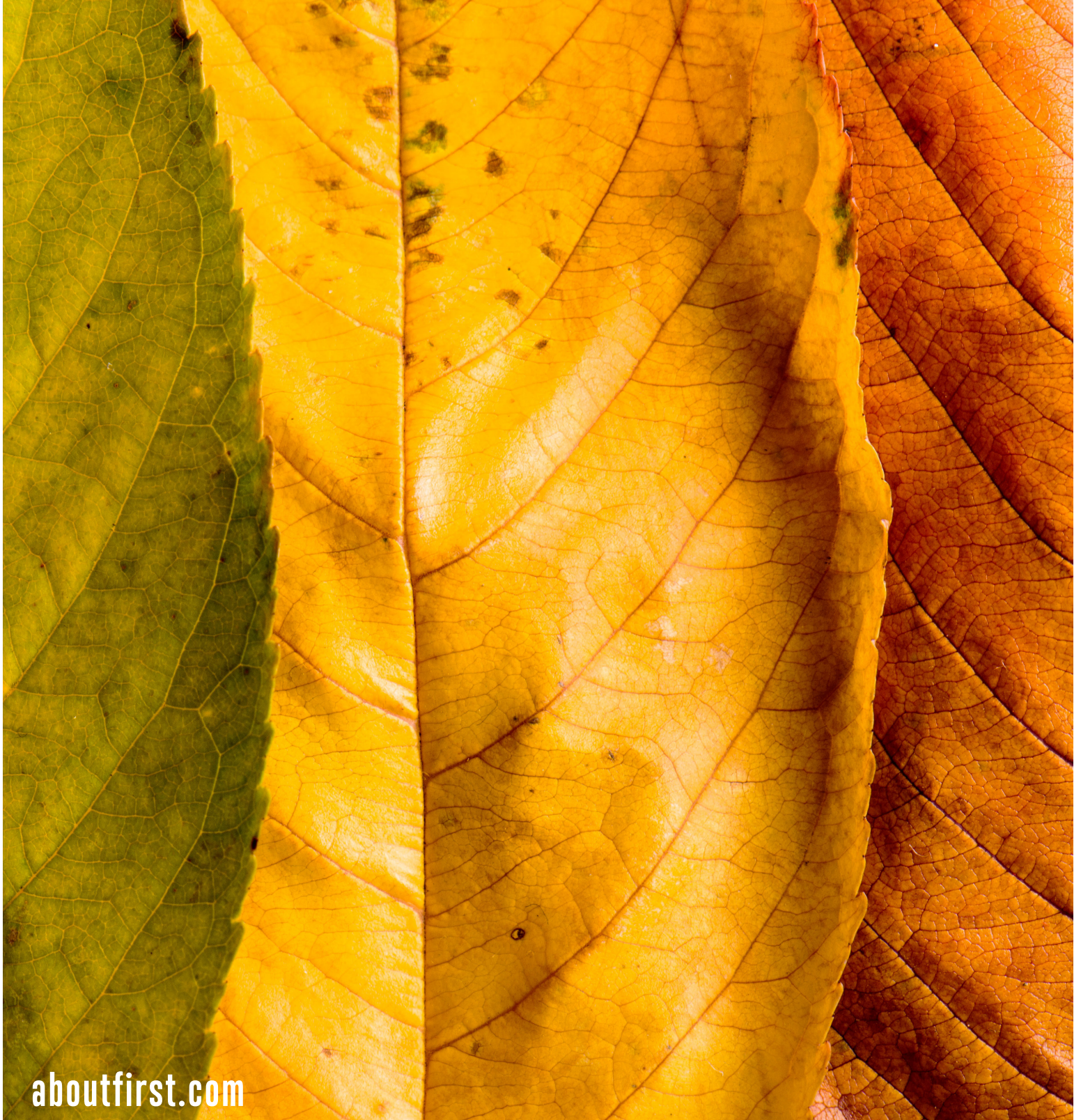


# aboutfirst news

October, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls

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



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issue 217, October, 2018

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

Announcements and editorial content for publication may be submitted to the First UMC media office by the 20th of each preceding month. Email to: [chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:chris.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

### What If . . .

Many of us work in very fast-paced environments that demand results. These results are quantified by numbers. Often times those numbers are calculated by deliverable products, dollars grossed, customer acquisition rates, and project completion dates. Anything less than that is measured as failure. In so many ways it makes sense. It takes products, dollars, clients, and completed goals to make the business world tick. Often times this permeates into the church culture as well.

As a pastor of a large church and with a large staff, there is always the temptation to think this way also. Instead of products, we like to speak about program ministries. Instead of dollars grossed, we look at giving trends. Instead of customer acquisition rates, we measure worship attendance. Instead of project completion dates, we like to talk about achievable God-sized dreams.

Whether an organization is a business or a non-profit like a church, it needs to meet certain quantified numbers to sustain itself. The difference in the church is instead of hoarding our resources, we are called to give them away.

What if we changed the metrics by which we measure ministry success...

What if...deliverable goods changed to the number of those who profess Christ as Lord and Savior?

What if.....customer acquisition changed to the number of those participating in missions outside the church walls...

What if... dollars grossed changed to the amount of dollars allocated to serving the poor, the orphans, the widows, and the needy among us?

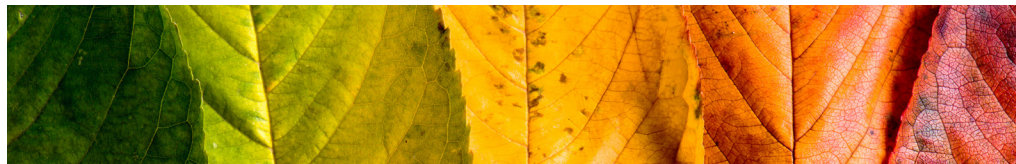
What if... project completion dates were changed to bold dreams aligned with God's mission and vision?

What if...

I am fortunate to be serving a church where the metric for effective ministry is not simply based in numbers. While the quantifiable numbers seem to demonstrate effective ministry, there is not a quantifiable metric to know someone is going deeper in their relationship with Christ. The only way to know that is to hear their story. These are stories I love to hear, and they are in plenty at First United Methodist Church.

May we continue to be a church that quantifies success by teaching the Gospel and living it in our daily lives. When we live this way, the Lord will add to the number daily those being saved.

Be Bold, Be Strong,  
Pastor Matt



## Transformation Chair Team Needed

We are in desperate need of help from 2-4 people to set chairs up for the first Sunday of the month in Transformation. You can come in and set up on Friday evening or come in at 7:45 on Sunday morning. This is a once a month commitment for 20 minutes. If you can help please contact Jenna Engel.



**Teaching Series Continues**  
looking deeper into the waypoints on A Disciple's Path

October 7 - Service  
October 14 - Witness

8:30 & 11:00 am, Sunday mornings

## World Communion Sunday offering – October 7

Congregations all over the world will be sharing communion on October 1. On World Communion Sunday your special offering helps to provide scholarships for national and international graduate students whom God has gifted to learn and to serve. Imagine what the world would be like if the church today imitated Jesus' affirmation of the full dignity and God-given potential of all women and men—especially those who've historically been assigned to the world's margins. Use the special offering envelope in your bulletin to support this.

## Fall-Season Smash!

We're having a great season at Fusion Tonight this fall. Right now, we're in a series which celebrates the personal ministries of you, our church's people. We're sharing great stories of the awesome things you do.

Later this fall, we'll have a second series where some pretty big-name preachers from the Iowa Conference of the UMC will join us on the theme of "If I could preach my last sermon". So, we'll have the best, doing their best.

This is not a Fusion Tonight season to miss. Fusion Tonight is our weekly worship talk show. It's fun and it's serious as we fuse our church life and our secular life into one integrated life of faith. Our host, Jon Cooper, will start the show on a light note before leading into our open-mic prayer time, a church life segment, and offering before our featured speaker takes the stage. We welcome you to come experience this different way to worship and we guarantee that you will be challenged to "be Christ for one another". Wednesday nights, 7:15 p.m. upstairs in the theater.



**Q** Do Babies, Toddlers and Children Belong in Worship Services?

**A** Absolutely, Yes!

### A note to kids:

We're glad you're here. We hope you have fun today singing and praying and learning about Jesus. Thanks for coming!

### A Note to Parents:

Our church enthusiastically welcomes your growing family to fully celebrate with us.

### May we suggest:

- **Relax.** God put the wiggle in children; don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house. If you need a little more wiggle room, there's lots of space behind the last row.
- **Sit towards the front or an aisle** where it is easier for young ones to see & hear. Quietly explain the parts of the the worship service
- **Sing the songs, pray the prayers and say the responses.** Children learn from our actions.
- If you feel as though you must leave worship with your child, please come back! Remember, Jesus says, "Let the children come to me", Matthew 19:14

### A Note to All

The presence of children is a gift to our church. Like all of us, they are members of the Body of Christ and a reminder of the growth and future of our church. Please welcome our children and their parents, and give them a big smile of encouragement.

## Office hours October 15-26

Lisa will be away from the office the last two weeks of October. When possible, volunteers will be in the office a few hours a day. Be patient while she is away - it makes a difference when the office is not fully staffed.

## Two Positions Open

Join a great staff that works for a great cause. Each of the positions below is a five to ten hour per week part-time position.

### Coordinator of High School Youth Activities

Principal Focus

- Bring general oversight to the high school youth program, grades 9-12.
- Collaborate with Coordinator of Middle School Youth and provide Christian learning, fellowship, and service opportunities for youth primarily on Wednesday night.
- Develop relationships with youth and parents outside the walls of the church buildings.
- Provide leadership to adult volunteers.

### Coordinator of Middle School Youth Activities

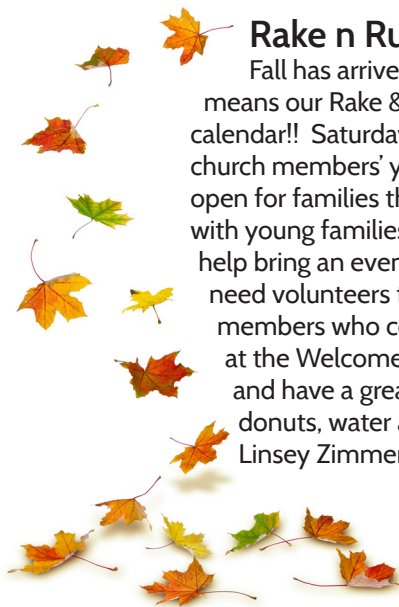
Principal Focus

- Bring general oversight to the middle school youth program, grades 5-8.
- Collaborate with Coordinator of High School Youth and provide Christian learning, fellowship, and service opportunities for youth primarily on Wednesday night.
- Develop relationships with youth and parents outside the walls of the church buildings.
- Provide leadership to adult volunteers

Interested? Talk to Pastor Scott.

## Rake n Run ( now w/ nursery!)

Fall has arrived and soon the leaves will be covering our yards. That means our Rake & Run event will be happening soon! Mark it on your calendar!! Saturday, October 27th at 9 a.m. we need your help raking our church members' yards. **NEW THIS YEAR!!!** The church nursery will be open for families that volunteer from 9-12ish in order to give those of you with young families the opportunity to rake with us!! We hope this will help bring an even bigger group of wonderful volunteers to help rake! We need volunteers to help rake AND we need nominations of fellow church members who could use some help this Fall. There will be a sign up sheet at the Welcome Center for nominations. Bring your rakes, tarps and trucks and have a great time with your church friends! As always, there will be donuts, water and coffee!! If you have any questions, contact Kaleb or Linsey Zimmerman at [linseyfletcher@gmail.com](mailto:linseyfletcher@gmail.com) or (641) 777-6402.



## Two Great September Picnics

### Fall Kick-Off

Our fall kick-off picnic on September 6 surpassed all expectations with over 200 people present, and informal counts showed a third of those in attendance were new to our church. A free-will basket at the food line collected \$180 which was donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund - money from our neighbors will be used to help our neighbors. The HOME Team thanks everyone who helped, as well as the Fun and Fellowship Committee, and the Education Work Area for their support and assistance with the picnic.

### S'mores 'n' More

With the Cedar River running right through the shelter that we had reserved for our event, we had to make a last-minute move to the church. It was unfortunate to not be in our traditional riverside location, but that didn't stop us from lighting a bonfire and eating together. There was great fellowship and Paulette's Jumbalaya was excellent.

## Urgent Need: Table Set-Up Once a Month

We are in need of a small crew to set up the tables and chairs for our Community Meal on the fourth Tuesday of every month. With a few people, it doesn't take too long, and this would be an excellent mission-outreach project for a Sunday School class to adopt. Tables and chairs are to be set up in Fellowship Hall after 5:00 p.m. Monday and before 2:00 pm Tuesday for the 4th Tuesday of the month. If you or your group would like to accept this role, let us know in the church office, and we'll work with you to be sure you have access to the building and the Fellowship Hall closet. (20 tables, 8 chairs each. 3-6 people can get it done in less than 30 minutes)

## Get Your Flu Shot at First UMC

Diana Lyman will have flu shots available on Sunday morning, October 14. Stop by the chapel anytime between 9:30-11:00am. Most insurance is accepted. Medicare is 100% covered.

## Ingathering is coming up soon!

The Thanksgiving Ingathering is a way for local churches in the Iowa Conference to help alleviate hunger in Iowa and around the world. Churches put together kits for the UMCOR Depot, make bazaar and auction items, and collect money for several hunger projects. Micah 6:8 says that the Lord requires us "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." When we share from our abundance we are acting justly and reflecting our desire to serve God. It's a great way to learn about and teach kids about local and world missions.

You are invited to come to the Ingathering to see mission displays, hear a message about UM disaster relief, enjoy lunch and get a great deal at the quilt auction. Check out the bazaar items and bake sale goods, too. You might just find a perfect Christmas gift for someone on your list.

Our church is a host site for Ingathering, which will be held Saturday, November 3 this year. You can help in many ways the day of Ingathering: setting up the quilt auction display, preparing or serving the lunch, packing and loading the UMCOR kits at Lincoln School, greeting our guests, or ushering at the worship service. Contact Jan Benson or Kris Rash if you would like to help.

## Beyond Ourselves

In the book of Genesis, God created humankind and gave us dominion over all the earth. God's first directive to the human race was to keep and tend his garden - and the concept of stewardship was born.

So, we till it and tend it. We plant, we harvest and we plant again in an intentional way. We were created for the role of stewards of God's creation, and God's church.

As we begin to look ahead into the next year, it is important to be good stewards of our assets . . . to live well and to give well to maintain the good work that we do for God and for each other through this church.

Our programming teams, worship teams and finance teams are in the planning stages for our next twelve months of ministry, and you can help them immensely by taking some time during the month of October to prayerfully consider your financial gifts for 2019.

You will be given a stewardship kit including an estimate of giving card which we are asking to be returned on Sunday, October 28. These estimates of giving are your best guess of your financial gifts to First UMC in 2019. We use this information to make budgeting decisions for our church operations, staffing, and ministries.

Please know that your estimate of giving is your best guess, not a firm commitment - we don't have "pledge police". Further, we treasure your faithfulness, and your estimate of giving will always remain a confidential matter between you and our Finance Manager.

As caretakers of God's church and God's creation, we live on the fruits of our harvest, giving as needed, working as required, and growing something so much bigger than us. Good stewardship leads us to live within our means, and beyond ourselves.



## Do you know how to reach these members?

We are in the process of updating our Membership Rolls this October in preparation for our annual Charge Conference in November. As part of the process of updating our records we review our church membership rolls each year to determine who may be attending elsewhere or who may have moved away from the area. We make every effort to contact these members to ask about their preference concerning their membership at First United Methodist Church in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

But, often we do not know how to contact them. Many are young adults who have graduated from college and moved on to new communities. If you, as a parent or friend of the family, are able to provide the church office with contact information we can get in touch to ask if they would like to remain on our membership roll or have found a new church home in a new community.

We are trying to locate these members: Dustin Anderson, Megan Aries, Elise Berry, Jill Bonsall, Warren Bullock, Whitney Bullock, Jenny Camarata, Casey Connor, Jeff Cook, Melissa Eliassen, Jacob Jamison, Samuel Jamison, Dan Karns, Emma Karns, Wes Kolpek, Zachary Lane, Andrew Leonard, Jacob Limkemann, Benjamin Main, Andrew McDermott, Alicia Pierce, Carla Pierce, Mark Pierce, Edward Pruisner, Jennifer Rusch, Josh Sager, David Ursin, Brenda Young Luke Zwanziger, Mason Zwanziger.

You can let Lisa in the office know how to reach the member (mailing address or email), or you can let her know if the member wishes to remain a member or chooses not to.



## Visioning Workshop Nov 4

Pastor Scott invites all who are interested to attend an afternoon session where we will discuss and refine our congregation's guiding vision. The workshop will include elements of prayer, discernment, and discussion.

**Sunday afternoon, November 4, beginning at 1:00pm. Please allow a few hours, as this is important work.**



## News From "The Connection"

Does First UMC give you a feeling that you're connected to something big? That's by design. "Connectional" is a word we use to describe the structure of the global United Methodist Church. Each local church is connected to every other local church through a network of districts, jurisdictions and conferences. It's a structure that allows churches to function locally, while still being "connected" to the ideas and resources of a global faith community.

If you'd like to know more about how the United Methodist Church is working around our state, our nation and the world, check the news updates on the following websites. We think you'll be encouraged and inspired to know that you're a member of an organization that promotes the Gospel, justice and works for the peace of Christ worldwide.

For Iowa UMC news:  
[iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org)

For global UMC news:  
[umc.org](http://umc.org)

## House Meetings Concluded

Through the month of September, Pastor Scott attended 19 house meetings, attended by more than 220 people and got to speak with many of us face-to-face. The house meetings were a chance for Pastor Scott to get to know us in a small-group setting, and also an opportunity for him to listen to our discussions of our church's strengths and concerns.

A common thread from the meetings is that strength is in our people and our relationships. We heard stories from those who received a warm welcome on their first visit and who continue to treasure the close relationships and the opportunities to learn and serve together. The church staff was also mentioned as a strength. Staff members bring energy to the ministry, support each other, and appreciate the congregation. And, it was mentioned more than once that our congregation is loaded with skilled and devoted leaders and potential leaders.

First UMC is located in a growing community. Cedar Falls is growing in population and thus provides many opportunities for ministry and reaching new people with the Gospel. This church willingly shares its facilities to help meet the needs of the larger community. First UMC is already widely recognized in the community as a giving, generous church.

The house meetings were also a venue to discuss our concerns for our church and so we will also be looking into redefining our unifying vision, establishing an intentional plan for faith formation, look for new and creative ways to engage with young adults and families with children, and improve the consistency of our hospitality.

The result of these house meetings is a proposal for some new ministry plans, as presented by Pastor Scott Kober to the Administrative Council, at their October meeting. The Ad Council approved these plans and voted to move forward with them.

### Ministry Plans

1. **Vision.** The congregation will have a Day of Prayer and the pastors will lead a Day of Visioning for the congregation by November 30, 2018. The purpose of this day will be to prayerfully discern where God is leading First UMC and to begin framing a clear and compelling vision that will be widely shared and guide the leaders and the congregation into the future. Following the Day of Visioning, the pastors will appoint a writing team of 3-5 people who will gather the information from the workshop and draft a vision. The vision will be presented to the church council for adoption by January 31, 2019. Immediately upon adoption, the vision will be communicated widely. The lead pastor and SPRC will clarify staff alignment and staff's primary job responsibilities to align with vision by July 1, 2019.

2. **Intentional plan for faith formation** By January 1, 2019, the pastors will appoint a team of 3-5 people to develop an intentional pathway for growing into a mature faith. This team will include the Christian Education coordinator. This plan will be presented to the church council by July 1, 2019. The team will review existing faith formation ministries as well as small groups and place them along the pathway. Resources might include A Disciple's Path (Harnish) and Stride (Schreiner and Willard).

3. **Hospitality.** The pastors and H.O.M.E. Team will develop an intentional plan for extending hospitality to all people at all times, this includes the entire Sunday morning and Wednesday night experience. It will also include a method for consistently following up with guests. The team will present a proposal to the Ad. Council which will be approved and implemented by Easter, 2019.

4. **Way Forward Conversation.** The pastors will have a series of sermons on hard topics and holding up one another in love during difficult conversations. There will be forums to address the options being proposed prior to the special General Conference February 23-26, 2019.

## Worship:

### Share your musical talent

We have openings for special music at several Sunday morning services. Contact Doug Shaffer if you would like to share your gift of music. Contact: [musicman52151@gmail.com](mailto:musicman52151@gmail.com)

### 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

### Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 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.

## Outreach & Missions:

### Community Meal - Every Month

This is a great ministry of feeding and fellowship and you can be a part of it. Once a month - the fourth Tuesday - we plan, prepare, and serve the meal. Meals are served from 4:30-6:00, and the prep work begins early afternoon. If you would like to help with meal preparation or serving, contact Stephanie Buchs. We can use donations of desserts, too. We welcome new faces. There are opportunities for everyone.

Remember, while our team only serves on the fourth Tuesday, other churches are here cooking and serving every other Tuesday of the month. You're always welcome to come and eat - the community meal is completely free and open to everyone.

### Food Bank Work Night - Every Month

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](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

### Ongoing Wish Lists

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

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

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

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

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

How can you help?

# 8 Events

## Oct 2 - Food Bank Work Crew

Join us at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on Tuesday, October 2. 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 included in the reminder email or would you like to carpool to get there? Contact Lisa in the church office. [lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com](mailto:lisa.congdon@aboutfirst.com)

## Oct 2 - Grief Support Session

Where: church parlor

When: 2:00-3:30pm

If you are grieving a loss, often it can help to meet with others who care and understand. Our next monthly support session will be Tuesday, October 2nd from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the church parlor. These sessions provide a safe, confidential setting in which to share your feelings and concerns. Please call Carol through the church office with questions.

## Oct 9 - Feed Starving Children

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Waterloo has invited everyone to join them for the 12th annual food packing event for Feed My Starving Children. Join your friends at First UMC at our reserved time on Tuesday, October 9 from 7:00-9:00. Sign up on the clipboard at the Welcome Center. Or, register yourself on their website at [www.wpcw.org](http://www.wpcw.org) for a shift that works better for your schedule. It's a great event - a lot of fun -and a FREE hairnet is given to all!

## Oct 18 - 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. 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.

## Oct 23 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 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.

## Oct 23 - Crafter's Corner

Where: Parlor

When: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project, or volunteer to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade essentials for those in need, or prayer shawls. Contact Crystal Wilken at [crystalwilken@gmail.com](mailto:crystalwilken@gmail.com) with questions.

## Wednesdays Nights Are CrazyFunBusy!

Wednesday night is YOUR church night and there's something for everyone.

**Filling Station:** It's hard to get the family fed before coming to church, so let us feed you at the Filling Station in the Gathering Place 5:00-6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cost of the meal is a free-will contribution.

### B.L.A.S.T: Bible Learning And Serving Together.

BLAST is for students PK-6th grade. Join us from 6:15-7:15 in Fellowship Hall. This fall we will be diving into what it means to be a Member of First United Methodist by learning about the elements of discipleship: Prayers, Presents, Gifts, Service and Witness. This theme is following the Discipleship Study Pastor Scott and Matt are teaching this fall. We are looking for adults to help during the BLAST hour. If you would like to be involved with this Ministry please contact Jenna Engel at [jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

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
- 6:00-7:00 **A Disciple's Path**  
- study with Pastors Scott and Matt
- 6:00-7:00 **Men's Study - 33**  
- developing as authentic Christian men
- 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**

## Zumba Every Thursday!

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



## 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  
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary  
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship  
 6:30 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### Tuesday

7:00 Men's Breakfast, CF Family Restaurant  
 9:30 Tuesday Bible Study, chapel  
 9:30 Quilters/Stitchers, O59  
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall  
 6:30-8:00 Tuesday Night Fellas  
 7:00-9:00 AA, O55

### Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor  
 5:15 AA, O55  
 5:15 - 6:00 The Filling Station  
 6:00 - 7:10 Jr / Sr High Youth  
 6:00 - 7:15 BLAST! (for kids)  
 6:00 - 7:15 More Than Moms  
 6:00-7:00 A Disciple's Path, thru Oct 17  
 6:00-7:00 Men's Study group  
 6:15 - 7:30 Tower Bells  
 6:30 WOW AA, O55  
 7:15 - 8:00 FUSION Tonight  
 7:30 - 8:30 Chancel Choir

### Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

## Also Scheduled....

### MONDAY October 1

6:30 Stephen Ministry supervision

### TUESDAY October 2

10:30-11:30 3House personnel comm, parlor  
 2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor  
 6:00-8:00 Food Bank Work Crew

### WEDNESDAY October 3

CrazyFunBusy Wednesday Activities

### THURSDAY October 4

2:00 Clergy Cluster, library  
 6:30-8:00 Cadette Girl Scouts, parlor  
 6:30 UMW special board meeting, library  
 6:30 Trustees, O56

### SUNDAY October 7

World Communion Sunday  
 10:00 Padma at Frederika  
 1:30 Confirmation kids go flying  
 6:00 Confirmation  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout Troop1874, chapel

### MONDAY October 8

Feed Starving Children Westminster Pres  
 9:30 UMW Board meeting, library  
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel

### TUESDAY October 9

1:30 Miriam Circle, library  
 6:30 SPRC, O57  
 7:00-9 Feed Starving Children Westminster

### WEDNESDAY October 10

Feed Starving Children Westminster Pres  
 2:00 communion at Stanard chapel  
 5:00-8 CrazyFunBusy Wednesday Night  
 6:30 Finance Committee

### THURSDAY October 11

1:00 UMW Unit Meeting, Fellowship Hall

### SUNDAY October 14

9:30-11 Flu Shots in Chapel  
 6:00 Confirmation

### MONDAY October 15

10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor  
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

### WEDNESDAY October 17

11:00 worship service at Pinnacle Care  
 5:00-8:00 CrazyFunBusy Wednesday

### THURSDAY October 18

Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place  
 3:30 Hearts and Hands, kitchen

### FRIDAY October 19

9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library/nursery

### SATURDAY October 20

Newsletter deadline  
 6:00 New member dinner, parlor

### SUNDAY October 21

Laity Sunday  
 10:00 Padma at Frederika  
 6:00 Confirmation  
 7:00 Webelos, O55  
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

### TUESDAY October 23

12:00-5:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place  
 1:30 Miriam Circle, PARLOR  
 4:30-6:00 FUMC Community Meal  
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

### WEDNESDAY October 24

2:00 communion at Windcove  
 5:00-8:00 CrazyFunBusy Wednesday

### THURSDAY October 25

9:30 Mary Circle, parlor  
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor  
 6:15-8:00 Cadette Girl Scouts, parlor

### SATURDAY October 27

9:00-noonish Rake and Run  
 Hospitality training event at Wloo First UMC

### SUNDAY October 28

10:00 Chris Werling at Frederika  
 6:00 Confirmation  
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout Troop1874, chapel  
 6:30 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary

### MONDAY October 29

6:30 Grief Support team training, parlor

### WEDNESDAY October 31

Noon newsletter labeling  
 5:15 AA, O55  
 5:00-6:00 Filling Station. Gathering Place  
 5:30 Trunk or Treat  
 6:15-7:30 ??Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary  
 NO FUSION Tonight



## Miss A Sermon?

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

Go to our website at [aboutfirst.com](http://aboutfirst.com) and scroll until you see "sermons". You'll find a [direct link](#) to our youtube channel with all of our sermons and videos.

## 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. We'll start this year following the "A Disciple's Path" series.  
Room: 057

### Growing Christians

Our studies generally vary during the year from Bible studies, applying Biblical principles and the gifts that God puts into our lives. This fall we'll start with "A Disciple's Path" Room 056, 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! This year we'll be starting with Adam Hamilton's study on the Half Truths society uses to explain events in peoples' lives. 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

### Pathfinders

We gather to share our lives and discuss God's presence in the world today. This fall we'll start with "A Disciple's Path" Room 055

## fellas @ first

### Tuesday Night Fellas

Gentlemen, our Tuesday night men's group is continuing to follow the pastors' teaching series, *A Disciple's Path*. Once that study is done mid-month, we will begin *Along the Road: How Jesus used geography to tell God's Story*.

All men of all ages are welcome - punks to geezers. We're relaxed and informal, but not afraid to tackle tough questions and deep topics. This is a no-homework group and it's easy for new fellas to jump right in, just show up and say, "Hi, I'm new here", and we'll take it from there. Meet downstairs in room 059, Tuesday nights from 6:30 - 8:00.

### Wednesday Men's Study

Mike Cole and Pastor Matt invite all men to a gospel-centered video series that presents the timeless truths of Authentic Manhood in a powerfully engaging way.

The "33" study will help you build your own life on the model of Jesus during his 33 years on earth.

Find us in the chapel at 6:00pm.

Drop your kids off at BLAST, see your wives off to More than Moms, and come hang out with the fellas for an hour. Please contact Mike Cole or Pastor Matt if you plan to join us!

### Invest a Weekend, Gain a Lifetime Purpose

- Learn to **see** the Christ among us
- Learn to **be** the Christ among us
- Jump-start your faith and live with a new sense of purpose
- A great opportunity for EVERYONE including YOU

This three-day retreat will take you away from the distractions of life and allow you to refocus on your faith. You'll be immersed in a Christian community. The activities and discussions will encourage you to live out your faith in new ways. You'll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and you'll have plenty of time for a good night's sleep. Scheduled break times allow ample opportunities for private meditation, social interaction, and fresh air.



This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. How far, you ask? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to people of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not, at first, recognize him. In this weekend, you'll learn to recognize Christ in the world around you, and will be inspired to be an instrument of His love.

The Walk to Emmaus is an experience for adults, and there is a similar youth experience called Chrysalis. If you have interest in learning more about the **Walk to Emmaus** or Chrysalis, contact the church office, and we can arrange for you to meet someone who has already been - there are many in our congregation. Check out this video at [www.vimeo.com/8697255](http://www.vimeo.com/8697255).

### Upcoming retreats:

Oct 25-Oct 28 men Solon, IA  
Nov 8-Nov 11 women Solon, IA

## However You're Called . . . We Can Equip You (But the Deadline is Approaching!)

Your personal ministry can take many forms: preaching, serving, leading, visiting, sharing, praying, and working. So, if You're Ready...

- to step forward in a bold, new way for the cause of Christ
- to unlock your potential as a servant in the United Methodist Church
- to explore the many ways that you can assist pastors and other empowered laity
- to commit yourself to pursue your personal ministry at a higher level

You should consider enrolling in the School for Lay Ministry (SLM). The School for Lay Ministry is an educational initiative of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, designed to grow Iowa churches by providing a supplemental source of leadership. Some of the ways that SLM graduates serve are: volunteer management, Christian education, care-giving, youth programming, outreach, pulpit supply, and the SLM is the pathway to becoming a Certified Lay Minister.

Students devote four weekends a year for three years to this program. Classes are held at the Cornell and Simpson colleges. Our own Pastor Scott Kober is an instructor for the School for Lay Ministry. There are reading assignments, lecture sessions, group discussions and activities. It's not for everyone - you have to want to do this - but if you do, you will end up having one of the most enlightening experiences in your Christian life.

Weekend courses will dig into worship, congregational care, Christian ethics, theological perspectives, missions, social concerns, church history, doctrine and polity and strategizing for growth. You will emerge equipped and inspired to see your life as a ministry and to share it openly in ways that suit your strengths and skills. In our congregation, Karl Dance, Jan Hoover, Jim Reidy, Chris Congdon, Lisa Congdon, Padma Templeton, Sue Ney, Chris Werling, Shane Waltz, Jon Cooper, and Tony John are graduates of the program, and Rus DeBonis is currently a student. Ask any of them about their experience, or talk to one of our pastors about the painless application process.

If you care deeply about the church, and you feel as though you have skills to offer in any area of ministry, the School for Lay Ministry is an outstanding experience to boost your personal confidence and leave you feeling empowered to pursue that ministry. You'll come away with a better understanding of our United Methodist Church's origin and structure, you'll learn where resources exist to help you and your church, and maybe most importantly, you'll bond with your classmates as you share your perspectives and experiences.

**If you are interested, it is important to know early in September, as class planning has already begun. More information can be found at [www.iaumc.org](http://www.iaumc.org).**



## Put Your Basic Skills To Work

Is caring your best attribute? Is listening your best skill? Many of you would make great Stephen Ministers. We are planning now for a Stephen Ministry training class this fall. Please text or call Dee Behr @319-575-0081 or Sandy Noelting @319-269-4339 if you are interested in taking this class.





# 12 Mission of the Month



## Bibles for our Sisters

A very tangible way we can help our sisters behind the razor wire is to provide Bibles for them. We have an opportunity to order new Bibles to be sent to the women's prison directly from Cokesbury. They are given to the ladies in Bible Studies and to keep for their own use. The Navigation Bible is an easy to read Bible and includes guidelines for effective Bible study. We have sent many Bibles to prison and they are treasured by those who receive them.

These Bibles normally sell for over \$30, but Cokesbury has made special arrangements for friends of the Women at the Well UMC to order them for only \$10. Use the special "Bibles for our Sisters" envelope at the display in the Gathering Place. You can take a look at the type of Bible that your \$10 will provide, too.

## Two October Missions to lift up

### UMCOR kit needs for Ingathering

We have a lot of school supplies on hand for School Kits, but we are short just one particular item to complete more kits. New this year is a need for looseleaf lined paper. So as you are shopping, pick up a pack or two of paper:

- 100-200 page packets, wide or college ruled.

Hygiene Kits are much appreciated by those who are temporarily displaced due to floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and other natural disasters. We have many items, but are short a couple to complete more kits.

- Hand towels (15x25 to 17x27 - new and unwashed)
- 3 oz (or larger) bars of soap (no Jergens or Ivory)

If you don't care to shop but want to help, we are also collecting money to purchase toothpaste for Hygiene Kits (\$1 a tube). This money will be sent to UMCOR and they will purchase the toothpaste for the Kits before sending them on to the final destination. And, every kit costs \$1 for shipping to get to where they are needed most. We have a lot of kits to send, so any amount to help with shipping will be appreciated. Use the envelope near the truck at the welcome center to donate to toothpaste and shipping costs.

### 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:

- a canned vegetable,
- stuffing box or packet,
- a boxed dessert,
- AND \$25 to cover the cost of ham 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 Gathering Place.

Bring your items to the church by Monday, November 12 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 by November 14.

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



## Sign up to be a Lincoln Reading Buddy

Our Partner In Education, Lincoln Elementary School, appreciates the great group of Reading Buddies who read with K-3rd grade students throughout the school year. The kids look forward to our volunteers coming, and our volunteers say it is a highlight of their week!

Statistics are clear: early elementary literacy is a in indicator of higher performance throughout the rest of a student's academic career, and life beyond. By helping kids with their reading at an early age, we are truly helping to change the story of their lives in a positive way.

Principal Ralph Bryant is looking forward to another year of this partnership. Sign up on the sheet outside the chapel to be a part of this great partnership to Change a Child's Story.



## Continue to Change a Child's Story

Your monetary donations provided books for students to take home as well as funds to enhance classroom libraries. Last year we were able to give EVERY student at Lincoln School a book to take home with them! 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.

## 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.

## Hospital reminder

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

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Our Pastor's Discretionary Fund is in place for helping those who walk in to our church looking for assistance. They are often folks who are in a crisis situation, and have few resources of their own. These funds are to be used at the discretion of the pastors to help with requests for emergency help. Typical requests are to put gas in a car for a transient passing through town or someone needing to get to a doctor's appointment, paying a portion of a utility bill, or perhaps a night in a hotel for a person in crisis. We refer many requests for financial help to Love INC, but the discretionary fund is helpful for immediate needs.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is supported solely by your donations. If you would like to contribute, please write your check to First UMC with "Discretionary Fund" on the memo. Thank you for partnering with the pastors to be the hands and feet of Christ for our neighbors in crisis.

## Wee Care For Wee Ones

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.

## Heifer - Fill the barn

Farm animals are a common sight in Iowa, and it seemed appropriate to fill a barnyard to support Heifer International. Donate as you wish throughout the year and we'll keep adding animals like cows, sheep, goats, donkeys, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, rabbits, and beehives to the barn in the window of the church office.



## UMW News

On September 13th, twenty-eight members of UMW took a field trip to Retrieving Freedom Service Dogs facility west of Waverly, Iowa.

The facility trains dogs for disabled veterans and autistic children's use. Dogs have 20 months of training before they are placed with their recipient. The best dog breeds used are labrador, golden retriever, and labra-doodles. By the time the dogs have completed their training, they will be 22 months old. The cost to train one dog is \$25,000. Their facility relies on monies from a grant, fundraisers, and donations to operate it facilities. Retrieving Freedom places about 18 dogs per year to eligible recipients.

A veteran demonstrated his dog's abilities for us as we watched. We learned when the dog is wearing his vest he is on duty.

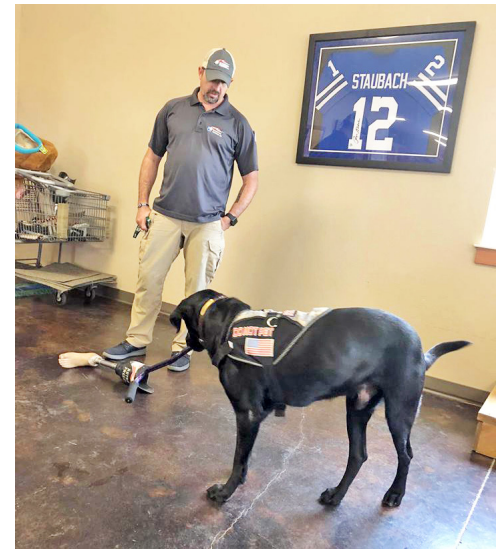
(pictures from Pauline Harding and Fely Houts)

## UMW October Calendar

- Oct. 03 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 07 - Iowa UMW Annual Meeting, Knoxville, Iowa UMC
- Oct. 08 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m.,
- Oct. 10 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m.,
- Oct. 11 - Unit Meeting, 1:00 p.m.,
- Oct. 15 - Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m.,
- Oct. 17 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m.,
- Oct. 18 - Hearts & Hands Circle, 3:30
- Oct. 19 - 21 - Fall Mission U, Marshalltown
- Oct. 24 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m.,
- Oct. 25 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor
- Oct. 25 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

## Tuesday Bible Study

The Tuesday morning Bible Study always welcomes new friends. This group meets in the chapel at 9:30 on Tuesday mornings. Bring your Bible - whichever one you prefer - and be prepared to read through and discuss the Bible. No homework or study guide is required, just read along with this group of women and offer your insight. Shirley Bolin and Linda Berneking are the contacts for this group.



Next month, on October 11th, our Unit Meeting will honor our past UMW Presidents. Plan to be there for this special event!

## It's Pepper Jelly Time Again!

The **Hearts and Hands** group will meet on Thursday, October 18, in the church kitchen. We will begin around 3:30 p.m., but come later if that works with your schedule. There are enough ground up peppers to make 9 batches and I will bring my copper pots. We will need lots of sugar - each batch takes 6 1/2 cups, 1 1/2 cups of cider vinegar, and a packet of Certo or liquid fruit pectin. Bring any of those items along with you. I have lots of jars ready.

If anyone wishes to contribute sugar or Certo (and cannot attend on the 18th), just drop it off at the church office or bring it down to the quilt room. Karen will find it there.

The pepper jelly as well as some other preserves will be sold at the Ingathering the first weekend in November. All proceeds go to UMCOR.

Hearts and Hands group will also do some planning for the coming year after we finish making the pepper jelly. Some activities we will consider are making apple butter (again), making items for the DAYS4GIRLS project, helping with Community Meals, delivering comfort quilts, providing a meal for the "Begin Now" classes held in Waterloo and making gift baskets for FUMC members who cannot get out like they used to do. We welcome any suggestions where our group might be of help.

Contact: Karen Page kp224@cfu.net or 319-230-7200



## Thank You

Thank you for the beautiful birthday rose and to Jane Wyckoff for delivering it. Also thank you to the First U. M. staff for the card.

What a great church family!

Smiles & Blessings,

*Marlene Baumhoyer*

Thank you for the quilt. I feel so special and cared for by my church family.

*Marilyn Geesaman*

The Sunday before my birthday was an up and down day until I went outside with my dog, Coco. There, on my step, was a beautiful red rose. What a day changer! I missed a chat with Jane, but will make it up next year. Also, thanks to the staff for the card.

*Hube Gaard*

Thank you so much for the lovely rose delivered by Jane, and also for her visit. Also thanks for all the cards and well wishes.

*Donna Tiller*

Many, many thanks to all for the thoughts and prayers, cards and visits during my recent hospitalization and rehab. Also, special thanks to those who were able to assist with errands and rides to appointments after my return home. When asked if I would be able to manage alone at home I assured them that I have the best church family anyone could have. Thank you all!

*Shawna Brimn*

Thank you for the very thoughtful card signed by every one of the staff! Also, I want to thank Jane Wyckoff for delivering the beautiful large pink-tipped rose to me for my 87th birthday!

*Marlys Pals*

Thank you for the beautiful rose Jane Wyckoff delivered for my birthday. I look forward to her visit each year. It is nice to be remembered.

*Charles Roudebush*

My thanks to Jane Wyckoff who delivered my beautiful red and yellow rose for my 84th birthday, and to the church staff for the nice card. I'm especially happy to have a birthday. It's better than the alternative!

*Aileen Anderson*

Thank you for all the cards I received when I was in the hospital. I am doing much better now.

*Audrienne Kennedy*

We can't thank you enough for all of your help separating and organizing the math flyers for the second grade classes at Lincoln School. You have saved us hours of work! We appreciate your partnership with Lincoln more than you know!

Sincerely,

The 2nd grade team - Jarith Witt, Krista Lindgren, Heidi Mounce

## Congratulations to:

Congratulations to Sarah Neill and Peter Park. They were married on September 1.

Iver "Ike" and Aileen Anderson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on September 26. That's a lot of years of happiness!

## Sympathy to:

Family and friends of Mary Johnson. Mary passed away Sept 1 at the age of 100. Her service was held September 4.

Lavonne Neese and her family on the loss of Don. Don Neese passed away September 2. His service was held September 6.

Family and friends of Alicia Caley. Alicia passed away September 8. Her service was held September 18.

Karla Blackford and her family on the death of her mother, Nan Sash, on September 10. Her service was held September 14.

Carol Will and her family on the loss of her husband, Earl. Earl passed away September 13.

Chuck Wickersham and his family on the loss of his wife, Barbara. Barbara passed away September 16. Her service was held September 20.

Barbara Ackerson on the loss of her husband, Joe. Joe passed away September 18.

## Financial Update as of September 24

YTD Budget Received:	\$ 653,281
YTD Budget Needs:	\$ 638,965
YTD Surplus	\$ 14,316
Mortgage Balance	\$ 319,902

## 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@aboutfirst.com](mailto:debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com).

## Attendance- week ending

	9/2	9/9	9/16	9/23
Transformation	73	90	107	81
Traditional 8:30	101	149	108	144
Traditional 11:00	76	138	117	127
FUSION	x	x	28	24

# 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

## aboutfirst news

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



**Sunday, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.** Traditional services  
**Sunday, 8:30 a.m.** Transformation Worship

Van rides are available for the 11:00 Sunday service.  
Child care is provided in the nursery for infants and babies for Sunday Services.

### Spreading the Word

If you miss a Sunday, or want to hear a message again, find us on the local Public Access cable television channels. If you are unable to receive the television broadcast, weekly dvds are also available, or find the video links for sermons at [www.aboutfirst.com](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

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

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

### Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director  
[tbonebrake@hotmail.com](mailto:tbonebrake@hotmail.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)

Debbie Dance, Financial Manager  
[debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com](mailto:debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com)

Carol Dick, Parish/Grief Support Coordinator  
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Jenna Engel, Christian Education Coordinator  
[jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com](mailto:jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com)

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

Emily Terpstra, Custodian