



aboutfirst

LOVE FIRST. LET'S GATHER, GROW, GO TOGETHER



JUNE 2023, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CEDAR FALLS

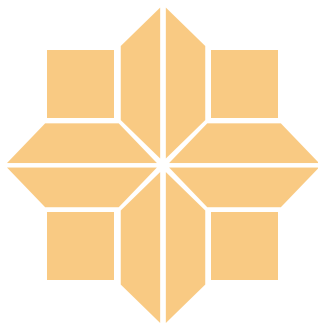
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Issue 272,
 June 2023

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



aboutfirst.com



2023 Rummage Sale Scheduled!

The Rummage Sale Committee met on May 25th and have set **August 3rd, 4th, and 5th** as this years' dates!

We will start taking donations on July 5th. We will have a least 2 volunteers available at the Gathering Place entrance to assist you in taking your items to a storage area. We will only be taking donations according to the following schedule weekly:

- Sundays: 8am – 11 am
- Mondays: 2pm – 5 pm
- Tuesdays: 9am – 12 noon
- Wednesdays: 6pm – 8 pm
- Thursdays: 2pm – 5pm

Donations will no longer be accepted after Monday, July 31st.

We will not accept the following items for the Rummage Sale this year:

- Furniture, computers, tires, paint, large appliances, mattresses, TV's, bicycles,
- Encyclopedias, water bottles, car seats, cribs, home improvement materials,
- Christmas trees, and outdoor gas lawn equipment.

Any questions, please contact Maxine Kehret at 319-266-6160.



Stephen Ministry Commissioning Class Sunday, May 14

Haleigh Ernst, Linda Kennedy, Scott Kober, Karen Nelson, Sue Ney, Lorrin Schofield

Thank you to the current Stephen Ministers for serving in this ministry. Dee Behr, Dean Hoover, Jan Hoover, Fely Houts, Nancy Miller, Sandy Noelting, Mary Schlicher, Deb Yankey



Committing to Love First

I write this as I prepare to attend the special session of the Iowa Annual Conference. The only action is to receive the churches that are resolved to disaffiliate from the United Methodist Church. It's not easy to gather my thoughts in such a time.

Recently, I heard an address by UM Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton (It can be found here: https://youtu.be/zyQ__Mojdg0). I was captured by this quote, "relationship is not dependent upon agreement, but it is dependent upon the want to inside."

Here at First UMC we have a vision, "a want to inside," Love first. Adopting such a "want to" has affected the way we are in relationship together. We may not agree on everything, but we want to stay in relationship. It's an approach that says we are stronger with you and we are the body of Christ more fully with you, than without you. The question is, do you want to?

Here are some commitments that we have been using since May of 2022:

- Nothing has changed at First UMC—our mission and vision remain the same since January of 2019.
- We continue to lead prayerfully and use Christian discernment to stay connected. Any changes will involve a congregational vote.
- As your pastors we will continue to listen and offer counsel to all members of our congregation.
- Future forums will be offered to keep the congregation informed.

We need each other now more than ever if we are to reclaim our passion for the vision to Love first.

Blessings,

Pastor Scott



Support For Those Who Grieve

The loss of a loved one is difficult at any time. How can we, as a church family help? Here are a few suggestions:

- Phone someone and listen to his/her story.
 - Avoid sharing too much of your own concerns, just listen.
 - Send a card, not only a sympathy card, but a follow-up card to let the person know you are still available.
 - Offer to bring a meal or treat or go out for a meal.
 - Don't forget those whose loss occurred awhile ago.
- Grief does not end after a few weeks or months.
- Pray for and with your friend. God cares and so should we.



mission of the month

Our June Mission is Community Meals

First United Methodist Church has been host to Community Meals for many years. Every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm people converge in Scott Hall for a nutritious and tasty meal. Area churches take turns preparing the meals each week.

Our church is responsible for the 4th Tuesday of each month. While we're always in need of baked goods that week, we are also in need of monetary donations to help keep up with the rising cost of food for the increased number of participants.

This gathering is not only a chance for hungry or food insecure people in the Cedar Valley to congregate, but it opens the doors of our church for radical hospitality. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to greet, meet and eat with people in our community.

You may give to mission projects by dropping your contribution into the Sunday offering plate, or coming in to the church office during business hours. You may also give to mission projects through the Venmo and Shazam Bolt\$ mobile apps, by sending your gift to contributions@aboutfirst.com. Be sure to specify that it's for Community Meals.

June 8th and 20th Food Bank

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank Needs You! We'll be sending crews to the Food Bank on Thursday, June 8 from 9 to 4 pm and Tuesday, June 20 from 9 to 11 am. If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboards at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space. If you can't make it every month, that's okay! Rides are available from the church to the food bank and if we are working in the refrigeration area you will be contacted in advance. Remember to wear closed toe shoes.



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. Your donations do make a difference.

Community Meal



A free meal is served every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. It is open to anyone in the community as an opportunity to meet with

friends, or to stretch their food budget a bit. We host the meal every week, and other area churches take turns providing the meal and the workers. Our church's commitment is the 4th Tuesday of each month. Thank you to all who have volunteered to be a part of this. At this point our biggest need is dessert – cookies or bars are preferred. If you are willing to bake for the meal the 4th Tuesdays of each month please contact Maxine Kehret at 319-610-4191.



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 and quilts 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.

Find your Place in God's Great Story



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flower calendar 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.

BUS SERVICE

The bus picks for the 10:15 traditional or 10:00 combined service in the sanctuary. We are offering this ministry for people in Cedar Falls. Call Steve and Janet MacTaggart at 319-404-0077 to let them know you are interested.

FACEBOOK DEVOTION

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

TECH VOLUNTEERS

Tech volunteers get to use the same cool equipment and do the same important job as our paid staff, but they have more flexibility to pick and choose the Sundays and services they work. We can't do this without

volunteers. No experience necessary – we can teach you what you need to know. Email chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com for more info.

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. Email Jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com for more info.

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.

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. 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.

KEEP THE BELLS RINGING

Routine maintenance and professional servicing are necessary for bell instruments, including occasional overhauls every couple of decades. Currently, the handbells need an overhaul, which may cost around \$10,000. The congregation can help cover these costs by contributing to the bell fund, which some ringers have pledged personal gifts to. Help us keep the bells ringing for another 20 years!



June

Mondays - Yoga

Where: Fellowship Hall

Time: 4:45-5:45 pm

Join us for an hour of yoga on Monday afternoons at 4:45. Bring your own yoga mat (and blocks if you have them) and meet in Fellowship Hall. Our instructor, Angie, will guide us through gentle stretches and poses that are sure to keep you limber and ready to face the rest of the week.

The cost is \$7 per session, and you can pay Angie each time or she will accept payment at month's end (cash or check only). No need to commit to every week, just come when you can.

June 6 - Grief Support Session

Where: Parlor

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a difficult journey. Your church family cares and offers several forms of support including: one-to-one individual support, social outings, a quarterly grief newsletter, and a monthly support session. Our June session will be held on Tuesday, June 6th in the church parlor from 2:00 to 3:30 pm. If you have suffered the loss of someone special, you are welcome, whether you are a member of our church or not. If you know someone who is grieving, please pass along this information. You may call Carol through the church office at 319-266-1713.

June 8 & 20 - Food Bank

Where: Food Bank

The Northeast Iowa Foodbank Needs You! We'll be sending crews to the Food Bank on Thursday, May 11 from 9 to 4 pm and Tuesday, May 16 from 9 to 11 am.

If you are interested, please sign up on the clipboards at the Welcome Desk in the Gathering Space. If you can't make it every month, that's okay! Rides are available from the church to the food bank and if we are working in the refrigeration area you will be contacted in advance.

June 8 -11 - Stellar VBS

Come experience the VBS that sends everyone over the moon! We will launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. STELLAR rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun.

If you would like to be a part of this amazing event please contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com. We still need food donations and volunteers.

June 13 - Let's Make Some Cards!

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00 to 4:00 pm (Come-and-Go)

In addition to our regular card makers, we invite anyone who lives in the Western Home Communities to join us this month as we make cards for their Friends group to sell in the larger buildings. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and have some fun! No experience needed.

June 15 - 1st Friends Potluck

Where: Gathering Place

Time: 12:00 pm

Come and join us for good food, fellowship and fun.

This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with others in the church and have lunch with the church staff. Couples and singles are welcome. All you have to do is bring a dish to share and your own table service. We will have the coffee pot on and ready to serve at 12:00. Dominoes, cribbage, and card games follow the meal until 2:00.

June 25-30 - Youth Mission Trip

Please keep the youth and our adult volunteers in your prayers as they do God's work in Kenosha WI!

June 26 - Crafters Corner

Where: Parlor

When: 6:00-8:00 pm

Get your crafting project lined up and join the group on the 4th Monday of the month from 6:00-8:00 in the Parlor. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

June 26 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30-6:00 pm

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, June 26 from 12:30-6:00. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill, and the need is great. Appointments are encouraged, but not required. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

July 5 - Rummage Sale Collection Begins

Where: Gathering Place

When: 6:30 pm

We will start taking donations on July 5th. There will be at least 2 volunteers available at the Gathering Place entrance to assist you in taking your items to a storage area. Donations will no longer be accepted after Monday, July 31st. See Page 2 of this newsletter for more details.

Volunteer Opportunity

Matthew 25 in Cedar Rapids is looking for volunteers during the week of June 25 -30 for their 8th annual Transform Week. They will be working in the Taylor and

Time Check neighborhoods of Cedar Rapids, helping homeowners get their homes to a more safe and livable condition. This year, they will continue helping by painting garages, doing yard work, fixing fences and other minor carpentry repairs. If you are interested in helping for a few hours or a few days, please go to their sign up page for more information or contact Jana at jana@hub25.org

Summer Worship Schedule

Mark your calendar! These Sundays we will worship together in the Sanctuary at 10:00am:

June 4 (one service), June 25, July 2, September 3. Worship on the Green is 10:00 on Sunday, August 27.

SUNDAY MORNING

Our Sunday Worship times begin June 11.

8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary, live stream at aboutfirst.com
9:00-10:15	Fellowship, Gathering Place
9:15 am	Transformation Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall live stream at aboutfirst.com
10:15 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

Previous services are archived on our First UMC CF YouTube channel

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

crazyfunbusy will be back in the fall! Have a wonderful summer!



Mission Trip Month is HERE... Thank You!

After nearly a year of planning, praying, and fundraising, our youth will be departing for their mission trip to Kenosha, WI on June 25 to spread God's love and build his kingdom! We are really excited for this trip, and it would not be possible without all the support from our wonderful church family. Whether you have prayed for us, encouraged us, or donated to our fundraisers, we appreciate you more than we can say! Please keep the youth and our adult volunteers in your prayers as they do God's work in Kenosha—we can't wait to share our experiences with you when we get home!

Mission Trip Zoom Meeting — June 11, 7:30pm

If you are attending our mission trip to Kenosha, WI, please plan to attend an informational Zoom meeting on June 11 at 7:30pm. We will be covering details on departure time, what to expect,

and what you should pack. This is an important meeting, so please plan to be there, or let us know in advance if you can't be! The link to join the meeting will be sent via email to all who have signed up. If you have any questions, please contact Haleigh at youth@aboutfirst.com.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82806063723>

Meeting ID: 828 0606 3723

G3 Youth Summer Activities

Our regular Wednesday night activities might be on pause for the summer, but we still have plenty of opportunities to gather, grow, and GO together! Check out our summer schedule, and bring your friends for fun and fellowship with G3 Youth! (NOTE: Our Fun Friday Game Nights are on pause for the summer too, but will resume again in September.) Contact Lorrin at youth@aboutfirst.com if you have any questions.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 7: VBS

Decor Day, noon-2:00pm. Come help us decorate for Stellar VBS and create an out-of-this-world

experience for our younger kiddos! No need to bring anything, just come as you are, ready to help! Pizza and pop will be provided.

JUNE 25-30: Mission trip to Kenosha, WI

WEDNESDAY JULY 12: Ice Cream Night, 6:30-7:30pm. Meet at the church and bring your own money for ice cream. We will go to 4 Queens as a group, then come back for some outdoor games and fellowship!

SATURDAY AUGUST 5: Annual Rummage Sale Cleanup, 12:45 until finished. Each year, the youth serve our rummage sale team by helping to clean up after the annual rummage sale. This involves moving unsold items from various rooms to be collected and donated to local charities. After cleanup, we will serve ice cream sundaes to all volunteers in the gathering space!

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 16: Mini Retreat, 5:30-7:00pm. Join us for a relaxing night on the last Wednesday before school starts! We will have dinner and prayer stations/activities to get you centered and ready to face another school year with God's help.

Relay for Life Cancer Crushers

Once again FUMC has registered a team for the Black Hawk County Relay For Life. If you would like to join the FUMC Cancer Crushers, you can sign up online at www.relayforlife.org/blackhawkcountyia. Be sure to sign up for our team FUMC Cancer Crushers.

Relay For Life Friday June 16th from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at Hawkeye Community College. The theme is Crusin' for a Cure--because we're racing towards the finish line as we're Crusin' For A Cure!

In addition to all the fun events, there will be a car show during the Relay! This will be a 'show & shine' event – no trophies or high entry fees. Registration for the car show is a freewill donation with all proceeds going to the Relay.

Luminarias are a wonderful way to encourage a cancer fighter or survivor or remember someone we have lost to cancer. A minimum donation of \$10 per luminaria is requested. Purchasers can decorate their own luminaria bags, or we can decorate the bag for them. Cindi Knox can get luminaria bags for you to decorate or take your information to have the bags decorated.

All cancer survivors are invited to the annual survivor reception at Relay For Life. RSVP is preferred for planning, but not required. Survivors should register on the website or contact Lynette at lynettelee63@gmail.com to RSVP or for questions or further details. If you have questions or need other information please connect with Team Captain Cindi Knox in person, via phone at 319-230-5642 or via email at cindi50701@aol.com.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 8-11

The VBS that send everyone over the moon! We will launch kids on a cosmic quest where they'll have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. STELLAR rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun. If you would like to be a part of this amazing event please contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

Cost: Free

Dates: June 8th-11th

Times: Thursday, June 8th 5:00-7:30 pm

Friday, June 9th 5:00-7:30

Saturday, June 10th 9:00am-Noon

Sunday, June 11th 8:30 VBS Theme Sunday Service.

Ice Cream social to follow afterwards.

Participating Child

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

Age _____ Grade in Fall 2023 _____ (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 _____



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.

Marlys Cook, Geri Gilbert, Shirley Huffman, Marilyn Pape
Martin Suites
420 E. 11th St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Wanda Chase, Sharon Krebs, Homer Leymaster, Emogene Marty, Marcia Simpson
Windhaven Assisted Living
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Barb Spates
Thalman Square
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Sue DeBower (201), Harold Krebs, Nick Teig
Deery Suites
5301 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Faye Rohwedder
Thuesen Cottage
5127 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

Vivian Hill, Donna Hoffman, Dorothy Schwab, Bill & Mary Shepherd
New Aldaya Lifescapes
7511 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Joy Sires (#1302), Donna Tiller (1304)
CedarStone Senior Living
4715 Algonquin Dr
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Betty Fanning, Chet Starr
Bickford Cottage
5101 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

Kathy Gill
LaPorte City Specialty Care
1100 US-218
La Porte City IA 50651

Dixie Messerschmidt
Village Ridge
365 Marion Blvd Apt 111
Marion IA 52302-3141

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

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.



GIVEPLUS⁺
A VANCO COMPANY

Thank You

To our neighbors at First United Methodist Church – We are beyond fortunate to be your neighbors! We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of literacy at Lincoln through both volunteerism and financial support. Thank you!
- Ralph Bryant
on behalf of Lincoln Elementary

The family of Lura Treloar wants to greatly thank the FUMC United Methodist Women as well as your visiting team for the beautiful TLC that you have provided for our mother while she was living in the Western Home Communities. Even when she was still able to participate in some activities she would still receive a birthday flower, a Christmas poinsettia, a regular supply of notes of encouragement and drip in visitation. Many of those years also involved having communion brought to her! I will also add a “shout out” for Jane Wyckoff who had been visiting and delivering to my mother for quite some time before we realized that Jane was my former neighbor. An additional benefit that we experienced through your faithful visits.
- Lynn Treloar Neill

A big thank you to Paul Klotz for servicing the church’s push mower recently.
- Larry Petersen

Thank you to all of the First United Methodist family for the cards, visits, and prayers after my son Brian died. It meant so much to know you cared. - Marlys Cook

Sympathy

Keep the family and friends of Colleen Crow in your prayers. Colleen died May 17.

Keep the family and friends of JoAnn Vognsen in your prayers. JoAnn died May 22.

New Members

We welcomed several new members to our church family on April 30. Be sure to say hello to Jenifer Breyer, Matt & Miranda Haugen and Emma and Andie, Ed & Daphne Pruisner and Elau and Miel, and Shelley Reichert.



Seven confirmation students also joined our church: Edie Bryant, Jonathan Burton, Shane Cole, Violet Etheredge, Ethan Jacobsen, Hayden Walters, and Ciaran Wenzel.

Finance Update

We are grateful for your faithful giving to sustain the ministries and missions of First UMC CF. Your support has been vital in maintaining our church as a spiritual home for all people. Here’s where our finances stand as of April 30, 2023:

Church giving towards our operating budget	\$254,588
Other sources of revenue	\$10,044
Total Operating Revenues	\$264,632
Operating Expenses	\$278,649
Operating Deficit	(\$14,017)

In the first four months of this year, our giving has fallen behind expenses. If we are to stay on-track, we will need to grow our giving in the remaining months of the year.

90th Birthday Celebration

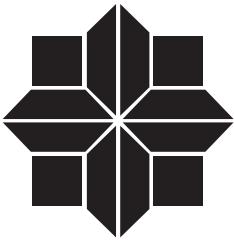
Please join family and friends of Sue Mutchler to celebrate her 90th birthday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday, July 2nd at the Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls. We will be celebrating in the Gathering Place of the church. Cake and refreshments will be provided, and cards are welcome!

Card Shower

Dean and Roxanne Noring will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary (June 2) with a card shower. Send cards to 8116 Buckridge Road, Cedar Falls, IA 50613



We are a Dementia Friendly Organization!



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

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First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

Worship

8:30 am Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:00-11:15 Fellowship, Gathering Place
9:15 am Transformation Contemporary Worship,
Fellowship Hall
11:15 am Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

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)

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

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

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

Carol Dick, Grief Support Coordinator
cdick@cfu.net

Ben Edwards,
Transformation Music Coordinator

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

Haleigh Ernst, Middle School Youth
youth@aboutfirst.com

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

Patricia Harkin, Finance Manager
patricia.harkin@aboutfirst.com

Bevan Lucas, Music Ministry Coordinator
bevan.lucas@aboutfirst.com

Lorin Schofield, High School Youth
youth@aboutfirst.com

Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor Coordinator