

aboutfirst

LOVE FIRST. LET'S GATHER, GROW, GO TOGETHER



NOVEMBER 2023, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, CEDAR FALLS

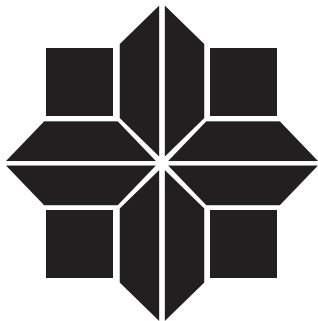
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Issue 277,
November 2023

First United Methodist Church
718 Clay Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa, 50613
aboutfirst.com

Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month.
Email to:
katie.greuel@aboutfirst.com



aboutfirst.com

news

What Gift Can You Bring?

This year's stewardship campaign is kicking off in January 2024, rather than the previous Fall giving time period. Keep up your usual giving through the end of the year, and plan to pledge during epiphany with our special series, "What Gift Can You Bring?". We will celebrate this time of renewal and rededication of the new year and our collective contributions with daily devotions!

CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

Total Revenues thru 9-30-23	\$556,468
Total Expenses thru 9-30-23	(\$573,152)
Deficit thru 9-30-23	(\$16,684)

We are slipping further behind on our 2023 apportionment payments to the Iowa Annual Conference. We are now \$13,963 behind in our apportionment payments. In order to pay our apportionments in full and pay all anticipated expenses for the final three months of 2023 we will need to receive \$227,000 in revenues in the final three months of 2023. This works out to an average of \$75,666 per month. We have averaged \$61,830 in monthly revenues so far this year.

The Finance Committee has faith in our Congregation's giving ability to make up this deficit and end the year with all bills and apportionments paid. Please consider your giving level for the remainder of 2023; we encourage you to have faith in yourself and your church. Together we can overcome the deficit and end the year on a positive note.

United Women in Faith October Update

The October UWF meeting began with Certificates of Recognition for Cedar Falls First in hosting the Pictured Rocks District meeting Sept 22nd. Special thank yous are due to all who helped in planning and supporting this event. Special thanks to church staff including Chris Congdon, John Bentley, and Pastor Karen for their assistance.

The meeting also included a brief memorial for members who have past during this past year. Marilyn Geesaman, Lura Treloar, Donna Allee, and Marilyn Pape were members of Mary Circle and Colleen Crow was a member of Deborah Circle.

Pastor Scott provided the program describing his trip to the Boundary Waters. UWF helped to financially support his trip last year when he went with other clergy members to canoe in this northern wilderness area. He shared pictures and described the impact of the seclusion, serenity, and struggle as spiritual and renewing. We hope this was a good start his time away for further renewal over the next month.

A Request from Pastor Karen

Would you be willing to write a devotion for our 2024 Generosity Stewardship Campaign? Our focus is on Gratitude and Generosity. Our yearly stewardship campaign will look a little different this year. Instead of ending 2023 with our Stewardship Campaign, we will begin the New Year focusing on our Gratitude to God and to the Congregation of First United Methodist church for the impact this church has had on our lives and in our community. We will focus on being generous not only with our offerings of money, but also with our offerings of time and the Spiritual Gifts God has given each of us.

This will take place during the Church Season of Epiphany, where we remember the light of a special star that led the Wise Men to the Christ Child and the generous gifts they gave and the gratitude they showed. We would like to have a devotion available each day of the week for our congregation, by our congregation for the month of January 2024.

Would you be willing to write one? Would you be generous in this way? Here's some ideas that might spark your own imagination:

- Reflect on the story of the Wise Men, the star they followed, the gifts they brought to Jesus (Matthew 2:1-13)
- How have you experienced generosity in your life?
- How did you learn to be generous?
- How has God been generous to you?
- What does it mean to you to be a part of this church?
- How has being a part of this church helped you grow in your faith?
- How has being a part of this church helped you grow in generosity?
- Why are you generous with your time, gifts and offerings?

A GUIDE TO WRITING A SIMPLE DEVOTION

1. Select a short scripture.
2. Share your thoughts and/or reflections.
(300-400 words is a good length)
3. End in a prayer.

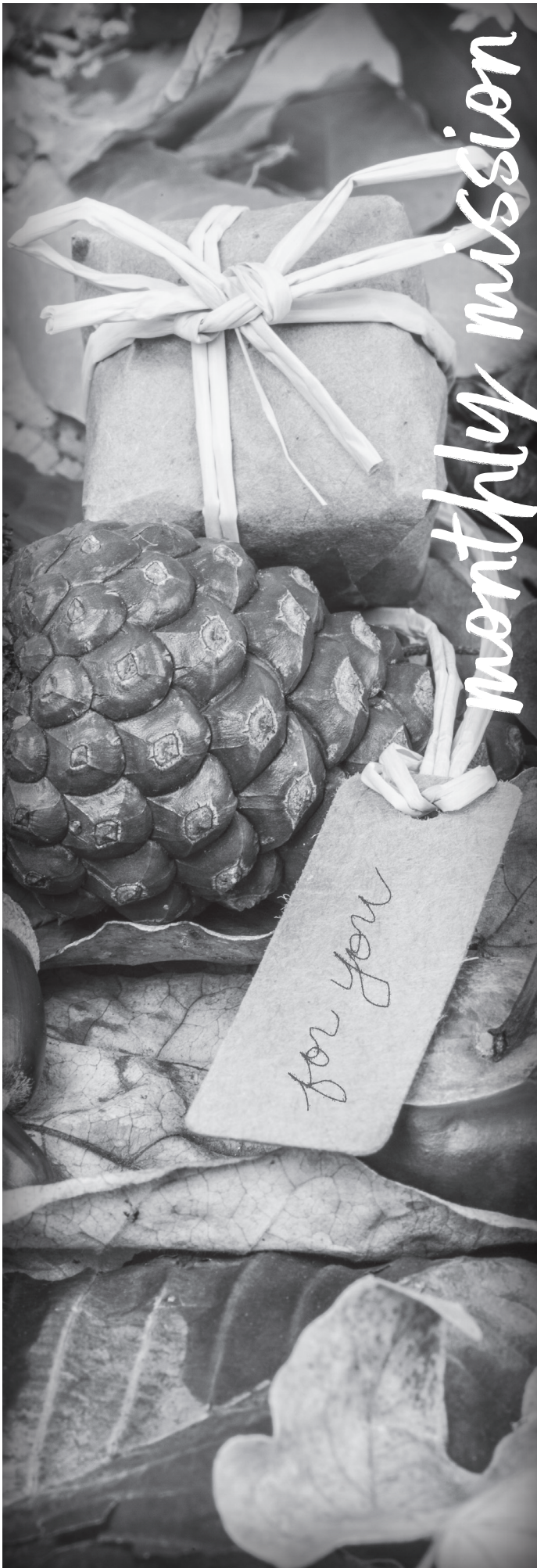
If you have a thought and would like some putting it together, Pastor Scott or Pastor Karen would be happy to assist you. We would like to have these by **November 30, 2023**, or anytime before that. You can turn those in to Pastor Karen at karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com or leave them at the office for her.

We are looking forward to this Season of Generosity and Gratitude in January 2024, following the celebration of the greatest gift we have ever received, the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Thanks for your generosity,

Pastor Karen





The Giving Tree

November is a time of harvest and abundance, but not all of us are blessed with plenty. So, this month we have a variety of mission opportunities to assist those living in scarcity. This month's missions that we are supporting include The Hospitality House, Love Inc.(Wee Care), Community Meals, Salvation Army and Heifer International. You will find the GivingTree in the Gathering Space. Take an envelope and follow the instructions to contribute to:

HOSPITALITY HOUSE

The Hospitality House is opening an overnight warming center at 1003 Mulberry in Waterloo starting in November. They need donations to buy drinks, snacks and breakfast items.

SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army has a need for bus passes for low income clients. This service helps people in the Cedar Valley get to work, school and to doctor appointments.

HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

Heifer's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. Heifer does this by providing appropriate livestock, training and related services to communities of small-scale farmers worldwide.

WEE CARE

The Wee Care ministry helps provide diapers and other baby items for those in the Cedar Valley who are in need of such items. This is a part of the Love INC ministries organization.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Community Meal is a free meal served at our Fellowship Hall every Tuesday night from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Once a month our church is responsible for providing the meal and serving it.

Matthew 25:40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'"

One Day Missions - Gather, Grow, GO

Midwest Missions

The next trip will take place on Tuesday, November 14. We leave at 9:00 a.m., stop for lunch and work from 12:30 to 4:00. We should be back at the church before 6:30. Activities at Midwest Missions Jefferson include rice meal packaging, weaving mats, sewing, repacking kits and cutting things out for future use. There's a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center. Join us for fun, fellowship and a feeling of satisfaction. This will probably be our last trip until this spring.



Salvation Army

We've adopted a Red Kettle! On Saturday, November 18 FUMC will be manning the kettle at Fareway on Main Street, Cedar Falls from 10 a.m.

until 6 p.m. Sign up at the Welcome Center to ring the bell with friends or family. There will be 1 hour shifts. Help the Salvation Army to help the Cedar Valley. You can also sign up for other days, times and locations by signing in at Register to Ring. <https://www.registertoring.com/>

North East Iowa Food Bank

We will only need one crew this month for the NEIFB due to Thanksgiving preparations. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for Thursday, November 9th from 2 pm to 4 pm. Since we won't be doing the 3rd Tuesday this month, you may want to consider spending the day at Midwest Missions.



Help the Wee Ones

Donate to our Wee Care closet. 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 in our own community 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. Your donations make a difference.



Community Meal

A free meal is served every Tuesday from 4:30 to 6:00 pm. It is open to anyone in the community as an opportunity to meet with friends, or

to stretch their food budget a bit. We host the meal every week, and other area churches take turns providing the meal and the workers. Our church's commitment is the 4th Tuesday of each month. **Thank you to all who have volunteered to be a part of this. At this point our biggest need is dessert – cookies or bars are preferred.** If you are willing to bake for the meal the 4th Tuesdays of each month, or any month, please contact Maxine Kehret at 319-610-4191.

Angel Tree for Area Families

This year we are again partnering with North Cedar and Lincoln Schools to share a little Christmas love to some families in our own community. The school guidance counselors have provided us with a wish list for families from each school. Each child will have two tags on the tree, one for clothing and the other for toys, books and other small items. The Angel Tree and wish list tags will be on display in the Gathering Space starting Friday, November 17th. Here's how it works: select a tag, purchase the gift, and return the gift to the church by Sunday, December 10. We'd appreciate it if you would wrap it, but you may bring it back unwrapped. Please be sure the tag is securely attached. If you'd prefer not to shop feel free to make a donation and we'll shop for you! (If you write a check please make it out to FUMC with Angel Tree in the memo.) We are also in need of \$25.00 gift cards to Walmart to give to the families. Julie Fee is the contact for the Angel Tree ministries this year. Feel free to direct your questions to her at bjfee@cfu.net or 296-8963.





November 7 - Grief Support

Where: Church Parlor

When: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

If you have suffered the loss of someone special, you are welcome, whether you are a member of our church or not. If you know someone who is grieving, please pass along this information.

Nov. 8 - Disciple Bible Study Class

When: Wednesdays 6:30

Join Pastor Scott on Wednesdays at 6:30 for a new Disciple Bible Study program starting on November 8. Dive into the Bible with an app and in-person/ Zoom meetings, featuring readings, audio lectures, videos, and discussions with fellow participants. Explore 60% of the Bible in 24 weeks. Visit aboutfirst.com sign up today!

November 9 - Food Bank

Where: Food Bank

We will only need one crew this month for the NEIFB due to Thanksgiving preparations. There is a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for Thursday, November 9th from 2 pm to 4 pm.

November 14 - Card Making

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00 to 4:00 pm (Come-and-go)

Come join the fun! Come-and-Go and Come-as-You-Are and help us make cards to sell on the card rack outside the church office. Bring a snack to

share if you'd like. Buy some cards and send them for Thanksgiving! Cards are only \$.50 each and this quarter they will be sent to the N.E. Iowa Food Bank.

November 16 - 1st Friends Potluck

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:00 pm

Come and join us for good food, fellowship and fun. This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with others in the church and have lunch with the church staff. Couples and singles are welcome. All you have to do is bring a dish to share and your own table service. We will have the coffee pot on and ready to serve at 12:00. Dominoes, cribbage, and card games follow the meal until 2:00.

November 27 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30-6:00 pm

Our monthly Blood Drive will be Monday, November 27 from 12:30-6:00. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill, and the need is great. Appointments are encouraged, but not required. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org.

November 27 - Crafters Corner

Where: Parlor

When: 6:00-8:00 pm

Get your crafting project lined up and join the group on the 4th Monday of the month from 6:00-8:00 in the

Parlor. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

Yoga Mondays

Where: Fellowship Hall

When: 4:45-5:45 pm

Join us for an hour of yoga on Monday afternoons at 4:45. Bring your own yoga mat (and blocks if you have them) and meet in Fellowship Hall. The cost is \$7 per session (cash or check only).

Facebook Fridays

On Fridays about noon one of our pastors will give a preview of next Sunday's message.

Worship Schedule

SUNDAY MORNING

Worship Schedule

8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary, live stream at aboutfirst.com
9:00-11:15	Fellowship, Gathering Place
9:15 am	Transformation Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall live stream at aboutfirst.com
10:00 am	Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

Previous services are archived on our First UMC CF YouTube channel.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

5:30-6:00	Filling Station Meal, Gathering Place
6:00-7:30	G3 Youth Ministry
6:00-6:30	FUSION Tonight, Theater Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:30	BLAST, Lower Level
6:30	Small Groups
7:30	Chancel Choir Rehearsal



Services:

"CHRISTMAS IS COMING"
Sermon Series, Sundays during Advent
8:30, 9:15, 11:15 AM

SERVICE OF MEMORIES, GRIEF SUPPORT SERVICE
DEC. 10, 4PM

This is a special worship service for anyone who is hurting. We will have special music, messages of hope and a time of fellowship.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE
DEC. 24, 5 & 7 PM

Lit by gently glowing candles, featuring familiar carols and wonderful scriptures telling of Christ's birth.

Musical Offerings:

CHRISTMAS BELL CONCERT
DEC. 3, 7:00 PM
Our Traditional Annual Holiday Handbell Concert!

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS CHOIR CONCERT
DEC. 10, 8:30 & 11:15 AM
Experience the joy and wonder of the season as expressed in the music of Advent!

Service Opportunities:

CHRISTMAS TREE FOREST
NOV. 27- ADVENT SEASON
Any individuals or groups are

welcome and encouraged to bring and decorate a tree on Nov. 27! All trees will be located in the Gathering Place to enjoy. Other trees to enjoy will be the Angel Tree and Memory Tree.

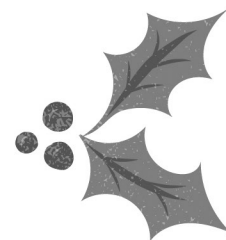
HANGING OF THE GREENS
DEC 1, 6 PM - SET UP
DEC. 2, 9 AM - DECORATING

Join us for the "Hanging of the Greens" event as we come together to beautifully adorn the church in preparation for the Advent season. Coffee and donuts will be provided Saturday morning!

Kids Activities:

KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
DEC. 10, SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR
Join us for a heartwarming children's Christmas program for the timeless story of Jesus' birth through music, drama, and holiday cheer.

ADVENT ORNAMENT WORKSHOP
DEC. 6, 6:15-7:15 PM
Gather your family for a special Advent Ornament Workshop. Create five distinct ornaments and collaborate on a collective art piece, fostering creativity and togetherness during this holiday season.



Find your Place in God's Great Story



Help Needed!

TECH VOLUNTEERS

Tech volunteers get to use the same cool equipment and do the same important job as our paid staff, but they have more flexibility to pick and choose the Sundays and services they work. We can't do this without volunteers. No experience necessary – we can teach you what you need to know. Email chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com for more info.

GREETING

As a greeter you are our guest first encounter. You will be responsible for welcoming all who enter our doors. We need greeters at the First and Second Services. Greeters will be placed at the main doors to Welcome our guests. Email Jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com for more info.

EDUCATION

Explore various opportunities to join our ministry teams, including becoming a lead teacher for 1st-2nd graders in Sunday

school, engaging with kids from Kindergarten to 5th grade on Wednesday nights, or working with 6th-12th graders in the Youth program. Additionally, there's an opening in our Wednesday afternoon cook team. If your availability is limited you can still contribute by donating food for our Wednesday night meals. Reach out to Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com to learn more or get involved.

Reminders:

ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flower calendar 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.

HOSPITAL INFO

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

the church office.

JOIN THE FACEBOOK GROUP

We have created a Facebook group called First Friends and Family to allow everyone to interact and share the ways they are finding to Love First. Head over to our church Facebook page, select 'visit group'. You should find the button under the banner. Want to join? Click the member request button and we will be sure to add you.

DO YOU WANT TO RIDE THE BUS?

Winter is coming and with it the dicey roads. If you like the idea of door to door service and live in Cedar Falls, consider riding the bus to church as an option. The bus picks up riders for the 11:15 worship service. Please contact the bus coordinators Janet & Steve MacTaggart at 319-404-0077. They can answer your questions get you on the schedule for rides.

education news

Harvest Hullabaloo Thank you!

Harvest Hullabaloo was a success! We would like to thank everyone that help put on the event. It was so much fun seeing all the families and kids in customs with smiles on their faces.



YOUTH

Thank you!

On October 11, the youth hosted their pancake dinner fundraiser at the filling station. They made and served pancakes, eggs, and fresh fruit to raise money for next summer's mission trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Thanks to your generosity, we raised over \$300 from this dinner! All funds will go directly toward paying for traveling and lodging expenses for the mission trip. We can't thank you enough for your

support! A special thank you goes to Dee Behr, who generously donated most of our ingredients for the dinner. Thank you, Dee!

Cookie Mix Fundraiser

Do you need fresh cookies for Thanksgiving? The youth will be making homemade cookie mixes to fundraise for our summer 2024 mission trip to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY. A variety of flavors will be available in the gathering space on Sunday, November 12. These mixes make delicious cookies, and are a great way to support our youth while satisfying your sweet tooth!

Join us for Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School on Sunday mornings at 10:00! Youth

in grades 7-12 meet in the cafe on the third floor. Each Sunday, we will explore our faith through a Bible lesson, fellowship, and serving others. Bring your friends! We can't wait to see you on Sunday mornings!

Be a part of our crazyfunbusy Wednesday night fun!

Join us on Wednesday nights for food, fun, and fellowship for youth in grades 6-12! Grab dinner at the Filling Station starting at 5:30, then join us on the third floor at 6:00 for Fusion, followed by games and small groups for youth in grades 6-12. Our nights wrap up at 7:30. All are welcome— bring your friends!



Send a Card or Note

Send a card or a letter to our friends in care facilities and unable to attend church. Phone calls and cards are also much appreciated for

those who are staying home. Think of who sits around you in worship or in a group, and give them a call or a card. We still have updated photo directories at our Welcome Center. Pick one up Monday-Friday.

**Judy Focht (rm36),
Geri Gilbert (rm 39),
Shirley Huffman (rm 19)**
Martin Suites
420 E. 11th St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Wanda Chase, Tony Lake
(rm 9), Homer Leymaster
(rm 13), Emogene Marty,
Marcia Simpson**
Windhaven Assisted Living
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Barb Spates
Thalman Square
5500 S. Main St
Cedar Falls IA 50613

**Sue DeBower (201),
Harold Krieb**
Deery Suites
5301 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Faye Rohwedder
Nation Cottage
5111 Caraway Lane
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**Vivian Hill, Donna Hoffman
(D109), Dorothy Schwab
(MC4), Mary Shepherd**
New Aldaya Lifescapes
7511 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Joy Sires, Donna Tiller (1304)
CedarStone Senior Living
4715 Algonquin Dr
Cedar Falls IA 50613

Betty Fanning, Chet Starr
Bickford Cottage
5101 University Ave
Cedar Falls IA 50613

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

Kathy Gill
LaPorte City Specialty Care
1100 US-218
La Porte City IA 50651

Dixie Messerschmidt
Boysen Heights Senior Living
765 Boysen Rd NE #115
Cedar Rapids IA 52402

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

Delores Berger
613 W. North St Apt 7
Madrid IA 50156

Jack Hovelson
14581 W Parkwood Dr #101
Surprise AZ 85374

Give Through Our Website or Your Phone

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

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

<http://aboutfirst.com/giving>

or, download the GivePlus app to your mobile device and give directly from your phone. Available for androids and i-people. Or use our handy QR Code below!



Thank Yous

A special thank you to Jane Wyckoff for delivering a beautiful coral-colored carnation in celebration of my birthday and for a most enjoyable visit.
Alvira Morris

Thanks to Jane for the beautiful carnation and the visit for my 85th birthday. Also the birthday card sent by the church staff. The love and hugs from our church people are very special and keep me going.
Thanks. Buelah Stock

Thank you to my church family for the prayers, hugs, lovely sympathy cards, preparing and serving the luncheon on the passing of my brother, Curtis. I am grateful and appreciative to Pastor Scott for his prayers, kindness, and officiating the memorial service.
Nancy Miller

Thank you to Jane for delivering my beautiful flower for my birthday. Also thank you to all my church family for the birthday greetings. It was a special birthday with many memories.
Marilyn Roudebush

We want to send a big thank you to everyone who assisted Cedar Falls First United Women in Faith (UWF) in hosting the Pictured Rocks District meeting on Sept 22nd. Feedback from attendees was very positive. Special thanks to church staff including Chris Congdon, John Bentley, and Pastor Karen for their assistance with this event.

Thank you for the beautiful birthday flower plus thank you to the dear delivery gal, Jane

Wyckoff. It is always such a lovely sight to open the door to Jane , her smile and the gift of a flower . Also, a special thank you for the birthday card signed by all the staff. It made me feel so special! Smiles, Blessings,
Marlene Baumhover

Sympathy

Christine Belz and her family on the death of her son, Kevin, on September 10. His celebration of life was held September 30.

Alvira Morris and her family on the death of her granddaughter, Molly Morris, on October 9.

Deb Yankey and family on the death of her husband, Al Natvig, on October 11.

Family and Friends of Marlys Cook, who died October 12.

Congratulations

Amanda and Jake Sandvick on the birth of their second daughter, Crystal, on October 13.

Church Directories

If your picture is in the church directory, you have a church directory waiting for you at the Welcome Center. Find the one with your name on it and take it home with you today.

Family Caregivers' Month

November is National Family Caregivers' Month, a time to honor those who are caring for loved ones. We encourage those of

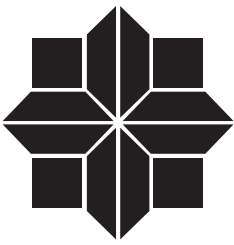
you who are caring for someone, either physically, emotionally, or long distance, to also care for yourself. Make sure you have a good support system, others who can help you by taking some of the burden off your shoulders. God is always present in your care giving, often through the loving concern of family and friends. Your church family cares and is praying for you and your loved one. If you know of a family caregiver, send your love in a card, an offer to help, or in a listening phone call.

Poinsettias

Your purchase of a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one will brighten up the season. Each poinsettia costs \$15. Deadline to order is December 20. You will find an order form at the Welcome Center or in the office, or you can mail your check to the church and include a note clearly indicating who the poinsettia is in memory or honor of, and by whom. You may take your poinsettia home with you on or after the Christmas Eve service.



**We are a
Dementia
Friendly
Organization!**



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

Sunday Worship

8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
9:00-11:15	Fellowship, Gathering Place
9:15 am	Transformation Contemporary Worship, Fellowship Hall
10:00 am	Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am	Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary

Television

Cedar Falls (CFU) Channels 18 or 95.5

Friday @ 8:00 pm, Sunday @ 9:00 am

Waterloo (MediaCom) Channel 1

Sundays @ 11:00am & 8:00 pm

Our Pastors

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

Karen Nelson, Associate Pastor, karen.nelson@aboutfirst.com

Staff

(in alphabetical order)

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

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

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

Ben Edwards,
Transformation Music Coordinator

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

Haleigh Ernst, Middle School Youth
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Jane Wyckoff, Parish Visitor Coordinator