



September 2017
issue 204

ABOUT FIRST

First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa



Thoughts from Steve

I am sure that most of you are aware that the United Methodist Church is in deep disagreement about what we should teach about homosexuality, same gender marriage, and the ordination of LGBTQ persons. A special session of the General Conference will be held in 2019 to consider these issues and how they will be addressed by the United Methodist Church in the future. While serving you as pastor for nearly nine years, I have discovered that different folks in our congregation have dramatically different opinions on the subject.

Homosexuality is a very divisive issue. There are some who welcome homosexuality because either you, or your children or grandchildren, or your family members, or your friends are gay or lesbian, and you have come to love them and see them as a part of God's family.

There are others who believe the acceptance of homosexuality as an example of how society is either ignoring or badly interpreting or even defying what you hold to be God's clear commands in Scripture. You believe that homosexuality to be a sin incompatible with Christian teaching.

Others of you feel caught in the middle between people who feel strongly: you think it's complicated and you don't know exactly what to think, but it breaks your heart to see people in such conflict, and you just wish people could get along better.

The Bible says that the church is like a family, where we are brothers and sisters with each other. If your family is like mine, then there are a lot of important things that you and your family members disagree about or even fight about. But at the end of the day you are still family; you are still held together by something deeper than whether you agree or disagree. You are held together by the fact that you have been made part of one another, and you are held together by stubborn, sturdy, steady love.

The church family is like that. We are a family that can disagree about important things, but at the end of the day we are held together by something deeper than the fact we agree about everything, or even about every important thing: we are held together by the fact that God's grace has rescued us and is remaking us and has made us a part of one another.

We are held together by love, the love of Christ. That love does not banish disagreement, but it does join us in a oneness deeper than all differences, a faith more enduring than our fights, a reconciliation that outlasts our wrongs.

Perhaps we even need some level of disagreement for this love to grow among us.

Perhaps God has many reasons for putting us with very different people, with our dueling facebook posts and our rival news sources, all together next to each other in the pew. Perhaps one of those reasons is to learn the meaning of love. Perhaps it is only by learning to love people we disagree with, only by learning to love people who we know are wrong, only by learning to love sinners that we learn what love, Christ-like love, really is.

Pastor Matt and I will be co-teaching a Bible Study called "What Are We Fighting For" in September that relates to the division and disagreements we share as a denomination. The study focuses beyond the conflict to a hope-filled future that we can come around to what matters most – our relationship with Christ.

Let us walk together with Christ –
Pastor Steve



If your family is like mine, then there are a lot of important things that you and your family members disagree about or even fight about. But at the end of the day you are still family; you are still held together by something deeper than whether you agree or disagree.

Goliath Must Fall

New Transformation Sermon Series Kicks Off Sept 10

It is the most timeless underdog story from all of history, David and Goliath. David was a shepherd boy that no one believed in. He looked up at a 9 foot giant that everyone believed was undefeatable. It is a story we apply to business, sports, politics, and every other wide assortment of challenges we face in life. In every version of this story, we want to see ourselves as David.

It's likely you have a threatening giant in your life, an adversary or stronghold that's diminishing your ability to live a full and free life. Frozen in the grip of rejection, fear, anger, comfort, or addiction, we lose sight of the promise God has for our lives. Demoralized and defeated, we settle for far less than his best.

God has a better plan for you, a plan for you to live in victory. That's why he has silenced your giant once and for all.

In Goliath Must Fall, we will uncover a newfound twist in the classic story of David and Goliath. It is easy to think like David. We tell ourselves, "If I could just defeat this thing once and for all, my life would be so much better." The reality is that you are not David. Likely you have strived to defeat that which looms over you many times with no success. Every story of the Old Testament points forward to Jesus. The key to living free from our giants is not better slingshot accuracy, but keeping our eyes on the one and only giant-slayer. That is Jesus. Put your hope in him and watch Goliath fall.

Over the next 6 weeks, we will talk about some primary giants that loom over us. They not only rob us of our joy, but they take the glory away from God.

Sept 10- Dead but Still Deadly
 Sept 17- FEAR Must Fall
 Sept 24- REJECTION Must Fall
 Oct 1- COMFORT Must Fall
 Oct 8- ANGER Must Fall
 October 15- ADDICTION Must Fall

There is a remarkable amount of freedom in realizing that Jesus has knocked down your giant for your good and His glory. When we begin to live in that freedom, not only will we see that Goliath could fall, we see something even more extraordinary. Goliath MUST fall.

Be Bold, Be Strong,

Rev. Matt German

Altar Flowers

The altar flower calendar for 2017-18 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.



Fall & Winter Worship Times
Resume Sunday, Sept 10:
8:30 Traditional Worship
8:30 Transformation
11:00 Traditional Worship

Bell Ringers Needed!

Ringling in a bell choir is a fun way to participate in the worship of our church and hang out with some great people. If you read music, we'll teach you the rest. If you don't read music, we can teach you that, too.

Chapel Ringers is currently in need of 5-6 ringers. The choir rehearses on Sunday nights from 7:30-8:30pm. Chapel Ringers plays in church services 2-3 times a semester. Contact Aaron Hansen at hansena72@gmail.com if you might be interested!

Sing With Us

"I believe that music, like medicine, is a form of ministry. It is also a great way to bring people together, and I am looking forward to working with our choir," says new Chancel Choir director, Dr. Ted Bonebrake. One of his goals as choir director is to recruit new members, and expand the role of the choir in our worship services.

The choir practices every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. If you are interested in joining, you can just show up. For new members, Ted says, "You can come as often as you are able, and don't need to commit to be there every Wednesday or every Sunday. The only requirement is that you must love to sing." If you have any questions regarding the choir, you can email Ted at tbonebrake@hotmail.com or call the church office if you need his phone number.



Fall Kickoff Picnic

Bring your friends and neighbors for our annual fall kickoff picnic, Wednesday, September 6 from 5:00-7:00pm. There's free food and fun for everyone: burgers and dogs on the grill, face painting, balloon animals, games, and a dunk tank! Who do you want to see get dunked? Pastor Steve? Pastor Matt? Bobbette Fortney? You can help make it a great night by bringing relishes and or dessert bars or cookies.



S'mores & More!

The Fun & Fellowship committee is once again sponsoring the S'mores & More Picnic on September 24th from 4-7pm. This event will be held again at Riverview Lodge at Black Hawk Park on the north side of Cedar Falls. Bonfire, hot dogs, s'mores, hayrides, horses, music & games, just for fun! Enjoy an afternoon in the great outdoors. Everyone is invited! We will have a good ol' fashioned pot luck for sides and desserts. Table service will be provided. Don't forget your lawn chairs!

Thank You from Pastor Steve and Janet

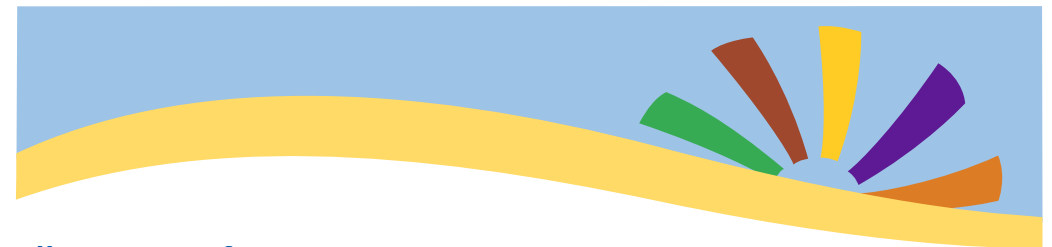
It is hard to believe that we are beginning our ninth year in serving Cedar Falls First. We have experienced so many great times together. We will never forget our first night in Cedar Falls. It had been a very long and hot day of moving on that Friday. The movers were dragging because the temperatures reached 100 degrees that afternoon. They didn't pull out until 8:00 p.m. leaving us to begin getting our house in order. It was 2:00 in the morning when we finally got our bed put together, and laid our heads down to go to sleep. We were beat. The peace and quiet didn't last very long when we were awakened at 6:00 a.m. with the sound of people getting ready for the Sturgis Falls Parade. They were just outside our bedroom window running around in golf carts putting up signs! Even though, it was a glorious welcome!



Cedar Falls feels like home for us. We are pleased that we have been appointed to serve another year here at First United Methodist Church of Cedar Falls. We also want to thank you for the opportunity to travel together to Nigeria. It was a trip that we will never forget, and hope to continue share with you in how Cedar Falls First is making a difference in the name of Christ.

Thank you so much!

Pastor Steve and Janet



All Women of First UMC:

the pleasure of your company is requested at

Street Fair Open House

Saturday, September 16, 2017

1:00-3:00pm, in Fellowship Hall

an event of
United Methodist Women

Rummage Sale One For The Record Books!

As promised, the final report of this year's very successful sale yielded a net profit of \$9,058! The results of your voting earlier in June of this year determined the proceeds were to go to the following: 1/3rd to Lincoln School for "Change a Child's Story"; 1/3rd to the House of Hope in Waterloo (transitional housing for women); and 1/3rd to the Church's Trustees- with the stipulation that it only be used for the west parking lot repair.

Even our after sale "leftovers" went to good causes. Love INC (new baby clothes); House of Hope (bedding); Salvation Army (winter coats, gloves, hats); Family & Children's Council (children's clothes), Bidwell Mission (children's clothes); ThreeHouse; Compost Theatre (t-shirts to make diapers for foreign countries); and Denny Mills (stuffed animals for Amish children via plane drop).

All of this would not have been possible without first the donations from YOU!! The quality was exceptional this year and it showed, as our customers demonstrated that with Thursday night sales reaching an all-time high just under \$5,000! Your support by providing baked goods, shopping at the sale, helping haul large items, cashier at the sale or be a greeter were truly great assets!

Secondly, the continued dedication of the Rummage Sale volunteers is so much appreciated! The following individuals coordinated their own areas and called upon most of you to help with the sale: Sue Cook, Carol Dick, Marc Canby, Craig & Kris Rash, Paul Klotz, Bill Mincks, Jan Hoover, Annette Pease, Marcia Simpson, Donna Allee, Lorna Erickson, Aileen and Ike Anderson, and Pat Ackerman. My greatest appreciation to Stephanie and Jim Buchs for their prior experience coordinating the sale and continued support with this year's sale.

Thirdly, enough cannot be said about the continued support of the Church Staff!! John and Emily the Custodians, spent much time in set-up and clean-up before, during and after the sale. Lisa and Chris Congdon were invaluable at assisting with distributing information along to you during the summer months via paper bulletins, newsletters and electronic news.

Deb Bernard was a great resource to make sure our proceeds are correct and will reach their intended destination! The continued support of our Pastors also was greatly appreciated! Lastly, I thank Donna Hoffman for agreeing to assist me in this year's sale. Her prior experience was greatly appreciated as well.

"Thank you Everyone!"
Maxine Kehret

A Mat to Sleep On

Our Crafter's Corner group meets twice a month and anyone can come. Enjoy the company of others while working on your project, or join us in turning old plastic grocery sacks into sleeping mats for area homeless people. The ground is a cold, hard surface to sleep on, and it is amazing how much it helps to have one of these simple mats for insulation and cushioning. Find out when the crafters meet on the Events page of this newsletter.

Foster Quilts

Our First Quilters, who meet every Tuesday morning, make quilts which are given to foster kids in the Cedar Valley. As these children move from home to home in the foster care system, they often don't have much to call their own, but these quilts are theirs to keep, and a reminder that they always have a home here as a child of God.

Addiction Assistance

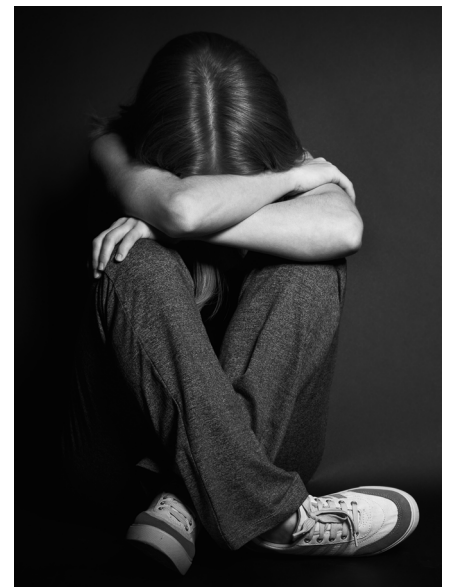
Our church provides space for three Alcoholics Anonymous groups to meet every week. Opening our doors is a small gesture of welcome that we can offer as these groups work together to wrestle their lives back from addiction.

Grief and Faith in the Family

Grief is something we all have to deal with at some point in our lives, and families and friends are the first line of support for each other. Do you feel like you could use a bigger toolbox to help yourself and others deal with the emotions of loss? We're pleased to announce this event which will take place here at First UMC CF on Monday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m., Grief and Faith in the Family.

This special presentation teaches families how to care for one another in seasons of grief, and lifts up the relationship between grief and faith. This presentation is appropriate for parents, grandparents, spouses, partners, grief counselors, funeral planners, and anyone involved in the grieving process.

There is no cost for this presentation, and everyone is welcome - you do not need to be a member of FirstUMC. Please share this information with someone you know who could benefit from it. A freewill offering will be collected to help offset costs. The Presenter will be Rev. Robyn Plocher of Share the Hope Ministries. Everyone is welcome. Let us know you're coming by registering at Rev. Robyn's website at <https://sharethehope.net/registration/>



events

September 5 - Grief Support Session

Where: Church Parlor

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 pm

If you are grieving a loss, you are welcome. We provide a safe, confidential time to share feelings and thoughts. If you have questions, please call the church office, and you will be directed.

September 5 - Food Bank Work Crew

Where: Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Join us at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on Monday, August 1. 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

September 12 & 26 - Crafter's Corner

Attention crafters! Join us from 6:00-8:00 in the parlor. This is a laid back and hands-on group for all skill levels. Bring your own craft project to work on or apply your talents to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade gifts, or prayer shawls for those in need. 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. Please contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with any questions.

September 12 - Card Making Party

Where: Gathering Place

Times: 1:00 to 5:00 pm

Come join the fun as we make recycled greeting cards to send and sell on the card rack. No experience is needed. Bring a snack to share if you'd like and stay for Community Meals.

September 18 - Life Serve Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30 - 6:00 pm

Blood 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.

September 21 - 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 from noon until 2 pm in the Gathering Place.

September 25 - Grief and Faith in the Family

Where: Gathering Place

When: 6:30 pm

Build your skillset to help yourself, your family and others to deal with grief and bereavement. See article on news page.

October 1 - Flu Shots

Where: Chapel

When: 9:30 - 11:00

The flu can be a devastating illness, especially for the younger, older and weaker among us. First UMC want to help you be healthy. Cheryl Neill will have flu shots available on Sunday morning, October 1. Stop by the chapel anytime between 9:30-11:00am. Most insurance is accepted. Medicare is 100% covered.

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

crazyfunbusy Wednesday nights start Sept 13.

- 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 **What Are We Fighting For?**
- A Study of Controversy and Purpose
- 6:00 - 7:15 **Men's Group**
- hangin' with the fellas
- 6:00 - 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*
 9:45 New Member Class*
 10:00 Frederika UMC worship
 10:00 Traditional Service, Sept 6 only
 10:30 Washington Chapel Worship
 10:30 Frederika UMC Worship
 11:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary*
 6:00 Les Cloches d'Or rehearsal, sanctuary*
 6:30-8:00 Disciple Bible Study, library*
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall*
 7:30 Chapel Ringers rehearsal, sanctuary*
 * weekly beginning Sept 10

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 Transformation Band, Fellowship Hall
 6:30-8:00 men's group
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 5:15 AA, 055
 5:15-6:00 Filling Station, Gathering Place**
 6:00-7:15 More than Moms, parlor**
 6:00-7:15 BLAST**
 6:00 Youth Group, 3rd floor**
 6:00-7:15 WAWFF, library**
 6:15-7:30 Tower Bell rehearsal, sanctuary**
 6:30 WOW AA, 055
 7:15 FUSION#1 - Jon Cooper**
 7:30-8:30 Chancel Choir rehearsal, choir rm
 ** weekly beginning Sept 13

Thursday

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

Also Scheduled....

SUNDAY September 3

9:30 John Cooper at Frederika

MONDAY September 4

Labor Day, Office Closed

TUESDAY September 5

2:00-3:30 Grief Support, parlor
 6:00 Food Bank Work Crew
 6:30-7:30 Boy Scouts, Gathering Pl

WEDNESDAY September 6

5:00-7:00 Fall Kickoff Picnic

FRIDAY September 8

9:30-afternoon Grief Support Outing

SATURDAY September 9

Youth Day at Adventureland

SUNDAY September 10

Fall / Winter Schedule begins
 Sunday School begins
 Bell Choir rehearsals begin
 Disciple Bible Study begins
 7:00 Boy Scouts, Fellowship Hall

MONDAY September 11

Reading Buddies start at Lincoln
 9:30 UMW Board Meeting, library
 5:30 1st Kids Board meeting, 056
 6:00 HOME Team, chapel

TUESDAY September 12

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

WEDNESDAY September 13

2:00 Stanard Care communion service
 Wednesday Night Activities Begin

THURSDAY September 14

6:30 SPRC, 057

SATURDAY September 16

8:00-12:00 Ingathering meeting, library
 1:00-3:00 UMW Open House Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY September 17

10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika

MONDAY September 18

10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor
 12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

TUESDAY September 19

6:30 Fun & Fellowship, library

WEDNESDAY September 20

October Newsletter Deadline
 9:30-11:30 MOMs group, library and gym
 11:00 Pinnacle Care chapel service
 6:30 Finance committee, 057

THURSDAY September 21

12:00 1st Friends Potluck, Gathering Place

SUNDAY September 24

10:00 Shawna Brimm at Frederika
 4:00-7:00 S'mores & More,
 Black Hawk Park, Riverview Shelter

MONDAY September 25

6:00-8:00 CRUSH, 058
 6:30-8:30 Share the Hope Grief Seminar

TUESDAY September 26

9:00-noon Share the Hope Grief Seminar
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 6:00-8:00 Crafter's Corner, parlor

WEDNESDAY September 27

2:00 Windermere communion service

THURSDAY September 28

9:30-11:30 Mary Circle, parlor
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor

FRIDAY September 29

Noon newsletter labeling, Gathering Place

Sunday School Starts September 10 @ 9:45

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: 055

Growing Christians

Our studies generally vary during the year from Bible studies, applying Biblical principles and the gifts that God puts into our lives. Room 056, Kris Rash

Open Door

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

Kaleidoscope

This group is for anyone willing to tackle any topic! Room 058 Gil Hewett

Seekers

The Seekers present several small studies/discussions each year (no homework) to help grow our faith in Jesus Christ. Room: 060 Contact: Debbie Dance.

F.R.O.G.

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

Pathfinders

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

Plan Now for a Fall Faith Renewal

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, and will be encouraged to find ways to live out your faith in your home church. This is the **Walk to Emmaus**. During your "walk" you'll be amply fed, comfortably housed, and you'll have plenty of time for a good night's sleep. Guided activities and scheduled break times allow opportunities to enjoy the natural environment of the retreat location near Lake McBride.



How far? This walk is symbolic, not an actual physical challenge. Facilities and activities are fully accessible to pilgrims of all abilities. The name, **Walk to Emmaus** refers to Luke 24:13-35 where Jesus walks with two travelers who do not recognize the risen Christ in their midst until he breaks bread with them. In this weekend, you'll learn to see 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.

Upcoming retreats:

October 20-23 men Solon, IA

November 10-13 women Solon, IA

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.



School for Lay Ministry - Equipping You For Your Role in Ministry

Jesus tells us in Matthew 20:28 *“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Several years ago dedicated people with great vision initiated the School for Lay Ministry in the Iowa Annual Conference. Since that beginning in Indianola at Simpson College, the school has expanded adding campuses at Morningside in Sioux City and at Cornell in Mount Vernon. In 2014, a Spanish language class was added at Simpson.

The purpose of the school is to prepare people to follow in Jesus’ footsteps by serving. The program provides supplemental leadership training to facilitate ministry in Iowa United Methodist Churches. We can be the best servants when we are trained, informed and well prepared. The school offers 12 weekends over a three year period covering 12 carefully selected ministry areas and are held on Saturday and Sunday at a cost is \$140 per weekend. Classes are scheduled to begin this fall at all three campuses.

You will gain knowledge and insight that will be a tremendous asset to your pastor and your church. Additionally, you will grow personally beyond your expectations. You will build relationships that will enrich your life and you will surely become much closer to our Lord and Savior. We don’t know of any church in the conference that could not use more trained lay persons in their ministry. We invite you to prayerfully consider this opportunity. The application, class schedule and other details can be found on the School for Lay Ministry website: www.iaumc.org/slm. Or feel free to contact Barb Mann at barb.mann@iaumc.org or 515-974-8905.

Morningside School for Lay Ministry: Nov. 11-12, 2017; January 13-14 2018 (tentative); March 17-18, 2018; April 21-22, 2018 (tentative)

Cornell School for Lay Ministry: October 14-15, 2017; November 11-12, 2017; January 13-14, 2018; March 10-11, 2018

Simpson School for Lay Ministry: November 4-5, 2017; January 6-7, 2018; March 3-4, 2018; May 5-6, 2018

Extended Learning Opportunities from SLM

The School for Lay Ministry (SLM) Commission is once again excited to offer some Extended Learning Opportunities at Cornell College this fall. Classes are open to all clergy, laity or anyone interested so please get the word out. We hope many can take advantage of these opportunities. If you are interested in attending any of the classes that will be offered, additional details and the registration form will be posted on the SLM Website, Cornell Campus. Contact Barb Mann at barb.mann@iaumc.org or 515-974-8905. We hope to see you there!

Lincoln Elementary is Our Partner in Education

Reading Buddies:

Sign up to be a Lincoln 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. Principal Ralph Bryant is looking forward to another year of this partnership. The hope is to begin working in the classrooms as early as the week of September 11. Sign up on the sheet outside the chapel to be a part of this great partnership to Change a Child’s Story.

Change a Child’s Story

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 this by using the special offering envelopes at the display or note “Change a Child’s Story” on your check to FUMC.

M T **W** T F

Are You Ready For Wednesday Nights!?

Filling Station

We will kick off our fun packed Wednesday nights with a meal. The filling station is great time for us to reconnect half way through the week while enjoying supper together. Please join us beginning Wednesday, Sept 13th. The Filling Station is in the gathering place 5:15-6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cost of the meal is a free will donation to help cover the cost of the meal. We do need help at the Filling Station with serving and clean up. Can you help once in a while? See Jenna!



B.L.A.S.T: Bible Learning And Serving Together. Please join us Wednesday nights. BLAST is for students PK-6th grade. The first night of B.L.A.S.T will be Wednesday, September 13th from 6:15-7:15 in Fellowship Hall. This fall we will be diving into the Old Testament while we learn about Creation, The Fall, The Flood, Father Abraham, Ten Words and The Great Commandment. We are looking for adults to help during the BLAST hour. With the number of kids we're expecting, we could use some more adult help. If you would like to be involved with this Ministry please contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

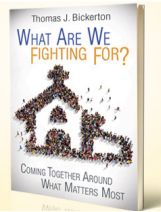
“What Are We Fighting For?”

Study co-taught by Pastor Matt and Pastor Steve

There are plenty of issues facing the United Methodist Church today, and the “elephant” in the room is Human Sexuality. It has been a challenge for our denomination to come to any resolution. It is a very divisive subject, and different folks in our congregation have dramatically different opinions. Both Pastor Steve and Pastor Matt believe we can move forward together. What are we fighting for? This question not only points us to the futility of our disunity but also compels us to consider what we are fighting for—what deserves our greatest intensity and effort as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus.

We will be offering a study by Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton titled, “What Are We Fighting For? Coming Together Around What Matters Most” beginning Wednesdays for 6 weeks starting September 13 at 6:00 p.m. The study offers a way to move beyond all the discord to a hopeful future by exploring how we can come together around what matters most so that the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes a vibrant part of our lives and witness. Bickerton says, “That fights, feuds, and uncertainties can distract us, leaving us ineffective and mired in mediocrity and decline; but focusing on what matters most causes our ministries to flourish and the church to become a relevant and vital presence in the community and world.” The study offers an approach for working together in the midst of disagreements. The cost of the book for the study is \$12.00. We are limiting the class to 24 because of the size of the room. If we exceed 24, we will look at offering the class at another time. We are encouraging Sunday School Classes and Study Groups to participate. Sign up is at the Welcome Center. Contact either pastor or Jenna for more information.

Come together around what matters most.



NOTE:The Women Connected By Prayer, led by Jan Hoover, will also be using this study on Wednesday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00, beginning Sept 13

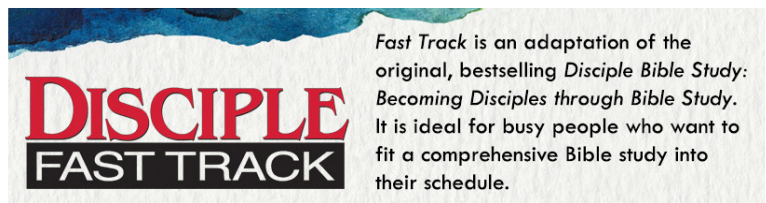
Disciple Bible Study -

new Fast Track Series being taught by Pastor Steve and Janet

We have taught the Disciple Bible Study for 20 years, and believe it is one of the most in-depth studies provided by our Denomination. We enjoyed the opportunity to grow in faith with the class, and the friendships that developed after spending 36 weeks of study have become some of our closest friends. Disciple Studies required a lot of time for preparation and study. Many times the weekly class would last 3 hours long!

The new Fast Track Disciple Series is designed for busy lives. The study is divided into two 12 week long studies. The first 12 weeks will be Old Testament, and the second 12 weeks will be New Testament. You read a manageable 3-5 chapters of the Bible daily in preparation for the weekly 75 minute class. It uses the same format as Disciple with renown Biblical Scholars sharing about our weekly readings.

We will meet Sunday evenings at 6:30 beginning on Sunday, September 10 starting with the Old Testament. Sign up for the class is at the Welcome Center. Cost for each study book is \$15.00. We will begin the second study on the New Testament in January. For more information contact Pastor Steve or Janet.



Fast Track is an adaptation of the original, bestselling *Disciple Bible Study: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study*. It is ideal for busy people who want to fit a comprehensive Bible study into their schedule.

Our September Mission of the month is CROP Hunger Walk

The annual CROP Hunger Walk happens Sunday, October 1 (registration at 1:30, walk at 2:00). This year the walk will make a three mile loop beginning and ending at St Luke's Episcopal church in Cedar Falls.

During the month of September you'll have opportunities to sign up to be a walker or to contribute to the cause. Every \$10 donated will add a footprint to the display. We also need some cookie bakers to provide refreshments for the walkers at the end of the walk.

Our goal is to raise funds and awareness for those who are hungry - in our own community as well as elsewhere in the world. 25% of the money raised will support our own NE Iowa Food Bank and the remaining 75% supports world hunger projects through Church World Service.

For those who would like to help the NE Iowa Food Bank in another tangible way, the CROP Walk team is collecting peanut butter or canned fruit again. Bring your peanut butter or cans of fruit to St. Luke's Episcopal Church when you register for the walk on October 1.

Check out the display in the Gathering Place for more information and to sign up to walk.



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.

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.

reaching out

Nobody Looks Good In A Hair Net

But the work we do when our crew goes to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank helps to put food into the mouths of hungry people our community. On the first Tuesday of every month, we spend about two hours helping with the project of the day - sometimes it is sorting donated food, sometimes it is assembling food kits for the Back Pack program which feeds food-insecure kids over the weekend, sometimes we stock shelves and here in these pictures, we're repacking flour from bulk containers into customer-sized bags. You're welcome to be a part of this great feeding mission. Watch for announcements in newsletters and Sunday bulletins.



Look for Diaper Deals

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.

459 **vs** **473**
Creamy **Crunchy**

Peanut Butter Update, As of Monday Morning, August 28

This summer (June, July, August) we collected jars of peanut butter for the NE Iowa Food Bank. Peanut butter is an excellent source of protein, and kids love it. We set a lofty goal of 1,000 jars to collect over summer school break! At print time we have collected 932 and it appears that crunchy (473) is more popular than creamy (459). Thank you for your support of the NE Iowa Food Bank and the food insecure in our own community and neighboring counties.



It's time to Make Health and Layette Kits

Thanks for all the school supplies! You have been VERY generous in your shopping for school supplies for the UMCOR school kits. We are moving our focus to a couple other UMCOR kits – Health Kits and Layettes. The list of items to complete the full kits are on the Welcome Center, but here are the items we could use right now.

For Health Kits:

Hand towels (15"25" to 17"x27") new and unwashed
Washcloth
Adult sized toothbrush, individually wrapped
Bath-size soap (no Ivory or Jergens)
Bandages (3/4"- 1")

For Layette Kits:

6 cloth diapers
2 gowns or sleepers
2 shirts or onesies
2 baby-size washcloths
1 sweater or jacket open in front
2 diaper pins with plastic closures
2 Receiving blankets (30"x30" or 32"x32")

Heifer Update, and a New Project

Our summer Heifer International project was to collect \$1,000 for a Milk Menagerie. We collected \$400, enough for a goat and a water buffalo plus a little extra. Nice job!

Our back to school goal this fall is to send a girl to school. Each gift of \$275 will provide a family with training and livestock so they can earn the income needed to pay for their daughter's school fees and supplies. Girls often suffer the most from gender discrimination. They are often denied the opportunity to go to school because resources are limited.

This gift empowers girls and young women through education, equips them with books, paper and other learning materials, and provides for their tuition and other school expenses.

Heifer International and their partners support programs designed to give every girl the chance to fulfill her potential. Join us in breaking this cycle.



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

Importance of Left Tackles

In professional football, it seems those grabbing the most headlines are quarterbacks, running backs, and wide receivers. But according to Michael Lewis' book *The Blind Side*, the ones who grab the second highest paychecks are the left tackles.

Since most quarterbacks are right-handed, the left tackle's main role is to prevent his quarterback from being hit from behind, unseen. And with today's athletic linebackers and defensive ends, it takes a special person to do it. Left tackles must weigh more than 300 pounds and have long arms to block, but they must also be quick on their feet. Today, teams are willing to pay for such a player. The average salary of a left tackle in the NFL is about \$6 million a year. Only starting quarterbacks earn more.

The role of the left tackle is literally to be his "brother's keeper." This is the role that God plays on our behalf. Even though God calls all of us to care for others, some people are especially called and gifted for that role. Among them are Stephen Ministers. The Stephen Ministers in our congregation have been specially trained to give care to people who are going through a difficult time. You may be struggling with some issue in your life and would appreciate having someone come alongside to walk with you until things change. Stephen Ministers are trained to do that – to be your "left tackle" for a time. If you are interested in such a person, contact the church office and you will be directed to the right person who can help.

2017 Mission U (formerly SOCM):

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

The United Methodist Women (UMW) Mission u summer and fall events are wonderful mission education opportunities to study current issues impacting society. Whether you are young or old, laity or clergy, a UMW member or not, a first timer or attend every year, you are invited. All participate in the Spiritual Growth Study, Living as a Covenant Community. Also, attendees may choose to attend either the geographic study Missionary Conferences of the United Methodist Church in the U.S. or the social issue study Climate Justice: Call to Hope and Action.

WHEN: October 20-22. Fall Mission u, including Spanish, Korean, Children's, and Youth studies (register by September 20).

WHERE: Iowa Valley Continuing Education Center, 3702 S. Center Street, Marshalltown.

You may obtain a copy of the brochure and registration form at the counter on the back of the Welcome Center in the Gathering Place.

If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling-Witkoske (cdwwitkoske@hotmail.com or phone 319-594-2404).

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.

Hearts & Hands Meeting Again

The Hearts and Hands group will begin meeting on a somewhat regular schedule this fall. Recently some of our group helped with the Thursday night hot dog meal during the church rummage sale. We saw an increase in sales from last year, so we're happy about that.

Planned meetings for Hearts and Hands are as follows:

September 12 - Make pepper jelly at Karen's home - 119 Iris Drive. Come at 4:00 or anytime thereafter. Bring a bag of sugar and a pkg. of Certo

October 10 - Report from Janet on the trip to Nigeria. Gathering place 5:30
We are also signed up for "Take a Meal" that night by 4:30.

November 4 - Help with the Ingathering on Nov 4 or before as needed

December 13 - Decorate cookies with the youth (a Wed night)

We will plan activities for the rest of the year at one of the fall meetings. Questions? Call Karen Page at 319-230-7200 or e-mail kp224@cfu.net.

Coming up soon . . . "Street Fair" Open House!

In September, the United Methodist Women are inviting all the women of the church to a "Street Fair" Open House. At this event we will share with people who we are, what our purpose is, and what we do during our program year. Please mark your calendars for this event. Come as you are able and learn more about the missions, the purpose and the work of the United Methodist Women. We look forward to seeing you there!

Street Fair Open House

Saturday, September 16, 2017

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

First United Methodist Church

Cedar Falls, Iowa

Come Home for Dinner

Another event coming up soon will be our UMW Come Home to Dinner, which will be held on October 1, 2017. We will be serving our traditional ham ball meal. A free will offering will be taken at this time.

UMW Calendar:

Sept. 11 - Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library

Sept. 12 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library

Sept. 12 - Hearts & Hands Circle, 5:30 p.m., Gathering Place

Sept. 13 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Sept. 16 - Unit Meeting, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. UMW Street Fair, Fellowship Hall

Sept. 18 - Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., Parlor

Sept. 20 - More than Moms, 6:00 to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Sept. 22 - NE District UMW Annual Meeting and Unit Officer's Training, Dysart UMC

Sept. 26 - Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library

Sept. 27 - More than Moms, 6:00 p.m. to 7:10 p.m., Parlor

Sept. 28 - Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor

Sept. 28 - Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor

Oct. 1 - Come Home to Dinner, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Thank You

Thanks to Jane Wyckoff for delivering my beautiful 80th birthday rose. Jane, it is always a pleasure to visit with you - you are a delightful representative of the Congregational Care Team of FUMC.

Marlys Simpson

Thanks to the church and Jane Wyckoff for the beautiful red rose for my 80th birthday! It sure made my day. I love it!
Phyllis Aschenbrenner

Many thanks to the Care Team for the birthday card in July. Also to Jane for the lovely rose, always great to visit with her.
LaVonne Neese

Thank you to my church family for the beautiful red rose delivered to me in celebration of my 95th birthday! I appreciate your thoughtfulness and visits.
Fran Kuehl

Thank you to George Thornton for being one of Sunday School money counters. George has been at this job for 10+ years. George and his wife moved to Marion 4 years to be closer to family and in the last 4 years they have continued to worship regularly here at First UMC. George, thank you for all you have done for Sunday School and First UMC. You will be missed!
Jenna Engel

I wanted to take a moment to thank the congregation for your partnership! Summer is a great time to reflect and a chance to be thankful. Lincoln Elementary students and staff have truly been blessed to partner with our neighbors. A simple thank you is not enough and please know we value you! Thank you for your support.
Ralph Bryant, Lincoln Principal

Sympathy to:

Loretta Dykes and her family on the loss of her daughter-in-law on July 27.

Wanda Chase and her family on the loss of Clair. Clair passed away August 6.

Dee Voorhees on the loss of her friend and singing partner, Marion "Ozzie" Osborn, on August 16.

Martha Nation and Carol Dick on the loss of their sister and aunt, Jean Grinnell.

Jenna Engel on the loss of her grandmother.

Chj Morris and her family on the loss of her father, Milo Weltruski

A Day to Remember Julie Bailey

Where: 909 Clay Street

When: Saturday, September 9th

Julie Bailey was a life-long member of First United Methodist Church. She died on January 8, 2017. A brief graveside service was held on June 6, 2017. Sandy Jo Messingham is hosting a gathering at her home at 909 Clay Street on Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 to 1:00 as a time for friends to remember Julie Bailey. Refreshments will be served, and there will be a time for sharing memories of Julie. Friends of Julie Bailey are invited to attend.

Thanks, George

Thank you to George Thornton for being one of Sunday School money counters. George has been at this job for 10+ years. George and his wife moved to Marion 4 years to be closer to family and in the last 4 years they have continued to worship regularly here at First UMC. George thank you for all you have done for Sunday School and First UMC. You will be missed!

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 embers if you have any questions: Jim Larson, Genny Van Dorn, Debbie Dance and Jan Hoover

Financial Update--

July Receipts	\$ 70,125
July Expenses	\$ 65,363
YTD Receipts	\$499,586
YTD Expenses	\$477,277
Mortgage balance as of July 31-	\$512,893

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.

Attendance- week ending

	8/6	8/13	8/20	8/27
Transformation	90	89	97	-
Traditional 8:30	79	112	108	-
Traditional 10:00	76	95	80	-
Worship on Green	-	-	-	217

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



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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October newsletter deadline is September 20.

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