



# aboutfirst

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

*the  
First Day*

**APRIL 2022, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CEDAR FALLS**

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**aboutfirst.com**

## God Chooses YOU

Matthew 26:36-41

Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. Then he said to them, "My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."

Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will."

Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. "Couldn't you men keep watch with me for one hour?" he asked Peter. "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

I have the best intentions when I pray at night. I have the best intentions to lift the concerns of the day up to our God who is always ready to listen. But truth be told, I often fall asleep somewhere between Dear God and Amen.

Can you relate?

I know the disciples could relate, the same thing happened to them. Jesus invited them out to the Garden of Gethsemane to sit with him while he prayed. I believe they had the best intentions, but they fell asleep, not just once, but twice. Jesus was facing the most difficult time of his life, and his best friends couldn't even stay awake to be there for him. As a matter of fact, they failed him time and time again as he faced his crucifixion. They scattered when he was arrested. They acted like they didn't know him at his trial. There is evidence that most of them were not present as he hung on the cross. And when he arose from the dead, they were hiding behind locked doors. Yet Jesus came to them, he spoke words of peace to them and gave them the power and authority to make disciples, baptizing them in his name.

That gives me hope. It gives me hope that Christ will still use me, even when I disappoint him. Like I said, sometimes I fall asleep when I should be praying. Sometimes I run and hide when I should be fighting for justice, sometimes I act like I don't know Jesus when things get tough. Sometimes my flesh is so weak even though my spirit is willing.

Can you relate?

Here is the good news, God knows that, and God chooses and uses us anyway. God comes to us when, in fear and anguish, we can't find our way to God. God speaks words of peace into our fears. And God gives us the same power and authority to make disciples in the world today.

This Easter season don't let your shortcomings and sin keep you from sharing the joy of this season. God has always used imperfect human beings to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world.

Even our best intentions are nothing compared to God's love for us displayed on the cross.

Have a Blessed Easter

*Pastor Karen*



## Stations of the Gospel

**A GOOD FRIDAY REFLECTION  
THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF LUKE**

**Friday, April 15 Noon – 9pm**

A self-guided walk through the life of Jesus as found in the gospel of Luke beginning with the announcement of Jesus' birth to his death on the cross.

There will be nine stations for you to visit starting at the chapel inside the main entrance at Clay Street and ending at the foot of the cross in the sanctuary.

You are invited to move through each station at your own pace in the silence of this sacred space prepared for you. Come by yourself, come as a family, or come with a friend. Come and take this journey to the cross on Good Friday.

## 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<sup>+</sup>**  
A VANCO COMPANY





# April

## April 3 - Intergenerational Study

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 10:15 (During the Sunday school hour)

We are so excited to host another Intergenerational Study. We will be focusing on the story Easter. Each person will have a part to play. Be sure to join us as you will get to help tell the story alongside our Sunday school kids.

## April 5 - 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. New participants are always welcome. Please call Carol through the church office at 319-266-1713. Our thanks go out to Janelle Jacobsen for furnishing our delicious treats every month!

## April 6 - The Last Filling Station and B.L.A.S.T

See you in the Fall!

## April 12 -Card Making

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 1:00 to 4:00 pm

This month we will be making cards for the Western Home Communities. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and have some fun, also!

## April 13 - Celebrate Holy Days Together

**Where:** Hearst Center for the Arts

**When:** 7:00-8:30 pm

The Cedar Valley Interfaith Council and the Hearst Center have teamed up to and invite you to celebrate and learn of diverse faith's Sacred Days. Enjoy samplings of Lenten, Passover and Islamic art, music, food, and faith traditions. This event will be held in Mae Latta Hall at the Hearst Center for the Arts. An authentic Iftar meal will be available after sundown. Space is limited - please RSVP to [cedarvalleyinterfaith@gmail.com](mailto:cedarvalleyinterfaith@gmail.com) to reserve a seat.

## April 17 - Easter Egg Hunt

**Where:** Meet in Fellowship Hall

**When:** 10:15 am

Join us this Easter for an Easter Egg Hunt! We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for instructions and to begin. All children ages 12 and under are welcome!

## April 20 - Newcomer's Gathering

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 6:00pm

Attention all Newcomers! You and your family are invited to join us for pizza, salad and dessert. This will be a chance to meet some of the staff and leadership and hear what this church has to offer people of all ages. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, April 17. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Karen at [karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com](mailto:karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com).



## April 21 - Rummage Sale Meeting

**Where:** Chapel

**When:** 6:30 pm

We are looking forward to another great year in our mission goal to serve others in our local community. Please start saving and sorting useable and saleable “stuff” to bring to the Church. As in the past, we would request no TV’s, computers, or paint. An organizational meeting is scheduled for April 21 at 6:30PM to determine how feasible a sale will be this year. Any questions? Contact Maxine Kehret (319-296-1518).

## April 21 - First Friends Potluck & Fellowship

**Where:** Gathering Space

**When:** 12:00 pm

Welcome! First Friends Potluck and Fellowship will resume meeting on April 21 – always on the third Thursday of the month in the Gathering Space. 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. Bring a dish to serve 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.

## April 24 - Hymns of Hope

**Where:** Sanctuary

**When:** 4:00 pm

Our latest Hymns of Hope concert will take place on April 24th at 4pm. It will feature traditional and contemporary selections from our talented musicians.

## April 25 - Crafter's Corner

**Where:** Parlor

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

Get your crafting project lined up and join the group on the 4th Monday of the month. 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. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

## April 25 - LifeServe Blood Drive 5

**Where:** Gathering Place

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

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, April 25th from 12:30-6:00. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill, and the need is great. Sign up to donate at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org).

## May 1 - FUMC Spring Handbell Concert

**Where:** Sanctuary

**When:** 7:00pm

This year’s concert is very special as the bell choirs mark 50 years of ringing at First! The choirs had a brand new piece commissioned by the wonderful Cathy Moglebust and will premiere the piece at the concert!

## Save The Date

We were finally able to reschedule the Mandy Event originally scheduled the spring of 2020! Mandy McCleary is scheduled to come to our church Saturday afternoon September 24, 2022. If you bought a ticket for the original date, you are all set to come even if you have lost your ticket. More information will be coming this summer. We will be selling more tickets closer to the date.

## Holy Week Schedule

### April 10 - Palm Sunday

**Where/When:** Sanctuary 8:15, 11:15,  
Fellowship Hall 9:15

### April 14 - Maundy Thursday

**Where/When:** Sanctuary 7pm,  
Communion will be served

### April 15 - Good Friday

**Where/When:** Starts in Chapel

A self-guided walk through the life of Jesus

### April 17 - Easter Sunday

**Where/When:** Sanctuary 8:15, 11:15,  
Fellowship Hall 9:15

## SUNDAY MORNING

### Worship Schedule

8:15 am	Traditional worship service, sanctuary
9:00-11:15	Fellowship, Gathering Place
9:15 am	Transformation Contemporary worship, Fellowship Hall
9:30-10	Kid's Corner, chapel
10:15 am	Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am	Traditional worship service, sanctuary

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT Your Church Night

**April 6 is the last night for all but music groups, Youth Group, and More Than Moms.**

5-5:45	Filling Station meal, Gather Place
6-6:30	FUSION Tonight, theater
6:00	younger BLAST kids in gym
6:15	Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary
6:30	WOW AA, 055
6:30-7:30	BLAST, gym and lower level
6:30	Youth group, 3rd floor
6:30	Gathered Up In Jesus GPS Group Library (begins March 9)
6:30	More Than Moms, parlor
7:30	Chancel Choir rehearsal, sanctuary

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

### Option 2

[aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com)

The online worship page at [aboutfirst.com](http://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](http://aboutfirst.com) and click the 'sermons' graphic for a link to our channel

## FACEBOOK DEVOTION

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

## 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

## Miss A Sermon?

If you miss a Sunday message, you'll find it on our youtube channel. Go to our website at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and scroll down to the "sermons" graphic, which will link you to all of our sermons and public videos.

## Quilters and Stitchers Present to United Methodist Women

The March meeting of UMW was held on Wednesday, March 9 at 6:30 pm in conjunction with the More Than Moms meeting. It was announced that the UMW name is now United Women in Faith. The guest speakers were from the Quilters and Stitchers group who meet weekly on Tuesday mornings from 9:00-12:00 pm.

Barbara Pershing and Karen Page provided an overview of the scope of what this group accomplishes and how they make it all happen. This group has been very busy over the past several years making quilts that are gifted to foster children,



Lincoln school children, and children being adopted. They are also gifted at Baptisms, for Grief support, for Veterans and folks needing Comfort Care, and for the Mission Ingathering, the Quilt Auction, and Midwest Missions. The group also makes school bags for Ingathering kits and puts together feminine hygiene kits for The Days for Girls project.

It is not unusual for 20 people to come on Tuesdays to assist with the many projects. Some people cut fabric, some sew, some quilt by hand and some quilt with a machine. There are many “jobs” for anyone who wants to participate and support this important mission of FUMC. The most important aspect of this group is relationships. Group members are a very supportive community who care for each other.

You can support the work of this group by donating 100% cotton fabric and/or money for supplies. They encourage anyone who is interested in the work that they do to stop in on Tuesdays to see what happens and see the many projects that are always in the works!!!!

## UMW Upcoming Dates

### MONDAY, MAY 10

9:30 – 11:00 BOARD MEETING, LIBRARY

### THURSDAY, MAY 13

1:00 – 3:00 UNIT MEETING, FELLOWSHIP HALL  
ALI PARRISH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IOWA  
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY  
LORNA ERICSON, WORLD THANK OFFERING  
PAT HUXSOL, DISTRICT SHEPHERDESS

### SATURDAY, MAY 22

10:00 – 11:30 “WHY RACIAL JUSTICE”, ZOOM  
THE CHARTER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE  
COMMITTEE OF IOWA  
DR. EDDIE MOORE, JR.



## April Bible Verse

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 15:57





## April Mission Focus: UMCOR/Midwest Mission

### UMCOR

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to alleviating human suffering around the globe. UMCOR's work reaches people in more than 80 countries, including the United States. They provide humanitarian relief when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to such an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.

While UMCOR cooperates with other aid organizations such as Midwest Mission to extend their reach. UMCOR provides these survivors not only temporary relief but long-term education, training, and support.

UMCOR spends 100 percent of designated donations on the projects that donors specify.

### Midwest Mission

Cedar Falls United Methodist Church partners with Midwest Missions to furnish supplies locally and all over the world in times of crisis. Since opening for ministry in

2000, Midwest Mission has been showing God's Love in practical ways through the distribution of education, health, micro-business, and disaster relief supplies including our education and personal dignity kits. This helps to meet basic human needs around the world and around the corner.

Discover how you, too, can be a blessing to others.

Please visit their websites: [www.midwestmission.org](http://www.midwestmission.org), [umcmmission.org/our-work/](http://umcmmission.org/our-work/) or check them out on facebook: [www.facebook.com/midwestmission/](http://www.facebook.com/midwestmission/)

Checks should be written to First United Methodist Church with the specific mission designated in the memo line of the check. Designations for donations are as follows:

- Ukraine Advance #982450
- Winterset Tornado Relief Advance # 90167
- UMCOR
- Midwest Mission

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



## Community Meals Starting Back Up!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS WITH A HEART FOR HELPING THE LESS FORTUNATE!

Bethlehem Lutheran is starting the service of Community Meals. The format will be in person meal service from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. Our church's commitment is April 26th. Moving forward, we will continue to serve meals on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

A few things will change from the previous format due to possible COVID spread: All meals will be served on styrofoam trays, paper cups, and plastic silverware. A simple meal will be served of a hot dish, hot vegetable, fruit or fruit salad, roll and dessert of some kind. Beverages will be only coffee, water and lemonade. Hopefully these changes will be temporary.

We want all volunteers to feel comfortable. There are plastic barriers to be used at the meal service line and beverage tables for your protection. Also for those removing the food from the styrofoam trays there are vinyl aprons and plastic face shields available in the kitchen.

If you want to help serve from 4:30-6:30, please call Maxine Kehret at 319-610-4191. We need 7 people.

If you prefer to scrape trays (1-2 people needed), scrub pots (2 needed), or help set up or put away the tables and chairs, please contact Lisa in the church office at 319-266-1713 or [lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com).



## 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.



## 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.



## Meals on Wheels

The NE Iowa Area Agency on Aging could use a few more Meals on Wheels drivers to deliver from the Community Center in Cedar Falls to homes in our own

community. Do you have an hour to spare to deliver meals? You pick the days that work best for you - once a week or once a month. Call or email Elise Bovy at 319-231-6798 or [ebovy@nei3a.org](mailto:ebovy@nei3a.org)



## Mission Trip

The G3 youth will be going on a week-long mission trip to Denver, CO in July! We will be doing service work with a ministry called Urban Immersion, and we will make plenty of time for other fun activities too! If you are in 9th-12th grade and are interested in joining us for this fun-filled trip, a deposit of \$50 is due in the church office by March 1 in order to reserve your spot. (If you missed the deadline for submitting a deposit and would still like to go on the trip, please get in touch with Haleigh at [haleighderhammer@gmail.com](mailto:haleighderhammer@gmail.com)!)

## G3 on Wednesday Nights

ALL youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to join G3 youth ministry for our Wednesday night activities! We start with Fusion in the theater at 6:00, and then we continue with games and small groups from 6:30-7:30.

Our regular CrazyFunBusy Wednesday nights will come to an end for the school year on Wednesday, April 6. However, the G3 youth will continue to gather through the month of April. Our official last day of G3 is Wednesday, April 27. There will be no Fusion after April 6, so bring your friends to the third floor for a few more weeks of fun and fellowship!



## Fun Friday Game Night

Each month, the G3 youth get together for a Fun Friday Game Night. Our next game night is NOT on a Friday, but instead it is part of our lock-in on Saturday, April 2 at the church. Meet in the gathering space at 6pm. Dinner will be provided, so bring your friends for a night full of games and fellowship! (We will also be making baked goods for our bake sale fundraiser happening the next day!)

Our next game night after that is scheduled for Friday, April 29. Meet in the gathering space at 6pm, and as always, dinner will be provided! Bring your friends!

## Lock-In Fundraiser!

Our next big fundraising event for the Denver mission trip will be a lock-in and bake sale the weekend of April 2-3. Come to the church at 6:00 on Saturday April 2, spend the evening playing fun games and helping us bake LOTS of goodies, then spend the night at the church and help us sell our baked goods the next morning (April 3) between services! All money raised will go directly toward our Denver mission trip. If you have any questions about the lock-in, email Haleigh at [haleighderhammer@gmail.com](mailto:haleighderhammer@gmail.com).



# DENVER YOUTH MISSION TRIP

7.21.22 - 7.27.22

## ABOUT THE YOUTH TRIP

We are joining West Des Moines United Methodist Church youth this summer to take on Denver, CO. We will be working with Open Door Ministries with a program called Urban Immersion. The trip is for 9th-12th graders. Youth that will be in 9th grade in the Fall can join.

## ABOUT URBAN IMMERSION

Urban Immersion is more than just a volunteer program – they desire to give teams a holistic view of what it's like to do ministry in Denver. Their program is structured around three key attributes:

1. Community Involvement
2. Service Projects
3. Learning Opportunities

## TRIP AND MEETING TIMELINE



## TRIP COST - \$300 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE

This includes travel, lodging, food, and day trip to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

## WEEK OF TRIP

- July 21 -----Travel Day
- July 22 -----Work Day
- July 23 -----Work Day
- July 24 -----Work Day
- July 25 -----Free Day
- July 26 -----Free Day
- July 27 -----Travel Day



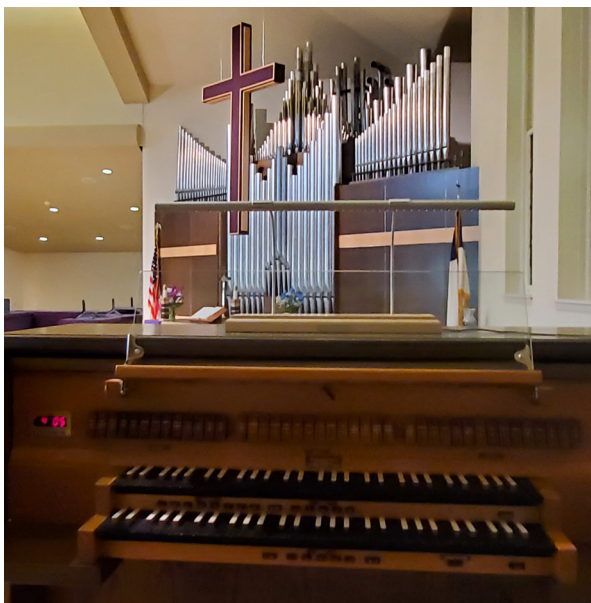
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YOUTH2022

# Hymns of Hope

Spring is a time of new life and renewal and as the classic hymn says it is a new season waiting to be revealed. First United Methodist Church will celebrate the new season with music. Our latest Hymns of Hope concert will take place on April 24th at 4pm. It will feature traditional and contemporary selections from our talented musicians. The First UMC Chancel Choir is working hard to fill our sanctuary with the sweet sounds of God's presence, His strength and perfect peace throughout our lives. Please join us for this musical offering.

## American Guild of Organists Concert

The music department is thrilled to announce, the Cedar Valley Chapter of the "American Guild of Organists" will host a concert in our sanctuary on April 23rd at 4pm. This concert will feature guild organists of various ages and abilities. It will also pay tribute to our dear friend, Doug Shaffer. For nearly a decade, Doug served as music director and organist in our church. Doug retired from his music director duties in August of 2019. Even after his cancer diagnosis, Doug continued his music ministry as organist until he fully retired in July of 2021. Sadly, Doug passed away this past December. As a teacher, and mentor, he made it his mission to help younger musicians discover their own passion for music and advance their skills. This concert is free and in-person only.



## About Our Casavant Pipe Organ

The First UMC Casavant Opus 3669 pipe organ was installed and dedicated in 1989. A committee, including Terry Kroese, spent many years designing, and planning the beautiful instrument we now have. Our organ was built in a factory in Canada before it was installed in its current home in the Sanctuary. Ours is one of three Casavant organs in Cedar Falls and Waterloo.

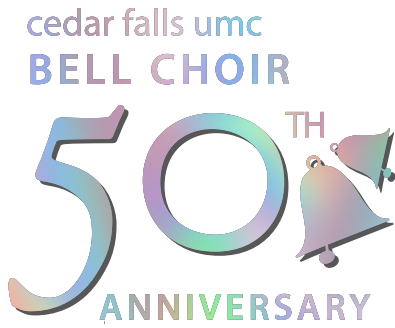
Our organ has a total of 1,511 individual pipes. They are all housed in the front of the chancel area. Some are visible; others are further back in the organ chamber. It has 27 ranks of pipes. Each rank consists of 61 pipes for the manuals and 32 for the foot pedals and correspond to several keys on those keyboards. The stops, visible above the keyboard, allow the organist to create different combinations of sounds or effects. The pipes are made

of various metals and wood, which range in size from sixteen feet to approximately one inch. The larger the pipe, the lower the sound. Many of the pipes were designed to appear spotted for a beautiful visual effect.

Only a few organists have had the honor and privilege to serve God and the congregation of First UMC on this organ.

Editor's note: Information found in this article came from the program used during the organ's dedication service on October 22, 1989.





## Celebrating the Bell Choirs 50th!

At Christmas 1972, fifty years ago, we celebrated the birth of our savior with a type of music we hadn't heard before – the clean, clear sound of perfectly-tuned handbells.

On a borrowed set of bells, our senior pastor's wife, Betty Jo Wilcox, along with sons Dan and Paul, introduced us to a whole new genre of sacred music.

The next year, we bought our own handbells and several choirs were formed with Betty Jo directing them. The bell choir's mission was straightforward, "to

ring for the glory of God".

Ringling in a bell choir is a unique musical experience, and over the years we have had hundreds of people participate. Almost anyone can learn to do it.

In the early years, our ringers would travel to bell choir festivals, where they would learn from other ringers, perform in concerts, and ring together in massed choirs that filled entire arenas. Those festivals were often long-distance road trips on charter buses, with plenty of fun and sightseeing along the way.

We have been blessed to have talented and passionate directors for our bell choirs: Betty Jo Wilcox, Jenine Enwright, Randy Hogancamp, Cyndi Sweet, Brenda Mark, Noelle Stow, Joe Bohr, and our two current directors Aaron Hansen and Nancy Standafer. Under their leadership, our bell choirs have earned a reputation for pushing the boundaries of what is possible on handbells.

Our First UMC choirs have performed with the Waterloo Cedar Falls Symphony Orchestra at least twice, been guest presenters at music teachers' conferences, have played in other church's worship services, have held our own concerts twice each year, and have continued to set the tone for our worship services for the past 50 years.

For our ringers, it isn't always about the music. Bell choirs can become tight-knit groups and have served supporting roles for members working through the struggles of life.

Our equipment list has grown to include two full, five-octave sets of handbells, some additional bass and treble bells, a set of handchimes, and 3 octaves of silver melody bells.

You're invited to help us celebrate fifty years of handbell music at a special spring concert, Sunday, May 1 at 7:00 pm, in our sanctuary. Our ringers will premiere a special composition by prolific handbell composer Cathy Moklebust, which has been commissioned for our choir's anniversary. Admission is free. This celebration of music is our ringers' gift to you.







## General Conference Postponed

United Methodist Church has been postponed, for a third time, and is now delayed until 2024. Even though this delay was expected due to Covid and anticipated travel restrictions for global travelers, it is still disappointing and complicates mission and ministry for all of us in the United Methodist Church. It is to be expected that you have questions, and at our upcoming Church Council meeting we will discuss ways to address those questions.

A month ago, on Sunday, February 27th our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado and members of the Appointive Cabinet of the Iowa Annual Conference presented here at First their “Leading Now and into the Future” vision statement (here you can find the document [ing-now-iowa-tour or a copy is in the church office\). In part of the statement they write, “As we lead now into the future, we desire to equip local congregations to do the ministry God is calling them to do. No one will be compelled or required to act contrary to their convictions, understanding of scripture, or conscience. Likewise, no one will be prevented from doing the ministry God is calling them to offer.”](https://www.iaumc.org/lead-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Here at First United Methodist we are committed to our Church’s vision statement: “Love first...Let’s gather, grow, go...together.” We seek to be a place that is in ministry with all and for all.

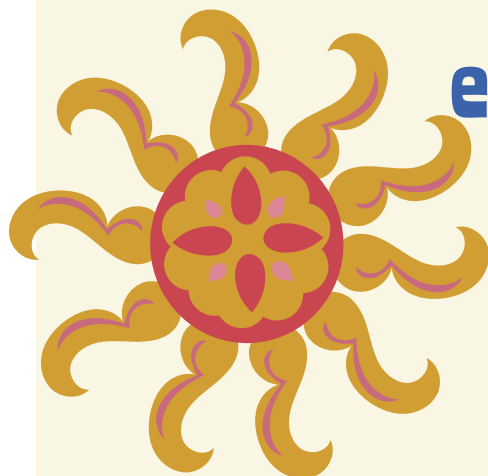
Further, we continue in the work of making new disciples for the transformation of the world!

# education news

Information about our Sunday School and educational opportunities!



## intergenerational easter story study



We are so excited to host another Intergenerational Study. We will be focusing on the story of Easter. Each person will have a part to play. Be sure to join us as you will get to help tell the story alongside our Sunday school kids.

**Date:** April 3rd

**Time:** 10:15 (During the Sunday school hour)

**Where:** Gathering Space

## easter egg hunt

**When:** April 17th

**Time:** 10:15

**Where:** Meet in Fellowship at 10:15  
for instructions

**Who:** Children up to 12 years old.

## ubs

Get ready for Rocky Railway Vacation Bible School! We are in the beginning stages of planning. Dates and times will be coming out soon! If you are interested in helping or donating please contact Jenna Engel.

## take note!

The last Wednesday night for Filling Station and B.L.A.S.T will be April 6th.

I would like to Thank Julie Fee, Debbie Grover and Mary Card for helping cook the meal every week. Jan and Dean Hoover and Dee Behr for serving the meals.

Ginger L'Heureux for helping with our BLAST program.

Without all of you we would not have these incredible ministries!

## camps

Camps: Iowa United Methodist Camps are open and waiting for campers! They have camps at Lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods. If you are interested in signing your child up to attend a camp contact Jenna Engel at [jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

## Welcome to CFUMC

If you are new to Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church, we would like to get to know you and give you a chance to get to know us. You and your family are invited to join us for pizza, salad and dessert on Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00pm. This will be a chance to meet some of the staff and leadership and hear what this church has to offer people of all ages. If you are interested in membership, we will get you the information you need. Please RSVP to the church office by Sunday, April 17. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Karen at [karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com](mailto:karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com).



## Newcomers' Coffee with the Pastors - April 24, 10:15am

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, April 24th at 10:15am 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!

## FIRST UMC GRIEF SUPPORT

The Grief Support Group of our church began in 1998 when the Stewardship Task Force started looking at the needs for congregational care. The first area chosen to implement was support for individuals and families who have experienced the death of a loved one. Subsequently many other areas of congregational care have been initiated.

Grief support is multi-faceted in the services it provides. Some of these are:

- A quarterly newsletter sent to about 100 homes
- Various opportunities for fellowship
- Reading material in the church library on a special shelf
- Phone or personal contact for those who are grieving





# HELP WANTED!

## SUNDAY MORNINGS

### 9:30 Kids Creation Corner

We are looking for 4-6 volunteers. Each volunteer would have one Sunday a month. In this new ministry our volunteer will lead the kids in a craft, outside play, games and help them display their creation on our new Kids Creation Board that will be located outside of the Chapel.

### Sunday School Teachers

We need teachers to help in our Kindergarten-2nd grade class. Please consider contributing to the spiritual development of our young minds!

### 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.

### Welcome Desk

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.

### Calling all Singers

Choir is in full swing and now is the perfect time to come and lift your voice. Worried about adding another event to your hectic schedule? Don't sweat it, you can sing as often as you like, without committing to every Sunday. You don't even have to know how to read music; we will help you find your voice. Junior high to senior citizens and every age in between are welcome to come sing along. Join us for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary.

### 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.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

### B.L.A.S.T. Volunteers

Spend some time mentoring and having a good time with our church's younger members.

### 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.

Email [jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)  
for more information,



## 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.

**Jake DeVoogd, Geri Gilbert, Marilyn Pape**

Martin Suites  
420 E. 11th St  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

7511 University Ave  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Betty Fanning, Chet Starr**

Bickford Cottage  
5101 University Ave #110  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Marlys Cook, Sharon Krebs, Homer Leymaster, Emogene Marty, Faye Rohwedder**

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

**Harold Krebs, 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

**Marilyn Geesaman, Virginia Van Tassel**

Nation Cottage  
5111 Caraway Lane  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Chuck Roudebush**

Thuesen Cottage, 5127 Caraway Lane,  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Vivian Hill**

New Aldaya Lifescapes

**Dorothy Schwab**

Our House Senior Living  
1401 15th Ave NW Room 11  
Austin MN 55912



## Bus Service

We pick up for the 8:15 traditional service in the sanctuary. 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.

## Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful carnations for our birthdays. The beautiful rose color (my favorite), and the red for Carl. I always love to see Jane and visit with her. Thank you also for the cards.

Sincerely, Carol Ellison

Thanks so much for the red carnation delivered by Jane for my birthday, and for her very special visit. The staff card was also special to remember each and every one of you.

Shirley Johnson

Dearest First Family and Friends,

I can not begin to thank you all for the tender loving care you have showered us with since Mark's sudden departure. We rejoice to KNOW he is with his savior and we will be with him again some day. Thank you for the many kindnesses that have brightened our days and the prayers and meals that nurture our grieving hearts. You are precious to us!

Many thanks, Nancy Fransdal (and all of Mark's family)

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you for the prayers, cards, calls, emails, visits, gifts, and food while I was in the hospital and after coming home. I appreciate all of your acts of kindness.

Love, Genny Van Dorn

## Sympathy

Family and friends of LaVonne Neese. Lavonne died February 24.

Family and friends of Nola Kelly. Nola died March 3.

Bevan Lucas and his family on the death of his aunt, Susan Lucas, on March 10.

Family and friends of Darlene Jordan, who died March 17.

## Welcome

Please join us in welcoming two new members to our congregation.

Elana Shinkle comes to us from Grandview UMC in Dubuque.

Bradley Hoyt comes to us from the United Presbyterian Church in Traer.

We also welcome Brooks Michael Dideriksen to our family of faith. Brooks was baptized on March 6. He is the son of Nick and Briley Dideriksen.

## 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 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.

## 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.

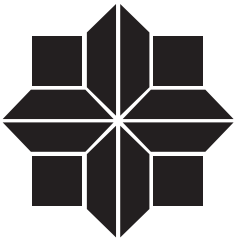
## Easter lilies

Once again we are inviting you to purchase a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. You may come into the church and find an order form at the Welcome Center or in the office, or you can mail your check to the church and include a note clearly indicating who the lily is in memory or honor of, and by whom. Cost for each lily is \$12. Checks can be made out to FUMC. The deadline to order your lily is Thursday, April 14.

## Sam Barr's Retirement Party!

Sam is retiring from UNI after nearly 38 years. We will celebrate the occasion with an open house from 1 to 4 on Saturday, April 9th in the Gathering Space at the church. Please join us!





**FIRST UNITED**  
METHODIST CHURCH

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## First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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### Worship

8:15 am Traditional worship service, sanctuary  
9:00-11:15 Fellowship, Gathering Place  
9:15 am Transformation Contemporary worship,  
Fellowship Hall  
9:30-10 Kid's Corner, chapel  
10:15 am Sunday School for all ages  
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)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator  
sam.barr@aboutfirst.com

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

Haleigh Derhammer, Middle School Youth  
youth@aboutfirst.com

Carol Dick, Grief Support Coordinator  
cdick@cfu.net

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

Katie Greuel  
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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