

# FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Fort Dodge, IA

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.

**The people of the United Methodist Church®**

April 8, 2018

2nd Sunday of Easter

Humor Sunday

*\*Indicates you are invited to stand if you are comfortable doing so*

## **WELCOME**

*If you are a visitor with us today, we warmly say welcome. We invite you to join us at the rear of the sanctuary after worship for fellowship and refreshment.*

*Please take a moment and fill out the "Ritual of Friendship" pads at this time.*

***Please list all family members attending today, your address and phone number, and then pass the books back through the pews after everyone has signed, so you may greet and know those sitting with you.***

## **PRELUDE**

## **TRINITY CHIMES**

## **GREETING**

## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

## **WESLEY RINGERS**

"The River"  
Arr Anna Laura Page

## **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

On your feet now - applaud God!

**Bring a gift of laughter, sing yourselves into his presence.**

Know this: God is God. He made us; we didn't make him.

**We're his people, his well-tended sheep.**

Enter with the password: "Thank you!" Make yourselves at home, singing and talking praise.

**We applaud, we laugh, we thank you. God!**

**Let us worship God with joy .**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

"Christ Is Risen"  
UMH #307

**\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of joy, we know that you have blessed us richly, yet so often, we are down in the dumps over silly little disappointments. You have given us Jesus Christ, and raised him from the dead, and promised us eternal life. But we act like we don't know it! Forgive us, God! Keep us mindful that you always have the last laugh, and that your promise is for true joy in every circumstance, and life forever. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Christ is raised from the dead! Love wins!

**Hallelujah!**

Christ lives and reigns for us!

**Hallelujah!**

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

**KID'S MOMENT**

*The congregation sings "Where Children Belong" (p.2233)  
as the children come forward.*

*Ushers collect the "Ritual Friendship Pads" at this time.*

**"Where Children Belong"**

**This, this is where children belong, welcomed as part of the worshipping throng. Water, God's Word, bread and cup, prayer, and song. This is where children belong.**

**\*HYMN**

"Coffee, Coffee, Coffee"  
See Page 4—Tune of "Holy, Holy, Holy"

**OPEN MIC**

Joke Sharing

**SCRIPTURE READING**

Luke 15:11-24

**MEDITATION**

Rev. Andrea Kraushaar

**\*HYMN**

"Lift High the Cross"  
UMH #159

**PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES, GIFTS AND OFFERINGS**

The Offertory

Paraphrase on the Choir of Judas Maccabeus  
G. F. Handel

\* Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UM #95

\* Prayer of Dedication

**Holy God, you create us and love us still. You call us by name and give us all that we need. May we honor you with the gifts that we bring. Use them to share your love with a broken world, and use us as agents of your grace. Amen.**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**Thank you God, for the joy you have given us which bubbles over into laughter and fun! Thank you for renewing our joy. We pray that you will use these, our gifts, to bring joy to all the world. We pray in the name of the risen Lord, Amen.**

**SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORDS PRAYER**

**\*CLOSING SONG**

"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"  
UMH #304  
Vs 1-2

**\*BENEDICTION**

**Lord, grant me a joyful heart and a holy sense of humor. Please give me the gift of faith, to be renewed and shared with others each day. Teach me to live this moment only, looking neither to the past with regret, nor to the future with apprehension. Let love be my guide, and my life a prayer.**

Go in laughter; go in grace. Keep the Lord in your heart and a smile on your face.

**\*CLOSING SONG**

"Easter People Raise Your Voices"

UMH #304

Vs 3

**\*POSTLUDE**

"The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done"

Giovanni da Palestrina

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Coffee, Coffee, Coffee,  
Praise the strength of coffee.  
Early in the morn we rise with thoughts of only thee.  
Served fresh or reheated,  
Dark by thee defeated,  
Brewed black by perk or drip or instantly.

Though all else we scoff we  
Come to church for coffee;  
If we're late to congregate, we come in time for thee.  
Coffee our one ritual,  
Drinking it habitual,  
Brewed black by perk or drip instantly.

Coffee the communion  
Of our Uni-Union,  
Symbol of our sacred ground, our one necessity.  
Feel the holy power  
At our coffee hour,  
Brewed black by perk or drip or instantly.

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Then Jesus said, "There was once a man who had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, I want right now what's coming to me.'

It wasn't long before the younger son packed his bags and left for a distant country. There, undisciplined and dissipated, he wasted everything he had. After he had gone through all his money, there was a bad famine all through that country and he began to hurt. He signed on with a citizen there who assigned him to his fields to slop the pigs. He was so hungry he would have eaten the corncobs in the pig slop, but no one would give him any. That brought him to his senses.

He said, 'All those farmhands working for my father sit down to three meals a day, and here I am starving to death. I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.'

He got right up and went home to his father. When he was still a long way off, his father saw him. His heart pounding, he ran out, embraced

im, and kissed him. The son started his speech: 'Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son ever again.'

But the father wasn't listening. He was calling to the servants, 'Quick. Bring a clean set of clothes and dress him. Put the family ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Then get a grain-fed heifer and roast it. We're going to feast! We're going to have a wonderful time! My son is here - given up for dead and now alive! Given up for lost and now found!'

And they began to have a wonderful time.

Please keep the following members of First UMC in your prayers: Norma Whiting, Bettie Heideman's brother-in-law and sister, Kaye Berry, Bettie Heideman's grandson, Taylor Heideman, who has left for a year's tour in Kuwait, Curt and Liz Johnson's sister and brother who are dealing with serious illnesses, Bonnie Kersten, those in nursing homes and those men and women in our armed forces. Please let the church office know of anyone who may need prayers.

The April Lord's Cupboard "CHALLENGE" small cans of tuna and diced tomatoes. Please drop your items in the shopping cart in the Wesley Parlor in the church building. The Evangelism Committee wants everyone to see what has been collected and is trying to track the donations given by First UMC!

The next Filling Station will be Wednesday, April 18th. The meal will be stuffed pork chops, apple snicker salad, harvest lettuce salad, glazed carrots and dessert. Please signup at the table in the Wesley Parlor. If you would like to help prepare, serve or cleanup following the meal, please contact Connie Boyd or Elizabeth Metier.

The April mission offering will go to support the Sidewalk Sunday School program this summer. You will find a table in the back of the church to make your contribution at your convenience. Thank you to all who help with their monetary donations!

The Annual Spring Rummage Sale for Missions is quickly sneaking upon us. Items may be brought to the church beginning, Sunday, April 29th, through Tuesday, May 8th.

You can stop at the church office and Becky will give you a key to get into the church to unload your items or find Josh to help you unload your items.

Remember items go in the south Sunday School room on the west side of Fellowship Hall.

### **Fifth Sunday Potluck and Celebration of Members**

On April 29th we will be celebrating those member of First United Methodist who have either been a member of First UMC or been a Methodist for over 50 years! If you have not contacted the church office and you fall into one of these categories please contact Becky as soon as possible.

This is also a month with five Sunday's therefore there will also be a potluck on Sunday morning. Each family is asked to bring a main dish and a side dish to pass. Please bring your own table setting also.

*Altar flowers today  
are in celebration of  
Marc and Jan Krass'  
25th Wedding Anniversary*

There are large print hymnals available in the Wesley Parlor near the library for those who may need them.

# THE AGAPE LEAGUE

Galatians 5:22-23~~*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...*

In the Agape Fortress, General Agape has called the mighty Agape League together to solve a crisis in Suburbiana City! Calling on the super-powered Fruit of the Spirit available to every follower of Christ, these superheroes soon find themselves facing a problem within their own ranks. Will the crisis in Suburbiana City be averted? Will the source of true power—God’s Word—finally be utilized before time runs out?

Please join the King’s Kids and Joyful Noise Choirs (and their parents!) for our superhero musical play on Sunday, April 15 during 9:45am worship. You have never experienced anything like it!



***Opportunities for Work, Witness and Fellowship  
through First United Methodist Church***

**Sun, Apr 8**

8:30 am	Sunday School
9:45 am	Worship
5:30 pm	HS Youth Group
6:00 pm	Parents Musical Rehearsal

**Mon, Apr 9**

9:00 am	Pew Crew
12:00 pm	Al-Anon

**Tues, Apr 10**

9:30 am	Lord's Cupboard
11:00 am	Staff Meeting
12:00 pm	AA
4:00 pm	Lord's Cupboard
7:00 pm	Boy Scouts

**Wed, Apr 11**

8:30 am	Women's Bible Study FH
3:30 pm	SALT
4:45 pm	Joyful Noise

**Wed, Apr 11 Cont'd**

5:30 pm	King's Kids
6:00 pm	Chancel Choir
7:00 pm	Wesley Ringers

**Thur, Apr 12**

9:30 am	Lord's Cupboard
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**Fri, Apr 13**

1:00 pm	Lord's Cupboard
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**Sat, Apr 14**

4:30 pm	Children's Musical Rehearsal
5:00 pm	Community Manna Meal
	Served by: First Presbyterian Church

**Sun, Apr 15**

8:30 am	Sunday School
9:45 am	Worship
5:30 pm	HS Youth Group

**Your Staff:**

The Congregation, The Ministers  
Andrea Kraushaar, Pastor  
Becky Ostheimer, Administrative Assist.  
Megan Cassady, Children & Youth Coor.  
Mark W. McClellan, Organist  
Gretchen Stanley, Chancel Choir  
Brian Robison, Bell Choir Director  
Amy Champagne, Children's Choir  
Director  
Amy Champagne and Gretchen Stanley,  
Contemporary Service Leaders  
Jon Schuman, Chief Financial Officer  
KayLynn Jennings, Anna Jones, Azaria  
Silvey, Lyndsey Bennett, Nursery  
Assist.  
Carol Schwarz & Linda Wakeman,  
Custodial  
Josh Goebel, Maintenance

**First United Methodist Church**

127 North 10th Street,  
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Sunday School 8:30 September—May  
Worship Service 9:45 am Sunday  
Radio Broadcast at 11:05am each Sunday  
KVFD 1400 AM  
Office Hours: 8-12 and 12:30-4:30  
Mon - Fri  
Pastor Office: 515-576-7586  
Pastor Cell: 515-230-6169  
Email Addresses:  
Office: [worship@fumcfortdodge.org](mailto:worship@fumcfortdodge.org)  
Pastor: [revandreak@fumcfortdodge.org](mailto:revandreak@fumcfortdodge.org)  
Ellen: [ellens@fumcfortdodge.org](mailto:ellens@fumcfortdodge.org)



**GREETERS**

KayLynn Jennings (West Door)  
Jerry & Beth Schnurr (East Door)  
Leroy & Meredith Berryhill (South Door)

**LITURGIST**

Michael Stanley



**Our mission is to provide the  
people of the Fort Dodge area  
opportunities for spiritual  
growth, real friendships, and  
giving of themselves.**