"Let Your Light Shine"

"You are the light of the world. A city on top of a hill can't be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a basket. Instead, they put it on top of a lampstand, and it shines on all who are in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so they can see the good things you do and praise your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16 (CEB)

Many of us have sung the classic hymn “This Little Light of Mine.” It’s a fun and catchy tune that all ages can enjoy. But what is the light we are singing about? It’s Christ’s light, found in each and every one of us -- waiting to SHINE! Our focus for this church school year is learning ways to “let our light shine” so others may see the goodness of Jesus in us.

Join us at Ames First United Methodist Church as we take a part in learning about ways we can live with the light of Jesus shining through us -- through bible study, activities, mission projects, and more.

If you have any questions about the Christian Education Programming at Ames First United Methodist Church or if you’d like to be a volunteer with any of the various education programs, please contact Nicole Smith, Director of Christian Education, at 515-232-2750 or nicole@fumcames.org

Helping Those in Need
Each year, Ames First UMC takes at least two teams of people of all ages to Des Moines to participate in Meals from the Heartland. Look at that light shining!

Sharing Talents
Everyone has God-given talents to share, and there are so many ways everyone can share at First UMC! Here’s one of our youth handling the audio/visual for VBS!
Shine On
Our Littlest Ones
In Worship
Children are a special part of our church family. You are invited and encouraged to bring your children – infants, toddlers, older children – to worship. Our services are all age-friendly!

Build-Your-Own Worship Bags are available in the back of the sanctuary near the Welcome Center. Choose from colored pencils, crayons, magna doodles, and more. You’ll also find our worship clocks in the worship bags. Be sure to return all the games and supplies to the baskets so other kids can use them at the next service.

Our Nursery
You may bring your infant or toddler (up to age 5) to the nursery (Room E203) during Saturday and Sunday worship and/or Sunday school. Our trained and screened nursery attendants are on duty starting 15 minutes before services begin. Some exceptions are made due to holidays. The nursery is also open on Wednesday evenings for any children needing care. The children in the nursery will also have the opportunity to hear some of the “classic” Bible stories read to them, sing songs, and even make some age-appropriate crafts.

SNACKS IN THE NURSERY
Only age-appropriate peanut free and tree nut free snacks are served in the nursery and only with parent/guardian permission.

Shine On
Our 2 & 3 Year Old and Preschool Sunday School Classes
A great time for children and parents!
Our young children follow the same lesson topics as the older children to help create a discussion point with any older siblings. The lessons are created to foster a relationship-building faith journey, develop a child’s connection with God, a child’s friendship with others in class, and a child’s bond with adult teachers. Lots of free play, simple crafts, easy songs, yummy snacks, and loving adults can be found in these rooms. Each Sunday the lessons will immerse the children in Bible stories and help them learn what the Bible has to say to them today, at their age level. Children will say, sing, act out, and draw Bible verses and bring the Bible to life!

The children start the morning meeting in the sanctuary for music time and then move into their classroom for the remainder of the hour. Parents take turns leading the pre-planned lesson and providing a snack. This is great opportunity for parents of young children to get to know one another. The 2 & 3 year olds’ classroom is Room E202. Preschool is in room E204.
Games Rotation
Games and a variety of activities such as a spiritual yoga lesson led by our very own Wellness Ministry Instructor, Nanette Heginger—an ACE-certified Personal Trainer.

Art Rotation
The kids always have fun in the Art rotation led by Licensed K-12 Art teacher, Suann Evans.

WHAT IS THE WORKSHOP ROTATION MODEL?
Children meet their Guardian Angels in the Sanctuary each Sunday at 9:45 a.m. After music, the Guardian Angels participate with the children in their creative workshop of the day, which is led by a Workshop Leader.

Classes rotate to new workshops (art, drama, puppets, games, and more) each week for three to four weeks—the “rotation” period. Workshop teachers do not rotate. They stay in the workshop, repeating the lesson to a new group of children each week (with some age-appropriate modifications).

During the three to four week period, only one Bible story is taught. The entire rotation—every workshop, every week—is focused on learning that one Bible story.

Shine On
Our Children (Kindergarten-5th grade)

Our elementary Sunday school uses the creative teaching and organizational methods of the Workshop Rotation Model AND builds the relationships that are so vital in a traditional Sunday school model. In essence, we are embedding the Workshop Rotation Model within the structure of a traditional Sunday school. They study Bible stories that tie into the year’s theme through art, games, storytelling, food, and special service projects.

The children meet in the Sanctuary at 9:45 and dismiss from room E205 & E206 at 10:45.

The children will start the fall off with two weeks on this year’s theme from Matthew 5:14-16. Third Graders will receive their Bibles on September 14. They will then learn about CROP Walk, the healing works of Peter & John. Children’s Sabbath and preschool Bible presentation will be October 12 followed by lessons about Tabitha, Lydia, and Priscilla tied in with a winter clothing drive, and finally Advent. They will have a Christmas program during the Sunday school hour on December 14.

Wednesday Night Kids’ Clubs
Little Kids’ Club (PreK-2nd Grade) Room E204 and Kids’ Club (3rd-5th Grade) Room E206

Our Wednesday evening Kids’ Club program has our kids learning how to live like Christ through Bible study, memory verse, and hands-on activities (such as science experiments, crafts, scavenger hunts, games) and putting all of their knowledge of living like Christ into action through various service learning projects. The different age groups work well together as they help one another and often times “buddy up” to do the many fun things. The curriculum follows the theme of the year and the different learning styles of children are catered to through the wide variety of activities that are done. This year, the Kids’ Clubs will focus on mission work. Every 4-6 weeks, the children will focus on a specific mission affiliated with the United Methodist Church. They will learn the basics of that group, how they as kids can help, and come up with ways/events to create congregational awareness of the organization. The children of Wednesday night Kids’ Clubs will be empowered to let their lights shine and lead in ways only kids can.
Shine On
Our Youth

Middle School

Sunday Mornings: Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:45 in Room E201. We use a curriculum called Living in Christ (LinC). The classes relate everyday topics from current events and pop culture to scripture lessons and what it means to live as a Christian in today’s world. Classes always include scripture reading and discussion as well as games and fun activities!

Wednesday Nights: Youth Group meets from 6:30-7:30 in Room E201. The group will kick off the year with a focus on the Ingathering. There will be time to learn about mission projects as well as have fun and fellowship! There is always fun to be had, so be sure to check it out!

Confirmation: Youth 8th grade and up have the opportunity to explore what it means to be a Christian in the United Methodist Church. Pastor Bethany leads the class, along with other adult mentors. A study of scripture, tradition, reason, and experience helps the youth discover how God is working in their lives, giving them a basis upon which to build informed decisions about their life and faith. We meet 14 times throughout the year, on Wednesdays, 4-6 pm.

IGNITE!

To affirm and strengthen youth as leaders now, we are offering “IGNITE: Youth Leadership Lab”.

Rev. Fred Lewis, senior minister/lead pastor, and Gayle Huey, a retired leader from ISU and a person who spent her life teaching teachers to teach, will serve as facilitators for this small group study.

“IGNITE” is designed for twelve youth from middle school through high school who will be committed to meeting for seven, one-hour sessions. Most sessions will be held on Sundays from noon to 1:00 with snacks provided.

The focus will be that leaders are persons who: 1. Know themselves; 2. Know God; 3. Are learners; 4. Lead Now; and, 5. Focus on Others. The first “lab” will be completed by October and future “labs” will be scheduled in the winter.

Contact Rev. Fred Lewis if you are interested in more information about IGNITE!
High School

**Sunday Mornings:** Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:45 in Room W202. We use a curriculum called Living in Christ (LinC). The classes relate everyday topics from current events and pop culture to scripture lessons and what it means to live as a Christian in today’s world. Classes always include scripture reading and discussion as well as games and fun activities!

**Wednesday Nights:** Youth Group meets from 6:30-7:30 in Room W202. On Wednesday nights we focus on fun, fellowship and mission projects! There is always fun to be had, so be sure to check it out!

**Movie Ministry.** Three times this fall we will offer a movie night for our high school youth. This ministry will be led by Doug Hill and Pastor Bethany. We will gather to watch a movie and have a discussion afterwards. Food will be provided! Here are the dates:

- Saturday, October 4th, 6:30-9:00 Movie: Rudy
- Saturday, November 8th, 6:30-9:00 Movie: My Dog Skip
- Saturday December 6th, 6:30-9:00 Movie: Radio

Up With Puppets

**Sundays 10:45am – noon**

Expressions of God happen in many different ways at First UMC. The puppet ministry is one expression that truly makes our understanding of scripture fun. Opportunities for youth to speak out through the puppets in worship here and at other churches abound. Practice, practice, practice, and lots of fun help the youth bring God’s message of love in a way that everyone can understand.

**Current Scheduled Performances:**

- September 7th- Bandshell Park Noon
- October 12th- Ames First- 8:30 & 11:00
- October 19th- West Des Moines UMC
Shine On
Our Adults

Sunday Mornings 9:45-10:45

Connections - “God’s Word in Our World” - Post High to Twenty-Five year olds will gather weekly during the Sunday School hour for fellowship and Bible-based discussion. This will be a great opportunity to connect with God and with each other. Starting with Genesis, we will explore how God's Story intersects with our stories. A variety of leaders will bring a unique perspective to each topic. This group meets in the Sarah room, just off the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

Walking Through the Bible – This group will start the fall off with an Adam Hamilton DVD based study called “Making Sense of the Bible.” The study will focus on six topics: Making Sense of the Old Testament; Making Sense of the New Testament; Questions about the Nature of Scripture; The Bible and Science; Violence, Suffering, and other Troubling Issues; and Wrestling with Issues of Sexuality and Relationships. Join this group in Room E111.

Faith and Reason – Will kick off the year going back to “Saving Jesus Redux”, a 12-week DVD based study that will be sure to include some invigorating conversations about the relevance of Jesus in today’s world. They meet in Room E110.

Coffee Talk - Meets in the Conference Room and uses a variety of DVD based, short term studies. The first will be “Why? Making Sense of God’s Will.” This study will explore the topics of “Why do the Innocent Suffer,” “Why do My Prayers Go Unanswered,” “Why Can’t I See God’s Will for My Life?”, and “Why God’s Love Prevails.” Grab your coffee and join this group for a great discussion!

Other short-term classes will appear throughout the year – watch the bulletins and website for details!

Wednesday Programming

Men’s Lectionary Study – meets Wednesday mornings at 6:00am at West Hy-Vee to discuss the week’s scripture reading that will be used in worship the coming weekend.

Wonderful Wednesday Women – is a group Bible study using the week's lectionary. There is always lively discussion! They meet in room E110 at 10:00 a.m.

Evening Lectionary: This group meets in room E110 from 6:30-7:30 and uses the upcoming weekend lectionary for a Bible study and discussion - no prep or homework required!

Wednesday Night Live - This laid back group will meet in room E111 from 6:30-7:30 and will start the year off with DVD skits by the improv group “Good God Theater”. This group will also have the opportunity to view other DVD studies that are used on Sunday mornings throughout the fall since many who attend this group are busy teaching children’s Sunday school classes and can’t attend during that time.

A post-high through 29 adult group meets on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 in Room W202. That group will start with a DVD and discussion study called “Animate: Bible” by Sparkhouse publishing. This curriculum is designed to reinvigorate and deepen our understanding of the Bible. Each week we will watch a video with a renowned contemporary Christian speaker, and have discussion based on what we learn. This group will be led by Pastor Bethany and will meet September 17 and 24; October 1, 8, and 15; and November 5 and 12.

Wednesday Opportunities for ALL AGES

Liturgical Dance, 5:15-6p.m. Begins September 17. This group seeks to incorporate dance into worship as a way of praising God. They meet every other week and seek to practice dance as a way of praising God. The group performs in worship 4 times a year. For more information, contact Pastor Bethany - 232-2750, bethany@fumcames.org

Pizza, Praise, & Prayer

All are welcome to attend the pizza meal on Wednesday evenings starting at 6:00. This year, there will be some evenings with other meal options just to mix things up a bit. There will be a theme song and other praise music played each night. This is a great time for fellowship and praise. Suggested donation is $1 per slice of pizza.
Child • Youth • Adult Volunteer Protection Policy:

Because we value and care about the well-being and safety of our people, we have adopted policies, procedures, and screening tools to assist the church in protecting the physical, mental and emotional well-being of our children, youth, and the volunteers who work with them. All of our paid staff and volunteers are required to attend a training session and complete screening procedures before working with children and youth. Our Safe Sanctuaries policy requires background checks of all education staff and volunteers. If you have questions about our protection policy, please speak with the Christian Education Director.

Drop-off & Pick-up from Sunday School Classrooms:
We ask that parents drop their children off no earlier than 9:40. 2 & 3 through fifth grade meet in the Sanctuary for music. Parents of children through fifth grade are asked to pick up their children at their classroom door at 10:45 a.m. This prevents children from running down the stairs, exploring the building without your knowledge, or getting frightened while trying to find you. We want First Church to be a happy, safe place for children!

FUMC’s Behavior Code for participants in any church-sponsored activity:
We recognize that our ministry to the children and youth of the community is an extension of the whole Church’s mission to society. Participation in church-sponsored events is a means of developing Christian values in the lives of young people. We stress the principles of love, mutual respect, and self-control. Therefore, we offer the following behavior code as a method of improving discipline at all church-sponsored events. This behavior code will apply to children and youth of all ages participating in any event sponsored by First United Methodist Church.

The behavior we expect from all participants includes:
1. Respect for teachers, counselors, staff, each other, and the building.
2. Self-control appropriate to their age.

When it becomes apparent that a student is misbehaving, the following steps will be taken by the teacher, counselor, or staff member in charge:
1. The teacher/counselor will talk individually to the student.
2. If the behavior happens a second time, the teacher/counselor will redirect the child’s attention or remove the child from trigger behavior.
3. If misbehavior continues, the student will be taken to the church office for a meeting with a member or members of church staff.
4. A third offense will result in a phone call by the student or person in charge to the student’s parents. This time we would like a meeting with the student, the parent(s), and a member of the church staff.
5. Continued misbehavior will require the involvement of the parent(s) in their child’s church-sponsored events.

Your assistance is needed to ensure that this program works. Please help by discussing this with your child. We ask you to remember that we are using volunteers who give of their time and energy to help you nurture your child in the Christian faith. Please support them as they lead your child along the pathway of Christian growth.
Fall Events

- Rally Sunday - September 7
- Potluck Picnic at noon - Bandshell Park - September 7
- Wednesday Programing Kick Off - September 10
- Third Grade Bible Presentation - September 14
- Through My Father’s Eyes - Holly Starr & Laura L. Smith in concert - September 20th
- Pet Blessing - September 28
- High School Movie Nights - October 4, November 9, December 6
- Children’s Sabbath, Children Sing, Up With Puppets Perform, Pre-K Bible Presentation, CROP Walk - October 12
- Trunk or Treat - October 22nd,
- Fall break - October 29

- Ingathering - November 1
- Thanksgiving Wednesday - no activities - November 26
- Christmas Caroling - December 10
- Children’s Christmas Program - December 14
- PJ party & Youth Christmas party - December 17
- Happy Birthday Jesus Sunday School Party - December 21
- No Wed night activities December 24 & 31
- No Sunday school December 28
- One Service Only - 9:30 a.m. December 28

First United Methodist Church
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Christian Education Ministry
Our mission is to support the development of faith formation and equip people of all ages to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.