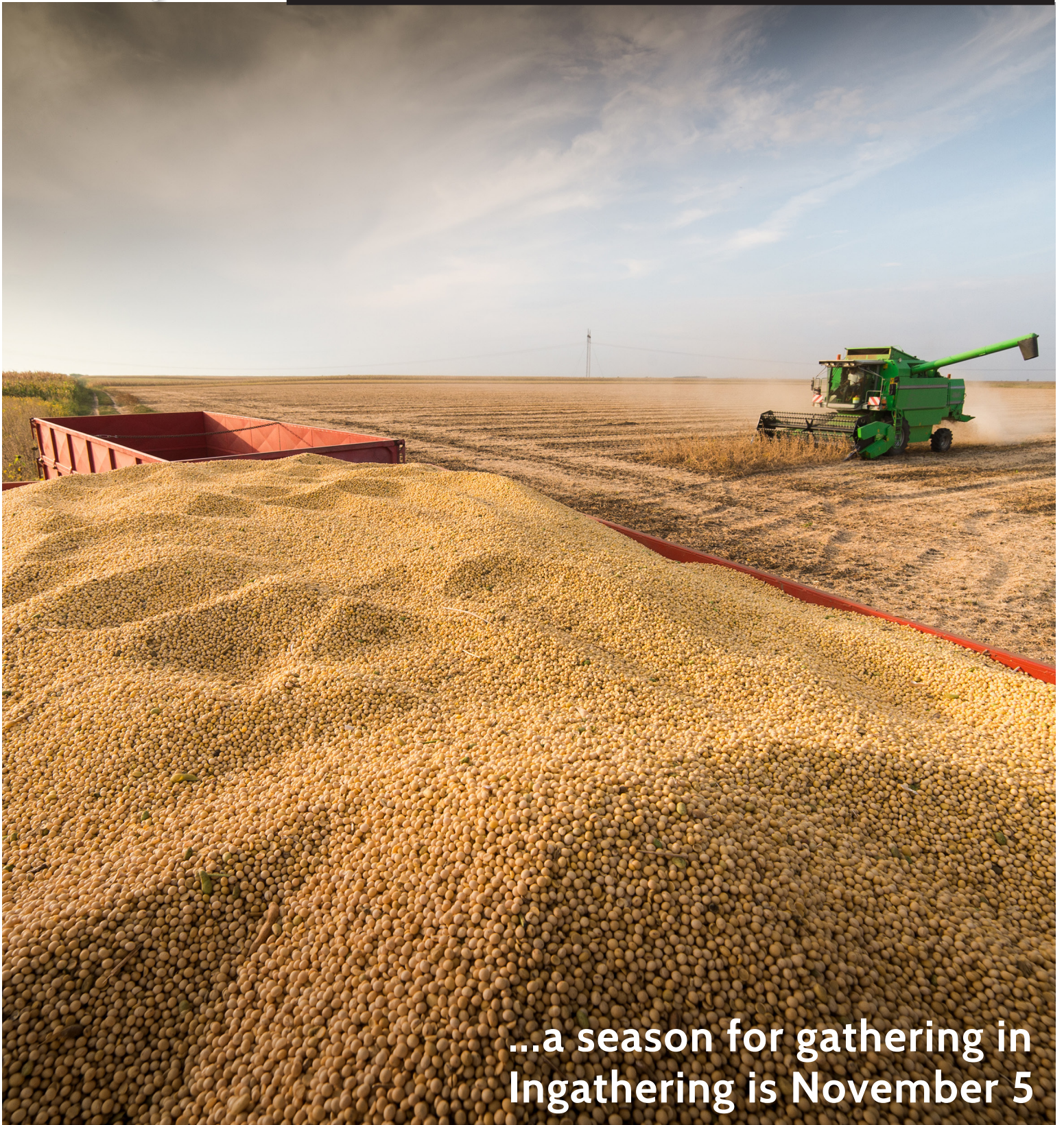




November 2016  
issue 194

# ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa



...a season for gathering in  
Ingathering is November 5

## Your VOTE Counts! It really does!

Election Day is November 8th, and you already know how important it is for you to vote. Have you cast your Ballot for the 2017 Stewardship Campaign? Did you know that our congregation takes a vote every Sunday? We vote with our presence, our gifts, our service, our prayers and our witness. Your VOTE makes a difference in the church's success in sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. During the month of October you were given the opportunity to cast your ballot on supporting your church. Again, your vote is important. The Finance Committee is using the acronym VOTE to demonstrate the many ways that you support our church. You support our church by Volunteering your time, Offering your gifts, sharing your Talents and Encouraging one another. We are currently receiving estimate of giving cards.



## Autumn Thoughts from Steve

As autumn begins to take shape and demand our attention, I like to take a walk in the woods. This year Janet and I took off for Yellow River State Forest near Lansing. We had never been there before, but heard great reports about the hiking trails. We made it a backpacking trip because we missed our annual trip to the mountains this summer.

We discovered the State Forest was a great place to hike and camp. I never thought of Iowa as being rugged, but the trail we took cut across bluffs and through rutted bedrock. We made climbs and drops that took our breath. It was wild! The walk along Paint Creek with a canopy of oak and hickory over head was so beautiful. It was hard to believe we were in Iowa!

At night our campsite transformed into something from a spooky campfire story. We could hear coyotes yipping and owls hooting. It was a "hoot" as we huddled beside a campfire and enjoyed some hot chocolate. We took a night hike to the edge of a bluff to get a breathtaking view of the stars. Janet broke into "How Great Thou Art" while I was trying to enjoy some peace and quiet. She always has a song in her heart!

We took our dog, Lucy to keep us company. She is a Bassett Hound, who loves to romp and dance in the dry leaves, her tail wagging a mile-a-minute. You should see her huge ears catch the wind as she "flies" from one scent to another. She is free, and is on the scent of a rabbit, and sometimes a deer. She is happy and knows what I mean when I say, "Let's go camping girl!" We love having her tag along.

Our morning hike took us up to an old Fire Watch Tower. I had only seen one on the Red Green Show manned by Ranger Gord. The tower reached above the trees, and I imagine it was used to spot fires in the old days. It looked like it hadn't been used for years. I bet it has a beautiful view from the top, and worth every step to get there.

While taking pictures of the tower, we overhead the sound of Canadian Geese become another indication of the coming change - for the direction of the "V" flight pattern was set toward the south. Surely, you have stopped to watch the geese flying overhead in their symmetrical pattern. Their constant "honking" sounds like they are in a hurry to head for warmer climates.

I wondered, "Where do you come from, strange birds with long necks and spreading wings? How can you fly so far with such round chubby bodies? Where are you going? And when the ponds begin to thaw in the spring, with no signs or trails, and only the open sky, will you come this way again? And how will you know the way?"

One of the birds began to drift away from the group and fly in their own pattern. He began to dip and glide here and there. Lost? Tired? I think. He'll be lost from the others. Suddenly a couple of geese from the flock joined him, and encouraged him back to the flock. It is as if an unseen hand picked up the bird and guided him back. The group was soon out of sight, but I know, with certainty, the wandering one, too, will find warmer weather to spend the winter.

Darkness ends the beautiful Indian summer day. The days have become short. It is autumn. As the cold comes, sometimes we tend to dip and glide away from the flight pattern, but may we feel the unseen hand of God that touches and guides even the birds lift our spirits and touch our hearts.

*"I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine." - Psalm 50:11*

Have a blessed Thanksgiving -  
Pastor Steve

## When does Worship begin for you?

The Worship Committee is in a predicament. We have worked hard over the years to make our church warm and friendly. You can sense that on Sunday mornings with the welcome smiles and everyone happy to see each other. It is like a family reunion! Other churches envy the atmosphere we share on Sunday morning. That is a change, and a good change that helps us grow.

The music that plays before worship - the prelude - is music that helps prepare us for worship. Our predicament is that the organist and bell choirs spend hours preparing music for our prelude. In the old days (not that long ago), people would sit quietly and listen to the prelude and allow the music to prepare their hearts for worship. Now our conversations have grown so loud that the organists and bell choirs can't be heard. The organist and bell choir members are even having trouble hearing themselves.

We have received some complaints about how the chatter has become distracting for those who appreciate the music. They would like to be able to enjoy the music, and let it help them spend time with God. Even the bell choirs and organist are asking themselves, "Why bother if no one can hear?" The Sanctuary used to be a quiet place for worship. It is a dilemma, because on one hand we want people to feel welcome, but on the other we need to respect our musicians.

So we are asking for your help in solving this dilemma because we feel it is important. Our question is: "When does worship begin for you?" Does it start as soon as you enter the Sanctuary or when the pastor says, "Good morning everyone!" We invite you to respond by a letter or email with your thoughts. It can be anonymous. Address your thoughts to the Worship Committee.

## Thanksgiving Sunday and Communion - November 20th

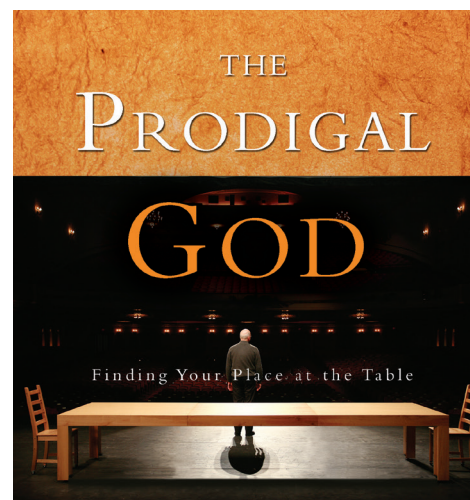
The hymn, "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;" helps us recall the heartfelt gratitude the Pilgrims felt for God's providence and care on the first Thanksgiving. The Sanctuary will be decorated with our traditional Cornucopia—a reminder of our abundant blessings from God. As we gather around the tables at our homes on Thanksgiving, we will gather around the Lord's Table on Thanksgiving Sunday for communion at all services. We invite you to join us for worship.

## The World Community @ Fusion

Our Social Principles series concludes November 2 with Lisa Congdon bringing a message on The World Community. Fusion Tonight is fun, and it's serious: worship as a talk show. Fusion is a true worship venue with prayers, open mic time, offering and a real message of faith. Fusion Tonight is our laity-led Wednesday night worship where we're not afraid to have some fun while still digging deeply into the issues of faith that weigh heavily on all of us. Fusion is for everyone and you're invited. Wednesday nights, 7:15, upstairs in the theater.



## Daylight Saving Time – set your clocks back one hour Saturday, November 5



### Prodigal God

#### A Transformation Series

Two sons, one who kept the rules religiously and one who broke them all. One father who loved both lost sons beyond anything they could imagine. This 4-week sermon series began October 30 and continues into November. In "Prodigal God", we will be discussing one of the most famous parables Jesus taught, often called the "Prodigal Son" (Luke 15:11-32). Our eyes will be opened to the powerful message of Jesus' best known--and least understood--parable. We will glean insights from each character; the irreligious younger son, the moralistic elder son, and the father who lavishes love on both. You don't want to miss this!

### Who's At Washington Chapel?

Washington Chapel is just north of Cedar Falls at the intersection of Ford and Bennington Roads. Services begin at 10:30 every Sunday morning. Here's who is preaching:

- November 6 – David Glenn-Burns
- November 13 – Chris Congdon
- November 20 – Lisa Congdon
- November 27 – Lesley Toma

## Thank a Cop

(Thank, Appreciate, Pray)

Here at First United Methodist Church, we will again continue our outreach ministry into the working community. Throughout the month of November we are asking YOU to be a part of our T.A.P. program (Thank, Appreciate and Pray.)

This month, we are lifting up the employees of The Cedar Falls Police Department. It is our mission to let each staff member know that we value them.

The TAP process is easy:

1. pick up a card at Gathering Place display
2. write a short, personal note of thanks
3. place the card into a pre-addressed envelope and drop it into the basket

We encourage every member of First UMC to participate (the more cards each employee receives, the better!) In your note, simply speak from your heart. Let them know that we truly are THANKful for their service; we APPRECIATE all that they do, and we are PRAYING for them. Thank you in advance for making T.A.P. an outreach success!

## Who Likes Christmas Trees?

If you have been here for the past several Christmases, you may have noticed our "Christmas Tree Walk" in the Gathering Place during the season of Advent. We are now looking for someone to head this cherished activity. If you have a talent for organization, giving direction and enjoyment of Christmas Trees, please consider volunteering to head up the Walk. If interested, please contact Lesley Toma at (319)266-1713 or [lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com)

We can also use a person in a similar role to direct the Hanging of the Greens on November 20. If you are interested, contact Pastor Steve Williams or Shari King from the Worship committee.

## District Youth Lock-In for Ingathering

Some of the best help at Ingathering comes from Northeast District youth groups, and we make it fun for them the night before, too. The Northeast District invites ALL youth in 6th-12th grade to a district wide Lock-In November 4th at First United Methodist Cedar Falls. Check in: 7:00pm Friday, Pick up- 11:00am Saturday.

Other Details: Check in and drop your stuff off at First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls at 7:00pm. AT 7:45 we will head on over to the Blackhawk County Family YMCA for Swimming, 9Square, Racquetball and more! End your night back at FUMC, Cedar Falls for more fun! The next morning we will wake up to serve along side others for the 2016 Northeast District Thanksgiving Ingathering. \$10 per person will help to cover the YMCA and food costs. Register by contacting Becca Nims – [rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com](mailto:rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com). Registration Deadline November 2nd

\*Adult volunteer help is still needed to provide supervision at the YMCA. Please contact Becca Nims if you can serve in this way.\*



## Confirmation Class Gets a Bird's Eye View of Creation

The confirmation class went flying on Sunday, October 23. Here's Pastor Steve's report: *I had a fantastic time on Sunday afternoon with our Confirmation Class. We got to go flying! Thanks to Anna Campbell for lining up the pilots for us. What a beautiful afternoon to experience seeing the world from God's eyes. For some of the class it was their first time in a plane, so a marvelous experience of trust and faith. Some of them were so relieved to return they kissed the ground as soon as they emptied out of the plane! All went well, and everyone returned safely. After all the class members had their opportunity to fly the pilot took me up solo. He was a flight instructor, and asked me to sit in the pilot's seat and said "I'm going to give you a lesson!" It truly was a real lesson as we took off, circled around the Cedar Valley, and landed! I couldn't believe it that I was flying the plane! What an opportunity to be given, but I knew the pilot was there all the time. I know it would have been different if I was all alone. It was a true lesson of faith for me to trust in the words of the pilot, and to hear his words of encouragement that "You can do it" that got me off the ground. It was a reminder that God is always there for us – it the "ups and downs" of life!*

# INGATHERING

## annual celebration of missions, Saturday, November 5

Every year, Methodists from all over Iowa come together for the Ingathering - a big church-mission party, where we send-off our health kits and school kits and layette kits to the United Methodist relief agencies which will then deliver the kits to where they are needed most. Ingathering is also an information-sharing day, where representatives from church missions can tell their stories to the rest of us. There are five Ingathering sites in Iowa, and Cedar Falls First UMC is happy to be one of those hosts again this year. You're invited to be a part of the Ingathering, as we throw open our doors to United Methodists from all over northeast Iowa. Here's what happens:

- kit packing
- craft bazaar
- mission displays
- worship celebration
- bake sale
- lunch
- giant quilt auction

If you get excited about the outreach efforts of our church, you should be excited about Ingathering! At Ingathering, you can join us in celebrating the causes we have supported this year, or find a new one for next year! And, you can meet a lot of other Iowa United Methodists who are as passionate as you are about the work of the church. Of course, we could use your help to make this big party happen. Read on....

## Help at Ingathering! November 5 at our church

(some of these are split into shifts):  
Setup - Friday 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Greeter - Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Data Entry - Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Kit Packing - Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  
Auction clerk - Saturday 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.  
Teardown - Saturday 1:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Our own Jan Benson is the district chairperson for Ingathering. Let's help her out!

Contact: Jan Benson, NE District Chairperson, Thanksgiving Ingathering  
jbenison@cfu.net, or 319-268-9111 (home) 319-269-2211 (cell)



*United Methodists from all over Iowa help pack and load donated items @ Ingathering*



## Church Conference

- Sunday, November 27th at 9:45 a.m.  
All church members are invited to attend our annual Church Conference on Sunday, November 27 at 9:45. It will be in our Fellowship Hall. Our District Superintendent Jackie Bradford will preside over the meeting. This is our annual Congregational Meeting where we celebrate our year and set goals for the coming year. All are invited to attend.

## Greenhill Property Update

The Greenhill Property has been sold to developer James Sands for \$290,815.02. The Church has received the check, and the Endowment Committee will be managing the proceeds of the sale. We have promised a gift of \$100,000 from the sale will help furnish the new Chapel including the purchase of specially designed cross that will hang in the altar area. This gift will allow us the use of the new Chapel for worship, Bible studies and meetings as a satellite ministry.

## Financial Update-

September Receipts	\$55,855
September Expenses	\$67,096
YTD Receipts	\$607,424
YTD Expenses	\$615,029

## As of October 23 -

2016 budget amount needed	\$729,00
2016 general fund received	\$636,753
Mortgage balance Oct 19	\$718,910
(Line of Credit & Mortgage merged)	

## 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

# INGATHERING

# events

## November 1 - Food Bank Work Crew

Here's a fun and easy way to help the food insecure in our community. Mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 1 to help at the Food Bank at 1605 Lafayette Street in Waterloo. Last month we filled 720 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. The Methodists and friends will be there from 6:00 to no later than 8:00pm.

## November 1 - Grief Support Session

The coming holiday season brings with it many emotions, especially if you have suffered a loss. The First UMC Grief Support team offers many types of support, depending upon the individual's needs. If you wish some additional support, please do not hesitate to call the church office, and you will be directed. Our next grief support group session will be held on Tuesday, November 1st from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the church parlor. New participants are always welcome.

## November 8 - Card-Making Party!

Come join the fun from 1:00 to 5:00 pm in the Gathering Place. Come-and-Go and Come-as-You-Are and help us make cards to sell on the card rack outside the church office. Cards are just \$.50 each. This quarter's profits will be donated to UMCOR. We welcome new participants anytime. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and stay for a delicious Community Meal. Hope to see you on Tuesday, November 8th.

## November 17 - 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.

## November 20 - Hanging of the Greens

Get focused on the season with the tradition of the "Hanging of the Greens"! On Sunday, November 20 from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. we will dress the church up for Christmas. Christmas Tree "experts" are needed earlier (12:30) to set up the trees for the decorators. Pizza and Ice Cream will be served at 5:00.

This will be a great time for young and old to gather and learn how the familiar symbols and colors of this beautiful season point to a Savior being born in Bethlehem. We invite you to join the Worship Committee in helping prepare our hearts and church for a meaningful celebration of Christmas.

## November 28 - LifeServe Blood Drive

44 donors made appointments to give blood on October 24. It was a productive afternoon for Life Serve.

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, November 28 from 12:30-6:00. Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at [www.lifeservebloodcenter.org](http://www.lifeservebloodcenter.org). Use the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center to let Lisa know if you can donate cookies or chat and serve cookies to the donors for an hour or so.

## Every Wednesday

Wednesday night is church night for everybody!

5:15 - 6:00 **The Filling Station** - a meal for everyone

5:15 - 5:45 **Children's Choir**

6:00 - 7:10 **Jr / Sr High Youth**

6:00 - 7:15 **BLAST! (for kids)**

6:00 - 7:15 **More Than Moms**

6:00 - 7:30 **Tower Bells**

7:15 - 8:00 **FUSION Tonight**

7:30 - 8:30 **Chancel Choir**

## Every Thursday - Zumba

Zumba with us on Thursdays at 5:30 pm in our Fellowship Hall! A free-will contribution of a couple of bucks is appreciated. Contact [mary.friedrich@cfu.net](mailto:mary.friedrich@cfu.net) if you have questions. Come and dance...it's never too late to join us on this fun fitness adventure!

## Coming in December

### December 4 - World's Window

World's Window will be at our church on Sunday, December 4 with all kinds of fair trade items to sell. Pick up some information about their shop and the fair trade practices that the shop supports. Their mission is to market handcrafted items made by fair trade artisans from economically depressed countries around the world. By choosing fair trade products, you are not only accessing high quality products, but you are also making a difference in the lives of people who would otherwise be unemployed or underemployed. World's Window will bring many kinds of items to sell Sunday morning, December 4. There is sure to be something just right for your loved ones this Christmas.

## Save These Dates:

December 4 or 11 - Caroling

December 11 - Kid's Christmas Program and Christmas bell concert

December 24 - Communion, 9:am - 10:30 pm, Chapel, drop in

December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 5:00, 7:00 & 11:00

December 25 - one worship service at 10:00am

January 1 - one worship service at 10:00am

## 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  
 6:00 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary  
 7:30 Chapel Ringers rehearsal, sanctuary

### Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast  
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel  
 9:30-1:00 Quilters/Stitchers, 059  
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30-8:00 men's group  
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

### Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor  
 5:15 AA, 055  
 5:15 Filling Station Meal  
 5:15 Children's Choir  
 6:00 Jr/Sr High Youth  
 6:00 BLAST  
 6:00 More Than Moms  
 6:00 Tower Bells  
 6:30 WOW AA, 055  
 7:15 Fusion Tonight  
 7:30 Chancel Choir

### Thursday

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

## Also Scheduled....

### TUESDAY November 1

2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor  
 6:00-8:00 Food Bank Crew

### WEDNESDAY November 2

8:45-11:15 Stephen Ministry Training, 058  
 7:15 FUSION#9 Jan Benson/Lisa C

### THURSDAY November 3

6:30 Trustees, library

### FRIDAY November 4

Ingathering Set Up  
 Youth Lock-In

### SATURDAY November 5

Ingathering  
 DST Ends - turn your clock back tonight

### SUNDAY November 6

New Member Sunday  
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Dave GB  
 5:00-6:30 Confirmation class, library  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### MONDAY November 7

9:30 UMW Board Meeting, library  
 5:45-7:45 Healthy Cooking, kitchen  
 6:30 Stephen Ministry Supervision

### TUESDAY November 8

1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place  
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:30-7:30 Daisy Girl Scouts, Gathering Place  
 6:30 Prayer Team, chapel

### WEDNESDAY November 9

8:45-11:15 Stephen Ministry Training, 058  
 2:00 Communion Service, Western Hm  
 6:30 Finance Committee  
 7:15 FUSION#10 Jon Cooper

### THURSDAY November 10

1:30 Interfaith Council, library  
 4:00 Lincoln Safety Team mtg, library or GP  
 6:30 SPRC, 057

### FRIDAY November 11

3:30-5:30 Girl Scouts, library  
 5:30 Flock sets up chairs for Transformation

### SATURDAY November 12

2:00-5:00 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place

### SUNDAY November 13

Angel Tree is up  
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Chris Congdon

### MONDAY November 14

9-3:00 UMW District Leadership meeting,  
 3:45-5:00 Girl Scouts 6741, 055  
 5:30 FirstKids Board meeting, 056  
 6:30 HOME Team, library  
 6:30-8:30 Cub Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### WEDNESDAY November 16

8:45-11:15 Stephen Ministry Training, 058  
 9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library and gym  
 11:00 Windsor Care Chapel Service  
 7:15 FUSION#11 Sue Ney/ Steve W

### THURSDAY November 17

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor  
 11:45-3:00 Clergy Learning group, library  
 12:00 1st Friends Potluck, Gathering Place  
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor

### SATURDAY November 19

FROGS set up Transformation chairs

### SUNDAY November 20

Communion - Thanksgiving Sunday  
 Angel Tree is up  
 10:30 Washington Chapel - Lisa Congdon  
 2:00-5:00 Hanging of the Greens  
 5:00-6:30 Confirmation class, library

### MONDAY November 21

Newsletter deadline  
 8:00-8:45 youth breakfast in cafe  
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor  
 6:30 Ad Council, library

### TUESDAY November 22

Noonish - lunch at CF High School  
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library

### WEDNESDAY November 23

2:00 Windermere Communion Service  
 No Regular Wed night activities tonight

### THURSDAY November 24

Thanksgiving Day, church office closed

### FRIDAY November 25

Thanksgiving Holiday, church office closed

### SUNDAY November 27

First Sunday in Advent  
 Angel Tree is up  
 9:45 Church conference  
 9:45 Family Advent activities  
 10:30 Washington Chapel -Lesley Toma  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### MONDAY November 28

3:45-5:00 Girl Scouts 6741, 055  
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place

### WEDNESDAY November 30

8:45-11:15 Stephen Ministry Training, 058  
 Noon newsletter labeling, Gathering Place  
 All Wednesday night activities are ON tonight  
 7:15 FUSION#12 Dave G-B

# Learn & Grow

## Adult Sunday School

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

### Living Word

Will spend time each week sharing and caring for each other then move on to study different books of the Bible. Room 057 Contact: Terri Grover

### 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

Our discussions are based on videos that help us better understand the Bible and its influence on our lives. 061 Contact: Sue Mutchler & Pauline Harding

### 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 Lesley Toma

### F.R.O.G.

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

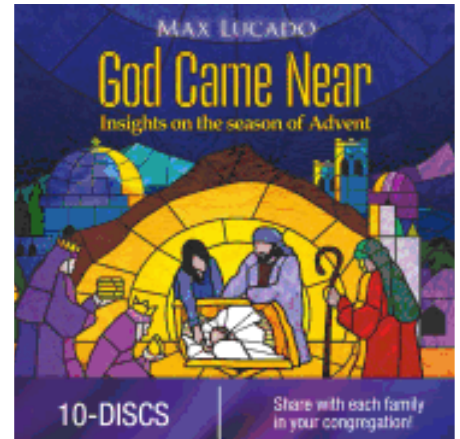
## God Came Near

Women Connected By Prayer will begin a new study, Max Lucado's *God Came Near*.

When God came to earth, his first cries were heard not by powerful rulers but by a lowly peasant girl and a sleepy carpenter. Join Max Lucado as he reveals profound spiritual truths through vivid re-creations of the first Christmas--and engaging stories about Simeon, Saint Nicholas, a shoebox, and more.

Topics:

- Simeon, the man who waited for the Messiah
- The true history of Saint Nicholas
- Christmas traditions, and more!
- Stories of Joseph and Mary
- The hectic holiday season



Women Connected By Prayer meets in the church parlor, Wednesday mornings from 9:00 to 10:00. All women are welcome to join us for this study.



## A New Perspective on Church Missions

Change your vision of the world! See the world like Jesus does. Dive into God's word and the story of his work on the earth. Learn to live your life with eternal significance and purpose. Register for Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Monday evenings, Jan 16-May 1, 6:00-8:45 pm. \$225 if registered before December 15th. First UMC and Threehouse students qualify for additional scholarship help, too (see Lisa in the church office). Register at [perspectives.org](http://perspectives.org). For more information, email [cfperspectives@gmail.com](mailto:cfperspectives@gmail.com)

### Do you have questions?

Get a brochure from the bulletin board at the back of the Welcome Center Contact the local coordinators at [cfperspectives@gmail.com](mailto:cfperspectives@gmail.com) or talk to alumni from this church (Jan Benson, Jerry Bernard, Lisa Congdon, Rus & Tony DeBonis, Jan Hoover, Janet Williams). It's a fascinating class that will change your life.





## Notes From Jenna: Trunk or Treat:

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped and participated in our first Trunk or Treat! It was a great night to be with friends and family. We loved seeing everyone having fun with their costumes, handing out candy and spending time at all the stations. We had 18 cars decorated! (pictures this page!) Another shout out to Matt Porter for making the meal for us! As always, it was delicious and it helped make the night something to remember!

## Sunday School:

On October 16th the Preschool-2nd grade Sunday School student laid hands on the new playground. We said a prayer and talked about why we are so thankful to have this beautiful playground. Please see photo of the group.

## School Kits:

The children here at First United have been busy getting the school kits ready to send off.

## Christmas Program:

Just a quick note, mark your calendar. We will be holding our annual Christmas Program on Sunday Dec 11th. It will take place during the Sunday School hour at 9:45-10:45am.

## Third Grade Bible Class:

Starting in January we will begin the 3rd Grade Family Bible class, which will be a five week course that will meet from 9:45 a.m. - 10:45, you and your child learn how to use the Bible together. Our first class will be Sunday January 8th and we will meet every other Sunday until March 5th. There will be a letter going out to 3rd grade families in November. If you have question please contact Jenna Engel at [Jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:Jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

## A Blessing to Someone Today

Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 23. 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 staff then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. This allows churches to specialize in their area of expertise: food, infant supplies, transportation, moving assistance, rent and utility assistance, home maintenance and yard work and more.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with LoveINC.

### Clearinghouse Intake Volunteers

Intake volunteers connect with our clients on the phone and set up appointments at our local churches. We have openings for volunteers on Monday afternoons 12-2 or Fridays 9-12. Love INC office is in Cedar Falls and is a safe place to work.

### Clearinghouse Reception Volunteer

Receptionists answer the phone during Clearinghouse hours on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 9-12. Substitute receptionists are needed.

### Delivery Volunteers

DVs deliver food, baby items or kitchen essentials to our clients who don't have transportation of their own. Opportunities are available on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon. Volunteers are expected to make deliveries on their scheduled day every other week.

If you're interested in volunteering with Love INC, check out their website at [www.loveinccv.org](http://www.loveinccv.org) or give them a call at 266-1264.

## November Mission: Thanksgiving Church Challenge

We have joined other churches in our community to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to those who are hungry this holiday season. We need at least 25 people or families to donate the equivalent to a Thanksgiving meal. This includes: one canned vegetable, one boxed stuffing mix or other boxed side dish, a shelf-stable or boxed dessert mix, AND \$25 to cover the cost of ham and fresh potatoes (checks to FUMC with Food Bank Thanksgiving on the memo). A shopping list with an offering envelope are at the "Thanksgiving Church Challenge" display in the Gathering Place. Sign up to accept this challenge - we would love to know who is participating. Meals will be distributed through the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

Bring your items to the church office by Sunday, November 20 so they can be taken to the Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving.



# HUNGRY?

## The NE Iowa Food Bank is looking for Talent!

Talent? What kind of talent? We are glad you asked! All kinds of talent is appreciated, and honestly, I think you can handle it. Chris Madigan (a talent recruiter with the Food Bank) says they can always use help with these tasks:

Driving - a Class D license is required for the big trucks, but your standard driver's license is good for a couple of their vehicles.

Riding - just ride along with the driver and help with the loading and unloading.

Office - mailings, design work, sometimes some help at reception up front.

Warehouse - pull orders and load and unload trucks

Sorting - sort through donations. This is a relaxed paced volunteer job, but crucial.

Pantry - help clients shop, restock the shelves, and weigh carts of food.

Onsite Kitchen - help cook and serve anywhere from 400-600 kids a day.

If you have questions about these opportunities, contact Chris Madigan at the Food Bank at 235-0507 ext 113 or [cmadigan@feedingamerica.org](mailto:cmadigan@feedingamerica.org)

## Prayers for a Season of Thanksgiving

### Psalm 118:1

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

### Ephesians 5:19b-20

Sing and make music in your heart to the LORD, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving is almost here and is a time each year we reflect on all that we have been given and say "thanks". The scriptures show how each morning of the year we can begin our day by including in our prayers ways we give thanks and then share that with others.

The prayer team invites you each Sunday to join us in the chapel at 8:00 a.m. as we pray for worship and ministries in our church and the world.

## Angel Tree

This year we are partnering with Lincoln School and North Cedar School to share a little Christmas love to some families in our own community. The school guidance counselors will provide us with a wish list for at least six families from each school. The Angel Tree and wish list tags will be on display in mid-November.

In addition to the gift requests from area families, you may choose a tag to support one of our other ministries such as WeeCare, Bibles for our sisters in Mitchellville, books for kids through Change a Child's Story, or the NE Iowa Food Bank.

Lisa Congdon is the contact for the Angel Tree ministries this year. Feel free to direct your questions to her.

## UMC #GIVINGTUESDAY, November 29

On Nov. 29, United Methodists will come together to support the work of Advance missionaries and projects on UMC #GivingTuesday. Last year, more than 770 Advance missionaries and projects received 8,757 gifts through The Advance, the denomination's designated giving channel.

The theme for UMC #GivingTuesday 2016 is "Give Light, Give Love, Give Life." Every day, you give God's light, love, and life through your faithful work, prayers, and gifts.

This year, consider supporting a project that is working in an area you care most about. Gifts made through The Advance make a tangible difference in the lives of those we serve. [www.umcmmission.org](http://www.umcmmission.org)

## United Methodist Student Day offering – November 27

Right now there are UMC young people—who might not have had the resources to attend a school of their choice, or, for some, any school at all—who've been sent by you into the world God loves because of your giving to United Methodist Student Day. When you give generously you are supporting these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge. The offering provides scholarships and student loans for qualified United Methodist applicants. What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together.

## On-Going 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.

## 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.

## email Prayer Chain

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

## Be A Reading Buddy

Our First UMC Reading Buddies began going to Lincoln School in mid-October, and both the students and the grown-ups are having a good time. Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade students are given opportunities to read with an adult volunteer from our church. About 35 times each week someone from our congregation is at our neighborhood school to support the students and teachers to promote literacy and learning.

If you are interested in being a Reading Buddy, sign up on the clipboard at the Change a Child Story display or talk to Lisa in the church office. It's not too late to join, and we promise that you will find it a blessing.

## Change a Child's Story

If your schedule does not allow you to go to the classrooms, you can still help promote children's literacy. Your monetary donations provide books for students to take home as well as funds to enhance classroom libraries. You may help with this by using the special offering envelopes at the display or note "Change a Child's Story" on your check to FUMC. Every \$10 donated will add another much-loved children's book cover to the bulletin board in the Gathering Place. We would love to cover the board! And, to sweeten the deal every dollar you contribute is matched by the lone Zach Endowment fund.

## That Hand-Trike Thing in the Gathering Place ( It's a PET\*)

About this time every year, that strange hand-crank, tricycle appears in our Gathering Place. Take a minute to check it out. PETs are designed to be used by people living in the developing world who have lost the use of their legs. PETs are cheap to construct, durable and easy to maintain, and the big tires grip and float on soft surfaces - all requirements for the people who will end up using them. A PET can mean the difference between a productive, independent life, for those who receive them. Our friend Obadiah, a student at Banyam Seminary, uses a PET. His previous handcycle had thin bicycle tires which would only sink into the sandy soil at BTS. Because of his PET, Obadiah is able to move



independently around the BTS campus to attend to his studies, and the PET also makes a fun ride when his young daughter sits on his lap.

Here's some history of the PET program, from the United Methodist Advance: *Missionary Larry Hills asked retired Rev. Mel West for a practical, sturdy, maintainable three-wheeled hand-cranked wheelchairs for the vast number of people who had lost their legs due to polio, landmine explosions, etc. Since then we have provided PETs to a number of NGOs working in the field. In 2015 we produced 1,507 PETs in three different models (771 Adult/large crank, 270 Pull, 466 Child/small crank). Our assembly teams are cross trained and can switch production to meet requests. Though polio and landmines could be eliminated, PETs would still be needed for those who have limited function of their legs due to birth defects, injuries, and disease.*



\* PET = Personal Energy Transport  
Current "Up the Ramp" record is 0:22.40, held by Chris Congdon

## Midwest Mission and Disaster Relief

A group of five from our church was volunteering at Midwest Mission Distribution Center in Illinois the week that heavy rains north of us impacted the Cedar River. We packed UMCOR Health Kits and prepared garbage bags to be placed into Cleaning Buckets. These are the types of kits that are shipped to areas like ours after a flood or other disasters. Our next scheduled dates are May 30-June 3. Consider volunteering in this way. It's a great way to help, and there are jobs for all to do.

## How Many Starving Children Did We Feed?

People from all over the Cedar Valley joined together in October to pack food to help "Feed My Starving children". A group from First UMC and about 80 other caring people young and old packed 88 boxes of food in less than two hours at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. That's 19,008 meals, which is enough to give 52 kids a nutritional meal a day for a year. It was probably the most fun anyone had ever had wearing a hairnet.

## November Heifer Ark Challenge

At \$800 each, camels are the most expensive item to place on the ark. It's too much for most of us to donate, but the beauty of our church is the opportunity to work together to accomplish a goal. Let's pool our funds for a camel or two. Use the offering envelopes by the ark, or make your check to FUMC with "Heifer Ark" on the memo.

At home in arid environments, camels provide plenty to needy families who have few resources. Aside from the nutritious milk and transportation they provide, camels are easy on the environment. They eat leaves and trees and not precious grasses that need to be saved for other livestock.

### Transportation

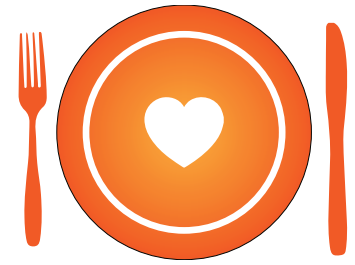
For nomadic people like the Maasai in Tanzania, camels have lightened the load. Families have trained camels to plow and haul firewood, as well as crops to be sold at markets.

### Shelter

Income from the sale of surplus milk can help pay school and doctor fees. But families can also take the money to make improvements to their homes—including solid roofing.

### Microenterprise

Recipients of Heifer camels are recognizing the business opportunities that their camels provide. Extra income has allowed one group to launch a cultural program for tourists. The camels provide the transportation for the safari through rural Tanzania.



## 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](mailto: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.

## Women @ First

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

On Nov. 13, 2016, the United Methodist Women welcomed Officer Javier Mercado from the Cedar Falls Police Department. Officer Mercado spent time discussing various scams and frauds that can affect us all and how to protect ourselves from them. He accepted a number of questions from the audience and also explained various parts of his uniform, including a Taser and a new body camera.

This was also the day that the group held a memorial service for those UMW members who have passed away during the last year. The following women were honored: Letha Plagge, Yvonne Waller, Dorothy Sheerer, Jane Bragdon, Betty Knudsen, and Donabel Levett.



### November UMW Calendar:

No Unit Meeting

Nov. 7 - World Community Day

Nov. 7 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Lib.

Nov. 8 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Lib.

Nov. 17 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

Nov. 17 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

Nov. 21 - Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., Par.

Nov. 22 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Lib.

### UMW is a Missions Powerhouse: Spotlight on Bidwell Riverside

Bidwell Riverside Center in Des Moines is one of nearly 100 institutions owned by United Methodist Women.

Our unit of United Methodist Women here at First UMC budgets funds annually to help support the services provided by Bidwell as mission for women, children, and youth.

So far during 2016 Bidwell has served an average of 3,460 clients monthly at their Distribution Center. Food, clothing and personal items are available.

As a further mission to children, they offer a Child Development Center providing quality education and care for 61 two- to five-year-old children.

## 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.

### More Than Moms

Attention all tired and stressed out women! There is a place for you on Wednesday nights to give you joy and rejuvenation. Join us in the Parlor from 6 - 7pm for a time of renewal, relaxation and fellowship (child care provided.)

We are also officially changing our name from Mommy Maintenance to More than Moms. This is a perfect description for the women of the group as individuals and as a collective body, since many come that don't have kids!

Fun times are already scheduled for this Fall. Invite a friend . . . all are welcome!

Any questions, please contact Lesley Toma at (319) 266-1713 or [lesleytoma@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lesleytoma@aboutfirst.com)



## Thank yous

Thank you so much for Jane's visit and the beautiful rose for my 103rd birthday.

*Martha Nation*

Thank you for the beautiful rose for my 82nd birthday and thanks to Jane Wyckoff for delivering it. Thanks, also, to the staff for the card with everyone's signature; quite special!

Smiles & Blessings,

*Marlene Baumhoyer*

I would like to thank Pastors Steve and Matt for their visits and prayers while I was in the hospital. Also to Flo for her visits to our home after I got out. Also to all those who visited me, sent cards, flowers, and phone calls. A big thank you to the quilting ladies for the beautiful quilt they made me. What a thoughtful church we belong to. God bless you all.

*Dorothy Schwab*

A special thank you to our church, our staff who took time to sign our cards, and to Jane Wyckoff for her delivery of our beautiful roses (Chuck's was yellow and mine was red). We look forward to her visit each year.

*Chuck & Marilyn Roudebush*

It is nice to be remembered at birthday time. The visit from Jane was special, and so was the rose. And, a special thanks to the staff for the card.

*Hube Gaard*

Thank you for the lovely rose delivered on my birthday. I'm sorry I wasn't here to receive it personally. Thank you, Jane!

*Sid Morris*

Thank you to Pastor Steve and my church family for the calls, cards, visits and support during the time of my surgeries and my sister's illness and subsequent passing. It is so nice to be a part of such a caring church family.

*Bev Michael*

## Sympathy to:

- Family and friends of Betty Knudsen. Betty passed away September 24. Her service was held Wednesday, September 28.
- Harold and Pat Powell on the death of Harold's brother, Russell, in late September.
- Family and friends of Otis Budlong. Otis passed away October 1.
- Bryan & Jan Benson on the death of Bryan's brother, Bernt, on October 9.
- Phyllis Aschenbrenner on the death of her brother, James Webrand, on October 10.
- Holly Schwerdtfeger on the death of her father, LeRoy Newton, on October 13.

## Congratulations:

- Congratulations to Shawna Behrens and Kevin Van Heiden on the birth of a baby girl. Elizabeth Audrey-Mae was born October 11.
- Jim & Stephanie Buchs have a new granddaughter. Julia Madeline Buchs was born October 16.

## 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.

## Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2016 & 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.

## Join Up!

We're glad you're here! Want to make it official and join First UMC? Contact our Family Ministries Coordinator, Lesley Toma, at [lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lesley.toma@aboutfirst.com).

## Christmas Poinsettia

Christmas poinsettia are a beautiful way to honor or remember a loved one. Order yours in November using envelope at Welcome Center. Poinsettia will be on display in the church until Christmas Eve, at which point you are welcome to take it home with you. Your honorific request will be acknowledged in a bulletin insert.

## 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.

## Attendance- week ending

	10/2	10/9	10/16	10/23
FUSION (Wed)	19	25	35	36
Transformation	92	89	78	86
Traditional 8:30	165	132	123	133
Traditional 11:00	96	91	130	80

# First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319.266.1713

Fax: 319.266.1715

Email: [churchoffice@aboutfirst.com](mailto:churchoffice@aboutfirst.com)

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

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

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

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

## Our Pastors

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

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

## Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

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

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

Lisa Congdon, Office Ministry Coordinator  
[lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator  
[jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

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

Flo Moblely, Parish Visitor

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

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

Emily Terpstra, Custodian

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

December newsletter deadline is November 20.

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