

# aboutfirst news



May, 2021 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls  
Love First. Let's Gather, Grow, Go Together

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Issue 247,  
May, 2021

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay Street  
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613  
[aboutfirst.com](http://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: [katie.greuel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:katie.greuel@aboutfirst.com)

### Let God Plan the Journey

So, I read that if one is vaccinated the CDC guidelines suggest travel is an option. I'm wondering if you have been making travel plans for this summer. (By the way, it's a great Mother's Day gift. Just saying.)

I hate the planning for vacation, I'd prefer to get on the road and make it up as we go along. It can be an anxiety producing experience, enough so you'll consider a stay-cation this summer.

Well turns out Jesus made some travel plans in the gospel of John chapter 14, and he's sharing those plans with his disciples. Like us, he, too, wants to take the terror out of travel, and thus his opening words recorded in chapter 14 are, "Do not let your hearts be troubled."

Jesus is saying, "Look, fellas, I'm going away. Here's what you need to know -- because someday you will be taking this trip, too." And then he talks about their trip. Jesus is sort of like the planner who has arranged everything, and is going on ahead to ensure that everything is up to snuff before the arrival of the group. Jesus describes the place as being "prepared" (v. 2.)

Over 20 years ago I was making a long journey as a bachelor. Heading from my home in Ohio to seminary in Texas. On the first leg of the journey stopped at my Aunt Bev and Uncle Don's house. I was tired. It was late at night. Finally, I arrived at their house, and they greeted me with open arms and love personified. Aunt Bev had one of my favorite meals--brisket and cheesy potatoes. And my Aunt Bev was the kind that laid out the towels. The sheets are fresh -- everything is perfect and welcoming. It was "prepared."

But no one prepares better than God!

Our eternal accommodations will be "prepared." Of course, we're still speaking metaphorically here, but the reality is always larger and better than the sign itself, right? So this "prepared" dwelling-place is going to be awesome! It's not only going to meet expectations, it's going to exceed expectations beyond our wildest imaginations. No need, therefore, for our hearts to be "troubled" about the accommodations.

Our journey to our eternal destination is already under way. And even now, today, as we struggle to love someone who makes it very difficult to love, as we struggle to lift up the needy or provide comfort to the sorrowing, we may not know how to get to where we're supposed to go.

But Jesus is our Guide, our Model, and is with us on the way. May we find our hope and trust in traveling with Christ.

*Rev. Scott Kober*

# Congrats Grads!

celebrating our seniors! 3



**Kyle Aaron Johnson**  
Son of Brad & Jodi Johnson  
Hudson High School

Plans to complete an internship at Allen Hospital  
We are so proud of you, Kyle! Continue to embrace life with joy and spread happiness! God has big plans for you. --Kyle's Family



**Connor Darren Derhammer**  
Son of Darren & Angie Derhammer  
Cedar Falls High School

Plans to attend Hawkeye Community College for Welding  
We are so proud of you. With all of your struggles when you were born to the challenges in elementary school, to being on the honor roll in high school, you have the ability to overcome any obstacles that are in your way. Your future is what you make of it. Go do great and fantastic things in this world. This world needs more of you in it. Love you!  
--Connor's Family



**Dawson Walker**  
Son of Laura and Donn Bruess and the late Michael Walker  
Cedar Falls High School

Plans to pursue a degree in Diesel Mechanics and Automotives at UTI Chicago



**Mason Scott Wellendorf**  
Son of Scott and Laura Wellendorf  
Cedar Falls High School

Plans to attend Hawkeye Community College for Auto Mechanics

# Hymns of Hope

## Upcoming Musical Concerts (online only)

Spring is a time of new life and renewal; a new season waiting to be revealed. First United Methodist Church will celebrate the new season with music. Be sure to join us for two musical offerings in May. Our annual spring bell concert will be held Sunday, May 2 at 7pm. Our “Hymns of Hope” concert series will continue May 16 at 2pm. The concert will feature every aspect of our music ministry with traditional and contemporary offerings. Both concerts are on-line only and will be broadcast on the First UMC Facebook page and our church Youtube channel.



## Miss A Sermon?

If you miss a Sunday message from Pastor Scott or Pastor Matt, you'll find it on our youtube channel.

Go to our website at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and scroll down to the “sermons” graphic, which will link you to all of our sermons and public videos.

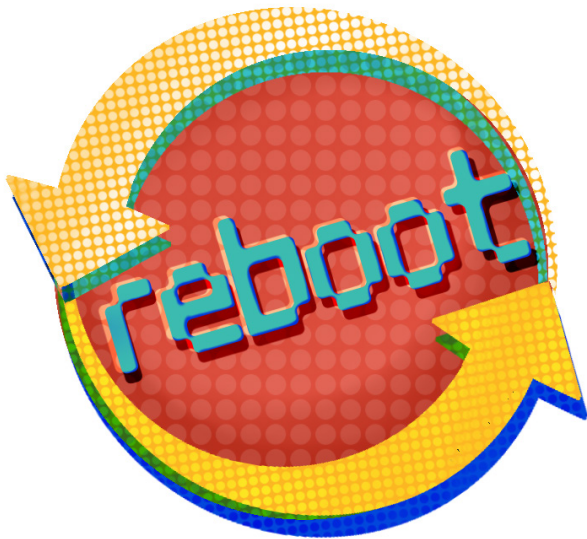
## Join the Facebook Group

We have created a Facebook group called **First Friends and Family** to allow everyone to interact and share the ways they are finding to Love First. This group was developed so we as a church family could stay connected while we are social distancing. Head over to our church Facebook page, select ‘visit group’. You should find the button under the banner. Want to join? Click the member request button and we will be sure to add you, or send a note to Chris or Jenna and we'll connect you.



## Singing & Playing That Jesus Music

Throughout this pandemic, one thing we miss the most is our music! As we ramp-up toward a full re-opening in the fall, our music team leaders will be re-starting our long tradition of excellent music in worship. Now would be a great time to consider singing with the Chancel Choir, ringing with a bell choir (we'll teach you!) or playing in the Transformation Praise Team. There's a place for every voice and every instrument. We guarantee you'll have a good time with other good people, and praise God in the process. Watch for start-up info as we get deeper into summer.



## Coming Soon: Reboot Sermon Series

Beginning May 30th, a new series called "Reboot". The pandemic has forced us all to be adaptable and change. And we've been at this for a while now. Repeating the same tasks day after day after day. But what if this season is an opportunity to make some changes to our lives? Start again. Leave things behind. Start new practices. It's time for a reboot."

## Give Through Our Website or Your Phone

Online giving is great for you, because you can do it any time, any place, and you don't need to carry cash to church. Recurring (automatic) giving is great for you, because you won't have to try to remember to write the check. Recurring giving is also great for the church because it provides a predictable income stream for budgeting and planning purposes.

Our secure online giving portal allows you to make one-time offerings, or to set up a recurring gift. Check it out today.

<http://aboutfirst.com/giving>

or, download the GivePlus app to your mobile device and give directly from your phone. Available for androids and i-people.

**GIVEPLUS<sup>+</sup>**  
A VANCO COMPANY



## Send a Card or Note

Send a card or a letter to our friends in care facilities and unable to attend church. Phone calls and cards are also much appreciated for those who are staying home. Think of who sits around you in worship or in a group, and give them a call or a card. We still have updated photo directories at our Welcome Center. Pick one up Monday-Friday.

**Doris Crandall, Marilyn Pape**  
Martin Suites  
420 E. 11th St  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Marlys Cook, Nola Kelly, Faye Rohwedder**  
Stanard Assisted Living  
420 E. 11th St  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Wanda Anderson, Marian Christason, Homer Leymaster, Chet Starr**  
Windhaven Assisted Living  
5500 S. Main St  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Ruth Gooden, Ellen Opsal, Lura Treloar**  
Deery Suites  
5307 Caraway Lane  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Mardy Hermann, LaVonne Neese, Irene Raub**  
Thalman Square  
5500 S. Main St  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Marilyn Geesaman, Virginia Van Tassel**  
Nation Cottage  
5111 Caraway Lane  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Rudy Grapp, Vivian Hill**  
New Aldaya Lifescapes  
7517 University Ave  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Darlene Jordan, Perry Thurman**  
Pinnacle Care  
1223 Prairie View Rd  
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Darlene Prashak**  
Heritage Care and Rehab Center  
501 S. Kentucky Ave  
Mason City IA 50401

**Betty O'Brien**  
Friendship Village Lakeview Lodge  
312 Southbrooke Drive #39  
Waterloo IA 50701

**Linda Rundall**  
Sunrise Hill Care & Rehab Center  
909 6th St  
Traer IA 50675

**Noreen Roth**  
Good Neighbor Society  
105 McCarren Dr  
Manchester IA 52057

**John Stater**  
CountryHouse Residences  
3720 George B Lake Parkway Apt 12  
Elkhorn NE 68022

**Pray for all who are being impacted by the coronavirus.**



## Bus Service Possible!

We are hoping to start our bus service to church again! We would love to offer this ministry for people that have been vaccinated and are willing to wear their mask. Call the office for more information and to let us know you are interested!

319-266-1713

## May 4 - Grief Support Session

**When:** Tuesday, May, 4th, 2:00 to 3:30 pm

**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. We ask that all who attend wear a face covering.

## May 11 - Card Making Party

**When:** Tuesday, May 11th, 1:00 to 4:00 pm

**Where:** Gathering Place

Watch for Mother's Day, graduation, and our regular cards on the card rack outside the church office. Our thanks to our Affirmation Team members for their dedication in keeping the card rack filled and sending cards to congregation members during special times of joy and difficulty. Team members are Laurene Bernard, Pauline Harding, and Jean Richardson.

## May 24- LifeServe Blood Drive

**Where:** Gathering Place

**When:** 12:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, May 24 from 12:30-6:00. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill, and the need is great. Sign up to donate at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org).

## May 25 - Crafters' Corner

**Where:** Gathering Place

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

Get your crafting project lined up and join the group on the fourth Tuesday of the month, from 6:00-8:00 in the Gathering Place. If you are looking for a project to do at home, Crystal Wilken is looking for people to do one or more of the bag "processing" steps at home to help with our surplus of plastic bags that are used to make sleeping mats. This might be simply cutting the bags into strips, or looping the strips together to make "plarn" (plastic yarn), or even crocheting the plarn into the mats. She will provide all the materials with step-by-step instructions. Please contact Crystal Wilken at [crystalwilken@gmail.com](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Midwest Mission- Not canceled, just delayed.

The Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Pawnee, Illinois, is still taking pandemic precautions by limiting guest rooms available in their dormitory. This meant added cost for our group for motel rooms for the 4 nights we would be there. That, and hesitation from some from our group to travel, has led to the decision to delay our mission trip this Spring. FUMC has reserved space for 4 missionaries to travel to MMDC in May of 2022. It is not too early to reserve your spot with Jan Benson for that trip!

## Annual Rummage Sale Canceled

The annual Rummage Sale will not be held this year because of the pandemic's restrictions on the use of the church facility and the availability of volunteers that feel safe in helping with the huge task of preparing months in advance for the sale to occur.

## Calling all Volunteers!

### Sunday Morning Greeters

As we are starting to see more people attending church we have a need for greeters. We need one to two Greeters on Sunday morning for the 8:30 & 10:00 services. The Greeters will be placed at the main doors to Welcome our guest as they arrive. Email [jenna.engle@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engle@aboutfirst.com) for more information,

### Worship Tech Team

We'll train you to operate the video and audio systems to enhance the worship experience for those who attend in-person and those who watch online. The Worship Tech Team is a fun way to be a valuable asset to your church. Any adult or youth over 14 yrs. More information at [aboutfirst.com/tech](http://aboutfirst.com/tech)

### Virtual Greeters

Help us connect with more people in our digital sanctuary!

During the sermon, log on and say hello! You can then engage with people as they log on or comment, and help identify visitors and interact with them. Let's treat our Virtual space as a home and welcome people in!

**8** a gift to the congregation

**LOVE  
FIRST**  
aboutfirst.com

**Pick up your Love first  
decal today at  
the Welcome Center!**

**Place this “Love First” decal on your car to proudly support your church family!  
Its repositionable and non-marking.**





## May Monthly Mission: A Camping We Will Go!

Remember going to camp as a child? The smell of wood smoke, activities with new friends and eating s'mores. It is our plan at Cedar Falls FUMC to raise "S'more" money for the Iowa United Methodist Camps. Our goal is to raise \$1000 during the month of May.

Director of Camps and Retreats, Bryan Johnson, views youth camping as a way to support youth and the future of United Methodism, "The sustainability of any church relies upon developing and growing the Christian faith in as many as possible. In that vein, Iowa United Methodist Camps are proud to be places where Christ is introduced to young people."

Financial subsidy for Iowa United Methodist Camps has come through the Iowa Apportionment System for decades until recently when changes to the apportionment system have required the camping ministry in Iowa to identify new sources of support.

"While some would see decreased apportionment funding as a bad thing, we see it as a tremendous opportunity to work directly with the tens of thousands of people who have had positive faith experiences at an Iowa United Methodist Camp," said Johnson. "We have an awesome opportunity to engage our alumni and supporters who understand the powerful experiences that camp provides."

Please help the camps provide a positive summer experience for Iowa youth by donating to Iowa Methodist Camps this May.

## Peace with Justice Sunday- May 30

The United Methodist Church is unwilling to ignore injustice. "Peace with Justice" represents many things – an absence of war, striving to live in harmony with others who may or may not share our beliefs, advocacy and support. When you give on this Special Sunday, you are joining together to break down barriers so that all God's children have equal access to jobs, education, food, clean water, health care and so much more. Although we as individuals and single churches may lack the resources alone to affect change in a broken world, participation in Peace with Justice Sunday allows our denomination to continue its global ministries of reconciliation.

Together, we will make a lasting impact today. Your offering will reach around the world, because together, we do more.

## Be a Blessing to Someone - 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 over 30 that partner with Love INC..

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

## Got extra fabric? Bring it in!

There is always a need for durable/sturdy fabric to make school bags and other stitching projects. The Stitchers & Quilters also could use decent sized lengths of cotton quilting fabric for comfort quilts, baptism quilts, and quilts for foster kids, as well as school bags for Midwest Mission. 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.

## RESPONSE Moment

### “Knitting a Better Future”

by Nile Sprague with Tara Barnes

United Methodist Women-supported Methodist Women’s Federation (FEFEME) in Bolivia helps give women the skills for financial self-sufficiency.

With the guidance of Nemecia Copa, national promotor of FEFEME, and the national secretary, Odelia mamani Fernandez, we made our way through the streets of LaPaz, the capital city of Bolivia. A city of two million people, it is home to the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia. At El Redentor Church we met Wilson Saucedo, inside the church was a group of 25 members of FEFEME spinning sheep and alpaca wool into yarn, and knitting, and making clothes and textiles. They learned the textile skills at FEFEME workshops.

Copa says the skill building workshops were started 20 years ago, and it now hosts workshops in most of the church’s 14 districts, about 17 or 18 times a year. The workshops are mostly on sewing and knitting and they also help to build independence and confidence. Santusa Mamani de Luna is a 50 year old woman who lives with her husband, daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren. Once a housekeeper, she now makes twice as much sewing and selling polleras, a type of skirt. She is able to stay at home and take care of her family. de Luna thanks the Lord for giving her self-esteem and the ability to share with others which she does as she travels to other districts teaching what she has learned. Berta Mamani, a single mother of four worked as a mason before attending the workshops. She now makes and sells sweaters, skirts, and coats. which provides her a more constant income. She hopes that her children will be able to finish their studies.

Other stories of the success of these indigenous people can be found in the issue of RESPONSE in the church library. It also speaks of the Methodist missionaries and their part in the development of Bolivia.

*Paraphrased by Stephanie Buchs, Education and Interpretation Coordinator director of promotions and Volunteers in Mission co-ordinator for the Evangelical Methodist Church in Bolivia.*

## UMW meetings in May

### Monday, May 10

9:30 am – 11:00 am

Board Meeting, Library

### Thursday, May 13

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Unit Meeting, Fellowship Hall

Ali Parrish, Executive Director Iowa Habitat for Humanity

Lorna Ericson, World Thank Offering

Pat Huxsol, District Shepherdess

### Saturday, May 22

10:00 – 11:30 am

“Why Racial Justice”, Zoom

The Charter for Racial Justice Committee of Iowa

Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr.

Response Moment by Pauline Harding, immediately following the Devotions.

## Mission Witness - Prayer Calendar 2021

My daughter and I were living in our car for almost a month after being evicted. I was pregnant and in and out of the hospital, so I couldn’t work. I had no place to go. I felt really low, especially for my daughter because she had to go through this. Sybil Smith Family Village gave me a new start and I am now in the Goodwill Easter Seals GED program. I am going to go to school to become an EMT. That’s my dream. This is home! I like coming home to our apartment, but most of all, I love when my daughter says, “Let’s go home, mama!”

*Courtney, Transitional Housing Program Participant,  
Dumas Wesley Community Center, Mobile, Alabama*

## May Bible Verse

God so loved the world that He gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 (NIT)

## Ignited for Justice - Mission u 2021

### From the comfort of your homes – a Virtual experience

*“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”*  
Amos 5:24 (ESV)

Iowa Conference United Methodist Women are you ready for Mission u 2021? Some Mission u aspects will remain the same: study topics offered will represent those prepared by National Office, study leaders will be certified through training presented by National Office, and Iowa Conference United Methodist Women will join together to discern important topics of our current world.

With the ongoing public health emergency, Iowa Conference Mission u will be a virtual experience in 2021. The Zoom platform will be utilized to connect participants together in study. Rev. Laurel Capesius, Our Savior UMC in Manson, will lead the spiritual growth “Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety”. Rev. Paul Witmer, (former) Women at the Well in Mitchellville, and Rev. Dr. Sarah Rohret, St. Mark’s UMC in Iowa City, will lead separate classes for the social action “Pushout”. Please consider participating and inviting friends/family to join you for this virtual experience.

*Linda Blazek Garvin, Mission u Dean 2021-2022, Iowa Conference United Methodist Women*

#### July – Virtual Mission u

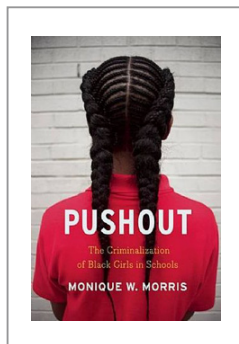
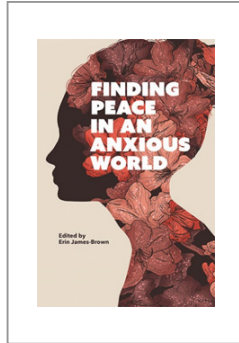
Each Tuesday of July 2021 starting at 6:30 PM and ending at 8:00 PM  
“Finding Peace in the Midst of Anxiety” led by Rev. Laurel Capesius.

Each Wednesday of July 2021 starting at 6:30 PM and ending at 8:00 PM  
“Pushout” led by Rev. Paul Witmer & Rev. Sarah Rohret  
Registration fee: \$25/class or \$40/both classes

#### October – Virtual Mission u

Details to be determined

See the February issue of our Iowa Conference UMW Connection for details about our important 2020 -2021 Mission studies.



## Do You Enjoy Reading?

### Did you know?

There is a shelf in the FUMC library dedicated to the United Methodist Women’s READING PROGRAM

Crystal Wilken has been re-organizing and cleaning out the older books in the FUMC library.

UMW invites you to take a look at the notebook on the library shelf that lists suggested books to read this coming year. (The plan is to add more current books to the shelf as the year progresses.) You can also access the reading list on the UMW website. The following is a statement from United Methodist Women that tells you where you can find the suggested books.

“As in the previous year, United Methodist Women members will obtain Reading Program books through THIRD PARTIES -- libraries, local bookstores, and online. Most of the books listed in the library notebook can be found electronically (and many libraries let you borrow e-books as well.) You can read them on a laptop, tablet, e-reader or other device. While Amazon is more popular than ever, please consider supporting small, local bookstores, as these businesses rely on community support. Consider especially purchasing books from stores owned by people of color. If you do order books through Amazon, remember to visit smile.amazon.com, Amazon’s charitable giving page, and select “United Methodist Women” as your charitable organization. For all eligible purchases made on smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% to United Methodist Women.”

**So here is the challenge** – begin with PLAN I: 5 books this year. Choose one book from each category: Education for Mission, Leadership Development, Nurturing for Community, Social Action and Spiritual Growth.

Here is a list of books you could read, including one from each category. “Gum Moon: A Novel of San Francisco Chinatown”, “Anxious to Talk About it: Helping White Christians Talk Faithfully about Racism”, “Indian No More”, “Girl Gone Missing”, and “Adamant: Finding Truth in a Universe of Opinions”.

Good luck and joy in your reading!

## How to Worship Online

### Option 1

#### Facebook Live Stream

Watch Sunday worship live, as it happens on our First UMC Facebook page. [facebook.com/firstumccfmedia/](https://facebook.com/firstumccfmedia/)

### Option 2

#### aboutfirst.com

The online worship page at [aboutfirst.com](https://aboutfirst.com) has service videos and worship resources including: links to the teaching scripture passage, kids' video, online sign-in, and online offering.

### Option 3

#### Youtube Channel

Go to [aboutfirst.com](https://aboutfirst.com) and click the 'sermons' graphic for a link to our channel

## First UMC is on Cable TV

We have an hour timeslot on public access cable TV in both Waterloo and Cedar Falls. Our program includes a Sunday School story for children, a devotion from a church staff member, and the teaching session from last Sunday's service.

**Cedar Falls (CFU) Channels 18 and 95.5, Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am**

**Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 17, Sundays @ 11:am & 8:pm**

## Tune In To Evening Reflections

Every evening at 6:00, a church staffer or volunteer will be live on our Facebook page with a reflection for the day. Gather the family and tune in for a word of encouragement and something to think about. Feel free to share comments with others who are watching it's good to hear from each other!



## Newcomers' Coffee with the Pastors - May 16 - 9:30 am

If you are new or newer to First United Methodist Church, our pastors want to get to know you! Come have a coffee with the pastors on Sunday, May 16 at 9:30 am to hear about what is happening at First United Methodist Church and how you can begin to take next steps in getting connected. We look forward to seeing you there!

# SUNDAY MORNING

**8:30 Traditional Worship Service** - in-person or join us on the livestream

**9:35 Sunday School** - virtual Sunday School, join us online!

**10:00 Transformation Worship Service** - in-person or on the livestream

## Children's Sunday School Online

The monthly newsletter for Sunday school is up. We hope you are enjoying it and that it is useful to you. In this newsletter you will find out what lessons we will be teaching that month. You will also be able to find and print the Family Page and any other activity pages for each lesson and a template for our crafts. Be sure to continue to tune in on Sunday mornings at 9:35 on our Church's Facebook page to see the latest Sunday school video.

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT

## your church night

Have your mid-week church night online for a quick and easy connection and spiritual pick-me-up. Tune in each Wednesday night at 6:30 on Facebook. Be sure to use the comments to tell us that you're watching, share some discussion, and to say "Hi" to your friends from First UMC.

**May 5:** May 5th is our last Wednesday night lesson for the Semester. Thank you for tuning in with us and we are excited to see you back in the fall.

## Fusion Tonight Season Wrap Up

During this Covid year our worship talk show, Fusion Tonight, went online in a more compact format. We continued to bring you interviews with guests who employ their faith as they deal with real issues in the world today. This year we've hosted some of our First UMC friends, as well as UNI's Chief Diversity Officer, Dr. Gwenne Berry, Black Hawk County Sheriff Tony Thompson, Global Evangelist David Ursin, and our Iowa UMC Bishop Laurie Haller. All of our Fusion episodes are available to be watched on our church's Youtube channel (First UMC CF). We're excited to look forward toward the next season of Fusion Tonight which should begin in September - we hope with a live audience again! Watch for more information throughout the summer.



## VBS is back for Summer 2021!!

We will be holding a One Day Vacation Bible School event in August, Wednesday the 4th from 9-4. We are so excited to invite kids back into church for a fun and immersive Bible-learning experience! If you'd like more information or to volunteer, contact Jenna Engle. Keep a look out for more details and registration in the next few weeks!

## Iowa United Methodist Summer Camps

Iowa United Methodist Camps are open and waiting for campers! They have camps at Lake Okoboji and Wesley Woods. If you are interested in signing your child up to attend a camp contact Jenna Engel at [jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)



# A Big Thank you!!

## Sunday School

Thank you for tuning in with us on Sunday Mornings. Our last virtual Sunday school will be on May 23rd. We enjoyed being able to provide Sunday school in this format but look forward to in person classes in the fall.

## Wednesday Night

Lorin, Haleigh and Jenna would like to thank you for spending part of your evening with them on Wednesday nights. Our last virtual Wednesday night will be May 5th.

## Thank Yous

Twenty-two years ago I walked into this building and met Jan Hoover roaming the hallways. She gave me information on service times. I came the next Sunday morning and sat down by Genevieve Schlicher, listened to an annoying Mrs. Heckler and the cutest chimp and the rest is history. This church has supported and lifted me during all these years. Now as I am trying to recover from this second bout of cancer you are all there for me one more time. . Beautiful flowers, so many cards, and a very special shaped wooden cross that fits in the palm of my hand so I can feel all of your prayers and the grace of God. I know I still have a ways to go and chemo is on the horizon but I will not be alone. Blessings to all of you. In Christ's love,  
-Stephanie Buchs

Thank you to my church family for the lovely yellow rose delivered by Jane for my birthday. Thank you to the staff for the birthday greetings.  
-Pat Powell

Thank you for the beautiful roses for our 84th and 85th birthdays in February and March. Thank you to Jane for delivering them. We enjoyed visiting with her. Thanks to the staff for the cards.  
-Carol & Carl Ellison

Thank you for the lovely rose that Jane brought for my birthday. I appreciated visiting with her when she came to deliver the rose. It was also special receiving the card from the church staff and the cards that came from many of you. It was a memorable day! Thanks very much!  
-Pauline Harding

Thank you to our church family for all the prayers and warm thoughts during this time.  
-The Edlers

Thank you to those of you who reached out with kindness after my brother's passing. It was much appreciated.  
-Bobbi Jo Smith

Praise our Amazing God! I have completed my prescribed brain cancer treatments. Throughout these last years of concern regarding my health issues, I have been well enough to continue in ministry to the RUSA Charge (Rowley, Urbana, Silver Creek and Urbana UMCs). These five years of ministry with Pastor Sue Ney have truly been a joy and a privilege. On April 15th, I received a good report that my tumor is stable; and I will receive follow up checkups every three months. More good news: I have not had a seizure for 18 months. Hallelujah! Thank you so very much for your prayers, calls, and cards. Your support is very much appreciated. Blessings to you all!  
-Rev. Susan Higdon

A belated thank you goes to Jane for the birthday rose. It is so nice to be remembered. And thanks for the note signed by all the FUMC staff. I also want to thank Chris Congdon for setting up equipment for the UMW NE District Day Apart. We were able to hold a successful ZOOM meeting that reached out to all UMW units in the NE District. First Church is fortunate to have up-to-date technology and through Chris, the expertise to use it.  
Thank you, Chris!  
-Karen Page

Thank you for the lovely yellow rose Jane Wyckoff brought to me for my birthday. Also, thank you to the church staff for their birthday greetings.  
Sincerely, Dorothy Addington

## Sympathy

Dee Behr and her family on the death of her father, John Sparks of State Center.

Jenna Engel and her family on the death of her grandmother, Emily McAnally of Fort Dodge.

Nancy Standafer and her family on the death of her son, Nathan Hogancamp.

Bobbi Jo Smith and her family on the death of her brother, Cris Smith, from Nashville.

Barb Seifferlein and family and friends of Ron Seifferlein. Ron died April 11.

## Hospital reminder

Governmental regulations prohibit health care facilities (this includes hospitals, assisted living and nursing homes) from sharing information about their patients and residents, so if you want your church family to know you need our love and prayers, please call the church office.

## Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2021 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.

## Well Wishes

Pastor Paul Frederiksen and Jane Moen are retiring June 2021 from Spencer Grace United Methodist Church. Pastor Paul served Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church as an Associate Pastor from June 15, 1990, to February 28, 1998. Prayers are invited as they navigate this transition in life. They will be moving to Cedar Falls in May. Anyone whod like to send a note or card may send it to 311 2nd Ave, Spencer, IA 51301 until May 20th OR 1815 Quail Run Lane, Cedar Falls, IA 50613. Your help in making this time special is appreciated.

# First United Methodist Church

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## aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



### Worship

Sunday, 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. Livestream on Facebook & in-person

Sunday, noon Video and worship resources at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com)

Daily, 6:00 p.m. Reflection and prayers, Facebook Live

### Television

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channels 18 or 95.5: Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am

Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 1: Sundays @ 11:00am & 8:00 pm

### Our Pastors

Scott Kober, Lead Pastor, [scott.kober@aboutfirst.com](mailto:scott.kober@aboutfirst.com)

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

### Staff (in alphabetical order)

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Dee Behr, Parish Visitor  
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John Bentley, Head Custodian

Susan Chizek, Finance Manager  
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Doug Shaffer, Organist  
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Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor Coordinator

Eli Smith, Worship Leader