

aboutfirst news

May, 2019 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

Love First. Let's Gather, Grow, Go Together



CONTENTS

2	-	pastor's page
3	-	worship
4	-	home page
5	-	news
6	-	news
7	-	how to help
8	-	events
9	-	calendar
10	-	VBS registration
11	-	earn & grow
12	-	reaching out & in
13	-	reaching out & in
14	-	women & men
15	-	short notes

issue 223, May, 2019

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

Our Pastor's Response to UMC Judicial Council Decisions

The Judicial council of the United Methodist Church met April 23-26 and ruled on the constitutionality of the traditional plan passed at General Conference in February. As expected, portions were deemed unconstitutional while others were deemed constitutional. As your pastors we have always left room for conversation in the midst of disagreement. We have modeled that and have invited you to participate in crucial conversations among each other in recent months. We have not wanted anyone to leave who disagrees with us, rather, we have always wanted more room for crucial conversations. The modified traditional plan no longer leaves room for that diverse conversation.

This traditional plan is particularly concerning to your pastors as the denomination has moved to elevate a perceived sexual sin above any other sin in our book of discipline. A clergy person can violate church law in any other number of ways and not face the same consequences of conducting a same sex wedding including: beating their spouse, having an extra-marital affair, dedicating instead of baptizing children, lying, cheating, or even interfering with another pastor's ministry. Now pastors that officiate a wedding for consenting and loving adults automatically results in a one year suspension and the second time, the pastor's credentials are removed. While the Book of Discipline says that all are created with sacred worth, not all are allowed to participate fully in the sacred ministry of the church... such as getting married or becoming pastors.

So, where do we go from here?

Please know that denominational leaders are actively meeting to discuss possible outcomes for the UMC. There are a few scenarios that we hear the most:

- 1) One side or the other convinces their church to leave
- 2) A new way of staying United that allows for different expressions of Methodism while still sharing connection with name, logo, and some central agencies
- 3) A dissolution of the United Methodist Church and formation of two or three new expressions of Methodism

While we do not know what this means for our congregation, what we do know is this. Our vision is simply: Love First. Let's gather, grow, go...together. Nothing about the way we do ministry here at first UMC is changing. We are a church that extends radical hospitality. When we say all are welcome here, we mean ALL.

Your pastors will continue to keep the congregation informed as new developments for the United Methodist Church surfaces. In the meantime, we are committed to staying on mission and living out our vision. Let's continue to make new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the World.

Love First,
Pastor Scott Keele Kober and Pastor Matt German

Love First Teaching Series

begins May 5

Have you ever wondered how to do that one thing that Jesus said we all needed to learn how to do? How to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and how to love your neighbor as yourself. It's a pretty tall order.

Many Christians believe if we just simply learn to love God fully, then, by default, we will somehow know how to love our neighbors as ourselves. But Jesus often taught his disciples to intentionally love other people....often people that it seemed risky to love.... and in so doing, they discovered how to love God. Most of us struggle even to love others just like us...but Jesus calls us to love those who are different than us.

Rather than meet the faithful Jews in the synagogues, Jesus went to the outcasts and those on the margins of society...like gentiles, romans soldiers, tax collectors, people who were physically and mentally ill, and some said to be demon possessed.

If Jesus lived by love, what does it mean for us to "Love First" in places like the grocery store, the library, prisons, hospitals, our church, the kitchen table, a nightclub, an adult venue, or any other place people gather?

Rather than ridicule sinners, Jesus forgave their sins. And while others avoided these people all together, Jesus walked right into their villages.

Join us starting on May 5th for our new worship series entitled Love 1st where we will live by Christ's law to Love First...above all other things. We will grow in our love for God, for our neighbors, and even ourselves.

You Might Be On Camera

Here's some news that's exciting to share, and maybe a concern for some. We are now livestreaming the sermon/teaching portion of our Sunday worship services on Facebook. We're thrilled to be able to share our sermons with the whole world in real-time. If you can't make it to church on Sunday, the Transformation message goes live about 9:00, and the Traditional message goes live at about 11:25 - please tune in.



Sharing our message with the whole world is important, and so is your personal security. The ability to stream video to the internet means that there are live cameras in our worship spaces. For some people, this might be a concern. There are all kinds of reasons that any particular person might not want the world to know where they are at that moment on a Sunday morning. The vast majority of the time, the pastor is the only person visible in the livestream, but sometimes portions of the crowd are visible, too. If you have any questions about where to sit in our worship spaces so that you will not be visible to the cameras, please talk to Chris in the media office.

**LOVE FIRST
GATHER, GROW, GO
TOGETHER**

Summer Worship Times:

Beginning June 2, our 11:00 Traditional worship service will move one hour earlier to 10:00. All other Sunday morning times will remain the same:
8:30 Transformation Worship
8:30 Traditional Worship
9:30 Fellowship Time
10:00 Traditional Worship

Three Ten Connect

Here's an easy way to welcome our guests in Sunday worship called **3 • 10 • Connect**.

It's simple: in the **first three minutes** after a worship service has ended, look around in a **ten-foot radius** and see if there's someone you don't know. If so, stick out your hand and say "hi". Make a little conversation. Ask them if they have any questions about our church, and if so, volunteer to introduce them to a pastor, a staff person, or someone you know to have the answer. Then, be sure to say that you, personally, are glad that they are here, and that you hope to see them again. It's that easy. **3 • 10 • Connect**.

Communion Servers

There's a great way to be an integral part of worship each month. Be a communion server at one of the services in the sanctuary. We offer communion every month - on the first Sunday. Pastor Scott needs about six people each service to help serve this sacrament. You will either serve the bread (saying "the Body of Christ") or offer the cup (saying "the blood of Christ"). A willing servant's heart is all that is needed to be a part of this holy moment. Contact Pastor Scott if you are willing to help with this, .

4 Home Page



Spring Bell Concert – May 5

It's official: spring is here. We know this because the annual spring bell concert is next Sunday, at 3:00pm in the sanctuary. The bell choirs are honored to participate in worship and this end-of-season concert is their gift to the congregation.



Softball season is here!

If you are interested in playing on our First UMC team, contact Steve Bernard at 5bernards@cfu.net. Must be 16 years old to play. Games are Monday nights at Birdsall Park. Spectators are welcome, and the ballpark is a great place to spend a summer evening. Come out and cheer for the team!

May 13 8:30 on field 2
May 20 6:30 on field 3
May 27 no softball – Memorial Day
June 3 6:30 on field 2

Save Your Cans for Troop 44

Our chartered Boy Scout Troop is planning monthly can drives to raise money for troop activities. The plan is to collect cans the last Saturday of each month from 9:00-noon in the north parking lot of our church. Save your cans to support the scout programs of our church.



Youth Game Nights Continue Through the Summer

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to join our monthly game nights! These happen once a month on the Friday before the first Sunday of each month, from 6-9pm, and will continue throughout the summer. Our May game night is scheduled for Friday the 3rd. If you are in grades 7-12, you are invited to join us for pizza, games, and fun! We hope to see you there!

Youth Lock-in and Service Opportunity

Youth in grades 7-12 are also invited to attend a lock-in at our church from Friday, May 31 - Saturday, June 1! We will be joining with youth from neighboring churches for fun and games on Friday, and a service opportunity on Saturday. Stay tuned for more details. Contact Jordan or Lorrin if you are interested.



Why Sign In?

In every Sunday worship experience, you are invited to sign-in on the attendance pad. It is more important than you may realize.

First, it lets us know that you were here. We DO track this in the church office. If you don't sign-in, you were not here.

In our weekly church staff meetings, we review reports of new visitors who have signed-in. We look to see who else may have been sitting near them and greeted them. This information helps us to refine our hospitality and outreach efforts.

When visitors in our worship services see our members signing-in, they are more likely to do so, as well, and that provides our pastors with information to follow up with them later in the week.

If you see a visitor sitting nearby (or perhaps a longtime member whose name you don't remember) the sign-in pad gives you a place to look so that you may greet that person by name.

Finally, we also look at reports of regular attenders who are uncharacteristically absent. Many times we know why this is, but sometimes an absence is unexplained, and may trigger a call from a pastor or parish visitor.

We are a family of faith. Knowing our people is the core of our operation as a church community. By signing-in every Sunday, you help us to have good information to work with, so thanks for doing so!

Rummage Sale News

We are looking forward to another great year in our mission goal to serve others in our local community. Please start saving and sorting useable and saleable “stuff” to bring to the Church. As in the past, we would request no TV’s, computers, paint, tires, or pianos. The first day to bring items is Monday June 3rd. Rooms will be ready in the lower level under Fellowship Hall and will be clearly marked. We would appreciate donations of furniture and large items be held back until the week of the sale as we have no place to store them.

The sale is scheduled for the days of August 1st to 3rd this coming summer!

An organizational meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 9th at 6:30PM in the Chapel for anyone interested in helping with this sale! It is a wonderful way to meet other Church members you might not know very well! And, there are a lot of opportunities to help in the evenings.

If you have helped in the past to coordinate a specific area of the sale, I am counting on you once again for your expertise!!

Any questions, contact Maxine Kehret (319-296-1518) or Stephanie Buchs (319-277-2916)



How can you not want to take her home? We'll have treasures like this, and many others, at our annual rummage sale.

Native American Ministries offering- May 5

Dallas Indian United Methodist Church was formed in the 1950s when Native Americans relocated as part of the Indian Relocation Act. The church settled in its current location in 1967. More than 13 different tribes are represented in the congregation, which holds two Sunday worship services along with Wednesday activities.

“I love being in ministry with Dallas Indian Mission,” said the Rev. J. B. Jackson. “There is a unique community of diversity here.”

To help preserve their heritage, the congregation sings traditional and tribal hymns in Choctaw, Comanche and Kiowa. Community and heritage are important to the church. Meals serve both as fundraisers and community events.

Annually, the church’s United Methodist Women chapter hosts an arts-and-crafts fair featuring Native American handmade crafted items, fry bread and stew. Individuals from the church educate others about their tribal heritage through demonstrations and powwows around Dallas and Fort Worth.

The church has a long tradition of helping the Native American community in North Texas, and has started dental clinics, health services centers and nutritional programs for children. Current outreach includes a deaf ministry, a community food pantry, a Bible study for seniors and a youth mentor program.

On Native American Ministries Sunday, we celebrate and support United Methodist work with our Native American sisters and brothers across the connection.

Q How is “Church” defined in regard to the 1st United Methodist Church Endowment Fund?

A The term “Church” means all things within the scope of the entire 1st United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls’ ministries, encompassing the properties, programs and missions. It does not refer to the UMC beyond Cedar Falls First UMC. Endowment gifts are gifts to our local congregation.



First UMC Endowment Funds
securing your legacy - ensuring our future

... It is still not clear what our denomination will look like in the days and months ahead. As we move into an unknown future as United Methodists, knowing that the risen Christ is with us, I think it is important for you to know of my hopes and dreams for The United Methodist Church and The Iowa Annual Conference.

I yearn for a church that honors diverse theological beliefs, whether Traditional, Centrist, or Progressive. The United Methodist Church has always had a big tent where we do not all think alike, but where we all love alike. And it is precisely our diversity that is our strength. One of my greatest fears is that in our reluctance to honor difference in The UMC, we risk becoming irrelevant in our global world, especially to our young people.



My hope is that each one of us will have a heart of peace as we navigate these difficult times. Here is what I will commit to you.

- I will remain focused on the mission and vision of the Iowa Annual Conference
 - Mission: Inspire, equip and connect communities of faith to cultivate world-changing disciples of Jesus Christ.
 - Vision: God's hope for the world made real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people
- I am committed to creating space for all clergy, laity, and congregations to lead out of the fullness of who they are and out of their own unique pastoral context.
- I continue to be supportive of the foundational concepts of the One Church Plan because it honors a variety of beliefs and practices around human sexuality. At the heart of the One Church Plan is every pastor having the freedom to officiate at same-sex weddings or not; every congregation having the option of hosting same-sex weddings or not; and the ordination of qualified LGBTQIA+ candidates for ministry who are committed to faithfulness in marriage and celibacy in singleness, just as I would expect the same of heterosexual candidates.
- I am committed to avoiding complaints and trials around human sexuality, if at all possible. If a complaint is filed, however, I will address it with integrity and as much grace as possible, according to The Book of Discipline.

And here is what I hope that you, as clergy and laity of the Iowa Annual Conference, will commit to each other.

- I encourage you to continue to create a welcoming atmosphere in your local churches so that all people know that they are invited to be a part of your faith community.
- I ask you to follow the apostle Paul's admonition to the Christians in Ephesus (Ephesians 4:32) "Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ."
- I expect congregations and clergy, as best as you are able, to fully support The United Methodist Church through apportionment giving, which is foundational to mission and ministry in our connectional and global church.
- I urge you to continue to make a difference in your local communities and around the world by modeling Christ's love for all people, creating new ministries that fulfill the needs of your particular context, and going out into your communities to be the hands, feet, voice, and heart of our risen Lord and Savior.
- I urge you to continue to love one another, even when you disagree.

My dear friends, in this time of great anxiety, may you not fear, only believe. May you share the good news that the God who raised Jesus from the dead can raise up The United Methodist Church as well! May you celebrate that perfect love casts out all fear. May you live out our core Wesleyan conviction that unity in diversity strengthens our witness to a broken world. And may you continue to fully immerse yourself in making a difference for Jesus in your local communities, in Iowa, and around the world. May God bless you richly in the days ahead.

Bishop Laurie

In the wake of the UMC's Judicial Council rulings, Bishop Laurie Haller released a Pastoral Letter to the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. You may read a small excerpt at right, and the entire five-page text is available at iaumc.org, or by contacting our First UMC media office.

Worship:

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.

Sunday Morning Hospitality

How many people does it take to make a Sunday morning happen at First UMC? A lot! We have greeters, Welcome Center hosts, refreshment servers, ushers, chair-setter-uppers, communion stewards, bus drivers, musicians, Sunday School teachers, camera, sound and tech operators and more. Everything happens because someone makes it happen. How can you help? Contact Jenna Engel to fill one of these slots!

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2019 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

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.

Food Bank Work Night

A crew from our church helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Expect to be there from 6:00 to no later than 8:00pm. They love to see the Methodists come to work. Would you like to be on the reminder email or do you want to know more? Contact Lisa in the church office. lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com

Ongoing Wish Lists

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

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

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

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

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

How can you help?

8 Events

May 7 - Food Bank Work Crew

A crew from our church helps at the Food Bank the first Tuesday of each month. Expect to be there from 6:00 to no later than 8:00pm. Would you like to be included in the reminder email or would you like to carpool to get there? Contact Lisa in the church office. lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com

May 7 - Grief Support Session

When: 2:00-3:30pm

Where: 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 the church to connect with our grief support team.

May 10 - Mother's Day Movie Night

When: 6:30

Where: Fellowship Hall

Bring the whole family for Mother's Day Movie Night. We'll watch Incredible 2. We'll serve pizza so nobody has to cook! A fun Mom's Day craft will be available for everyone, too.

May 10-12 - Mother's Day Photo Booth

When: Friday night & Sunday morning

Where: Gathering Place

We'll have a photo booth set up for you to take a special picture with Mom, Daughter, Aunt, Grandma, Friend. The booth will be set up Friday, May 10 and will be available through Sunday morning, May 12. Have fun and take a picture you'll all remember.

May 14 - Card-Making Party

When: 1:00-5:00

Where: Gathering Place

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 then stay for Community Meals for a delicious meal.

This quarter's profits are donated to Ingathering for postage. Watch for Mothers' Day, graduation, and our regular cards on the rack by the church office. Our thanks to the Affirmation Team members for their dedication in keeping the card rack filled and sending cards to members during special times of joy and difficulty. Team members are Laurene Bernard, Jean Richardson, and Pauline Harding.

May 16 - 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.

May 20 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30-6:00

Blood 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.

May 28 - Crafter's Corner

Where: Parlor

When: 6:00-8:00

Attention crafters! Join us on Tuesday, May 28 from 6:00-8:00 in the parlor. This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or volunteer your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade essentials for those in need, or prayer shawls. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. But, donations of good full size scissors or craft store gift cards to buy good scissors would be appreciated. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

June 1 - Waterloo Bucks

When: evening

Where: Riverfront Stadium

Fun & Fellowship and Relay For Life Night at the Waterloo Bucks is coming up, Saturday June 1, gates open at 5:30 with first pitch at 6:35. Cindi Knox has tickets for sale. Tickets are only \$7 and a portion of the tickets sold by Cindi will go to our FUMC Cancer Crushers team. Ticket deadline is May 27.

Zumba Every Thursday!

You can always Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact mary.friedrich@cfu.net if you have questions.

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*
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

* last kid's Sunday School is May 19

Tuesday

9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59
 9:30-10:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 6:30-8:00 Tuesday Night Fellas
 7:00-9:00 AA, O55

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 5:15 AA, O55
 6:00 - 7:10 Jr / Sr High Youth*
 6:30 WOW AA, O55
 7:30 - 8:30 Chancel Choir

Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

WEDNESDAY May 1

6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary

THURSDAY May 2

Grief support Food Bank outing
 1:30-3:00 Renovare Group, chapel
 6:30 Trustees, library

FRIDAY May 3

game night for youth

SUNDAY May 5

Communion at all services
 Confirmation Sunday 11:00 service
 Lisa Congdon at Frederika UMC
 Roberta Robbins at New Hope Parish
 Mark Fransdal at Parkersburg
 1:00-3:00 Burton & Potter confirmation celebration, Gathering Place
 3:00 Spring bell concert, sanctuary

MONDAY May 6

9:30-11:00 UMW Board meeting, library
 6:00 VBS planning meeting, library
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision, lower level

TUESDAY May 7

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor
 6:00-8:00 Food Bank Work Crew
 6:00-8:00 Cadette Girl Scouts, Parlor
 6:30 men's group, O59
 7:00-8:00 AA, O55

WEDNESDAY May 8

2:00 communion service at Stanard Care
 6:30 Fun & Fellowship meeting, library

THURSDAY May 9

NOON UMW Unit meeting, Fellow Hall
 1:30-3:00 Renovare Group, chapel
 6:30 Rummage Sale planning, chapel

FRIDAY May 10

9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library/nursery
 6:00 Mom's Family Movie Night

SUNDAY May 12

Mother's Day
 Photo booth in Gathering Place
 Padma Templeton at New Hope Parish
 Shawna Brimm is at Washington Chapel
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY May 13

Softball 8:30 field 2
 6:30 HOME Team ,chapel

TUESDAY May 14

MAY BREAKFAST
 1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place
 6:30 Finance Committee, library

WEDNESDAY May 15

11:00 service at Pinnacle Care

THURSDAY May 16

Noon-3:00 First Friends potluck, Gather Plac
 1:30-3:00 Renovare Group, chapel
 5:00 Girl Scouts
 NO Zumba

SUNDAY May 19

Chris Werling at Frederika UMC
 Pat Benda is at New Hope Parish
 Lisa Congdon is at Washington Chapel
 9:45 Last Sunday School for kids
 5:00 Boy Scouts Mother's Banquet
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout Troop1874, chapel

MONDAY May 20

Newsletter deadline
 Midwest Mission Crew leaves
 Softball 6:30 field 3
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive. Gathering Place
 530 Cub Scouts
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

WEDNESDAY May 22

1:00 Communion Service, Windhaven

THURSDAY May 23

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor
 1:30-3:00 Renovare Group, chapel
 NO Zumba
 7:00 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall

SATURDAY May 25

9:00-noon Troop 44 can drive, north lot

SUNDAY May 26

Pat Benda is at Frederika UMC
 Padma Templeton is at New Hope Parish

MONDAY May 27

Memorial Day
 Church Office Closed
 No Softball

TUESDAY May 28

6:00-8:00 Cadette Girl Scouts, Gathering Pl
 6:30-8:30 Crafter's corner, parlor

THURSDAY May 30

1:30-3:00 Renovare Group, chapel
 6:30 Rummage Sale planning, chapel

FRIDAY May 31

Newsletter Mailing
 Set up food packing event
 game night for youth

SATURDAY June 1

Food Packing Event
 Waterloo Bucks Relay for Life night

SUNDAY June 2

Summer Worship Times Begin
 communion at all services
 Padma Templeton at Frederika UMC
 Roberta Robbins at New Hope Parish
 Mark Fransdal is at Parkersburg UMC
 Lisa Congdon at Waterloo First UMC

Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 9 - Thursday, June 13

6:15-8:15 pm

Pre- registration is suggested. Please return completed forms to Jenna Engel. You can drop off in church office or mail forms to Jenna Engel, First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street Cedar Falls Iowa, 50613. Cost: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. 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 per child.



Participating Child

Child's Name _____ Child's Date of Birth _____

Age _____ Grade in Fall 2019 _____ (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

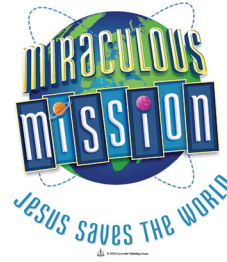
First United Methodist Church may use photographs and video of my child's participation in VBS activities. I understand that photo and video images will NOT be labeled with children's names. circle: yes / no initial: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian _____ date _____

Miraculous Mission This Summer at First UMC

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 9th -12th

At Miraculous Mission Vacation Bible School, your children will look into the Bible, God's Holy Word, and discover God's miraculous missions to save you, me, and the whole world! The Bible accounts of God's mission for us to share how God made the universe; His promise of a Savior to Abram; the birth of Jesus, our Savior; Jesus' death, resurrection; and ascension!



We are looking for volunteers if you would like to become a part of Vacation Bible School, please contact Jenna Engel.

Pre-registration is suggested. Forms are available at the Welcome Center, or on the church website at aboutfirst.com. 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: \$15.00 suggested for one participant or for families \$20.00. 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 per child.



Make Your Summer Camp Plans Now at iaumc.org/camps

The Iowa UMC has three camps: Pictured Rocks, Okobiji, and Wesley Woods. All three have exciting summer camp options for kids and youth: Boats, horses, go-carts, hiking, fishing, nature, learning, exploring, new friends, and, of course, a bunch of Jesus make summer camp an experience our kids will remember for a lifetime. Camp information is available at iaumc.org/camps.

We want every kid to go to camp, and we can help with scholarship funds for camping fees. If you have contributed to this fund, thank you - it makes it possible for a kid to have the summer of a lifetime. Talk to Jenna Engel for more info regarding camp scholarships.

Last Week for Kid's Sunday School is May 19!

Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study always welcomes new friends. This group meets in the chapel at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings. Bring your Bible - whichever one you prefer - and be prepared to read through and discuss the Bible. This group took a break for the winter months, and resumed their studies just after Easter. It's an easy group to join at any time. They are working their way through 1 Thessalonians and will continue on from there. No homework or study guide is required, just read along with this group of women and offer your insight. Shirley Bolin and Linda Berneking are the contacts for this group.

Men's Tuesday Breakfast

- join the group

After a break for winter, the Men's Breakfast Fellowship is back! Join them at 7:00am at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant (2627 Center St) every Tuesday. After a quick devotion, you'll have time to eat and be on your way by 8:00. Start your Tuesdays with a great group of guys.

12 Reaching Out & In

May Mission Focus – Meals from the Heartland

Hunger isn't just in the lives of children and families far away. Too many Iowans go to bed and wake up hungry every day. A study by Feeding America reports:

- 1 in 8 Iowans struggle with hunger
- 1 in 6 Iowa children don't have enough to eat
- Nearly 400,000 Iowans live at or below poverty level

Here's what you can do about this...

- Join us Saturday, June 1 for the Meals from the Heartland Hunger Fight. This is a fun meal packing event and there are two shifts to choose from: 11:00am-noon, or 12:30pm-1:30pm. Sign up on our church [website](#) or at the display in the Gathering Place (we will add you to the online sign-up)

- Donate to pay for ingredients. Each meal costs 20 cents, and we are packing at least 30,000 meals. Use the offering envelope at the display in the Gathering Place.

Meals from the Heartland ships food all over the world and in the USA. The Taco Mac meals that we pack will be distributed to domestic agencies and food banks, including our local NE Iowa Food Bank. In 2018 alone, more than 600,000 meals were distributed across the state of Iowa.

Thank you for your support. Together, we can make a difference in our community, our nation, and the world.



Meals FROM THE
Heartland

Empowering people to save the starving.

Be a Blessing to Someone Through Love INC

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That's not a failure of the churches - at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches and agencies to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 29.

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 loveincv.org or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in the next couple of days.



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. We have sent dozens of Bibles in past years and they are so appreciated. The Common English Bible for is an easy to read Bible. 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 at the Welcome Center. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.



Stephen Ministry By The Numbers



- 1:1 Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one care to people going through a crisis or difficult time. They meet with that person on an ongoing basis, offering distinctively Christian care and support.
- 200 Stephen Ministries has conducted more than 200 Leader's Training Courses since 1978.
- 1,000 A team of 20 Stephen Ministers can provide more than 1,000 hours of one-to-one, Christ-centered care. Most churches have 10 to 30 Stephen Ministers – many have even more.
- 12,000 More than 12,000 congregations worldwide are enrolled in the Stephen Series. Hundreds more begin Stephen Ministry every year.
- 65,000 More than 65,000 pastors, church staff, and lay leaders have attended a Leader's Training Course. The LTC equips Stephen Leaders with the knowledge and tools they need to lead Stephen Ministry back home.
- 600,000 Stephen Leaders have trained more than 600,000 Stephen Ministers in their local congregation since the ministry began in 1975, and that number continues to grow every year.
- Millions Millions of hurting people—congregation members and people who had no church home...have been blessed by the care and support of a Stephen Minister.
- 2001 Our Stephen Ministry program began in 2001 when Pastor Laura Smith and Carol Dick attended the Leader Training Course.

We thank you all for your financial and prayerful support of this caring ministry. If you are interested in receiving the support of a Stephen Minister or want to inquire about taking the training, please call the church office at 266-1713.

8th Annual Love INC Golf Tournament

Looking for a way to have a great time and serve your community? Love INC is hosting their annual Golf Tournament on Monday, June 17. It's a best shot tournament designed for all skill levels and the proceeds make a huge difference for Love INC's ministry. Love INC networks 31 churches in the Cedar Valley to meet the tangible needs for the under-resourced in our community in the Name of Christ. Go to golfloveinc.com for more info and to sign up.

Homebound?

The Library Will Come To You

Church members who live in their own homes, apartments, or in senior retirement communities may be eligible for home bound library services (especially if they do not have anyone living with them who comes to the library for materials.) If you are interested in having library materials delivered to you by library volunteers, please call the Cedar Falls Public Library at 273-8643. This is a free service provided by the Cedar Falls Public Library.

Hospital Reminder

Government 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.

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.

UMW Learns About the Job Foundation

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



On April 11, the UMW gathered for their Unit Meeting. The guest speakers were Jennifer Brost, Founder and Executive Director of The Job Foundation and Kelsey Umthum also with The Job Foundation. The Job Foundation is a locally grown nonprofit organization that equips children in the Cedar Valley with tools to become financially independent upon adulthood. They are currently helping 113 children from Waterloo School referrals. This program teaches low income children how to stand on their feet financially and break the pattern of poverty. Requirements for successful completion of the program include getting good grades, staying out of trouble, and completion of 120 financial leadership lessons.

May UMW Calendar

May 03 – Friendship Day – Church Women United

May 06 – Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library

May 09 – Unit Meeting, 12:00 Noon, Fellowship Hall, Salad Luncheon

May 20 – Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., in the church parlor

May 23 – Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., in the church parlor

May 23 – Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., in the church parlor

Students who qualify start in 3rd grade and go until they graduate from high school. It costs about \$2,500 a year for expenses to teach a student. The Job Foundation gets no federal funding. They rely on businesses, local grants, and individual gifts to operate The Job Foundation.

Devotions were given by Faye Rohwedder. The Response Moment was a poem from the March/April issue given by Arlene Fleming. Betty Goettsch explained her decorations for the Worship Center. Table Grace was given by Mary Schlicher and refreshments were provided by Joy Circle.

The next Unit Meeting will be May 9th; which will be our annual Salad Luncheon at noon.

2019 Mission U: Learning Together for Transformation of the World

The United Methodist Women (UMW) Mission u summer and fall events are wonderful mission education opportunities to study current issues impacting society. Whether you are young or old, laity or clergy, a UMW member or not, a first timer or attend every year, you are invited. All participate in the Spiritual Growth Study - “Practicing Resurrection: The Gospel of Mark and Radical Discipleship”. Also, attendees may choose to attend either the special anniversary study “Women United for Change: 150 Years in Mission”, or the social issue study “What About Our Money? A Faith Response”.

WHEN: July 21–23 Summer Mission u (Sunday afternoon through Tuesday afternoon)
October 18–20. Fall Mission u (Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoon)

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

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

Thank You's

Thank you to Jane for my beautiful birthday rose. It is always a pleasure to visit with Jane. I also received birthday wishes from the church staff. Thank you. Thank you to Carol and Jane for visiting Harold in Waverly. He enjoys seeing you.
Pat Powell

Many thanks to Carol Dick. Thanks for the lovely visit and for the beautiful quilt she brought. It was a wonderful surprise. I also want to thank the quilters and stitchers of First UMC who made the quilt.
Barb Ackerson

Thank you to our church family. Pastor Scott's visit, the cards, prayers, and the Easter basket from Hearts and Hands. We are truly blessed.
Dean and Roxanne Noring

Thank you to the "Hearts & Hands" committee for the cute Easter Basket delivered to our home. Unfortunately we were not at home so we could thank them in person.
Jim and Ruth Peterson

Jordan, Lorrin, and the 7-12 grade youth would like to thank Genny Van Dorn and other anonymous donors for providing lots of snacks and drinks for the 3d floor! We have enjoyed the full fridge and stocked shelves all year long because of your kindness. We appreciate you!

Sympathy to:

Family and friends of Barbara Zaiser. Barbara died March 27.

Tiffany (Oppelt) Ahrens on the loss of her grandfather, Rev. Douglas Tharpe of Dumont, on March 30.

Linda Berry and Megan LaBarge on the death of their mother and grandmother, Lucille Thierer, on April 8.

Friends of Brock Knoll. Brock passed away April 10. A Celebration of Life was held April 17.

Welcome to:

Kenley Kay LaBarge was baptized April 14. She is the daughter of Kyle & Megan LaBarge, and granddaughter of Linda Berry.

Card shower for Bill Morse

Long-time member Bill Morse will be celebrating his 90th birthday on June 2. He would be greatly surprised and very glad to receive a card or short note from his friends at First UMC. Please send to:

Bill Morse
310 N. Morgan #5
St. Charles IA 50240

Mobile Giving Options Are Now Available

First UMC Cedar Falls is now able to accept financial contributions through the mobile giving apps Venmo and Shazam Bolt\$. Both apps are available for Android and Apple devices. The apps are free to download, and after you link your bank account, transactions are handled much like debit card payments. Don't carry cash or a checkbook? No worries – just use your phone! Send contributions to contributions@aboutfirst.com



Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for fabric to make school bags and other stitching projects. The Quilters & Stitchers are looking for durable/sturdy material for school bags. They also could use decent sized lengths of cotton quilting fabric for comfort quilts, baptism quilts, quilts for foster kids, and of course – for the beautiful items they make for the quilt auction each November. There is a designated bin for your quality fabric donation in the church collection site on the main level of the church in the little hall across from the drinking fountain.

Sartori May Breakfast – May 14

The Friends of MercyOne Cedar Falls Medical Center are holding their annual May Breakfast on Tuesday, May 14 from 6:00-10:00am at our church. Come for scrambled eggs, sausage, fresh fruit, and of course – the homemade coffee cakes. Proceeds are used to fund scholarships for area students entering a health related field. Tickets are only \$7.00. You can get a tickets in advance from a Friends member or purchase them at the door.

Financial Update as of April 21

YTD Budget Received:	\$ 243,730
YTD Budget Needs:	\$ 259,432
Difference	\$ -15,701
Mortgage Balance	\$ 274,945

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 for details. 319-266-1713..

Attendance- week ending

	4/7	4/14	4/21	4/28
Transformation	75	92	117	82
Traditional 8:30	115	133	175	86
Traditional 11:00	95	169	219	118
FUSION	28	12	25	21
Maundy Thursday			196	
Good Friday			75	

First United Methodist Church

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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

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

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

Our Pastors

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

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

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director
tbonebrake@hotmail.com

Susan Chizek, Finance Manager
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Emily Terpstra, Custodian

Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor