

# aboutfirst news

March, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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issue 210, March 2018

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

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

Janet and I are looking forward to our trip to the Holy Land this month. For me a trip to the Holy Land is like a conversion experience. The journey renews and revitalizes my faith. Our trip will take us from Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem to his years in Nazareth . . . from his travels throughout the land of Israel to his walk between Gethsemane and the cross on Golgotha . . . from the rocky tomb to the shores of Galilee. This is our opportunity to walk in Jesus' sandals to see with his eyes, and feel with his heart. One of our most meaningful days for me is to walk the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem. The Via Dolorosa or the Way of Sorrow is the traditional route that Jesus took between his condemnation by Pilate through the city streets to the place of his crucifixion and burial. My life and faith has forever been changed by walking this sacred path.

Those who walk the Via Dolorosa are called pilgrims as they journey together in the steps of Jesus. The pilgrimage has been followed since early Christianity. You walk through the narrow cobblestone streets in the old city of Jerusalem that are lined with merchants who are all vying to get the attention of every tourist that passes their way. Many of the small shops are selling souvenirs to remember your journey. Some of them are selling food that fills the air with the spicy seasonings of the Middle East. It is busy and bustling place as thousands travel the route every day.



When I walk the route I imagine what it must have been like in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. People filled the city to celebrate the Passover. Some estimate that a 1,000,000 people would come from all over the known world to meet in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Merchants were seeking to lure the travelers into their shops. And on one Friday morning, three men are being led by Roman Soldiers to the hill just outside the city wall called Golgotha. They were to be crucified to teach everyone a lesson to not defy the Romans and the religious leaders of the Temple.

For many, it is no different than any other day, life goes on, things need to be bought and money needs to be made. Only God really knew the magnitude of what was happening on the day that would forever change the world. As I think about it, not much is different today. I remember a day when merchants closed at noon and churches were filled on Good Friday. When I was a boy, it seemed the whole world stopped to mourn Jesus' death. You could have shot a cannon down main street and not hit anyone! It was a sad day all the way around.

There are 14 Stations of the Cross along the route of the Via Dolorosa including four in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Many of the stations have tiny Chapels that allow you to step away from the noise and crowd for a quiet moment of prayer and reflection. You will understand when I say, "These were not peaceful moments" as I contemplate what Christ had endured for me and the world. It is truly the "way of sorrows" as many of my steps are blurred with tears as I pray and read the Bible passages detailing Good Friday. Being in the proximity of the original events, prayerfully reading the scriptures and reflecting upon them along the way touch me very deeply.

The cross is the most precious symbol of Christianity. On the cross, God's saving grace is revealed to us. As we move through this season of Lent, we are invited to "journey to the cross" and remember what Christ has done for us. I invite you to make your own pilgrimage that leads to the cross.

Step away from the busyness of your life to remember . . . Jesus.

In His Steps,  
Pastor Steve

## Living Lord's Supper

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

The drama of Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room will be brought to life during our Maundy Thursday Service on March 29 at 7:00 p.m. The service will include 13 of our men costumed as Jesus and the disciples as they gather for the Last Supper. Communion will be served by the disciples. The service is open to the public, so we encourage you to invite your friends.

The night is full of passion that includes the betrayal of Judas, denial of Peter and the scattering of the disciples into the darkness. The power of these events in Jesus' life helps us remember all he endured that led to the Cross. This year we will meet Nicodemus who was one of the first converts. Read John 3 in preparation of Maundy Thursday. The disciples:

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

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



## Procession of the Cross

- Good Friday, March 30, noon

Again this year, we will be meeting at Overman Park at noon to begin our procession. We will start with worship and then process through downtown to our church. Along the route we will pause several times for prayer and scripture to remember what Jesus did for us on Golgotha. The event is sponsored by the Cedar Falls Ministerial Association. We invite you to join us.

## Good Friday Worship

- Good Friday, March 30, 7:00 p.m.

We will return to the Fellowship Hall where we began our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday. The Cross will be suspended over the altar in the center of the room. This will remind us that the Cross is the center of our Faith. All who come for worship will be seated around the cross. This will be a Tenebrae Service - the service of darkness. The Passion scriptures will be read with musical breaks as candles are extinguished remembering the darkness of that day on Golgotha.

## Easter Sunday Celebrations!

- Easter Sunday, April 1,

Easter Celebrations at 8:30 and 11:00 - all our services will be joyful celebrations of Christ's Resurrection! Brass and Bells will lead us in the Traditional Services at 8:30 and 11:00. The Praise Band will lead us in the Contemporary Service at 8:30. Music will fill the services as we proclaim Christ has risen!



## Fusion Welcomes Some Big-Name Guests

The United Methodist Church is not just a Cedar Falls thing - it's a global organization. Learn more about this great big thing that you're a part of as our "connection" series continues in March. Special guests will be our pastors and district staff.

After spring break we'll start a new series **Faith & Politics** where we will ask elected officials and public-sector servants how they keep their faith in a secular setting. Special guests will include **Cedar Falls Mayor Jim Brown**, and **Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson**.

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



## You Sound Good in Purple

Laboratory tests confirm that people who wear purple robes sound great when they sing together - even when only a few of them have good voices.

If you love to sing, we'd love to add your voice to the choir. We rehearse on Wednesday nights, and sing most Sunday mornings. You're welcome to come when you can, and we'll hook you up with a robe that's just your size.

# 4 Home Page



## Prayers to the Holy Land

One of the sites our Holy Land Travelers will be visiting is the Western Wall. The Western Wall had been called the Wailing Wall for many years. The Western Wall is actually a retaining wall built in 20 BC by Herod the Great to level the ground between two hills in Jerusalem: Moriah and Ophel. It created a plaza to build the second Temple. Ever since the second Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D., Jews have gathered in prayer at the Western Wall, and is considered their most holy place. Its cracks are filled with hand written prayers. Our group of travelers will be taking prayers from our congregation to the Western Wall. We will pray over the prayer requests while standing at the base of the wall, and place them in the cracks. There is a basket at the Welcome Center for you to place your prayers. All prayers will be held in confidence.

## “New Doors, New Life . . . No Debt”

As time passes, it becomes harder to refer to our building project as “recent”. We’ve been in the new spaces for about four years, now, and what a difference they have made! We see the impact every Sunday. The new entrance and Gathering Place have made a difference in the atmosphere on Sunday mornings! Our new Nursery and renovated Children’s area has made a statement to young families that the future of our church is important. Sunday mornings are like a reunion filled with welcome smiles and the excitement of welcoming new faces. The building has become a new tool for us to grow!

We would not be in this fortunate place if it had not been for the congregation’s courageous leap of faith to move forward and build for the future.

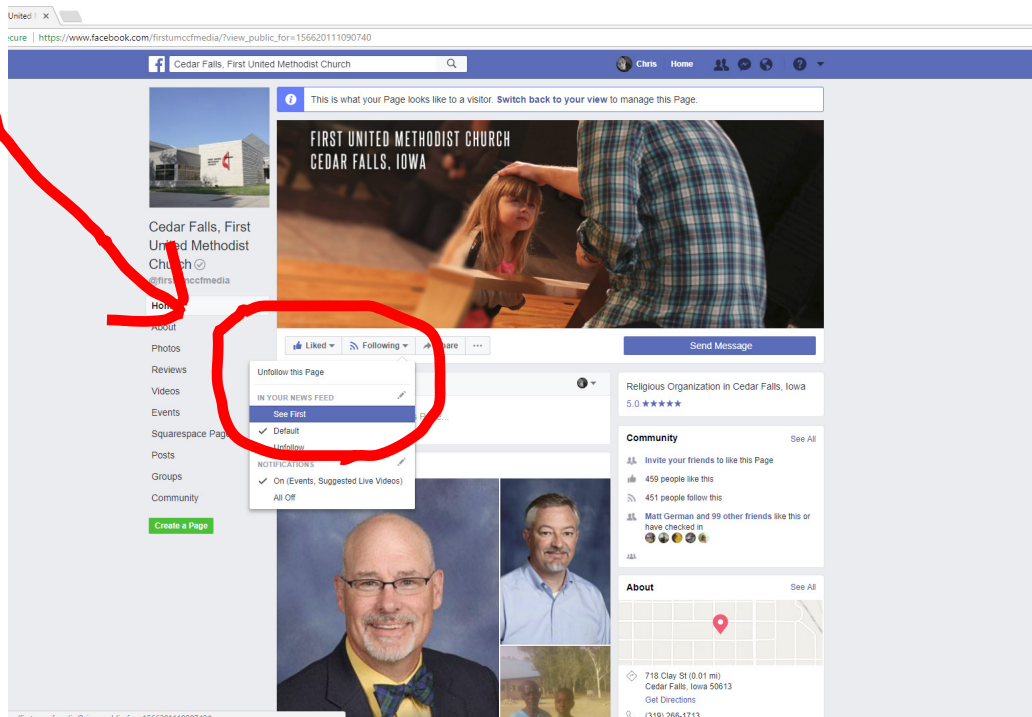
Last month, we passed another milestone in lowering our debt to \$393,750.30! It is hard to believe we began with a mortgage balance of \$1,461,000! In a very short time, we have come a long way toward retiring this debt. Thank you for your generous support! God is doing many good things through the First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls!

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

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

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

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





# FROM THE HEART

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CEDAR FALLS

It has been three months since the conclusion of our church's annual stewardship campaign. This year we are facing a financial challenge as our pledges are down nearly \$90,000 from 2017. Much of the decline can be attributed to the deaths of some generous givers, and others moving from our community.

While the year is still early, we are seeking the support of the congregation to help us meet this challenge. During Lent, we often look at ways we can make personal sacrifices that strengthen our faith, and support the mission of the church. Your contributions support missions, caring for the sick, Bibles for third-graders, heat and air-conditioning, musicians and music, Sunday school materials, bus ministry, worship supplies and on and on. These things can only be done when there are sufficient funds.

Please pray about the possibility of increasing your 2018 pledge by 10%. If you are able to do so, please communicate this to Finance Manager Debbie Dance. Debbie can be reached at [debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com](mailto:debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com), by phone at 319-266-1713, or drop a "From the Heart" pledge card into the offering plate.

## Girl Scout Sunday

Girl Scouts of all ages are invited to honor Girl Scout Sunday and the long-standing support of First United Methodist Church on Sunday, March 4. This is a week ahead of the actual GS Sunday date, which falls during Spring Break in our area.

Please wear your uniform, vest, sash or GS pins that day, we'd love to have you at the entrances to greet people as they enter worship. Please arrive 15-20 minutes prior to the start of the service.

Any questions, feel free to contact Linda Kennedy via email at: [lk@cfu.net](mailto:lk@cfu.net)

## Girl Scout Sunday Cookie Booth

Sun. March 4 in the Gathering Place

Sydney Herzmann and Audrienne Kennedy from Cadette Troop 6581 will be selling from 8 am to 12:15 p.m.

Our Council changed bakers in 2017.

Your old favorites, have a different name but taste the same.

There are some new choices, including a gluten-free cookie.

The S'mores Cookie was a BIG hit last year, it will be available, too!

Already bought cookies? Need more?

Want to help, without the calories; consider buying a box or two, and having them donated to Military personnel.

SEE YOU THEN!

Any questions, please contact Linda Kennedy via email at: [lk@cfu.net](mailto:lk@cfu.net)

## News From "The Connection"

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

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

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

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

## Miss A Sermon?

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

# 6 Events

## March 6 - Grief Support Session

**Where:** Church Parlor

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

*He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds.* Psalm 147:3

This session is offered for anyone who is experiencing a loss.

There are many kinds of losses, each of which can carry with it many different emotions. In these sessions, participants will have an opportunity to share thoughts and feelings in a safe, non-threatening environment. No reservations are required and newcomers are encouraged to attend.

## March 6 - Food Bank Work Crew

**Where:** Northeast Iowa Food Bank

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

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

## March 13 - Card-Making Session

**Where:** Gathering Place

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

No experience is required. Bring a snack to share and then stay for Community Meals if you'd like and enjoy this time of fellowship. This quarter's profits from sales of cards on the card rack will go to Wee Care. We also use the cards we make to send to members and friends of the congregation during time of celebration or difficulty in their lives.

## March 15 - 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.

## March 16 - Black Hawks Hockey!

**Where:** Young Arena, Waterloo

**When:** 7:00 pm

The UMC Sportsmen are going to the Waterloo Black Hawks on Friday, March 16 and anyone can join them! It's an "All Faiths" Night with the Black Hawks, and tickets are only \$8.00 (all ages). \$2.00 pizza, pop, and hot dogs that night, too! Sign up at the Welcome Center, and drop off your check (to Waterloo Black Hawks) in the church office by Monday, March 12. Mike Cole is the point person for this event.

## March 24 - Spring Clean-Up (and donuts!)

Spring is JUST around the corner and not only do our souls need a bit of sprucing up after winter, but so does the outside of the church! On March 24th, (the weekend before Easter), come join us as we clean up around the church. We'll be raking, cleaning up flower beds, etc. from 9 am-12ish. There will be coffee and donuts provided as well! :) Remember: Many hands make light work! So bring your rakes, yard waste bins, tarps, and work gloves, and let's prepare to show off this beautiful church to our community and guests at Easter!

## March 26 - LifeServe Blood Drive

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, March 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.

## March 27 - Crafter's Corner

**Where:** Church Parlor

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

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

M T **W** T F

## Wednesday is Your CrazyFunBusy Church Night!

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

## Recurring Weekly:

### Sunday

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

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

\* will not meet March 14 - spring break

### Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

## Also Scheduled....

### THURSDAY March 1

9:00 Interfaith Council, chapel  
 10-3 UMW District meeting, library & GP  
 6:30 Trustees, library

### FRIDAY March 2

World Day of Prayer

### SUNDAY March 4

Girl Scout Sunday and cookie booth  
 9:45 LAST Third grade Bible class, parlor  
 10:00 Padma Templetonat Frederika  
 11:00 Third grade Bible ceremony  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel

### MONDAY March 5

9:30 UMW Board Meeting, library  
 10:00 FirstKids worship  
 6:30 Farmer's Market meeting, library  
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

### TUESDAY March 6

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 6:00-8:30 Food Bank Work Crew

### WEDNESDAY March 7

7:15 FUSION - Jaymee Glenn-Burns

### THURSDAY March 8

1:00 UMW unit meeting, Fellowship Hall  
 4:00 Girl Scouts, library  
 6:30 SPRC, 057

### SATURDAY March 10

Set your clocks AHEAD one hour tonight

### SUNDAY March 11

Spring Break - no kids Sunday School

### MONDAY March 12

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 5:30 First Kids Board meeting,  
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel

### WEDNESDAY March 14

2:00 communion Service Western Home  
 6:30 Finance Committee

### THURSDAY March 15

12:00-2:00 First Friends Potluck, Gather Pla

### FRIDAY March 16

UMC Sportsmen go to Black Hawks Hockey

### SUNDAY March 18

Yes, there is Sunday School for kids  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel

### MONDAY March 19

10:00 FirstKids worship  
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor  
 6:00-7:00 Community Meal mtg, parlor  
 6:30 Worship committee, library

### TUESDAY March 20

Newsletter deadline

### WEDNESDAY March 21

regular Wednesday activities resume  
 11:00 Pinnacle Care chapel service  
 6:00 Voice of God study begins this week  
 7:15 Fusion, Cf Mayor Jim Brown

### THURSDAY March 22

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor  
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor  
 6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, parlor

### SATURDAY March 24

9:00-12:00 Spring Cleaning at Church  
 1:00 Pinewood Derby

### SUNDAY March 25

Palm Sunday  
 10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika

### MONDAY March 26

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

### TUESDAY March 27

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

### WEDNESDAY March 28

2:00 Windermere Communion Service  
 6:00 Voice of God study, chapel  
 7:15 Fusion, Rev. David Glenn-Burns

### THURSDAY March 29

Maundy Thursday  
 7:00 Living Last Supper

### FRIDAY March 30

Good Friday  
 noon Procession of Cross, Overman Pk  
 7:00 Good Friday worship

### SUNDAY April 1

Easter Sunday

## Sunday School Classes for Everyone

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

## Adult Sunday School

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

### CCF (Christ Centered Families)

This class will focus on strengthening our families and developing our young children into strong Christians.  
Room: 057

### Growing Christians

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

### Open Door

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

### Kaleidoscope

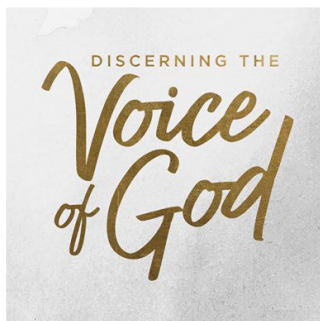
This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room 058 Gil Hewett

### Seekers

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

### Pathfinders

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



## Discerning the Voice of God

- a seven-session study by Priscilla Shirer

Shelley Schlatter and Nancy Miller will be facilitating a Priscilla Shirer video study on Wednesday evenings beginning March 21st (the week following spring break) and ending May 2. The title is "Discerning the Voice of God". There is homework involved in this study.

Through 7 sessions, discover the root to clear and daily communication with God—humble obedience. Learn how surrender unlocks His many blessings intended for us,

centers us in His will, and helps us discern His voice in everyday life. Challenge yourself in the discipline of daily Bible study.

If you are interested in joining this study please email Shelley Schlatter at [shelley.schlatter@gmail.com](mailto:shelley.schlatter@gmail.com) by Saturday, March 10 so that books can be ordered. The cost of the book is \$15.00.



## Plan Now for a Faith Renewal Weekend

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

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

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

### Upcoming retreats:

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

Fall dates TBD Solon, IA (camp Io-Dis-E-Ca)





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

At Babylon Vacation Bible School, kids and adults discover they're not much different from Daniel and his friends. The same way that we can too, courageously keep faith when it may be hard to stay faithful. We will get to visit Babylon through the eyes of Daniel. Through this interactive program, children will be guided through beach-themed, music, crafts, science activities, recreation, Bible stories and much more. We are looking for volunteers if you would like to become a part of Vacation Bible School, please contact Jenna Engel.

## Get a Kid to Camp:

We would like to Thank Gabe Dorrell from Pictured Rocks. He came and hung out with the B.L.A.S.T kids on Wednesday, February 28th. While he was here he showed the kids some of the activities they would do at camp. If you would like to help send a kid to camp visit our display in the Gathering Place.

- The white envelopes are designated to get our First kids to camp. The amount starts at \$1 and goes up to \$50. You can select an envelope with the desired amount you would like to donate.
- The orange envelopes will provide camperships for a child with an incarcerated parent or to send an exceptional person to camp.
- Once you have selected and filled out your envelope you can drop it in the offering plates during service or bring it up to the church office.

## Special Camperships

This year the Iowa United Methodist Camps' theme is "Adventure of a Lifetime". You can help send an Exceptional Persons camper to camp or give the gift of hope to a child with an incarcerated parent. These campers are especially appreciative of any camp opportunities and often do not have the funds to pay for camp. These camps cost anywhere from \$210 to \$460 per session.

If you want to help, grab an orange envelope from the tree by the camps display in the Gathering Place. Donate whatever amount you want and we will send it on to the United Methodist Camps Office. They will use it to provide an "Adventure of a Lifetime" to a kid or special adult this summer.

## Dates & Notes:

Sunday school: Mark your calendar on March 11th there will be no Preschool-12th Sunday school due to spring break. We will be back on March 18th.

Easter Sunday: The Education Committee is holding an Easter Egg hunt during the Sunday school hour (9:45-10:45) on Easter morning. There will also be a photo booth opportunity for you and your family. All you need to do is pose and take the picture with your phone.

Third Grade Bible: Thank you to the families who participated in the class. Pat Cole and I had a so much fun getting to know each of you a little better. Thank you for allowing us to go on your faith journey with you.



## BLAST

### Bible Learning And Serving Together

Please join us Wednesday nights. BLAST is for students turning 5 this school year -6th grades. During Lent we will be studying Adam Hamilton's Study, "24 Hours". If you would like to get involved with B.L.A.S.T please contact Jenna Engel a [jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com).

# 10 Mission of the Month

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

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That's not a failure of the churches – at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches to reach out to those in need – our church is one of 28 partners.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with Love INC as a Clearinghouse or Community volunteer. If you're interested in serving with Love INC, fill out a volunteer form found at [loveinccv.org](http://loveinccv.org) or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in the next couple of days.

## March Mission Focus: Books for Lincoln School Kids

### Change a Child's Story

Our Partner In Education, Lincoln Elementary School, has appreciated the great group of people who read with K-3rd grade students throughout the school year. We have many faithful Reading Buddies who spend time each week reading with students. It's one-on-one time with some delightful young folk, and everyone benefits from it.

Do you want to know how we are making a difference in the lives of these kids? Talk to any of these fine folk who look forward to meeting with Lincoln students each week:

Marlene Baumhover, Linda Bohr, Betty Butler, Megan Capek, Lisa Congdon, Rita Congdon, Frank Darrah, Jordan Derhammer, Loretta Dykes, Jenna Engel, Lorna Ericson, Mark Farland, Betty Goettsch, Linda Harris, Donna Hoffman, Larry Jacobsen, Jim Larson, Connie Maifeld, Roger Maifeld, Karen Page, Jean Richardson, Faye Rohwedder, or Cindy Spragg.



Thank you for your continued support of "Change a Child's Story".

For the past few years, we have raised enough funds to provide books for primary grade students and classroom libraries. This spring we plan to gift a book to every student at Lincoln Elementary School.

Check out the display in the Gathering Place for more information. To donate to our gift of books, write your check to First UMC with "Change a Child's Story" on the memo or use the offering envelope at the display. Remember, your generous donations are doubled through an endowment from Bill & Lone Zach.

## Bibles for Our Sisters in Mitchellville

A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use.

The Common English Bible for Daily Prayer is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for a healthy prayer life. This is the Bible that Lisa in the church office has been using, and it's sturdy and feels nice and is easy to use.



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

## Midwest Mission Distribution Center May 7-11

MMDC is a disaster relief facility located on an 8 acre campus, 4 miles south of Springfield, Illinois. MMDC is a cooperating depot in the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Relief Supply Network. MMDC's campus provides opportunities for individuals and groups of all walks of life, denominational backgrounds, abilities, and ages to help provide disaster relief kits and resources as well as educational and medical supplies to those in need both locally and internationally. MMDC provides that "hands on" mission experience without having to travel too far from home.

We have four spaces (2 rooms) reserved in the dorm at Midwest Mission Distribution Center for May 7-10 (returning home on May 11). Several people have expressed interest already. Cost per person is about \$140 for dorm and material fees, plus travel, sightseeing, and food costs. It's a fun way to do a little good, meet some new people, and get to know fellow travelers from First UMC better. See Lisa in the church office for more details about this mission opportunity.

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

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

## Scholarships for Mission Trips

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

## Let's fill the barn this year

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



So far we have a sheep and a goat and a pig in the big red barn. They could use some friends to keep them company.



## UMCOR Sunday- March 11

On March 11, we invite you to join with thousands of other Methodists across the connection in a special offering to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief. When you participate in UMCOR Sunday, you help cover the operating budget of UMCOR. Your support makes it possible for UMCOR to direct 100 percent of all other contributions to the projects our donors specify, instead of using this money on administrative or fundraising costs.

UMCOR is present with heartfelt prayers, empathy, monetary donations and volunteering spirits after disaster strikes. We saw that over and over in 2017 when hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria battered Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Puerto Rico, and again when mudslides swept through Sierra Leone.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief is there for the long haul, thanks to your generosity. UMCOR is still present in Louisiana and West Virginia more than a year after floods devastated parts of those states. And that is just one example of UMCOR's commitment to helping survivors get back on their feet.

The work of UMCOR also goes beyond disaster relief. As millions of refugees and migrants seek safety and opportunity, UMCOR is present. UMCOR is there, providing compassion and hope to those who desperately need it.

# 12 Reaching In

## 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

## 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



## What is Stephen Ministry?

Since 2001, our church has had in place a care giving ministry called Stephen Ministry. This ministry is a way for congregations to provide high-quality care and outreach to hurting people in the congregation and the community.

Stephen Ministers are congregation members who go through 50 hours of Christian care giving training. Each Stephen Minister is then matched with a hurting person---men are paired with men, women with women---and meets with that person weekly to listen, care, pray, and encourage. Caring relationships last for as long as the need persists. The training they receive is also provided by members of our own congregation, Stephen Leaders, who have themselves received a week-long training in the skills they need to pass along instruction. It is important to note that our pastors and most of the staff here at First UMC have also taken the time to receive the training to assist them in their roles at the church.

Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, and other life difficulties. We thank our congregation for their emotional and financial support of this important ministry.

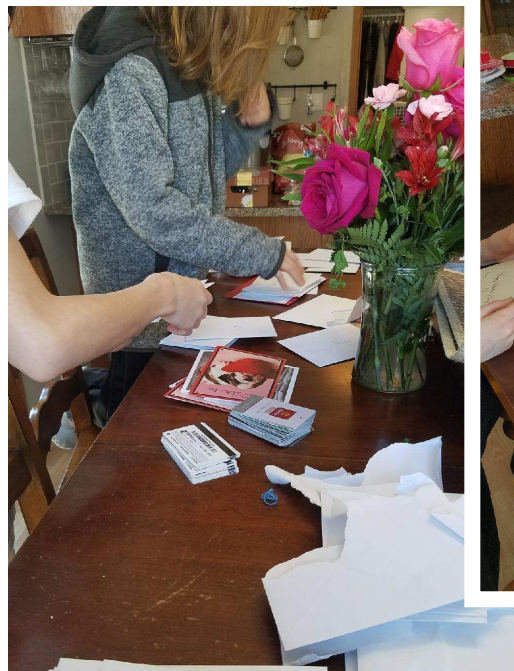
## Greetings and Thanks to Our First UMC Family!

The Tomas cannot thank you enough for being "TAPped" this year. We had such joy opening and reading all your cards. I think at some point, each one of us was moved to tears by all the love and support poured into your sweet messages.

We are all doing well here in Waverly, and the boys speak about our friends at First constantly. For me, I have plateaued with my medication, and I feel "normal" again, meaning relatively low nausea and fatigue. My doctors at Mayo are optimistic that I may be this way for some time to come. I look forward to speaking at Fusion on April 25th. I hope to receive lots of hugs, smiles and good conversation from all of you at First. Blessings,

*Lesley Toma and Troy,  
Jackson, Christian,  
Jameson and Cameron*

*Toma boys sort the mail. Thank you to everyone who sent a card to Thank, Appreciate, and Pray (TAP) for the Toma family.*



## Worship:

### Join the usher team

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

### Share your musical talent

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

### Prayer Team

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

### Altar Flowers

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

## Outreach & Missions:

### Community Meal - Every Month

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

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

### Ongoing Wish Lists

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

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

### Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

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

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

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

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

How can you help?

# 14 Women, Men, Youth

## March UMW Calendar

Mar. 05 – Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Lib.  
Mar. 07 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15  
Mar. 08 – Bell Ring for Women's Rights  
Mar. 08 – Unit Meeting, 1:00 p.m., FH  
Mar. 10 – NE District Mission Study,  
Gladbrook UMC  
Mar. 13 – Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30  
Mar. 13 – Hearts & Hands Circle, 5:30  
Mar. 14 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15  
Mar. 19 – Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m.  
Mar. 21 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15  
Mar. 22 – Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor  
Mar. 22 – Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor  
Mar. 27 – Miriam Circle Bible Study, 1:30  
Mar. 28 – More Than Moms, 6:00-7:15

## Fellas @ First

### Tuesday Night Fellas

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

## 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 February 8, 2018, the United Methodist Women held their Unit Meeting. Arlene Fleming presented the program on Prayer and Self-Denial. Arlene compared the well-known mustard seed parable from Luke 13: 18-19 to the expansion of the United Methodist Women organization in missions in the past 150 years. “Our foremothers developed and strengthened their own leadership capacities as they sent out missionaries and started homes, schools and community centers here and abroad.” “Leadership development remains a key part of the UMW's vision today.” Table grace was provided by Judy Focht. Devotions were provided by Chris Werling.

The UMW program for March 8 is on Kadens Kloset, Inc. This is an organization from Aplington Iowa which provides clothing to needy persons. The Co-Founder/CEO Kristle Davis will be presenting about its conception, purpose, establishment, operations, and promotion of her organization.

### Upcoming UMW events include:

March 8 – International Bell ringing for Women's Rights

March 10 – NE District UMW Mission Study Day, Gladbrook, Iowa (topic will be on Climate Justice)

March 23 – 149th Anniversary of United Methodist Women

April 21 – NE District UMW Day Apart – Waverly Heritage UMC, Waverly, Iowa

## Youth Ski Trip

*On February 3rd, a bunch of our First UMC youth joined others from around the Northeast District for a ski trip to Mt. Kato. It was the first time skiing for some, but definitely not the last! A blast was had, new friends were made, and no bones were broken.*



## Thank You

Thanks again for Jane's visit and the beautiful red rose for my 89th birthday. How long can this go on? Thanks to all who prayed for my recovery. I'm happy to be home at Windhaven.

*Doris Crandall*

Thank you to all the friends and church members and for the rose delivered by Jane Wyckoff for making my 90th birthday great.

*Bill Mincks*

A thank you to Jane Wyckoff for the beautiful rose she delivered on my 80th birthday. Thanks to First United Methodist Congregational Care Team and staff for the birthday greeting. I truly appreciate both.

*Larry Maas*

Thanks for the beautiful yellow rose that Jane Wyckoff delivered for my birthday. Also, thanks for the cards from the staff.

*Grace Rapp*

Thank you for the special red rose and the birthday card. Jane Wyckoff is so dedicated for so many years. She is a light for the Lord's work.

*Shirley Fogleman*

## Sympathy to:

Carl & Christine Belz on the loss of their son, Steven, on Feb. 2.

Family and friends of David Pals. Dave passed away February 5. His funeral was held February 10.

Bob & Linda Kennedy and Audrienne Kennedy on the death of Bob's mother on February 5.

Family and friends of Garth Huffman. Garth passed away on February 17. His funeral was held February 22.

## Welcome:

Congratulations to Josh and Ashley Mattson on the birth of a baby girl. Ava Jean Mattson was born February 2. She has a big brother, James. Proud grandparents are Stan and Cyndi Sweet, and great-grandmothers are Shirley Huffman and Claudia Koch.

Congratulations to Jake and Amanda Sandvick on the birth of a baby girl. Daria Presley Sandvick was born February 13. Jake and Amanda were active members of our church for a time but currently live in Ohio.

Welcome to Calix Ross Wilding. Calix was baptized on February 18. He is the son of Lucas and Kelsey Wilding, and Colby is his big sister.

## Finance Team Thanks Dianne Larson

Dianne has retired after fifteen years of serving as one of our volunteer money counters. Volunteer money counters verify and cross-check the numbers to ensure accuracy in recording our offering deposits. They are an important part of our cash-control and security plan. We thank her for her many years of quiet, behind-the-scenes service. We also thank David and Kay Kofoed and Dave and Linda Harris who now make up our two, alternating, counting teams.

## Thanks to Donn and Laura Bruess

A recent mechanical issue took our bus out of commission for a Sunday. Donn and Laura were scheduled to drive that day, so they used their own cars and went out to pick up our regular bus riders. Thank you to Donn and Laura for going the extra mile to help others attend worship.

## Rose Vases Needed

Jane Wyckoff, the most popular person in the church, is getting a little low on vases for the birthday roses. If you have one or a few that you don't need anymore, bring them to the church office.

## Easter Lilies

Orders are being taken for the Easter lilies that will decorate the church on Easter weekend. If you would like to purchase a lily in honor or in memory of a loved one, please use the special envelope available at the Welcome Center or in the church office. Cost for each lily is \$10. Checks can be made out to FUMC. The deadline is Wednesday, March 28.

## How About Those New Year's Resolutions?

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

## Finance Report (as of Feb 25)

YTD Budget received:	\$138,982
YTD Budget needs:	\$131,153
YTD Budget Surplus:	\$7,829
mortgage balance:	\$393,750

## Consider Automatic Giving

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

## Attendance- week ending

	2/4	2/11	2/18	2/25
Transformation	87	89	126	82
Traditional 8:30	109	128	90	92
Traditional 11:00	93	116	110	87
FUSION	17	16	x	35
Ash Wednesday	x	x	119	x

# First United Methodist Church

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# aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



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

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

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

## Spreading the Word

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

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

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

## Our Pastors

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

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

## Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

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

Chris Congdon, Media Coordinator  
[chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

Lisa Congdon, Office Ministry Coordinator  
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Debbie Dance, Financial Manager  
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Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator  
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Flo Mobley, Parish Visitor

Rebecca Nims, Youth Ministry Coordinator  
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Doug Shaffer, Organist  
[musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)  
610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian