

# about**first** news

April, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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issue 211, April 2018

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)

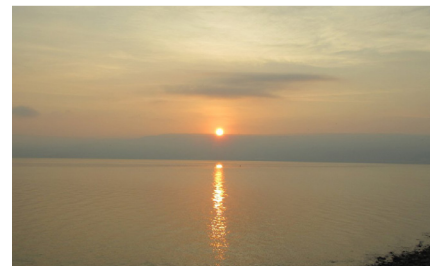
## Thoughts from Steve

We had a great trip to the Holy Land. This was our sixth trip, and it was just as meaningful and exciting as our first. We have had the opportunity to travel with many people from our congregations. Upon our return, each one has told me that the trip changed their life: it changed the way they read their Bible, it changed their faith, and it changed their hearts in walking where Jesus walked. Their tour of Israel allowed the sights, sounds, and aromas of the Bible to come alive for them. Every one of our trips has been a life-changing experience greatly due to the people who shared our journey.

It is the people you travel with that makes all the difference in the world. I have always been amazed at how our groups move from strangers to friends, and finally, by the time we board our plane home, we become a family. The mystery of the Holy Spirit working through everyone on the Tan Bus during our journey helped mold us into brothers and sisters. Our group was represented by people from all over the country, but we all shared the same faith in Jesus Christ – and God certainly became real to all of us while we are in Israel.

Every site we visited in Israel was a profound spiritual experience for me, with many of them having their place in the Bible such as: Caesarea, Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Mount of Olives, the Jordan River, the Garden of Gethsemane, and certainly the Garden Tomb. Our Guide Ramzi was excellent in making all these sites come to life and understand their place in the Bible. While each of these sites will forever be etched into my heart and mind, two locations in particular have made a lasting impression on my life and my faith.

First, at the Sea of Galilee, we sailed on the water and surveyed the landscape where Jesus conducted the majority of his ministry. Sitting in the boat gave me a chance to see the places I often read about in the Bible in a new context and depth that hasn't changed much in 2,000 years. The Sea of Galilee gave me a beautiful memory that inspires me almost every day, and continues to give me the comfort of imagining Jesus calming the storm. Several of us got up early to watch the sunrise over the sea.



Secondly, I find when I am sitting in the stillness of the Garden of Gethsemane (cover photo) among the ancient Olive Trees – while looking up to see Jerusalem and reflecting about Jesus' time in the garden – stirs something deep inside of me that I cannot express with mere words. I think "if only these Olive Trees could talk" when I remember Jesus praying with his disciples preparing himself for Judas' betrayal, being arrested, and the rest of the disciples scattering into the darkness. It is a holy place for me.

Personally, I feel that I have been given a unique perspective that could only be experienced by standing in Israel. This new perspective has changed the way I read my Bible, and it has changed the way I preach and share the Gospel in my ministry. So, my trips to Israel really have changed my life, and have allowed me to experience the sights, sounds, and aromas of the Bible, and because of that, my faith has deepened.

I hope my telling of our travels where Jesus walked will help you bring your faith to life.

Thank you for your prayers for a safe and meaningful trip!

*Pastor Steve and Janet*

## Communion Sunday – April 8 “Breakfast with Jesus”

Communion will be served at all services on Sunday, April 8. We have traditionally celebrated the Sunday after Easter in remembering Jesus meeting seven of the disciples by the Sea of Galilee early in the morning. Peter invites the others to return home to go fishing in an attempt to try and make sense of the Resurrection. Jesus appears on the beach and has breakfast prepared for them. The Holy Land travelers stood on the shore where Jesus met the disciples that morning. Some of us got up early to see the sunrise over the sea.

## Join the usher team

We have two spots to fill at the 11:00 services (10:00 in summertime ), one in the January/ May/September team and one in the March/July/November team. Please consider serving the church by joining one of these teams. Marilyn Teig is the contact for questions. You can get her contact information from the church office.

## You Sound Good in Purple

Laboratory tests confirm that people who wear purple robes sound great when they sing together - even when only a few of them have good voices. If you love to sing, we'd love to add your voice to the choir. We rehearse on Wednesday nights, and sing most Sunday mornings. You're welcome to come when you can, and we'll hook you up with a robe that's just your size.



## Living Lord's Supper Thank You

- Maundy Thursday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you very much to all of the people who made this year's Living Last Supper such a moving experience. You may or may not know that the third scene of this drama, which changes every year, is written by Pastor Steve. This year it featured Mark Fransdal in the character of Nicodemus.



Directing the worship service and the drama was Shari King. Jim Reidy operated the spotlight, Pastor Steve was the narrator. Mics and lights were programmed by Chris Congdon. Cynthia Kenyon assisted the disciples with their costumes. Doug Shaffer played the organ and Pastor Matt served as worship leader. Thank you all who served as ushers, or any other behind-the-scenes role. Thank you to our custodians John Bentley and Emily Terpstra for keeping the sanctuary ready for worship during the busy Holy Week.

Jesus – Ralph Bryant  
 Simon Peter – Brian Birkenholz  
 Andrew – Dalton Blackford  
 James – Kaleb Zimmerman  
 John – Jon Cooper  
 Philip – Randy Blackford  
 Bartholomew – Bart Etheredge  
 Thomas – Tim Burton

Matthew – Heath Wilken  
 James the Less – Matt Porter  
 Jude – (Thaddeus) – Coved Oswald  
 Simon the Zealot – Tony DeBonis  
 Judas Iscariot – Mike Cole  
 Householder – Shawna Brimm  
 Nicodemus – Mark Fransdal

## Fusion Welcomes Some Big-Name Speakers



On March 21 we welcomed Cedar Falls Mayor Jim Brown to our weekly worship talk show, Fusion Tonight. Mayor Brown delivered a message of maintaining his faith in the secular world of public service. If you missed it, go watch it on our [youtube channel](#). We think you'll be impressed by what you hear. Following that same theme, in April we'll welcome a political campaign worker, a public school administrator and our Black Hawk County Sheriff.

- April 4, Danielle Templeton
- April 11, Ralph Bryant
- April 18, Sheriff Tony Thompson

Fusion Tonight is our worship talk show hosted by Jon Cooper. It's fun and it's serious and you're invited, Wednesday nights at 7:15, upstairs in the theater. We'll have open mic prayer time, an offering to support our monthly mission, our featured speaker, and we'll have you on your way home by 8:00pm.

## Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. 319-610-4249 [musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)

# 4 Home Page



## Holy Land Trip

We made it back safe and sound from our trip to Israel. Thank you for your prayers, and a special thank you to Dianne Sullivan and Bob Condra for getting us back and forth from the airport. Many of you have asked: Was it a good trip? Did we have a meaningful experience? Did you feel safe? What was the most memorable time? It has been difficult to find the right words to describe our experience. It was overwhelming.

Those who traveled with us were Debbie Condra, Robin Fletcher (Linsey Zimmerman's mother), Gaylord and Sharlene Hinderaker (from Waverly), Claudia Koch, Susie Nation (Steve's sister), Karen Page, Mary Shepherd, Chris Werling, Pastor Steve and Janet Williams. Our guide, Ramzi led us to sites where Jesus walked and the story of God's love for the world was revealed. The Bible was brought to life and in full living color.

## Empty Bowls – April 6

Friday, April 6th will mark this year's Empty Bowls event for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The goal of the event is to raise awareness and educate the community on the issue of hunger. In addition to enjoying a meal and receiving a symbolic bowl, supporters will also have the opportunity to take part in the Silent and Live Auctions and Raffle, with the Silent Auction beginning at 6:00 p.m. The event will take place at the Five Sullivan Brothers Convention Center in Waterloo.



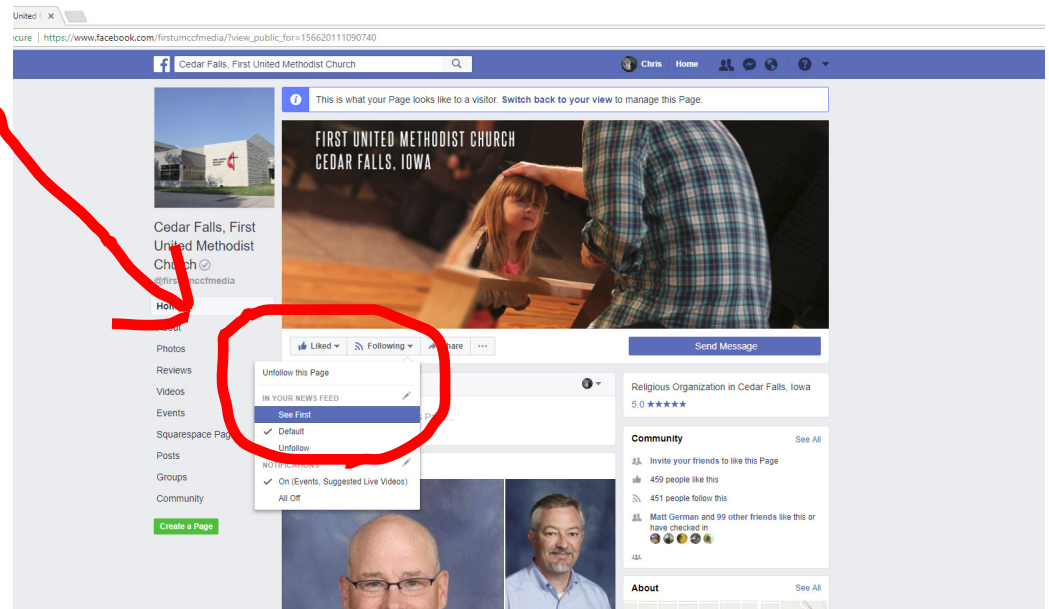
Tickets for the event are just \$25 and all dollars raised will go to support the Northeast Iowa Food Bank and the over 46,440 individuals who are hungry in northeast Iowa. With the purchase of a ticket, participants will receive a meal of soup and bread and also a handcrafted bowl to keep as a symbol of hunger in our area. The \$25 tickets also provide the opportunity to participate in both the Silent and Live Auctions. To purchase a ticket, please contact the Northeast Iowa Food Bank at 319-235-0507, or follow the links at the NE Iowa Food Bank website or Facebook page.

## Don't Lose Us in Your Facebook Feed!

Facebook is changing the programming that populates your feed, and that may impact whether you see messages from First UMC, or not. It may not be enough to just like our church facebook page, you may have to take one more step to ensure that you see all of the information that we post. Here's what you do:

1. Go to the church's facebook page (Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church)
2. Open the drop-down menu under the "Following" button
3. Select "See First"

That's it. That's all you have to do to ensure that you'll continue to get weekly announcements, watch sermons, see pastor's messages, and participate in the online discussion topics.



## Bishop Laurie will be here April 22

Where: First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

When: Sunday, April 22, 2018, 2:30-5:00pm

On Sunday, April 22, we will welcome Iowa Conference Bishop Laurie Haller to Cedar Falls First UMC. Bishop Haller is traveling the state, holding meetings in each district to lead conversations on the proposals from the Commission on a Way Forward. These proposals address the way(s) in which we might maintain church unity while living in a time of controversy regarding issues of human sexuality.

Our denomination has been wrestling with these issues for decades and a special General Conference has been scheduled for next year, 2019. There are two practical issues at stake: ordination of LGBTQ clergy, and the allowance of LGBTQ marriage. Underlying those practical issues are the UMC's official position statements on human sexuality, and the question of whether those statements should or should not be revised.

These are interesting issues because there are scriptural bases for positions on each side. These are contentious issues because there is passion on both sides. And, these are important issues because ultimately we're talking about the possibility of restructuring how the people of God choose to work in ministry with each other.

All United Methodists in the Northeast District - including you! - are invited to join us for this special and important event.

If you would like to know more about the special 2019 General Conference, or the Commission on a Way Forward, follow this link:

<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/commission-on-a-way-forward>

## Rev. Jim Stiles Passes Away

Pastor Jim Stiles served as Associate Pastor at Cedar Falls First UMC from 1978 until 1983. He worked extensively with our youth program, led many studies, and he and his wife connected well with other young couples in the church. He and Jan were living in Washington, Iowa, having retired from serving in ministry there in 2015.

Rev. Jim Stiles' funeral service was held Saturday, March 24 at First UMC in Washington. Our deepest condolences to Jan, daughter Jami Shelbrock (Plainfield IL), and son Jeff Stiles (Crestwood MO).



## Nominations Committee

Our Leadership Development Committee is beginning the process of recruiting our leadership for the coming program year. There are lots of committees and work areas which could use your talents, expertise, and your hands. If there is an area in which you would like to serve, and don't know how to get involved, let us know in the church office and we can connect you to the right people. Serving your church is a way to witness your faith!

## News From "The Connection"

Does First UMC give you a feeling that you're connected to something big? That's by design. "Connectional" is a word we use to describe the structure of the global United Methodist Church. Each local church is connected to every other local church through a network of districts, jurisdictions and conferences. It's a structure that allows churches to function locally, while still being "connected" to the ideas and resources of a global faith community. It is the connectional nature of our United Methodist Church that makes our relationship with Banyam Seminary possible, and has led to real friendships between congregations across town and around the world.

Check out the news from the church beyond Cedar Falls. We think you'll be encouraged and inspired to know that you're a member of an organization that promotes the Gospel, justice and works for the peace of Christ worldwide.

For Iowa UMC news: [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org)

For global UMC news: [umc.org](http://umc.org)

## Miss A Sermon?

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

Go to our website at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and scroll until you see "sermons". You'll find a direct link to our youtube channel with all of our sermons and videos.

# 6 Events

## April 3 - Grief Support Session

**Where:** Church Parlor

**When:** 2:00 to 3:30 pm

If you have suffered a loss lately, you know the pain, loneliness, and stress this can bring. Sometimes it helps to meet with others during this difficult time. The First UMC Grief support Team offers a monthly support session. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 3rd from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the church parlor. New participants are always welcome. Please call Carol through the church office with questions.

## April 3 - Food Bank Work Crew

**Where:** Northeast Iowa Food Bank

**When:** 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join the crew from our church that helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Often we fill grocery bags with kid friendly good for the Backpack program. Sometimes we get selected for other much needed jobs. It's always a good time and a great bunch of people. You can carpool with Lisa Congdon or get yourself to the Food Bank at 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. Would you like to be on the reminder email or do you want to know more? Contact Lisa in the church office. [lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

## April 19 - First Friends Potluck

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** noon - 2:00pm

Everyone is welcome! Spend some time enjoying good food, card games, dominos, cribbage, etc. Fellowship is an important part of the gathering. Check us out! Come and get better acquainted with others in the church. Couples and singles are welcome. Bring a dish to share and your own table service. We meet on the third Thursday of every month from noon until 2 pm in the Gathering Place.

## April 23 - LifeServe Blood Drive

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 12:30-6:00

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, April 23 from 12:30-6:00. Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org). Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to let Lisa know if you can donate cookies or chat and serve cookies to the donors for an hour or so.

## April 24 - Crafter's Corner

**Where:** Church Parlor

**When:** 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or give your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade gifts for those in need, or prayer shawls for those in need. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. Contact Crystal Wilken at [crystalwilken@gmail.com](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with questions.

## Zumba Every Thursday!

You can always Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact [mary.friedrich@cfu.net](mailto:mary.friedrich@cfu.net) if you have questions. Come and dance...it's never too late to join us on this fun fitness adventure!



## Threehouse Trivia Nite

**Good Fun - Great Cause! - April 14**

Come and test your knowledge at Threehouse: A Wesley Foundation! Threehouse is hosting a night full of Trivia on April 14th at 6:00 PM. Bring a team of 4 to 8 or simply bring yourself! The cost to play is \$10 a person. All the proceeds will be going towards their May service trip to CASS Community Social Services in Detroit. There will be a variety of questions that range from Motown to Star Wars! And don't forget to come with an appetite! Follow the [link](#) to sign up or just simply show up! Email Jordan Derhammer ([jordanderhammer.wesley@gmail.com](mailto:jordanderhammer.wesley@gmail.com)) with any questions.



## Wednesday is Your CrazyFunBusy Church Night!

- 5:15 - 6:00 **The Filling Station**  
- a meal for everyone. Eat & go on to .....
- 6:00 - 7:10 **Jr / Sr High Youth**  
- fun & connections for 7th - 12th graders
- 6:00 - 7:15 **BLAST! (for kids)**  
- Bible Learning And Service Together
- 6:00 - 7:15 **More Than Moms**  
- helps for the real life of womanhood
- 6:15 - 7:30 **Tower Bells**  
- weekly bell choir rehearsal. Want to play?
- 7:15 - 8:00 **FUSION Tonight**  
- live talk show / worship
- 7:30 - 8:30 **Chancel Choir**  
- for adults who love to sing

## Recurring Weekly:

### Sunday

8:00 prayer in the chapel  
 8:30 Transformation Worship  
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place  
 9:45 Sunday School for some adults  
 10:00 Frederika UMC worship  
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship  
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 6:00-7:30 Disciple Bible Study, library  
 6:30 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday

9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, 059  
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30-8:00 men's group  
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

### Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor  
 5:15 AA, 055  
 5:15-6:00 Filling Station. Gathering Place  
 6:00-7:15 More than Moms, parlor  
 6:00 Discerning the Voice of God, chapel  
 6:00-7:15 BLAST  
 6:00 Youth Group, 3rd floor  
 6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary  
 6:30 WOW AA, 055  
 7:15 FUSION Tonight  
 7:30-8:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir rm

### Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

## Also Scheduled....

### SUNDAY April 1

Easter Sunday  
 8:00 prayers for our church, chapel  
 8:30 Transformation Worship  
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place  
 10:00 Chris Werling at Frederika  
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary

### MONDAY April 2

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

### TUESDAY April 3

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor  
 6:00-8:30 Food Bank Work Crew

### WEDNESDAY April 4

7:15 FUSION - Danielle Templeton

### THURSDAY April 5

6:30 Trustees, 057

### SATURDAY April 7

1:00 UMC Sportsmen event

### SUNDAY April 8

6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts, chapel  
 7:00 Cub Scouts (10), 056

### MONDAY April 9

9:30 UMW Board meeting, library  
 9:30 Grief Support to Hartman Reserve  
 10:00 FirstKids worship  
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel

### TUESDAY April 10

1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 5:00 Hearts & Hands  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts  
 6:30 Farmer's Market meeting, Gather Place

### WEDNESDAY April 11

2:00 Stanard Care communion service  
 6:00-7:15 FUMC Sportsmen  
 6:30 Finance Committee, 057  
 7:15 FUSION - Ralph Bryant

### THURSDAY April 12

1:00 UMW Unit Meeting, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 SPRC, 057

### SATURDAY April 14

11:00 UMC Sportsmen event

### SUNDAY April 15

9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:00 Padma Templeton at Frederika

### MONDAY April 16

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor  
 6:30 Worship committee, library  
 6:30 Pack 44 Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hal

### WEDNESDAY April 18

11:00 Pinnacle Care Chapel service  
 7:15 FUSION - Sheriff Tony Thompson

### THURSDAY April 19

Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place  
 1:00-4:00 Cub scout leaders  
 6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, parlor

### SUNDAY April 22

9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:00 Chris Werling at Frederika  
 10:30 Chris Congdon at Washington Chapel  
 1:30-2:30 District team meeting, parlor  
 2:30-5:00 Bishop Laurie District Meeting  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts, chapel

### MONDAY April 23

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place

### TUESDAY April 24

1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor  
 6:30 Love INC Community volunteers mtng

### WEDNESDAY April 25

2:00 Windermere Communion Service  
 Last CrazyFunBusy Wed. spring session  
 6:00 UMW Mission speaker, library  
 7:15 FUSION - Lesley Toma / communion

### THURSDAY April 26

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor  
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor

### SUNDAY April 29

9:45 New member class, parlor  
 10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika

### MONDAY April 30

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 Noon newsletter labeling crew

## Next Month ....

### SUNDAY May 6

7:00 Spring Bell Choir Concert



## BLAST

### Bible Learning And Serving Together

Please join us Wednesday nights. BLAST is for students turning 5 this school year -6th grades.

Last BLAST April 25

The spring semester of BLAST will end on Wednesday, April 25. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped this year! Having you with us every Wednesday made the nights a great experience. Thank you to all of the BLAST kids for coming and having a great time. You are the reason we are here.

## Filling Station

Filling Station will wrap up on April 25th. Thank you to everyone who helped cook, serve, provided desserts and donated food. We would not be able to have this if it were not for all of your help!



## Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 10th-14th

Let's vacation in Babylon! At Babylon Vacation Bible School, we'll visit Babylon through the eyes of Daniel. Kids and adults will discover they're not much different from Daniel and his friends. We'll learn that like Daniel, we can courageously keep our faith even when things aren't going so well. Through this interactive program, children will be guided through beach- themed, music, crafts, science activities, recreation, Bible stories and much more.

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS". Please complete one registration form per child.

We are **looking for volunteers**. If you would like to become a part of Vacation Bible School, please contact Jenna Engel.

## Plan Your Summer Camp Adventure Now!

Church Camp is an adventure that every kid should experience. The Iowa United Methodist Camp catalog is available and there's an adventure for everyone at one of our three Iowa United Methodist Camps. Horses, go-karts, swimming, art - there's all kinds of camps to choose from and they all include meeting new friends and a good, healthy dose of the great outdoors. Learn more about God by meeting his other children and having the adventure of a lifetime. Find the camp catalog online at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps> or talk to Jenna Engel for a printed copy.





# Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 10 - Thursday, June 14

6:30-8:15 pm

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS". Please complete one registration form per child.



## Participating Child

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Sunday School Classes for Everyone

Preschool through 6th grade rooms are down stairs. 7th-12th room is on the 3rd floor. If you are new to the church or have a three year old and would like to get them involved with Sunday School please contact Jenna Engel.

## Adult Sunday School

Everyone is welcome - you do not need to be a member of First UMC to attend.

## CCF (Christ Centered Families)

This class will focus on strengthening our families and developing our young children into strong Christians.

Room: 057

## Growing Christians

Our studies generally vary during the year from Bible studies, applying Biblical principles and the gifts that God puts into our lives. Room 056, Kris Rash

## Open Door

Where friends meet to study God's word and apply it's principles to on-going spiritual development. Meet in the Library. Contact Sue Mutchler or Margery Andrew

## Kaleidoscope

This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room 058 Gil Hewett

## Seekers

The Seekers present several small studies/discussions each year (no homework) to help grow our faith in Jesus Christ. Room: 060

## Pathfinders

Our newest Sunday morning group for adults. We gather to share our lives and discuss God's presence in the world today. Room 055

## New Members Exploration Class - Starting Soon!

If you are new to FUMC and feel that this is your spiritual home, I want to invite you to our new member exploration class that will be starting soon. We will meet for 6 consecutive Sundays during the Sunday School hour starting April 15th in the parlor to learn, grow, and share. New members will join the church on Sunday June 3 at any of the worship services. Calling FUMC your church home is a great way to take the next steps in your faith journey. Please contact Pastor Matt German at 319-266-1713 or [matt.german@aboutfirst.com](mailto:matt.german@aboutfirst.com) if you are interested. You can also sign up in the gathering space. Hope to see you there!

## Daily Devotions are Easy To Get Started

Read "The Upper Room" every day - it takes just a minute or two. You'll find a verse of scripture and a real-life lesson to think about. "The Upper Room" is available in print form from the literature rack outside the church office, or online from our church website.

The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence to:

- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story;
- commune with God in prayer;
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work;
- realize our connection through Christ as a universal family of believers;
- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness.



## Plan Now for a Faith Renewal Weekend

This three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of life and allow you to refocus on your faith. You'll be immersed in a Christian community, and will be encouraged to find ways to live out your faith in your home church. This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. During your "walk" you'll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and you'll have plenty of time for a good night's sleep. Guided activities and scheduled break times allow ample opportunities for private meditation, social interaction, and fresh air.

How far? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to pilgrims of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not recognize the risen Christ in their midst until he breaks bread with them. In this weekend, you'll learn to see Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience for adults, and there is a similar youth experience called Chrysalis. If you have interest in learning more about the **Walk to Emmaus** or Chrysalis, contact the church office, and we can arrange for you to meet someone who has already been - there are many in our congregation. Check out this video at [www.vimeo.com/8697255](http://www.vimeo.com/8697255).

### Upcoming retreats:

July 12-July 15 men Mt Pleasant, IA  
July 19-July 22 women Mt Pleasant, IA

Oct 25-Oct 28 men Solon, IA  
Nov 8-Nov 11 women Solon, IA

## April Mission Focus Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Midwest Mission Distribution Center is located in Chatham, Illinois (just south of Springfield). The center's function is to enable immediate and effective responses to disasters, especially in the Upper Midwest. It is a facility to receive, hold, process, and maintain a ready supply of material goods for emergency response and critical ongoing needs.

Several First UMC members will be volunteering at Midwest Mission Distribution Center in May. They don't know what their tasks will be until they get there, but could pack kits, sort items, or sew school bags, hospital gowns, and quilts. Maybe they will box up goods, help with mailings, build crates and desks, repair bicycles and sewing machines, help unload items, fill shipping containers, organize materials, or do whatever the needs are at any given time. We know there are tasks for all skills and abilities and that whatever they do will be helpful.



MMDC is part of the United Methodist Committee On Relief Supply Network, and often gives UMCOR supplies to respond to disasters both within the United States and abroad as they see fit. It is one of seven centers in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network - and the closest one to Iowa. MMDC makes, collects, and stores many disaster relief supplies such as cleaning buckets, personal dignity kits or health kits, layettes, and school kits or school bags. In addition, they make school desks to ship overseas, and restore and send bicycles and sewing machines to places that rely on them for transportation and income.

This ministry is sustained by volunteers who receive, sort, pack, and ship the goods. The center functions in concert with the needs of UMCOR for goods prepared by volunteers.

Donations are particularly important to a non-profit organization like MMDC. MMDC has no indebtedness, and works off of the monetary donations and supplies that are received. MMDC works hard to find the lowest deals through suppliers and can often get supplies three times cheaper than in a local store. Be assured that your offering will go directly to Midwest Mission - all participants of the mission/work trip are paying their own way. Offering envelopes are available at the display in the Gathering Place.



## Be a Blessing to Someone - Love INC of the Cedar Valley

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 to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 28 partners.

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

## 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.



## Earth Angels

Mary Larrabee's life was a mess. Her marriage had just ended in divorce, she underwent two major surgeries, and then her grown son was killed. Then she heard about the Stephen Ministry program at her church. The ministry matches specially trained members of the congregation with people going through a tough time. Nationwide, more than 10,000 churches representing more than 150 different Christian denominations offer Stephen Ministry.

As Mary put it, "My Stephen Minister would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart. I call her my earth angel. She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn't give me specific advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain." Now their formal relationship has ended, but the two remain friends. "I will always be grateful to her for all of her prayers and all that she did to help me," Larrabee says.

A Stephen Minister is there to walk with you throughout your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay. If you would like more information on accepting a Stephen Minister or perhaps becoming a Stephen Minister for others, please speak with a pastor or call the church office.

## "Hope for Harvey" Mission Trip – July 21-29

District Disaster Coordinators and Mission Team leaders from the North East and the East Central Districts of the Iowa Annual Conference are joining forces to send workers to the Rio Texas Conference of the UMC this summer. This is a work trip for ages Senior High to Senior Citizen. Travel by charter bus to Texas and back, but be prepared to sleep on church floors. Helpful skills to have would be carpentry, drywalling, painting, siding, construction, plumbing, or electrical work – but unskilled or semi-skilled assistants are also greatly appreciated. Cost to participate is \$450, and First UMC has funds to cover half of that expense. Registration deadline is May 7. There are information packets at the Welcome Center, or see Pastor Matt German if you are interested or have questions about the trip.

## Scholarships for Mission Trips

Bill & Lone Zach were faithful members of our church for decades, and when they died (Bill in 2005 and Lone in 2011) they left a generous legacy – including an endowment gift for mission use. Rainbow Task Force has determined that a portion of the Bill & Lone Zach Endowment Fund should be used to offset costs for those who want to participate in mission and work trips. If you have dreamed about mission work but are concerned about the cost of such a trip, please contact the church office for information. The foresight and generosity of Bill & Lone Zach could help your dream come true.

## Let's fill the barn this year

Farm animals are a common sight in Iowa, and it seemed appropriate to fill a barnyard to support Heifer International. Donate as you wish throughout the year and we'll keep adding animals like cows, goats, donkeys, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, and beehives to the barn in the window of the church office. It'll be fun to see how much livestock we can collect by December of 2018. And remember, Heifer animals are the gift that keeps on giving, so don't be surprised if baby animals appear in the barn every so often.



So far we have a pair of sheep, a goat, a donkey, a pig, and a rooster in the big red barn. They could use some friends to keep them company. Consider giving an animal in honor or memory of a loved one.

## Bibles for Our Sisters in Mitchellville

A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use. The Common English Bible for Daily Prayer is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for a healthy prayer life. This is the Bible that Lisa in the church office has been using, and it's sturdy and feels nice and is easy to use.

These Bibles normally sell for over \$20, but Cokesbury has made special arrangements for friends of the Women at the Well UMC to order them for only \$10. Use the special "Bibles for our Sisters" envelope at the display in the Gathering Place. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.

## Worship:

### Join the usher team

We have two spots to fill at the 11:00 services (10:00 in summertime ), one in the January/ May/September team and on in the March/July/November team. Please consider serving the church by joining one of these teams. Marilyn Teig is the contact for questions. You can get her contact information from the church office.

### Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. Contact: musicman52151@gmail.com

### Prayer Team

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

### Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2018 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

## Outreach & Missions:

### Community Meal - Every Month

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

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

### Ongoing Wish Lists

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

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

### Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for fabric to make the UMCOR school bags and other stitching projects. The Quilters & Stitchers are looking for durable material for school bags, flannel, and quilting materials for various other uses. There is a designated bin for your fabric donations in the church collection site on the main level in the little hall across from the drinking fountain.

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

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

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

How can you help?

# 14 Women, Men, Youth

## April UMW Events

Apr. 04 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15p  
Apr. 09 – Board Meeting, 9:30a  
Apr. 10 – Hearts & Hands Circle, 5:30p  
Apr. 10 – Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30p  
Apr. 11 – More Than Mom, 6:00-7:15p  
Apr. 12 – Unit Meeting, 1:00p  
Apr. 16 – Deborah Circle, 10:00a  
Apr. 18 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15p  
Apr. 21 – NE District UMW Day Apart  
Waverly Heritage UMC,  
Apr. 24 – Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30 p  
Apr. 25 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15 p  
Apr. 26 – Mary Circle, 9:30a  
Apr. 26 – Joy Circle, 1:30p



## UMW Reaching The Poorest Americans

Our Cedar Falls First UMW will be hosting a special presentation from the Jubilee Project mission in Sneedsville, Tennessee. Our speaker will be an elder from the Iowa Conference UMC who is serving as a missionary in Tennessee.

The Jubilee Project is located in a “poverty pocket” of Appalachia and is the 2nd poorest county in Tennessee. Come and attend the Filling Station meal, and listen to our speaker.

More information will be available at the next Unit Meeting on April 12th.

## United Methodist Women

VISION STATEMENT OF UNITED METHODIST WOMEN: We are “turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.”

### March Program: Kaden’s Kloset from Aplington, Iowa

On March 8th, the United Methodist Women met for their Unit Meeting. The guest speaker was Kristle Davis, Founder and CEO of Kaden’s Kloset. Kristle was a dynamic speaker sharing her own personal story of living in an abusive, broken home life as a child. After living in numerous foster homes, she was adopted by a pastor and wife.

She shared her passion in Foster Care, Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness. From this, she founded Kaden’s Kloset, a place that supplies material items and necessities for families, sustains ongoing services for foster and adoptive families, and equips people to engage in caring for children and families in need. There are 13 sites operational currently in Iowa. Cedar Falls United Church of Christ is the local site. She stressed the importance of donations of time, talents, resources, and new and gently used items, used to stock the community Kloset.

She added that they also are available for disaster-related family needs and for military families in need. The organization is 100% donation funded and 100% volunteer run. Her message was powerful and touched our hearts.

Mary Circle members provided the refreshments, the Response Moment, table grace, devotions, and worship center.

This month’s Unit meeting will be on April 12, 2018 and the guest speakers will be Pastor Steve and Janet Williams with a presentation on “Post Cards from the Holy Land.” Our local UMW will also be sponsoring an elder from the Iowa Conference who is serving as a missionary and Executive Director of the Jubilee Project in Sneedsville, Tennessee on Wednesday evening, April 25th. The Jubilee Project is located in a “poverty pocket” of Appalachia and is the 2nd poorest county in Tennessee. Plans are to hear her speak after the Filling Station Meal on that Wednesday evening. More information will be available at the next Unit Meeting on April 12th.

## 2018 Mission U: Learning Together for Transformation of the World

The United Methodist Women (UMW) Mission U summer and fall events are wonderful mission education opportunities to study current issues impacting society. Whether you are young or old, laity or clergy, a UMW member or not, a first timer or attend every year, you are invited. All participate in the “Spiritual Growth Study; Embracing Wholeness”. Also, attendees may choose to attend either the geographic study Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the U.S. or the social issue study “What About Our Money? A Faith Response”.

WHEN: July 15 – 17 Summer Mission U, (register by June 17).  
October 19-21. Fall Mission U, (register by September 21).

WHERE: Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown

You may obtain a copy of the brochure and registration form at the counter on the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling (contact info is on the brochure)

## Thank You

A big thank you to Jane Wyckoff for the beautiful red rose she delivered for my 80th birthday. I really appreciated it.

*Ed Harken*

Thank you so very much in your remembrance of Colleen Crow's 87th birthday. The orange rose was appreciated and touched our hearts. It seemed to symbolize hope and promise during a time of despair. Thank you again on behalf of Colleen Crow.

*Barb Ryan, Colleen's daughter*

Thanks for much for the beautiful peach colored rose and cards for my birthday from staff and Congregational Care Team. The delivery of rose and visit with Jane was also special. I'm privileged to belong to such a caring church.

Sincerely, *Shirley Johnson*

To Jane and all at First United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for the beautiful rose. It added something special to my "Day".

Love, *Marlene Thurman*

Thank you for the lovely red rose Jane delivered for my birthday. Enjoyed the visit. Thank you to the staff for my birthday card.

*Pat Powell*

Thank you to all our church family for the beautiful red rose that Jane brought to Casey at Westbrooke Acres. It was enjoyed by all and was still on the table yesterday on his birthday. Also thank you for all the birthday cards he received for his birthday. It made a real celebration. We feel so blessed by your kind thoughts.

*Ruth Tucker*

## Sympathy to:

Alice Heise and her family on the death of Roger. Roger passed away March 8, and his service was held March 24.

Family and friends of Dorothy Wested. Dorothy passed away March 21. Her service was held March 26.

Becky Hardman and her family on the death of Bob. Bob died March 25, and his service was held March 29.

## Congratulations Graduates!

Shane Waltz and Jon Cooper are our most recent graduates of the School for Lay Ministry. Shane and Jon were commissioned in a special ceremony in the chapel on the Cornell College campus on March 11. Congratulations, gentlemen, and thank you for continuing to move forward in your lives of ministry.

## Heads Up!

Summer worship hours will begin Sunday, June 3.

- 8:30 Transformation Worship, Fellowship Hall
- 8:30 Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 10:00 Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

## Save the Date

A celebration of the ministry of Pastor Steve and Janet Williams is being planned for Sunday, June 3, from 2:00 - 4:30 in the Gathering Place. More details will be announced in the coming months. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is in charge of the arrangements.

## Native American Ministries Sunday- April 15

On Sunday, April 15, The United Methodist Church will celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. This is one of six churchwide special Sundays with offerings. The funds that are collected will benefit both urban and rural ministries within annual conferences and across the connection. Native Americans have a unique voice among us. The echoes of the past of displacement, genocide and discrimination still ring in their ears as the treatment of Native American people today often continues to be something less than just.

Celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday, we recognize that as the body of Christ, we are bound together with our Native American congregations and ministries, woven together by our common faith. Our offering on Native American Ministries Sunday is a collective action, recognizing that all gifts come from God and are to be used to do God's work. These gifts support ministries that provide opportunities to demonstrate the value and identity of Native Americans as people made in God's image. Look for the special offering envelopes in the April 15 bulletins to support this ministry.

## Finance Report (as of March 26)

YTD Budget received:	\$210,161
YTD Budget needs:	\$196,729
YTD Budget Surplus:	\$13,431
mortgage balance:	\$381,985

## Consider Automatic Giving

You'll never need to remember to write a check again! It is quick and easy to set up. Contact our Financial Manager, Debbie Dance for details. 319-266-1713 or email [debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com](mailto:debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com).

## Attendance- week ending

	3/4	3/11	3/18	3/25
Transformation	109	45	99	90
Traditional 8:30	105	99	107	102
Traditional 11:00	135	75	70	121
FUSION	33	42	x	50

## First United Methodist Church

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# aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



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

Van rides are available for the 11:00 Sunday service.

Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

## Spreading the Word

If you miss a Sunday, or want to hear a message again, find us on the local Public Access cable television channels. If you are unable to receive the television broadcast, weekly dvds are also available, or find the video links for sermons at [www.aboutfirst.com](http://www.aboutfirst.com)

**Cedar Falls (CFU)** Channel 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am

**Waterloo (MediaCom)** Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 9:00 pm

## Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, [steve.williams@aboutfirst.com](mailto:steve.williams@aboutfirst.com)

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

## Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director  
[tbonebrake@hotmail.com](mailto:tbonebrake@hotmail.com)

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610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian