



November 2017
issue 206

ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa



Thoughts from Steve

One of the best things about serving as a pastor are the people I have the opportunity to meet. As a pastor, I am privileged to hear people tell their story. I get to listen to them share about life experiences that shaped and formed them into the people they are. I hear about their faith experiences when they felt particularly close to God. This opportunity is a true blessing.

The past few weeks our church has gathered to celebrate the lives of three women of our church who were active and faithful members of our church for many years. They all reached milestones even though their bodies began to breakdown their minds were incredibly sharp. Each one of them taught me lessons about faith and life, but they also coached me in living life to the fullest.

Martha Nation was our oldest member at 104. Shortly after her 104th birthday she died peacefully with her niece Carol Dick by her side. Nearly every time I stopped to visit Martha she had a book on her lap or open on the table next to her. She was an avid reader who devoured books at a ferocious rate. She was a teacher most of her life. At her 100th birthday she received cards and emails from many former students who thanked her for the way she encouraged them to discover the value of knowledge. Martha said to me that a teacher is always a student. Martha was a “life-long learner”. This is what kept her young at heart and her mind sharp.

Madge McCoskey was our oldest member for only a week dying at the age of 101 a week after Martha died. Their birthdays were only 2 days apart! Madge always had a smile on her face, and no one could remember her saying anything bad about another person. This is probably why she always said, “She slept like a baby” because she never went to bed with bad feelings, grudges, anger and guilt. She had peaceful rest. Madge’s philosophy for reaching 101 was “Just Keep Moving.” She was taking aerobics into her 90’s with “kids” who were in their 70’s! She also rode a motorcycle twice on her 101st birthday. It was caught by KWWL as “someone you need to know.”

Fran Kuehl died at the age of 95, and people frequently guessed her age to be 15 to 20 years younger. They were surprised how old she was and young she looked. Fran was still coming to church on our Church Bus until last spring when her health began to fail. Her failing health did not keep her from smiling, and welcoming anyone who came to visit her. Fran’s memorial service was a reflection of the way she lived her life. There were people of all ages attending her service because Fran believed it was important to have friends who were from all age spectrums. As her service bulletin read, Fran “had a love affair with life.”

As unique and special as these three women were they had several things in common. First, they were faithful to the end. Jesus Christ was the center of their lives, and their hope and comfort in their dying days. Secondly, all of them were women “Full of Grace” in the way they lived their lives in welcoming everyone. These are values our church should hold as we seek to move forward – that Christ is at the center of all we do, and we are “Full of Grace” where all are welcome and accepted by the Grace of God.

Blessings to all -
Pastor Steve



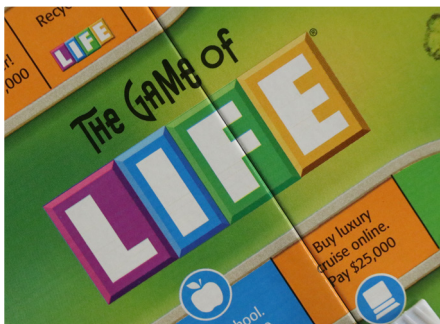
Re-Working the Game of Life

New Transformation Mini-Series Kicks Off Nov 5

Most all of us have played the popular board game called The Game of LIFE. To millions of people life is nothing more than a game and it all goes back in the box at the end. This is a worldview that leaves us without guidance and hope.

Life is more than a mere game - it is a time of great purpose and responsibility. It is to be a time of preparation for another life to come and as such should not be considered an end of itself.

If we have this goal in mind, it begs of us a few questions like, "How do we play the game?" Or, "What are the rules that we follow that will lead us to the end that God hopes for each of us?"



Join us this next month as we look at biblical principles in the book of Proverbs and the Gospels. Each week will be viewed through the theme of one of our favorite board games to help us in "Re-Working the Game of Life."

Nov 5- The Game of LIFE

Nov 12- Monopoly

Nov 19- Chutes and Ladders

Thanksgiving Sunday and Communion - November 19th

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.

Hanging of the Greens

- Saturday, December 2 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

The past few years there is new excitement in sharing in the old tradition of the "Hanging of the Greens"! More and more people are making it part of their Christmas Tradition. On Saturday, December 2 from 9:00 to noon, we will dress the church up for Christmas.

We will start taking orders for Poinsettias in November. Your purchase in memory or honor of someone will be acknowledged using the Poinsettia Order Envelope at the Welcome Center. Our goal this year is to have 100 Poinsettias!

Christmas Eve Sunday Schedule:

This year Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday. This is a very rare event.

Christmas Eve Morning: We will have one service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The theme for the service will be "Just Another Day in Bethlehem" as we ponder what it would have been like in this village the day Jesus was born. Remember Joseph and Mary did not arrive until that evening, and there was no place for them to stay but in a tiny stable already occupied by animals.

Christmas Eve Evening: We will have our usual three Candlelight Services at 5:00, 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. Each service will include the singing of carols, telling the story of Jesus' birth and the lighting of candles. More information will be in the December Newsletter.

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

Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at the following services:

11/12 - 8:30 - 11:00

11/19 - 11:00

11/26 - 8:30

12/17 - 8:30 - 11:00

Christmas Eve - 11:00

12/31 - 10:00

Contact Doug Shaffer

319-610-4249

musicman52151@gmail.com



You Sound Good in Purple

Laboratory tests confirm that people who wear purple robes sound great when they sing together - even when only a few of them have good voices. If you love to sing, we'd love to add your voice to the choir. We rehearse on Wednesday nights, and sing most Sunday mornings. You're welcome to come when you can, and we'll hook you up with a robe that's just your size.

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2017 & 2018 is at the Welcome Center. Sign up now to recognize a special date or to honor a loved one with flowers for the altar. Have the flowers delivered to the church on Friday, please.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members

On Sunday October 22 our church received 13 new people into membership here at our church and Audrienne Kennedy celebrated an immersion baptism! Please help our newest members feel welcome!

Sheila Berger,

Transfer from FUMC South Lyon, MI

Barb Beil,

Associate Member, also member at University of Carillon UMC Oviedo, FL

Diane Sullivan, Profession of Faith

Toby Thompson,

Transfer from Albert Lea UMC, MN

Miriam Temple,

Transfer from Grace UMC, Des Moines

Justin Gruel,

Transfer from FUMC Ann Arbor, MI

Katie Gruel,

Transfer from FUMC Ann Arbor, MI

Audrienne Kennedy, Profession of Faith

Bevan Lucas, Transfer from Dike UMC

Betty O'Brien,

Transfer from FUMC Waterloo

Kathy Lyon,

Transfer from FUMC Mason City

Scot Lyon,

Transfer from FUMC Mason City

Jane Ingraham, Profession of Faith

A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Today has been a day of contemplation for me as I am remembering my Grandma Ann (Marlene) who passed away yesterday (October 22). Grandma was someone in my life who I would identify as a Saint. I want to tell you about a sequence of memories that will hopefully help you understand why.

My first memory of my Grandmother was sitting in the back of her car listening to her sing off key to Christian AM radio. This was before Christian music had become mainstream on FM radio. I always thought that I was a hipster contemporary worship leader but, my Grandma was doing contemporary before it was even cool.

I remember my grandmother attending my confirmation when I was in 8th grade. She told me that this was a day that I would look back and treasure even if I didn't appreciate it then. At the time I appreciated the cake and the cards, but did not know the fullness of what my faith would mean to me.

I remember having a dramatic conversation experience in California when I was 19 years old and coming back home the following week. My Grandmother invited me to go to a new church she was attending. This church had guitars and keyboards in it which is something I had never seen before. She had spoken to the worship leader beforehand and encouraged him to invite me to join the praise team. Little to my knowledge, I would be on church staff 6 months later directing the praise team.

Serving in leadership in the church lead to a call to Ordained Ministry in which my Grandmother encouraged me towards. If not for her witness, I am not sure I would be the person I am today, much less serving as one of your pastors. It was not just her cooking, her smile, and her warm hugs, but it was the thing behind all of those things that drove her. That things was her faith in Jesus Christ. Her faith has shaped my family.

The first week in November, many churches celebrate All Saints Sunday. We tend to think of a saint as someone who is given special recognition by the Catholic Church. A Protestant understanding of a saint is someone past or present, living or deceased, who has made a difference in your faith journey. That primary person for me was my Grandmother.

I ask you today, who has been a saint in your life? Perhaps a question that is just as important could be, "Who would identify YOU as a saint?" The life you live has the possibility to impact someone else. Who knows what kind of difference and influence you can make in the lives of your friends, family, and our world?

Hebrews 12:1 tells us, "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

May you be surrounded with saints and witness that can build you in faith, and may you do the same for someone else. Rest in Peace Grandma, for you were a good and faithful servant.

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

Ingathering is coming to First UMC. Everything you need to know is on the Ingathering page in this newsletter.

INGATHERING

When We Share – Miracles Happen!

We spent the Sundays of October remembering the Miracle of Jesus Feeding the 5,000. It part of our Fall Stewardship Campaign: “When We Share Miracles Happen”. We recalled how a little boys lunch of 5 Loaves and 2 Fish fed the multitudes. Jesus was able to take his gift and multiply it to feed everyone until they were satisfied, and they still had 12 baskets full of leftovers!

When we share our presence, our gifts, our service, our prayers and our witness – miracles do happen. Your gifts make 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 make a pledge in supporting your church in 2018. Have you turned in your Pledge Card?

We are still accepting pledge cards. As of October 27, we have received 147 pledges for a total of \$373,302. The positive response reflects your faith in Christ as together we seek to support the many activities, ministries and programs of our church. When We Share – Miracles Happen!



Smooth As a Baby’s Bottom

The parking lot has been reconstructed and topped with a fresh, smooth layer of asphalt. You can now walk across it without turning an ankle. You can drive across it without breaking a tie-rod. You can skate on it. You can play billiards on it - it’s that smooth.

The much-needed project was kick-started with \$3,000 from the rummage sale proceeds, and another \$5,000 from the sale of our church van. The balance of the \$13,000 project was funded by the endowment committee. Thank you to the individuals and committees who made the funding possible and to the trustees for getting it done!



Church Conference - Sunday, November 19th at 2:00 p.m.

All church members are invited to attend our annual Church Conference on Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. We will be hosting a number of church’s in a Cluster Church Conference. Our District Superintendent Jackie Bradford will preside over the meeting. This year’s event will include worship and a teaching session for those who attend. This is our annual Congregational Meeting where we celebrate our year and set goals for the coming year. All are invited to attend.

Mortgage Milestone - under \$500,000!

In the month of October, we blasted past the half-million barrier! Our mortgage balance, which started at over 1,400,000 just five years ago, is now under \$500,000. This accelerated pay-down has saved us hundreds of thousands of dollars in interest. This is cause for celebration! Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

Pastor Steve Williams Retiring –

It was announced by our Staff Parish Relations Committee that I will be officially retiring on July 1, 2018. Janet and I have been talking about retirement for several years. I spent most of those years in denial as I was approaching the age of 65. I still wonder “where did the years go?” The decision came last summer in California while we were sitting around the table with my brother Mark and sister Susie. Mark is quickly failing of Multiple Sclerosis, and Susie was recently widowed, and since our visit last summer, her home was flooded in Houston. As their “big” brother, I wanted to be able to do more for them. Retirement will give me more freedom to be there for them, and also be able to spend more time with our growing family. We are making plans to purchase a home in Nevada, Iowa where our daughter Kim and her family live. Also, we will be only about 10 minutes from Janet’s parents.

We have been blessed in every church we have served. Cedar Falls has become home for us. Janet and I will now have time to begin making some important plans, and so does the church. The Conference sees our church as a priority appointment because we are a very active congregation with potential to continue to grow. The District Superintendent has already met with the Staff Parish Relations Committee to begin the process of selecting your new pastor. We will not be leaving until late in June, so there will be many opportunities to say “good bye”. We do want to start by saying “thank you” for the many ways you have adopted us into your Church Family. It has been a privilege to be your Parsonage Family, as we have served Christ together.

In Christ’s Love

– Pastor Steve & Janet

events

November 7 - Grief Support Session

Where: Church Parlor

When: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

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. Join us at this group session and if you wish some additional support, do not hesitate to call the church office, and you will be directed. New participants are always welcome.

November 7 - Food Bank Work Crew

Where: Northeast Iowa Food Bank

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

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

November 14 - Card Making Party

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00-5:00 pm

Come join the fun! Come-and-go and come-as-you-are to help us make cards to sell on the card rack outside the church office. The recycled cards are just \$.50 each; last quarter \$180.13 was given for postage for the Ingathering kits. This quarter the money will be given to UMCOR for hurricane relief. We welcome new participants at our card sessions. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and stay for Community Meal. We hope to see you on Tuesday, November 14th.

November 14 - Crafter's Corner

Where: Church Parlor

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Attention crafters! This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or give your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade gifts or prayer shawls for those in need. We will also be starting to crochet (we'll teach you how!) hats & scarves for those in need in November. Donations are always greatly appreciated! We need clean used plastic grocery bags, yarn, and crochet hooks. You may leave your crafting donations in the bin in the little hallway across from the drinking fountain on the main level of the church. Thank you to all who have donated craft items so far. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

November 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.

November 27- LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30 - 6:00pm

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, November 27 from 12:30-6:00 (a touch earlier this month). 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.

December 3 - World's Window @ First UMC

World's Window will be at our church on Sunday, December 3 with all kinds of fair trade items to sell. They will have lovely items for display and sale all morning in the chapel and the Gathering Place. Their mission is to market handcrafted items made by 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. There is sure to be something just right for your loved ones this Christmas.

Every Thursday - Zumba

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

M T **W** T F

Wednesday is Your CrazyFunBusy Church Night!

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

Recurring Weekly:

Sunday

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

Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, 059
 9:30-10:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 6:30-8:00 men's group
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

Wednesday

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

Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

THURSDAY November 2

4:00 Girl Scouts, library
 6:30 Trustees, 057
 6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, parlor

FRIDAY November 3

9:00 Ingathering Food Prep, kitchen

SATURDAY November 4

7:30 - 2:00 Ingathering

SUNDAY November 5

Endowment Sunday
 All Saints Sunday
 10:00 Chris Werling-Witkoske at Frederika
 Noon-4:00 Islamic Center Open House

MONDAY November 6

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

TUESDAY November 7

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

WEDNESDAY November 8

2:00 Communion Service, Western Home
 6:30 Finance committee, 057

THURSDAY November 9

Grief Support Outing to Amanas
 6:30 SPRC
 7:00 Transformation Band

SATURDAY November 11

World Religions Class, Cornell College

SUNDAY November 12

6:00-7:00 Webelos, parlor
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel
 No Boy Scouts tonight

MONDAY November 13

10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall
 5:30-6:30 1st Kids Board, 056
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel
 6:30 Cub Scout Pack 44 Raingutter Regatta,

TUESDAY November 14

1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

WEDNESDAY November 15

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

THURSDAY November 16

9:30-11:30 Mary Circle, parlor
 12:00-2:00 First Friends Potluck, Gather Pla
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor
 4:00 Girl Scouts, library

SUNDAY November 19

10:00 Padma Templeton @ Frederika
 10:30 Lisa Congdon @ Washington Chapel
 1:30-4:00 Charge Conference

MONDAY November 20

Newsletter deadline
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor
 10:00 FirstKids worship, Fellowship Hall
 6:30 Ad Council, library

WEDNESDAY November 22

No Filling Station tonight
 No BLAST tonight
 No Youth tonight
 No More than Moms tonight
 No Fusion Tonight
 6:00-7:00 The Quest -Beth Moore, chapel
 6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary
 6:30 WOW AA, 055
 7:30-8:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir rm

THURSDAY November 23

Thanksgiving Day, church office closed

FRIDAY November 24

church office closed

SUNDAY November 26

Advent Begins
 10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scouts 1871, chapel
 No Boy Scouts

MONDAY November 27

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

TUESDAY November 28

1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 6:30-7:45 Girl Scouts, Gathering Place

WEDNESDAY November 29

All Wednesday Night activities are back as scheduled this week

THURSDAY November 30

Noon newsletter labeling
 4:00 Girl Scouts, library
 Grief support dinner / kitchen and parlor

Sunday School Classes for Everyone

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

Adult Sunday School

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

CCF (Christ Centered Families)

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

Room: O57

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 O56, Kris Rash

Open Door

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

Kaleidoscope

This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room O58 Gil Hewett

Seekers

The Seekers present several small studies/discussions each year (no homework) to help grow our faith in Jesus Christ. Room: O60

Pathfinders

Our newest Sunday morning group for adults. We gather to share our lives and discuss God's presence in the world today. Room O55

Holy Land Trip – Walk Where Jesus Walked

- Spring Break 2018

Pastor Steve and Janet are planning a trip to the Holy Land during Spring Break in 2018 leaving March 6 and returning on March 15. This is a trip of a lifetime. We will visit significant sites such as Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Sea of Galilee and Jerusalem. We will be walking where Jesus walked! Going to the Holy Land has made a dramatic difference in traveler's faith and reading the Bible. There are some individuals looking for roommates to share this experience. If you are interested in going, please contact Pastor Steve or Janet. This will be our last trip we will be able to host from Cedar Falls First. There are some cost increases due to deadlines in making travel arrangements. After November 21 the cost is \$100 more, and after December 20 the cost is \$200 more.



Perspectives on the World Christian Movement

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. Candeo Church, Monday evenings, Jan 15-April 30, 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. For more information, email cfperspectives@gmail.com

God has a "world-sized" role for every Christian in His global purpose. Whether people go to distant countries or stay at home is a secondary issue. The primary issue is what most people are hungry to discover: vision to live a life of purpose. Discovering that vision makes this course valuable, and perhaps crucial, for any Christian.

What is Perspectives?

Perspectives is a fifteen week course designed around four vantage points or "perspectives" – Biblical, Historical, Cultural and Strategic. Each one highlights different aspects of God's global purpose. The Biblical and Historical sections reveal why our confidence is based on the historic fact of God's relentless work from the dawn of history until this day. The Cultural and Strategic sections underscore that we are in the midst of a costly, but very "do-able" task, confirming the Biblical and Historical hope.

It's a fascinating class that will change your life.



Talking About Tough Topics

This training session is appropriate for lay people and clergy who are interested in learning how to engage others in respectful conversation about contentious topics. "Talking About Tough Topics" training will be held on Saturday, December 2 from 9:00am-4:00pm at Independence First United Methodist Church. Instructor is M. Scott Hughes. Workshops include: Courageous Conversations, World Religions, Human Sexuality, Refugees. Cost is \$25, payable at first session. Contact Rev Dr Scott Meador: pastor.scott@indytel.com

World Religions & Ethics Seminars Offered

These classes are held on the Cornell College campus and are open to anyone interested. They are offered by the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church's School for Lay Ministry Commission. You do not need to be enrolled in the School for Lay Ministry to attend these extended learning opportunities. Classes are held on Saturdays from 9:00 am to 5:00pm. Tuition is \$75 and includes noon meal.

World Religions, Saturday, November 11

Taught by Rev Dr. Scott Meador from Independence First UMC
This class will give an overview of the major Eastern and Western religions and will discuss the question, "What is a religion?". Read the book "What Christians Can Learn from Other Religions" by J. Philip Wogaman (participants are responsible for acquiring their own book).

Ethics, Saturday, January 13

Ethics, taught by Steve Streff, a lay person from St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids.

If you are interested in attending any of the classes that are offered, additional details and the registration form is posted on the SLM Website within the purple SLM at Cornell College box. If you are interested in attending and need assistance or have questions, please contact Barb Mann at barb.mann@iaumc.org or 515-974-8905.

United Methodist Student Day offering - November 26

Across the country, the people of The United Methodist Church are serving the people God loves in Jesus' name. We're doing it at home, but so often we'd like to do more.

We want to serve those in other places who are suffering.

We want to offer spiritual words of hope and life.

And we want to be well-equipped to do both!

But the reality for most of us is that our responsibilities—home, family, work—don't allow us to engage with every need we'd like to meet.

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 support these students as they prepare for a life that unites faith with knowledge.

What no one person or congregation can do alone, we're doing together. Offering envelopes will be available on November 26.



B.L.A.S.T.:

Bible Learning And Serving Together.

Please join us Wednesday nights. BLAST is for students turning 5 this school year -6th grades. To end the fall and to bring in the Advent season we will be remembering the first Christmas. We will be using the study "Under Wraps" and explore four characteristics of God and our response to them. If you would like to be involved with this Ministry please contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

Start a Daily Devotion

The Easy Way

"The Upper Room" daily devotional is available in the literature rack outside the church office. The Upper Room magazine's mission is to provide a model of practical Christianity, accessible in varied formats, to help people feel invited and welcomed into God's presence to:

- listen to scripture as God's personal message, linking their stories to God's story;
- commune with God in prayer;
- see their daily choices and small acts of obedience as part of God's work;
- realize our connection through Christ as a universal family of believers;
- encounter the living Christ and be transformed into Christ's likeness.

Cost \$1.25



Wee Care Could Use a Boost

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. Wipes, rash cream, teething gel, pacifiers, 8 oz & 4 oz bottles, receiving blankets, and sippy cups are always in demand. Donations of diapers size 2-5 are always appreciated (Aldis has good ones at a reasonable price). We have a designated shopper who finds good deals on these items, so monetary donations are put to good use. Put Wee Care on the memo line of your check to First UMC.

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.

We Have Two Missions in November!

November 1-13

Sponsor a Thanksgiving Dinner through the Food Bank

Join others in our community to help provide a Thanksgiving meal to those who are hungry this Thanksgiving. Donate the equivalent to a Thanksgiving meal! This includes:

- 1) one canned vegetable,
- 2) one canned fruit,
- 3) stuffing packet,
- 4) brownie mix or a cake mix/frosting,
- 5) AND \$25 to cover the cost of ham, a bag of apples, and a bag of potatoes (checks to FUMC with Food Bank Thanksgiving on the memo).



A shopping list with an offering envelope is at the "Thanksgiving Dinner" display in the church office. Bring your items to the church office by Monday, November 13 as this will allow the Food Bank to adjust for any shortfalls prior to Thanksgiving delivery. All items will be delivered to the Food Bank on November 14.

Help is needed to distribute these meals at the Food Bank the three days before Thanksgiving. Contact the Food Bank to volunteer, or check the Sunday bulletins for more information as the week nears.

November Missions Tree

It seems WAY too early for a Christmas tree, we know, but sure enough you'll find one in the church - we are calling it our "share your blessings" tree. This tree is decorated with colored envelopes. You may choose an envelope to donate funds to one or more of the ministries First UMC supports such as WeeCare, Bibles for our sisters in Mitchellville, books for Lincoln Elementary kids through Change a Child's Story, Hospitality House, or the NE Iowa Food Bank, or House of Hope..

There are ongoing needs throughout the year with these ministries, and your generosity helps immeasurably. As we move toward the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas and a time to take note of all of our blessings, please consider how you may be called to bless others around you.



INGATHERING

annual celebration of missions, Saturday, November 4

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. The day begins with tabulating and re-packing the various kits, and also includes a craft bazaar, mission displays, a worship celebration, bake sale, lunch, and a giant quilt auction.

This year's Ingathering features a speaker from UMCOR to tell us about disaster relief efforts of the United Methodist Church

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.

Seize the Day!

What day? November 4th, the 38th annual Ingathering of the Iowa United Methodist Church. Many of you have taken part in this unique event in the past. If you haven't, now is your chance. In the next few weeks there will be opportunities for you to sign up as volunteers for a few hours of your time as **greeters, ticket sellers and takers, kitchen workers and kit packers**. As the host church for the northeast district we want to show our best hospitality to those attending. To volunteer call Kris Rash or Jan Benson.



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



Ingathering Schedule

7:30 to 10:30 am

Check-in kits

Check-in quilts, craft & bake sale items

Fellowship time with coffee and rolls

Voucher room open

8:30 to 10:00 am

Self-guided tours of kit area at Lincoln School

Mission Presentations in library

9:00 to 12:30 pm

Bazaar in the parlor

10:00 to 11:00am

Worship with Communion, sanctuary

11:00 to 12:45 pm

Hot meat sandwich lunch

(\$6-adults; \$3 for 5-12, under 5 free)

1:00 pm

Quilt auction-large & baby quilts, wall hangings, table runners

Ingathering Youth Lock-IN

An Ingathering tradition is that youth from all over northeast Iowa come for a party the night before, stay all night "locked-in" a local church, and then get up bright and early to help with the kit-packing and other Ingathering work.

This year's lock in is November 3-4, and it is to be hosted by our friends at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls.

INGATHERING



Stephen Ministers, Here When You Need Them

Job loss, illness, bereavement, loneliness, we all experience struggles like these and more as we journey through life. You don't need to go through any of those things alone. Stephen Ministers are persons trained to be there with you in your time of trouble. The Stephen Ministry program is a key part of our congregational care ministry. If you are going through a tough time in life, or if you know someone who is, contact one of our pastors through the church office for a referral to one of our Stephen Ministers. All Stephen Ministry contacts are strictly confidential and your personal privacy will always be respected.

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.

Angel Tree for Area Families

This year we are again 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 are providing us with a wish list for families from each school. In addition, one of our youth will be organizing an Angel Tree for a local veteran. These Angel Trees and wish list tags will be on display by Thanksgiving.

Here's how it works: select a tag, purchase the gift, and return the gift to the church by Sunday, December 17. You may wrap it if you like, or bring it back unwrapped. Just be sure the tag is securely attached.

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

Here's How You Can Change A Child's Story

Children who learn to read earlier in life have a dramatically higher rate of success in school, in college, and later in life. By improving early-childhood literacy, we can truly change the course of children's lives. One easy and fulfilling way to do that is to be a reading buddy.

Our Partner In Education, Lincoln Elementary School, has appreciated the great group of Reading Buddies who read with K-3rd grade students throughout the school year. There is room for more Reading Buddies. See Lisa in the church office to find out more about this great partnership to Change a Child's Story, or talk to any of these fine folk who look forward to meeting with Lincoln students each week: Marlene Baumhover, Linda Bohr, Betty Butler, Megan Capek, Lisa Congdon, Rita Congdon, Frank Darrah, Jordan Derhammer, Loretta Dykes, Jenna Engel, Lorna Ericson, Mark Farland, Betty Goettsch, Linda Harris, Donna Hoffman, Larry Jacobsen, Jim Larson, Connie Maifeld, Roger Maifeld, Karen Page, Jean Richardson, Faye Rohwedder, or Cindy Spragg.

Continue to Change a Child's Story

Your monetary donations provide books for students to take home as well as funds to enhance classroom libraries. You may help with by writing "Change a Child's Story" on the memo line of your check to FUMC.

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.

We Fed Some Starving Children

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 75 other caring people young and old packed 85 boxes of food in less than two hours at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo. That's **18,360 meals**, which is enough to give 50 kids one nutritional meal a day for a year. The total count for the three day packing event was 1,029 volunteers, 756 boxes packed, 163, 296 meals, and 447 kids fed for a year. It was probably the most fun anyone had ever had wearing a hairnet.

Family Caregivers' Month

November is Family Caregivers' Month, a time to remember and honor those who are caring for loved ones. We encourage those of you who are caring for someone, either physically, emotionally, or long distance, to also care for yourself. We also encourage those of you who know a family caregiver to lend your support in some way. Send a card, offer a meal or dinner out, offer to sit with their loved one, or make a phone call. God cares and so should we.

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.

Our November Heifer International Project

With November comes the onset of winter, and a warm hat or pair of mittens is appreciated. With that in mind we are collecting funds to send to Heifer International to supply families all over the world with wool producing animals such as an alpaca, a llama, sheep, and angora rabbits. The wool from these animals provides opportunities for these families to build better lives by providing not only warm clothing, but also a profitable industry.

Every \$10 you donate will add a pair of mittens or a hat to the display in the church office, and these items will be given to Lincoln Elementary School to keep our young friends across the street warm.

Check out the display in the church office window for more information about our current Heifer International project and to note our progress. Offering envelopes are available near the office, or simply make your check out to FUMC with Heifer on the memo.



Connect Your Passion With God's Mission

UMC #GivingTuesday is November 28

On November 28, 2017, United Methodists will once again come together to support the work of Advance missionaries and projects on UMC #GivingTuesday.

100 percent of the money you give through The Advance goes to the missionary or project you choose to support. What is your passion? Consider supporting a project in an area you care about, such as food and agriculture, church development, disaster response and relief, education, health, economic empowerment, social justice, WASH/ Water and Sanitation, women and children, and mission personnel. Wherever your heart points you, The Advance can connect you with projects and missionaries who need your help bringing light, love, and life to every corner of the world.

Now would be a good time to visit umcmmission.org/give and check out the amazing opportunities that The Advance offers. More than 300 missionaries and more than 800 projects. And every dollar you give goes directly to the recipient(s) you select.

Thank you for your passion as we live out God's mission together. Should you have any questions about UMC #GivingTuesday, please contact advance@umcmmission.org.

women & kids

Kids' Christmas Program

Mark your calendar for our Children's Christmas Program. Join us in the sanctuary at 10:00am on Sunday, December 10th. The children will be working hard from now until then to put on a great program!

November Women's Events

No UMW Unit Meeting

Nov. 1 - More than Moms,
6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Nov. 6 - Board Meeting,
9:30 a.m., Library

Nov. 8 - More than Moms,
6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Nov. 14 - Miriam Circle,
1:30 p.m., Library

Nov. 14 - Hearts & Hands Circle,
5:30 p.m., Gathering Place

Nov. 15 - More than Moms,
6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Nov. 16 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

Nov. 16 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

Nov. 20 - Deborah Circle,
10:00 a.m., Parlor

Nov. 28 - Miriam Circle,
1:30 p.m., Library

Nov. 29 - More than Moms,
6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Hearts and Hands

The Hearts and Hands group will be meeting on a somewhat regular schedule this fall. Planned meetings for Hearts and Hands are as follows:
November 3 & 4: Help with the Ingathering or before as needed
November 14: Hear about Janet's trip to Nigeria

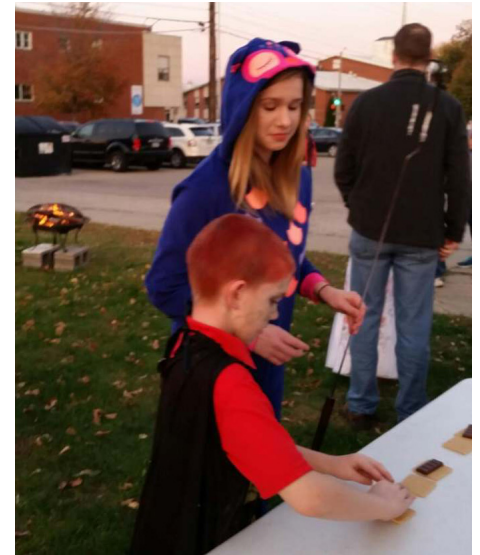
Questions? Call Karen Page at 319-230-7200 or e-mail kp224@cfu.net.



Trunk or Treat: Another year, another success! Thank you to everyone who had a trunk and helped make the night fun and successful.

Thank you to everyone who came and participated and enjoyed the night with our wonderful Church family.

Here are some of our memorable moments from the night.



Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, cards and acts of kindness following my accident. I am blessed to be making a good recovery.

Mark Fransdal

A special thank you to the church and Pastor Steve and Janet and everyone who attended the "surprise" 50th anniversary our family held for us in Scott hall on Sunday, September 17th. It was awesome! Thanks!

Dennis and Charlene Waller

Thank you for the rose for my 80th birthday, and card from the staff. All of you do a great job.

Al Messerschmidt

Thank you for the beautiful rose for my 80th birthday. We are sorry that we weren't home.

Keith Thurman

Thank you for the rose and card for my recent birthday. Thank you to Flo for the birthday greeting. We always enjoy Flo's visits.

Harold Powell

The family of Martha Nation would like to thank members of the First Methodist Church for your expressions of sympathy and support following Martha's death. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Family of Martha Nation

Thanks to everyone who sent cards, prayed for our family & gave all the hugs. And to Carol Dick for the grief book. I'll need it!

Jill Reckemmer & family

Thank you to everyone that had a car and joined in the fun of decorating your car. We had some many great themes. It was so much fun seeing everyone's creative side come out. I would also like to thank everyone that worked behind the scenes to make this night happen!

We look forward to seeing everyone back next year.

Jenna Engel

I just wanted to take a moment to let you know what having the space at First UMC means to us. There is much love, gratitude and support. This special group is changing lives around them as well as their own. Thank you for your support and for sharing your beautiful space!!

Mary and the Zumba Ladies

Sympathy to:

- Jill Reckemmer on the death of her mother.
- Lori Price and her family on the death of her father.
- Family and friends of Martha Nation. Martha passed away October 8 at age 104.
- Family and friends of Fran Kuehl, who passed away Oct. 13.
- Family and friends of Madge McCoskey, who passed away October 16 at the age of 101.
- Sam Barr and his family on the death of his mother on October 22.
- Pastor Matt German and his family on the death of his grandmother on October 22.

Any Mobile App Developers?

Is there anyone in our congregation with experience developing mobile apps on either the Android or iOS platforms? Chris Congdon in the church media office would love to have a conversation with you. Contact him at chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com.

It's (Almost) Christmas Tree Time!

It is that time of the year again to prepare your beautiful Christmas Tress for our annual Christmas Tree Walk. Set up will occur between November 27th and December 1st in our Gathering Place. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and let us know how much space you will need and if you need to plug in. For questions talk to Emily.

Financial Update--

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| September receipts: | \$57,509 |
| September expenses: | \$58,785 |
| YTD Receipts: | \$608,391 |
| YTD Expenses: | \$609,075 |
| YTD shortfall: | (\$684) |
| Mortgage balance as of October 26: | \$497,600. |

Consider Automatic Giving

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

Attendance- week ending

| | 10/1 | 10/8 | 10/15 | 10/22 |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Transformation | 89 | 89 | 106 | 75 |
| Traditional 8:30 | 143 | 130 | 134 | 149 |
| Traditional 11:00 | 89 | 86 | 116 | 111 |
| FUSION | 25 | 20 | 25 | 32 |

First United Methodist Church

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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

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

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

Our Pastors

Steve Williams, Senior Pastor, steve.williams@aboutfirst.com

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

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Emily Terpstra, Custodian

December newsletter deadline is November 20.

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