



THE CHIMES

The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.



Upcoming Events

EPIPHANY SERVICE

FILLING STATION

BOOK STUDY

SERMON SERIES

VASHTI CIRCLE

A Word From the Pastor

The Patience of Hope

“We were saved in hope. If we see what we hope for, that isn’t hope. Who hopes for what they already see? But if we hope for what we don’t see, we wait for it with patience.”

Romans 8:24-45 (CEB)

The world has finally turned and the season has shifted. We’ve begun, once again, another pilgrimage through the Christian year, even as we’ve ended yet another journey around the sun. It’s this time between Christmas and Epiphany where we are often given to both celebration and reflection, remembrance and anticipation, even as we honor where we’ve been and hope for what might be. St. Paul’s words in the letter to the Romans is a reflection on that sort of hope and anticipation that we as Christians engage in as we catch glimpses of the fullness of the kingdom of God. Nevertheless, it is a mystery to us, especially as Paul presents it here.

A Word From the Pastor Continued...

The context in which Paul is speaking is one of waiting for the end of all things, the promised time when Christ returns and reconciles and renews all of creation with God, itself, and each other. Our scripture says, “The whole creation waits breathless with anticipation for the revelation of God’s sons and daughters,” and, “we know that the whole of creation is groaning together and suffering labor pains up until now.” (Romans 8:19, 22 CEB) And we are right there alongside of it, waiting until we might live fully and wholly as God intended. There is a sense, even if it lives within the tension of “almost but not quite” and “already but not yet”, that we long for the world and ourselves to be as we always should have, and could have, been.

Certainly, this is not such a strange idea to many of us. All of us, at different times in our lives, have gone back and forth between the idea that life could be built and made into something better than it is or that it can be fixed and restored to what it had once been. These feelings, I can only imagine, become more pronounced in the midst of raising children, building careers, supporting communities, and reflecting on one’s legacy. The danger isn’t in the differing of vision, hopes, and dreams; rather, our challenge as a people of faith and the children of God is to continue to hope, dream, and envision a world which proclaims the good news of Christ, reflects the love of God, and allows the Spirit to move. Perhaps the trouble isn’t that we long for the wrong things, perhaps our trouble is that we don’t take our longings and our hopes seriously enough.

Of course, it is important to align our hopes and dreams with the will of God. Our hearts should beat in time with the heart of Christ, for this is what we believe brings us close to God. We should allow the Holy Spirit to move and shape our desires and longings, for in doing so our highest good and the truest blessings might be achieved. But as we take a moment in the quietness of a new year to reflect, may we also dream. May we find the courage to explore the paths that the Spirit is leading us down. If we could but cultivate a faith and a trust in the goodness and faithfulness of God so that we could find out if what we hope for as a community (peace, joy, love, vitality), what we don’t yet see in fullness, might be just around the corner. Because I’ve seen signs of new life in our congregation. I’ve seen the first moments of new growth start to stretch out from the soil that we have been tending as a church. New faces, new ministries, more participation, and growing leaders are but a few glimpses that something is happening in our congregation

Now is not the time for fear, “for God has not given us a spirit of terror, but a spirit of capability, love, and perseverance,” (2nd Timothy 1:7). Now is the time to step out in faith, trusting that God will do the heavy lifting so that we can respond and join in what is being done. As the psalmists remind us, “The Lord gives what is good,” (Psalm 85 CEB) and, “the Lord will protect you on your journeys,” (Psalm 121 CEB). For this is the mystery and adventure that Christ invites us into. God calls and we respond. The Spirit moves and we join in. As was said to the Corinthians, “You are God’s co-workers,” (1st Corinthians 3:9). And so our patience, as stated in Romans 8, is not a passive patience; rather, it is the patient action of growing in love and helping each other become more and more like Christ in our words and our deeds. The patience of hope is what allows us to free ourselves from paralysis and apathy and become the people who, by the power and the first movements of God, create and give life to great things. With God all things are possible.

This is my hope for our congregation this year, that we can face the challenges before us and put our trust in the Lord. That we can continue the work that goes back generations and build something that stands the test of time. My hope is that through our study, our love, and our service we can begin to more easily imitate Christ in all things: in courage and hope, love and service, kindness and invitation. May it be that we take the first step to build a firm foundation for the type of Church Christ is inviting us to be, and may our hearts be filled with excitement and anticipation as we commit to discovering the shape our hope and dreams might take as we enter into the kingdom of God. Let us commit ourselves to the Lord and step forward into a new year. Amen.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER

Month of January | 2024

First UMC Family Ministry

From Adyson,

Happy New Year! I hope you all are as excited as I am for the Bishop to visit on the 7th! A quick reminder that we do not have weekly programming over Winter break and will return to normal starting Jan 7th.

We have announced our mission trip for the summer of 2024! If you have any questions please let me know. Middle and High schoolers are invited to come to Winter Jam this year, please let me know if you are interested! - Adyson

What we learned last month

- Friendship and Trust (WNL)
- Christmas Story (Middle)
- Patience and trusting God (Sunday School)

Important Dates

- Jan 2nd Adyson is out of office
- Jan 7th Bishop is in town!
- Jan 7th Sunday School is back
- Jan 10th Youth group is back

Topics for this month

Sunday School

Sunday School will be jumping into the story of Ruth! We will focus on topics of family, trusting God, and helping others.

Youth Groups

Both groups will continue their work on friendship and living in community. High School will start to connect these lessons with Images of God!

Ministry Needs

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



Announcements

Radio Broadcast

Thank you to Betty Niceswanger and Sue Murphy for sponsoring radio broadcasts in December. 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 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 Thursday, January 18 at 1:30 pm in the Church's 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.

Epiphany Worship Service

Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai invites everyone to an Epiphany Service of Commitment and Healing for worship and to recognize the coming of the light of Christ into the world. The service will be held at Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church on January 7 at 3:00 p.m. Reception to follow. Join us for this special time of connection and commitment as we focus on the ways in which the light of Jesus Christ can be a healing balm for us and for the world.

Church Office

The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

Happy New Year!

Sermon Series

Money Matters

*Honest Conversations on
Faith, Money, and Financial Peace*

This winter we will be exploring the ways that faith, money, and generosity affect our spiritual and relational well-being. Join us Sunday mornings from January 7 through February 11 as we reflect together on what Christ and a life of faith can teach us about using our resources well and living the lives that God has called us to.



Donation Requests

Our church will be having a soup challenge during the month of January for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Our goal is to collect 100 cans of soup. 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).

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.



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.

JANUARY 17

Menu:

Ham and beans
Cornbread
Macaroni and cheese
Fruit salad
Raisin bread pudding



RSVP

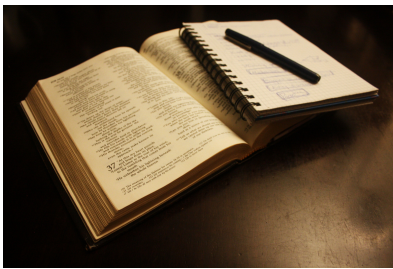
Contact the church office at 515-576-7586 to RSVP for the meal. Meal is \$6 per person or \$18 per family.



Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church

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

Enter through west doors, meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall



Book Study

Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Well-Being

January 9th - February 13th

Tuesdays from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

First UMC Gathering Room

(Zoom option available upon request)

Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Health is a program to help people of faith create healthy relationships with money and possessions. Participants will move through six sessions covering topics as saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life.

**Contact the office to sign up and order a book
(suggested \$17 donation) by January 2.**

Lectionary Readings

January 7

Epiphany Sunday

Isa 60: 1-6

Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14

Eph 3: 1-12

Matt 2: 1-12

January 14

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

1 Sam 3: 1-10

Ps 139: 1-6, 13-18

1 Cor 6: 12-20

John 1: 43-51

January 21

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Jon 3: 1-5, 10

Ps 62: 5-12

1 Cor 7: 29-31

Mark 1: 14-20

January 28

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Deut 18: 15-20

Ps 111

1 Cor 8: 1-13

Mark 1: 21-28

Financials

Year to Date Giving:

(As of 12-27-23)

\$348,736.00

Year to Date Expenses:

(As of 12-27-23)

\$374,963.37

Income Over (Under) Expenses:

-\$26,227.37



Birthdays

January 1

James Ellerston

January 4

Sue Murphy

January 7

Carter Swanson

January 8

Mark McBeth

January 9

Deloris Fawkes

January 9

Scott Day

January 10

Brent Meyer

January 13

Juanita Johnson

January 14

Audrey Haulard

January 15

Lincoln Asche

January 15

Chrystal Thorson

January 16

Ruth Thomas

January 16

Landon Meyer

January 17

Karen Herr

January 17

Gretchen Stanley

January 22

Joan LeValley

January 23

Karen Jackson

January 25

Alison Swanson

January 27

Jeremy Swanson

January 30

Jolene Scacci

Anniversaries

January 3

Mark & Laura Siems

9 years

January 23

Luke & Sarah Fillmore

8 years



PRAYER REQUESTS

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

| | |
|-------------|---|
| January 7 | Dave Beekman Lori Beekman Jim Stephenson |
| January 14 | Brent Meyer Lori Beekman Cody Peterson |
| January 21 | Dave Beekman Elizabeth Metier Jim Stephenson |
| January 28 | Scott Johnston Lori Beekman Brent Meyer |
| 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 |



Liturgists

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| January 7 | Kati Swanson |
| January 14 | Jerry Schnurr III |
| January 21 | Jan Krass |
| January 28 | Dave Beekman |
| February 4 | Michael Stanley |
| February 11 | Jerry Schnurr III |
| February 18 | Kati Swanson |
| February 25 | Scott Johnston |

Ushers

| | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| January | Marc Krass & John Metier |
| February | Jerry Beck & Marlo Branderhorst |

Greeters

West Doors | East Doors

| | |
|-------------|--|
| January 7 | Cody & Katie Peterson Deb Larson |
| January 14 | Nick & Heather Cochrane Iris Jones |
| January 21 | Bennett Hennessy Henry Brain |
| January 28 | Jerry & Linda Beck Lana Waggoner |
| 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 |

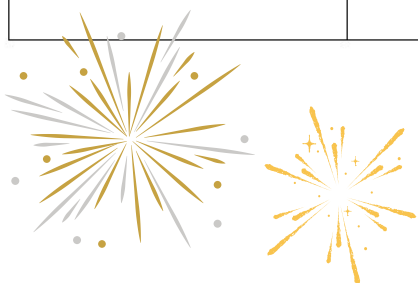
Altar Flowers

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| January 7 | C. Swanson |
| January 14 | Beekman |
| January 21 | |
| January 28 | Heideman |
| February 4 | J. Swanson |
| February 11 | Beekman |
| February 18 | |
| February 25 | |

THANK YOU!

January

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|--|--|-----|-----|
| | 1 Happy New Year! Office closed | 2 | 3 Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm | 4 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Trustees Meeting after service Epiphany Worship Service with the Bishop: 3:00 pm | 8 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm | 9 Book Study: 6:00 pm | 10 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 | 11 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am | 15 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm Ad Council: 6:30 pm | 16 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm Book Study: 6:00 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 Wesley Ringers: 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 | 22 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm | 23 Book Study: 6:00 pm | 24 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 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Sunday School: 8:30 am Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Worship Committee Meeting after service | 29 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm | 30 Book Study: 6:00 pm | 31 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 | | | |



2024



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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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