

I am

THANKFUL

More Than Just Sunday October 26, 2023

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

Pastor's Message

With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we turn our hearts and minds to the idea of gratitude. How can we not when there is a whole day called Thanksgiving? In our family we always go around the table and name something for which we are thankful, although it often ends up being rather superficial because we are smelling the wonderful food in front of us and just want to eat. Quick, get through the prayer and giving thanks so we can get to the good stuff!

We would all benefit from a daily practice of gratitude rather than waiting to think about it once a year in November. I used to think I was a grateful person. I sent thank you cards when appropriate and would say thank you when someone helped me, but I never lived into the idea of gratitude as the lens with which I see the world. It all changed for me when I was given a year-long "companion" word in a spiritual renewal class. We all took a card out of the basket and were asked to spend time contemplating its influence on our lives. I, of course, got the word "gratitude," and to be honest, I wasn't very grateful for it. I really didn't think I was going to learn anything from it. And is often the case, when I think I know best, I was wrong.

Living a year journaling about gratitude, committing to a daily gratitude practice changed how I looked at the world. It is a completely different perspective. Gratitude changes how we interpret our lives. I went from focusing on the difficult stuff in my life to focusing on all the good in the midst of the hard stuff. As it says in 1 Thessalonians 5:18, I learned to give thanks in all circumstances. Not *for* all circumstances, some things in life are just hard, but *in* all circumstances. Even in the midst of pain and heartache, a daily gratitude practice taught me to look for the helpers and the supporters, the beauty in the world around me and the presence of God in my life. Gratitude led me to joy, and I will always be thankful for that!

I invite you to consider a daily prayer practice. Spend a few minutes each day writing down three things you are grateful for. And, yes, write it down! Just thinking about it doesn't quite have the same effect. Try it for the month of November and you will discover just how loving and present God is in your life.

With gratitude and love for each of you,
Pastor Mel



Sunday, Nov. 5

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour the evening of Nov. 4!

- **Coffee Hour**
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- **Worship Service**
10:00 a.m., Sanctuary or
Facebook Live
- **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. Mikayla Ferch
2. Mark Austin, Ken Busick, Dale Henaman, David Klatt
3. Joyce Anderson, Lea Baker, Susan Borcharding
4. Katie (Shriver) Dotson, Bob Evans
5. Ann Brown, Steve Musson, Mary Peshak
6. Luanne Austin, Abby Goerd, Lynn Griffith, Marlys Pruisman, *Larry & Connie Miller*
7. Libby Lewis
8. Laura Ressler, Melissa (Michel) Solberg, *Liz & Stewart McCaskill*
9. Leighton Beller, Patty Brood, *Scott & Darlene Craw*
10. Mark Alitz, Gen Anderson, Aaron Austin, Justin Frescaz, Sarah Mariner, Mary McEniry, Dean Pruisman, Magnus Torres
11. Reece Asche
12. *Cathy & James Clark*
13. Bryce Butler, Drew DeGabriele, Jeff Michel
14. Paul Harris, Stephanie Moon
15. Elliott Craw, Brady Eden, Warren Hamand, *Bob & Phyllis Rodgers*
16. Terri Corsello, Joselyn Miller
18. Jenna Krueger, *Jim & Terri Corsello*
19. Caitlin Reilly
20. Sydney Baker, Colin Bishop
21. Hayley (Austin) Broich, Christopher Klobberdanz
22. Marianne Lunning, Wendy Taylor, Shelby True
23. Megann Brunsvold, Criss Miller
24. Diane Yunek
26. Cheryl Hicok, Gretchen Hollander, Randy Krueger, Kinnick Onder
27. Larry Eide, Nancy Klobberdanz, Michelle Sanders
28. John Lofing, Sawyer Menke, Brent Wymore
29. Brett Hollander, Colton Kinseth, Judy Lee, Elizabeth Solberg
30. James Clark, *Randy & Sue Griffith*

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

First UMC has two dates for which we need volunteers to ring bells for the Salvation Army at Hy-Vee West (grocery door) this holiday season. Choose a time between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on either Saturday, Dec. 9, or Saturday, Dec. 16. Sign-up sheet is in the narthex or call the church office at 423-4905.



Hanging of the Greens Sunday, Nov. 26, after Worship

Help us ready the church for the Advent and Christmas season. When we are done decorating, we will gather together in Fellowship Hall for chili and cinnamon rolls. Come and join us! Many hands make light work!
—Pastor Mel



Saturday, December 2

The United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) will be hosting a Christmas High Tea on Saturday, December 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Now, you might be thinking that a high tea is usually held in the afternoon. With this in mind, you will want to come and see how Betty and the United Women in Faith will put their own twist on this traditional English event. Come ready to try out the latest in finger sandwiches, pastries, small desserts and, of course, your favorite tea. More information will be available as we get closer to the big day. All are welcome!

Advent Study

Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 & Dec. 19
Fireside Room

Join us this holiday season as Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai leads us via Zoom in the exploration of the unrelenting grace of God, utilizing the book *Unrelenting Grace: A United Methodist Way of Life* by Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. The study will help us remember who we are as United Methodists and give us a sense of common belonging, shared identity and unity. **Sign up by Sunday, Nov. 5, to receive the discounted book price of \$9.50** (payment may be made at first class). A sign-up sheet is located at the back of the sanctuary or you may notify the church office at 423-4905 of your plan to attend.



Honor a Loved One this Holiday Season! Consider a Poinsettia and/or Donation to Church World Service (CWS) Blankets *Please print clearly*



Presented by _____ Phone _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Poinsettia Ordering Instructions:

_____ I would like to order _____ Poinsettia(s). Please attach check payable to First UMC or cash of \$18.00 per plant. **Submit payment along with this form to church office no later than Sunday, November 26.**

_____ I will purchase a Poinsettia myself and deliver it to the church. (Make sure your name is on the plant if you wish to pick it up following our Christmas Eve service.)

I will pick up my Poinsettia plant. _____ Please donate my Poinsettia plant. _____

Church World Service (CWS) Blankets:

_____ I would like to purchase _____ blanket(s) at a cost of \$10.00 each for a total of \$ _____. (Cash or check payable to FUMC.)



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.

Recently Hospitalized

Mark Boguess, Marlene Gross, Evelyn Wiley

Prayers

All with unspoken concerns and prayers known only to God.

Thank You

Several months ago, I requested prayers for my grandson, Blaise Bills, who is the son of my son Darin and his wife Kate. Blaise was diagnosed with leukemia. After undergoing rigorous treatment and many long days of pain with other side effects, he has been declared cancer free. My family and I want to express our sincere thanks to all who offered prayers for healing for Blaise and our family. Above all I am thanking God and our Lord Jesus Christ for the healing power and for providing healthcare personnel who could pass that care on to Blaise. God's blessing to all of you for your prayers and caring. I don't get to church as often as I'd like, but I think of you often.

—Jean Bills

To My Church Family—Thank you for the prayers, cards and voices of sympathy at the passing of my sister, Connie. The graveside service, led by Pastor Mel, was certainly peaceful and joyous with a message of hope and security, knowing that nothing can separate us from God. Many blessings to you all.

—Mary Pattschull Church

Sympathy

Our sincere condolences to Sheri McWilliams on the death of her stepmother, Mary Lou McWilliams, 92, on Monday, September 25, 2023. A memorial service was held on Thursday, September 28, at Hope Reformed Church in Parkersburg, IA.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Lee Meleney on the death of his brother, Robert Meleney, 76, on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Randy Lee Krominga, who passed away on Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at age 71. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, October 3, at Hogan-Bremer-Moore Colonial Chapel with Mark Doebel officiating.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Jacque Simon on the death of her mother, Virginia James, 100, on Sunday, October 1, 2023.

Our deepest sympathy to Ruth Graf and family on the death of her mother, Sally Gardner, 95, on Monday, October 9, 2023. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, October 18, at the Floral Hills Funeral Home in Oelwein.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to Mary Church on the death of her sister, Connie Pattschull, 73, on Thursday, October 12, 2023. Connie was laid to rest on Tuesday, October 17, at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Our sincere condolences to Donna and Jerry Braughton on the death of Donna's sister, Marcia Butcher, 90, on Wednesday, October 18, 2023. A funeral service was held on Monday, October 23, at Major Erickson Funeral Home.

Donations Requested for County Cousins

Our friends in Belzoni, Mississippi, need a helping hand recovering from the devastating tornado earlier this year. As part of the County Cousins annual trip to provide dolls and wooden toys for Christmas, we will also take any of the following donations (all items must be clean, in good condition and non-breakable):

- Beds and bedding
- Clothing for men, women and children – all sizes and types (sweaters, coats, summer clothing, etc.)
- Cooking utensils
- Curtains
- Maxi dresses (above the ankle)
- Christmas toys for children
- Christmas decorations
- Electric heaters
- Microwaves
- Small air conditioning units
- Bottled drinking water

Please place donations in a garbage bag marked for County Cousins and set them on the stage in Fellowship Hall (behind curtain). Financial contributions to assist in the purchasing of paper products, soaps and cleaners would also be greatly appreciated. Those wishing to donate should **make check payable to County Cousins** and submit it to the First UMC office. Support of this worthy cause is appreciated!

—Nancy Kloberdanz and Ken Petersen

Children's Winter Clothing Drive

We once again have the opportunity to help our community elementary school children get through the winter months. We are asking for any of the following gently used items:

- Winter coats
- Snow pants
- Boots
- Hats, Scarves
- Mittens/Gloves
- New socks or underwear



Monetary donations are also welcome and we will do the shopping for you! Please make checks payable to First UMC and write "Missions" in the memo line. Clothing items may be placed in the cart in the narthex. All donations are appreciated!

—Missions Committee



Radio Ministry Sponsors

11:00 a.m. Sunday – KCMR 97.9 FM

10/29 - To honor God in worship and in celebration of grandson Henry's first birthday on Oct. 28.

—Nancy & Ron Kloberdanz

11/5 - In memory of what would have been my mother's 100th birthday on Nov. 7.

—Linda McCollum

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

11/12, 11/26, 12/3, 12/10, 12/17, 12/24, 12/31

MORE Than Just Sunday

“To speak gratitude
is courteous and pleasant,
to enact gratitude
is generous and noble, but

**to live gratitude
is to touch heaven.”**

—JOHANNES GAERTNER



First United Methodist Church
119 S Georgia Ave
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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

