

aboutfirst news

July, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



CONTENTS

- 2 - thoughts from Steve
- 3 - worship
- 4 - home page
- 5 - news
- 6 - events
- 7 - calendar
- 8 - learn & grow
- 9 - learn & grow
- 10 - learn & grow
- 11 - reaching out
- 12 - reaching out & in
- 13 - how to help
- 14 - women & men
- 15 - short notes

issue 214, July 2018

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613
aboutfirst.com

Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month. Email to: chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com

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

Dear Members and Friends of First UMC,

On Sunday June 24th I explored this Genesis text and our beginnings together. I have been curious about how God began and what God had to work with in the beginning. Did God begin with nothing?

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

Friends, we are in a beginning together and I take my hope from those first words of Genesis. They convey to me that God is already with us in our beginnings.

Further, I am guided by the words of Jesuit priest Pedro Arrupe:

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

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

Blessings,

Pastor Scott Keele Kober



*God is already with us
in our beginnings*



Pastor Lee Schott: Our Special Guest July 8

Rev. Lee Schott is the lead pastor at Women at the Well UMC, a United Methodist congregation inside the walls of the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women. We have been a ministry partner with Women at the Well for many years, and Pastor Lee comes to speak to us every summer.

Pastor Lee always brings the latest news from Women at the Well, as well as a great message of hope, unity and redemption. In honor of her visit, we will have **one worship service only on July 8, at 10:00a.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Please plan to attend and hear Pastor Lee.



Worship on the Green - August 26

Our annual worship party picnic is scheduled for August 26. We'll have one worship service outdoors on the lawn. The Transformation Praise Team will lead us in music, and the scouts will grill burgers, Bring your lawnchairs and be ready to worship in the great outdoors.

Q How Many Methodists Does It Take to Pull-Off a Sunday Morning?

A All of Them!
There's a role for all of us to play as we gather together on Sunday morning, and what a joy it is to know that each one of us can have a positive impact on the worship experience. We have ongoing needs for greeters, tech operators, coffee servers, bus drivers, worship leaders, scripture readers and more. Here are areas where we especially need help:

Welcome Center Hosts

We are looking for individuals to be present at the Welcome Center. The times we need are 9:45-10:45. It is important to have members present in case we have guests joining us. Please let Jenna Engel know if you are interested.

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

Prayer Team

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

Altar Flowers

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

4 Home Page

New Church Directory

It's been years since our last photo directory, and with our new pastor, Rev. Scott Kober, joining us this summer, it seems appropriate to update the directory. The directories are invaluable for helping newcomers connect faces with names and, as you can imagine, Pastor Scott, Karen, and Ethan will have many new names to learn.

We need all of you to make our new directory complete! We are partnering with Lifetouch for this important project. Every participating family will receive a complimentary photo directory and an 8x10 portrait. You can sign up for your photo sitting online at our church website at www.aboutfirst.com (it's easy!), or at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings, or you may stop by the church office during the week.

Photography dates are: July 17-21, and August 1-4.

All photography sessions will take place at our church. There is no sitting fee. You will have a variety of poses taken and one pose will be selected for the directory. In addition to your complimentary 8x10, you will have the opportunity to order additional portraits on the day of your portrait session. This is not an obligation, but a nice opportunity to purchase professional portraits. Price lists are available in the church office or on the Lifetouch information table in the Gathering Place.

Your entire session will take about an hour, during which time you will check-in, be photographed, and view your portraits.

Be sure to take advantage of the opportunity to be professionally photographed. We are looking forward to seeing you in our directory. We are hoping for 100% participation!

I Once Was Starving, but Now I'm Filled

I promise that pastors are not sitting in their office all day waiting for people to come in the building. In fact I spend as little time in the office as possible because no one is going to hear the good news from me when I am sitting behind a fortress of brick and mortar. It does happen with some frequency that folks will stop into the church looking for a listening ear, financial assistance, or a warm meal. I had such an encounter this last month.

A man who we will call "M" stopped in to speak with me. I came to learn that he was on disability and had been evicted from his home. All of his earthly possessions were in a storage unit up in Minneapolis and would go to auction if the rent was not brought current. He had not showered in several days and he was clearly hungry.

My heart broke for "M". I don't know all the circumstances that lead him to the predicament he was in. Was it the cycle of systemic family brokenness that he could not escape? Was it the summation of his own poor choices? I don't know. But what I do know is that I saw someone hungry and in need. The passage of Matthew 25 came to my mind when Jesus said, "Whatever you do for the least of these, you do unto me." Jesus did not put any qualification on his statement, "When I was hungry, you fed me. When I was naked you clothed me."

I didn't know if there was anything I could do to change "M's" future, but I knew that I could impact his present. I paid a portion of his rental, brought him into my home to give him a shower, and filled his belly with a home cooked meal that afternoon. As we were sitting in my living room, he asked me a question that I will never forget. He said, "Are you sure you are a Christian?" I said, "Yes, I am sure." He said, "I find it hard to believe that you are a Christian because you have been so nice to me."

"M's" experience of the church had not been positive. His experience mirrors so many people in this age of post-modernity and post-Christendom. Less than 10% percent of the population of Cedar Falls associates with a faith community. Our community is filled with those who are classified as nones (those who have never gone to church) and dones (Those who have given up on church altogether).

I have come to find that I am not superior to anyone else because of the color of my skin, my birth right as an American, or my socio-economic position. Though I am not superior, **I am privileged in many ways. I find that God has called me to use that privilege to be a blessing for others.** My greatest privilege is knowing Jesus. Christians are not superior because they have Jesus. At some point we taste...see... and know that the Lord is good. In our humility we realize that we had been spiritually starving all along. Let us feed this broken and hurting world with the good news of Jesus Christ that there would be no more nones, no more dones, and no more of those who hunger and thirst for food...or righteousness.

Be Bold, Be Strong,
Pastor Matt



I didn't know if there was anything I could do to change "M's" future, but I knew that I could impact his present.

The Big Sale is Coming Soon!

The Annual Church Rummage Sale will be held July 26th (5-8 PM), July 27th (8AM-4PM), and July 28th (8AM-1PM). Please continue your support of this Church-wide event by bringing in saleable items to the lower level of Fellowship Hall. Follow the orange and black signs for proper placement of your donated items. As in the past, no TV's, computers, paint, tires, mattresses, or encyclopedias.

We can use volunteers to sort donations every Wednesday evening from 6:30 PM until done in the lower level. This will continue through July 18th. **It's a fun way to meet and work with others in your First UMC family who you might not otherwise know.**

July 23rd we will move the household items from the basement up the stairs to Fellowship Hall. We would appreciate volunteer church members that can carry items up the stairs or pull/push carts via the elevator to help that evening (6:30 PM until done).



There will be sign-up sheets available at the Welcome Center on July 8th, 15th, and 22nd for volunteers to help with the Luncheon, provide food for the Bake Sale or Luncheons, and help with clean-up after the sale.

Anyone interested in helping with the movement of larger items/furniture for the sale please contact Maxine Kehret at 319-296-1518. Plans are to pick up these items the evening of July 23rd and transport them to the Church.

Questions on how you can volunteer for this important mission for our Church, please contact Maxine at 319-296-1518.

On-Call for Love

Thank you for your great response to last month's call for volunteers to serve on funeral lunch teams. We have filled three teams and we just need one more!

Anyone who has been involved with the lunches we serve after a funeral knows how important this service is to the family and how it reflects our church's mission of love.

When you serve on a funeral lunch team, you will be on-call for any funeral that happens during the three months assigned to your team. Your team will organize salads and cakes, will serve the meal, and clean up afterward. A team can be as few as two people, or as many as you care to recruit! We have written instructions on what to do and we also have plenty of people familiar with serving the luncheons who are willing to help your team until you are comfortable on your own. Having more people involved will help teams if they are short of help for some reason.

Remember, each team will be "on call" only three months each year, so you can work around those months you know you are busy or away from CF. Most teams will actually serve a luncheon three or four times total for the year.

If you want to help or want to know more, please contact Bobbi Jo Smith or Jan Benson. Thank you for considering how you can be on-call for love.



Flo Mobley Retires From Parish Visitation

Flo Mobley has retired after years of serving as one of our parish visitors. Our parish visitors are a crucial part of how our church remains connected with those who are unable to attend Sunday services or other church activities.

Over the years, Flo developed some great friendships with the people she visited, and she loved sharing communion elements and prayers with them. "It was a joy. I never considered it a job", Flo has often said.

After our fall activities begin again, we will host a reception in honor of Flo's service to the First UMC family.

Carol Dick, who has long been a leader in our Congregational Care team will be taking the reins of our parish visitation efforts.

6 Events

July 3 - No Food Bank Work Crew This Month

Because of the July 4 holiday, our food bank work crew will not meet this month. We'll be back at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on the first Tuesday night in August, and you're invited to join us for a fun evening of service for a great cause in our community.

July 3 - No Grief Support Session This Month

We are taking a month off from our grief support sessions this month. Please join us again on Tuesday, August 7th for our next meeting.

July 10th - Card Making Session

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00-5:00 pm

Come join the fun and help us recycle cards to send to First UMC friends or to sell. Our next session will be Tuesday, July 10th from 1:00 to 5:00 in the Gathering Place. Bring a friend, a snack to share if you'd like, and stay for Community Meals. We train you! If you haven't purchased cards yet, check out the card rack just outside the church office. The cards cost only \$.50 each, and they are beautiful!

July 19 - First Friends Potluck

Where: Gathering Place

When: noon - 2:00pm

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



July 20 - Movie Night

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: 6:00pm

Fun and Fellowship is putting on a Family Movie Night on July 20! It will be held in Fellowship Hall. Bring your own chairs and blankets for a picnic-style supper and watch the kid-friendly classic, Toy Story. Hot Dogs will be served at 6:00pm. Feel free to bring your drinks. Movie starts at 6:30pm.

CVLI license #504148037

July 23 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 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. 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.

July 26 - Crafter's Corner

Where: Library

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

July 24 - No Community Meal

Our church spaces will all be filled with items for the rummage sale, so we will not be serving our regular community meal on Tuesday, July 24. See you next week Tuesday.

Monday Night Softball

Softball season is in full swing! Our First UMC team plays in the Cedar Falls Church League on Monday nights at Birdsall Park. Fan support is always appreciated, so join your friends at Birdsall Park and cheer on the team!

The schedule for the rest of the season is:

July 2 - 6:30 on field 2

July 9 - 8:30 on field 3

July 16 - 8:30 on field 2

July 23 - 7:30 on field 3

July 30 - 6:30 on field 2

Zumba Every Thursday! (except July 26!)

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

Recurring Weekly:

Sunday

8:00 prayer in the chapel
 8:30 Transformation Worship
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place
 9:30 Frederika UMC worship
 9:45 Sunday School for some adults
 10:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship

Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast, CF Family Restaurant
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 7:00-9:00 AA, O55

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 6:30 WOW AA, O55

Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

MONDAY July 2

6:30 Softball game, field 2
 6:30 Stephen Ministry supervision

TUESDAY July 3

No Food Bank Work Crew this month

WEDNESDAY July 4

Independence Day - office closed
 5:15 AA, O55
 6:30 WOW AA, O55

THURSDAY July 5

6:30 Trustees, library

SUNDAY July 8

One service only today!
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place
 10:00 Worship in Fellowship Hall
 5:00 Girl Scouts in library or Gathering Place

MONDAY July 9

Summer Games University
 9:30 UMW Board meeting, library
 5:30 1st Kids Board meeting
 8:30p Softball game, field 3

TUESDAY July 10

Summer Games University
 1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY July 11

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer meet at Panera!
 6:30 Rummage Sale sorting - lower level

THURSDAY July 12

Summer Games University

FRIDAY July 13

Summer Games University
 4K for Cancer runners spending the night

SATURDAY July 14

Serve breakfast for cancer runners

SUNDAY July 15

regular summer worship schedule
 sign up for directory pictures

MONDAY July 16

UMW Mission U - Marshalltown
 9:30 UMW Executive Board, library
 6:30 Worship Committee, library
 8:30 Softball game, field 2

TUESDAY July 17

UMW Mission U - Marshalltown
 2:00-9:00 LifeTouch photography

WEDNESDAY July 18

9:30-11:30 MOMs group
 2:00-9:00 Life Touch photography
 6:30 Rummage Sale sorting - lower level

THURSDAY July 19

Walk to Emmaus, Mt Pleasant
 Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place
 2:00-9:00 Life Touch photography
 6:30 SPRC, parlor

FRIDAY July 20

Newsletter Deadline
 Walk to Emmaus, Mt Pleasant
 2:00-9:00 Life Touch photography
 6:00 Movie Night, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY July 21

Walk to Emmaus, Mt Pleasant
 Hope for Harvey, Texas
 10:00-5:00 Life Touch photography

SUNDAY July 22

Walk to Emmaus concludes, Mt Pleasant
 regular summer worship schedule

MONDAY July 23

Grief Support Outing, Hartman Reserve
 9:00-3:00 NE District UMW, parlor
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
 6:30 Worship Committee, library
 6:30 Big Rummage Move!
 7:30 Softball game, field 3

TUESDAY July 24

No community meal tonight
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, LIBRARY

THURSDAY July 26

No Zumba tonight
 5:00pm rummage sale begins

FRIDAY July 27

8:00-4:00 Rummage Sale

SATURDAY July 28

8:00-1:00 Rummage Sale
 1:00 Rummage Sale Clean Up Crew

SUNDAY July 29

Hope for Harvey returns
 regular summer worship schedule

MONDAY July 30

6:30 Softball game, field 3

TUESDAY July 31

noon newsletter mailing crew

Adult Sunday School This Summer

The Pathfinders Sunday School class will be meeting on Sundays throughout the summer beginning June 3 at 9:45 a.m. in the chapel by our main entrance. All who wish to join us are welcome.

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study always welcomes new friends. This group meets in the chapel at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings. Bring your Bible – whichever one you prefer – and be prepared to read through and discuss the Bible. They are working their way through Job and will continue on from there. No homework or study guide is required, just read along with this group of women and offer your insight. Shirley Bolin and Linda Berneking are the contacts for this group.

Daily Devotions are Easy To Get Started

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

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

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



Invest a Weekend, Gain a Lifetime Purpose

- Learn to **see** the Christ among us
- Learn to **be** the Christ among us
- Jump-start your faith and live with a new sense of purpose
- A great opportunity for **EVERYONE** including **YOU**

This three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of life and allow you to refocus on your faith. You’ll be immersed in a Christian community. The activities and discussions will encourage you to live out your faith in new ways. You’ll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and

you’ll have plenty of time for a good night’s sleep. Scheduled break times allow ample opportunities for private meditation, social interaction, and fresh air.

This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. How far, you ask? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to people of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not, at first, recognize him. In this weekend, you’ll learn to recognize Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

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

Upcoming retreats:

July 19-July 22	women	Mt Pleasant, IA
Oct 25-Oct 28	men	Solon, IA
Nov 8-Nov 11	women	Solon, IA



Equip Yourself for Your Next-Level

If You're Ready...

- to step forward in a bold, new way for the cause of Christ
- to unlock your potential as a servant in the United Methodist Church
- to explore the many ways that you can assist pastors and other empowered laity
- to commit yourself to pursue your personal ministry at a higher level

You should consider enrolling in the School for Lay Ministry (SLM). The School for Lay Ministry is an educational initiative of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, designed to grow Iowa churches by providing a supplemental source of leadership. Some of the ways that SLM graduates serve are: volunteer management, Christian education, care-giving, youth programming, outreach, pulpit supply, and the SLM is the pathway to becoming a Certified Lay Minister.

Students devote four weekends a year for three years to this program. Classes are held at the Cornell, Simpson and Morningside colleges. There are reading assignments, lecture sessions, group discussions and activities. It's not for everyone - you have to want to do this - but if you do, you will end up having one of the most enlightening experiences in your Christian life.

Weekend courses will dig into worship, congregational care, Christian ethics, theological perspectives, missions, social concerns, church history, doctrine and polity and strategizing for growth. You will emerge equipped and inspired to see your life as a ministry and to share it openly in ways that suit your strengths and skills. In our congregation, Karl Dance, Jan Hoover, Jim Reidy, Chris Congdon, Lisa Congdon, Padma Templeton, Sue Ney, Chris Werling, Shane Waltz and Jon Cooper are graduates of the program, and Rus DeBonis is currently a student. Ask any of them about their experience, or talk to one of our pastors about the application process. More information can be found at www.iaumc.org.

Babylon Vacation Bible School was a success.

During Vacation Bible School, we discovered that we are not much different from Daniel and his friends. We learned we need to always courageously keep our faith, even in the tough times of life when faith is difficult. Every night we talked about God Sightings and we hung them up in the Sanctuary. Please read what our kids see God working in.

Here are some pictures from our great week at Babylon VBS



10 Mission of the Month

Our July Mission of the month is Women at the Well UMC

Local Back to School Project – save the dates

Here's an opportunity to support our local community. The Back to School Project is a volunteer run organization that collects and distributes new school supplies to kindergarten through middle school students in our own metro area. The Back to School Project has been helping thousands of local kids since 1994. This is a 100% volunteer run project, and you can help in July and August. Here's how:

Registration helpers are needed July 2-August 3. This happens at the Waterloo Community Schools headquarters, 1516 Washington Street in Waterloo. Shifts are 9:00-11:30, 11:30-2:00 and 2:00-4:30 Monday-Friday. Recruit a friend for company and contact Ruth Orth to reserve your shift (319-240-7470 or RNLCOMP@mchsi.com)

Packing and distribution is August 10-17 at Lou Henry Elementary in Waterloo. More information about this will be in the upcoming newsletters, or you can contact Lisa in the church office, or check out their website at btscedarvalley.org.



Women at the Well is our sister and partner church, a United Methodist congregation within the walls of the women's correctional institution in Mitchellville, Iowa. This is a church that serves a specific, sometimes transient population with very special spiritual needs. Check out the display in the Gathering Place for more information about this very unusual ministry.

How can you support the Women at the Well?

- You can give anytime by putting "Women at the Well" on the memo line of your check to FUMC. There are also special offering envelopes at the display in the Gathering Place.
- A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use. The CEB Navigation Bible is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for a healthy Bible study. We have sent many Bibles to prison and they are treasured by those who receive them.

These Bibles normally sell for over \$30, but Cokesbury has made special arrangements for friends of the Women at the Well UMC to order them for only \$10. Use the special "Bibles for our Sisters" envelope at the display in the Gathering Place. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.

- Cards of encouragement are always appreciated. You can mail them to the Women at the Well congregation using this address:
Women at the Well UMC
PO Box 33
Mitchellville IA 50169-0033

- And yet another way you can support this ministry is to be a part of a Reentry Team to support and guide women who are released from prison. See Lisa in the church office and she will get you in touch with the Reentry Coordinator at W@W.

Becoming connected to Women at the Well UMC:

- Come to their Facebook page, Women at the Well UMC, and "like" them there, to receive prayer requests and updates on their ministry.
- Follow them on Twitter, [@WomenatWellUMC](https://twitter.com/WomenatWellUMC)!
- Sign up for their e-newsletter. Do this at their web page at womenatthewellumc.org.



Hospitality for 4K for Cancer- July 13

The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults' cross-country charity relay run, the 4K for Cancer, will stay in Cedar Falls, IA during their run from San Francisco to Boston. The 25 person Team Boston - named after their destination, is made up of young men and women age 18-25.

On running days, participants run between 6 and 16 miles each. On rest days they will volunteer in local hospitals, offering services to cancer patients, and providing two scholarships to young adults affected by cancer.



We will be hosting this group at our church on Friday, July 13. Our role is to provide them a place to spend the night and to feed them dinner and breakfast. We have plenty of floor space for sleeping and have made arrangements for them to use the showers at the Cedar Falls Recreation Center. We would like to show off our beautiful downtown and think these runners would enjoy exploring what Main Street has to offer. With that in mind, it would be great to provide a gift certificate to each runner so they can choose where to eat dinner on their own that Friday night. If you wish to contribute to this, either purchase some \$10 gift certificates on your own and bring them to church or donate some money and we will purchase them. And, if anyone wants to help with an oatmeal breakfast bar early on Saturday morning please contact Lisa in the church office. Donations of healthy snacks for them to take with them are also appreciated.

It's Summer Break, But We're Already Packing UMCOR School Kits!

It's the middle of summer break...but we are starting to get school kits ready for Ingathering. You can help by keeping your eyes open for good deals on school supplies and bringing them to the church collection site on the main level in the little hall across from the drinking fountain. This is what is needed to fill each school kit:

- 3 - 8 1/2 x 11 spiral or top-bound notebooks, 70-80 pgs each (wide OR college rule)
- 1 - pack of loose-leaf paper (100-200 page packets, wide OR college rule)
- 1 - pencil sharpener (hand held - at least 1" long)
- 6 - unsharpened pencils with erasers (plain)
- 1 - box 24 crayons (ONLY 24 count, please)
- 1 - pair BLUNT scissors (rounded tip, no plastic scissors)
- 1 - 2 inch or larger eraser
- 1 - 12 inch or 30 centimeter ruler (hard or flexible)

In particular need right now are crayons, notebooks, and loose-leaf paper, so watch for the sales in late July and buy a shopping cart full! We are now packing the kits into 2 gallon resealable bags, so donations of bags are appreciated, too.

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.

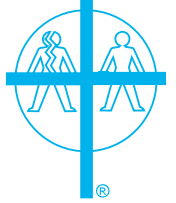
Northeast Iowa Food Bank Personal Care Items

Did you know...in addition to food donations, the Northeast Iowa Food Bank accepts personal care items. Nonprofit organizations are often in short supply of personal care items and clients are unable to purchase these items with SNAP benefits (food stamps). The folks at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank believe that these items are a basic necessity to live a healthy and happy life. They are having a drive to collect these items for their clients:

- Toilet paper
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Toothbrushes/Toothpaste
- Boxes of tissue
- Deodorant

Bring any of these items to the display in the Gathering Place at the church during the month of July, and we'll see that it gets to the Food Bank.

Helping People Get Back On Track



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.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund is in place for helping the poor and needy. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the pastors to help with requests for emergency help. Typical requests are to put gas in a car for a transient passing through town or someone needing to get to a doctor's appointment, paying a portion of a utility bill, or perhaps a night in a hotel for a person in crisis. We refer many requests for financial help to Love INC, but the discretionary fund is helpful for immediate needs.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is supported solely by your donations, and is getting low. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to First UMC with "Discretionary Fund" on the memo. Thank you for partnering with the pastors to be the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors in crisis.

In May 2012 a huge tornado hit Joplin, Missouri. Christ's Church in nearby Oronogo has 39 Stephen Ministers---members trained to care one-to-one for people in times of crisis. They immediately set up a tent to be out among the people to identify needs, help find what they needed, and pray with them.

A year after the tornado struck, they found that even more care giving was going on. Shock was the initial response but later on feelings that hadn't been dealt with began to surface. Grief, despair, hopelessness, and anger all came to the forefront. People needed to talk and pray and talk some more.



Whether from a tornado or something else, everybody has crises in life. Any type of loss in life can trigger the grief cycle. Just like the Stephen Ministers in Missouri, our Stephen Ministers here at First UMC are here to help people during difficult times. We encourage you to call the church office with questions or to be directed in confidence to one of our Stephen Leaders for help.

Let's Welcome the Kobers With a Cow

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.

We have a bull in the barn to honor Pastor Steve, so now we could use a cow to honor Pastor Scott Kober and his family. The barn also has a pig in honor of our former District Superintendant Jackie Bradford and a sheep in honor of Paul Wilcox, who became our new DS in July.



Worship:

Join the usher team

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

Share your musical talent

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

Prayer Team

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

Altar Flowers

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

Outreach & Missions:

Community Meal - Every Month (except July!)

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

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

Ongoing Wish Lists

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

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

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

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

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

How can you help?

14 United Methodist Women

UMW Summer Calendar

July, August – No Board meeting
July 15 – 17 – Summer Mission U
July 23 – NE District Leadership Team Meeting, Cedar Falls First UMC

2018 Mission U: Learning Together for Transformation of the World

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

WHEN: October 19–21. Fall Mission U, (register by September 21).

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

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

UMW is More Than You Think It Is

If your picture of United Methodist Women is Jello salad and doilies, you’re going to have to open your eyes a lot wider to really see what this organization is all about. UMW is a powerhouse of church mission and social justice activism.

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice.



Members raise up to \$20 million each year for programs and projects related to women, children and youth in the United States and in more than 100 countries around the world.

United Methodist Women and The United Methodist Church’s principles and values include:

- Promoting the empowerment of women, children and youth.
- Promoting anti-racism and multiculturalism.
- Promoting inclusion and equity.
- Promoting fair labor practices.
- Promoting economic and environmental stewardship and sustainability.

The Vision of United Methodist Women

Turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth around the world.

Living the Vision

We provide opportunities and resources to grow spiritually, become more deeply rooted in Christ and put faith into action.

We are organized for growth, with flexible structures leading to effective witness and action.

We equip women and girls around the world to be leaders in communities, agencies, workplaces, governments and churches.

We work for justice through compassionate service and advocacy to change unfair policies and systems.

We provide educational experiences that lead to personal change in order to transform the world.

Thank Yous

Thank you church for the beautiful rose I received on my 91st birthday, and thanks to Jane Wyckoff for delivering it. It makes me feel like getting old is O.K.

Darlene Prashak

Thank you to the church and Jane Wyckoff for delivering the beautiful red rose for my 85th birthday. I'm thankful for every day and even more so - for each year!

Ike Anderson

We thank the church staff for all the cards and thoughts as we grow older. We appreciate them!

Homer and Ruth Anne Leymaster

Thank you for all the thoughts, kind words, and prayers on the passing of my granddaughter, Becca. I really appreciate your love and support.

Doug Shaffer

I would like to thank Jane for the beautiful rose for my birthday. I would like to thank staff and friends for all the cards. I'm thankful our church is like a very special family and everyone feels welcome. Thank you dear friends for making my special day so wonderful!

Pat Ackerman

Many thanks to Jane for the beautiful rose and to Carol Dick for her visits. I am sorry we did not connect. We are grateful for the prayers and support of the church family. Thanks again.

Carol Will

Thank you so much for the graduation gifts! I love the cross! Most of all, thank you for being my home church for so long.

Katie Klaver

It is always special to be remembered on my birthday. A special thanks to United Methodist Church staff and the Congregational Care Team for the nice cards. I am always thankful for another year. God bless you!

Bonnie Ling

Thank you to Jane for delivering a beautiful rose on my 80th birthday. I was able to enjoy it for over a week.

Elaine Chapman

Congratulations

Steve and Julee Bernard have a new granddaughter. Isla Marie Pedersen was born May 24 to Brandon and Allison (Bernard) Pedersen. Ruth Bernard is Isla's great-grandmother.

Welcome to:

Lennon Louise Dideriksen was baptized on June 3. She is the daughter of Nick & Briley Dideriksen.

Masyn Jo Steffensmeier was baptized on June 17. She is the daughter of Tim & Sami Steffensmeier.

Sympathy to:

Doug Shaffer on the loss of his granddaughter, Becca.

Friends of Dick Mohler, who passed away in Texas on May 27th at age 102 years, 3 months, and 22 days.

Doug Behr on the loss of his sister-in-law.

Shari King on the death of her aunt.

Friends and family of Miriam Temple and Toby Thompson. They passed away June 6. Their memorial service was held June 15.

Matt Porter and his family on the death of his father, Wes Jones, who passed away June 9. His service was held June 16.

Caroline Hess and her family on the loss of her brother, Roger Trueg, on June 14.

Family and friends of Paul Sorenson. Paul passed away June 22. His memorial service will be held July 2.

Denise Clipperton and her family on the loss of her mother on June 26.

Dorothy Isakson and her family on the loss of her sister, Jeannine Bean, on June 26.

Finance Report (as of June 24)

YTD Budget received:	474,649
YTD Budget expenses:	420,372
YTD Budget surplus:	54,277
Mortgage Balance	350,655

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.

Attendance- week ending

	6/3	6/10	6/17	6/24
Transformation	105	57	75	x
Traditional 8:30	141	66	161	x
Traditional 10:00	147	80	223	265

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319.266.1713

Fax: 319.266.1715

Email: churchoffice@aboutfirst.com

www.aboutfirst.com

aboutFirst (USPS 671-710)
is published monthly by
First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613.
Periodical postage paid at
Cedar Falls, IA. **POSTMASTER**
Send changes to:
aboutFirst
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Traditional services

Sunday, 8:30 a.m. Transformation Worship

Van rides are available for the 10:00 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

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

Scott Kober, Senior Pastor, scott.kober@aboutfirst.com

Matt German, Associate Pastor, matt.german@aboutfirst.com

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director
tbonebrake@hotmail.com

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

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

Debbie Dance, Financial Manager
debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com

Carol Dick, Parish/Grief Support Coordinator

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

Rebecca Nims, Youth Ministry Coordinator
rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com

Doug Shaffer, Organist
musicman52151@gmail.com
610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian