

aboutfirst news

September, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Cedar Falls



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issue 216, September, 2018

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

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

Thoughts from Scott

"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you." (2 Timothy 1:5)

The early church was wondering, as churches do today, how faith comes to be passed on from one generation to another. Today the same custom of passing on the faith exists, but to what degree? Many parents continue to ask, "Will my son or daughter be Christian? How can we pass on the faith to the next generation? How can we make the faith sticky-faith (faith that sticks throughout one's life)?"

There is no greater tool for faith formation than observation. We all learn a great deal by watching others, by looking over their shoulders as they actively live their faith. Timothy was raised in the Christian faith from childhood and is reminded of its importance in the letters Paul writes to him, but Timothy had more than a good upbringing. He had been given a calling. He was ordained by Paul's own hands we read, "I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline (2 Timothy 1:6, 7)." Paul was writing to Timothy that his faith mattered.

This fall First UMC will begin our **Confirmation classes** and one aspect of the process will be mentoring. Mentoring gives our youth a chance to look over the shoulder of another disciple. Further, this fall we will all be given the opportunity to explore our calling as disciples. This will happen as we explore together the worship series and church-wide study entitled "**A Disciple's Path.**" I urge every member to take time to join in this study and worship series. It is my hope that we will encourage the faith of our Confirmation youth and the faith of our entire congregation as we explore together our call as a faith community "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Blessings,
Pastor Scott



A Disciple's Path – Let's all look at this together!

The early Methodist ministers were itinerant travelers. They followed an actual path on horseback, to visit, encourage and teach small groups of believers, who often met in each other's homes.

And today, a piece of our Methodist understanding is that we're ALL ministers in one way or another – we're charged with sharing the Good News of the Gospel with those whose paths cross ours.

Times have changed since those early days, and our paths all look different – maybe your path is chasing your kids through the busyness of life, maybe your path is the hallway of your retirement community, maybe your path is the doorway you walk through to get to work, and maybe your path is the one you ride your bike on to unwind.

Regardless of what your path looks like, there are certain waypoints that we all have to hit as we pursue our purpose as ministers of the Gospel, they are: our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. These waypoints aren't just ways to support our church, they're the ways we put our discipleship into action. These waypoints are what show us to actually be on *A Disciple's Path*.

A Disciple's Path – based on the book by James Harnish – is a practical and spiritual look at these essential waypoints. Pastor Scott and Pastor Matt invite you to join them on this church-wide journey and together we'll learn what it means to truly be a disciple of Jesus Christ from a United Methodist understanding. The pastors will both be preaching from the series on Sunday mornings, and will be co-teaching an in-depth class on Wednesday nights. Space is limited in the Wednesday night class, so sign up at the Welcome Center by September 5. Here are all of your opportunities to join us on *A Disciple's Path*:



Sunday mornings beginning Sept 9

- Traditional Worship: Pastor Scott will be teaching from the series
- Transformation Worship: Pastor Matt will be teaching from the series
- Pathfinders, Christ-Centered Families and Growing Christians Adult Sunday School Classes will follow the series

Tuesday evenings

- Tuesday night men's group will use video and discussion resources from the series

Wednesdays Mornings

- Women Connected by Prayer will be using study materials from the series

Wednesday Evenings beginning Sept 12 (sign up by Sept 5 for this session)

- A Disciple's Path – the full study lead by Pastor Scott and Pastor Matt, \$20 book



A Star-Studded Season

The fall season of Fusion Tonight begins Wednesday, September 12. We'll start with our own Pastor Scott Kober introducing himself to the Fusion family.

Through October, we'll have a series celebrating the great work and ministry of the people of our church.

Later in the season, we'll feature some of the best preachers from the Iowa Conference of the the UMC – really, we've got some heavy-hitters coming – who will speak on the theme of "If I were to preach my last sermon." So, it will be the best, bringing their best. You won't want to miss it!

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 share in 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.

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Sunday School Ready to Roll

First Sunday Back for kids and adults is **Sept 9th**. Sunday School will start at 9:45 and will end at 10:45.

Preschool through 6th grade rooms are downstairs on the lower level.

7th-12th grades meet upstairs on the 3rd floor.

Most adult classes meet in the lower level classrooms downstairs from Fellowship Hall.

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.



S'mores and More – September 23

The Fun & Fellowship committee is once again sponsoring the S'mores & More Picnic on September 23rd from 4-7pm. This event will be held at Riverview Lodge at Black Hawk Park on the north side of Cedar Falls. Bonfire, hot dogs, s'mores, hayrides, 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. Bring your friends and don't forget your lawn chairs! See you there!



neighborhood PICNIC

kids and adults

everyone's invited for

free food & fun

Wednesday, September 5, 2018

5:00-7:00pm

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls

aboutfirst.com

It's Our Annual Fall-Kickoff and Everyone's Invited!

You're invited for free food & fun as we welcome our neighbors back to school, back to church, and kick off our CrazyFunBusy Wednesday nights. We'll have burgers and dogs on the grill, potato salad, and other good eats. There will be games for kids and a dunk tank, too! Bring your friends and help us kick-off a great fall season.

Big Year Ahead for Chancel Choir

Our Chancel Choir fills our sanctuary with worship and song through classical choral music, traditional gospel songs, and popular Christian arrangements. In the past year, the Chancel Choir has brought their music ministry to all three Sunday morning worship services and has collaborated with the Transformation Band. This year, there are plans for a Christmas Cantata!

If you love to sing, we'd love to have your voice in the choir. You are welcome to be as committed as you are able - if you can't come every Sunday or make it to every rehearsal, that's OK - come when you can.

We rehearse on Wednesday nights at 7:30, Dr. Ted Bonebrake is our choir director, Bryan Houts and Doug Shaffer accompany on piano and organ. If you have any questions regarding the choir, call us in the church office and we'll connect you with Ted.



A Note From Becca as She Moves To Cedar Rapids

It was announced on August 26 that our Director of Youth Ministry, Becca Nims, had accepted a position at St. Paul's UMC in Cedar Rapids. It will be a bit of a homecoming for her as that is the congregation where she was baptized. We've had Becca as part of our First UMC family since she was a student at UNI, and we'll miss her! We wish her all the best as she begins a new stage in her life of ministry with the people of St. Paul's.

Here is a note from Becca:

When I first came to Cedar Falls in 2009 for college, First UMC became a home away from home. Over my 4 years of college I grew in my faith because of the relationships and mentorship that was fostered at First. After college and moving away for a year, I was given the amazing opportunity to join the staff as the youth ministry coordinator. For the past four years, we have grown together in this ministry. It is with tears and joy that I am writing to let you know that I have accepted a full time ministry position with Saint Paul's United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids.

My last day on staff at First United Methodist will be September 9th, 2018. Thank you for all the support you have given me over the past 9 years. First UMC and the Cedar Valley will always hold a special place in my heart.

Becca Nims

(Note: Our youth activities will continue as planned while our Staff Parish Relations Committee considers options for the youth director position)

Rummage Sale Delivers Support to Three Ministry Areas

It appears the three missions in our Church will be receiving approximately \$4,572.00 each from the proceeds of our late July fantastic rummage sale! There is one remaining bill that needs to be paid for extra garbage pickup, so the numbers might change a little. The three missions are: Wee Care Ministry, Community Meals, and to the Trustees for the replacement of the Formica countertop on the large island in the main kitchen with stainless steel. This benefits First Kids Preschool/Day Care to prevent a possible sanitation citation.

SAVE THE DATE AND MARK YOUR 2019 CALENDARS: Next year's Annual Rummage Sale will be held August 1 - 3rd; the first week in August!!

Attention All Ushers

We will be hosting a short meeting for all ushers and potential ushers on September 11 at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. Whether you have been an usher for 40 years, four weeks or have been considering being an usher, we strongly urge you to attend. We will be discussing the various roles the ushers fill, the requirements and expectations for each of these roles, and how ushers contribute to meaningful worship. Please let us know you are coming (we will be providing light refreshments)!

We hope to see everyone there. If you have any questions please refer them to Jenna at the church office or Jim Reidy at 266-9634 or jimreidy@cfu.net.



House Meetings Ongoing

All members and friends of First UMC are invited to attend a House Meeting. You may have received an invitation to attend in another member's home, or here at the church.

The purpose of these meetings is two-fold: to give you and Pastor Scott an opportunity to meet, and to provide a venue for Pastor Scott to listen to us as we share our opinions and hopes regarding our church.

The house meeting format is one that keeps our discussion groups to a manageable size for meaningful conversation.

If, for whatever reason, you have been unable to attend any other house meeting, you are invited to one Wednesday, September 5, at 7:30 pm, here at the church. This house meeting will be held following our big fall kickoff picnic, so if you come early, we'll feed you dinner!

Get Your Flu Shot at First UMC

Cheryl Neill 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.

New Opportunity: Provide Real Guidance to People on the Verge of Being “Lost in the System”

Do you have a passion for helping patients who need you most? Rus DeBonis has just the thing! She says:

“We are recruiting volunteers for a special program to assist patients in two UnityPoint Family practice clinics (Evansdale and Prairie Parkway Family Medicine). These Social Determinants Advocate (SoDA) volunteers will act as navigators to help patients who have identified needs such as lack of transportation or insurance coverage. The SoDAs will assist these patients by connecting them to resources that may help to address those needs. The goal of this program is to help improve healthcare and access for low income patients. Volunteers will receive special training for their role and are eligible for gift cards to offset expenses. If you are interested in learning more about serving in this exciting new role, please contact Ruselle DeBonis at ruselle.debonis@allencollege.edu or 319-226-2022.”

Welcome Paul Wilcox, Our New District Superintendent

We are hosting the “Welcome & Installation Ceremony” for Paul Wilcox, our new District Superintendent. Join others in the NE District at 2:00 PM to bless his ministry with us and all churches in the Northeast District.

Securing Your Legacy – Ensuring Our Future

You can secure your legacy as a sustainer of our church when you support our church Endowment Funds. Endowment funds are different from our general budget giving. Endowment funds include:

- Bequests and gifts received outside of the regular Sunday offerings and general budget support
- Fund given for a specific purpose or ministry area
- Funds invested on a long-term basis to provide the church with ongoing income

Our Endowment Funds are managed by the Endowment Committee of the church with the assistance of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. In managing the Endowment Funds, the committee’s goal is to be great stewards of your gifts, honoring your intentions, and balancing the wants and needs of today’s ministry with the “big picture” of our mission and purpose of making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Building our Endowment Funds will make our church less dependent upon the weekly offering collections to cover our expenses and our special one-time needs. Having a planned giving program not only strengthens the future of our church but is a way for you to say that you believe in the future of our church. An Endowment Fund program is truly a gift that keeps on giving.

Contributions to our Endowment Funds can be made in any amount, at any time. You may specify that your contributions be used for a specific purpose, or invested long-term to provide income for years to come.



The church Endowment Funds are also a wonderful way to include First UMC in your estate planning, and allow you to leave a legacy of continuing support to your family of faith.

Committee members are: Mike Butler (Chair), Alan Bernard, Richard Congdon, Jim Noelting, Jim Kenyon, Harriett McMahill, Jean Richardson, Susan Whitson, and Pastor Scott Kober.

News From “The Connection”

Does First UMC give you a feeling that you’re connected to something big? “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

For global UMC news: umc.org

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

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

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

Sept 4 - Food Bank Work Crew

Join us at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank on Tuesday, September 4. 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

Sept 4 - Grief Support Session

Where: church parlor

When: 2:00-3:30pm

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 Carol through the church office.

Sept 11 - Card Making Party

Where: Gathering Place

When: 1:00-5:00pm

Come join the fun as we make recycled greeting cards to send and sell on the card rack. No experience is needed. This quarter's profits will go toward postage for Ingathering.

Sept 20 - 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.

Sept 24 - LifeServe Blood Drive

Where: Gathering Place

When: 12:30-6:00

We are hosting the next blood drive on Monday, September 24 from 12:30-6:00. Donors, cookie bakers, and hosts are needed. They have quite a few appointments slots to fill. Sign up to donate at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org. 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.

Sept 25 - 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 to work on or volunteer your time and talent to make sleep mats for the homeless, handmade essentials for those in need, or prayer shawls. Thank you to all who have donated craft items - we are well stocked and need to use up what we have. Contact Crystal Wilken at crystalwilken@gmail.com with questions.

Wednesdays Are About To Get CrazyFunBusy

Wednesday night is YOUR church night and there's something for everyone. All of the CrazyFunBusy events start Sept 12.

Filling Station: We will kick off our fun packed Wednesday nights with a meal. Please join us for the Filling Station on Wednesday, Sept 12th. The Filling Station is in the gathering place 5:00-6:00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend. Cost of the meal is a free-will contribution. We do need help at the Filling Station with serving and clean up. If you feel called to help with this ministry contact Jenna Engel at jenna.engel@aboutfirst.com

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 12th 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, 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

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 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 beginning Sept 9
 10:00 Frederika UMC worship
 10:00 Traditional Service, sanctuary Sept 2 only
 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, 059
 4:30-6:00 Community Meal, Fellowship Hall
 6:30-8:00 Tuesday Night Fellas
 7:00-9:00 AA, 055

Wednesday

9:00 Women Connected by Prayer, parlor
 5:15 AA, 055
 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** *
 6:00-7:00 **Men's Study group** *
 6:15 - 7:30 **Tower Bells**
 6:30 WOW AA, 055
 7:15 - 8:00 **FUSION Tonight** *
 7:30 - 8:30 **Chancel Choir**
 * starts Sept 12

Thursday

5:30-6:30 Zumba, Fellowship Hall

Also Scheduled....

SUNDAY September 2

communion at all services
 9:30 Padma Templeton at Frederika
 10:30 Chris Congdon at Washington Chapel

MONDAY September 3

Labor Day, church office closed

TUESDAY September 4

9:30 UMW Board meeting, parlor
 2:00-3:30 Grief support, parlor
 6:00 Food Bank Work Crew

WEDNESDAY September 5

5:00-7:00 Kick-off picnic
 7:30 open invite House Meeting

THURSDAY September 6

6:30 Trustees, 057

SUNDAY September 9

9:45 Sunday School Year Begins
 10:00 worship moves to 11:00

MONDAY September 10

6:00 HOME Team, chapel

TUESDAY September 11

1:00-5:00 Cardmaking, Gathering Place
 1:30 Miriam Circle, library
 6:00 Usher training, sanctuary

WEDNESDAY September 12

2:00 communion service Stanard Chapel
 6:30 WOW AA, 055
 6:30 Finance Committee
 7:15 FUSION #1- Scott Kober

THURSDAY September 13

12:20 UMW going to Waverly
 6:30 SPRC, 056

SUNDAY September 16

10:00 Lisa Congdon at Frederika
 12:00 Circuit Riders (lay speakers), parlor
 6:00 Confirmation, Gathering Place
 6:00-7:30 Girl Scout Troop 1874, chapel

MONDAY September 17

10:00 DS Installation planning, library
 10:00 Deborah Circle, parlor
 6:30 Stephen Ministry supervision, lowerlv
 6:30 Worship Committee, library

WEDNESDAY September 19

9:30 MOMs, library/nursery
 11:00 worship service at Pinnacle Care

THURSDAY September 20

October Newsletter Deadline
 Noon-3:00 1st Friends potluck, Gather place

SUNDAY September 23

10:00 Rus DeBonis at Frederika
 2:00 DS Welcoming ceremony, sanctuary
 4:00-7:00 Fun & Fellowship S'mores & more
 6:00 Confirmation

MONDAY September 24

12:30-6:00 Blood Drive, Gathering Place
 6:30 Ad Council, library

TUESDAY September 25

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

WEDNESDAY September 26

2:00 communion at Windhaven

THURSDAY September 27

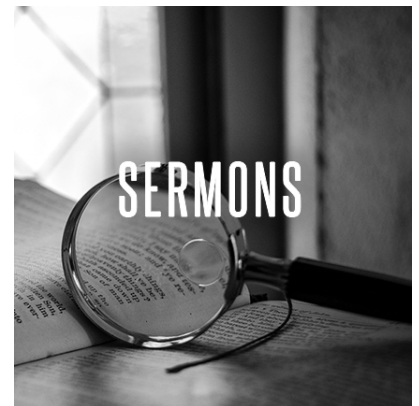
9:30 Mary Circle, parlor
 1:30 Joy Circle, parlor

FRIDAY September 28

oon newsletter mailing crew

SUNDAY September 30

10:00 Chris Werling at Frederika
 11:00 Come Home for Dinner
 6:00 Confirmation



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 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

Confirmation Class Beginning at First UMC

Begins with Parent & Student meeting on September 16th at 6pm

All 7th Grade, 8th Grade, and older youth are invited to join the Confirmation Class.

Confirmation is a spiritual and practical process as our young people explore their personal faith and their place in our church.

Our Confirmation class will include

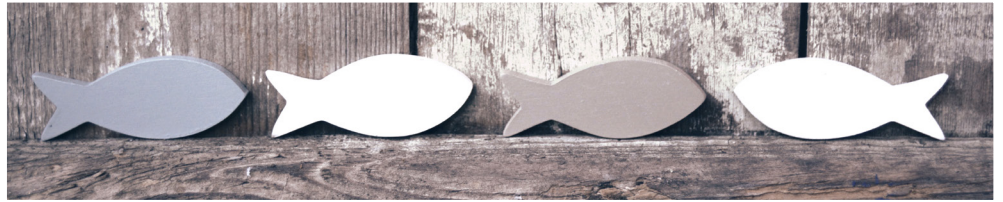
Sept - October: classroom sessions and field experiences

November - January: mentoring sessions. Each youth will have an opportunity to select a member of our congregation to meet with for a total of 8 sessions.

February - April: classroom sessions and field experiences

Sunday, May 5: Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation questions? Contact Pastor Scott at scott.kober@aboutfirst.com or 266-1713.



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.

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.



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.

Christian Education offering – September 9

This offering is used in Iowa to celebrate and promote Christian education and spiritual formation. Half is granted to Iowa Religious Media Services for the purchase of resources, another large amount is used to support camperships at Iowa United Methodist Camps, and 10% is used to fund scholarships for continuing education for salaried United Methodist Christian Educators.

Our September Mission of the month is CROP Hunger Walk

The annual CROP Hunger Walk happens Sunday, September 30 (registration at 1:30, walk at 2:00). This year the walk will make a three mile loop beginning and ending at First Baptist Church in Waterloo (434 Baltimore St, Waterloo). This is an area in community that has a population familiar with food insecurity.

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 First Baptist Church when you register for the walk on September 30.

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

CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

A large blue footprint graphic is positioned to the right of the main text, with the word 'WALK' partially overlapping it.

Heifer – We Filled the Pond, Let's Fill the Whole Barnyard!

Farm animals are a common sight in Iowa, and it seemed appropriate to fill a barnyard to support Heifer International. Last month we concentrated on ducks for Pastor Matt, and we got a hundred of them! 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.



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. We are making a difference to the students at Lincoln. Faithful volunteers spent hundreds of hours as Reading Buddies for students this past school year. Wouldn't it be great to keep this going for this school year? If you are interested in being a Buddy this school year, sign up on the clipboard at the Gathering Place.

Principal Ralph Bryant is looking forward to another year of this partnership. We will begin working in the classrooms the week of September 10. 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. 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 the poor and needy. 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.

Be a Blessing to Someone – Love INC of the Cedar Valley

People in need will often approach a church for assistance. Unfortunately, many churches are not equipped to meet the variety of needs that are presented. That's not a failure of the churches - at their core, they are faith organizations, not relief agencies. But, the Christian imperative is to help. Love INC works like this: when someone approaches a member church for assistance, they are referred to Love INC. Love INC then conducts an interview to fully determine the need, and which church is best able to assist. Love In The Name of Christ (Love INC) pools the strengths of area churches to reach out to those in need - our church is one of 28 partners.

You can be a blessing to someone today by volunteering with Love INC as a Clearinghouse or Community volunteer. If you're interested in serving with Love INC, fill out a volunteer form found at loveinccv.org or call 266-1264. They'll get back to you in a couple of days.

fellas @ first

Tuesday Night Fellas

Gentlemen, our Tuesday night men's group will be starting again after Labor Day, and all ages are welcome – punks to geezers. We're relaxed and informal, but not afraid to tackle tough questions and deep topics. Our first six weeks we will follow the pastors' teaching series A Disciple's Path. We will watch the video sessions and then use the material to guide our discussion. 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 want to invite all the men of our church to a gospel-centered video series that presents the timeless truths of Authentic Manhood in a powerfully new and engaging way. It is our hope in this new 6 week study beginning Wednesday September 12th that you will find yourself building a vision for authentic manhood in your own life that is built on the gospel of Jesus Christ and was modeled by Him in His 33 years on earth. We will meet in the chapel at 6:00pm and be over right at 7:00. Cost is only \$15 for your training guide. 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!

UMW News

Our September Unit Meeting will be a field trip to the Retrieving Freedom Service Dogs facility west of Waverly, Iowa on September 13, 2018. Plan to meet at the Church parking lot by 12:20 pm. We will leave by 12:30pm. We may use the bus if we can find a driver. Please RSVP to Pauline Harding by September 10th. If you plan to drive, the address is: 1152 230th Street, Waverly, Iowa. It is a right exit (#203) off Highway 27/218 northbound. Then turn right onto Highway # 3 and drive only approximately 1/2 mile. Retrieving Freedom's facility is on the right and visible with an American flag flying above the facility!

UMW Calendar

- Sept. 4 – Board Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Library
- Sept. 11 – Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library
- Sept. 11 – Hearts & Hands Circle, 5:30 p.m., Gathering Place
- Sept. 12 – More than Moms, 6:00 p.m., Parlor
- Sept. 13 – Trip to Retrieving Freedom Service Dogs for Veterans and Children, 1152 230th St., Waverly, Iowa
- Sept. 17 – Deborah Circle, 10:00 a.m., Parlor
- Sept. 19 – More than Moms, 6:00 p.m., Parlor
- Sept. 20 – NE District Leadership Team Workday, Janesville UMC
- Sept. 21 – NE District UMW Annual Meeting, Janesville UMC
- Sept. 25 – Miriam Circle, 1:30 p.m., Library
- Sept. 26 – More than Moms, 6:00 p.m., Parlor
- Sept. 27 – Mary Circle, 9:30 a.m., Parlor
- Sept. 27 – Joy Circle, 1:30 p.m., Parlor
- Sept. 30 – Come Home To Dinner, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Mission U: Learning Together for 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: Embracing Wholeness". 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 "What About Our Money? A Faith Response".

WHEN: October 19-21. Fall Mission u, (register by September 21).

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 Welcome Center in the Gathering Place. If you have any questions please contact Chris Werling (contact info is on the brochure)

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.

Women Connected By Prayer

Jan Hoover leads this group, Wednesday mornings at 9:00, in the parlor. They will be following the series "A Disciple's Path" in September and October.

Thank You

Thank you for my birthday red rose and for the enjoyable visit from Jane. It was greatly appreciated.

Dave Harris

I would like to thank the Congregational Care Team and all for the beautiful red rose for my 80th birthday. Thank you to Jane Wyckoff for bringing it to me, too.

Betty J. Fanning

I would like to thank the church for the rose and Jane for delivering it for my 83rd birthday.

Gil Hewett

A great big Thank You to Jane Wyckoff and all the church family for the beautiful rose on my birthday. It looked nice for a long time.

Ann Campbell

Thank you for choosing to partner with Midwest Mission Distribution Center. You have helped change the world by showing God's love in a practical way.

Blessings,

Chantel Corrie

MMDC Director

Thank you so much for your donation after we helped with cleaning up after the Cedar Falls First Rummage Sale. We were happy to lend a little muscle to your long project. On behalf of all the students and staff at Threehouse: A Wesley Foundation, we send you our heartfelt thanks.

David Glenn-Burns

Director and Campus Minister

Sympathy to:

Martha Kroese on the death of her mother-in-law, Rita Kroese, on August 1.

Kathryn Dix and her family on the loss of her daughter, Mary Teel, on August 12.

Welcome to:

Welcome to Abigail Jo Everman, who was baptized on July 29. She is the daughter of William and Amanda Everman.

Congratulations to:

Gabbi and Jon Cooper on the birth of their first child. Avery Jonathan Cooper was born August 28.

Thank You from Pastor Steve

"I thank my God always, when I remember you in my prayers."

-Philemon 1:4

Thank you for being so much a part of our life story. We were so blessed when we were called to serve First United Methodist Church nine years ago. The open house you hosted in recognition of our retirement was truly one of the best days of our lives. The day was really a celebration of friendship that spanned our years of serving Christ together.

Thank you for your generous gifts, which we will use towards purchasing something special for our new home. We love the word "home". It has such a good sound that reminds us of the warmth and love we felt while calling CedarFalls First our church home. We will miss walking in on Sunday mornings and feeling we are walking into the heart of God.

Thank you for your special gift of season tickets to the Cyclone football games. This gift speaks volumes of your acceptance of us, especially in the heart of Panther Country. It truly reminds us there is neither Panther or Hawkeye or Cyclone for we are all one in Christ! This was a perfect gift to begin our new chapter. Most of all, thank you for all you have done for us over our years together. Your greatest gift is something we will carry the rest of our lives - your encouraging support, wrapped in warmth and laughter and love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts. God bless you in beginning a new chapter in the story that never ends.

With our love and prayers always,

Steve and Janet Williams

102 Southwoods Drive Nevada, IA 50201

Steve's cell phone#: 515-451-6312

Janet's cell phone#: 515-451-1738

willsteve013@gmail.com

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

	8/5	8/12	8/19	8/26
Transformation	79	76	83	x
Traditional 8:30	132	77	93	x
Traditional 10:00	105	108	99	x
Worship on the Green				216

First United Methodist Church

718 Clay Street

Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

Phone: 319.266.1713

Fax: 319.266.1715

Email: churchoffice@aboutfirst.com

www.aboutfirst.com

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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

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

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

Staff (in alphabetical order)

Sam Barr, Transformation Music Coordinator

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

John Bentley, Head Custodian

Ted Bonebrake, Chancel Choir director
tbonebrake@hotmail.com

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

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

Debbie Dance, Financial Manager
debbie.dance@aboutfirst.com

Carol Dick, Parish/Grief Support Coordinator
carol.dick@aboutfirst.com

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

Rebecca Nims, Youth Ministry Coordinator
rebecca.nims@aboutfirst.com

Doug Shaffer, Organist
musicman52151@gmail.com
610-4249

Emily Terpstra, Custodian