

## UPDATED (03-13-24)

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

- Death of Carolyn Rants (Age 87). Carolyn died on March 8. Her service is this Saturday (March 16) at 11am here at First UMC. Visitation will be 1 hour before the service and a luncheon will follow in Fellowship Hall. 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 2007 Ross Street, Sioux City, IA 51103. Please keep his family in your prayers!

- Death of Michael Kaiser (age 73), brother of Pat Hubbard. Died on Feb. 3.

- Death of Tom Beauvais (Age 73), husband of Rolene & dad of Brian. Died on Jan. 18.

- Tom Padgett, in the death of his brother, John on Dec. 24.

- Julie Enockson, in the death of her dad, John Johnson on Dec. 15.

- Death of Larry Sorensen (age 81), brother of Myrna Sorensen.

Died Dec. 7.

- Death of Jim Nixon (age 91). Died on Dec. 4. His service will be in March, 2024.

### 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).

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

## First United Methodist Church Calendar

Wed: (03-13)	7:00 am 11:00 am 12:30 pm 3:00-3:30 pm  3:35-4:45 pm  5:00-6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall-N. Peck OAM Lenten Study-Library/N. Peck Unity Circle-Mason Room 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Handchimes @ Hunt School-G. Wagner Hunt After School Party "Celebrate St. Patrick" Personal Care Cupboard Open Youth @ First Celebration Bells Jubilate Choir
Thurs: (03-14)	9:30 am 2:00-3:00 pm 3:00-3:30 pm  5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Harmony Circle-Mason Room Personal Care Cupboard-Open 5 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Handchimes @ Hunt School-G. Wagner Al-Anon-Library NA-Fellowship Hall
Fri: (03-15)	10:00 am	Online Worship Recording
Sat: (03-16)	AM 11:00 am 12:30 pm	Delta Cappa Gamma - Library Carolyn Rants Funeral Mason Room/M. Andersen
Sun: (03-17)	9:00 am 10:10 am 10:10 am 11:15 am	Traditional Worship Children and Youth Sunday School Adult Small Group-Heritage Room Casual Service
Mon: (03-18)	10:30 am 2:30 pm 3:30-8:30 pm	Staff Meeting Piano Lessons for Hunt School Kids Private Music Lessons
Wed: (03-20)	7:00 am 11:00 am 3:00-3:30 pm  5:00-6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall-N. Peck OAM Lenten Study-Library/N. Peck 4 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Handchimes @ Hunt School-G. Wagner Personal Care Cupboard Open Youth @ First Celebration Bells Jubilate Choir

## **Sunday, March 17, 2024**

Preaching - Rev. Roger Madden

- Sermon title: "The 3-Leaf Life"

Worship Assistant (9:00 service) - Kandi Custer

(Online) Piano - Pat Harm

Organist (9:00 service) – David Chobar

## **2024 Lenten 4-week Study - Wednesdays at 11am, in the Library**

The psalms were Israel's hymnbook. And psalms of lament were Israel's expression of grief in the midst of trial. For this season of Lent, Iowa United Methodist Bishop Kennetha invites you to join her for a study that will explore both personal and communal psalms as we focus on events impacting our world and our lives. In particular, we will pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine, and our own nation. As we move from Lent to Easter, we will see how the psalms can lead us to hope. The study is entitled "From Lament to Hope."

If you have any questions, please contact Neil Peck (Director of Older Adult Ministries), at the church office.

## **Hunt Elementary School Students Present "Willy Wonka Kids"**

**Musical** - Showtimes are Thursday, March 21 at 1:30pm & 4:30pm as well as Friday, March 22 at 1:30pm & 4:30pm. The cost is \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. It will be held at Hunt Elementary School (across from our church).

## **Thank you!**

Last Friday night's concert by the USD Chamber Singers was outstanding. Dr. David Holdhusen, director, was very pleased with the number of people in attendance, which energized his students' performance. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who helped make the event a success: to those who helped with the dinner, especially Jill Beck for planning and organizing the meal, to those who hosted USD students, and to those who came to the concert.

~ *Gene Wagner*

## **The Soup Kitchen is our March Monthly Mission**

Founded in 1987, the Siouxland Soup Kitchen provides a free meal to anyone in need, in a dignified and respectful manner. The Soup Kitchen serves over 2,500 meals per month, relying only on the assistance and generosity of our local community. Any donation will be greatly appreciated and used to provide nourishment to someone in need. You can find out more about them at their website ([www.siuoxlandsoupkitchen.com](http://www.siuoxlandsoupkitchen.com)).

You can make a donation during church, mail it in, drop it off, or use the "BillPay" option on your internet banking. In addition, we also ask that you keep them in your prayers each day this month.

## **Have You Ordered Your Easter Lily Yet?**

It is that time of the year again to decorate our sanctuary for Easter Sunday (March 31) with lilies. The plants are 6" pots and have 4-6 blooms. The cost is \$20 per plant. If you would like to provide an Easter Lily(ies) in memory or honor of a loved one, please phone the church office (712-258-0119) stop by the church office, email us at ([scfirst@msn.com](mailto:scfirst@msn.com)), or fill out an order form on Sunday at church. Order forms are available by the church office.

**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.

## **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.

**Weather Cancellation Notifications** - In case of severe weather, we will publicize on our web site ([siouxcityfirst.com](http://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.

**HOLY WEEK AT FIRST UMC (March 24-31)**  
**Sunday, March 24 - Palm Sunday Worship**  
9:00 a.m. - Traditional Worship & 11:15 a.m. -  
Celebration Service

**Thursday, March 28 @ 7pm - Maundy**  
**Thursday Service** (No online service)  
- This service will include music, readings and  
Holy Communion.

**Friday, March 29 @ 7pm - In-person Good Friday Service** (There  
will also be an online service available on our website -  
siouxcityfirst.com - that will be available all day).

- A service of Tenebrae, or "Shadows", is based on the  
twelfth-century late night/early morning service and is an extended  
meditation on the passion and final days of Christ. The most striking  
feature of this service is the gradual extinguishing of the candles in the  
room. The setting emphasizes the starkness of the events recalled in  
the service.

**Easter Sunday (March 31), 2 Worship Services at 9am & 11:15am –**  
**Kid's Easter Egg Hunt with Fun and Games Between Services**

We will have 2 in-person Easter Worship Celebrations at 9am &  
11:15am with a staffed Nursery available at both services. We will also  
have an on-line Easter Service available on our website  
(siouxcityfirst.com) and our Facebook page (First United Methodist  
Church - Sioux City). In addition, there is a Kid's Easter Egg Hunt  
along with fun and games between worship services (See next article  
for details)

**Easter Egg Hunt and Fun on Easter Sunday, March 31, Between**  
**Services for Grades 5 and Younger**

We are going to have an Easter egg hunt, picture backdrop, games,  
crafts and fun on Easter Sunday for all children and their friends 5th  
Grade and younger. It will take place between our 2 worship Services  
(10:10am - 11:10am). Contact our Children's Pastor, Martha, if you are  
interested in helping out.

**Candy Donations Needed for Easter Egg Hunt**

Please drop off individually wrapped candy to the Church Office by  
Sunday, March 24. (Mini-size). You can also make a cash donation  
towards the purchase of Easter candy by placing your donation in a  
white pew envelope on Sunday mornings. There will be an Egg Hunt  
for the children on Sunday, March 31, during Sunday School.



**Music Academy @ First – February Update**

March 6, 2024

Monday, March 4 was the final lesson and recital for the 10  
students in the Hunt Beginning Piano Lesson Program. The  
students performed well, considering most had never played piano  
before. We had a quite a few family members of the students,  
members of our church, and others in the audience. Thank you to  
our teachers Pat Harm, Eleanor May Patterson, Nancy Rosston,  
Carolyn Rants, Janet Gross, Emily Jasman, Mary Groen, Jane  
Sibley, and Tom Padgett. Also, thank you to those who brought  
treats for the reception after the recital. On Monday, March 18, we  
begin the 3rd session of beginning piano lessons that will go until  
the final lesson and recital on Monday May 6. We are glad to  
welcome Judy Lilly who will be teaching this 3rd session.

The 4th and 5th grade handchime groups are going well. There  
are 18 fourth graders and 12 fifth graders playing. They will perform  
for a concert at Hunt Elementary in April along with the Hunt band  
students.

The private lessons for strings and piano currently have 30  
student lessons being taught (10 piano and 20 string lessons). This  
past week I received 5 applications for students wanting private  
piano lessons. These are students that previously took a session of  
the Hunt Beginning Piano Lessons.

The Music Academy is continuing to grow. Please consider a  
donation to the Music Academy to continue giving financially  
disadvantaged children the opportunity to experience musical  
opportunities. For more information or questions you may have  
about the Music Academy, please contact Gene Wagner at the  
church (712) 258-0119 or send an email to  
[musicacademy.first@gmail.com](mailto:musicacademy.first@gmail.com).

**Note:** The Music Academy is also looking for electric keyboards and  
band and orchestra instruments, especially violins, violas, cellos,  
and string basses. 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  
[\[musicacademy.first@gmail.com\]](mailto: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>>

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

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

**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.

**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.

**Sunday School News: Epic Adventures: Sky**      **Feb. 25, 2024**

Last Sunday we finished up our Everest trek with a visit to Jerusalem and heaven. We learned about Jesus' last supper where he promised the gift of eternal life and gave us the command to love one another like he loves us. We learned about his promises about heaven as we received chocolate chip cookies and soft little blankets. We talked about those we love that were physically hurting so much that God rescued by taking them to heaven. Our Bible Buddy was Yeddy, a Himalayan brown bear who wants us to know that Jesus loves us eternally.

Since September we have done Cave Quest, Roar, Bethlehem Village and Everest. We are now headed to the Wild Blue Yonder with Sky: Everything is Possible with God!

Our first Bible Buddy is Pat the bat. She wants us to know that "No matter who you are...trust God! Our Bible verse is: "People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart," from 1 Samuel 16:7. In our Imagination Station we will experiment with hover balls.

**Youth@First**

We decorated some cupcakes and talked about dealing with bullies. We watched the introduction to our Lenten Video Series "The Rabbi". This series was actually made in the Holy Lands and the intro was on the Sea of Galilee. We talked about the meaning of Rabbi or teacher. We played some games in the mini gym.

**"Celebrate St. Patrick" Party for Elementary School Kids**  
**Wednesday, March 13 from 3:35pm - 4:45pm.**

Decorating Shamrock Cookies, Making Shamrock Crafts, Playing Shamrock Games. Registration appreciated by March 12. This is open to all Pre-school to 5th graders at Hunt and other schools. Pastor Martha and the volunteers have crafts, games, cookies and more planned. Contact Pastor Martha (712-898-6854) for more information or to volunteer.

**Vacation Bible School**

We are planning to do the theme: "SCUBA: Dive into friendship with Jesus" in mid or late July, depending on when we can get the most volunteers! Please let me know your preferences and conflicts. If you can, be on the lookout for any sea stuffed animals and SCUBA equipment.

*~Rev. Martha Anderson, Children's Pastor*

### **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 chimers and on Thursday afternoons from 3:00-3:30, he is at Hunt with 5th grade chimers. 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.

### **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.

**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.

### **Usher Team for the 9:00 Traditional Worship**

Mar. 17 - Team #5, Mary Stoneburg, leader

Mar. 24 - Team #6, George and Dawn Kibby, leaders

Mar. 31 - Team #1, Marv Sorensen, leader

### **Worship Assistants for the 9:00 Traditional Worship**

Mar. 24 - Tom Padgett

Mar. 31 - (Easter) - 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.

Mar. 17 - A-Be

Mar. 24 - Bi-C

Mar. 31 - 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.**

### March Item of the Month: Diapers Sizes 5 and 6

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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 - 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.

