

MORE Than Just Sunday



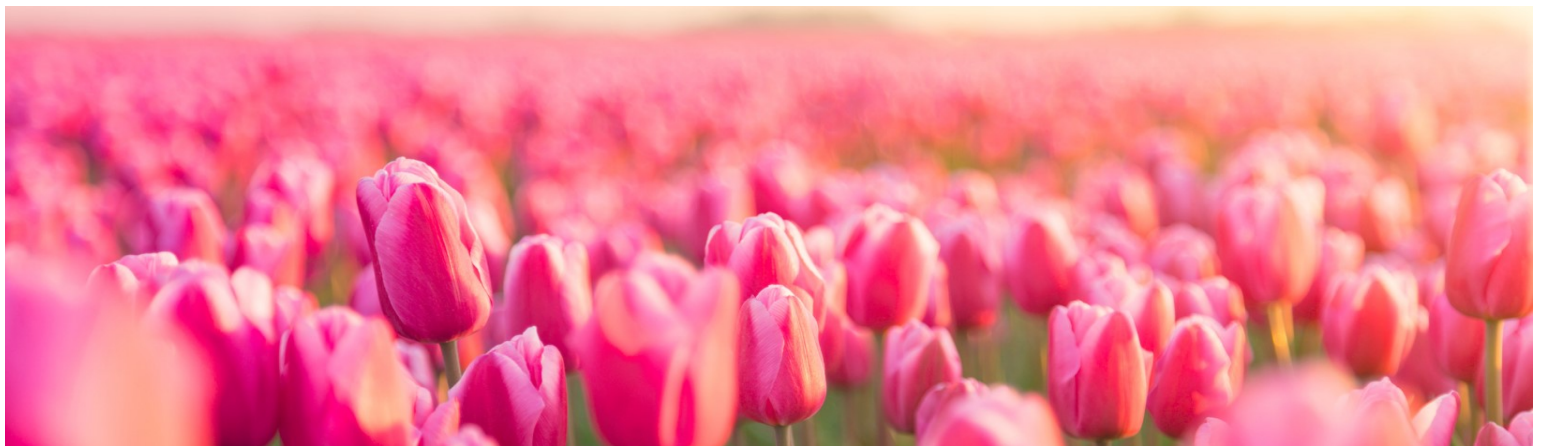
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More Than Just Sunday April 2024

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

Pastor's Message

Whenever my soul is in need of soothing, I turn to poetry. I used to dislike poetry. Well, not dislike it so much as not willing to take the time or inclination to slow down enough to enjoy it. Don't get me wrong, in my teen years I fancied myself a poet- dramatic, emotive poems of teenage angst and swirling emotion were my choice but reading others' poetry, no thanks. Now, I find glorious pause in the midst of poetry.

Today I spent some time perusing Mary Oliver's poetry. specifically, her poetry about birds. It could have just as easily been the Psalms, or Song of Songs but I had a dream in which I started growing feathers last night, so Mary Oliver and birds seemed apropos. I found her poem Snow Geese again.

Snow Geese

Oh, to love what is lovely, and will not last!
What a task
to ask
of anything, or anyone,
yet it is ours,
and not by the century or the year, but by the hours.
One fall day I heard
above me, and above the sting of the wind, a sound
I did not know, and my look shot upward; it was
a flock of snow geese, winging it
faster than the ones we usually see,
and, being the color of snow, catching the sun
so they were, in part at least, golden. I
held my breath
as we do
sometimes
to stop time
when something wonderful
has touched us
as with a match,
which is lit, and bright,
but does not hurt

in the common way,
but delightfully,
as if delight
were the most serious thing
you ever felt.
The geese
flew on,
I have never seen them again.
Maybe I will, someday, somewhere.
Maybe I won't.
It doesn't matter.
What matters
is that, when I saw them,
I saw them
as through the veil, secretly, joyfully, clearly.

"Oh to love what is lovely, and will not last!" It is when we are able to be present in the moment that we are blessed to see the loveliness of God's beautiful creation, including each other. When is the last time you felt seen? When is the last time you were truly present in the moment? A moment of joy in watching birds flit about or a moment of connection with another in which you saw their pain, their joy, their hope, their frustration and didn't turn away? Each day is really just moments. Moments in which we can be present or moments that get missed because we are already too busy with the next thing to experience what is right in front of us. My favorite type of prayer is simply using some of those moments to be present with God. Be present to the beauty around us and listen to God speak. I pray you have many moments in which you see God, the beauty of this world, and each other "through the veil, secretly, joyfully, clearly."

May you find comfort and peace in God's presence.
Pastor Mel

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Birthdays & Anniversaries

1. Sue Griffith, Pat Masters
2. Mike Calkins, Mary Church, Linda Kohler, Evan Stalker, Tyler Watermill
3. Melissa Clough, Allison Cody, Marty Petzoldt
4. Deb Morris, Patrick Thompson, Jareese Williams Jr.
5. Ann Epley Birtwistle, Easton Ziemann, *Bob & Wendy Taylor*
6. Sloane Davidson
7. *Dan & Nancy Cutler*
8. Betty Lucas
9. Chelsey Anderson, Jean Bills, Betty Chipman
10. Dianne Robinson, Drew Thompson
11. Jacob Mariner
12. *Michael & Ann Brown, Doug & Mary Peshak*
13. Knox Brandel, Adele Phillips
14. Tim Mulholland
15. Brianna Lofing
16. Rachael Croissant, Jay Eide, Connor Hanson, Scotti Nelson
17. Kathy Deets
18. Dylan Alitz, Keisha Bobolz, Randy Griffith, Steve Halsne, Kim Jimenez, Scott Moorman, Sadie Parker
19. Keigan Flaherty, Joshua Pokorney, Steve Runge
20. Chris Baker, Rafeanne LaSalle, Jeff Miller, Jill Thompson, *Jeff & Ann Cutler*
21. Rachel Beller, Haley Hunt, Audra Mulholland, Patricia Thompson
23. Betty Jo Calaway, Nancy Ostrander, Justin Pruisman, Rylie Servidio, Jacob Strait, *Dave & Cary Morehouse*
24. Kasin Byre, Ron Masters, Jon Salmon
26. Hadley Bruggeman
27. Laura Calkins-Torres, Aubrey Mariner, Marvel Thompson, *Nick & Jordan Bruggeman*
29. Katy Salmon
30. Drayden Hall, Zack Mulholland, Arlo Stoltenberg

Thank You

I wish to express my gratitude for the opportunity to work at First UMC for almost eight years. I will be moving on to another job, and my last day in the church office was Friday, March 15. I have enjoyed the work here and the many friendships made. Thank you for the kind emails and messages on the church's Facebook page. I will miss everyone and appreciate your prayers. God's blessings to all of you!

—Brenda Young

Supper Club

Thursday, April 25

5:15 p.m., Godfathers

The supper club will meet on Thursday, April 25th. We will meet at Godfathers (1703 4th Street SE Mason City) at 5:15 p.m. Remember that this gathering is for all who would like to attend, regardless of church membership, so invite friends and family to join us. Please let us know how many plan to attend by Sunday, April 14, by placing your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or calling the church office at 641-423-4905.

Sunday Coffee Hour

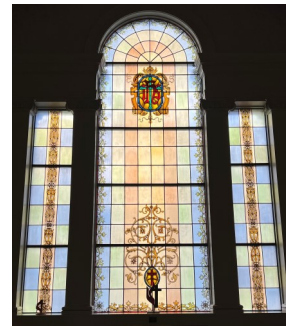
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

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
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**Rev. Melanie Greengo
Senior Pastor**

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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.

Sympathy

Gary Pasco passed away on March 11th his Grave side service will be held in May.

Welcome

We are excited to Welcome Kaylee Meyers our new Office Manager. A little about Kaylee, she grew up in Cedar Fall's, IA and later moved to the North Iowa Area with her Husband Zackary Meyers. They welcomed their Son Kolt in July of 2022. If you have a chance take a moment to introduce yourself to Kaylee in the Office, we want to give her a Warm Welcome to First UMC.



Updated Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Radio Ministry

11:00 a.m. Sunday –



Sponsors

KCMR 97.9 FM

3/28—In Remembrance of our Anniversary on April.12 -Carol Tinkey

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:

4/14, 4/21, 4/28, 5/5

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 re-apply. **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.



Holy Humor Sunday!

April 7th 10am Sunday Morning Worship

Come and join us as we celebrate the Easter season with lots of jokes and (hopefully) laughter! For centuries in Eastern Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant countries, the week following Easter Sunday, including "Bright Sunday" (the Sunday after Easter), was observed by the faithful as "days of joy and laughter" to celebrate Jesus' resurrection. Come and celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us!

Upcoming Events

- 3/29 – Good Friday Joint Serv., 6:00 p.m. Grace UMC
- 3/31 – Easter Service, 10:00 a.m. Sanctuary or Facebook
- 4/1 – Card Writing Ministry, 12:30 p.m. Nursery 2 Room
- 4/2 – Girl Scouts, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Youth Room
SPRC Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Fireside Room
- 4/3 – Private Reservation, 12:00-3:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Midweek Music Moments, 2:00 p.m. Facebook
Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 5:15 p.m. Sanctuary
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:15 p.m. Sanctuary
Private Reservation, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fireside Rm/Class
- 4/6 – Women in Faith Mtg., 8:00-3:00 Chapel & Fellowship Hall
- 4/7 – Food Bank Collection
- 4/7 – Holy Humor Sunday

Find the Carrot

We have hidden a carrot in the newsletter the first person to find it by mail and email and bring it to the office during office hours will win a treat!