



THE CHIMES

The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.



Upcoming Events

FILLING STATIONS

SPRING MUSICAL

VASHTI CIRCLE

MEALS ON WHEELS

BIBLE SUNDAY

YOUTH MINISTRY SUNDAY

A Word From the Pastor

Cast Your Net

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught."

John 21:9-10 (NRSV)

He is risen! Christ is risen indeed! He has opened the gates and offered us new life, a new way of being, and a path through life full of abundance. Jesus calls us to a different way of being, a way that has been transformed through love, grace, and forgiveness that looks different from the ways that the world (and perhaps even some of our religious communities) operate. Throughout our lives, we have many similar moments like when the disciples encountered Jesus on the lake shore, moments where all of a sudden hope and grace break through the monotony or the despair and we are given a choice on whether...

A Word From the Pastor Continued...

.... to follow Christ or not.

We find these same themes in John 21:1-14. After Jesus had appeared to the disciples, I'm sure that moment of awe and wonder lasted about as long as a sunrise. No doubt, the disciples probably quickly grew to wonder what this all meant while "normal life" set in. In, perhaps, a disheartened moment, Peter, Thomas, James, John, and two others go fishing. They fall back on something familiar, comfortable, and known, but not what they're called to. The results are predictable, a long night of very little fish and much frustration; but come morning, they see someone having breakfast on the lake shore. At once the man asks if they had caught any fish. I can just see the downcast eyes and heads shaken in annoyance. I can almost hear a defiant and frustrated, "no" come from the group. So of course the man tells them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat. Sure enough, the catch is enough fish to almost break the net, a surprise, a miracle, and something that triggers a memory deep within one of the disciples. "Peter," they must have cried, "it is the Lord!"

Amazing, it seems, how quickly we return to our old habits and patterns. As has been said many times over, if we do the same thing we can expect the same results, and here we have the disciples and Christ retelling that same story, proclaiming that same wisdom. Perhaps, what we need now in our own lives is cast the net on the other side. What we just might need now is to truly remember the words of Christ and follow them, rather than just fall back into the old wheel ruts and cattle paths that we so easily and comfortably end up on. The alternative is to keep coming up with empty nets, to keep fishing and finding that our efforts have been less than effective and less than encouraging.

On the other hand, what if we did cast our net to the other side? What if we did try to pursue life where we had pursued security? What if we did let go of the "form" of how it's always been done so that we can find the "essence"? What would happen if we imagined a world that could be instead of complaining about the world that is? What might we find if we commit to conversations over accusations? Forgiveness over grudges? Cooperation over control? Not only in our own personal lives, but what if the Church was willing to cast it's net on the other side? To hold to the teachings of Jesus rather than the old habits of our communities? What would it look like for the Church to listen to the old, loving encouragement from Christ and try something new? Of course, we be surprised with how effective it could be. We might be strained to bursting from the success we find. And, without a doubt, it won't come without effort. But the outcome is sure, the blessings are guaranteed: reunion with the ones we love, strengthened relationships that care for us, enough food and resources for everyone, and a reinstatement and a re-elevation to what we have been called to do and who we were meant to be. If we were to cast our nets on the other side, if we were to truly commit to something new, I am convinced that we will find hope, and life, and joy.

This is my prayer for us this Easter season as we journey towards Pentecost: may we remember the teachings of Christ, the essence of what he taught and encouraged us in, and may we let go of the old habits and ways of living that do not align with the love of Jesus and the grace of God. May we cast our nets on the other side and strive to find the ways and the places that the Spirit is already active in the world. And may God instill within us a spirit of trust for one another, of courage to step out in faith, and one of love between us that will proclaim to the world the Christ is risen, death will not win, and a better world is possible in both the here-and-now as well as the here-after. Cast your net on the other side, and see what God will do. Amen.

Ps. Luke Fillmore

YOUTH MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER

Month of April | 2024

First UMC Family Ministry

From Adyson,

April is all about art in youth groups. The students will be finishing their art projects that share a message about who God is. We will be sharing their projects on April 28th!
Bible Sunday will be on April 21st. We have a large group of 3rd Graders and I look forward to celebrating them and their faith!
April 7th is a youth ministry run service! Students are being assigned jobs so please let me know if you will not be there. - Adyson

What we learned last month

- Lent (WNL)
- Lent (Middle)
- Christ's Miracles (Sunday School)

Topics for this month

Sunday School

Stronger in faith! Learning how to make our relationship with God stronger!

Youth Groups

Art Projects! These will be on display at the end of April!

Important Dates

- April 7th - Youth ministry Sunday
- April 21st - Bible Sunday
- April 28th - Art Show
- April 21st - Mission Trip Meeting



Announcements

Rummage Sale

Do not forget to drop off your donations to the church for our spring Rummage Sale scheduled for June 6-8. Donations can be dropped off anytime from now until Monday, June 3. Examples of items to donate for the sale include: household goods, small appliances, home décor, furniture, tools, toys, sports items, towels and bedding, jewelry, clothing (please donate only seasonal items), handbags, gifts, artwork, books, music, and more! Please do not donate older or non-working electronics as they have limited interest. Feel free to help spread the word to your friends and family too! Funds raised from our sale help support local, state, and international missions. We are excited for another successful Rummage Sale!

Interested in helping? Volunteers are needed to help before, during, and after the sale. Please contact one of the Rummage Sale Coordinators if you can help: Pat Bennett (515-570-4368), Jody Donahe, (515-408-1061), Dori Snow (515-408-3115), Cheryl Trunnell (515-570-3509), and Phyllis Wilson (515-570-2502)

Radio Broadcast

Thank you to Betty Niceswanger and Mary (Sue) Murphy for sponsoring our radio broadcasts in March. If you or a family member enjoy services being broadcast on the radio, please consider donating to the cost of a broadcast (\$100). Payment can be sent directly to the office. If you would like this to be in honor of memory of someone, please let the office know.

Welcome, Amaia

The Worship Committee is happy to introduce Amaia Walsh, our new organist. We are delighted to have such a fine musician worshiping with us. Amaia is a music instructor at Iowa Central, an organist at First Congregational UCC, and a trumpet player in the Karl King Band and FD Area Symphony. She also composes music- hymn tunes, chamber works, and music for full orchestras. Amaia received a Master of Music degree from the University of Arkansas in 2020 and a Bachelor of Music from Drake University in 2018. Trumpet performance was her focus with organ as a secondary instrument. We are sharing Amaia with First Congregational UCC. Since their service is right after ours she will be leaving immediately after our service.



Thursday, June 6: Noon to 5:00 pm
Friday, June 7: 9:00 am to 6:00 pm
Saturday, June 8: 9:00 am to Noon

- Clothes • Shoes • Furniture • Books • Tools
- Toys • Holiday Decor • Dishes • Antiques
- Kitchen Appliances • Sporting Goods • Much More!

\$4 bags & large items 1/2 off on Saturday only

First United Methodist Church
1002 1st Avenue North
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501
(enter through west doors or elevator)

All are invited!

Proceeds from the sale support local, state, national, and international missions.

Al-Anon Meetings

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope, in order to solve their common problems. They believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Their purpose is to help family of alcoholics. There is no cost to attend. Meetings take place each Monday at noon in the Gathering Room.

Technical Support Team

Many thanks to our church members who make it possible for live streaming church services each week. These tasks include recording, controlling the cameras, checking sound, and more! Thank you very much to Charlene Anderson, Dave and Lori Beekman, Scott Johnston, Elizabeth Metier, Brent Meyer, Cody Peterson, Jim Stephenson, and Jeremy Swanson.

Additionally, thank you to Scott Johnston, Brent Meyer, and Jim Stephenson for installing the new TVs in the Fellowship Hall.

Meals on Wheels

The next opportunity to help with Meals on Wheels will be April 24-26. This is a great opportunity to help within our community and only takes less than hour depending on your route. Please contact Elizabeth Metier at jemetier1983@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Donation Requests

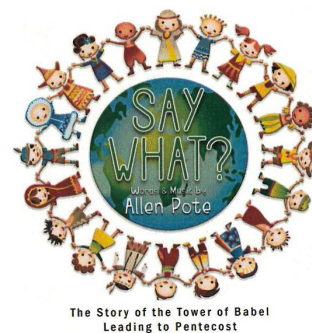
Our church will be having another donation challenge throughout the month of April for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Our goal is to collect 100 boxes of cereal. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the shopping cart in the back of church. Also, they can always use extra plastic grocery sacks.

Vashti Circle

The next meeting is on Thursday, April 18 at 1:30 pm in the Church's Gathering Room. This group of women meet once a month to worship, share a brief program, and spend time together.

Pledge Forms

Did you forget to turn your 2024 pledge/commitment form in? Not a problem! You can still turn your commitment form into the office. The commitment that comes from pledging is another spiritual tool that helps us become better Christians. We invite you to consider continuing to support the work of God through our church. We are grateful for your support!



From composer and lyricist Allen Pote, "In Genesis 11 and Acts 2 we read about two events where languages helped fulfill God's purpose. When the people of Babel built the tower, they were led by the human spirit and ended up in confusion, scattered over the earth and speaking different languages. At Pentecost, people from many nations, speaking different languages, were led by the Holy Spirit; and even in their diversity, they were united."

Please join **The King's Kids and Joyful Noise Choirs** and their parents as we share a brand-new musical:

Say What?

Sunday, April 14, 2024
During 9:45am worship





First United Methodist Church 2024 Commitment Card

*The mission of the United Methodist Church is to make
disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

Name _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip code _____

Phone _____

Email _____

_____ **Yes! I/We will support the church in 2024.**

Choose one:

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks

\$ _____ semi-monthly (1st & 3rd Monday)

\$ _____ monthly for 12 months

\$ _____ as follows: _____

Payment method (*choose one*):

_____ Cash

_____ Check

_____ Direct Deposit

*If you would like to begin using direct deposit, please contact the office.

You may change your commitment anytime by notifying the church office. If you have any questions about this form, please contact the office.

Please return this form to the office. Thank you for your support!

Signature _____ Date _____

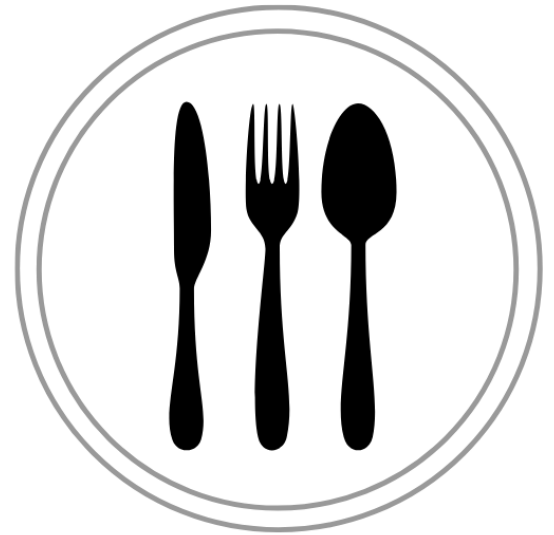
FILLING STATION

Join us for a **homemade meal, fellowship, and contemporary worship service**. Meal starts at 5:00 pm. Service to follow at 6:15 pm.

Menu:

APRIL 3

Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs
Sausage
Bacon
Fresh Fruit



APRIL 17

Pulled Pork Sliders
Fries
Beans
Ice Cream Sundaes

RSVP

Contact the church office at 515-576-7586 to RSVP for the meal. Meal is \$6 per person or \$18 per family.



FORT DODGE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Mission Trip Fundraiser

T-Shirt Order Form



Profits from this sale will go towards this summer's mission trip to Colorado. Orders due by **Sunday, April 28** after service. If you have any questions about the order or if you wish to join the mission trip, please contact Adyson at adyson@firstumcfd.org.

Name: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

YOUTH SIZES- \$18 EACH

MEDIUM _____

LARGE _____

X-LARGE _____

ADULT SIZES- \$20 EACH

SMALL _____

MEDIUM _____

LARGE _____

X-LARGE _____

XX-LARGE _____

3-XL (+\$2) _____

TOTAL:

\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD

Checks can be made out to First UMC with 'Mission Trip Shirts' in the memo

Cash

Thank You!

Lectionary Readings

April 7

2nd Sunday of Easter

Acts 4:32-35

Ps 133

1 John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

April 14

3rd Sunday of Easter

Acts 3: 12-19

Ps 4

1 John 3: 1-7

Luke 24: 36b-48

April 21

4th Sunday of Easter

Acts 4: 5-12

Ps 23

1 John 3: 16-24

John 10: 11-18

April 28

5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 26-40

Ps 22: 25-31

1 John 4: 7-21

John 15: 1-8

Financials

Year to Date Giving:

\$99,861.03

Year to Date Expenses:

\$91,217.98

Income Over (Under) Expenses:

\$8,643.05



Birthdays

April 3

Kati Swanson

April 9

Deanne Finke

April 11

Elizabeth Metier

April 11

Michael Stanley

April 12

Aaron Champagne

April 21

Sarah Fillmore

April 22

Jan Wilson

April 23

Benjamin Schnurr

April 25

Randy Hanna

April 26

David Petersen

April 26

Jerry Schnurr

April 27

Katie Peterson

April 27

Joley Swanson

April 30

John Metier

Anniversaries

April 10 Marc & Jan Krass 31 years

April 18 Tom & Marilyn Brainerd 65 years

April 24 Richard & Diane Jones 48 years



PRAYER REQUESTS

Bob Bargman
Betty Niceswanger
Miller Sanchez
Nancy Scharf

Donna Pearson
Mary Lou Fibiker
Nursing home residents
Men & women serving our country

Volunteer Schedule

Tech Team

Sound | PowerPoint | Camera

April 7	Dave Beekman Lori Beekman Cody Peterson
April 14	Scott Johnston Brent Meyer Jim Stephenson
April 21	Jim Stephenson Charlene Anderson Cody Peterson
April 28	Scott Johnston Lori Beekman Brent Meyer



Liturgists

April 7	Kati Swanson
April 14	Jerry Schnurr III
April 21	Jan Krass
April 28	Michael Stanley

Ushers

April	Scott McQueen & Marlo Branderhorst
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Greeters

West Doors | East Doors

April 7	Lynette Bumann-Pearson Nick & Heather Cochrane
April 14	Lana Waggoner Jerry & Linda Beck
April 21	Connie Schnurr Byron & Diane Chalstrom
April 28	Bennett Hennessy Carol Harrison

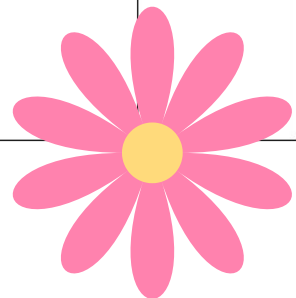
Altar Flowers

April 7	Gibb
April 14	Beekman
April 21	
April 28	J. Swanson

THANK YOU!

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed: Holiday	2 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm	3 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm Filling Station Meal: 5:00 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Filling Station: 6:15 pm WNL: 7:00 pm Wesley Ringers: 7:00 pm	4 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	5	6
7 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Youth Ministry Sunday Spring Musical Rehearsal: 10:45 am Wesley Ringers Reh: 11:00 am	8 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	9	10 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm WNL: 7:00 pm	11 Ad Council: 5:30 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	12	13 Manna Meal (First Coven) 5:00 pm Final Musical Rehearsal- 5:00 pm
14 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Spring Choir Musical SPRC Meeting after Service	15 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	16 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm	17 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm Filling Station Meal: 5:00 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Filling Station: 6:15 pm WNL: 7:00 pm	18 Vashti Circle: 1:30 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	19	20
21 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Bible Sunday Mission Trip Mtg: after service	22 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	23	24 Meals on Wheels Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm WNL: 7:00 pm	25 Meals on Wheels Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	26 Meals on Wheels	27 Manna Meal (Trinity UMC): 5:00 pm
28 Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Art Show Worship Comm. Mtg after service	29 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	30 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm				



FORT DODGE

First United Methodist Church

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Worship Service
11:00 am Radio Broadcast
(KVFD 1400 AM)

CHURCH OFFICE

Monday - Friday
8:00 am - 4:30 pm
515-576-7586
www.firstumcfd.org



Fort Dodge
First United Methodist Church
127 North 10th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STAFF

PASTOR

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Adyson Schanz | adyson@firstumcfd.org

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lindsay Kavanaugh | office@firstumcfd.org

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS DIRECTOR

Amy Champagne

CHANCEL CHOIR DIRECTOR

Gretchen Stanley

WESLEY RINGERS DIRECTOR

Brian Robison

PRAISE BAND CO-DIRECTORS

Amy Champagne & Gretchen Stanley

ORGANIST

Amaia Walsh

NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Lyndsey Bennett & Ella Champagne

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Danelle Willer

MAINTENANCE

Jordan Harvey