



January 2018  
issue 208

# ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa

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## Thoughts from Steve

2018 will bring big changes for both of us and our church. My retirement will create some major changes for all of us. Both of us will start writing a new chapter. We want you to know that we have been blessed in so many ways through serving Christ here at Cedar Falls First. Where did these years ago? As I look back I want to share some reasons why "I Love this Place."

I love this place . . .

. . . because you celebrate Christmas well, as Charles Dickens writes in A Christmas Carol. You know Christmas is very special time of the year when you first step into our building. The Poinsettia Tree is a beautiful reminder of this wonderful season to celebrate Christ's birth. The music from all the choirs, instrumentalists and soloists is joyfully shared to make it a heart-filled celebration!

. . . because of the Holy Spirit working through a Greek family by the name of **Anonymous**. So many times people have come to me privately to offer their financial support for a special project or cause. Many times it is done as a way of returning gratitude for the blessings they have personally received from God, and often it has been a way of saying thank you for the kindness and caring members of this church. Many great things have been done when one hand does not know what the other is doing!

. . . because of the Stephen Ministers who quietly walk with members and friends of our church who are going through hard times in their lives. From grief to life changes they are there to listen, encourage and pray so their care receivers are not left alone. Our church is so large that one of my greatest fears is people falling through the cracks. The Stephen Ministers understand the importance of confidentiality, and that is why they work quietly behind the scenes without seeking recognition.

. . . because of our custodians John, Emily (and earlier Mary) who serve this church as if it was really God's House. You have no idea how hard they work, and how much time they put in to have this big complex not only ready for Sunday, but every day of the week. The work they do is hard work, and often frustrating because they are picking up after us. I never hear a complaint from them or about them, and that is the best way to judge how well they are doing and how much they love this congregation.

. . . because of our Bus Ministry that picks up many in our congregation who would not be unable to attend worship if it were not for our bus drivers. One of my highlights on Sunday morning is seeing the smiles on the passengers as they depart from the bus. The drivers are very special volunteers who "go the second mile" because they also pick up for Bell Concerts, Christmas Eve services and touring the local Christmas lights along with finishing up with cookies and hot cocoa at the church.

. . . because we host Community Meals. Jesus commands us to feed the hungry, and so we have been doing this ministry for many years. We not only provide quality meals, we also provide an opportunity to feed their souls with friendly fellowship and welcome smiles. I love to see the smiles on the teams of volunteers who help prepare, serve and cleanup because they receive the reward of being Jesus for others.

To be continued! I love this place because . . .

Janet and I would like to share our appreciation for your thoughtful and generous gifts and cards we received during this wonderful season of celebrating the birth of Christ.

May blessings be yours in 2018!

Pastor Steve and Janet





## Communion Sunday - January 14

We will gather for Holy Communion for the first time in our new year on Sunday, January 14. We will be using part of John Wesley's Covenant Services to rededicate ourselves to serving Christ. The Traditional Service will be using the rails for Communion. All services will allow quiet time for personal prayer as we prepare ourselves for the New Year.

## Speaking FROM the choir – not TO the choir!

This is a message of invitation and encouragement to FUMC members to come and sing with the Chancel Choir.

When sitting in church, I have heard many good voices in the congregation that would be wonderful additions to Chancel Choir. To sing in the choir, one does not need a trained voice – ability to read music does help. The music we sing is not difficult, many tunes are familiar with relatively easy arrangements.

Dr. Ted, our new director, is great to work with! He makes the rehearsals fun, relaxed and with good direction. Bryan, our accompanist, is excellent in reading music and making the choir sound even better.

The schedule for singing varies, but we always rehearse on Wednesday night from 7:30 to 8:30. One can miss rehearsal or a Sunday for family events or a planned trip. Dr. Ted provides a schedule so you know what and when we will sing.

Please consider joining Chancel Choir this coming year as a gift to yourself and to our church family. It is quite disappointing to see only 10-12 in our choir when we are one of the largest Methodist churches in Iowa. When I visit my daughter's church in north St. Paul that is 1/3 our size, I hear a choir with 35 – 40 voices every time I am there.

Let's make the rafters ring in the new year at First U M C with CHANCEL CHOIR voices.

*Karen Page*, choir member

## 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

## Join the Usher Team

Two long time and dedicated ushers for the 11:00 service have submitted their retirement notices. Jack Hovelson and Jim Petersen, who each have ushered for over 40 years, have decided it is time to turn in their offering plates, stop handing out bulletins and lighting candles. We have two spots to fill, 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.

## 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.



## Three New Worship Series Coming Wednesday Nights!

Fusion is not the same old worship, and this season is definitely not the same old Fusion! We have three worship series planned this spring:

**Difference Makers:** Will feature speakers from inside our congregation who are making Jesus real to others in ways you may not have guessed.

**UMC Connection:** The United Methodist Church is not just a Cedar Falls thing - it's a global organization. Learn more about this great thing that you're a part of. We'll welcome our pastors and staff from the Iowa UMC's Northeast District office to bring their perspectives.

**Faith and Politics:** No, we're not going to argue about the issues of the day. Instead, we'll have elected officials and administrators of public institutions talk about how they resolve their faith with their secular, public positions and duties. Cedar Falls Mayor Jim Brown and Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson are among the guest speakers.

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.



M T **W** T F

## CrazyFunBusy Wedensdays Crank Up Again January 10

Wednesday night is your church night and there's something for everyone.

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

Bible Learning And Service Together. BLAST is for students turning 5 this school year -6th grades. This semester we will be Studying "Made for a Miracle" by Mike Slaughter. We will find out that each of us have been given specific talents and abilities. We will look at biblical examples of how to use God - given gifts for God's glory.

Fusion Tonight has an exciting spring season with some guest speakers who may surprise you! End your night with worship at Fusion Tonight. We'll have you out by 8:00 pm.

### The CrazyFunBusy Wed Sked:

- 5:15 - 6:00 **The Filling Station**  
- a meal for everyone.
- 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
- 6:00 - 7:15 **Men's Group**  
- hangin' with the fellas
- 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

## Souper Bowl Sundae: Annual Chili and Soup Cook-off Sunday, January 28

It is "throw down time" for all Chili and Soup Masters! Our Fun and Fellowship Committee is sponsoring this special event on Sunday, January 28. We want to give everyone plenty of time to begin perfecting their recipes!

Each contestant will need to bring a Crock Pot of Chili or Soup. The Committee will provide little cups and spoons for people to sample your soup. Each person attending will be given two tickets to vote on their favorite. We will have one winner for soup, and another winner for chili. Entries are expected to have recipes available to share.

The event will be held in the Gathering Place. Please bring bread or rolls to share on our tables. The Fun and Fellowship Committee will supply drinks and dinnerware. Competition and lunch will begin at 11:00 a.m. and voting will end at 12:30 p.m.

Make your plans to enter or just come and enjoy the great food and good fun! Registration will begin Sunday, January 14.



## Thank you for a great Christmas Celebration!

When you entered our church during the Christmas season, you could tell right away that we really know how to celebrate Christmas. All the Christmas trees and the poinsettia tree were incredible! Thank you to the Worship and HOME Team Committees for sponsoring the decorating of our church. It was beautiful! Special thanks to those who donated Poinsettias and Emily Terpstra for organizing the Christmas Tree Walk. Special thank you to Shawna Brimm, Jacob Bonebrake and Gabby Burton for helping us tell how Christ's birth has changed the world, and individual lives. Thank you to the carolers for sharing the Christmas spirit with residents of Windhaven and Martin Center. Make plans to join us next year!



## Kids' Christmas Program:

Thank You to everyone that helped with the Christmas Program. It was a wonderful morning full of songs and laughter. I don't think there is a better way to hear the stories of Christ's birth. I would also like to say Thank You to all of the kids that were able participate. Everyone did a great job!



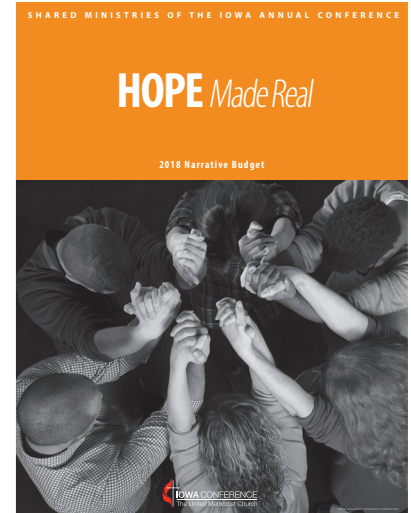
## Apportionments: Follow the Money

If you take a look at our church budget, you'll notice a large item named "apportionments". Apportionments are the monies we pay to support the structure of the United Methodist Church beyond our local Cedar Falls First church.

Apportionments, like everything else, seem to cost more every year, and you may wonder how our church's share is computed and what exactly we are paying for. To help answer questions like that, we will be hosting our Iowa Conference treasurer, Maggie Biggs, on Sunday, January 14.

We are one of the top ten churches in the Iowa Conference, and so Treasurer Biggs will visit us personally to lead this discussion. All interested people are invited. Questions may be submitted anonymously to the church office, and we will pass them on to Ms. Biggs, or you may ask her directly when she is here.

This visit by Treasurer Biggs is an opportunity to learn more of the scope of the United Methodist Church. Do your homework before she comes: take a look at the "Hope Made Real" Narrative Budget publication from the Communications Office of the Iowa Conference. It contains numbers, statistics, graphics, and real-world stories of how our dollars make a difference in the lives of others around the world. Get the Narrative budget here: <https://www.iaumc.org/narrativebudget>.



**Treasurer Biggs' Schedule:**  
**Sunday, January 14, 2018**  
**Open Forum:**  
**9:45 am, Fellowship Hall**  
**Meet with leaders and finance committee:**  
**11:00 in library**

## It's All About the Thumbs

Powerful brains and opposable thumbs are what set us apart from the rest of the animal kingdom, and now, our thumbs have redefined how we seek and acquire information. You see, more people are now accessing our church website on mobile devices than on desktop computers. Instead of "pointing and clicking" with a computer mouse, they are "scrolling and tapping" with their thumbs.

To make our website more intuitive and accessible for mobile users, we have re-formatted it into a vertically-arranged, "scrolling" site. We've also taken the opportunity to condense some of the information and eliminate redundancies. You'll still find easy access to newsletters, worship times and directions to the church.

There are challenges in designing a website that works well on both desktop and handheld devices. Mobile devices just don't have the same amount of room on the screen as desktop units. Mobiles are usually held vertically while desktop computer screens are horizontal, so the viewing environment is completely different.

We encourage you to visit the new, thumb-friendly [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and spend some time learning a new way to navigate. Remember: when in doubt, scroll down.



## WORSHIP

**Sunday morning: 8:30 & 11**  
**Sunday School: 9:45**  
**Wednesday night: 7:15**



**Traditional Worship**  
 Sunday morning 8:30 & 11:00  
 Advent Series: How We Know Him. Jesus has been born by many names. Born as the Prince of Peace. Son of God. Son of Man. Each of these names reveals something important about Christ and about God's love for us. Each week in the advent season, Pastor Steve will dig into one of these names which will help us to understand why the coming of Christ was necessary for God's people.  
 Jesus in the sanctuary on Sunday morning.



**Transformation Worship**  
 Sunday morning 8:30  
 Advent Series: Down To Earth: God. Perhaps the greatest miracle was the Bible, the record of God's human form. God's light shining upon us to become God incarnate in the flesh of Jesus. This ancient message of God's love for us is not just a story on the ground. God's light has been incarnated in complete reality in us. Join us through the season of Advent as Pastor Paul leads us through the message of God becoming man and being a perfect model for us.  
 Transformation Worship is in Fellowship Hall on Sunday morning.



**Fusion Tonight**  
 Wednesday 7:15  
 Fusion Tonight is our weekly worship talk show. It's fun and it's interactive. We have our church life and our world life into one great night of faith. Our host, Jon Cooper, will take the show on a tight-rope walk leading us to open the proper time, a church life segment, and offering before we present our special time. We welcome you to come experience this difference. It's about to be a great night for you. We'll be highlighting "So Close to the Center" (Wednesday nights, 7:15 pm) updates in the Pastor's Spring season (Jan-April).



# events

## January 2 - Grief Support Session

**Where:** Church Parlor

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

If you are grieving a loss, you are welcome. Please contact the church office at 266-1713 with questions. Newcomers are encouraged to attend.

## January 2 - 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)

## January 6 - Food Bank Work Crew

**Where:** Northeast Iowa Food Bank

**When:** 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Open time for volunteers at the NE Iowa Food Bank. During this time you will be filling bags for the backpack program or repacking donated bulk product. Anyone wishing to volunteer can RSVP with Dan at [dbohnker@feedingamerica.org](mailto:dbohnker@feedingamerica.org).

## January 9 - Card-Making Party

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 1:00 - 5:00 pm

Please join us as we recycle cards to send to members and friends of our church and for the card rack outside the church office. We will meet again on Tuesday, January 9th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm (Come-and-Go). Stay for Community Meals if you'd like. This quarter's profits from sale of the cards will go to Wee Care.

## January 9 - 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. We are starting to crochet hats & scarves for those in need, so anyone wanting to learn to crochet or knit is welcome!

Donations are always greatly appreciated! We need clean used plastic grocery bags, yarn, and crochet hooks. You may leave your crafting donations in the bin in the little hallway across from the drinking fountain on the main level of the church. Thank you to all who have donated craft items so far. Please contact Crystal Wilken at [crystalwilken@gmail.com](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with any questions.

## January 15 - MLK Day Food-Pack Event

**Where:** Mauker Union Ballrooms, UNI Campus

**When:** 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Food-packing event at UNI on Martin Luther King Jr Day. It will be in Mauker Union Ballrooms from 11 to 2. They are hoping to get 500 people there to make 100 pallets, so it will require several lines of food tables. Anyone wishing to help should contact Dan at [dbohnker@feedingamerica.org](mailto:dbohnker@feedingamerica.org).

## January 18 - 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.

## January 22- LifeServe Blood Drive

**Where:** Gathering Place

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

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, January 22 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.

## Every Thursday - Zumba

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!

## Winter Weather Policies

### Worship

It is our goal and our intention to provide at least one worship opportunity every week, but this is Iowa, and it is winter, and weather happens. When winter weather gets bad the pastors will decide if changes should be made to the worship schedule.

### Weekly Activities

Cedar Falls Schools will be our guide. If Cedar Falls Schools have cancelled classes or dismissed early then church activities will also be cancelled for the evening.

Cancellations will be broadcast on both KWWL Channel 7 and KCRG Television Channel 9 and posted online at [www.aboutfirst.com](http://www.aboutfirst.com). We also ask that you use your best judgement and do not venture out into dangerous weather.

**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  
 6:30 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday**

9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, 059  
 9:30-10:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel  
 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  
 \*6:00-7:15 BLAST  
 \*6:00 Youth Group, 3rd floor  
 \*6:00-7:15 Man Thing, library  
 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

\*weekly beginning Jan. 10

**Thursday**

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

**Also Scheduled....**

**MONDAY January 1, 2018**

New Year's Day - office is closed

**TUESDAY January 2**

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

**THURSDAY January 4**

1:30 Metro Cluster, library  
 6:30 Trustees, library

**SUNDAY January 7**

9:45 Third grade Bible class, parlor  
 10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika/ communion  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel

**MONDAY January 8**

10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall  
 5:30-6:30 FirstKids Board mtg, 056  
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel  
 6:30 Pack 44, Fellowship Hall

**TUESDAY January 9**

1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place  
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 4:30 Hearts and Hands, Gathering Place  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor  
 6:30 Fun & Fellowship, library

**WEDNESDAY January 10**

Wednesday night activities resume  
 6:30 Finance committee, 057  
 7:15 FUSION - Denise Barr

**THURSDAY January 11**

6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, parlor  
 6:30 SPRC, 057

**SUNDAY January 14**

Human Relations Day offering  
 Conference Treasurer Here  
 Communion at all services  
 6:00-7:30 Disciple Bible Study, library  
 6:00-7:30 Financial Peace, Parlor

**MONDAY January 15**

Martin Luther King Jr birthday observed  
 11:00-2:00 Food Bank packing event at UNI  
 9:30-2:00ish NE District UMW Leadership  
 10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 Worship committee, library

**WEDNESDAY January 17**

9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library and gym  
 11:00 Pinnacle Care chapel service  
 7:15 FUSION - Rus DeBonis

**THURSDAY January 18**

12:00-2:00 First Friends Potluck, Gather Pla  
 6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, parlor

**SATURDAY January 20**

Newsletter deadline

**SUNDAY January 21**

9:45 Third grade Bible class, parlor  
 10:00 Chris Werling at Frederika  
 6:00-7:30 Disciple Bible Study, library  
 6:00-7:30 Financial Peace U, Parlor  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel

**MONDAY January 22**

10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall  
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place  
 6:00-8:00 CRUSH, 058

**TUESDAY January 23**

1:30 Miriam Circle, library

**WEDNESDAY January 24**

2:00 Windermere communion service  
 7:15 FUSION - Karen Page

**THURSDAY January 25**

4:00 Girl Scouts, library

**SUNDAY January 28**

Souper Bowl Sundae - Soup & Chili event  
 10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika  
 6:00-7:30 Disciple Bible Study, library  
 6:00-7:30 Financial Peace U, Parlor

**MONDAY January 29**

10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY January 31**

noon newsletter mailing crew  
 7:15 FUSION, Linda Kennedy



# Learn & Grow

## 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

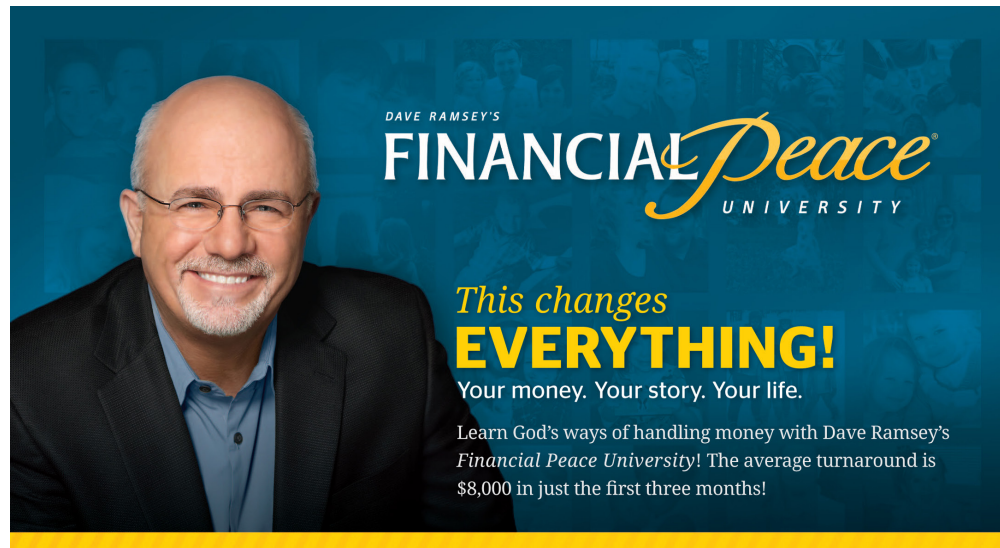
This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room 058 Gil Hewett

### 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



DAVE RAMSEY'S  
**FINANCIAL Peace**  
UNIVERSITY

*This changes*  
**EVERYTHING!**  
Your money. Your story. Your life.

Learn God's ways of handling money with Dave Ramsey's *Financial Peace University!* The average turnaround is \$8,000 in just the first three months!

## Financial Peace University

Take control of your finances! Join us for Financial Peace University classes beginning Sunday, January 14th and ending March 11. The classes will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. There will be free child care provided for those who have little ones. There is a kit that you will need to purchase for the class - one kit per family. The cost of the kit is \$100. Please sign up at the Welcome Center. If you have any questions please talk to the class facilitators, Shane and Tabitha Waltz.

## Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

Change your vision of the world! See the world like Jesus does. Dive into God's word and the story of his work on the earth. Learn to live your life with eternal significance and purpose. Register for Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Candeo Church, Monday evenings, Jan 15-April 30, 6:00-8:45 pm. First UMC and Threehouse students qualify for additional scholarship help, too (see Lisa in the church office). Register at [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org). For more information, email [cfperspectives@gmail.com](mailto:cfperspectives@gmail.com)

**Not sure? Try the first class session for free! It is a fascinating class that will change your perspective on God's mission for us on earth.!**

**God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose.** Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any Christian.

### What is Perspectives?

Perspectives is a fifteen week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" - Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic.

Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day.

The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.



**MADE FOR MORE**  
USE WHAT'S IN YOU TO BLESS  
THE WORLD AROUND YOU

FIND A CLASS NEAR YOU



## Ethics - A One-Day Class That You Can Take

The School for Lay Ministry Commission is excited to offer some Extended Learning Opportunities at Cornell College in Mt Vernon this fall. Classes are open to all clergy, laity or anyone interested. Classes are held on a Saturday from 9:00-5:00, and tuition is \$75

The next class is Saturday, January 13. Ethics will be taught by Steve Streff, a lay person from St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids.

Additional details and the registration form is posted on the [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org) website (click on the "ministries" tab at the top and look for School for Lay Ministry). If you are interested in attending and need assistance or have questions, please contact Barb Mann at [barb.mann@iaumc.org](mailto:barb.mann@iaumc.org) or 515-974-8905 (or see Lisa in the church office)

## Disciple Bible Study - New Testament

### Fast Track Series being taught by Pastor Steve and Janet

We have taught the Disciple Bible Study for 20 years, and believe it is one of the most in-depth studies provided by our Denomination. We enjoyed the opportunity to grow in faith with the class, and the friendships that developed after spending 36 weeks of study have become some of our closest friends. Disciple Studies required a lot of time for preparation and study. Many times the weekly class would last 3 hours long!

The new Fast Track Disciple Series is designed for busy lives. The study is divided into two 12 week long studies. We enjoyed sharing in the Old Testament study this fall, we had a great group of folks! Starting Sunday, January 14 we will begin 12 week study of the New Testament. You read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly 75 minute class. It uses the same format as Disciple with reknown Biblical Scholars sharing about our weekly readings.

We will meet Sunday evenings at 6:00 beginning on Sunday, January 14 starting with the New Testament. Sign up for the class is at the Welcome Center. Cost for each study book is \$15.00. For more information contact Pastor Steve or Janet.



## 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)

## 3rd Grade

### Family Bible Class

We are so excited to start the Family Bible class, which will be a five week course that will meet from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45. This will be held in the Parlor. You and your child will learn how to use the Bible together.

If you and your child will be participating in our 3rd grade bible class please let Jenna Engel know, and which service you would like to receive your bible in. The first class will be held on January 7th in the Parlor during the Sunday School hour.

### Sunday School Notes:

1. We will not be having Children's Sunday school on Dec. 31st. Sunday School will start again on Jan. 7.

2. The nursery will not be staffed on December 31st. Parents are welcome to use the nursery as an escape room when the little ones get restless in worship.

# mission of the month

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

## Miss A Sunday?

Teaching Christian truth is a cornerstone of our church. Our messages are designed to educate, equip and empower you to grow in your faith and pursue your life as a child of God.

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

Go to the worship menu at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and select the sermon page. You'll find a direct link to our youtube channel with all of our sermons and videos.



## January Mission Focus Church World Service Blankets +

January is great month to appreciate a warm blanket, and Rainbow Task Force is promoting Church World Service Blankets+ that month. Contributions to CWS Blankets and CWS Tools mean Church World Service will be ready to help families around the world recover from disasters and displacement. What's more, they'll be there to help people gain the resources and develop the skills necessary to build - or rebuild - sustainable lives and communities.

Between July and October of 2017, CWS provided over 183,000 kits and blankets to refugees and those in crisis in countries such as Armenia, Cuba, Guyana, Jordan, and the United States (including Puerto Rico). Your donation of \$10 for a blanket will provide warmth, shelter, and comfort for those in need in 2018.

Imagine the possibilities:

- \$250 can provide warm blankets for five families left homeless by a tornado.
- \$450 can provide refugees resettling far from their homelands the gardening tools and materials to build six small raised beds for vegetables.
- \$750 can provide sewing machines and training for three women, empowering them to earn an income and feed their families.
- \$1,100 can provide 10 displaced families with emergency food packages that will feed a family of five for one month.
- \$2,500 can provide 250 blankets to an agency serving homeless individuals and families in the U.S.

Check out the display of blankets in the Gathering Place to see just what kind of blanket your \$10 donation will provide. Use the offering envelopes at the display to contribute to this mission.





## THERE IS POWER IN HOPE

Nick Vujicic, a young Australian, was born without limbs. Reading in Sunday School about being made in the image of God seemed like a cruel joke to Nick. He seesawed between despair and begging God to grow arms and legs for him. When he was 15, one story in the Bible answered one of his toughest questions.

“When I read the story of the blind man...and how Jesus said he was born so that the work of God could be revealed through him, that gave me peace. I said, ‘Lord here I am. Use me. Mold me. Make me the man you want me to be.’”



*... “If you can’t get a miracle, become one” ...*

Vujicic learned to write using the two toes on a partial foot. He also learned how to throw tennis balls, answer the phone, type, walk, and swim. He invented new ways to shave and brush his own teeth. He even earned double degrees in accounting and financial planning by age 21. He has since become a motivational speaker to Christian congregations in over 12 countries, and he has ministered to over two million people. He also oversees Life Without Limbs, an organization for the physically challenged.

Such stories have a way of minimizing our own problems and giving us hope. Stephen Ministers are people who have had training to instill that hope as they come alongside others and help us carry burdens of various kinds. If you are in need of some hope as we begin this new year, please reach out to one of our pastors or call the church office, and you will be confidentially directed to one of our Stephen Leaders.

## 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, sheep, 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.

## Community Meal

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 Jan Benson. We can use donations of desserts, too. We welcome new faces. There are opportunities for everyone.

**Right now we are in need of a dining-area set-up crew for the fourth Tuesday of each month. A crew of 4-6 can set up the room with tables and chairs in less than 30 minutes. Contact Jan Benson if this is a way you can help with this ministry.**

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.

## Hospital reminder

Please call us, or have a family member or friend call us, if you are hospitalized. The hospitals are not able to contact us to give us this information. We want to support you and your family when illness or surgeries happen, but cannot do so if we are unaware.

## 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

# reaching out

## 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.

## Human Relations Day is January 14

Turn on the news or drive around the outskirts of your town and you will find what Jesus called "the least of these."

Those living in the margins of society, struggling to survive. People like:

- An immigrant teenager in Texas' poorest county, being recruited by a local gang
- A father struggling for sobriety in Little Rock, Arkansas
- An Oklahoma woman recently released from incarceration looking for work

Over and over Jesus served people like this, embracing them. And that's what we want to model as the people of The United Methodist Church. To continue the ministry of Jesus we established Human Relations Day as a Special Sunday that calls all of our churches to participate in helping all God's children to realize their potential. Special offering envelopes will be in the January 14 bulletins.

## Rainbow Missions Covenant Explained

Ever wonder why our missions committee is called the Rainbow Task Force? It is because of an Iowa Annual Conference program which encourages local churches to spread their mission dollars over a variety of categories, each represented by a color of the rainbow. That's not too hard to understand, but then the conference gets its metaphors all mixed up and treats the rainbow as an obstacle to overcome and throws in first, second and third-mile designations for how well a church goes under, over, or through their rainbow. Below, we'll walk you through the miles and the colors and we'll show you how we're doing.



**First Mile:** this means a church is pretty much just looking at their rainbow from a distance, and not trying to reach it. To be a first-mile church simply means that apportionments are paid in full at the end of the year. Apportionments are a church's share of the administrative costs of our denomination. Think of it as our "taxes" to support the global United Methodist Church. How do we rate? Paid in full.

**Second Mile:** here's where we get into the colors of the rainbow. Our rainbow has seven colors, each representing a mission category. A second mile church will send \$6 per member to world hunger (green) and \$1 per member to the other color categories. How are we doing? Here are our figures as of the end of November 2017:

<u>Color</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>\$ goal</u>	<u>\$ sent</u>
Red	International Mission Banyam Theological Seminary, including our June Pulpit Swap and the Medical Clinic	\$951	\$3299
Orange	United States Missions Henderson Settlement, Redbird Mission	\$951	\$3,727
Yellow	UMCOR Ingathering Kits, CWS Blankets, disaster relief contributions	\$951	\$10,345

## Go and Serve opportunities:

### Midwest Mission Distribution Center

May 7-11, 2018

We have four spaces (2 rooms) reserved in the dorm at Midwest Mission distribution Center in Chatham, Illinois. Cost per person is about \$140 for dorm and material fees, plus travel, sightseeing, and food costs. See Lisa in the church office for more details about this mission opportunity.

**Do you have an idea** for a church mission for work, learning or evangelism? Contact Lisa Congdon in the church office and share your ideas. There may be ways that the church can help you realize your mission vision.



<u>Color</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>\$ goal</u>	<u>\$ sent</u>
Green	International Hunger Community Meals, CROP Walk, Feed My Starving Children, Heifer Project, NE Iowa Food Bank	\$5,706	\$13,538
Blue	Iowa UMC Projects Iowa Justice for our Neighbors, Change a Child's Story	\$951	\$7,430
Indigo	Parish Development Women at the Well	\$951	\$6,674
Purple	Special Offerings you find these offering envelopes in your Sunday bulletins	\$951	\$4,380

**Third Mile:** also called "over the rainbow" means that a church has given an additional \$1 per member to local and institutional giving and an additional \$2 per member for missionary support. Here's our standing as of November 30:

Local & Institutional Love INC, Threehouse, House of Hope, Hospitality House, Back to School Project, pastor's discretionary fund	\$951	\$15,667
Missionary Support Jane and Larry Kies at Africa University in Zimbabwe, and others	\$1,902	\$2,383

These figures only account for the financial giving of First UMC. We also support many of these missions with our prayers, our presence, gifts in kind, our service, and our witness. Countless volunteer hours are donated by dozens of our church members to show Christ to the community, the nation, and the world.

As you can see, our church members are extremely generous. May God bless all that we have given to help so many in need. Thank you all for your support, and may God bless you as well.

Lisa Congdon

Rainbow Missions Taskforce Chair

## Scholarships for Mission Trips

Bill & Ione Zach were faithful members of our church for decades, and when they died (Bill in 2005 and Ione 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 & Ione 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 & Ione Zach could help your dream come true.



## Wee Care Could Use a Boost

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 stretch their dollars. Wipes, pacifiers, 8 oz & 4 oz bottles, receiving blankets, and sippy cups are always in demand. Donations of diapers size 2-5 are always appreciated (Aldis has good ones at a reasonable price). We have a designated shopper who finds good deals on these items, so monetary donations are put to good use. Put Wee Care on the memo line of your check to First UMC.

## 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.

## Women @ First

**Purpose:** The organized unit of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ, to develop a creative supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

### January UMW Calendar

- No Board Meeting
- Jan. 09 – Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30, Library
- Jan. 09 – Hearts and Hands, 4:30 Gathering Place
- Jan. 10 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15, Parlor
- Jan. 11 – Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Jan. 15 – NE District Leadership Team CF First UMC
- Jan. 17 – More Than Moms 6:00-7:15 p.m., Parlor
- Jan. 23 – Miriam Circle Bible study 1:30, Library
- Jan. 24 – More Than Moms 6:00-7:15 p.m., Parlor
- Jan. 31 – More Than Moms 6:00-7:15 p.m., Parlor

### December UMW News

The United Methodist Women, along with their guests and the staff of the Church, held their annual Christmas luncheon on December 14, 2017. Fifteen men served and provided clean-up of the event. Over 60 enjoyed the Ham Ball Luncheon! Christmas music was provided in the sanctuary by the Lincoln Elementary School's 5th and 6th grade Chorus under the leadership of Shelley Droeg, the Vocal Music Instructor after the luncheon. An invitation had been extended to families and friends of the children to join us in the sanctuary for the program. Christmas music was enjoyed by all. Lorna Ericson was awarded a special recognition pin for her leadership skills. The United Methodist Women annually honor members/friends who support the work of our local unit in special ways. Thank you Lorna! Pastor Steve installed the 2018 United Methodist Women committee. These included the following:

President	Pauline Harding
Vice-President	Maxine Kehret
Secretary	Stephanie Buchs
Treasurer	Harriet McMahill
Program Resources	Marlys Simpson
Spiritual Growth	Marlys Pals
Social Action	Donna Hoffman
Local Church Responsibilities	Bobbi Jo Smith, Maxine Kehret

The UMW membership voted to award Jordan Derhammer a monetary scholarship for her continued theological studies. We also voted to award a monetary gift to Chris Werling for her upcoming trip to the Holy Land.

### Hearts & Hands Planning Meeting

Hearts and Hands group will meet on January 9th in the Gathering Place around 4:30 or as soon thereafter as you can make it.

We will make plans for the coming year. There are 3 projects that we will consider.

- 1) Sign up for "Take them a Meal" project run by Love, Inc.
- 2) Construct materials for the "Days 4 Girls" project.
- 3) Make "comfort bags" for children caught up in an emergency situation or facing sudden, unexpected surgery at the hospital.

We will also consider other ways that we can be the hands and feet of Christ. This group is open to anyone at FUMC and usually meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30. We welcome new members to the group. For more information, contact Karen Page at 319-230-7200 or e-mail [kp224@cfu.net](mailto:kp224@cfu.net).

## Fellas @ First

### Tuesday Night Fellas

Informal. Friendly. Our studies are intended to help us figure out how to bring out the best in ourselves and draw us closer to God and each other. Hang out with us in the man-cave (room 059) on Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00. All men of any age are welcome and invited. We usually have a video study going. Don't worry - we don't assign homework.



## Thank You

We want to thank the FUMC for remembering parishioners birthdays with a lovely rose. A special thank you to Jane Wycoff (and others who may carry out this service) for so graciously delivering the flowers. Her cheery smile and greeting, along with the beautiful rose are all much appreciated. Thank you! Judy and John Focht

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and love you have sent our way after the death of Lori's father. We appreciate it, especially thanks to Pastor Steve and Janet for the cards and messages to the boys. Much love,  
The Price Family

Thank you so much for participating in our mission by hosting us for a December sale. We had record sales this year so this is helping people around the world. Blessings to all of you.  
Staff and volunteers at The World's Window

A special thanks to the Grief Support Team who arranged a dinner for the grieving families that have lost a loved one in 2017. The caring of this group was felt by each of us. The meal was delicious and the neat gifts made and given to the loved ones were beautiful. Another plus was Pastor Steve's inspirational, emotional, and heartfelt message of the grieving process which is different for each person. God bless all.

Bud & Buelah Stock

A special thank you to all the bus drivers - especially Steve & Janet MacTaggart for being the liason - and for all the little gifts of random acts of generosity and kindness.

A bus rider

Thanks to Jane Wyckoff for delivering a beautiful red rose for my birthday. I have become so busy I hadn't thought about it or maybe I just wanted to bypass it. Since it is two days before Christmas who has time for it! And, thanks to everyone else who also gave me birthday greetings. You made me feel special,  
Donna Hoffman

Mrs. Santa and her elf visited me on my birthday. A beautiful pink rose sits on my piano and reminds me of all my church friends.

Thank you!

Joan Duea

Thanks to all who helped our neighbors and friends through the Angel Tree Ministries this Christmas. With your generous help we were able to bring a little Christmas cheer through your thoughtful and brightly wrapped gifts for 17 families through Lincoln and North Cedar Elementary Schools, a veteran and their family, a recent graduate of House of Hope and her children, and another local family that is going through a tough time due to medical expenses. We also provided fast food gift cards and practical stocking stuffers for the homeless who are served at Hospitality House and will soon be sending Bibles to our sisters in Christ in Mitchellville. You are truly the hands and feet of Christ to these people. We have already received some heartfelt notes of thanks from some of those who were touched by your kindness.

## Sympathy to:

Family and friends of Nancy Strickler. Nancy passed away November 30. Her funeral was held December 6.

Craig Gingrich and his family on the loss of his brother, Lynn, on November 30.

Andy and Denny Knapp and their families on the death of Andy's mother, Lorna, on December 1.

Family and friends of Pat Bonsall. Pat passed away December 17. Her memorial service was held December 20.

Family and friends of Mark Jansen. Mark passed away December 17. His funeral was held December 22.

## Welcome:

Stephanie Chesmore joined our church on December 17.

Malia Jae Osborn was baptized on December 17. She is the daughter of Dan and Sarah Osborn.

## Financial Update-

November receipts:	\$54,813
November expenses:	\$61,517
Negative Difference:	(\$6,704)
YTD receipts:	\$746,980
YTD expenses:	\$746,411
Positive Difference:	\$569
Mortgage balance -November:	\$493,042

## 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).

## Offering Envelopes Now Available

Offering envelopes for 2018 are now available for those who requested them when submitting your estimate of giving card for 2018. They are on the Welcome Center. If you forgot to request envelopes, just put your name on the clipboard and we'll get them to you by next Sunday.

## Attendance- week ending

	12/3	12/10	12/17	12/24
Transformation	103	103	83	x
Traditional 8:30	130	131	142	x
Traditional 11:00	129	106	134	x
FUSION	25	17	x	x
10:00am				201
5:00pm				136
7:00pm				385
11:00pm				100

# First United Methodist Church

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**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)

February newsletter deadline is January 20.

## 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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Emily Terpstra, Custodian

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