



THE CHIMES

The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.



Upcoming Events

FILLING STATION

VASHTI CIRCLE

LENTEN STUDY

MAUNDY THURSDAY

GOOD FRIDAY

EASTER

A Word From the Pastor

Christ Before Us

“For it is the gentiles who seek these things, and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

Matthew 6:32-33 (NRSV)

As another Lenten season is well underway, I'd like to offer a chance for us to take some time and reflect upon the focus of our lives. Typically, this season in the church is where we remove something from our lives that distracts us from the grace of God, tempts us to stumble in our faith, or binds us to sin and harm. Traditional “vices” include: caffeine, chocolate, too much TV (or social media),

A Word From the Pastor Continued...

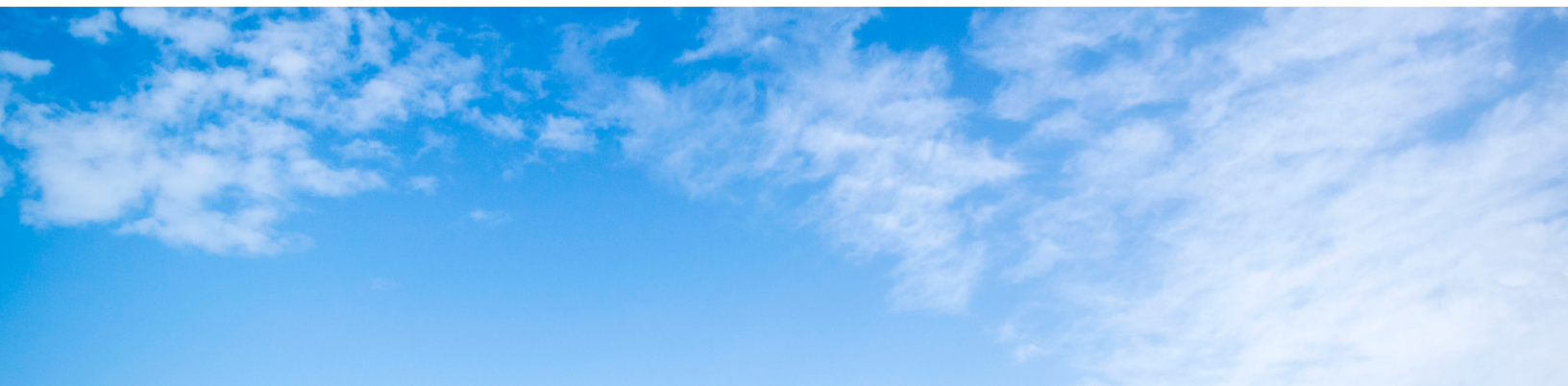
...foul language, or old grudges. Another newer tradition recognizes both the power in letting go of a vice while also adding a virtue to our lives. Any number of added habits or practices that I've heard of range from: volunteering once a week, adding a short time for daily prayer, saying thank you more, spending time with family, reading your bible, etc.

And while these are good practices to engage in (I've certainly committed to adding a virtue and subtracting a vice myself), I've noticed that sometimes even in the pursuit of health and wholeness we lose sight of the bigger picture. It's an old prayer from St. Patrick that starts with the opening line, "Christ be with us, Christ before us, Christ behind us..." Reflecting then on this line, as well as what the author of the Gospel of Matthew offers to us, I wonder if sometimes we focus on the symptoms rather than the cause, the outward identifiers rather than the essence, and in doing so miss out on the good things that God has in store for us. What would life be like if we kept Christ before us in all that we do? I've found that when we're honest with ourselves, most problems or challenges are spiritual in nature, rather than technical or material, and to keep our focus on Christ allows us to overcome any obstacle and enter fully into God's blessing, grace, and love.

So this Lenten season I invite us, as we commit to engaging in better, healthier practices, to keep an image of Christ before us. That in doing so, choosing health and loving our bodies can be a reflection of Christ's love for us, or giving up old grudges or hurtful language can be an enactment of our freedom in Christ, or engaging in deeper prayer and study can be sustained by the one who made us, loves us, and gives us the ability to be fully who we are. May we all seek first the kingdom of God and the love of Christ, and may the inherent blessing that that love already is, overflow into countless other unforeseen blessings as well.

May it be so. Amen.

Ps. Luke Fillmore



YOUTH MINISTRIES

NEWSLETTER

Month of March | 2024

First UMC Family Ministry

From Adyson,

Happy Lent! This month our students will be focusing on Christ's ministry and how He saved us. We will have children's chapel every Sunday starting March 10th! I am very excited for this change!

A heads up, I will be out of state for school March 3-9. I will be reachable by email and phone. If you are in need of a zoom meeting that week, shoot me an email and we will get one set up! - Adyson

What we learned last month

- Relationships (WNL)
- Missions (Middle)
- Missions, example of one of the missions in the photo (Sunday School)

Important Dates

- March 3rd - 9th Adyson is out of office for school.
- March 10th Children's Chapel
- March 31st Easter Party in Sunday School!



Topics for this month

Sunday School

Sunday school is going to be spending this month learning about Christ's miracles!

Youth Groups

Our students will be focusing lent and diving deeper into the days of Holy Week.



Announcements

Forty Days - Forty Items

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 March for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Our goal is to collect 100 boxes of crackers or ramen noodles packages. 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. Thank you for the continued support for the Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry.

Vashti Circle

The next meeting is on Thursday, March 21 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.

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.

MARCH 6

Menu:

Pork Chops
Roasted Vegetables
Cole Slaw
Homemade Bread
St. Patty's Day Treat



RSVP

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

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.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, April 1. Wishing everyone a happy Easter!



Deep Cleaning

A group of church members met in February and focused on organizing and deep cleaning the kitchen, FM room, boiler room, and the south storage room in the basement. Their help and hard work were greatly appreciated. Thank you to the following:

Lana Waggoner, Carol Sieben, Deanna Rhiner, Judy Waddell, Pat Bennett, Elizabeth Metier, Joni Ham-Olson, and Deb Larson

Meals on Wheels

Our church helped deliver meals on wheels throughout our community in February. Thank you to the following who volunteered: Charlene Anderson, Brian Carlson, Patty Carlson, Scott Day, Pastor Luke Fillmore, Elizabeth Metier, Molly Nelson, Deanna Rhiner, Dick Rhiner, Beth Schnurr, Carol Sieben, and Lana Waggoner

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

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.

Radio Broadcast

Thank you to Betty Niceswanger for sponsoring our radio broadcasts in February. 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.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

MARCH 28
6:00 PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

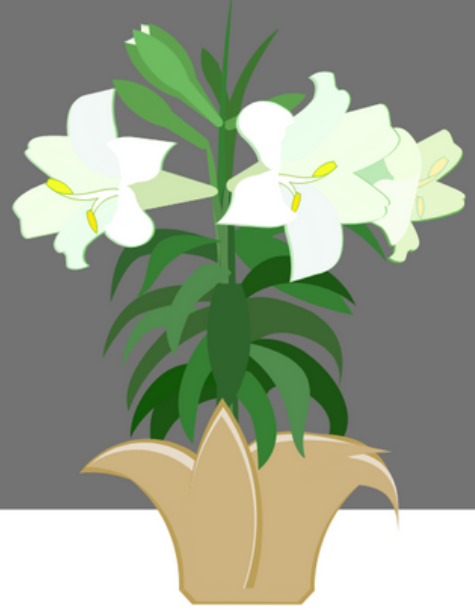
March 29
6:00 pm



FORT DODGE
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Easter Lily

ORDER FORM



Your order will bless our sanctuary on Easter Sunday.

Please return this form and payment to the church office by **March 20**.

You may take your lily home after Easter service.

Name:

Phone Number:

In Memory of:

AND / OR

In Honor of:

\$14.00 per plant

_____ **Number of Plants**

_____ **Amount Enclosed**



Cash



Check

(Please make checks out to First UMC with lilies in the memo)

Thanks to Becker Florist for providing the plants.

Lectionary Readings

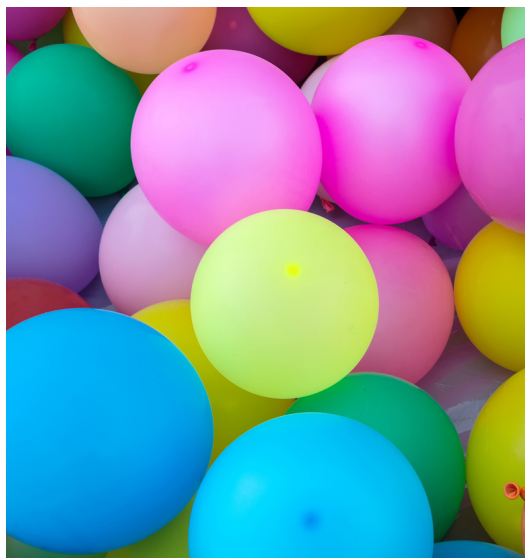
| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| March 3 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Exod. 20: 1-17 Ps 19 1 Cor 1: 18-25 John 2: 13-22 | March 10 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> Num 21: 4-9 Ps 107: 1-3, 17-22 Eph 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21 | March 17 <i>5th Sunday in Lent</i> Jer 31: 31-34 Ps 51: 1-12 Heb 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33 | March 24 <i>Palm/Passion Sunday</i> Mark 11: 1-11 Ps 118: 1-2, 19-29 Isa 50: 4-9a; Ps 31: 9-16 Phil 2: 5-11 Mark 14: 1, 15:47 | March 31 <i>Easter Day</i> Acts 10: 34-43 Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24 1 Cor 15: 1-11 John 20: 1-18 |
|---|---|---|--|---|

Financials

Year to Date Giving:
\$57,597.76

Year to Date Expenses:
\$58,055.80

Income Over (Under) Expenses:
-\$458.04



Birthdays

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| March 1 | Stuart Andresen | March 14 | Iris Jones |
| March 5 | Justin Olson | March 18 | Tim Hanneman |
| March 5 | Scott Johnston | March 19 | Jodi Major |
| March 6 | Mackenzie Scacci | March 21 | Dick Rhiner |
| March 7 | Stuart Cochrane | March 28 | Betty Niceswanger |
| March 9 | Marilyn Charon | March 30 | Christian Stanley |
| March 10 | Danelle Willer | | |
| March 12 | Sheilah Gailey | | |
| March 13 | Patricia Nielson | | |
| March 13 | Tommy Cochrane | | |

Anniversaries

March 21 Ronald & Iris Jones 54 years



PRAYER REQUESTS

Wesley Schnurr
Betty Niceswanger
Miller Sanchez
Harriet Adams
Nancy Scharf

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

Volunteer Schedule

Tech Team

Sound | PowerPoint | Camera

| | |
|----------|---|
| 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 |
| 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

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| March 3 | Dave Beekman |
| March 10 | Jerry Schnurr III |
| March 17 | Jan Krass |
| March 24 | Michael Stanley |
| March 31 | Scott Johnston |
| April 7 | Kati Swanson |
| April 14 | Jerry Schnurr III |
| April 21 | Jan Krass |
| April 28 | Michael Stanley |

Altar Flowers

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| March 3 | |
| March 10 | Niceswanger |
| March 17 | Beekman |
| March 24 | Anderson |
| March 31 | Easter Lilies |
| April 7 | |
| April 14 | Beekman |
| April 21 | |
| April 28 | J. Swanson |

Greeters

West Doors | East Doors

| | |
|----------|--|
| 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 |
| 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 |

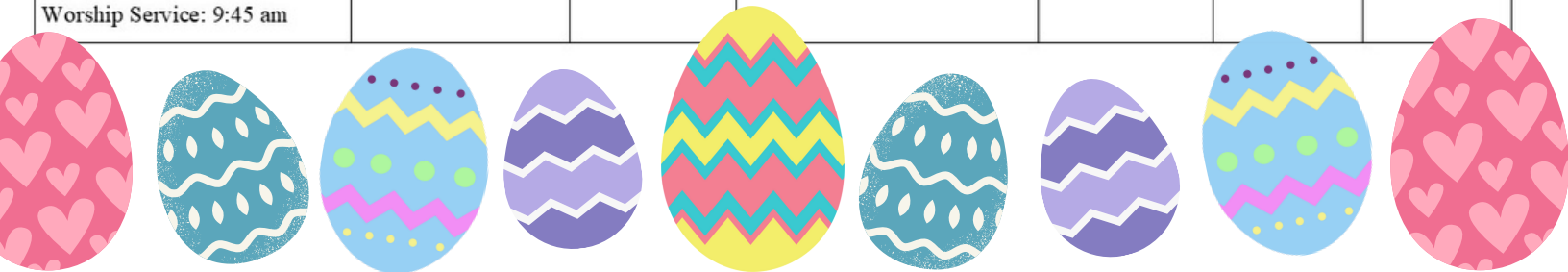
Ushers

| | |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| March | Marc Krass & John Metier |
| April | Scott McQueen & Marlo Branderhorst |

THANK YOU!

March

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|--|--|------------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am SPRC Meeting after Service | 4 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm Finance Committee Mtg: 5:30 pm Trustees Mtg: 6:00 pm | 5 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm Lenten Study: 7:00 pm | 6 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 | 7 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am | 11 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm Ad Council: 6:30 pm | 12 Lenten Study: 7:00 pm | 13 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 Chancel Choir Reh: 7:00 pm | 14 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am | 18 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm | 19 Filling Station Reh: 5:00 pm Lenten Study: 7:00 pm | 20 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 | 21 Vashti Circle: 1:30 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Worship Comm. Mtg after service | 25 Holy Week Al-Anon: 12:00 pm | 26 | 27 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 | 28 Chancel Choir warm-up: 5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service: 6:00 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm | 29 Good Friday Service: 6:00 pm | 30 |
| 31 Easter Sunday Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am | | | | | | |



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

Luke Fillmore | revluke@firstumcfd.org

FAMILY MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

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

NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Lyndsey Bennett & Ella Champagne

FINANCIAL OFFICER

Danelle Willer

MAINTENANCE

Jordan Harvey