



June 2017  
issue 201

# ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa

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COKESBURY'S VBS

**HERO  
CENTRAL**

Find Your Strength  
In God

Vacation Bible School  
registration info inside

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## Thoughts from Steve

It is like a dream come true! Janet and I will be traveling to Nigeria from June 14 through June 28 as part of a "Pulpit Exchange" with Banyan Theological Seminary. John and Titi Pena will be coming to Cedar Falls from B.T.S. where he serves as the Provost. Our mission for both couples will be to strengthen our relationship with B.T.S. and Cedar Falls First as we work together in serving Christ through the church. This trip fulfills our TEAM Christ Vision of being Builders of the Kingdom by expanding our ministry beyond our church!

John and Titi will be living in our parsonage. John will be preaching at the Traditional Sunday Services on July 18 and 20. Coved Oswald will be staying with them to host and assist them while they are here in Cedar Falls. Coved is a UNI College student who has joined our church, and you may have noticed him playing in our Bell Choir and helping with the children and youth programs. Mark Fransdal and Chris Congdon will also be helping host the Penas because they have come to know each other from their trips to Nigeria.

We are hoping that our congregation members will invite Penas to join them for supper or coffees. We want to host them as warmly as they have hosted our mission teams when we traveled to Nigeria. Ideally it would be great if a Sunday School Class, UMW Circle or Church friends invite them for a backyard barbeque or neighborhood picnic. Also there are some great opportunities to show them the best of Cedar Falls in making sure they attend Sturgis Falls and the Band Concerts.

We are really looking forward to this trip. I will be teaching students at B.T.S. and leading a three day Pastor's Retreat while we are there. Janet will be working with at the Medical Clinic our church built on the campus, plus working with the Nigerian Medical Committee in making plans for the future. Both of us will be working at helping build on the 27 years of the Iowa Nigeria Partnership. Our focus will be in establishing a new 5 year plan that will focus on the areas of Education, Medical, and Wells.

Early in my ministry I felt a call to do mission work of this nature. I dreamed of the adventure of going to faraway places to make a difference in the name of Christ. Instead, I lived out my dream by taking youth groups and adults on mission trips to Henderson Settlement and Red Bird in Kentucky, Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana, and to the inner cities of Des Moines, Chicago, Kansas City and St. Louis. They were all adventures that have left wonderful memories and the reward of making a difference in people's lives.

Janet also shared a similar dream of using her nursing skills in remote clinics somewhere in our world. Jesus is always knocking on the door of her heart, and she has found her calling in helping kids in school or as a county health nurse. Going to Nigeria is also fulfilling a dream for Janet.

This will be the first time there has been an exchange of Pastors between Iowa and Nigeria, so we invite you to be in prayer for the Penas and us as we seek to strengthen the bond between our conferences. It will be a dream come true for us to travel to Nigeria. We ask for your prayers for a safe and meaningful trip. We know there will be many "God moments" on our trip. We hope to come home with many stories to share about the great things you have done in the name of Christ.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters in Nigeria

*Pastor Steve and Janet*



*John Pena presents the banquet table at his home in Jalingo*

## Iowa Hospitality

We want to be good hosts for John & Titi. We'd like them to feel welcome and wanted, but not overwhelmed. If you (or your Sunday School class or small group) would like to host them for a lunch or a dinner, that would be great! If there's a community event (like a band concert in the park) that you think they might enjoy, take 'em along. We'll have a calendar set up in the Gathering Place on Sundays June 4 & 11 for you to sign up.

Also, we may have a need for transportation assistance as Dr. Pena visits other churches which have contributed to Banyan Seminary. If you're available for day-trip driving during the second half of June, please let us know in the church office.

## Summer Sunday Worship Hours beginning Sunday, June 4

Beginning Sunday, June 4 we will start our Summer Worship Hours. Since there is no Sunday school, we will be moving the 11:00 Traditional Service up to 10:00 a.m. We will return to our fall/winter/spring schedule when Sunday School resumes on Sunday, September 10. Our summer Sunday schedule will be as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. - Traditional in Sanctuary and Transformation in Fellowship Hall
- 9:30 to 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Time
- 10:00 a.m. - Traditional in the Sanctuary

On **Sunday, July 2** we will be serving Communion at all services.

On **Sunday, August 27** we will have Worship on the Green at 10:00 a.m. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the fellowship. We will move to Fellowship Hall in case of rain.

## SoulShift-The Measure of a Life Transformed

The church is in the business of saving souls, but the concept of the soul is something that is rarely talked about.

The soul is that place that is deep inside of you where God wants to meet you. It is the place that God wants to dwell within you. It is the place where God wants you to love him. But it is also the place that God wants to change.

We all want to be different, but we don't want to change. We think we know what we're supposed to do, but we're not quite sure who we're supposed to be on the other side of transformation.

At the 8:30 Transformation service, we continue in the month of June our sermon series, SoulShift. I am going to offer an approach to spiritual transformation that focuses less on measuring how much time we are spending on spiritual inputs—such as Bible study and prayer—and more on measuring who we are becoming in Christ.

Christians at any stage of life will experience a fresh beginning of following Jesus. You will learn about seven key transformational shifts that happen at the Soul level of every true follower of Christ. You will also receive practical help for bringing about these shifts in your own life. When you are becoming transformed in the Spirit, you will see the following key shifts begin to take place in your life.

1. Me to You
2. Slave to Child
3. Seen to Unseen
4. Sheep to Shepherd
5. Ask to Listen
6. Consumer to Steward
7. Me to We



SoulShift will move you from performance-driven religion to a life-transforming relationship in Jesus Christ. I hope you will join us on this journey as we dive deeper into these SoulShifts. Be Bold, Be Strong,

*Rev. Matt German*



## Big News at Washington Chapel

For the past two years, we have had a sister-church relationship with Washington Chapel. Jordan Derhammer has served as their worship coordinator, and has lined up speakers to fill the Washington pulpit every Sunday. This relationship has given many of our gifted First UMC lay speakers an opportunity to share their faith. But that will change on July 1, as Jordan has now been appointed to serve Washington Chapel as the pastor. She'll be handling congregational care and preaching duties as she continues her seminary studies.

This is a great opportunity for Jordan to grow into the job of leading a congregation. Please be in prayer for Jordan and for the people of Washington Chapel. Don't hesitate to head up to the quiet country church on a Sunday morning to worship with our friends.

Speakers in June are:

- June 4 - Jordan Derhammer
- June 11 - Jon Cooper
- June 18 - Chris Congdon
- June 26 - Jordan Derhammer

## Rummage Sale 2017

We look forward to another great year in our mission goal to serve others in our local community. Please start saving and sorting usable and saleable "stuff" to bring to the Church. As in the past we would prefer no TV's, computers or artificial Christmas trees. There are signs posted to take them to the lower level under Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please contact Donna Hoffman or Maxine Kehret

The sale is scheduled for the first weekend in August.

## Kid's Clothing Coordinator:

Someone to coordinate the donations of kids clothing from infant through teen sizes and toys for children. Experience in knowing children's clothing sizes helpful. Please call Maxine Kehret at 296-1518 for additional information.

## 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!

June 5 - 7:00 on field 3  
June 12 - 6:00 on field 2  
June 19 - 8:00 on field 3  
June 26 - 6:00 on field 2  
July 3 - no game  
July 10 - 7:00 AND 8:00 on field 3  
July 17 - 7:00 on field 2  
July 24 - 9:00 on field 3  
July 31 - 6:00 on field 2



## Transformation Worship Team

We're looking for a few people to serve on a rotating basis as worship leaders in Transformation Worship. The worship leader begins worship by welcoming the congregation, presents a few announcements and leads us in the Call to Worship. This is a good position for someone who loves to be in worship and isn't afraid to say so in front of a group. If you'd like to serve in this way, please talk to Pastor Matt.

We're also looking to train a few more people to operate the worship projector on a rotating schedule. It's actually not too hard. The graphics and song lyrics are all done ahead of time, all you need to do is put the right thing on the screen at the right time. If you'd like to try being on the tech team, talk to Chris Congdon.

  
*6<sup>th</sup> Annual* **GOLF**  
*Love INC* **TOURNAMENT**  
**MONDAY JUNE 26**  
**REGISTRATION/LUNCH 11:30AM**  
**TEE-OFF 12:20PM**  
*Irv Warren Memorial Golf Course*

SIGN UP AT  
**GOLFOVEINC.COM**

**GREENS FOR DREAMS**

## Praying Our Way Forward – We are One in Christ

The United Methodist Church is engaged in a world-wide discussion about our understanding of human sexuality. Over 12 million United Methodists in 120 countries are all coming together to discuss this one topic. The discussion of human sexuality is called Finding Our Way Forward and it is being led by a commission which was established at the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2016. Their work will take several years. It is an overwhelming task, except for one thing: All 12 million United Methodists can pray. And we are all asked to join in the prayers. Our Bishop Laurie Haller has invited every church and every member to join in praying our way forward. As the commission carries out their work they have asked that United Methodists blanket their efforts with prayer. Our goal is to maintain the unity of the 12 Million United Methodists worldwide and respond faithfully to diverse understandings of human sexuality.

There is more information available on our Conference Website [www.iaumc.org/prayingourwayforward](http://www.iaumc.org/prayingourwayforward). There are daily devotions written by United Methodists from all over the world and posted on the website and available via email. You can subscribe to the weekly news updates at [www.iaumc.org/subscribe](http://www.iaumc.org/subscribe). You can also visit [umcprays.org](http://umcprays.org) to learn more about Praying Our Way Forward initiative. Imagine, in every country, every country church, every urban church, every United Methodist bowing in prayer. Imagine the delight in heaven to hear our voices united in prayer. Amen!

## Annual Conference June 10-12

Lay members Shawna Brimm, Karl Dance, and Padma Templeton and Pastors Matt German and Steve Williams will be representing our church in attending the 174th Session of the Iowa Annual Conference in Des Moines. Our Youth Coordinator Rebecca Nims will be helping chaperone the youth delegates and pages, and Chris Congdon will be providing technical support for the event. This year's theme is "Creating Difference Makers!" Highlights will include welcoming our new Bishop Laurie Haller. You are invited to visit Annual Conference at the HyVee Hall in downtown Des Moines.



While the pastors are attending Annual Conference, Lisa Congdon will be serving as our guest preacher on Sunday, June 11 at both Traditional worship services at 8:30 and 10:00 am. Rus DeBonis will be guest preacher at the Transformation Service at 8:30 am. We thank Lisa and Rus for sharing in our worship services.

## 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 local churches to function effectively in their own community, 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.

If you'd like to know more about how the United Methodist Church is working around our state, our nation and the world, check the news updates on the following websites. 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)

## Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2017 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 brought to the church on Friday, please.

## events

### June 2 - Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Relay for Life Night at the Waterloo Bucks is Friday, June 2. The Bucks are taking on the Duluth Huskies with first pitch at 6:35 p.m. There will be a Dash for Cash for Relay for Life during the game and fireworks after the game. Tickets are still available at the box office. Cindi Knox is looking for FUMC members to participate in the Dash for Cash. Contact Cindi at [cindi50701@aol.com](mailto:cindi50701@aol.com) or at 319-230-5642 to sign up or for more information.

### June 6 - Food Bank Work Crew

Here's a fun and easy way to help the food insecure in our community.....

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, June 6 to help at the Food Bank at 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. Often we fill grocery bags with kid friendly food 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 or get yourself to the Food Bank and come into the Volunteer Entrance. We'll be there from 6:00 to no later than 8:00pm.

### June 6 - Grief Support Session

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

### June 13 - Crafter's Corner

Attention crafters! The first few Crafters' Corner has been a great success, and we will plan to meet this June, July and August on the 2nd Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 in the parlor. 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. 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.

### June 15 - First Friends Potluck

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.

### June 26 - LifeServe Blood Drive

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, June 26 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!



### Relay for Life

Cindi Knox will be in the Gathering Place on Sunday June 11 taking donations and selling luminaria bags for Relay for Life in between services. \$1 candy bars, jewelry handmade by Karla Blackford and stained-glass angels handmade by Shawna Brimm will also be available for purchase. FUMC Cancer Crusher t-shirts for only \$5 while supplies last!

FUMC Cancer Crushers-Relay for Life is Friday, June 16 from 2:00-10:00 at Hawkeye Community College. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so by visiting [www.relayforlife.org/blackhawkcountya](http://www.relayforlife.org/blackhawkcountya) If you have questions or want more information, please contact Cindi Knox at [cindi50701@aol.com](mailto:cindi50701@aol.com) or 319-230-5642.2.

**Recurring Weekly:****Sunday**

8:00 prayer in the chapel  
 8:30 Transformation Worship  
 8:30 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 9:30 Fellowship time, Gathering Place  
 10:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship

**Tuesday**

7:00 Men's Breakfast  
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, 059  
 9:30-10:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel  
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 Transformation Band, 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  
 6:30 WOW AA, 055  
 7:30 Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall  
 7:00 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

**Also Scheduled....****THURSDAY June 1**

1:00 UMW committee meeting,, parlor  
 6:30 Rummage Sale meeting, chapel  
 7:00 No Band tonight

**FRIDAY June 2**

youth do movies under the moon

**SATURDAY June 3**

1:00-4:00 Anna Dvorak Grad Open House

**SUNDAY June 4**

Youth Can / Bottle Drive  
 Summer Worship Schedule Begins  
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Jordan Dermamm

**MONDAY June 5**

9:30 UMW Board Meeting, library  
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

**TUESDAY June 6**

2:00-3:30 Grief Support, parlor  
 7:00 No band rehearsal

**WEDNESDAY June 7**

6:30 Rummage sale sorting

**THURSDAY June 8**

6:30 SPRC, library

**SATURDAY June 10**

Iowa Annual Conference UMC begins, DSM

**SUNDAY June 11**

Iowa Annual Conference continues, DSM  
 Transformation: Rus DeBonis  
 Traditional Worship: Lisa Congdon  
 Washington Chapel: Jon Cooper

**MONDAY June 12**

Iowa Annual Conference concludes, DSM

**TUESDAY June 13**

1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

**WEDNESDAY June 14**

2:00 Stanard Care communion service  
 6:30 Finance Committee, library  
 6:30 Rummage sale sorting

**THURSDAY June 15**

12:00 1st Friends Potluck, Gathering Place

**SATURDAY June 17**

Habitat for Humanity Work Day

**SUNDAY June 18 - Father's Day**

10:30 Washington Chapel - Chris Congdon  
 6:30-8:15 Vacation Bible School

**MONDAY June 19**

6:30-8:15 Vacation Bible School  
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

**TUESDAY June 20**

July Newsletter Deadline  
 6:30-8:15 Vacation Bible School  
 7:00 No Band

**WEDNESDAY June 21**

9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library and gym  
 11:00 Pinnacle Care Chapel service  
 6:30-8:15 Vacation Bible School  
 no rummage sorting tonight

**THURSDAY June 22**

6:30-8:15 Vacation Bible School

**SATURDAY June 24**

8:00-10:00 Sturgis Falls Parade Hospitality  
 Henderson KY work crew departs

**SUNDAY June 25**

10:30 Washington Chapel - J Derhammer

**MONDAY June 26**

12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place  
 6:00-8:00 CRUSH, 058

**WEDNESDAY June 28**

2:00 Windermere communion service  
 6:30 Rummage sale sorting

**THURSDAY June 29**

No band

**July AboutFirs Newsletter Note:**

Because some of our newsletter crew will be travelling with the Henderson Kentucky work team, the July Newsletter will be Mailed Monday, July 3.



## Save the Dates for VBS!

Mark your calendars for **June 18th-22nd** for Hero Central VBS! Discover Your Strength in God! We will take an adventure alongside a few favorite Bible heroes and discover the qualities that make us truly heroic in God! It's not too early to register your child for VBS - you'll find the form in this newsletter.

## Sunday School Spring Semester Ends

Sunday School spring semester has come to an end. We will start back up in September. I would like to say Thank you to all of the volunteers that taught our children about God's Love. Thank you for giving your Sunday morning to First United Methodist. I would also like to give a special THANKS to Janet Williams and Anna Dvorak for teaching our children many wonderful songs during Sunday music. - Jenna Engel

## Holy Land Trip – Walk Where Jesus Walked - Spring Break 2018

Pastor Steve and Janet are planning a trip to the Holy Land during Spring Break in 2018 leaving March 6 and returning on March 15. This is a trip of a lifetime. We will visit significant sites such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem. We will be walking where Jesus walked! Going to the Holy Land has made a dramatic difference in traveler's faith and reading the Bible. There are some individuals looking for roommates to share this experience. If you are interested in going, please contact Pastor Steve or Janet.



## Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study resumed mid-April after taking a break in the snowy months. 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 Deuteronomy 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 is the contact for this group.

## Plan Now for a Fall Faith Renewal

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



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

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

### Upcoming retreats:

October 20-23 men Solon, IA  
November 3-6 women Solon, IA



# Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 18 - Thursday, June 22  
6:30-8:15 pm

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$12.00 suggested contribution per participants; maximum \$24.00 per family. Contribution is voluntary, and is not a requirement to attend. Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church and mark "VBS". Please complete one registration form for each child.



## Participating Child

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

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in Fall 2017 \_\_\_\_\_ (must turn 3 years old by September 15 to attend this year)

Names of Parents and adults authorized to pick up children. \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

## Contact Information

Primary \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

Additional \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_ relationship (circle): parent / trusted adult

## Health information

Please indicate any information about your child that we should know, I.E. allergies, medication, special restrictions, special needs, special friendships we should encourage, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

In the event of emergency, I authorize the First United Methodists' VBS Staff consent to appropriate medical treatment for my child \_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

If you are helping and will be here during VBS you do not have to complete the physician information.

Child's doctor's name and phone are listed below:

Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Physician's Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## media release

First United Methodist Church may use photographs and video of my child's participation in VBS activities. I understand that photo and video images will NOT be labeled with children's names. circle: yes / no initial: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.



## Congratulations to New Confirmands

Confirmation Sunday was a wonderful celebration for our church family. On Sunday, May 21 we welcomed 18 youth to our church who claimed Jesus Christ during worship. It has been years since we had a class of that size. It was something to see these students lined across our Chancel area. Please keep them in your prayers that they will continue to grow in their faith. Thanks to Becca Nims and Lorren Schofield for helping with the class. We welcome the Confirmation Class of 2017:

Molly Boevers, daughter of Bill and Amy Boevers

Maggie Burgett, daughter of Monica & Mike Rotsaert and Scott Burgett

Antoine Cuhart, son of Gabriela and Daniel Cahut

Connor Derhammer, son of Darren and Angie Derhammer

Sydney Herzmann, daughter of Thomas and Deana Herzmann

Makayla Kinder, daughter of Jason and Jennifer Kinder

Kyle Johnson, son of Brad and Jodi Johnson

Belle Nicol, daughter of Shawn and Angie Nicol

Makayle Nicol, daughter of Shawn and Angie Nicol

Kaleb Price, son of Kevin and Lori Price

Harrison Redfern, son of Don and Lorelei Redfern

Chet Schofield, son of Tom and Danell Schofield

Kate Tomson, daughter of Chuck Tomson and Kristi & Kevin Meyers

Maddie Tomson, daughter of Chuck Tomson and Kristi & Kevin Meyers

Dawson Walker, son of Laura & Donn Bruess, and the late Mike Walker

Katie Waltz, daughter of Shane and Tabitha Waltz

Alaina Wellendorf, daughter of Scott and Laura Wellendorf

Mason Wellendorf, son of Scott and Laura Wellendorf



## Class of 2017

On May 7th during the Transformation service we had the honor of recognizing the graduation from high school: Madison Leigh Standing, Meredith Ann Standing and Anna Elizabeth Dvorak. Congratulation Class of 2017! Go out and do great things!



## Mission of the month is Banyam Theological Seminary

Our initial connection with Banyam Theological Seminary in Nigeria came when our church was challenged to help them achieve an internet connection and computer access for students on-campus. We were visited by John Pena and Davidson Adams from Nigeria as we raised funds for that effort.

In 2012, Mark Fransdal and Chris Congdon accepted an invitation to go to the seminary to see the finished, functioning, computer lab and to meet some staff and students. From this visit, relationships and friendship were formed that continue today.

From that first visit came the dream of a medical clinic on the seminary grounds, and with the help of a couple of partner churches in NE Iowa, we were able to fund the construction of that clinic. A year later, in 2015, the walls were up and ready for paint. Mark and Chris, along with Dave Neill and Pastor Steve and Janet went to see the progress and to do the painting work. That visit led to more friendships on the BTS campus as we worked and lived side by side with the students, faculty and staff.



The clinic has been functioning and we have raised funds for some simple laboratory tests and diagnostic supplies. Steve and Janet Williams will be taking those medical supplies with them on their trip to Banyam Theological Seminary in mid-June.

During the month of June your donations to Banyam Theological Seminary will be used to help provide scholarships for students. The United Methodist Church in Nigeria is growing at an astronomical rate, and BTS is the only United Methodist Seminary in the country. The cost for a year of seminary is only \$400, which may not seem much to us but can be a real hardship for the seminary students.

You will have an opportunity to meet the provost of BTS, John Pena, while John and his wife, Titi, are here in Cedar Falls this month. Please welcome them warmly and feel free to ask questions about the seminary and the clinic. They are pleased to be in partnership with us and appreciative of our support.

Check out the display in the Gathering Place for more information about our relationship with Banyam Theological Seminary in Nigeria. It is a blessing for us to be in partnership with others who value education and are involved in the work of growing the church. Use the special offering envelopes provided to donate to scholarships for students.



*Left: Dave and Janet at work in Salaminkala Clinic.*

*Right: Mark, Dave, Dikko, David and Titus on the paint crew.*

## Back Home Buddies

Summer is upon us and that means camp. This year we have four students attending Summer Games University. We are looking for congregation members to provide care packages for our students. Please contact Becca Nims, [rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com](mailto:rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com), if you can show support to our campers in this way.

## Wee Care

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. Diapers of all sizes are always appreciated, along with wipes, baby wash, baby lotion, 8 oz bottles and sippy cups. If you see a good deal on end-of-season baby clothes feel free to bring them in. We have a place to store them until the appropriate season.

## 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.

## email Prayer Chain

If you would like to be on the church "eprayer" list, please let the church office know by emailing Lisa at [lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com). We send out prayer requests by email as they come in, and also include prayer requests noted on the attendance slips. Remember, to ensure privacy, please make sure to get permission from the party that you feel needs prayers.

## 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.

## Peace with Justice Offering

– June 11

Moved by Christ's love to pursue reconciliation and peace, honoring the dignity of every individual made in God's image, The United Methodist Church is unwilling to turn a blind eye to injustice. Individually we lack the resources to effect change in a broken world, but together our giving is vital for the UMC to continue its global ministries of reconciliation. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds—and yielding fruit!—of peace. Use the special offering envelope provided in the June 11 bullet

## Learn to Climb Upward

A father tells about his five year old son, Aaron, wanting to learn to climb a big tree in their back yard. He said, "When I lifted Aaron onto the tree's lowest branch, he panicked for fear of falling. I tried to coach him along, telling him to first kneel on the branch, then slowly stand up and climb to the center of the tree. But Aaron was so focused on his fear of falling that he couldn't move. I finally shouted, 'Aaron!' Once I had his attention, I told him to quit thinking about falling and think about climbing! Aaron thought about that for awhile and then started to climb to the center of the tree. His fear was gone, and he was able to do what he wanted."



The phrase, "think about climbing" is a good one to hold onto. Most of us periodically are faced with change of some kind or an impossible looking project, and find ourselves being fearful. If we give in to the fear, we are crippled with respect to moving ahead/upward. But, if we think about climbing – not falling, failing, or being overcome – we can move upward to what we want.

Sometimes illness, losing a job, or loved one, difficulty/tragedy in a loved one's life, various adverse circumstances and so many other things, can cause us to focus more on "falling" then on "climbing upward." Like Aaron was encouraged to change his focus by his father, we can often benefit by another person encouraging us to climb upward. Stephen Ministers are trained to do just that. They don't condemn; they aren't shocked by any circumstance, responses, or emotions. They just want to be channels through which the love and healing power of God can flow to help people climb upward out of difficulty.

## Pray for Our Kentucky Work Trip

A work crew of three youth and five adults will be going to Henderson Settlement the last week of June. Our off-campus projects involve applying lattice around porches for two homes, and our on-campus projects involve painting at the Henderson Settlement Community Center and food pantry. A portion of our Easter offering was used to pay for the material costs of the projects. Youth fundraising efforts and scholarships have helped reduce the costs for the work trip participants - we thank all who have contributed to make this affordable.

Please pray for the work crew as we travel to Kentucky and work with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Appalachia.

## Final can/bottle drive

The 7-12th grade students have one more opportunity for you to drop off your rinsed out cans and bottles on June 4th. Funds collected will help assist student going to Henderson, KY where they will be doing mission work at the Henderson Settlement.

## Peanut Butter for the Food Bank

This summer (June, July, August) we will be collecting jars of peanut butter for the NE Iowa Food Bank. Peanut butter is an excellent source of protein, and kids love it. We have set a lofty goal of 1,000 jars to collect over summer school break!

Once again, we will sort the jars by crunchy or creamy variety, and you can vote for your favorite by the type you donate! Last year we exceeded our Lenten goal of 500 jars, and crunchy style won 303 to 269 over creamy style.

Bring the peanut butter to the church office now through the end of August.



If you are not a shopper or really don't have an opinion about crunchy or creamy, we are also taking monetary donations for the Food Bank. They have amazing buying power and each \$1 can help provide a meal for four people. Use the offering envelopes near the peanut butter display, or make your check to FUMC with "Food Bank" on the memo.

## Furniture for Threehouse GreenHouse

Threehouse: A Wesley Foundation is in need of furniture for our Intentional Living Community, the GreenHouse. We are looking for 5-6 twin beds (individual components such as bed frames would also be welcome), 2-3 dressers, and 1-2 small desks. If you have any of these items on hand and would be interested in donating them, please contact Kate via email at [cvr.kate@gmail.com](mailto:cvr.kate@gmail.com) or by phone at 266-4071.

## Heifer Milk Menagerie

Our summer Heifer International project is to collect \$1,000 for a Milk Menagerie. Check out the display in the church office window, and help us fill the milk bottles. Each filled milk bottle represents \$20, and 50 filled bottles will complete our goal.

The Milk Menagerie represents a quality-breed heifer, two goats, and a water buffalo – four milk-producing animals that provide hardworking families with the start-up capital to provide a better life for their children. Each animal will produce gallon after gallon of wonderful, life-sustaining milk that can be turned into cheese and yogurt to sell for additional income. Plus, each animal's offspring will multiply the blessings even further by Passing on the Gift.

Check out the display in the church office window for more information about our current Heifer International project and to note our progress on this goal. Offering envelopes are available near the office, or simply make your check out to FUMC with Heifer on the memo.



## Habitat for Humanity Work Day

This year's Fun & Fellowship committee Habitat for Humanity Build event is Saturday, June 17th from 8:30-3:00. There is room for 10 volunteers. Since there are multiple Habitat for Humanity houses in different build stages going on in the area, details explaining the location and what we'll be doing will be sent by June 10th. Sign up at the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. Any questions, contact Heath Wilken at 319-610-3424.

## 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.

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.

## Food Bank-every month

A crew from our church helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Expect to be there from 6:00 to no later than 8:00pm. They love to see the Methodists come to work. 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)

## Question, Answer, Study, Lead

One way to challenge yourself and explore new areas of faith is to lead a short-term study group. We would love to fill our calendar with six to eight week bible studies and small groups. Short-term studies offer a chance to dig into issues without a long-term obligation. It's not as hard as you might think to be a leader. We have resources available for book and/or video-based studies on all kinds of Christian topics. If you have interest in pursuing a study, contact Jan Hoover. We'll help you get the materials, reserve meeting space, get your group on the church calendar, and we'll even publicize your study.

## Fellas @ First

### Men's Tuesday Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Fellowship meets at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant in North Cedar, Tuesday mornings at 7:00. The devotional is rotated among attendees. We usually finish before eight o'clock. Start your Tuesdays with us. Contact: Tim Houts and Steve Williams.

### 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.

## United Methodist Women News

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

On Thursday, May 11th, the United Methodist Women gathered for their spring salad luncheon. Over 35 women attended and listened to devotions by Pat Huxsol, the President of the NE District UMW from Charles City. The program was given by Arlene Fleming on the history of the first Thank Offering. It dates back to 1881 and was started by a Mrs. H.E Taylor of Lansing, Michigan. She termed it a free will offering. At that time the offering a woman was suggested to put away was 2 cents per week for things she was thankful for in her life. Arlene quoted Psalm 116: 12 "What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" as the basis for the Thank Offering. Today, we select one time of year to show our gratitude for all the blessings we have with our Thank Offering.

Close to one million a year is currently given world-wide. Contributions go to support missions throughout the world. Thank Offerings are used to support schools, hospitals, senior groups, clinics, day care centers, or educational training courses to prevent soil erosion, sewing and nutritional courses, leadership development, and medical training.

Learn more about the global reach of UMW at: <http://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/>

Our next Unit meeting will be held on Saturday September 16, 2017. This will be our UMW Street Fair held in the Fellowship Hall.

## UMW Calendar

June 5 Board Meeting 9:30 am. Library

### 2017 Mission u (formerly SOCM):

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, Living as a Covenant Community. 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 Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action.

WHEN: July 16 - 18 Summer Mission u, (register by June 16).

October 20-22. Fall Mission u, including Spanish, Korean, Children's, and Youth studies (register by September 20).

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 back of the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place.

If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling-Witkoske ([cdwwitkoske@hotmail.com](mailto:cdwwitkoske@hotmail.com) or phone 319-594-2404).

## Thank yous

Thank you for the blanket, and thank you also to Pastor Steve and Flo Mobley for their visits while I was in the hospital.

Betty Fanning

The death of our daughter and sister Nancy Bernard from cancer is a sad moment in our lives. With her absence, we can only carry on in the hope and faith that someday we will once again be with her because of God's promised eternal life. Thanks to Steve, close friends, and both our and Nancy's friends for help, prayers, and support during this time of her leaving and our grieving.

Jerry, Laurene, Jeff Bernard and Lisa and Chris Congdon

Al & I have so many things to be thankful for. We have been well remembered by our church family and visits from Pastor Steve and Pastor Matt. Thanks for prayers from choir members. The Easter Bunny even came to visit with goodies from Hearts & Hands. It helps keep the world right side up when you are not feeling well. Also, it does pay to be 80. Had a nice visit with Jane and I am enjoying the beautiful rose from the Care Team. Prayers and thank you to our church family.

Kay & Al Messerschmidt

A special thank you for providing such a nice facility for the Friends of Sartori May Breakfast. But it isn't only the facility that is so nice, your members and staff are so helpful and friendly. We really appreciate it.

Friends of Sartori

Thank you so much of your support of our Zumba outreach fitness program. Seeing these ladies each week and dancing our way to fitness is so fulfilling. I love being able to reach those who may never be able to join a fitness center or are looking for that safe, non-judgmental place to be.

Mary Friedrich

We want to thank everyone who came to our 50th Wedding Anniversary open house and sharing our special day with us. Also thank you for the gifts, cards and good wishes we received.

Rodger & Marlene Kruger.

Jane, thanks for my first rose.

Jerry Bernard

I would like to thank Jane for the lovely pink rose and the nice visit to celebrate my 89th birthday. It's always good to see Jane.

Noreen Roth

## Congratulations to:

Craig & Hilary (Northup) Michelson. They were married May 13.

## Sympathy to:

- Freddie Holmes and her family on the loss of Glenn. Glenn passed away May 10
- Friends and family of Christopher Potter. Chris passed away May 10. His children, Maya and Jack, were involved in our Wednesday night activities.
- Friends of Frank Starr. Frank passed away May 19.
- Bobbette Fortney on the loss of her brother, Larry Blaker, on May 20.

## Welcome to our church!

### new memberships

- Alan & Marissa Schweinfurth joined April 30.
- Nikki Dirks joined May 14
- Chris Werling-Witkoske joined May 14
- Bart Etheredge joined May 14
- Jason & Lacy Knipper joined May 14
- Paul & Marcia Hahn joined May 14
- Roberta Robbins joined May 28

### baptisms

- Delaney Louise Knipper was baptized on May 14. She is the daughter of Jason & Lacy Knipper.
- Bart Etheredge and his children, Violet and Rowan, were baptized May 14.
- Cecelia Ann Harriman was baptized on May 28. She is the daughter of Ashlyn Beaver and Matthias Houdek, and the great-granddaughter of Carl & Ann Campbell.

## Financial Update--

April Receipts	\$74,724.19
April Expenses	\$69,142.89
YTD Receipts	\$295,241.57
YTD Expenses	\$284,124.02
Mortgage balance as of May 12 --	\$541,201.66

## 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, Deb Bernard for details. 319-266-1713 or emailed deb.bernard@aboutfirst.

## Attendance- week ending

	5/7	5/14	5/21	5/28
Transformation	103	99	75	78
Traditional 8:30	132	186	115	123
Traditional 11:00	90	73	232	109

# First United Methodist Church

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**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](http://www.aboutfirst.com)

**Cedar Falls (CFU)** Channel 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am  
**Waterloo (MediaCom)** Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am & 9:00 pm

## Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, [steve.williams@aboutfirst.com](mailto:steve.williams@aboutfirst.com)  
Matt German, Associate Pastor, [matt.german@aboutfirst.com](mailto:matt.german@aboutfirst.com)

## Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Deb Bernard, Financial Manager  
[deb.bernard@aboutfirst.com](mailto:deb.bernard@aboutfirst.com)

Chris Congdon, Media Coordinator  
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Lisa Congdon, Office Ministry Coordinator  
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Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator  
[jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

Bryan Houts, Chancel Choir Director  
[bryan.houts@aboutfirst.com](mailto:bryan.houts@aboutfirst.com)

Flo Mobley, Parish Visitor

Rebecca Nims, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
[rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com](mailto:rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com)

Doug Shaffer, Organist  
[musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)  
610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian

Lesley Toma, Family Ministries Coordinator  
[lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com)

July newsletter deadline is June 20.

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