



Wrap us in your warm love on this winter day, O God.

More Than Just Sunday January 25, 2024

A Monthly Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Mason City, Iowa

Pastor's Message

It seems like we were just celebrating Christmas and now, somehow, we are just weeks away from the season of Lent! Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday service on February 14. As we work our way through Lent this year, we will be following along with the life of Peter as our guide. We will explore his call, his mountain-top faith, but also his faltering faith and everything in between.

Lent is a season for us to look at our own faith lives as well. It is a great time to re-examine what in our lives is pulling us closer to God and what is pulling us away from God. All of us could benefit from adding a new or renewed spiritual practice to our lives.

Spiritual practice is really just a different form of prayer, a way of staying connected to God. During Lent we will be having a five-week Spiritual Practice class, in which you can learn five new spiritual practices. Classes will be held on Mondays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fire-side Room beginning February 19. We will begin by exploring labyrinths and move on to a practice of meditation through art, a practice of gratitude, Lectio Divina, and finally tasting the Words of Life. Everyone is encouraged to attend and learn something new! Will you want to add all of these practices to your life? Probably not, but you may very well find one new thing you can do to improve your relationship with God. Who doesn't want that?

Don't worry if you can't attend all of the classes. Each one stands alone and you will be able to keep up even if you miss a week or two. No preparation is necessary. Just come with an open mind and a willingness to try something different. I look forward to learning and growing with each of you!

May our awareness of God's presence increase this Lenten season.

God's peace and love to you.
Pastor Mel

JESUS
LOVES YOU—
and so do we!

- **Sunday Coffee Hour**
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday Worship Service**
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary or
Facebook Live
- **Sunday Radio Broadcast**
11:00 a.m., KCMR 97.9 FM



**“A Christian faith community to
further God's kingdom.”**

First United Methodist Church
119 S Georgia Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-4905

Rev. Melanie Greengo
Senior Pastor



Birthdays & Anniversaries

1. Carol Clayton, Brandon Platts
2. Noah Banos, Bill Burdick, Holly Platts
3. David Gilbert, Kaleb Solberg, Heidi Stoltenberg, Will Thompson
4. Sloane Beller, Alyx Brandel, Jesse Byre, Missy Schaper, Robert Strom
5. Gayle McCourt
7. Lyric Clark, Nancy Hendrickson, Cindy Kalvig, Shania Koerber
8. Grayce Banos, Charlene Strain
9. Jessica Clark
10. Molly Paullus-Vollmers
11. Travis Bailey
12. Brandon McKelvey, Margaret McMonagle, Mary Squier
13. Doug Peshak, David Platts, William Schaper
14. *Chris & Lea Baker, David & Pat Gilbert*
15. Stephen Duvall, Chloe Eden
16. Anthony Frescaz, Quincy McWilliams
17. Benjamin Goerdt, Michael Lundula
18. Jim Allen, Laura Cahalan, Beth DeGraw, Nicolas Lundula
19. Parker Craw, Myles Krueger, Aria Morehouse
20. Fred Paullus
21. Nathan Anderson
22. *Pat & Erin Thompson*
23. Ron Klobberdanz, Britton Kohler, Tim Lucas
24. Sheri McWilliams, Connie (Larry) Miller, Troy O'Hern
25. Sheyenne Allen, Mark Boggess, Randy Christensen, Caden Koerber, Mya McWilliams
26. Kurt Lichty, Jo Papantonis
27. Jerry Ames
28. Darla Kinseth, Mike McKelvey

2024 Scholarship Opportunities

Applications for the 2024 Bill Oleson Scholarship (\$1,000) and the Stittsworth Scholarship (\$500) are available at the First UMC office. Eligible applicants are high school graduating seniors or adults with a high school diploma who are active members of Mason City First UMC and who are accepted or enrolled as a full-time student at any accredited college or university. Prior scholarship recipients are eligible to reapply. **Application deadline is April 1.** Please contact the church office if you have questions. First UMC gratefully acknowledges the families of Bill Oleson and Wally & Paula Stittsworth for making these scholarships possible.

Supper Club

Thursday, February 22

5:15 p.m., Village Court Family Restaurant

The First UMC Supper Club will gather at Village Court Family Restaurant (687 S Taft Ave, Mason City) on Thursday, February 22. Village Court offers a wide variety of menu options, from breakfast served all day to pasta, burgers and steaks. There is sure to be something for everyone! Invite a friend to join in the fun!



February 14
Noon, WAYside Chapel

Please join us for our Ash Wednesday service at noon on February 14 in the WAYside Chapel. If that time does not work in your schedule, Pastor Mel will be available for the imposition of ashes during regular office hours if anyone would like to stop in.



Spiritual Practices Class
Mondays, February 19-March 18
6:00-7:00 p.m., Fireside Room

Join Pastor Mel this Lenten season and learn new ways to improve your relationship with God, from labyrinths to tasting the Words of Life (see pastor's article on page 1). You need only to show up. Each evening's class is independent from the others, so come to all or as many as you are able. Feel free to share this opportunity with others. All are welcome.

United Women in Faith Project



Thank you to Jane Anthony for reading to the first graders at Hoover School on December 1. This was part of a UMW/United Women in Faith project. The book chosen was *The Sour Grape* from the #1 New York Times bestselling team of Jory John and Pete Oswald. She made the reading interactive and it was well received and so much fun. The kids found out if a sprinkling of gratitude and a hint of compassion will be enough to turn one grape from sour to sweet!

—Beth Alverson

Daily Devotions

Copies of the March-April edition of *The Upper Room* are in the narthex and by the elevator entrance. There has been a slight increase in the cost of purchasing these books, so, if able, we ask for a donation of \$1.50 for small print and \$2.00 for large print.



Prayer Chain

Please call the church office at 641-423-4905 to submit a request to the confidential prayer chain. Call Rev. Melanie Greengo at 641-781-0264 if there is an emergency and need for pastoral care outside of office hours.

Prayers

Mick Baker (Kentucky Ridge)
Cortland Peterson
Eldon Siemers
Dodie Tanner

All with unspoken concerns and prayers known only to God.

Thank You

A sincere thank you to Pastor Mel and our First Methodist Church family for your thoughtfulness these past few months. Your prayers, concerns, letters, cards and phone calls have been very much appreciated. Also, a thank you to the Congregational Care Team for the bag of goodies. Very nice. I continue to wait patiently for my hip surgery. Again, a big thank you to each of you from Betty and me. May God bless each of you.

—Eldon Siemers

Baptisms

Congratulations to Dylan and Hayley Alitz on the baptisms of their children, Abra Iris and Aleyna Marlene, on Sunday, December 24, 2023. Abra's sponsors are Ryan Baack and Autumn Hefty. Aleyna's sponsors are Landon Schultz and Autumn Hefty. Grandparents are Mark & Lori Alitz and Angie & Gabe Sheahan, all of Mason City.

Sympathy

Our sympathy to Sandi Roggeman and family on the death of her husband, Greg Roggeman, 62, on Tuesday, December 19, 2023. A celebration of life was held on Friday, December 22, at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Melanie Greengo officiating.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Gordon Kammrad and family on the death of Arlene Kammrad, 92, on Thursday, December 21, 2023. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, December 26, at Major Erickson Funeral Home with Rev. Melanie Greengo officiating.

Our heartfelt condolences to Brian (Mary) Snell, Mark (Cindy) Snell and Sue (Randy) Griffith on the death of their mother, Shirley Snell, 96, on Wednesday, December 27, 2023. A celebration of life was held on Saturday, January 6, 2024, at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Melanie Greengo officiating.

Please keep Bill Burdick and family in your prayers following the death of Leslie Burdick, 79, on Saturday, December 30, 2023. The family will hold a celebration of life at a later date.

Our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Joan Watson, who passed away on Sunday, January 7, 2024, at the age of 93. A private family celebration of life will be held for Joan and her husband, Bob, in the spring. Major Erickson Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family and friends of Carole Busick, 74, who passed away on Sunday, January 21, 2024. A memorial service will be/was held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, January 27, at First United Methodist Church with Rev. Melanie Greengo officiating. Visitation will be/was held from 4:00-6:00 p.m. on Friday, January 26, at Major Erickson Funeral Home.



County Cousins

2023 Contributions for Belzoni, Mississippi

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Total donations in 2023 for this cause resulted in receiving twice the volume of clothing that we typically collect. This motivated our organization to take two large trailer loads, rather than just the one load, to these people in need of help. County Cousins also takes wooden toys, soft dolls and dental supplies to three state-supported early childhood Head Start centers. The 184 wooden toy cars and trucks were built by volunteers from Manly Bethel United Methodist Church, with that effort being chaired by a young lady who is a senior at Central Springs High School. The 107 soft dolls were purchased by a very special lady who also crochets a shawl for each doll. The comment we hear over and over regarding the toys and dolls is, "If it were not for these toys, there would be a number of our children who would not receive a Christmas present." The dental care packages are donated by two of our Mason City dental clinics with the hope that this will encourage the children to learn and practice good dental hygiene. Please know that your contributions to this Christmas project are very much appreciated!

—Nancy Barrick Klobberdanz, President & D. Kendall Petersen, Treasurer



Radio Ministry Sponsors

11:00 a.m. Sunday – KCMR 97.9 FM

Note: KCMR has been experiencing issues with their transmitter, so their station has not been available on the radio. They are working to fix the issue as quickly as possible. Please remember that their programming, including First UMC's worship service, is livestreamed, so you can listen anytime, anywhere by going to <https://kcmrfin.com/>.

1/28 - In celebration of our 57th anniversary on Jan. 29.

—Phil & Carol Johnson

2/4 - In memory of Jordon's birthday on Feb. 3.

—Sandi Roggeman

Sign up to sponsor a radio broadcast by sending an email to brenda@masoncityfirstumc.org or calling 423-4905. Cost to sponsor a Sunday is \$80. Thank you!

Available Radio Dates: 2/11, 2/18 & 2/25

MORE Than Just Sunday



First United Methodist Church
119 S Georgia Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
641-423-4905

- Rev. Melanie Greengo Senior Pastor
- Lori Elbermaw Christian Administrator
- Brenda Young Office Manager
- Troy Gobeli Custodian
- Scott Blankenbaker Director of Music
- Lisa Nelson Accompanist
- Betty Chipman Event Coordinator
- Sue Simmons Security

Email: brenda@masoncityfirstumc.org
Website: www.firstunitedmethodistchurchmc.org
www.facebook.com/firstunitedmethodistchurchmasoncityiowa

