



The Tidings is published monthly by  
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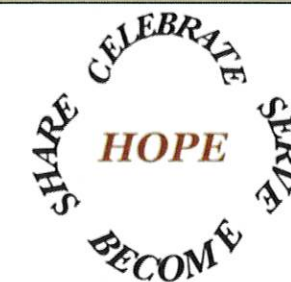
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A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 89 Issue 02

*As Christ's Light of Hope,  
together we Become, Serve,  
Celebrate and Share*

# Tidings



Traditional Worship 9:00 am or Live Stream with link on Facebook

## Missive from Mel

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39*

According to Romans, Nothing, absolutely nothing can separate us from God. So why do we sometimes feel like God has abandoned us? Grief, loss, transitions, are just a few of the things that can make us wonder where God is hiding. Sometimes it is simply our lack of awareness. Things like loss, grief or simply our busy schedules can so overwhelm us that we can't see or hear God's presence all around us. If this a struggle for you right now, now is a great time to reevaluate your spiritual practices. What kind of time are you making for spiritual practices? What do you do each day that works spending time with God into your day? Are you taking the time each day to pause and allow God to speak to you through the glory of God all around us? Are you reading scripture? Are you spending time in prayer? Lent begins this month and this is a great opportunity for us to spend some time focusing on our spiritual practices.

Spiritual practices are simply activities that bring us closer to the Divine, closer to God's presence, like prayer. There are various kinds of prayer for us to experiment with but sometimes calling it a spiritual practice helps us to think outside of the box. Perhaps a walk in the trees is the best way for you to connect with God today. Or maybe instead of talking to God, you need to take time to listen to God. Each of us connect with God in different ways. I personally feel closest to God when I am swimming. Being lifted up by the water mimics God's abiding presence in my life. Another of my favorite spiritual practices I call Ministry of Interruptions. It reminds me that rather than seeing interactions with people as interruptions, I can treat those moments as vital ministry. It completely changes my perspective and allows me to see God in those moments in my day.

During each worship service through Lent we take a little time to pause and listen to God. Hopefully these moments will offer you some new ways to connect with God. God is indeed with us. We just need to slow down enough notice!

**Pastor Mel**

## Up to date news found in Pew News >>>

*For congregational prayer concerns plus weekly updates, please contact the church office to subscribe to the **Pew News**. Call 319-754-8421.*

## Youth Education in February>>>

**JUMP (Jesus, You, & Me Praying):** meets every Sunday after the Children's Message for Bible lessons and crafts in the Church Lower Level!

**Puppets of Praise:** is currently on break. Stay tuned for the start up of practices closer to the beginning of Lent!

**Youth Library Books:** Please check out the library books for youth (toddler-preteens) displayed in the back of the sanctuary. You can borrow for just the service or borrow to take home!

**PB&J (Prayers, Blessings, & Jesus):** meets Wednesday nights starting at 5:30 P.M. in the Church Lower Level. This is an evening of activities for kids ages Pre K-5th Grade that runs until 7:00 P.M. Dinner is served first, then there will be Bible lessons, music, and games! All are welcome to join and bring your friends!

**Youth Group:** Attention: All 6th-12th graders! On Feb. 19th at 10:15am, you are welcome to come and join us in the kitchen on the 2nd floor of the Loft. We will be cooking together as we also deepen our relationships with each other and God. Participation will require a parent to fill out a permission slip and make sure we have a copy of all allergies on record. Can't wait to cook with all of you!

Contact us at 319-754-8421

www.umcburl.org

Facebook: fumcburlington





**Celebrations >>>**  
**Birthdays**

Jim Farr 02/01  
Isabella Murphy 02/02  
Mary Priebe 02/02  
Sarah Roark 02/04  
Roger Stauffacher 02/05  
Tim Votaw 02/05  
Abby Weyls 02/05  
Jim Corder 02/08  
Blake Spear 02/08  
Ryker Spear 02/08  
Gloria Jewett 02/09  
Cory O'Brien 02/09  
Wendy Zick 02/11  
Mary Taylor 02/12  
Tyler Bickel 02/15  
David Camp 02/15  
Lara Kendell 02/15  
John Riessen 02/15  
Paul Babcook 02/16  
Virginia Ford 02/18  
Aila Plein 02/18  
Frank Hills 02/21  
Bob Alberts 02/22  
Kiersten Jamison 02/23  
Katie Taylor 02/24  
Max Owens 02/25  
Greg Johnson 02/26  
Diana Wells 02/26  
Molly Cockrell 02/27  
Denise Johnson 02/27  
Chris Robbins 02/28  
Rich Thompson 02/28  
Alexander Toops 02/28  
Miaree Ure 02/29

**Mission Corner >>>**



The Mitten Tree is up! This is a place at the back of the sanctuary where you can place caps, hats, gloves, and mittens through the beginning of February. The children sizes will be taken to North Hill Elementary for children who need warm winter wear. The adult sizes will be taken to the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter to help their clients stay warm. Please help decorate this tree and help those who need help dealing with the cold!

Thank you to the people who served and provided dessert and drinks for the December 29th Shared United Ministries end of the month meal! Your spirit of service is greatly appreciated!

First UMC will be responsible for the entree for the March 30th end of the month meal.

Thank you to the Choir for providing the evening meal for the February 7th Building Bridges class! This is their graduation night and the group is excited to complete their work and studies. Fair Trade will be responsible for providing the next Building Bridges meal.

February 19th will be Quiet Ministry Sunday. Your quiet donation will go to our Matthew 25:40 Fund to help provide bus tokens, food, and other items requested and needed by the indigent in our area. Please prayerfully consider their situations and give as your heart dictates.

**Adult Education in February >>>**

**The Brunch Bunch** meets in Room 217 at 10:10 on Sundays. Check with Jim Corder for more information!

**The Life and Laughter class** continues to meet after Sunday service. They have been discussing Pastor Mel's sermons. This class meets in the Choir Room after church. All are welcome to join!

**Walking Club**

Meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 7:30 a.m.  
**Month of February** alternating between *Crapo Park & Aspen Grove*; depending on weather conditions

**2023 Endowment Application Update**

Beginning this year, the Endowment Committee will be responsible for awarding scholarships from two sources. We will be accepting applications until Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Applications are available on the church web-site or at the office.

*Ken Koch and Melisa Bracht-Wagner* applicants are restricted to members of our church. *Mildred Westfall* applicants are not restricted. We encourage members to apply for both as that gives our committee more flexibility.

Students are eligible for support for four years. Those graduating high school or continuing college are eligible.

Please pass the word! Thank You.



UMM will continue meeting Wednesdays at 8 AM at the All-Star Diner in West Burlington.

**Our Financial Health >>>**

Financial Information as of  
January 27, 2023

Budgeted Income	\$ 25,905.45
Actual Income	\$ 11,618.96
Event Income	\$ 1,397.50
Total Income	\$ 13,016.46

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 25,905.61
Actual Expenses	\$ 16,192.42



**—LOFT Market News—**

Our hearts are on display at the Loving Opportunities Fair Trade Market for Valentines Day!

Artisans from Kenya, Bangladesh, Philippines, and Vietnam have their uniquely crafted heart shaped items in our shop, and you are invited to come in on a cold winter day and warm your heart by helping women in faraway countries live a self sustaining life through the sale of their products.

**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Reverend  
Melanie Greengo  
pastor@umcburl.org

Office & Event Manager/Choir Director  
Dane Feenstra 319-754-8421  
admin@umcburl.org

Director of Christian Education  
Sue Dichraff 319-759-4884  
education@umcburl.org

Organist & Handbell Director:  
Roxy Riessen

Custodian:  
Bruce Dichraff

Childcare Providers:  
Shelby Trafton & Racheal Fenton  
Nikki Davis & Riley Richards

Live Stream and Tech  
Shawn Johnson

**Anniversaries**

Dennis & Vicki Wischmeier 02/01  
Burr & Connie Japsen 02/02  
Alan & Kris Hanks 02/10  
David & Sarah Crose 02/16  
Garvin & Helen Weitzel 02/19

**United Women in Faith >>>**

Events/Meetings for the month of February:

Executive Board-02/15 at 3:00 P.M. in LOFT Library  
Miriam Circle-No Meeting  
Sarah Circle-No Meeting

The church has a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** that is meeting again. If there are persons who knit or crochet and would like to join the group, we will meet **January 16th at 10:30 A.M. on LOFT 1st.**



United Women in Faith

## 2023 Shared United Methodist Lenten Services

Please Note: All who enjoy singing are invited to lend their voice to a shared choir; to participate in the choir, arrive at the host church by 3:30 PM for rehearsal on the date(s) you are available; Dane Feenstra will direct the shared choir. Offerings will benefit the Burlington Area Y's Domestic Violence Shelter; please make checks payable to SUM.

This schedule is subject to change.

Host churches will offer light refreshments (cookies & beverages) & time for conversations following the Sunday services.

Date & Time	Special Service / Sunday of Lent	Host Church	Pastor Preaching	Refreshments Afterwards	Special Music
February 22 4:00 PM	Ash Wednesday	First UMC 421 Washington Street	Pastor Tammi Wirt	No	To Be Announced
February 26 4:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Service	West Hill UMC 540 S. Leebriek Street	Pastor Kathy Moore	Yes	To Be Announced
March 5 4:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Service	Asbury UMC 2128 S. Main Street	Pastor Jan Garza	Yes	To Be Announced
March 12 4:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Service	First UMC 421 Washington Street	To Be Announced	Yes	To Be Announced
March 19 4:00 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Service	Grace UMC 1100 Angular Street	Rev. Melanie Greengo	Yes	To Be Announced
March 26 4:00 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Service	West Hill UMC 540 S. Leebriek Street	Pastor Jan Garza	Yes	To Be Announced
April 2 4:00 PM	Palm Sunday Service	Spring Grove UMC 4502 Summer Street	Pastor Tammi Wirt	Yes	To Be Announced
April 6 4:00 PM	Maundy Thursday	Asbury UMC 2128 S. Main Street	Rev. Melanie Greengo <small>(Prepackaged Holy Communion will be offered)</small>	No	To Be Announced
April 7 4:00:4	Good Friday	Grace UMC 1100 Angular Street	Tammi, Jan, Melanie, & Kathy	No	To Be Announced
April 9	Easter Sunday	All Churches Will Hold Their Own Easter Worship Services Asbury UMC – 9:00 AM – Pastor Kathy Moore First UMC – 9:00 AM – Rev. Melanie Greengo Grace UMC – 10:45 AM – Pastor Tammi Wirt Spring Grove UMC – 9:00 AM – Pastor Jan Garza West Hill UMC – 9:00 AM – Pastor Tammi Wirt			

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:15am - Youth Group 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	30 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 6:30pm - Chess Club	31 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	1 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	2 4:30pm - Shoquon Children's 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bal Canto	3 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	4 12pm - Thorman Shower
5 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 12:30pm - Gibb Shower 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Prayer Group	7 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	8 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	9 9am - Bible Conversations Around 4:30pm - Shoquon Children's 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bal Canto	10 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	11 12pm - Thorman Shower
12 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 12pm - Warner Shower 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	13 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 3pm - United Women in Faith- 4:30pm - 4 Oaks 6:30pm - Chess Club	14 8:30am - Iowa Child Advocacy 9am - Mahjong 6:30pm - Bridges 6pm - Missions 7pm - Education	15 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 12:15pm - Burlington Luncheon 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	16 10:30am - Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30pm - Fair Trade 4:30pm - Shoquon Children's 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Ad Council 7pm - Bal Canto	17 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	18 11am - Noa Gender Reveal
19 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:15am - Youth Group 12pm - Thorman Party 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	20 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 12pm - P. E. O. 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 5:30pm - 4 Oaks 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Prayer Group 7pm - United Women in Faith-	21 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	22 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 4pm - First UMC 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	23 9am - Conversations on the Social 4:30pm - Shoquon Children's 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bal Canto	24 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	25 Kipstick Reception
26 UM-Faith Monday Meal+Massage 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 4pm - West Hill UMC 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	27 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 9:30am - United Women in Faith- 5pm - Girl Scouts 5:30pm - UM-Faith Monday 6:30pm - Chess Club	28 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	1 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	2 4:30pm - Shoquon Children's 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bal Canto	3 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	4 Kipstick Reception