



# THE CHIMES

The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.



## Upcoming Events

PLEDGE DRIVE

LAY MINISTRIES COURSE

FILLING STATION

ASH WEDNESDAY

VASHTI CIRCLE

MEALS ON WHEELS

## A Word From the Pastor

### Holy Moments

*“Jesus died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with him. So continue encouraging each other and building each other up, just like you are already doing.”*

1st Thessalonians 5:10-11 (CEB)

Have you experienced a holy moment? One such moment that comes to mind for me was when I was sitting in a circuit meeting with other churches in our region. We were discussing what ways we might be able to help encourage, equip, and resource on another so that we could more effectively engage in the mission of God. While that might not be everyone’s preferred way to spend a Tuesday evening, and there certainly was an element of a “meeting atmosphere”, all of a sudden there was a lull in the conversation. A question had been asked about our commitment to finding what would be most meaningful for our group. One of the clergy spoke up, saying that while they were from...

# A Word From the Pastor Continued...

... a smaller community and sometimes these meetings feel like they don't apply to their church, they were willing to commit to supporting the body of Christ as it was expressed in this group. I have to admit, in that moment I felt something strange, something holy and sacred. It was as if the Spirit broke through and provided a life, an energy, and a presence that was electrifying. In that moment I encountered something holy, and that something was as simple as saying, "yes." It was, in many ways, a holy moment.

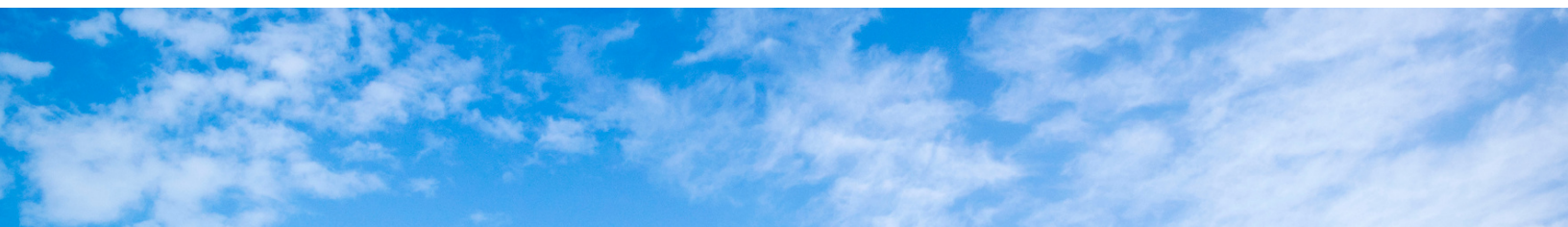
But what is a holy moment? A holy moment is an instance where we experience of the presence of God in our lives, an occurrence so infused with the Holy Spirit that we are filled with the love, the peace, and the joy of Christ. These moments are many and varied, as individual and unique as each person that might be in the midst of them. From answered prayers to unexpected encounters with the sacred, the common and defining feature of a holy moment is that God is in the midst of it.

Perhaps an important question, then, is how we begin to be aware of what the Spirit is doing in our midst? Like anything, all it takes is a bit of focus and a lot of practice. One way many of us start to train our hearts and our souls to be able to sense the presence of God is through daily reflection. Sometime throughout the day, maybe after we get home from work or as we're preparing for sleep, all one has to do is to find some quiet space and replay the day in our minds. The focus of our attention, as we remember what has transpired, are the places that made us feel alive. Once we can identify those, it's as simple as engaging in curiosity and asking the question, "was God in the midst of that?" Sometimes we'll find that we're not readily able to articulate how God was at work in the moments in our day, but what we might find over time is that we begin to see more and more how there are so many more holy moments in our lives than we had originally thought. As our eyes, ears, and hearts become more spiritually aware, oftentimes we start to see the work of God in many things that had once seemed so ordinary and mundane.

As Paul encourages us to build one another up in his letter to the Thessalonians, let us in this way encourage one another in the life of faith. I know in my own life when I have been blessed to hear the stories of how Christ is at work in the world my soul often sings alongside the person who is relating the story. In this way, faith and love, hope and joy, even the very kingdom of God begins to make its way into our lives and engage in the mission of God. When we share the experience of holy moments with each other, we caring for each other, building each other up, and loving each other as Christ has called us to do. As a community practice for us, I would encourage us not only to add this to our own individual lives, but also begin to share these moments with each other during our gatherings. I believe, as we begin to do so, what we will find is that there is far more hope and grace in the world than we had ever imagined. So, as we gather during worship, fellowship, or even for spiritual formation and education, I would encourage us to bring stories of the holy moments for the encouragement and edification of the community, because in doing so we just might find that life abundant bubbles up from our hearts and overflows into the world.

Amen.

Ps. Luke



# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## NEWSLETTER

Month of February | 2024

First UMC Family Ministry

### From Adyson,

Happy Valentines Day! The youth in all age groups will spend the month working on mission projects. I hope that by working together to care for the body of Christ in our organized groups that it will spill into our everyday lives! We will be having a churchwide Superbowl watch party of Feb 11th! I highly encourage inviting your friends to attend this event! We will have food, games, large Screen tv, and more! - Adyson

### What we learned last month

- Body of Christ (WNL)
- Missions (Middle)
- Family (Sunday School)

### Important Dates

- Feb 2nd - Winter Jam
- Feb - Mana Meal
- Feb 11 - Super Bowl Watch Party
- Feb 23-25 - Confirmation retreat



### Topics for this month

#### Sunday School

Sunday school is entering their month of missions! They will be focusing on how to help their schools, their church and their town!

#### Youth Groups

Our students will be focusing on relationships and missions for the month of February.

### Ministry Needs

- Volunteer teachers for Sunday School
- Books for the youth library
- Supplies for the take what you need basket

# Announcements

## Forty Days - Forty Items

Wednesday, February 10 is the first day of Lent. We have a great challenge for you! Each day of Lent, remove one item from your home and put into a box. At the end of the forty days, donate these items to the church for our spring Rummage Sale scheduled for June 6-8. Funds raised from our sale help support local, state, and international missions. 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!



## Donation Requests

Our church will be having another challenge throughout the month of February for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Our goal is to collect 100 cans of beans. 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 sacks (grocery stores, Menards, etc).

## Candles & Candle Holders

Thank you very much to Kati Swanson's mom, Diane Blom, for donating new candles and candle holders for the Christmas Eve service. The generous donation was greatly appreciated!

## Radio Broadcast

Thank you to Betty Niceswanger for sponsoring our radio broadcasts in January. 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 contact the office.

## Vashti Circle

The next meeting is on Thursday, February 15 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.

## 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.

## Deep Cleaning

A group of church members will be meeting on February 5 at 9:00 am to deep clean and organize the church's kitchen. Anyone can come and join! The coffee pot will be on and ready. This group's goal is to try and meet monthly with anyone who would like to help with different areas needing some tender loving care.

### Deep Cleaning & Organizing Crew

Monday, February 5  
9:00 am



## 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.

## Meals on Wheels

Our church is helping deliver Meals on Wheels on February 14, 15, and 16. We have two routes to cover each of those dates. We are hoping that many of you will be able to help next month so we can keep this important outreach in our community going. Please contact Elizabeth Metier if you are interested in helping: [jemetier1983@gmail.com](mailto:jemetier1983@gmail.com)

## Pledge Drive

It's that time again! While last fall we did not have a stewardship campaign, we still believe that pledging is an important spiritual tool that helps us be transformed by faith into more loving, gracious, and mature followers of Christ. And so, for 2024 we will have our pledge drive this winter as we commit to engaging in the ministries that God has called us to. A stewardship letter and pledge form have been sent out via email, mail, and will be available at the back of the sanctuary for the duration of the drive. Please prayerfully discern the ways that the Holy Spirit is inviting you to support our church and the amount that you'll be able to commit to this year. We encourage everyone to bring their pledges on Sunday, February 18th so that we might bless our commitments and submit the forms to the office by Monday, February 19th. If you haven't heard it lately, thank you once again for all the ways that you support the ministry of our congregation. We look forward to the coming year and all the ways that God will empower us to make a difference and transform our world into the kingdom of God!

## Lay Ministries Advanced Course

Our circuit will be offering a lay ministries training on Spiritual Gifts on February 3rd at the Manson UMC from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The class will be led by Pastor Luke and will explore what spiritual gifts are and how we use them, what our individual spiritual gifts might be, and how to discern and help others discern the spiritual gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows upon us. The only cost for this training is to help cover food. The suggested amount for lunch is \$10. The book we will be using is "Each One a Minister: Using God's Gifts for Ministry" by William J. Carter, (ISBN - 0881773751). We encourage you to order a book ahead of time and they can be found either through Cokesbury or Amazon; cost will be around \$14. Additionally, if you are interested in using this course for your status as a certified lay minister, speaker, or servant, please inform Pastor Luke and he will assist in sending in the correct forms.

# FILLING STATION

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

## FEBRUARY 7

### Menu:

Meatloaf  
Au Gratin Potatoes  
Spinach Salad  
Homemade Bread  
Red Velvet Cupcakes



## 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**

1002 1st Ave. North | Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Enter through west doors, meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall

# Lectionary Readings

## February 4

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Isa 40:21-31

Ps 147: 1-11, 20c

1 Cor 9: 16-23

Mark 1: 29-39

## February 11

Transfiguration Sunday

2 Kings 2: 1-12

Ps 50: 1-6

2 Cor 4: 3-6

Mark 9: 2-9

## February 18

1st Sunday in Lent

Gen 9: 8-17

Ps 25: 1-10

1 Pet 3: 18-22

Mark 1: 9-15

## February 25

2nd Sunday in Lent

Gen 17: 1-7, 15-16

Ps 22: 23-31

Rom 4: 13-25

Mark 8: 31-38

# Financials

## Year to Date Giving:

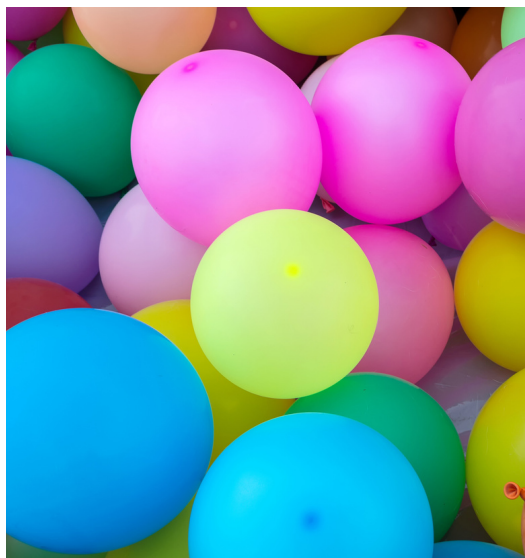
\$28,925.00

## Year to Date Expenses:

\$24,584.53

## Income Over (Under) Expenses:

\$4,340.47



# Birthdays

February 2	Amy Champagne	February 13	Betty Heideman
February 2	Ike Nelson	February 13	Susie Fillmore
February 4	Esther Clark	February 14	Joe Jackson
February 4	Nikias Pallos	February 14	Jane Ortmeyer
February 6	Mina Jacobs	February 17	Roxanne Morris
February 7	Nora Fillmore	February 18	Jim Metzger
February 7	Dave Beekman	February 19	Maeleah Sanchez
February 8	Garrett Swanson	February 22	James Kramer
February 8	Lori Branderhorst	February 25	Jim Stephenson
February 9	Taylor Willer	February 25	Bill Thomas
February 12	Deb Larson		

# Anniversaries

February 16	Rick & Lana Waggoner	23 years
February 25	Aaron & Amy Champagne	18 years



# PRAYER REQUESTS

Miller Sanchez  
Harriet Adams  
Mary Williams  
Thomas & Eli Hora  
Jan Wilson  
Nancy Scharf

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

# Volunteer Schedule

## Tech Team

### Sound | PowerPoint | Camera

February 4	Dave Beekman   Charlene Anderson   Jim Stephenson
February 11	Scott Johnston   Lori Beekman   Jeremy Swanson
February 18	Dave Beekman   Charlene Anderson   Cody Peterson
February 25	Jeremy Swanson   Jim Stephenson   Brent Meyer
March 3	Jim Stephenson   Charlene Anderson   Cody Peterson
March 10	Scott Johnston   Jim Stephenson   Jeremy Swanson
March 17	Dave Beekman   Lori Beekman   Cody Peterson
March 24	Scott Johnston   Charlene Anderson   Jeremy Swanson
March 31	Jim Stephenson   Jeremy Swanson   Brent Meyer



## Liturgists

February 4	Michael Stanley
February 11	Jerry Schnurr III
February 18	Kati Swanson
February 25	Scott Johnston
March 3	Dave Beekman
March 10	Jerry Schnurr III
March 17	Jan Krass
March 24	Michael Stanley
March 31	Scott Johnston

## Altar Flowers

February 4	J. Swanson
February 11	Beekman
February 18	Larson
February 25	Main
March 3	
March 10	Niceswanger
March 17	Beekman
March 24	Anderson
March 31	Easter Lilies

## Greeters

### West Doors | East Doors

February 4	Byron & Diane Chalstrom   Connie Schnurr
February 11	Carol Harrison   Deb Larson
February 18	Henry Brain   Lynette Bumann-Pearson
February 25	Jerry & Beth Schnurr III   John & Elizabeth Metier
March 3	Nick & Heather Cochrane   Lana Waggoner
March 10	Byron & Diane Chalstrom   Cody & Katie Peterson
March 17	Iris Jones   Bennett Hennessy
March 24	Deb Larson   Carol Harrison
March 31	Jerry & Beth Schnurr III   Henry Brain

## Ushers

February	Jerry Beck & Marlo Branderhorst
March	Marc Krass & John Metier

# THANK YOU!



# February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	2 Winter Jam	3 Circuit Training: 9:00 am
4 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am SPRC Meeting after Service	5 Cleaning Crew: 9:00 am Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	6 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm Book Study: 6:00 pm	7 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	8 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	9	10 Manna Meal (FUMC Youth): 5:00 pm
11 Sunday School: 8:30 am Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Super Bowl Party: 6:00 pm	12 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm Ad Council: 6:30 pm	13 Book Study: 6:00 pm	14 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 Ash Wed. Service: 6:30 pm WNL: 7:00 pm	15 Meals on Wheels Vashti Circle: 1:30 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	16 Meals on Wheels	17
18 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Pledge Forms due	19 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	20 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm	21 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	22 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	23 Confirmation Retreat	24 Confirmation Retreat
25 Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Worship Comm. Mtg after service Confirmation Retreat	26 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	27	28 Joyful Noise: 4:45 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm King's Kids: 5:30 pm Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm Chancel Choir Reh: 7:00 pm WNL: 7:00 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](http://www.firstumcfd.org)



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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## STAFF

### PASTOR

Luke Fillmore | [revluke@firstumcfd.org](mailto:revluke@firstumcfd.org)

### FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

Adyson Schanz | [adyson@firstumcfd.org](mailto:adyson@firstumcfd.org)

### ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

Lindsay Kavanaugh | [office@firstumcfd.org](mailto: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

### NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Lyndsey Bennett & Ella Champagne

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

Danelle Willer

### MAINTENANCE

Jordan Harvey