



LENT JOURNEY TO THE CROSS

**More Than Just Sunday
February 22, 2024**

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

Pastor's Message

We have two dear dogs in our household. Well, one of them is dear; I tolerate the other one (don't worry—I love him too . . . most of the time). But Ruby, our dachshund mix, is a beloved member of our family. She has been with us over 10 years now and is 11 years old. She is a rescue that actually came from the Humane Society of North Iowa here in Mason City many years ago when I was serving in Lime Springs.

After we brought her home, we realized she had been neglected and most likely abused in her previous home. Her comfort with us has improved dramatically, but she will always be a very anxious and nervous dog. Now that she has reached the old age of 11, she struggles with the stairs, getting on the bed and getting in the car. She had a health scare a little over a year ago, and we thought that would be the end of our time with her. Thankfully, after a lot of rest, medication and time, she recovered and remains a beloved member of our family.



(Ruby)

After this much time with her, we have come to love her, anxious ball of nerves that she is. I don't know if she would have been a different dog if the first year of her life had been a kind one, but either way, we love her for who she is, eccentricities and all. Having her around is a constant reminder for me that God loves us the same way. God knows the pain and difficulties we have been through, the way life has shaped us into our current selves, and God loves us through it all. God isn't waiting for us to reach some pinnacle of faith or service before he deems us worthy of love. God loves the beautiful mess that we are in this moment.

This Lenten season I am choosing to focus on that love. I have found over the years that the only way I am able to make real, lasting change in my life is through love and acceptance of who I am in this moment. Shame doesn't produce lasting change—love does. I pray each and every one of you know that God loves you just as you are, and as we journey to the foot of the cross together, perhaps if we know we are loved we can move forward into new ways to share that love with others.

Blessings on your Lenten journey!
Pastor Mel



Remember!

Daylight Saving Time
begins Sunday,
March 10.

Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour.

- **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. Mike Butler, Kimberly Pokorney, *Scott & Deb Metcalf*
2. Angela Asche, Madison Bailey, Grant Nel, Lori Smith
3. Turner Broich, Melody Clark, Brady Edwards, Dick Mathes
4. David McCourt, Wendi Younker
5. *Duane & Cheryl Hicok*
6. Betty Pierson, Isabel Reilly
7. Nancy Cutler, Gunner Kehm
8. Jessica Cockrell, *Tyler & Brenda Hunt*
9. Jeanne Morris, Halle Phillips, Karmen Shriver
10. Emily Halfpap, Kayla Runge, Stephanie Runge
11. Aubrey Bruggeman, Kylar Cahalan, Grier Davidson, William Hartman, Julie Hunt
12. Rosemary DeGraw, Aspen Kehm, Lisa Wharton
13. Tiffani Morehouse, Michelle Tyler, *Brent & Toni Wymore*
14. Judy Eilders, Gavan Halfpap Anderson, Paul Strathman
15. Sam Butler, Ajah LaSalle, Trisha O'Hern, Jen Papouchis
16. Dan Cutler, Richard Goerdts, Charlee Runge-Keller
17. Jay Lovejoy, Jo Ann McDougle
18. Jolene Anthony, Lauren Hammervold, Christi Lyman, Tim Shriver, Bob Taylor, Amy Welch
19. Jeff Cutler, Duane Hicok, Betty Siemers
21. Scott Metcalf
22. Etta Klobardanz, Gary Mott, Spencer Wharton
23. Veronique Lundula, *Abby & Brian Ziemann*
24. Abby Phillips
26. Jay Koerber
27. *Mike & CarolAnn Eppens*
28. Zachary Colombo-Seger
29. Darlene Haines, Zariya'h LaSalle, Ken Tyler
31. Stacey Keane, Brian Snell, Sara True

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. Pastor Mel is offering a five-week Spiritual Practice class on Mondays, beginning February 19, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. You will have the opportunity to explore labyrinths, learn a practice of meditation through art, a practice of gratitude, Lectio Divina, and finally tasting the Words of Life. Each class is independent from the others, so come to all or as many as you are able. No preparation is necessary and you do not need to sign up. Just come with an open mind and a willingness to try something different.



Spring Craft Day Sunday, March 17

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

All are welcome to join in a fun afternoon of creating spring and Easter crafts. Several different projects will be available for you to work on, with the opportunity to take home or donate your completed craft to our Easter baskets for seniors and the homebound. We will have snacks to eat and look forward to a great time. There is no cost to you. Just come and enjoy yourself!

Supper Club Thursday, March 21

5:15 p.m., Burke's Bar & Grill

The Supper Club will meet on Thursday, March 21, a week earlier than usual due to Holy Week falling the last week of March. We will meet at Burke's Bar & Grill (1221 N Federal Ave, 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, March 17, by placing your name on the sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary or calling the church office at 423-4905.



March 24 – Palm Sunday, 10:00 a.m. service, Sanctuary or Facebook Live

March 28 – Maundy Thursday, 5:00 p.m. service with Holy Communion, WAYside Chapel

March 29 – Good Friday joint service with Grace and Wesley United Methodist Churches, 6:00 p.m. at Grace UMC with Rev. Melanie Greengo preaching

March 31 – Easter Sunday, 10:00 a.m. service with Holy Communion, Sanctuary or Facebook Live
All are welcome to join us for worship!

2024 Easter Lily Order Form

Presented by _____ Ph _____
In memory of _____
In honor of _____

_____ I would like to order an Easter lily. A check payable to First UMC or cash of **\$17.00 per plant** is attached. **Please return this form and payment by Sunday, March 10.**

_____ I will purchase an Easter lily myself and deliver it to the church. (Please make sure your name is on the plant if you plan to pick it up following Easter service.)

_____ I will pick up my Easter lily after Easter service on March 31.

_____ Please donate my Easter lily.



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.

Recent Hospitalizations

Butch Anthony (Jane Anthony's brother-in-law)
Jerry Koerber
Christie Trebil
Terry Tyrrell

Prayers

Ken & Joan Blum (father & stepmother of Lori Smith)
Norma Meyer
All with unspoken concerns and prayers known only to God.

Address Updates

Please note that Margaret McMonagle is now at the Rockwell Community Nursing Home, and Dick Leet is in Room #3 at Heritage Care Center.

Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to Jan Kostka and family on the death of her former husband, Gary Ewing, 70, on Thursday, February 1, 2024. A celebration of Gary's life was held on Saturday, February 10, at Mason City Community Theater.

Our heartfelt condolences to Evelyn Wiley on the death of her sister, Princetta Reutter, 95, on Friday, February 2, 2024. Princetta resided in Fort Collins, Colorado. Please keep Evelyn in your prayers.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to David Gilbert and family on the death of his wife, Pat Gilbert, 77, on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. A memorial service was held on Friday, February 16, at Hogan Bremer Moore Colonial Chapel in Mason City with Rev. Melanie Greengo officiating.

Please keep the friends and family of Connie Wendel in your prayers. Connie passed away on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the age of 66. Connie was a longtime member of Mason City First UMC and had recently resided at Heritage Care Center.



Radio Ministry Sponsors

11:00 a.m. Sunday – KCMR 97.9 FM

3/3—Megann & Blayne Brunsvold

3/10—Megann & Blayne Brunsvold

3/17—Megann & Blayne Brunsvold

3/24—In honor of granddaughter Etta's 7th birthday.

—Nancy & Ron Klobberdanz

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:
2/25, 4/7, 4/14, 4/21, 4/28

County Cousins "Seed Sundays"

The Missions Committee is seeking financial contributions to help purchase garden seeds for our friends in Belzoni, MS. This is an annual project that feeds a lot of hungry families all year. Because it is more cost efficient to purchase seed in bulk at discount price, cash donations are requested rather than actual seed packets. **Checks should be made payable to County Cousins and may be sent to or dropped off at the First UMC Office through Sunday, March 3.** All contributions to this worthy cause are greatly appreciated.
—Nancy Klobberdanz



Meals on Wheels

March 11-15 (Routes 1, 2 & 3)

First UMC is scheduled to serve Meals on Wheels for Routes 1, 2 and 3 the week of March 11-15. We thank the volunteers who have already signed up for Routes 1 & 3. There are still some openings for Route 2, so if you are able to help, please place your name on the sign board in the narthex or call the church office. Meals need to be picked up at approximately 10:45 a.m. at the MercyOne west entrance by the Cancer Center. Deliveries generally take about 45 minutes. Many who are homebound or recuperating from an illness depend on these meals. Share the love of God with a smile and the delivery of a warm meal!

UMW/United Women in Faith

District Meeting

Saturday, April 6

First United Methodist Church

119 S Georgia Ave, Mason City

"Feasting with Jesus: Turning it all upside down"

Presented by Lorna Leavitt, CCLD E & I Coordinator

8:15-9:15 a.m.—Registration & Coffee Time

8:30-9:15 a.m.—Early Bird Book Club & Hot Breakfast

9:30 a.m. to noon—Morning Session

12:00-12:45 p.m.—Lunch and Fellowship

12:45-2:30 p.m.—Afternoon Session

Please make lunch reservations by calling Betty Chipman at 641-583-0476 or emailing cbettymc@aol.com (give name, unit and phone number). Lunch is \$10 (includes morning coffee and roll). Please let Betty know if you are attending the Early Bird Book Club. **Meal reservation deadline is March 23.** Bring a carload of women and enjoy your day of fellowship and learning!

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.

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

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

