

May 2017
issue 200



ABOUTFIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa



ABOUTFIRST.COM

Thoughts from Steve

Confirmation Day! One of many milestones we pass while growing up. My Confirmation Day was memorable for many reasons. There must have been 30 of us in my class. We were baby boomers, and there was never enough room for us wherever we went. The church even added a new education wing just for us! We stretched across the front of the church that morning. It was a very special day.

What made my day even more special was that I was baptized that morning. My folks compromised when we started attending a Methodist Church. Mom grew up in the Christian Church, and Dad was a Methodist. Our family would become Methodists if the children waited until they were old enough to answer for themselves when they were baptized. I remember my baptism, and that is special to me.

Since I was getting baptized, it meant that I needed to meet one-on-one with the Rev. Collier. It was nothing like being sent to the Principal's Office because his son, David and I were best friends. I was familiar with his office, and even knew where he hid his candy jar. The "talk" was really a heart-to-heart talk about how honored he was to share in my baptism, and we talked about faith and commitment. I learned that baptism was much more than water being placed on my head. IT WAS A REALLY BIG DEAL!

Imagine how a 13 year old boy could get lost in a Confirmation Class of 30, and I was now sitting face-to-face with the Pastor. Rev. Collier was not just a pastor; he had become one of my first "spiritual giants" in my life. David and I took turns playing, eating and sleeping at each other's homes. While I spent time in the Collier's home, we opened the Bible and talked about Jesus. It was my introduction to Theology and Bible 101. Rev. Collier opened my eyes and my heart to the idea that there was a God who loved me and had a special plan for my life.

There in his office I was hearing how the waters of baptism are the "door" through which we become a member of the church. It is like initiation. As a 13 year old boy, I could relate to that language, after all the backyard boys only clubs I belonged to, and all the crazy initiation rites I went through to join. Water sounded a lot safer than eating worms, and swearing I would hate girls for the rest of my life. I understood that part of the discussion, it was the other part that caused me to wonder about God having a plan for my life.

I remember Rev. Collier sat back, crossed his arms while looking me straight in the eye and saying, "Steve, I know you well. You spend a lot of time with our family, and I see God is already at work in you. I believe someday God is going to call you to be a pastor." Really? Me? I am just Steve Williams, one of many baby boomers overcrowding classrooms and playgrounds. Well, Rev. Collier planted a seed that day, and there were others who watered it, and fertilized it, and cultivated it and here I am 50 years later having spent nearly 40 years serving in ministry.

On Sunday, May 21st we will be confirming 16 youth into full membership in our Church Family. For some it will be a special day. For others it will be like Graduation Day, and we may never see them again. But, I believe God has a plan for ALL of them, and who knows what they may be doing years from now. I believe God knows, and some may end up in some kind of ministry whether it is preaching, teaching, healthcare, public service or maybe they will find time to mentor or read to children, teach a Sunday school class or sing in the choir. Please, pray for them, and continue to water, fertilize and cultivate their faith.

God is good!
Pastor Steve

Pastor Steve and Janet Going to Nigeria in June

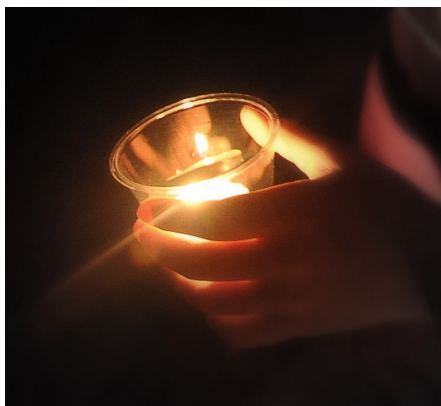
Plans are being finalized for Pastor Steve and Janet to go to Nigeria from June 14 to 30. This will be part of a "Pulpit Swap" with Rev. Dr. John Pena and his wife Titi coming to Cedar Falls. John is the Provost at Banyam Theological Seminary and will be filling the pulpit in Pastor Steve's absence. Pastor Steve will be teaching some classes at the Seminary and leading a Pastor's Retreat for the Nigeria Conference. Janet will be working at the Banyam Medical Clinic that our church helped build. This will be an opportunity to strengthen our friendship with Banyam.

Watch for further announcements for how you can participate in this mission by contributing supplies for the Banyam clinic, or by hosting Dr. and Mrs. Pena for a meal while they're here.

Memorial Sunday – May 28

We will be remembering those of our Church Family who have died this past year on Memorial Sunday, May 28. The Memorial Service will be only during our Traditional Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. The service will be held on Memorial Weekend Sunday when families are visiting graves and remembering their loved ones.

During the service, we will light a candle and toll a bell in memory of each member who has died since last Memorial Sunday. We will also dedicate the Memorials we have received this past year. We invite you to join us for this service of comfort.



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 on Sunday, September 10 (first Sunday after Labor Day weekend and marks the beginning of Sunday School.) So our summer Sunday schedule will be as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. - Traditional in Sanctuary and Transformation in Scott 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. We received an overwhelming positive response in using our own green space for worship the past two summers, so we are going to utilize this space again. It was beneficial for the band and the scouts in serving our picnic. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy the fellowship. We will move to Scott Hall in case of rain.

Our Sister Church – Washington Chapel

It's been almost two years since we began our relationship with Washington Chapel UMC, and both of our churches have been blessed. Join the congregation at this little white church on the hill in a beautiful rural setting. It's lovely, peaceful, and the members and friends are always happy to meet Jordan Derhammer's friends from First UMC.

Washington Chapel is just north of Cedar Falls at 7035 W Bennington Rd (the corner of Ford and W Bennington Rd). Services begin at 10:30 every Sunday morning. Feel free to join them for worship and to support your friends from First.

Here are the speakers for this month:

April 30 - Emily Pearce

May 7 - Matt German - with communion

May 14 - Pat Cole

May 21 - Mark Fransdal

May 28 - Jordan Derhammer

Are Phones OK in Worship?

Sure. There's a real place in the worship setting for this kind of connectivity. Maybe the pastor reads a scriptural passage that really interests you, and you want to look it up right now. Go for it. Maybe you're moved by the message, and you want to share a particular point with someone before you forget it. Do it. Maybe you just want to tell the world where you are at this moment - don't hold back. Go ahead and use that phone or tablet as a tool in worship to learn more and share more. The only thing we ask - turn the sound off.

Golden Cross offering - May 21

The Golden Cross offering supports many important health and healing ministries conducted by Iowa United Methodist Churches such as free medical and dental clinics. The fund also provides small grants to churches that need to create handicapped accessible ramps and facilities. These are just a few examples of the important ministries that are enabled by your generous support. Please consider a contribution to the Golden Cross offering on May 21.

Now Hear This

Here's some help for those who find it difficult to hear in the sanctuary.

We're equipped with a set of listening-assistance devices. They are little radios that pick up the pastor's microphones and amplify the signal for you. The radios plug into an earpiece, or you may bring your own headphones (standard mini-plug). Also, those with telephone-enabled hearing aids may request a wire "necklace" that transmits the signal directly into the hearing aid - no headphones necessary! If you'd like to try one of these devices, ask an usher and they will get one for you and show you how to use it.



Annual Spring Bell Concert Sunday, May 7, @ 7pm

It's an annual rite of spring, our bell choirs' May concert. Before they take the summer off, the choirs will bless us with a variety of tunes, some of which you might be surprised to hear on bells. 7:00pm in the sanctuary

Make A Gift for Mom

Need a special gift for mom? Come to the FUMC Cancer Crusher's Make & Take Bracelet Day. Sunday May 7th in the Chapel starting at 9:30 a.m. Children, both young and old, can make a beautiful bracelet for their mother or for themselves for only \$10. Karla Blackford will be there providing her design and crafting expertise. No time to make a bracelet? Other jewelry items made by Karla Blackford will be available for sale as well. We will be happy to giftwrap any items made or purchased. We can also hold the gift until Mother's Day so you are not tempted to give it to your mom early!

To My First United Methodist Church Family:

Greetings to you during this beautiful Spring Season!

As I think about leaving First UMC to take a position elsewhere, what can I possibly write to you to convey all of my emotions? Although I am truly excited to begin work at Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly, my heart aches at saying goodbye to you all.

Upon reflection, it is abundantly clear that this was not only my place of employment, but also my family. Business experts advise to keep professional and personal life separate, but the glorious thing about working for a church is . . . you simply cannot.

If time allowed, I would like to talk with each of you individually and thank you for being a part of my life, and my family's life, for the last 10 years. However, know that The Toma Family carries you in our hearts and minds as we relocate to a new congregation.

Thank you for the cards I have received wishing me well.

Thank you for the reassuring smiles and hugs.

To my friends at F.U.M.C: you and I know the moments we have shared.

The stories and laughs that we have exchanged in the hallways on Sunday morning as we hurry to either worship or Sunday school.

The tears and grief we have cried over the years as tragedy has struck.

You are part of the fabric of my being now. And by God's loving power and grace, He has blessed me, and my entire family, with you.

In Christ's Unending Love,

Lesley Toma



Living Last Supper – Thank You

Thank you for this year's participants in the Living Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. They spent time rehearsing and memorizing their parts so that we could experience the drama of the Upper Room. This was a first time of "being on stage" for many of these disciples, so a special thank you to Shari King for once again directing and guiding this special Holy Week Worship Service.

The disciples and participants:

Jesus – Ralph Bryant
Simon Peter – Jed Batterson
Andrew – Dalton Blackford
James – Kaleb Zimmerman
John – Jon Cooper
Philip – Randy Blackford
Bartholomew – Bart Etheredge
Tomas – 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
Roman Soldier – Chris Congdon

“New Doors, New Life, No Debt”

The Capital Campaign videos have been very clear, we have spent a lot of time planning, we took a big leap of faith in the Building Project, we still have a ways to go to pay off our mortgage, and we are seeing signs of new life through God's hand in blessing us as we celebrate our life in Christ. The amazing thing is that we have come a long way! From \$1,400,000 to \$561,701 in 4 years! What is so incredible is that we have saved over \$500,000 in interest by paying ahead because you continue to support the Building Fund with your gifts. Thank you!

The New Doors, New Life, No Debt Capital Campaign is still receiving pledges. So far we have received \$250,752 in pledges and \$27,745 in cash gifts. Thanks to a generous family for paying the interest on the Building Loan payment during our campaign we passed the \$600,000 milestone during our campaign! Every dollar counted! (We just received word they will make the same challenge next year - “We'll pay the interest, you pay off the debt!”)

Follow up Pledge cards are being sent out the first week of May. We are encouraging everyone to get on board to help pay off the debt. Your gifts really do make a difference. If we keep the pace we have kept these past 6 years this will be the last Capital Campaign! We believe you can do it.

Thank you to the 2017 Capital Campaign Committee for their help in planning and promoting New Doors, New Life, No Debt: Mark Fransdal, chair, Chad and Lisa Benson, Al Bernard, Steve Bernard, Amy Boevers, Chris Congdon, Pastor Matt German, Bruce Johnson, Dave Kofoed, Pastor Steve Williams, Kaleb and Linsey Zimmerman.



Bishop Laurie Runs Boston Marathon

“I am a child of God and God made me to run. I was born to run,” said Bishop Laurie Haller of our Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church, one of the entrants in the 2017 Boston Marathon. Bishop Laurie ran, for the tenth time, in the Patriot's Day race.

Bishop Laurie may well be the very first United Methodist Bishop to compete in the Marathon. Running long distances is nothing new for Iowa's bishop. It's her tenth Boston Marathon and she has competed in several triathlons including “Iron Man” events. “I've always gravitated toward longer distances. The longest distance I've run in a race is 50 miles...that was quite a challenge!”

Bishop Laurie talks about how running feeds her soul. “It's a way in which, since I was in my 20's, that I've been able to get outside, exercise my body, and to be away from everything, and be with Jesus. I can enjoy nature and God's good creation.” It helps Bishop Laurie to know that after working all day “I'm going to be out there exercising my body and trying to become a whole person.” Exercising feeds her body, her mind, and her spirit. “It makes me a much better pastor, a much better bishop, and a much better human being.” Bishop Laurie Haller finished the Boston Marathon with a time of 4:07:21.

Rummage Sale 2017 Update

Wanted: anyone with a strong interest in serving others and a willingness to work together as a team to accomplish great things!

What: The 2017 Rummage Sale Committee

When: May 4th, 6:30 pm in the Chapel

We are looking ahead 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 will be signs posted to take them to the lower level under Fellowship Hall starting May 31st. Any questions, please contact Donna Hoffman or Maxine Kehret

The sale is scheduled for the first weekend in August.

Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee name has changed to Leadership Development in recruiting volunteers to serve on Committees and Task Forces on our Leadership Team. They will begin recruiting in May. When you joined our church you made the vow to serve our church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. We encourage you to prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve and witness your faith when they extend the invitation to be part of the Leadership Team of our church. Many of the Leadership Development Team are graduates of the School for Lay Ministry, and will be recruiting members to attend this faith growth opportunity offered by our Annual Conference.

events

May 2 - Food Bank Work Crew

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

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, May 2 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.

May 2 - Grief Support Session

Our May grief support session will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the church parlor. If you are grieving the loss of someone special, it may help to attend a group with others who can empathize, pray with, and encourage you in your grief journey. New participants are always welcome, both members of FUMC and others. Please call Carol through the church office at 266-1713 with questions. Our grief support team also offers other support. Please do not hesitate to call.

May 3 - GoKarts & Goofy Golf!

All incoming 7th-12th grade students (2017-2018 school year) are invited to join us at Palmer's family fun on May 3rd from 6:00-8:00pm. Join us as we close out the school year and say hello to summer! Please RSVP to Becca Nims by 30th.

May 9 - Sartori May Breakfast

Tuesday, May 9, 2017 6:00-10:00 AM at First UMC
Menu: Scrambled eggs, Sausages, Homemade Baked Goods, Fresh Fruit, Juice and Coffee.

Tickets \$7.00 each, Preschoolers at the Door \$1.00 each
Proceeds are used to fund scholarships for area students entering a health-related field, and to support the Sartori Health Care Foundation's Annual Campaign.

May 9 - Card-Making Party

It's time for another card making party! Come join the Congregational Care Team. No experience (or special skills) necessary. Bring a snack to share if you'd like, and you can even stay for a community meal.

Tuesday, May 9th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Gathering Place

Last quarter's profits from our card rack sales totaled \$150.65 and were donated to Change a Child's Story at Lincoln School. This quarter we will donate proceeds to the Food Bank. Watch for Mother's Day, graduation, and our regular cards on the rack.

Our thanks to our Affirmation Team members for their dedication in keeping the card rack filled and sending cards to congregation members. Team members are Laurene Bernard, Jean Richardson, and Pauline Harding.

May 18 - 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

May 22 - LifeServe Blood Drive

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, May 22 from 12:30-6:00. Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org. 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 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 most Sundays taking donations and selling luminaria bags for Relay for Life in between services. Jewelry handmade by Karla Blackford and stained-glass angels handmade by Shawna Brimm will also be available for purchase. FUMC Cancer Crusher t-shirts will be available for only \$5 while supplies last! If you need information about joining the FUMC Cancer Crushers team, check in with Cindi Knox in the Gathering Place.

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. If you have questions or want more information, please contact Cindi Knox at cindi50701@aol.com or 319-230-5642.

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 all ages
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary

Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
 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, O55

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 5:15 AA, O55
 6:00-7:15 Entrusted Study, library (April 5 7 12)
 6:30 WOW AA, O55
 6:30 WOW AA, O55
 7:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday

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

Also Scheduled....

MONDAY May 1

12:00 newsletter labeling, Gathering Place
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

TUESDAY May 2

2:00-3:30 Grief Support, parlor
 6:00-8:00 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY May 3

5:15 AA, O55
 5:15-5:45 children's choir, choir room
 6:00 Youth group goes to Palmers - last one
 6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary

THURSDAY May 4

6:00 Girl Scouts, library
 6:30 Trustees, O57
 6:30 Rummage Sale organizational mtg.

FRIDAY May 5

3:00-7:00 Girl Scouts, library,

SATURDAY May 6

Flock sets up Transformation chairs

SUNDAY May 7

Senior Recognition Sunday
 9:30 make bracelets for mom, chapel
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Matt German
 4:00-5:00 Webelos, Gathering Place
 5:00-6:30 Confirmation, library
 7:00 Bell Concert
 No Boy Scouts

MONDAY May 8

9:30 UMW Board Meeting, library
 3:45-5:00 Lincoln Girl Scouts 6741, O55
 5:30 FirstKids Board mtg, O56
 6:30 HOME Team, chapel

TUESDAY May 9

6:00-10:00 Sartori May Breakfast
 1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 5:30 Hearts and Hands, Gathering Place
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

WEDNESDAY May 10

Grief Support Outing to Amana Colonies
 2:00 Communion Service - Western Hm
 6:30 Finance Committee, lower level

THURSDAY May 11

12:00 UMW Unit meeting, Fellowship Hall
 6:00 Girl Scouts, library
 6:30 SPRC, O57

FRIDAY May 12

3:30-5:30 Girl Scouts, library

SATURDAY May 13

10:00-12:00 Kruger 50th open house

SUNDAY May 14

Mother's Day
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Pat Cole

MONDAY May 15

10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor
 6:30 Ad Council, library
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

TUESDAY May 16

4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 6:30 Fun & Fellowship, library

WEDNESDAY May 17

9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library and gym
 11:00 Pinnacle Care Chapel service

THURSDAY May 18

12:00 1st Friends Potluck, Gathering Place
 6:00 Girl Scouts, library

SATURDAY May 20

June newsletter deadline
 6:00 New Member Dinner, parlour

SUNDAY May 21

Golden Cross offering
 Confirmation Sunday
 9:45 Sunday School for all ages - last one
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Mark Fransdal
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY May 22

12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
 3:45-5:00 Girl Scouts 6741, O55
 6:00-8:00 CRUSH, O58
 6:30 Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall
 6:30 Endowment, library

TUESDAY May 23

1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 5:30-7:30 Daisy Scouts, Gathering Place
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

WEDNESDAY May 24

2:00 Windermere communion service

THURSDAY May 25

9:30-11:30 Mary Circle, parlor
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor
 6:00 Girl Scouts, library

FRIDAY May 26

3:30-5:30 Girl Scouts, library
 5:00 Bernards & Congdon set up chairs

SUNDAY May 28

Memorial Sunday (trad services)
 10:30 Washington Chap - Jordan Derhamm

MONDAY May 29

Midwest Mission Crew leaves

WEDNESDAY May 31

1st day to bring Rummage Sale items
 noon newsletter mailing crew

Learn & Grow

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: 055, Kevin & Lori Price

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. 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 Contact: Debbie Dance.

The Flock

The Flock welcomes all young adults (college & beyond) for fun, fellowship and study as we look at how the world around us influences our lives as Christians. Third Floor Café, contact Jon Cooper or Becca Nims

F.R.O.G.

This class studies biblical themes and seeks concrete ways to put those lessons into action. Library: Contact Mark Schlatter.

Pathfinders

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

UMC Camps - Your Summer Adventure!

There are three United Methodist camps in Iowa, all in beautiful natural surroundings.

Methodist Camps have everything you need for your summer adventure: horses, climbing, swimming, hiking, great food, campfires, and we're pretty sure that God will show up, too. Check out all of the opportunities online at www.iaumc.org/camps. Summer will be here before we now it! If you would like a printed copy of the camp catalog, see Jenna Engel.

Camperships

First UMC encourages all kids to go to camp, but we understand it can be a financial burden for families. First UMC maintains a fund to assist families who would like to send their kids to a Methodist camp. A great gift that you can give to the kids of our church is to contribute to this campership fund. If you would like a campership to assist in sending your child to camp, contact Jenna Engel in the church office.



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.

Upcoming retreats:

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

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.

FirstUMC TV

First UMC is on TV. We can't promise beautiful videography like a BBC nature documentary, but we can promise a great message of faith. Our weekly TV broadcasts contain the sermons from the traditional and Transformation services, and reruns are rare!

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

Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:00am and Sundays at 9:00 pm

Miss a broadcast? Let us know in the FirstUMC media office, and we'll get a recording into your hands. Chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Find FirstUMC on youtube

Your church has a youtube channel. You can find sermons, Fusion shows, some of our stewardship videos and more. Go to youtube.com, and search for "cedar falls first united methodist church".



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.

Wednesday Wrap-Up

The BLAST semester ended on April 26th. A HUGE thank you to everyone who helped with BLAST on Wednesday nights. Having you with us every Wednesday night made the nights a great experience.

The Filling Station finale was April 26th. Thank you to everyone who helped cook, serve, provided desserts and donated food. We would not be able to have this if it were not for all of your help!

Watch for next fall's start-up date to be announced. The CrazyFunBusy Wednesday nights will be back in September for another season packed with fun, fellowship, learning and praise.

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 2016 _____ (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 _____

May Mission of the month: Midwest Mission Distribution Center

Midwest Mission Distribution Center is located in Chatham, Illinois (just south of Springfield). The center's function is to enable immediate and effective responses to disasters, especially in the Upper Midwest. It is a facility to receive, hold, process, and maintain a ready supply of material goods for emergency response and critical ongoing needs.

In 2016 MMDC sent out the following:

Student School Bags - 17,158
 Teacher School Bags - 271
 School Desks - 576
 Personal Dignity Kits - 30,278
 Bikes - 493
 Sewing Machines - 285

UMCOR Kits
 Health Kits - 6,936
 Layette Kits - 1,593
 Cleaning Buckets - 8,948
 Bedding Kits - 52
 School Kits - 2,121
 Sewing Kits - 403
 Birthing Kits - 1,278



MMDC is part of the United Methodist Committee On Relief Supply Network, and often gives UMCOR supplies to respond to disasters both within the United States and abroad as they see fit. It is one of seven centers in the UMCOR Relief Supply Network – and the closest one to Iowa. MMDC makes, collects, and stores many disaster relief supplies such as cleaning buckets, personal dignity kits or health kits, layettes, and school kits or school bags. In addition, they make school desks to ship overseas, and restore and send bicycles and sewing machines to places that rely on them for transportation and income.

This ministry is sustained by volunteers who receive, sort, pack, and ship the goods. The center functions in concert with the needs of UMCOR for goods prepared by volunteers.

Rus and Tony DeBonis and some of their family members will be volunteering at Midwest Mission Distribution Center the last week of May and early June. They don't know what their tasks will be until they get there, but could pack kits, sort items, or sew school bags, hospital gowns, and quilts. Maybe they will box up goods, help with mailings, build crates and desks, repair bicycles and sewing machines, help unload items, fill shipping containers, organize materials, or do whatever the needs are at any given time. We know there are tasks for all skills and abilities and that whatever they do will be helpful.

Donations are particularly important to a non-profit organization like MMDC. MMDC has no indebtedness, and works off of the monetary donations and supplies that are received. MMDC works hard to find the lowest deals through suppliers and can often get supplies three times cheaper than in a local store. Offering envelopes are available at the display in the Gathering Place.

Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

Along with the supplies to fill the school kits, there is also a need for fabric to make the school bags and other stitching projects. The Quilters & Stitchers are looking for durable material for school bags, 3+ yards of cotton material for sewing kits, and flannel, fleece, 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.

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 delivered to the church on Friday, please.

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.

Family Caregiver Thanks

Our church family has many members who are lovingly caring for family members, either physically or while the loved ones are in nursing facilities, or far away. The stress of care giving can take a toll. We encourage all who know a family caregiver to take some time this month to reach out in support of the caregiver and the loved one. Make a call, bring a meal, offer to be there, or send a card to encourage him or her in the difficult work they do. They are the face and hands of Jesus; let us be also.

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. 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.

Heifer rabbits & chicks

By print time we had collected almost \$700 to provide rabbits or flocks of chicks to help our sisters and brothers in impoverished regions with a way to produce income and to provide a good and sustainable source of protein in their diet. Thank you for your support of this Heifer International project.

GAIN FROM PAIN

When Dick Peterson's wife, Elizabeth, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, he knew many challenges awaited his family. What he didn't know was just how many lessons he would learn along the way. He writes:

"The intruder invaded Elizabeth's body, and by extension, mine. Her disease became my disease and made demands on our relationship that we were ill-prepared to manage. As she moved from cane to walker to electric scooter and finally to powered wheelchair, then lost use of her right hand, I had to adjust my life to fit her needs. The MS dictates so much of what we do or don't do. It is not fair. But we have the choice to let it tear us apart or use it to strengthen our marriage bond as we face the adversity together. If we only grieve the loss, we miss the gain - that what this disease does to us may also be done for us. When we talk about this, Elizabeth wonders aloud, 'Did it really take this to teach me that my soul is more important to God than my body?'"

When pain of various kinds comes into our lives, we can do no better than to allow God to work through it to bring more wholeness to our lives. Stephen Ministers come along side people dealing with pain to not only help them get through it, but to also help them grow in the process---to help bring gain from the pain. If you are interested in knowing more about Stephen Ministry, or having a Stephen Minister walk with you through a time of pain, contact one of the pastors or the church office.

Heifer Milk Menagerie

Our next Heifer International project for this year 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.

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 or by phone at 266-4071.

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.

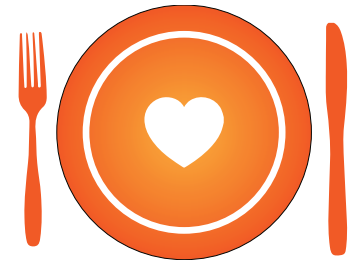
What's Your Mission in Life?

"The Rainbow Task Force is the church's arm which reaches out in ministry and mission to those in need in our community, our nation, and the world. It is the responsibility of this team to identify and set the mission priorities of our congregation and then nurture the congregation to work these priorities to completion." That's our official vision statement and purpose.

It is our humble opinion that this small but mighty group of caring people is the most exciting and rewarding team in our church. We have a limited number of openings in our Rainbow Mission Team and are looking for a few good people to join us! Most of our decisions are made via email, with rare face-to-face meetings. Our goal is to get things done to bring the love of Christ to all. Contact Lisa Congdon (chair of Rainbow) if you think this is a good fit for you and your gifts

How Many People Does it Take?

to run a Sunday morning at First UMC? Take a look at the volunteer schedule board that hangs in the church office. There are a lot of names on there, and this doesn't even include musicians, ushers, the tech teams, nursery workers, or Sunday school teachers. While our summers are a bit more relaxed, we're starting to gear-up for the busy fall season, and we want to have all of the positions filled this month. If your name isn't on this list, please consider what role you could fill to help make our Sunday morning worship a great experience for everyone. Contact Lesley Toma at lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com



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

Our crew helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month, from 6:00 to 8:00pm. We're their "A" Team - 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

Go

Do you have an idea for a church mission for work, learning or evangelism?

Contact Lisa Congdon in the church office and share your ideas. There may be ways that the church can help you realize your mission vision.

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."

The United Methodist Women had the pleasure of having Salma Akbar, a member of the Islamic Community Center, as guest speaker for our April unit meeting.

Salma shared interesting facts concerning Muslim women.

- Women have an equal place in society and in the church.
- Women may pursue an education.
- Women have property rights.
- Women are free to marry as they choose.
- Women have voting rights.
- Women have the right to dissent.

We enjoyed meeting Salma. She came from Pakistan to Iowa 42 years ago. She is a citizen of the United States.

The UMW will next meet at noon on May 11 when we will have our salad luncheon. Arlene Fleming will give the program about the World Thank Offering, which is a part of the United Methodist Women's Mission Giving.

UMW in May -

May 8 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library

May 9 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library

May 11 - Unit Meeting, 12:00 Noon, Fellowship Hall, Salad Luncheon

May 15 - Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., Parlor

May 23 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library

May 25 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

May 25 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

June -

June 5 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library

No Unit meeting

June - Deborah, Joy, Mary, and Miriam Circles - No meetings

UMW's Church Center for the United Nations

The Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), operated by the United Methodist Women, was established in 1963 to symbolize and strengthen the churches' dedication to the things that make for peace. Located directly across the street from United Nations (U.N.) headquarters in New York City, this 12-story building has served as a vital hub for the work of the ecumenical and nongovernmental community toward a vision of peaceful and prosperous coexistence among nations while recognizing the human rights and dignity of all people.

Among the programming available in the facility are seminars on global issues of justice and human rights. Three First UMC staffers will be attending two days of these seminars this month. Becca, Lisa and Chris will travel with a group from Threehouse to visit New York City for these seminars, some outreach work at the Church of the Village, and some general sight seeing. Look for a report from the trip in June or July.

Thank yous

Thank you to everyone who has sent me cards, meals, gifts, text, visits and phone calls during my battle with cancer. I have appreciated the prayers from the Church Family. You are all wonderful and I am lucky to have a Church Family like you. Still have a long road ahead but with continued prayers the journey will be easier.

Lori Fincher

Thank you Jane for delivering the beautiful rose even five days before my birthday. That was wonderful and should be about full bloom by the 28 th. I can't say enough good things about the fine staff here at First. Jane you know how to make birthdays special regardless of the age. Thanks again.

Dick Halstead

I would like to thank everybody for the prayers, cards and phone calls during my recent ablation procedure. They were greatly appreciated.

Rodger Kruger.

I would like to thank you for the thoughts, prayers, and hugs during the illness and death of my sister Gloria.

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles: they shall run and not be weary: they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

In Christian love,

Nancy Klodt

To one and all of our amazing Church Home. I want to thank everyone who expressed concern during my recent illness. It was so kind of you, and it warms my heart to know that our friends care. I hope to be back in church and enjoy those Sunday mornings with the congregation soon!

Jean Pierce

Thank you so very much for the beautiful red rose for my birthday. It was so good to have a visit with Jane. Thank you also for the card from the staff.

Glenn Holmes

Thank you for the beautiful pink rose that was delivered by Jane for my birthday. It really made for a beautiful day and kept my mind off of my surgery scheduled during the next week.

Shirley Johnson

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Help Send a Kid to Camp. We have raised \$1,600 and more is coming in. If you would still like to help send kids to camp please Jenna Engel know at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com.

Thank you to all who came out and enjoyed dinner at Pizza Ranch on Relay for Life Night. A special thank you goes out to Cheryl Neill, Christi Porter, Keilee Porter and Vicki Jones for helping to bus tables.

Thank you to Roger Heise for providing the tractor and loader and tools to remove the church sign on Washington Street. It made the job almost easy! Thanks again.

Sympathy to:

- Jim Skaine and his family on the death of Rosemarie on March 29
- Earl & Carol Will and their family on the loss of Earl's brother, Ron, on March 20.
- Nancy Klodt on the death of her sister, Gloria.
- Rudy Grapp on the death of his brother, Lyle.
- Dan Osborn and Gayle Bruene on the loss of Dan's mother and Gayle's sister, Teri Osborn.
- Family and friends of Nancy Bernard. Nancy passed away April 22.

Welcome to our church!

- Edylan Erin Marks, daughter of Ehren & Ashley Marks, was baptized on April 2.
- Elizabeth Audrey-Mae Van Heiden was baptized on April 9. She is the daughter of Shawna Behrens and Kevin Van Heiden.
-

Financial Update--

March Receipts	\$79,972
March Expenses	\$67,801
YTD Receipts	\$220,454
YTD Expenses	\$214,981
Mortgage balance as of April 25 --	\$561,701

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.com.

Attendance- week ending

	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23
FUSION (Wed)	33	34	28	33
Transformation	119	119	123	102
Traditional 8:30	137	153	211	118
Traditional 11:00	178	158	208	118
Maundy Thursday		225		
Good Friday		50		

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613
Phone: 319.266.1713
Fax: 319.266.1715
Email: churchoffice@aboutfirst.com
www.aboutfirst.com

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



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

Van rides are available for the 10:00 Sunday service.
Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

Spreading the Word

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

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

Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, steve.williams@aboutfirst.com
Matt German, Associate Pastor, matt.german@aboutfirst.com

June newsletter deadline is May 20.

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Deb Bernard, Financial Manager
deb.bernard@aboutfirst.com

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

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

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

Bryan Houts, Chancel Choir Director
bryan.houts@aboutfirst.com

Flo Moblely, Parish Visitor

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

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

Emily Terpstra, Custodian

Lesley Toma, Family Ministries Coordinator
lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com

ABOUTFIRST.COM