



The Tidings is published monthly by  
First United Methodist Church  
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A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 89 Issue 04

*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

I have a colleague named Jason. Jason and I have been pastoring churches near each other for almost 8 years now. I have been Jason's mentor for many of those years. At this point I would call him a friend. Here's the thing you need to know about our relationship; we disagree on everything. We disagree on theology, parenting, preaching, politics, marriage, interpretation of scripture, prayer groups, and, and, and... If we have talked about it, we probably have opposite opinions. And still, I call him a friend.

In this day and age it feels like our relationship is rare. It seems fewer and fewer people are willing to spend time with folks they disagree with. I don't completely understand that. I find my conversations with Jason not only end up being very interesting, they push me to challenge my own beliefs, to clarify what I really think and how I want to be in the world. Without his friendship, I wouldn't be the person I am today. This idea that we can be in community with each other without agreeing on everything is one of the core things I have always loved about the United Methodist Church. The UMC has always been a "big tent" church; a church that holds both theologically conservative and progressive ideas. It is good for us to be in relationship with people that have had different experiences and hold different understandings of Scripture and faith. Like it says in Proverbs 27:17- "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another."

As we hear of churches leaving the UMC because of differing views on human sexuality, I give thanks for the folks here at First UMC in Burlington. I know that our members run the gamut on what they believe personally, yet I haven't heard any name calling or picking of sides. In fact as part of our Ad Council meeting this month, after discussion, our Ad Council passed a resolution that states our intentions of staying UMC. The statement reads as follows: "It is the policy of the Ad Council to not take a vote for disaffiliation and to stay with the United Methodist Church."

It is clear to me that we value our relationships and connections with each other. We value being welcoming and loving to each and every person that walks through our doors and we value the ability to continue to serve God and neighbor in all that we do. Amen!

**Pastor Mel**

## Youth Education in April>>>

**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:** practices at 6:00pm on Sunday nights on LOFT Third. They will be performing for Sunday worship on April 30th!

**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! PBJ kids will be performing a musical program on Palm Sunday 4/2 @ the 9:00 am service called "Assignment: Life!"- a children's musical that celebrates new life and the powers of the resurrection. Please join us!

**Youth Group:** Attention: All 6th-12th graders! On April 16th 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!

**VBS: Save the date for 2023 Vacation Bible School! Event runs Sunday June 11th - Thursday June 15th. This year's theme is "Everest"- Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power!**



## 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.

Contact us at 319-754-8421

www.umcburl.org

Facebook: fumcburlington





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

- Terri Elliott 04/01
- Rosalinn Johnson 04/01
- John Youngquist 04/02
- Suzanne Lunsford 04/03
- Nancy Pilger 04/03
- Kelsey Schmeiser 04/05
- Jan Alter 04/07
- Janet Schupback 04/08
- Lin Phillips 04/09
- Chris Murphy 04/11
- Jeff Crooks 04/12
- Mary Saye 04/12
- Lennis Kelley 04/14
- Tom Bell 04/19
- Brenda Almack 04/20
- Jody Crooks 04/20
- Ryan Kendell 04/21
- Jeannette Gallagher 04/22
- Janet Eggenberger 04/26
- Gary Warner 04/26
- Tammy Yotter 04/26
- Angie Johnson 04/27
- Sarah Smith 04/27
- Derek Stotlar 04/27
- Rhonda Wynn 04/27
- Jody Goble 04/28
- Kinnick Crose 04/30



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

**Anniversaries**

- Roger & Gail Ferry 04/02
- John & Lori Rockwell 04/06
- Scott & Jo Williams 04/07
- Jim & Julie Kniffen 04/15
- Tom & Sally Parrott 04/24

**Mission Corner >>>**



The Special Easter Offering will go to support our covenant with Women at the Well!

04/01 Women at the Well is the church behind bars at the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa. Your donation helps incarcerated women learn about the teachings of Jesus Christ and experience the transforming life of Jesus. Please prayerfully consider and joyfully give to support God's children behind bars this Easter time!

04/07 UMCOR Sunday was March 19th! UMCOR, the acronym for the United Methodist Committee On Relief, is the branch of the United Methodist Church that provides aid when a natural or civil disaster strikes around the world, such as the earthquake in Turkey and the war in Ukraine. If you were not able to support our church's UMCOR mission yet, it is not too late! Please designate UMCOR on your gift.

04/14 There are many ways to support the needy through first United Methodist Church!

04/19 At the back of the church, there is a grocery cart where you can put grocery items that will be taken to the Community Action Food Pantry on Jefferson Street.

04/20 When you buy Hy-Vee gift cards at the Welcome Center or Loft office, five per cent of your purchase price is retained by the church to be used to support out missionary in Cambodia who works with people who have escaped human trafficking.

04/26 The third Sunday of each month is designated as Quiet Ministry Sunday. Four local entities take turns being featured—the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter, the local Domestic Violence Intervention Program, the Community Action Food Pantry, and our church's Matthew 25:40 fund which provides immediate help for local people in need. No pulpit plea is given for these missions, only an announcement in the Tidings and that week's Pew News. A quiet request for help for the poor is given, and you can respond with your quiet donation of support.

04/27 Thank you to everyone who is helping with the March 30th End of the Month meal at Grace UMC! Your food donation and your serving of the food helps individuals and families whose funds grow thin at the end of the month. Your kindness is appreciated!

04/27 Thank you to the Fair Trade Committee for preparing and serving the March Building Bridge's meal!

04/27 The Life and Laughter Sunday School class will be serving the meal on April 4th!

04/28 If you would like to get involved with feeding the area needy, please contact Ann Ure at 319-759-2990!

**United Women in Faith >>>**



United Women in Faith

- Events/Meetings for the month of April:
- Executive Board-04/10 at 3:00 P.M. in LOFT Library
  - Miriam Circle-04/17 at 7:00 P.M. at Marilyn Lancaster home
  - Sarah Circle-04/24 at 9:30 A.M. on LOFT Second

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 April 20th at 10:30 A.M. on LOFT 1st.

**Adult Education in April >>>**

**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 discussion 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 April:**

- Week of 04/03-Perkins Park
- Week of 04/10-Along the river
- Week of 04/17-Rec Plex
- Week of 04/24-Crapo Park

**Franny Bohlken Memorial Blood Drive**

Please save the date, Wednesday April 12 from 2:00-5:30 p.m., for our next blood drive at FUMC. You can call me or schedule with the blood center. In order to be eligible, it must be at least eight weeks since last donation or sixteen if you last gave a double red blood cell donation. Your donation can benefit or save up to three lives. Thanks so much!-Howard Toops

**United Women in Faith Monday Meal and a Message**

Our 2nd 2023 Monday Meal and a Message will be held on Monday April 24, 2023 at the LOFT 2nd Floor, beginning at 6:00PM. The United Women in Faith will provide a free dinner, to be followed by a presentation by the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. We hope you will join us for this informational program.

The Mission of the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) is to provide comprehensive support and advocacy services to victim/survivors, focusing on immediate and long-term safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope. In collaboration with the community, we strive to end domestic abuse through education, accountability, and social justice.

DVIP provides services to victim/survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking and human trafficking. In today's society, intimate partner violence is widely known to be one of the greatest physical dangers to women. Women, men and children are murdered each year and the risk of child abuse is much greater in households where domestic violence occurs. Responding to intimate partner violence is critical and requires a community-wide effort. Support for victims of intimate partner violence and their loved ones is available in Johnson, Iowa, Cedar, Des Moines County, Henry, Lee, Van Buren and Washington Counties through the Domestic Violence Intervention Program. Reservations are requested, and there is a signup sheet at the church, or by phoning the church office, or call or text Mary Taeger at 319-572-0115.

**Our Financial Health >>>**

Financial Information as of  
March 28, 2023

Budgeted Income	\$ 86,351.49
Actual Income	\$ 74,801.84
Event Income	\$ 6,709.25
Total Income	\$ 81,511.09

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 86,230.08
Actual Expenses	\$ 69,760.89



**—LOFT Market News—**

Although it is a challenge to enter the LOFT Market lately due to the Tiger Grant street construction in front of the Loft, there are many Easter and spring items made by artisans from around the world waiting for you to see!

Elephant poop notepads, cross necklaces, Kissii stone animals, large and small baskets, lamps, wooden puzzles, and many more unique, hand crafted items are on display. Come and see!

**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

Custodians:  
Bruce Dichraff  
Betty Banks

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

Live Stream and Tech  
Shawn Johnson

## 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	Dane Feenstra
February 26 4:00 PM	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Service	West Hill UMC 540 S. Leebrick Street	Pastor Kathy Moore	Yes	Derrick Murphy
March 5 4:00 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday Service	Asbury UMC 2128 S. Main Street	Pastor Jan Garza	Yes	Dane Feenstra
March 12 4:00 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Service	First UMC 421 Washington Street	District Superintendent Rev. Doug Cue	Yes	Inspiration Ringers (Hand Bells)
March 19 4:00 PM	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Service	Grace UMC 1100 Angular Street	Rev. Melanie Greengo	Yes	Autumn Fjeld Violin Solo
March 26 4:00 PM	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Service	West Hill UMC 540 S. Leebrick Street	Pastor Jan Garza	Yes	Gina Walker & Renee Zaiser
April 2 4:00 PM	Palm Sunday Service	Spring Grove UMC 4502 Summer Street	Pastor Tammi Wirt	Yes	Vincent Garza Pianist
April 6 4:00 PM	Maundy Thursday	Asbury UMC 2128 S. Main Street	Rev. Melanie Greengo (Prepackaged Holy Communion & Gluten Free will be offered)	No	Holy Communion; no Special Music
April 7 4:00 PM	Good Friday	Grace UMC 1100 Angular Street	Tammi, Jan, Melanie, & Kathy	No	Derrick Murphy
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
26 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 1pm - L1-Tolson Party 4pm - West Hill UMC 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	27 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 10am - P.E.O. 5:30pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Bel Canto	28 8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges	29 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9am - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	30 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Shoquonon Children's 7pm - Bel Canto	31 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 4:30pm - CB-Donlan Party	1 9am - Bel Canto Dress 11am - Bel Canto Annual Meeting 11am - L2-Moethle Party
9 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	10 <b>Office Closed</b>	11 8am - Tuesday Guys 8:30am - Iowa Child Advocacy 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 7:30pm - Treble Clef	12 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	13 9am - Bible Conversations Around 4pm - Maundy Thursday-Asbury 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Shoquonon Children's 5:45pm - Bridges Meal Prep 7pm - Bel Canto	14 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 5pm - L1/L2-Gedmonds Party 4pm - Good Friday-Grace UMC	15 6pm - L2-Coillon
16 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 10:15am - Youth Group 12pm - L1-Sabel Shower 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	17 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 12pm - P. E. O. 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 5:30pm - Four Oaks 6:30pm - CB-Prayer Group 7pm - United Women in Faith-	18 8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 12:15pm - SEISO Artist in 5:30pm - Building Bridges	19 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 12:15pm - Burlington Lunchtime 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	20 10am - Fluid Movement 10:30am - Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:30pm - Fair Trade 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Shoquonon Children's 6pm - Bel Canto Board 6pm - Trustees 7pm - Ad Council	21 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	22 9:30am - L1-Walters Shower
23 <b>UM-Faith Monday Messages</b> 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	24 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 9:30am - United Women in Faith- 5pm - Girl Scouts 5:30pm - Four Oaks 6pm - UM-Faith Monday	25 8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges	26 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9am - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J	27 9am - Bible Conversations Around 10am - Fluid Movement 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Shoquonon Children's 7pm - Bel Canto	28 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	29 8:30am - 4 Oaks 12pm - CB-Deby Party
30 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	1 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 5:30pm - Four Oaks 6:30pm - CB-Prayer Group	2 8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 7:30pm - Treble Clef	3 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven	4 10am - Fluid Movement 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 5pm - Shoquonon Children's 7pm - Bel Canto	5 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	6 11am - L1-Medford Shower