

(UPDATED 01-07-2022)

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

- Death of Shirley Rees, mother of Kevin Rees. Shirley died on Dec. 20.
- Death of Larry Roesler. Larry died on Dec. 20.
- Death of Kent Eslick (age 54), son of Pharyce Eslick. Kent died on Dec. 9.
- Death of Max Merrill, father of Mitch Merrill. Max died on Dec. 10.
- Death of Robert Davis (age 56), son of Karen Nelson. Robert died on Dec. 3.
- Death of Ruth Blank on Monday, Nov. 22.
- Death of Helen Meine on Wednesday, Nov. 17.

Congratulations:

- We welcome new church members: Linda Blom, Janna Dirks, Judy Johnson, Merlene Levering, and Rosie McNertney.

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

Worship Opportunities at First UMC

- ✠ In-person Worship, Sunday @ 9am (Traditional) and 11:15am (Casual)
- ✠ Online Worship, Sundays @ 10am on our Facebook Page (First United Methodist Church - Sioux City)
- ✠ Worship Anytime online by 9am on our Website (siouxcityfirst.com).

140 Families Benefit from our December Monthly Ministry - Hunt Elementary School \$20 Gift Cards

We received \$2,800.00 in donations for grocery gift cards so you made a difference in 140 families in need this holiday season. Thank you from Hunt School and your church.

All Sunday Schools (both in-person for Middle School and adults and online for elementary and pre-K) and the Older Adult Ministry studies will resume the week of Jan., 9.

Our Celebration Bells Handbell Choir Will Not Be Playing at the 12th Night Handbell Celebration Today Due to Covid-19 Exposures and Missing Ringers

The concert is still scheduled with the remaining handbell choirs, at 4:30 this Sunday, at Eppley Auditorium. There is free admission.

Older Adult Ministries DVD Study "Half Truths" Begins Wed., Jan 12 from 11am-Noon in Fellowship Hall - In this 5-week study, Adam Hamilton will focus on his search for the whole truth by comparing some common Christian sayings (like "God helps those who help themselves") with the wisdom found in Scripture. Contact Neil Peck for more information.

"Quarter Challenge" Benefitting Warming Shelter & Soup Kitchen Began - Every January, we put all our loose coins (along with paper money and checks) towards our annual Quarter Challenge and once again, we are going to do an "Inter-Congregational Challenge." Everyone whose last name begins with A-L (We call this "Team Lonnie") will be against everyone whose last name begins with M-Z (whom we call "Team Neil"). (M-Z won last year). We have separate offering places each Sunday for each team.

Which group will raise the most funds! You can make your donation in church, drop it off at the church office, send a check or use "Billpay" through your bank. If you use a check or "Bill Pay," please include in the memo line "Quarter Challenge." Each year we try and beat the previous January's total (We raised \$3,020 in 2021). More importantly, all the money raised will be split equally between two very worthwhile ministries here in Sioux City (The Soup Kitchen and The Warming Shelter).

Total so far: Jan. 2 A-L \$130.12 M-Z \$174.49

Mask Wearing Is Optional for Fully Vaccinated in the Church Building

The Leadership Board of your church voted that if you are fully vaccinated against Covid-19, you have the option to wear a mask or not in the church building. If you are not fully vaccinated against Covid-19, please wear a mask. We will still not have a staffed nursery as of yet.

Widows Support Group Meets Friday, Jan. 14, at 1pm

My name is Maria Andersen, a member of First United Methodist Church. My husband, Greg, passed away on Dec. 25th, 2018. The past three 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 Mason Room on Jan. 14th at 1:00pm.

During my career, I have been a 3rd, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teacher, grant writer and college administrator, and K-12 school counselor. I also volunteered to lead Grief and Growth groups for Hospice of Siouxland. 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.

You Will Now Receive Only One Regular Email per Week from the Church - On Thursdays

Our Leadership Board has said that while the Wednesday and Friday emails helped in the midst of the pandemic, we are now going to send out one regular weekly email to our church family. It will come to you on Thursdays and have with it information on the coming weekend's worship service. All announcements are also available on our website under "Church Newsletter".

Check Us Out on Facebook (First United Methodist Church - Sioux City)

You can "Like" us, watch a recording The Mystery Bag from the 9:00 service, encourage others, receive our daily "Prayer Prompts from Pastor Roger", find out about upcoming events, and see what has happened, on our church Facebook page. Pastor Roger will also be reminding us of the previous week's sermon message as well as give us a question or two, later in the week, for the upcoming Sunday's message.

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.

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. The areas seeking volunteers include: Uploading and processing the Saturday video for Vimeo and Facebook viewing - Moderator for our Facebook Premiere worship service at 10am each Sunday - Recording and uploading our Sunday morning Mystery Bag - Setting up our 11:15am Casual Service video and music each Sunday morning - Running the 11:15am Casual Service computer screens and music during the service. We are not seeking one person to do all of this but a few people to do any of these.

JOB OPENING: Sunday Morning Nursery Attendant

We are seeking a Sunday morning Nursery Attendant. Salary is \$36 per Sunday. You will be responsible for being in the nursery each Sunday from about 8:45 a.m. until just after noon (These times include the 9:00 Traditional Service, Sunday School, and the 11:15 Celebration Service - During the Summer months, from Memorial Day through Labor Day, there is no Sunday School but we do still furnish a nursery). Applicant will undergo a background check. A detailed job description is available upon request by postal, e-mail or at the office. Applications are available at the church office or resumes can be sent to: First United Methodist Church, 1915 Nebraska, Sioux City, 51104, Attn: Rev. Roger Madden. You may also e-mail us at scfirst@msn.com or call the church at 712-258-0119.

Wednesday Music Programs at First UMC

Jubilate Choir (The adult vocal choir) rehearses every Wednesday from 7-8 p.m. and sing 3 Sundays a month at our 9:00 a.m. Service. We will rehearse in the sanctuary to maintain social distancing while singing.

Adult Handbell Choir rehearses every Wednesday from 6-7 p.m. in the Handbell Choir room (Third floor of the Education Wing) and they play once a month at the 9:00 worship service.

Grades 5-8 Sunday School Class with Lonnie Meets in Person on Sundays at 10:10, Masks Required.

In speaking with parents of Middle Schoolers, many are vaccinated and also will wear a mask, and Lonnie (who is vaccinated) will also wear a mask, so, for at least the month of January, we will have in-person Sunday School class for grades 5-8. They will meet with Lonnie Gustafson in their new room on the 3rd floor of the Education Wing.

Dear Youth@First,

December 29, 2021

We have received many compliments on your virtual Christmas program! Thanks for being awesome!

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break. I will be gone to Florida on January 5 and Marce Wagner and Lonnie Gustafson will be in charge of your meeting. I'm leaving some activities that teach us about Epiphany, which is January 6. There will also be some games we missed out on at Christmas due to weather. You can contact me at 712-898-6854.

~Love, Joy, Peace, Martha Anderson

Pre-K - 4th Grade Sunday School to "Meet" in January with Virtual Learning

We are continuing with Virtual Sunday School through, at least January. We are looking to offer in-person learning once infection rates return to below 10%. The 14-day average % community rate (as of 01/03) is 11.4%. We will evaluate the numbers continually. Classes will be Pre-K to K, 1st and 2nd grades, 3rd & 4th grades.

Amanda, our Christian Education Director, has put together Online videos lessons for each grade. If you want to make sure you get January's email lessons packet, call the church office (258-0119).

When we can get back to in-person Sunday School for all, we will also still offer a "Virtual lesson" each week for those children and families who wish this option. Amanda will be glad to work with you with both in-person and virtual Sunday School.

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.

The Music Academy @ First Plans to Expand Free Music Lessons for Hunt School Kids

We are expanding music lesson opportunities to those students gifted in piano and other instruments through the formation of The Music Academy @ First. The church's interest in this is that it gives First UMC an external mission and aide in teaching God's gifts through music.

First UMC received seed money to hire a part-time director for this program and has hired Gene Wagner. He began his duties in September in developing the program and raising funds so that in the Fall of 2022, we can begin to offer selected Hunt Elementary School students quality musical training at no cost to children from low-income families. Children who qualify, by USDA standards, for free or reduced lunches will qualify for free lessons at The Music Academy. Each student enrolled in private lessons at The Music Academy will receive a free weekly half-hour lesson taught by a qualified professional. Students who begin taking lessons with The Music Academy will be eligible to continue free private lessons until they graduate from high school.

At this time, all of The Music Academy's scholarship funds will come from private donations. Without these funds to sustain our commitment to offering free private lessons, none of the kids would have access to this quality one-on-one music education. Donations can be made to "The Music Academy" or "First United Methodist Church" (and designate it for The Music Academy).

Your donation to The Music Academy is an investment for the future; it will help us reach more and more financially disadvantaged children and their families every year.

For a more information about The Music Academy or how you can be a part of this ministry, you can stop by the church office and visit with Gene between 9-noon, Monday through Friday or send an email to Gene at (musicacademy.first@gmail.com). Please keep this new ministry in your prayers!



The Personal Care Cupboard Continues to Operate Using CDC Guidelines and Keeping Clients and Volunteers Separate

Personal Care Cupboard

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

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



Personal Care Cupboard January Item of the Month: Body Wash and Body Soap

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 Siouxland.

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 - Deodorants

June - Toilet Paper

July - Toothpaste

August - Razors and Shaving Cream

September - Household Cleaners

October - Toilet Paper

November - Liquid Dish Soap

December - Shampoo and Conditioner

Cash donations are always accepted to purchase needed items for the PCC.

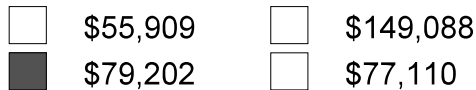
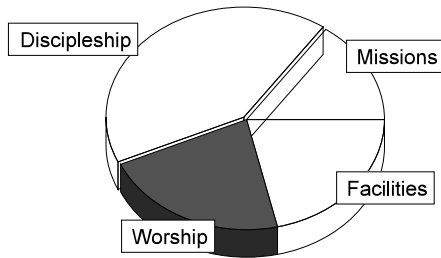


Our church budget for 2022 is \$361,309.
 This is a decrease of \$16,603 from the 2021 budget.

For those who would like to see a budget, here is a graph of our 2022 budget as approved at the November Charge Conference. Detailed budgets are available from the church office.

2022 Operating Budget

First UMC, Sioux City



What financial gift(s) you give to Jesus through church is a very private decision. So no matter what your decision --- whether you are able to increase your pledge because God has blessed you to do so, to maintain your present pledge amount, or whether you choose to make a pledge at all ... "Thank You" for giving this matter serious and prayerful consideration in giving Jesus your gift(s) and making a difference in the lives of others through First UMC.

2022 GIVING DIRECTION SHEET

To carry on God's work, to make a difference in my life and the lives of others, and to help maintain my Church's strength by keeping it financially strong, after prayerful consideration, I promise, with God's help, to give to Christ's ministry through First UMC for 2022 as follows:

I will support the ministries of First UMC regularly and estimate my gifts to average:

\$ _____ weekly or \$ _____ monthly or \$ _____ Yearly.

I will give a total of \$ _____ for 2022 towards Christ's ministries through First UMC.

I do not make formal pledges but I will support First UMC.

I am unable to commit to a specific amount, but I resolve to give to the Lord's work on a regular basis.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: Cell _____ // Home: _____

e-mail: _____

Date: _____ / _____ / _____

First United Methodist Church

- 1915 Nebraska Street
- Sioux City, Iowa 51104
- Telephone: (712) 258-0119
- e-mail: scfirst@msn.com
- Website: www.siouxcityfirst.com

This commitment to ministry may be revised or cancelled at any time