



THE CHIMES

NEWSLETTER

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.



515-576-7586

The Lord's Cupboard

The Lord's Cupboard has been a busy place this past month!

The government shut down did indeed affect us as we have seen an increase in clients, both new and returning, due to the early availability of SNAP (food stamp) benefits. February benefits were paid out the 20th of January, resulting in many clients using those benefits early and having nothing left for the remainder of the month. We normally have slower days the beginning of the month, but the month of February we have seen at least 20 clients each shift we are open.

This increase in need has resulted in our pantry donation room being down to bare shelves at times. Your donations help to replenish those shelves!

We have also done some extra cleaning and reorganizing of the pantry, adding a new refrigerator/freezer and moving the existing ones to the pantry area. We will eventually get used to the change in where items are now!

We currently are in need of the following items which are rarely available through Iowa Food Bank:

- Chicken Noodle Soup
- Cream of Chicken Soup
- Vegetable Soup
- Cream of Mushroom Soup
- Tomato Soup





From Pastor Andrea

March Blessings:

Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.

They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream.

— Jeremiah 17:7-8

Today is Tuesday February 19th. I find myself yearning and seeking out any positive devotion to help provide me with strength, patience, and hope. Yep, you heard it here first. I am in this moment seeking hope, patience, and strength. Why? Well I look at my phone and I receive message after message of yet another snow storm. My mind swirls with concerns; safety, rescheduling, unfinished work, groceries, and thinking of new things to do with my kids when we are trapped in the house again! What stresses and anxieties do you get before a big storm?

Then my mind goes to leaving for 6 days to attend the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. You see, we have been waiting. Waiting for the Commission on a Way Forward to create plans for us to preview. We waited for almost 2 years and now we see the options. Anxiously we wait. Then starting on February 22-26 United Methodists from around the world will vote on 2 action items that will have effect only here in the USA. The first is if the UMC will allow ordination of "practicing" LGBTQ people. The way our Discipline is written now it says that LGBTQ persons must remain celibate. The other vote is if we will allow clergy to perform same sex marriages. Again, right now the Discipline says it is against our rules. Anxiously we wait.

I was so happy to see the turnout for our 4 house meetings in the past few weeks as we talked about our beliefs, our struggles, our hopes for the denomination, and our deep convictions. At each conversation I felt that all people and voices were able to be heard. I felt like people allowed themselves to be vulnerable and share their struggles around the LGBTQ people. As well as the understanding of love and grace for all people while remembering that we are all created in the image of God. And anxiously we wait.

I think it is important to remember in this whole conversation is that it is ok to say that you aren't "Totally" sure where you stand. Part of being on a journey of faith is that we are on a journey. We don't have all the answers and we are doing the best we can. For me it comes down to love. No, I don't have my thoughts and beliefs fully formed. But what I do know is that I have been called to love. Not to judge, not to condemn, not to turn away. That is left up to God. But I, I am called to love. So in the midst of the anxiety of what our

denomination will look like after the General Conference vote. I will choose to love.

Maya Angelo said these words, "I've learned that whenever I decide something with an open heart, I usually make the right decision. I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. I've learned that every day you should reach out and touch someone. People love a warm hug, or just a friendly pat on the back. I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

May our actions, our words, and hearts love. Show love when you speak. Show love when you look at someone. Show love when you participate in kindness. And may we show love when our minds are open to others.

First UMC will be delivering Meals on Wheels March 6, 7, and 8th. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Elizabeth Metier via email at jemeti@frontiernet.net, comment on the church's Facebook page or call her at 955-2144.



Do you or a family member or friend listen to the church broadcast on Sunday mornings on the radio? The Board is asking for people to sponsor the broadcast each week. There will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk in the back of the sanctuary where you can sign up to sponsor a Sunday. The cost for a broadcast is \$100.00. Checks can be made directly to the church with a memo for Radio Broadcast.



As part of our Confirmation Sunday the youth will be holding a Baked Potato Bar lunch on Sunday, March 31st following worship. With a free will offering you will have all the goodies to make a spectacular baked potato! The funds raised will help support the youth on their mission trip this summer.

Please plan to join them!

Keep our Members in YOUR Prayers

Please keep the following members of First UMC in your prayers: Gladys Bittner, Jerry Schnurr Sr, Audrey Metier, family of Jeane Burke, Jim Metzger, Kate Ray (Loree Lee's mom), Marilyn Raine, Jan Olson, 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.

Financials thru February 24th

Monthly Income \$18,228.10
Monthly Expense \$19,280.44
YTD Income \$55,438.39
YTD Expenses \$57,562.98





March/April Helpers

GREETERS			
Date	West Door	East Door	South Door
3/3	Tami Habhab	Iris Jones	Betty Heideman
3/10	Byron & Diane Chalstrom	Justin & Melissa Olson	Jerry & Linda Beck
3/17	John & Elizabeth Metier	Bill & Carol Thatcher	Scott McQueen
3/24	Henry & Clara Brain	Richard & Diane Jones	Mike & Judy Waddell
3/31	Leroy & Meredith Berryhill	Mary Williams	Mary Lou Fibiker
4/7	Barb Chingren	Robert & Charlene Anderson	Eric Pearson
4/14	Stuart & Julie Andresen	Nick & Heather Cochran	Laurel Mors
4/19	Connie Boyd	Mike & Jen Cordle	Mike & Beth Sullivant
4/21	Rick & Pat Bennett	Richard Nelson	
4/28	Marv & Ruth Hulse	Tom & Marilyn Brainerd	Joe & Karen Jackson

Date	Flowers	Coffee Host	Liturgist	Ushers
3/3		Trunnell/Wagoner	Beekman	Branderhorst/Habhab
3/10		J & B Schnurr	Krass	Branderhorst/Habhab
3/17	Beekman	Andresen	Finke	Branderhorst/Habhab
3/24		J & C Schnurr	Metier	Branderhorst/Habhab
3/31	Niceswanger	Jones	Olson	Branderhorst/Habhab
4/7		Anderson	Schnurr	Olson's
4/14		Berryhill	Bennett	Olson's
4/19		Thatcher	Johnston	Olson's
4/21	Lilies	Metier	Stanley	Olson's
4/28		Boyd	Beekman	Olson's

Financial Moment:

Don't Forget- For the month of February we had 3 out of 4 weeks where our weather created concern for our members and many of you stayed home. It is always better to error on the side of caution and remain safe in our homes. However, please remember that even when we stay snug as a bug in our homes our church building is still being heated. Our staff is still busy cleaning, maintaining, running the office, preparing for worship, practicing, and spending time with our kids. Ministry is still taking place in our buildings.

Your financial contribution is so important to our monthly budget even if you can't be here physically. Please remember to bring in your weekly offering to the church or contact the office to sign up for automatic withdrawal for your contribution. Each week to keep our church doing ministry and transforming lives it takes around \$12,000. For Sunday February 17th our deposit was \$783.00. **This is a shortfall of \$11,217.** We need you! We need and depend on your generosity to our church and its ministries.



The men of the Fort Dodge Harmony Brigade Barbershop Chorus would like to invite you to their spring show Saturday Night Barbershop, on Saturday, April 6th at the Fort Dodge Middle School. If you have enjoyed their four-part harmony when they've sung at summer church services, you're bound to enjoy their concert. The chorus will perform, along with guest quartets OC Times, St. Croix Crossing, and Vintage Mix. Show times will be at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Tickets to the show may be purchased from any member of the barbershoppers (Drew Sieben), at HyVee or by calling 515-570-3414.





FILLING STATION



March 6: There will be no Filling Station Dinner and Service due to Ash Wednesday services.

March 20: Filling Station dinner and service (dinner will be check breasts with rice, vegetable, salad, fruit, dessert and starts at 5 pm with worship to follow)

March 17: Filling Station Sunday Service (9:45 worship service)



3-21	Ron & Iris Jones	49 Years
3-22	John & Laurel Mors	68 Years
3-27	Jim & Kittie Webster	43 Years

Vashti Circle

March 7, 1:30 pm

Hostess: Jane Gibb
Program: Jane Gibb

Chancel Choir: March 2019

March 3: Rehearsal 8:30 and Sing at worship
 March 6: Rehearsal 5:30 pm sing at 6:00
 February 13: Rehearsal at 7:00 pm
 March 24: Rehearsal 8:30 and sing at worship
 March 31: Rehearsal 8:30 and sing at worship

March Funeral Chairs

Esther Clark	576-7993
Karen Jackson	576-3595

Lectionary Reading



March 3

Last Sunday after Epiphany

Exodus 34:19-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

March 10

1st Sunday of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

March 17

2nd Sunday of Lent

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

March 24

3rd Sunday of lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

Psalm 63:1-8

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9

March 31

4th Sunday inn Lent

Joshua 5:9-12

Psalm 32

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Happy
Birthday*

- 3-1 Audrey Metier
Stuart Andresen
- 3-4 John Olmstead
Jen Cordle
Logan Siems
- 3-5 Justin Olson
Scott Johnston
- 3-7 Patricia Zeka
Stuart Cochrane
- 3-9 Marilyn Charon
- 3-10 Danelle Willer
Gabriel Ayala
- 3-11 Lucas Cordle
- 3-12 Sheilah Gailey
- 3-13 Patricia Nielson
Tommy Cochrane
- 3-14 Iris Jones
- 3-15 Mina Landes
- 3-18 Tim Hanneman
- 3-19 Jodi Major
- 3-20 Julie Zehr
- 3-21 Dick Rhiner
- 3-23 Tamara Lunn
- 3-24 Chad Trunnell
- 3-27 Iona Gathman
- 3-28 Betty Niceswanger
- 3-30 Christian Stanley

For the past several months, Andrea and I have had the opportunity to teach seven confirmands. Did I mention all boys? It has been fun, challenging, and insightful. We have taught the confirmation kids about the history of Methodism, the life of Jesus, church terms, and lots more. In my humble opinion, nothing has been more important in confirmation than teaching them grace and the gospel.

If you were to ask any of the confirmation kids what grace is, they would immediately say “undeserved gift” – well, at least I hope they would! We taught that at the beginning of confirmation and almost every class forward has related the Christian faith back to grace. What does grace have to do with the gospel? Everything!

It is important for the confirmation students to learn lots about the Christian faith, but this is key to their own faith to learn about what makes you a believer of Jesus. We aren't here to force them to believe something they are questioning. We are here to give them the tools and resources to make their own decision about their faith.

At the end of the month, we get to confirm seven young men. They have been a blessing to Andrea and me. They have also been fun and hilarious. Please pray for these seven youth-

Gabe Ayala
Nathan Beekman
Ethan Bloom
Kyle Lumsden
Landon Meyer
Zach Olson
Noah Stanley

“Have I not commanded you? Be Strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Please pray for these youth as they are about to be confirmed, that they would use the tools they have learned to draw nearer to God. That they would know that they are never alone. That they can always rely on Christ.

Please join us for worship on Sunday, March 31st to celebrate their confirmation. There will be a baked potato bar fundraiser after worship.

Megan



The First United Methodist Church Chimes

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
127 NORTH 10TH STREET
FORT DODGE, IA 50501

NON PROFIT ORG
U.S.POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 655
FORT DODGE, IA 50501

March 2019



Pastor Andrea Kraushaar, (515-576-7586)
Becky Ostheimer, Administrative Assistant
Megan Cassady, Youth Director
Mark W. McClellan, Organist
Amy Champagne,
Children's Choirs Director
Gretchen Stanley, Chancel Choir
Brian Robison, Wesley Ringers
Amy Champagne & Gretchen Stanley
Contemporary Service
Jon Schuman, Chief Financial Officer
Anna Jones, Laney Jones & Lyndsey Bennett,
and Jenna Lee, Nursery Assistants
Carol Schwarz, Custodian
Josh Goebel, Maintenance

Radio Broadcast at 11:05 am each Sunday - KVFD 1400 AM
Office Hours: 8-12 and 12:30-4:30 Mon -Thur, 8-Noon Fri
Phone: 515-576-7586
Pastor: 515-230-6169 (Cell)
Email Addresses:
Office: worship@fumcfortdodge.org
Pastor: revandreak@fumcfortdodge.org
Website: www.fumcfortdodge.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday

8:30 am Sunday School
9:45 am Worship Service

Office Hours

Mon—Thur 8:00 am-4:30 pm
Fri—8:00 am-Noon

The mission of First United Methodist Church is to Love, Grow and Serve in Jesus Christ

Loving: Loving God and
neighbors in all we say, do and
live.

Growing: Growing faith through
worship, prayer, and the study of
God's word.

Serving: Serving others and
sharing God's message.