but only God knows the future.
Robert and Lolita Kulper

I have not been to church since March 2020 because of family needs and my health. In that time I have been well cared for by my church. Thank you to Jane Wyckoff and the Care Team for the birthday rose. Thank you for calls and letters of church family. Thank you to Pastor Scott and Pastor Matt for their calls and prayers. It is all in God's care.
Kay Messerschmidt

Thank you for partnering with us as a site for offering free tax assistance to Cedar Falls and surrounding communities. The volunteer tax preparers completed 486 returns this year at your church. It was an important service to the Cedar Falls community as evidenced by the warm appreciation clients extended to our volunteers for their assistance. We are grateful that First United Methodist Church was able to provide space in which our clients and volunteers felt safe.
AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

I wish to extend my personal thanks to the church for the beautiful quilt that was delivered to our door this past week. All of the cards, as well as the personal visits are very much

appreciated as I continue to undergo cancer treatment. Both Holly and I are especially grateful for such a caring church and for all of the thoughts and prayers extended to us during this time.
Respectfully,
Craig Schwerdtfeger

A joyful thank you to all who helped make Gary Pease's Celebration of Life service memorable, to those who baked cookies for fellowship time, and to those who served. Gary would have been so pleased and thankful, just as we are.
The family of Gary Pease

Sympathy

Julie Anderson and her family on the death of her husband, Dale. Dale's memorial service was held June 12.

Bud Stock and his family on the death of his sister, Phyllis Walter, on June 1.

Dean Noring and his family on the death of his brother, Lowell, on June 7.

Roger Maifeld and his extended family. Roger lost two sisters-in-law within a week in early June.

Family and friends of Wanda Anderson. Wanda died June 12. Her service was held June 16.

Welcome

Beckett Alan Schweinfurth was baptized on June 6. He is the son of Alan and Marissa Schweinfurth.

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

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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
Tuesday & Friday, 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
Karen Nelson, Associate Pastor, Karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com

Staff (in alphabetical order)

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Dee Behr, Parish Visitor
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John Bentley, Head Custodian

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