

JUNEJUNEJUNE

Celebrate Peace with Justice Sunday on June 7, 2020

Together, we spread the Gospel of Peace and encourage cooperation locally, in the United States and globally. Because of the Peace with Justice Sunday offering, the people of The United Methodist Church are able to make a difference together by sowing seeds - and yielding fruit! - of peace.

The Margaret Smalling Memorial Scholarship

This scholarship was established in 1998 with memorial contributions after Margaret's passing. We now are able to give three \$500 grants with the money available. When my mother, Helen Smalling, passed away in 2010, we added her memorial money to the fund.

In order to qualify for the scholarship you need to be a member of First United Methodist church, be a full time student (12 hours or more), and have completed one year in college.

Applications may be picked up at the church office. If you are not awarded a scholarship, your application will be carried over for future consideration.

Jack Smalling

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S

Dean Sampson is having a fundraiser for Judy's Angels in this fall's "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on October 10th. He will be selling cards from Everts Flowers. Each card sells for \$20.00 and entitles the bearer to 1 bouquet of flowers every month for a year. \$10.00 from every card purchased will be donated to the Alzheimer's Walk. If you would like to purchase a card, contact Dean Sampson by calling/texting (515) 509-7932 or email dean.8843@gmail.com. He will deliver the cards to you.



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

“All these events happened to them as an example for us. They were written down to warn us, who live at the time when this age is drawing to a close. If you think you are standing strong, be careful, for you, too, may fall into the same sin. But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. [God] will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can’t stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give into it.”

1 Corinthians 10: 11-13, New Living Translation

I read an interesting article in the Marysville, Kansas Advocate newspaper this week. My husband, Carl, grew up in Marysville, and much of his family still lives in the area. The article told the story of how the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918-1919 affected the families and businesses in their county. Aside from the dates and the numbers, it was like reading déjà vu all over again! Between the flu itself, and the pneumonia which often followed, over 12,000 Kansans died. In Iowa, the death toll was about 9,200. In the United States, 675,000 people lost their lives.

The first wave hit in mid-summer, 1918. Officials did then what officials are doing now to contain the virus. Businesses were closed. Store-keepers complained that 10 people in their stores at a time was too low. Schools were closed, and parents became teachers in their homes. In some towns, school lessons were posted on the “internet” of their day: public bulletin boards. Sunday sermons were published in the newspapers, and churches struggled to pay their bills. Funeral homes were overwhelmed, and often ended up embalming the dead in the same house in which they had died. And people still gathered – against all orders to stay at home or limit gatherings to 10 people.

By October, 1918, the epidemic was in full swing, but by November, the numbers began to go down. Bans were lifted – and the second wave of flu hit mid-November. Corn was left standing in the fields until spring because there were few farmers well enough to harvest it. By Christmas, the pressure was on the churches to open for Christmas week – and the third wave hit the area in January, 1919. By early February, the numbers were going down, but by mid-February, new cases began to appear once again. Some school officials decided closure could not continue, and districts moved to daily inspections of facilities and isolation of infected children. Finally, in the spring of 1919, the flu waned enough that hospitals began to clear, and people could safely venture out once more.

There were some interesting shifts in our culture as a result of the 1918 pandemic. People recognized the need for improved medical care in the more rural areas. Marysville built a hospital. Vicks Vapo Rub replaced home-made poultices. And the church began serving

communion bread in pre-cut cubes, with grape juice in individual cups, to help congregations feel safe about taking communion once again.

In 1948, Winston Churchill gave a speech to the House of Commons that included this famous line: *“Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it.”* While we continue to learn from COVID-19, we are wise to remember past history and learn from it. There are two major learnings to bear in mind as we work our way through this time of pandemic:

1. Opening too soon causes increased spread of the virus, and puts more people at risk. It also wreaks havoc in the community to open-close-open-close. Likewise, opening too late has economic impacts that could cause some organizations to close permanently. Each organization in each community needs to carefully balance the cost of each perspective, and decide for their particular context. There will be wide disagreement; one size does not fit all.

The Church is a people, so the health and well-being of people are our priorities. We have many members who are in the high-risk category, and we want to make sure that they have ways to safely engage in spiritual practices that promote building relationships with God and others. We also want to be sure we reach out to those who find themselves hungry for the presence of God in their lives, perhaps for the first time in years, if ever. The leadership of FUMC has decided that we will continue our “on-line only” worship at least through the month of June. VBS 2020 has already been moved to an on-line format; we will not have a traditional “in person” VBS this year. Even the Iowa United Methodist camps are closed for the summer season. We have a team in place that will continue to monitor the latest recommendations for a safe re-opening, and will develop re-opening protocols and processes as we need them. Re-opening will likely be in small stages and steps, perhaps not fully opening up the church for some time yet.

Please note: **We will not stop offering on-line worship.** FUMC has been blessed with the capability to livestream worship for the past several years, and we will continue to livestream our worship service beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. We will add “in-person” worship when and how it is appropriate to do so. Large in-person gatherings (like worship) will likely be the last thing to fully re-open.

2. Though painful, being thrown into “COVID Chaos” also has a creative side, with new insights and opportunities to grow that would not have been otherwise open to us.

We have a unique opportunity to reach a whole new community of people through the wonders of the internet, even as we learn to better connect the community we already have. In

a webinar on re-opening churches, Rev. Olu Brown, Lead Pastor at Impact UMC in Atlanta, Georgia said, “We are in the greatest evangelistic season of our lifetimes!” I totally agree – God is absolutely up to something!

This does not mean we abandon the traditions of the Church. Rather, we need to find ways to connect people into the participatory life of the Church in new ways. People who have never considered attending on-line worship prior to COVID-19 have been joining us on Sunday mornings, with many more watching the recorded You tube service. We are already learning to tweak our on-line services to improve connection and follow-up, and we are exploring what on-line programming for all ages might look like. It may also mean we take a hard look at what we were doing before COVID, and prioritize how we move forward after COVID. Like the pandemic of 1918, the changes we are experiencing now will have far reaching implications for our future!

Please continue to pray for FUMC, its leaders and ministries, that we may be open to the unfolding hand of God in our midst! Stay up to date with what is happening through our all-church emails, website, and newsletter. Continue to check-in with each other, to make sure everyone is safe and has what they need. And thank you for all you do, not only for the church, but for the community around us, in the name of Jesus Christ. We appreciate your continued participation, spiritually, physically, and financially. We will navigate this COVID-19 pandemic together, trusting God will show us the way through it!

Stay safe - see you “on-line” in worship!

Yours for the Journey,
Pastor Kerrin





We will continue with only on-line worship through June, 2020. A team has been put into place to evaluate if and

when to reopen the church, based on the guidance of government officials, public health officials, and the leadership of the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Please note: **On-line worship at 8:30am Sunday mornings will continue when we do open our church building.** If you need some help connecting with our Livestream service or YouTube recordings, or you want to learn more about it, please contact the office.

Want to know what the United Methodist Church advises for church re-opening? Check out the web site: www.iaumc.org . You will find the re-entry plan, as well as links to informative webinar recordings, COVID-19 news and resources, and other important information.

Want to know what is going on at First UMC? How you can help others in the Ames community? Check out our web site: www.fumcames.org . You will find three boxes at the top with key links:

- Worship during COVID-19 – connecting with Livestream and recorded services
 - All Things Church During COVID: how to connect to the Livestream chat, on-line giving, office hours, on-line VBS registration, and much more!
 - Ways to Help: links for ways you can help people in the Ames area, like Food at First, United Way, and Youth Shelter & Services (YSS).
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A reminder: There are a lot of scammers taking advantage of increased internet traffic during this COVID-19 shutdown. Two weeks ago church members got two different emails from scammers attempting to fool them into sending them gift cards. They created a fake gmail address which used my name and title. Gift cards are a scammer's favorite currency request, as they are hard to trace by officials.

Our pastors and staff will NEVER solicit anyone for gift cards, checks, or money orders using an email! Please do not respond to requests for personal information, personal "favors" or financial help that appears to come from one of our pastors or staff! If you have questions, contact the pastor or staff directly with a phone call, or call the office. Report any suspicious email as "junk" or "phishing" to your email provider, and also to our office so that we can send out an all - church email warning others that the email is a scam.



Confirmation Corner

The Confirmation class for 2020-2021 met in May to go over requirements.

The teaching team is still trying to determine what the class will look like

for the year, but for now, classes will begin in late August (online or in person yet to be determined). If you didn't make it to the meeting please contact Nicole at nicole@fumcames.org. Also, if you have a youth who is going into 8th grade or above who has not done confirmation classes and is interested, please contact Nicole. Plans for the 2019-2020 confirmation class to have their in-person confirmation are still being discussed. We will inform the youth, families, and mentors as soon as a decision is made how the confirmation service will proceed.

Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday school will begin June 7, 2020 at 9:45. We will continue meeting on Zoom. The start time will still be 9:45a.m. since the summer worship service will remain at 8:30a.m. We will have various families and church members helping to lead each Sunday by sharing a special activity, story, game, or more! Families can check email for the weekly sign up and Zoom links.

Weekday Zooms for Children and Families

For the month of June, we will be busy focusing on getting our videos and kits put together and sent out to all of you who registered for VBS. We will take the week of June 22-26 to be our "official" VBS week still with some evening live events on Zoom for families to tune in to. We hope to have some other weekday options for families to tune in to for the summer months so watch your email and the July newsletter for updates.

Splash Bash - Virtual Vacation Bible School

VBS will look different this summer but it will still be an **AWESOME** time with Splash Bash – A Virtual VBS.

June 22-26 will be our "official" VBS dates. Those who registered by May 31 will be able to pick up their kits June 19 from 5-7pm or June 20 from 9-11am. We will have a Zoom kick off on Sunday evening, June 21 just to check in with everyone and answer any

CHILDREN, FAMILY & INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES
NICOLE SMITH - COORDINATOR

questions. Watch email for the invite. Then we will have two other live meet ups through Zoom in the evenings. Our mission focus for Splash Bash is Water Mission. You are all challenged to collect change during June and July and then bring it to the church drive up area on August 1 to drop into our giant bucket. We'll see how much we collect and it will all go to Water Mission (www.watermission.org)

Rainbow Garden is Growing!

The Rainbow Garden has been planted and is growing! We need families to sign up to help take care of it. Weeding and watering will be the main things that need to be done but as we get later into the summer, we may need to pick some of the veggies and deliver to the Food at First free market. All information can be found at the sign up at: <https://tinyurl.com/RainbowGarden2020> Please remember - one family sign up per date so we can continue to observe social distancing guidelines. Thank you!

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS - KIM HEIDEMANN

Hello from the Youth Ministries Corner! Mid-May we wrapped up our spring session. It took a lot of obvious twists and turns, but we managed to not only get through it but seek out ways that we can be better prepared for the future if this were to happen again. A big thanks to the students, parents and leaders that were so flexible through this unpredictable time.

We will be holding summer Zoom meet ups for High School and Middle School. Since this is a first, we are still talking about what this will look like. We are looking to end the summer session at the end of July.

The Youth Ministries Team is up and running! A big thanks to all those on the committee. We are working on information for students, parents and leaders. We are working on training booklets, mission activity ideas and so much more.

There is still time to get involved as a leader within the youth programs. If you are interested in exploring this idea and the time commitment it would take, please reach out to me at kim@fumcames.org.

Thank you always for your support of your youth!

Stewardship Moment – Returning to “Normal”?

We are all anxiously waiting for our lives to return to normal. Reality tells us that our return will be to a “new” normal. For example, we will not be passing a common offering plate in church for a long time into the future.

We sincerely appreciate your giving during these troubling times, however...

- Our past month’s offering income continues to be about \$10,000 below our budgeted need.
- Our Payroll Protection Program loan has helped offset this difference, but those funds will be expended in early June.

We ask you to prayerfully consider maintaining or increasing your financial support for Ames First UMC during the months ahead. Your giving does make a difference as demonstrated by the following:

“In normal times, United Methodists and friends of UMCOR make thousands of UMCOR relief supply kits,” said Thomas Kemper, general secretary of Global Ministries, which includes UMCOR. Now, some of these kit supplies are being used to support and protect first responders on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19.”

“One never knows the impact an UMCOR kit, or its parts, will have on someone’s life,” said Amy Fuselier, director of the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot. “This donation is a great example of UMCOR’s efforts to address an immediate need and the impact of kit supplies being felt in unanticipated places.” (Note: supplies are being used in the U.S.)

If you have financial questions, please contact either Reid Cummer, Business Manager, at 515-232-2750/ reid@fumcames.org OR Bruce Wight, Finance Co-Chair, bruce.wight06@gmail.com

THANK YOU for all the support you continue to provide to Ames First United Methodist Church (FUMC).



Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance News

On May 18, we had a ZOOM meeting for GNEA. For the month of April, the following totals were distributed to clients. Basic Needs (rent and utilities) assisted 20 households (52 members) for \$6400.65. Healthy Food Vouchers (HFV) assisted 55 households (117 members) for \$2740.00. Transportation (Cy Ride tickets and gasoline vouchers) assisted 11 households (32 members) for \$350.00. With the ending of the moratorium on evictions and utility disconnections, it is thought that numbers for "basic needs" will go up. GN is working closely with the Covid19 Immigrant Fund which could also make some numbers increase in the future months. The Healthy Food Voucher program has stayed steady and the transportation assistance was down. GN has been gradually moving into a new way of distributing HFV. Anyone in Story County may receive \$30 in vouchers, if they are eligible. If they can show a need, they can get more vouchers. In addition, they will also receive information on how and where to apply for SNAP benefits.

Because of Covid-19, GN continues to operate with the doors closed to the public. The on-line applications have increased. Jean Nicol Jahren a long-time volunteer is making follow-up calls with people, which makes the application process very efficient. Julie Primmer comes in to update the database every 10-14 days. On May 8, the director of GN discovered that several things were missing from both the GN and the ACCESS office and found that a young man and lady had been living in the basement for several weeks. Several items have been recovered and the individuals have been arrested on breaking and entering charges.

Good Neighbor has received funds from Wheatfield in February (\$306) and in March (\$1157). In general, GN has received more donations from individual donors than normal and the Faith Communities have been consistent with their donations and have taken in some special offerings during this time. Early on in the pandemic, the United Way gave \$3000 to GN to help with anticipated requests. In May, they gave an additional \$10,000 of special Covid19 funds.

As stated in April, all of the GN fundraisers had been canceled and it is appearing that the Annual Choral Concert in November will probably not happen this year. We are hoping to create a "virtual event that is safe, inspiring and is fundraising friendly.

As I have stated in the past few summations, I will be attending my last GNEA meeting in June and will be stepping down from being the First United Methodist Church Representative. If anyone would like to step into that position or into the Story County Ecumenical Housing board, I would be happy to attend a few more meeting to introduce them to the other Faith Group members.

Submitted by Steve J. Hanlin; representative to Good Neighbor for First United Methodist Church, Story County Ecumenical Housing board and Mission Committee.



UMW Update

The current uncertain times have caused lots of changes for all of us. UMW is no different. We usually have a Guest Day Unit meeting in July when we invite guests from other churches to join us for a special program and fellowship. Sadly, this year we have decided to cancel this event which was scheduled for July 9. We hope that conditions will improve so that we can reschedule another date, but we'll wait to see when that might be possible. In the meantime, we'll continue to find ways to connect with one another and with others both inside and outside our church family.

Marlene Erickson has come up with a delicious idea to raise funds for UMW local missions. She is having an on-going bake sale in her kitchen! All the money raised will be given to UMW to determine which Story County agencies will benefit. Marlene has been baking tea rings at \$10.00; Danish coffee cakes, apricot and raspberry at \$8.00, and cinnamon braids at \$8.00. All are freezer wrapped and frozen.

Call her with your order and the time that you will pick it up at her home. She will have your baked goods on a table in her driveway with a place to leave your money for payment. She lives at 1809 Meadowlane Avenue. Her cell phone is 515 - 231- 1220. It is very generous of Marlene to do this! Let's help support UMW local missions!



A note to UMW members from the Program Resources secretary:

The UMW reading program for 2019-2020 will be winding up June 30 and we are approaching that date! This has certainly been a difficult spring for access to our UMW library, nonetheless, although the church building remains closed, I hope that you will contact Deb and arrange to go into the library and find books of interest to you in the different categories and be able to complete your reading program plan. You have 5 more weeks for the 2019-2020 year. The reading plan report form will be due Friday, July 10. You can leave your report form at the church office marked to my attention or send to me at 2289 240th Street, Ames 50014. Please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns. I will be glad to help you with the report form.

Also, please check your book shelves at home for UMW books that you have finished and return them so a complete inventory of our UMW library can be done before the start of the new reading program year! Thank you very much!

Stay safe,
Joan Peterson

GIVE A GIFT FOR THIS FATHER'S DAY THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!
SUPPORT THE HEIFER PROJECT

Once again our Mission-Outreach Team is inviting folks to remember and celebrate FATHER'S DAY by giving a gift to Heifer International in loving memory or in joyful honor of all "Dads."

Heifer International (also known as **Heifer Project International**) is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable values-based holistic community development. Heifer distributes animals, along with agricultural and values-based training, to families in need around the world as a means of providing self-sufficiency. Recipients must agree to "pass on the gift" by sharing animal offspring, as well as the skills and knowledge of animal husbandry and agricultural training with other impoverished families.

Based in Little Rock, Arkansas, Heifer International started with a shipment of 17 heifers to Puerto Rico in 1944. Since 1944, Heifer International has distributed livestock such as goats, bees, chickens, ducks, geese, sheep, pigs and water buffalo, along with training and other resources, to 20.7 million families, or more than 105.1 million people in more than 125 countries. You can make a difference!!!

Return this to the church by June 17TH.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

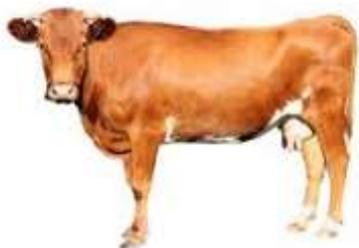
In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Donated by: _____

\$10 \$20 \$25 \$50 \$60 \$120 \$250 \$500

Make checks payable to Ames FUMC and put "Heifer Project" on the memo line.



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During this very odd time that we are going through, many people are experiencing feelings that they don't normally have in their daily lives. Some are lonely, some are sad, some are just plain down in the dumps. Some just need a chance to talk to someone!

If this is you, reach out to the church and let them know. They can help you make a connection. You could be put on a list of people that would like someone to call and visit with you once in awhile or maybe you would like to become a "visiting friend" and be the one that makes the call to chat with them. 515-232-2750

Be someone's Sunshine!