



# THE CHIMES

*The official newsletter of Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church.*



## Upcoming Events

FILLING STATION

CONFIRMATION

LAY SPEAKING CLASS

VASHTI CIRCLE

MEMORIAL DAY

RUMMAGE SALE

## A Word From the Pastor

### An Easter People

March 31st came and went this year with celebrations, songs of hope, and prayers that the resurrection of Christ might take root in our hearts as we long for his return. It was a joyful Easter, filled with family, friends and a sigh of relief that only going through Lent can bring. And then, came April with it's warmer weather and spring cleaning, and now May is upon us as the school year ends and we prepare for summer. Easter, it seems, is relegated to one day, perhaps a weekend at most, and then it's over and we look ahead to the turning of the seasons.

But in the church calendar, as we journey towards the Church's birthday on Pentecost, our tradition holds that Easter is not merely a day, but rather a months long season. That Christ's resurrection is cause for celebration that lasts for several weeks! This might surprise some of us, and if we're honest with ourselves a celebration that lasts more than a weekend might seem a little excessive to our Iowan sensibilities.

# A Word From the Pastor Continued...

Yet, nevertheless, the Church has intuited something important about this event that we remember every year. Perhaps we would do well to ask the question, “what would it look like to truly celebrate for an entire 50 days, a mini-jubilee?”

Even more to the point, perhaps the further and deeper call that Christ is inviting us into, is to become an Easter People. What would it look like if we lived out what one of our aspirational hymns, *Easter People, Raise Your Voices*, cries out,

*“Easter people, raise your voices,  
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.  
Christ has brought us heaven’s choices;  
heavenly music, let it ring.”*

The hardest thing about this prayer, I’ve found, is truly believing that a new world is not only possible but breaking forth into the world today. As Christ reminds us when the religious leaders of his day asked him about the Kingdom of God,

*“The Kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed, nor will they say,  
‘Look, here it is!’ or ‘There it is!’ for, in fact, the Kingdom of God is among you.”*

Luke 17:20-21 (NRSVue)

Jesus spent the majority of his ministry healing the sick, eating with the people, and proclaiming that the Kingdom of God was near. What then would it take to believe so deeply in the Gospel that Easter becomes not just a day or a weekend once a year, or even a season of fifty days that we merely give a nod to; what would it look like if Easter became a reality that we lived in every day of our lives because the Spirit resides so deeply in our hearts that it can do nothing short of flow through us and from us for the blessing of the world? The continuation of that hymn goes on to pray:

*“Every day to us is Easter,  
with its resurrection song.  
When in trouble move the faster  
to our God who rights the wrong.”*

What do we need to live in hope, to trust so fully our God that love is the order of the day, relationships are reconciled, and Christ’s sheep (both of his flock and those not yet called) are clothed, fed, and sheltered? What would it look like for the Reign of God to be realized in our present time and place?

The first step, for all of us, is to begin to be enraptured by the possibility of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the vision that the Prophet Joel had comes to fruition, that God’s Spirit would be poured out on all peoples, that our sons and daughter would deliver the Word of God, that our old would dream about what could be, that our children would have visions of the world to come (Joel 2:28). Pray for that future, and pray for it daily, because it is a future where all the children of God, all the siblings of faith, and the whole Body of Christ will be working hand in hand together. Then, once we are all in conversation with God and with one another, perhaps every day can be realized as an Easter day and we can live in the resurrection song.

May it be so. Amen.

Ps. Luke

# YOUTH MINISTRIES

## NEWSLETTER

Month of May | 2024

First UMC Family Ministry

### From Adyson,

As our youth ministry programming ends for the summer I wanted to thank all our volunteers and staff for making the weekly group meetings possible! We would not be able to do this without all of you.

Off Season will begin in the month of June. This will be a sports based ministry for our rising 5th graders -12th graders. If your student is interested please let me know and I would be happy to share more details.

Keep your eyes peeled for our VBS activities! These activities will be for 5th grade and under, but all ages are welcome to join! Our theme this year is 'The Reality of God's Love'. All events will be based off a reality competition show!

I look forward to enjoying the summer with all of our families and the friends you bring along.

### What we learned last month

- WNL sustaining through summer
- MSYG God in Sports
- Sunday School Church functions

### Important Dates

- May 1st - Last Youth Group (Move up day)
- May 5th - Confirmation Sunday
- May 12th - Last Sunday School and Last children's Chapel (Nursery closing for season)
- May 12th - Teacher Appreciation
- May 19th - Senior Sunday





# 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 for sponsoring radio broadcasts in April. 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.

## Worship Service Time Change

This coming summer our Sunday worship service will have a small time change! Starting June 16th we will be moving our services to 9:30 am to help provide ample transit time for our organist, Amaia, between First UMC and First Congregational. This small change should allow us to worship in joy and peace, as well as to better take advantage of the summer daylight hours. If you have any questions, please reach out to either Pastor Luke or Dave Beekman (Ad. Council Chair); thank you for your faithfulness and we look forward to worshipping with you!

## 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.

## Meals on Wheels

Thank you to the following who helped deliver Meals on Wheels on April 24-26: Charlene Anderson, Scott Day and Stephanie Coble-Day, Liz Johnson, Marica Main, Dick and Deanna Rhiner, Carol Sieben, and Lana Waggoner. The next opportunity to deliver meals will be July 3-5. If you would like to help, please contact Elizabeth Metier at [jemetier1983@gmail.com](mailto:jemetier1983@gmail.com).



# 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.

## MAY 1

### Menu:

## Pizza Party!

Request your favorite pizza topping when you RSVP.



### 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

## Donation Requests

Our church will be collecting ketchup and mustard throughout the month of May for The Lord's Cupboard Community Pantry. Let's set a goal of collecting 100 bottles of ketchup or mustard. Donations can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the shopping cart in the back of church. Also, they are running very low on plastic sacks. They appreciate any sacks dropped off to the office.

## Spring Musical

Our Youth Spring Musical was on April 14 during service. Everyone did an incredible job! Thank you very much to our Children's Music Director, Amy Champagne, our youth, and the parents for their hard work and dedication. Great job to all!

# BRAVO!

## Lay Speaking Class

A lay speaking class on preaching is scheduled for Saturday, May 18 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Fort Dodge First United Methodist Church. This class will be taught by Pastor Luke Fillmore. Please register by May 10th. Contact the office for the link. Please purchase and read the book from Upper Room or Cokesbury - Pew to Pulpit, Clifton F. Guthrie (ISBN 13: 9780687066605 (ebook), or ISBN 10: 0687066603). It is hoped that at the end of the class you will have a sermon in your back pocket to use at the last minute. There will be a free will offering for lunch or bring your own. For more information, please contact Pastor Luke.

## Vashti Circle

The next meeting is on Thursday, May 16 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

If 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!





# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# RUMMAGE



**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**

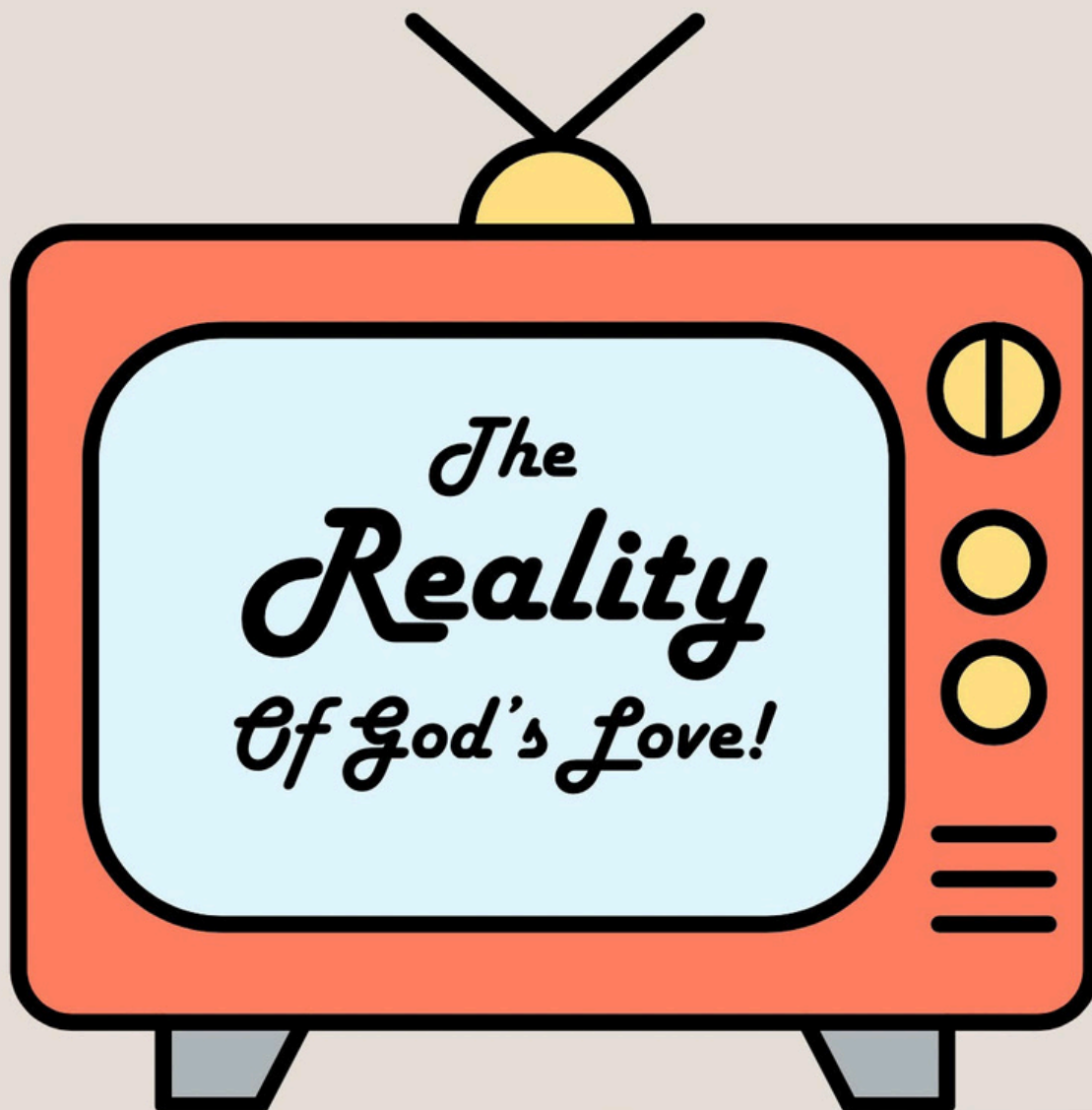
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**All are invited!**

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



# *Family Ministry Presents:*



## **Save the Dates!**

**June 15** - Family Feud

**June 22** - Survivor

**July 13** - Master Chef

**July 22** - First UMC's  
Got Talent

## **Details!**

The theme for our summer programming is "The Reality of God's Love"! Each event will be based on a popular reality game show!

These are events for the entire family and all ages!  
More Details to come!



# Lectionary Readings

## May 5

6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 44-48

Ps 98

1 John 5: 1-6

John 15: 9-17

## May 12

7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1: 15-17, 21-26

Ps 1

1 John 5: 9-13

John 17: 6-19

## May 19

Pentecost

Acts 2: 1-21

Ps 104: 24-34, 35b

Rom 8: 22-27

John 15: 26-27; 16: 4b-15

## May 26

Trinity Sunday

Isa 6: 1-8

Ps 29

Rom 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

# Financials

## Year to Date Giving:

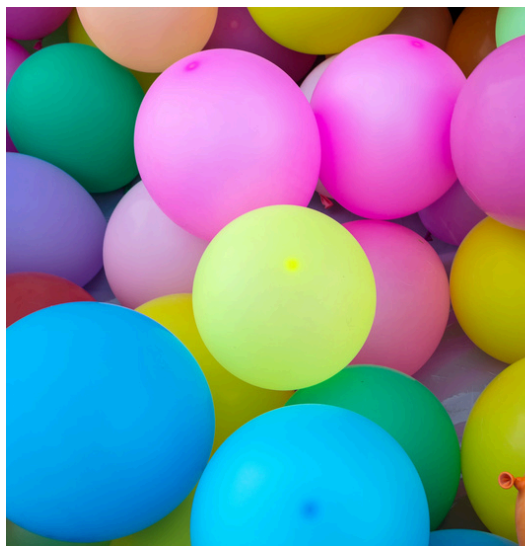
\$134,175.36

## Year to Date Expenses:

\$125,587.21

## Income Over (Under) Expenses:

\$8,588.15



# Birthdays

## May 2

Richard Jones

## May 3

Elsie Wallingford

## May 3

Pastor Luke

## May 4

Jill Conrad

## May 4

Donna Pearson

## May 4

Connie Schnurr

## May 10

Jody Donahe

## May 11

Kyle Miller

## May 14

Laney Peterson

## May 16

Emelia Sanchez

## May 17

Robert Anderson

## May 18

Sara Meyer

## May 19

Sidney Al Hameed

## May 23

Ivan Peterson

## May 23

Alykszander Pallos

## May 24

Nick Cochrane

## May 25

Deb Willett

## May 26

Ben Fillmore

## May 30

Scarlett Olson

## May 31

Beth Schnurr

# Anniversaries

May 6	Cody & Katie Peterson	7 years
May 22	Ryan & Hope Brown	25 years
May 24	Michael & Danelle Willer	27 years
May 25	Bill & Carol Thatcher	56 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

May 5	Scott Johnston   Charlene Anderson   Jeremy Swanson
May 12	Dave Beekman   Lori Beekman   Jim Stephenson
May 19	Brent Meyer   Jeremy Swanson   Cody Peterson
May 26	Scott Johnston   Charlene Anderson   Jim Stephenson
June 2	Brent Meyer   Lori Beekman   Jeremy Swanson
June 9	Dave Beekman   Jim Stephenson   Brent Meyer
June 16	Scott Johnston   Charlene Anderson   Cody Peterson
June 23	Jeremy Swanson   Lori Beekman   Brent Meyer
June 30	Dave Beekman   Jim Stephenson   Jeremy Swanson



## Greeters

### West Doors | East Doors

May 5	Bennett Hennessy   Deb Larson
May 12	Nick & Heather Cochrane   Iris Jones
May 19	Henry Brain   Bennett Hennessy
May 26	Byron & Diane Chalstrom   Lana Waggoner
June 2	John & Elizabeth Metier   Carol Harrison
June 9	Jerry & Linda Beck   Lynette Bumann-Pearson
June 16	Deb Larson   Iris Jones
June 23	Jan & Phyllis Wilson   Cody & Katie Peterson
June 30	Nick & Heather Cochrane   Lana Waggoner

## Liturgists

May 5	Jan Krass
May 12	Scott Johnston
May 19	Kati Swanson
May 26	Michael Stanley
June 2	Jan Krass
June 9	Jan Wilson
June 16	Dave Beekman
June 23	Kati Swanson
June 30	Scott Johnston

## Ushers

May	Jerry Beck & Jan Wilson
June	Marc Krass & Marlo Branderhorst

## Altar Flowers

May 5	Schanz
May 12	Beekman
May 19	Peterson
May 26	McBeth
June 2	
June 9	
June 16	Beekman
June 23	Swanson
June 30	

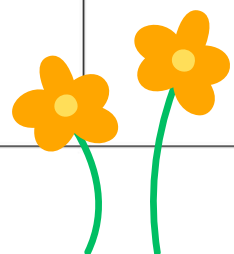
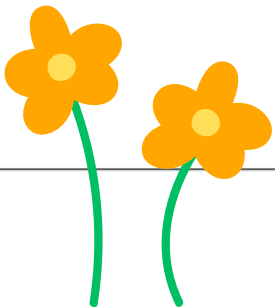
## Altar Guild

May 5	Elizabeth Metier/Lana Waggoner: Paraments & Communion
May 12	Deb Larson: Paraments
May 19	Carol Sieben: Paraments
June 2	Charlene Anderson: Communion
June 9	Jane Gibb: Paraments
June 16	Deanna Rhiner: Paraments

THANK YOU!

# May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Filling Station Meal: 5:00 pm MS Youth Group: 5:15 pm Filling Station: 6:15 pm WNL: 7:00 pm Wesley Ringers: 7:00 pm	2 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	3	4
5 Chancel Choir Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Confirmation SPRC Meeting after service	6 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	7	8 Trustees Meeting: 5:30 pm Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm	9 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	10	11 Manna Meal (Grace Lutheran) 5:00 pm
12 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Teacher Appreciation	13 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	14	15 Wesley Ringers: 7:00 pm	16 Vashti Circle: 1:30 pm Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	17	18 Lay Speaker Class: 9:00 am
19 Filling Station Reh: 8:30 am Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am Stage Door Auditions: 6:00 pm	20 Al-Anon: 12:00 pm Stage Door Auditions: 6:00 pm	21	22 Wesley Ringers: 6:00 pm Baccalaureate at Prairie Lakes: 6:30 pm	23 Girl Scouts: 6:00 pm	24	25
26 Sunday School: 8:30 am Worship Service: 9:45 am	27 Office Closed— Memorial Day Al-Anon: 12:00 pm	28	29	30	31	





# 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

### ORGANIST

Amaia Walsh

### NURSERY ASSISTANTS

Lyndsey Bennett & Ella Champagne

### FINANCIAL OFFICER

Danelle Willer

### MAINTENANCE

Jordan Harvey