

UPDATED (04-19-2024)

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

- Death of Karen Loveless (Age 84), the mother of Dawn Kibby. Karen died on April 6.

- Death of Ann Davis (Age 75), the sister of Kay Zediker. Ann died on March 28.

- Death of Vern Schodt (Age 71), the brother of Linda McKinney. Vern died on March 15.

- Death of Carolyn Rants (Age 87). Carolyn died on March 8. Her service was Saturday (March 16) at First UMC. 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 2005 Ross Street, Sioux City, IA 51103. Please keep his family in your prayers!

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

- Death of Jim Nixon (age 91). Died on Dec. 4.

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).

First United Methodist Church Calendar

Sat: (04-20)	9:00 am	Online Worship Recording
Sun: (04-21)	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: (04-22)	10:30 am 2:30 pm 3:30-8:30 pm	Staff Meeting Piano Lessons for Hunt School Kids- Mason Room, Library, etc. Private Music Lessons
Tues: (04-23)	1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Widow Group Meeting/M. Andersen/Lib. Leadership Board Meeting-Music Academy Office
Wed: (04-24)	7:00 am 11:00 am 5:00-6:00 pm 6:00 pm 6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Fellowship Hall/N. Peck OAM Study-Library/N. Peck Personal Care Cupboard Open Youth @ First Celebration Bells Jubilate Choir
Thurs: (04-25)	10:00 am 2:00-3:00 pm 5:30 pm 7:30 pm	Book Club-Library Personal Care Cupboard Open AI-Anon-Library NA-Fellowship Hall
Sat: (04-27)	9:00 am	Online Worship Recording
Sun: (04-28)	9:00 am 10:10 am 10:10 am 11:15 am	<i>Music Sunday</i> Traditional Worship Children and Youth Sunday School Adult Small Group-Heritage Room Casual Service

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

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Preaching - Rev. Roger Madden

- Sermon title: "Open Your Mind"

Worship Assistant (9:00 service) - Marce Wagner

(Online) Piano - Pat Harm

Organist (9:00 service) - David Chobar

Thank You for the caring card I received on the death of my sister, Ann. It was so nice to see all the people who signed the card and had my family in their prayers. It meant so much to me.

~Kay Zediker

Leadership Board will meet on Tuesday, April 23, at 7:00 pm in the Music Academy Office.

Wednesdays at 11am - Older Adult Ministries Study "The Third Day: Living the Resurrection" - Tom Berlin, in this DVD study, shares with us about Peter, Mary Magdalene, and Thomas as they feel the despair of losing Jesus and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the resurrection. This study traces events around these characters, along with Paul and the disciples at Emmaus, and how the resurrection transforms their lives. This six-week study will be in the church library. If you have questions please contact Neil Peck at 712-258-0110.

April 28 is Music Sunday - The theme for the worship services will be "The Gift of Music". At the 9am Traditional Worship, we will celebrate with the musical gifts of Jane Sibley, Pat Harm, David Chobar, the Jubilate Choir and the Celebration Bells. At both in-person services, and our online service, we will focus on God's gift of music through scripture, readings, and Pastor Roger's sermon.

Have a Graduate This Year?

On Sunday, May 19, we will be honoring our High School graduates at both of our worship services. We would also like to acknowledge college and post-grad students who will be graduating. If you have a graduate, please let the church office know by April 30.

Widows Support Group Meets each week for 6-weeks on Tuesdays at 1:00pm in the Library

My name is Maria Andersen, a member of First United Methodist Church. My husband, Greg, passed away on December 25th, 2018. These past years have been challenging but I have wonderful family and friends who have helped me immensely. As a widow, I have learned that we need the interaction with other widows to help each other. We can gain insight into why we feel the way we do, ways to cope with our loss, and enjoy each other's company.

I'd like to invite you to come to the First United Methodist Church's Library on Tuesday, April 23 at 1:00pm. If you are not able to come to the church, I would be glad to come visit you, if you'd like. My phone number is 712-490-0008.

Are you Gifted in Flower/Plant Gardening?

We are looking for those who have a gift of gardening to tend our church Courtyard Garden and/or the flower garden spot on the corner of 19th & Nebraska. Phil Becker, who died in February, cared for our these for many years. It can be one person or a collaboration. Please call the church office, email us at scfirst@msn.com, or talk with Pastor Roger if you are interested. We do have funds for purchasing gardening supplies and plants.

UWF (United Women in Faith) Fellowship Meeting will be held on Friday, May 3, at 12:30 PM in Fellowship Hall

Unity Circle is hosting the fellowship coffee meeting. The program TBA. A free-will offering will be taken for treats. Circle members make a reservation through your circles. Non-circle women make a reservation by calling the Church Office at 712-258-0119 or sign up on the sheet outside the Church Office. We would like to have a count of women attending our meeting. All women are invited to come for fellowship, and to meet those you have not met! Hope to see you all there!

Sunday School

We will explore the mighty love of God on our High Seas Expedition, our next epic adventure for Sunday School. We will learn about five sailing Bible Buddies as we learn five Bible Points and five Bible stories. Last week we learned:

Day 1: God's Word is true. God frees Peter from prison. (Acts 12:1-19). Our Bible Buddy was Scully, a mouse with a compass.

This Sunday we will learn:

Day 2: God's Word is comforting. God comforts Paul in a storm at sea. (Acts 27). Our Bible Buddy will be a dolphin named Marinna.

The rest of the adventure includes:

Day 3: God's Word is surprising. Paul survives a bite by a poisonous snake. (Acts 28:1-10)

Day 4: God's Word is life-changing. Peter and John teach about Jesus. (Acts 3:1-4:12)

Day 5: God's Word is for everyone. The community of believers share. (Acts 2:42-47)

We would love to see more kids try out our Sunday School. Let me know if you have questions.

Youth@First

We enjoyed frosting cupcakes and eating them. We spent time planning a party for the Fifth graders at Hunt, hoping to get more kids to attend our Youth@First. The date will be May 8 and we will order pizza and make ice cream floats and play several games. We spent the rest of our time playing dodge ball in the gym.

"Celebrate" Plans

My thanks to those who were able to attend our planning meeting for their input! These people all have a real love for children and this program. I am so proud of them all.

Some decisions we made include: Fifth graders will be promoted to the Youth@First which meets weekly at 6 pm.

The program will be focused on age four Preschool kids from Hunt through fourth graders. The fourth graders will be placed with the youngest kids with the focus on training them to help the youngest students.

Although some of our regular leaders are not available in May, we decided to have a three station May Day Celebration on May 1 from 3:30-4:30pm. We decided that the more volunteers the better the Celebration! So if anyone is available to help with the May party, please let me know.

~Your Friend in Faith, Pastor Martha 712-898-6854

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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.



April Monthly Mission is The Music Academy @ First

This year the Music Academy @ First has really expanded its reach. We just started the 3rd session of Beginning Piano Lessons with 4th and 5th graders from Hunt A+ Arts Elementary School. There are 32 students who have taken the Beginning Piano Lessons this year. The 4th grade and 5th grade handchime groups are preparing to play at the band and orchestra concert at Hunt Elementary on April 10. Between the fall session of handchime groups and the spring session of handchime groups at Hunt, we have had 55 students participate. Our goal this year for the number of private lessons being taught was 20 weekly lessons. This year we met and exceeded our goal with 32 weekly private lessons. Our focus for growth next year will be to increase the number of weekly private lessons being taught. Our budget this year is \$51,642 which is funded only by grants and donations (It is not part of the church budget). At this time, we have raised \$32,944 of that budget. Please consider making a difference by supporting the power of music to change lives.

You can check them out on our church's website and their Facebook page at [<https://www.facebook.com/musicacademyatfirst>].

You can mail in, drop off, or use your bank's "BillPay" to make a donation for this important and vital ministry we do at First UMC.

Remember that providing free music lessons to children in need is not only about teaching them to play instruments but also about offering them a positive and enriching experience that can have a lasting impact on their lives. Providing free music lessons to children who can't afford them is a wonderful and socially responsible initiative that can bring joy and opportunities to many young individuals.

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.

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].

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>>

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

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.

Weather Cancellation Notifications - In case of severe weather, we will publicize on our web site (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.

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.

Usher Team for the 9:00 Traditional Worship

Apr. 21 - Team #4, Lonnie Gustafson, leader
Apr. 28 - Team #5, Mary Stoneburg, leader
May 5 - Team #6, George and Dawn Kibby, leaders
May 12 - Team #1, Marvin Sorensen, leader
May 19 - Team #2, Mitch Merrill, leader
May 26 - Team #3

Worship Assistants for the 9:00 Traditional Worship

Apr. 21 - Marce Wagner
Apr. 28 - Marla Luitjens
May 5 - Mark Custer
May 12 - Kandi Custer
May 19 - Tom Padgett
May 26 - Neil Peck

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.

Apr. 21 - Mc, N, & O
Apr. 28 - P, Q, R, & S
May 5 - T-Z
May 12 - A-Be
May 19 - Bi-C
May 26 - 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



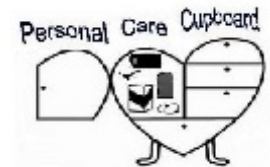
Personal Care Cupboard

Hours: Wednesdays, 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Thursdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

April Item of the Month: Household Cleaners

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 19th 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.