

UPDATED (05-03-2024)

Our Deepest Sympathy (Please keep their family and friends in your prayers):

- Death of Dee Farrell of Cresco, Iowa, (Age 69) the sister of Myrna Sorensen. Dee died on May 1.

- Death of Karen Loveless (Age 84), the mother of Dawn Kibby. Karen died on April 6.

- Death of Ann Davis (Age 75), the sister of Kay Zediker. Ann died on March 28.

- Death of Vern Schodt (Age 71), the brother of Linda McKinney. Vern died on March 15.

- Death of Carolyn Rants (Age 87). Carolyn died on March 8. Her service was Saturday (March 16) at First UMC. Her sons are Christopher and Doug.

- Death of Phil Becker, (age 74), husband of Cindy Becker. Died on Feb. 3. A service will be held at a later date.

For cards only, you can send to:

Cindy Becker
20108 E Red Fox Lane
Centennial, CO 80015

- Death of our former custodian, Arnie Sardeson on Monday, Feb. 26. Arnie began working at First UMC in 2016 and worked until November, 2023 when he had to stop working due to having an aggressive brain tumor. There is no service planned at this time. You can send condolences to his daughter, Stephanie Durston, at 2005 Ross Street, Sioux City, IA 51103.

Weekly Worship Opportunities at First UMC

- In-person Worship, Sundays @ 9am (Traditional) and 11:15am (Casual)
- Holy Communion is served, at both services, the first Sunday of each month.

- (There is a Staffed Nursery at both services for kids 5 years and younger).

- Online Worship, Sundays @ 10am on our Facebook Page (First United Methodist Church - Sioux City)

- Worship Any-day @ Anytime online (and Sunday's by 9am) on our Website (siouxcityfirst.com).

First United Methodist Church Calendar

Fri: (05-03)	12:30 pm 5:45 pm	UWF Unit Meeting-Fellowship Hall Kistner/Wiese Wedding Rehearsal
Sat: (05-04)	9:00 am 4:00 pm	Online Worship Recording Kistner/Wiese Wedding
Sun: (05-05)		<i>Communion Sunday</i> <i>First Sunday for Food at First</i> Traditional Worship Children and Youth Sunday School Adult Small Group-Heritage Room Casual Service
Mon: (05-06)	10:30 am 2:30 pm 3:00 pm 3:30-8:30 pm	Staff Meeting Piano Lessons for Hunt School Kids- Mason Room, Library, etc. Beginning Piano Students Recital- Sanctuary Private Music Lessons
Tues: (05-07)	1:00 pm 5:30-9:00 pm	Widow Support Group Meeting/M. Andersen/Library Mason Room/C. Lewin
Wed: (05-08)	7:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 5:00-6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall/N. Peck OAM Study-Library/N. Peck Unity Circle-Mason Room Personal Care Cupboard Open Youth @ First Jubilate Choir
Thurs: (05-09)	9:30 am 2:00-3:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Harmony Circle-Mason Room Personal Care Cupboard Open AI-Anon-Library NA-Fellowship Hall

If you have a prayer request or information to share, you can call the church (712-258-0119) or email us (scfirst@msn.com).

Sunday, May 5, 2024 - Holy Communion will be served at both the 9:00 & 11:15 services.

Preaching - Neil Peck, CLS

- Sermon title: "Will You Be My Friend?"

Worship Assistant (9:00 service) - Mark Custer

(Online) Piano - Pat Harm

Organist (9:00 service) - David Chobar

Congratulations!

✠ to Mitchell and Grace (Wiese) Kistner who will be united in marriage on Saturday, May 4 here at First UMC. Grace is the daughter of Sam and Kelly Wiese and the granddaughter of Larry and Nancy Wiese.

Wednesdays at 11am - Older Adult Ministries Study "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" - Tom Berlin, in this DVD study, shares with us about Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. This six-week study will be in the church library. If you have questions please contact Neil Peck at 712-258-0110.

Music Academy @ First Recitals

* Beginning Piano Lessons Recital is Monday, May 6 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary

* Private Lesson Students Recital is Monday, May 13 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Treats needed for the Music Academy Recital

On Monday, May 6, we are having a recital at 3:00 p.m., in the Sanctuary, for all of our beginning piano students. Following the recital, we will have a reception for the players and the audience. If you would be willing to bring treats for the recital, please call the church office and let them know. You are also invited to come to the recital to support the students playing. If you have questions, please contact Gene Wagner at 712-898-6789.

Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, May 5, at both the 9am Traditional Worship and the 11:15am Casual Service.

Thank You from the Music Academy @ First

The Monthly Mission for April raised \$5,784.19 for the work of the Music Academy @ First. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for your generosity and continued support for the mission of the Music Academy. We have seen an exciting amount of growth this year and look forward to the growing impact next school year in the program. The money raised will help finish out this fiscal year and will provide a boost for next year. One of my priorities for next year is to increase the number of private lessons we offer. Planning ahead with these funds will undoubtedly make a significant difference in enriching the musical education opportunities for students. Thank you for being a blessing to the Music Academy @ First and, most importantly, to the students and families that are musically enriched through the Music Academy. - Gene Wagner

Widows Support Group Meets Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the Library

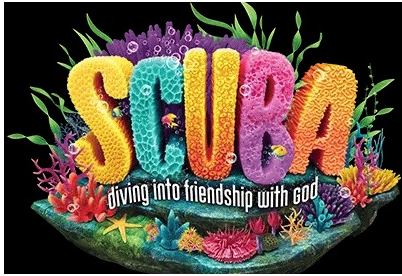
My name is Maria Andersen, a member of First United Methodist Church. My husband, Greg, passed away on December 25th, 2018. These past years have been challenging but I have wonderful family and friends who have helped me immensely. As a widow, I have learned that we need the interaction with other widows to help each other. We can gain insight into why we feel the way we do, ways to cope with our loss, and enjoy each other's company.

I'd like to invite you to come to the First United Methodist Church's Library on Tuesday, May 7 at 1:00pm. If you are not able to come to the church, I would be glad to come visit you, if you'd like. My phone number is 712-490-0008.



Have You Ever Wondered Where All the Watches and Warnings Come from for Weather? Day Tripping is beginning again and on Thursday, May 16 at 9:30 am, we will visit The Emergency Management Center at Western Iowa Tech Community College, 4647 Stone Avenue, Sioux City. We will enter The Security Institute Building by the big tower at WIT.

This is a secure building but it will be open for us to go in and have a seat, or meet in the church North parking lot to car pool at 9:00 a.m. Please sign up on the sheet outside the Church Office. If you have any questions, ask Lonnie Gustafson in church or call him on his cell phone at 712-223-1218.



Monthly Mission for May - Vacation Bible School

This Summer, our annual summer Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be from Monday, July 15 through Wednesday, July 17. We do not charge anything for children to attend yet there are costs involved so we seek donations.

This years' theme is "Scuba - Diving into Friendship with God." VBS impacts 30-50 kids from our church and from the neighborhood each year along with volunteer youth and adults.

You can make a donation during church, mail it in, drop it off, or use the "BillPay" option on your internet banking site/app.

First Sunday for Food at First is May 5

We are collecting non-perishable food items for Grace United Methodist Church Food Pantry, which serves Sioux City. Our help is certainly needed and appreciated.

Did you know... Grace United Methodist Church and First United Methodist Church are in partnership. Grace UMC is very generous in their donations to the Personal Care Cupboard, so let's be generous with our donations to their food pantry.

Have a Graduate This Year?

On Sunday, May 19, we will be honoring our High School graduates at both of our worship services. We would also like to acknowledge college and post-grad students who will be graduating. If you have a graduate, please let the church office.

The General Conference of the United Methodist Church is meeting from April 23 - May 3 in Charlotte, NC. You can keep up to date with the latest news, the official website &/or livestream at [<https://www.umc.org/en/who-we-are/structure/general-conference>]. Please keep them in your prayers.

Are you Gifted in Flower/Plant Gardening?

We are looking for those who have a gift of gardening to tend our church Courtyard Garden and/or the flower garden spot on the corner of 19th & Nebraska. Phil Becker, who died in February, cared for these for many years. It can be one person or a collaboration. Please call the church office, email us at scfirst@msn.com, or talk with Pastor Roger if you are interested. We do have funds for purchasing gardening supplies and plants.

Dear Sioux City United Methodist Crop Walk Friends:

BIG NEWS!! Of all the 500 CROP Walks across the country last year, Sioux City was #50 of the Top 100 Cream of the CROP for 2023! AND we were #3 in the state of Iowa, where 28 events were held! Way to go! Please give yourself a nice pat on the back! Thank you for your support to fight hunger locally and globally!

Our 2023 CROP Walk collected \$30,182 donations, 369 pounds of donated food, 182 participants from 26 groups, 47th anniversary of Sioux City CROP last year.

Mark your church and personal calendars now for next fall's CROP Walk on Sunday October 20 (always the third Sunday of Oct). Recruiters Rally will be held on Sunday Sept 8. Any questions, ideas, concerns, suggestions, please let me know! THANK YOU! Rolene Beauvais, cell/text 712-223-9965



The Music Academy Is Looking for Electric Keyboards and Band and Orchestra Instruments, Especially Violins, Violas, Cellos, and String Bases

If you, or anybody you know, has any instruments or keyboards sitting around, please consider donating them to The Music Academy. You can contact Gene Wagner with any questions at the church (712-258-0119) or his email at [musicacademy.first@gmail.com].

The Music Academy @ First Is Looking for a Volunteer to Research and/or Write Grants for Their Ministry

- The Music Academy is a stand alone ministry and while it is a part of our church, the funding for the Music Academy comes strictly from donations and grants. It is not a part of the church budget. This means we need to find grants and donations so that we can continue to offer the gift of music to children and youth who would not otherwise be able to afford music lessons. If God has given you the gifts to research and find grants, as well as submit them, please contact Gene Wagner, the Director of The Music Academy, or the church office (712-258-0119).

The Music Academy @ First's mission is to provide free quality musical training to financially disadvantaged children, by using the power of music and musical instruction to improve the lives of these at-risk youth. Help make an impact in the life of children and their families. Learn more about The Music Academy by going to their webpage at <<http://www.siouxcityfirst.com/MusicAcademy.First>>

Hunt School Tone Chime Groups on Wednesdays and Thursday

As part of the Music Academy @ First, Gene Wagner leads two tone chime choirs at Hunt School. On Wednesday afternoons from 3:00-3:30, he is at Hunt School with 4th grade tone chimes and on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-3:30, he is at Hunt with 5th grade chimes. This is just one of many ways that we are reaching out to kids and helping them realize the gift of music in their lives.

Celebration Bells rehearse on Wednesdays at 6 pm in the Bell Room (upstairs of the Education wing). They play once a month at the 9am Sunday worship service. If you are interested in playing bells, just show up and/or let Gene know.

The Jubilate Choir (High School - Adult) rehearse Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Choir Room. They sing weekly at the 9am Sunday worship service except when the handbell choir plays. Pray about singing in the choir and if you have any questions or comments, talk with Gene Wagner.

Middle School Youth (Grades 5-8) - They meet on Wednesdays from 6-7pm.

Adult Sunday School - They meet in the Heritage Room (next to Fellowship Hall) from 10:10-11:00am

Thank You for Your Prayers and Support of Our Ministries! We have had members mail in donations, use their internet banking and set us up as a "Bill Pay" option to send their donations, and even had members drop off their donations in the Mail Drop - which is located right by the Maroon Canopy Entrance in the Main parking lot. As you can see in looking above at all that continues to happen at your church, First United Methodist continues to "Make a Difference" in the lives of others.

Additional Church Parking is Now Available in the New Hunt School Parking Lot

With the completion of the new Hunt Elementary School, we can use their parking lot, located across the street from the front of the church on Nebraska Street.

Did You Know That You Can Add Long-term Impact for Others by Remembering First UMC in Your Will?

Simply put one sentence in your will that says, "After all my bills are paid, I want 10-percent of my estate (a tithe) to go to First United Methodist Church of Sioux City, Iowa." This simple gesture will help support your church for future generations to learn about Jesus.

From Our Children's Pastor, Martha
712-898-6854

Sunday School News

We are exploring the mighty love of God on our High Seas Expedition, our epic adventure for Sunday School. We are learning about five sailing Bible Buddies as we learn five Bible Points and five Bible stories. So far we've learned:

Day 1: God's Word is true. God frees Peter from prison. (Acts 12:1-19). Our Bible Buddy was Scully, a mouse with a compass.

Day 2: God's Word is comforting. God comforts Paul in a storm at sea. (Acts 27). Our Bible Buddy was a dolphin named Marinna with an anchor.

Day 3: God's Word is surprising. Paul survives a bite by a poisonous snake. (Acts 28:1-10). Our Bible Buddy was a monkey named Wink with a spyglass.

This Sunday we will learn: Day 4: God's Word is life-changing. Peter and John teach about Jesus. (Acts 3:1-4:12). Our Bible Buddy will be Salty, a pelican.

Still to come will be Day 5: God's Word is for everyone. The community of believers share. (Acts 2:42-47)

We would love to see more kids try out our Sunday School. Let me know if you have questions.

Youth@First

We had fun making mini gingerbread houses and discussing the parable of the wise man and the foolish man and their building endeavors. We also talked about those suffering from tornado damage on their homes.

We worked on Mother's gifts. Next Wednesday will be our party to welcome new 5th graders to the group. We will have pizza and ice cream floats and play some games on May 8 at 6 pm. All kids 5th-8th grade are invited.

From Our Children's Pastor, Martha
712-898-6854

"Celebrate" with Hunt School Kids

A note from a Hunt Elementary parent:

"Thank you for leading the After School days at First. And thanks to all the helpers! Our kids really enjoy coming."

This thank you came via text as we were cleaning up after the party. One of the volunteers said: "And that's why we do it." Everyone chimed in "yes!"

I could not be prouder of the volunteers that hosted our May Day Party! On Tuesday night, we had less than 10 pre-registered. On Wednesday morning, we had 20 more pre-registered. I thought we could have up to 40 since we wouldn't have 5th graders. We were surprised when we ended up with over 65 kids. It wasn't exactly the party we planned but God surprised us and our volunteers were able to make it work. The kids made lovely magnets for Mother's Day gifts and learned about the Fruit of the Spirit and collected candy for their May baskets through games (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control). God is truly blessing this program and helping us share the word of God. Those that were able to help Wednesday included: Virginia Taylor, Janet Young, Karen Newton, Janet Grossnickle, Rolene Beauvais, and Maria Andersen. Also, thank you to Laura Gerkin for the gift of "Jesus Loves Me" glow-in-the-dark necklaces. If you would like to help next year, contact me at 712-898-6854.

VBS Coming!

We are planning for our Vacation Bible School set for July 15, 16, and 17. Our theme is "Scuba –Diving into Friendship with Jesus." We are cutting down to three days to make it a bit easier on our volunteers. Please save those dates and prayerfully consider how you can help.

Monday: God is a friend who loves. We will learn the story of Jonah and the people of Nineveh.

Tuesday: God is a friend we can trust. Jesus calms a storm.

Wednesday: God is a friend for everyone. In his travels, Paul teaches Lydia about Jesus. She becomes the first Christian in Europe and her home became one of the first churches.

If anyone is familiar with Canva or a cricut printer, I could use some tutoring on each.

Pfishing Emails: If you ever receive an email from Pastor Roger, or anyone on the staff, asking "What's the best time for you to be free today?" or "I need you to buy a gift card for me." - DO NOT CLICK ANY LINK and delete the email or report it as spam. This does not come from Pastor Roger.

If you ever have questions, don't hesitate to reach out to us directly to confirm if you think something is suspicious.

Weather Cancellation Notifications - In case of severe weather, we will publicize on our web site (siouxcityfirst.com) and on our answering machine whether we are or are not having church, Sunday School, or small groups as soon as we know.

Are You Interested in helping with our church Media Team?

With the addition of our online worship and opportunities through the internet, as well as the media in our worship services, we are seeking volunteers for our church "Media Team." Pastor Roger oversees the Media Team and we will train you in whatever area you feel gifted in serving your church as a part of the Media Team during the service. We are not seeking one person to do all of this but a few people to do any of these.

Remember a Loved One on Our Memorial Wall

First United Methodist Church is offering the opportunity for individuals to have a loved one's name placed on our Memorial Wall. The Memorial Wall is intended to provide opportunities for First UMC members and friends to remember their loved ones near their church home. The price is \$200 per inscribed plaque. You can reserve a space (or spaces) by filling out a "Plaque Inscription Agreement" form (You can get the form in the church office).

The Puzzle Exchange is Open in the Church Library

Do you buy jigsaw puzzles, work them once and then store them in the closet never to be worked again? Are you interested in new puzzles to do but don't want to spend the money on them? Your church is now providing a free Puzzle Exchange service for anyone who wants. You take a jigsaw puzzle and leave a puzzle (if you have one to leave. If you do not have one to leave, then just take a puzzle). Stop by the church library and see if there is a puzzle that interests you and/or drop off those puzzles you've been storing in the closet for others to enjoy.

Usher Team for the 9:00 Traditional Worship

May 5 - Team #6, George and Dawn Kibby, leaders
May 12 - Team #1, Marvin Sorensen, leader
May 19 - Team #2, Mitch Merrill, leader
May 26 - Team #3

Worship Assistants for the 9:00 Traditional Worship

May 5 - Mark Custer
May 12 - Kandi Custer
May 19 - Tom Padgett
May 26 - Neil Peck, CLS

Fellowship Time Schedule - Here is the schedule, based on the last name, for families serving. Copies of the Fellowship Time Schedule through the end of the year are available to pick up by the bulletin board outside the Church Office.

May 5 - T-Z
May 12 - A-Be
May 19 - Bi-C
May 26 - D, E, F, & G

Fellowship Time is each Sunday morning following the 9:00 a.m. worship service. This is a time for folks to leisurely visit with friends and visitors. This is also a very important time to create a warm and friendly atmosphere where folks will want to return and become more involved in the life of the church.

Each Sunday, we need the following from the scheduled host families:

1. Make one 50 cup coffee pot of coffee (coffee is furnished) and put out coffee cups.
2. Have available a total of two gallons of juice or punch (not red).
3. Each family that does not bring juice are to bring at least 2 dozen cookies and/or goodies so we have enough to serve a total of about 100 people.
4. Have at least 3 or 4 persons to be present to serve and greet folks as they come.

Personal Care



Personal Care Cupboard

Hours: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Thursdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

May Item of the Month: Deodorant

The Personal Care Cupboard (The Cupboard) is stocked with many of the items that a person or family cannot get on food stamps or WIC. This includes such items as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, personal hygiene, laundry detergent, household cleaners and other non-food items that people need. We currently serve 20-30 families per week.



Due to high usage, the Personal Care Cupboard needs at least 3 workers for each shift. We need workers for Wednesday from 5-6 pm and on Thursdays from 2-3 pm. Please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board across from the Church Office.

One of the primary responsibilities of any church is to care for people. Jesus shares with the people in Matthew 25 about caring for others and ends it with, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." (Matthew 25:40). We, the First United Methodist Church at 19th and Nebraska, have found a niche that is needed in Siouland.

Many have heard of food pantries (and we support the one at Grace United Methodist Church in Morningside) but food pantries often do not have, or have a very limited supply, of the non-food items that people need. The Personal Care Cupboard (The Cupboard) is stocked with many of the items that a person or family cannot get on food stamps or WIC. This includes such items as toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, personal hygiene, laundry detergent, household cleaners and other non-food items that people need.

We have been serving in this ministry since March, 2010 and currently serve 20-40 families per week (or about 400 different

families every 3 months). Families may come and use The Cupboard only once every 3 months.

Families are allowed 6 items per visit (an item may be a 4-roll package of toilet paper, 2 bars of soap, a container of laundry detergent, etc.)

We do not charge these families any money for this service. This ministry is supported totally by donations from churches and individuals. Churches currently in partnership with First United Methodist Church in this ministry include: First Covenant Church, Grace United Methodist Church, St. Michael's Catholic Church and Sunnybrook Church. The support comes in the physical donation of items, contributing money, and/or in volunteering time to serve the families.

The Personal Care Cupboard is located on the east side of the original church building at 1915 Nebraska Street and is handicap accessible.

Who can use The Cupboard? Anyone with a picture ID with an address on it, and they can make use of this service only once every 3 months.

Item of the Month - While we accept donations of any non-food items anytime, we have designated each month, an item which we regularly see being needed by families. We will collect the items each week in church and have a display so others can see our support.

January - Body Wash and Body Soap

February - Paper Towels and Kleenex

March - Diapers, Sizes 5 and 6

April - Household Cleaners

May - Deodorant

June - Toilet Paper

July - Toothpaste & Toothbrushes

August - Razors and Shaving Cream

September - Household Cleaners

October - Toilet Paper

November - Liquid Dish Soap

December - Shampoo and Conditioner



Cash donations are always accepted for the PCC.