



The Tidings is published monthly by
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A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 89 Issue 10

*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

From Pastor Dan's Desk,

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord and savior Jesus Christ. The month of October brings another glad tidings in our life. Every year the first Sunday is celebrated as World Communion Sunday. What comes in our mind when we hear this concept?

As a reference, World Communion Sunday began as World-Wide Communion Sunday at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania in 1933. The Rev. Hugh Thompson Kerr and his congregation sought to demonstrate the interconnectedness of Christian churches, regardless of denomination.

Today, this great and ambitious idea remains to be tested. Recently, I finished reading a book written by Rev. Adam Hamilton about the "Lord's Prayer". He emphasized that when Christians pray, they all start the prayer with "Our Father". A simple analogy that all who claim and called themselves Christians, can accept and recognize that we are all God's children.

What a beautiful spirit, if we can just be true and faithful with this calling. On February 24, 2022 the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine escalated from what began in 2014. Thousands have died, children, elderly, and communities were destroyed. To be honest, I don't even know that it started more than a decade ago. Hamilton also mentioned during World War 2, in the still of the night, soldiers in the other camp could hear the German soldiers praying the Lord's Prayer. Millions died in this dreadful war. We are living in a culture of hate, fear, and division.

Where are we today as people claiming to be Christians? Right in front of our door steps the spirit of division of "us and them" continue. Not being skeptical, but this spirit of World-Wide Communion can thus be fulfilled. Jesus said, "Don't even begin to think that I have come to do away with the Law and the Prophets. I haven't come to do away with them but to fulfill them". (Mathew 5:17) CEB. The command, or if you want to call it, law, is love one another. Love thy neighbor as thy self.

Our United Methodist heritage and tradition reminds us who we are. Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As we gather again to partake of the communion elements of bread and wine, we remember the love of God sending his only Son Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins. May this spirit of love unite us as we continue to work in building God's Kin-dom.

Pastor Dan G. Fernandez

Youth Education in October>>>

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: The *Journey with Jesus* event has been canceled. *P.O.P.* will not meet until *Sunday night, October 29th at 6:00 P.M.* We will prepare for our performance in *Living Windows on December 7th*. Families are welcome to come join the fun. You need not be an experienced puppeteer!

Watch for more information in the *Pew News*.

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 on Wednesday evenings for grades PreK-5th. It runs from 5:30-7:00 P.M. and includes a meal, Bible lesson, and games. We are in need of Bible lesson teachers for the months of *October and November*.

Please contact Sue Dichraff at 319-759-4884!

Children's Christmas Concert: Save

the date for the *Children's Christmas Program* on *Sunday December 10th at 9:00 A.M. service!*

Youth Group: Youth Group will be

starting on Sunday October 22nd for Grades 6th-12th. They will meet after church from 10:15 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. Stay tuned for further details!

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

Up to date news found in
Pew News >>>



Celebrations>>> Birthdays

Randy Hemphill
Chip Readinger
Vera Anderson
Mary Jane Hemphill
Tobias Lunsford
Gabe Toops
Marty Distelhorst
Barbara Solheim
Mark Alter
Jim Kniffen
Christian Yotter
George Johnson
Fern Latta
Racheal Fenton
Wesley Badberg
David Miller
Carson Freitag
Mena Crabtree
Rhianna Yotter
Janet Owens
Beverly Siekman
Sharyn Blake
Lois Rigdon
Ann Ure
David Crose
Charlene Robbins
John Rockwell
Kory Taylor
Kohen Stotlar
Dawson Gach
Tracy Gach
Karen Piper
Daniel DeVilbiss
Cindy Seibert

Anniversaries

Randy & Mary Jane Hemphill
Gary & Julie Warner
Jed & Emily Cone
Daryl & Cindy Brown
Chip & Dana Readinger
Jamie & Sara Smith
Ron & Karen Piper

Mission Corner >>>



10/02 Thank you to the Brunch Bunch Sunday School class for preparing and
10/02 serving the September 5th meal for Building Bridges!
10/04 Your service is appreciated!
10/06 The October meal for Building Bridges will be prepared and served by
10/06 the Administrative Council on October 3rd.
10/08 Seventeen people prepared and served the end of the month meal at
10/09 Grace UMC on August 31. There were 108 meals served, an upswing in
10/10 hungry people from 94 the previous month.
10/11 Thank you for all you time, work, and service!
10/11 First UMC will be responsible for the desserts, the drinks,
10/11 and the dish washing at the October 26th meal.
10/13 Please check the sign up sheet at the back of the sanctuary to help!
10/13 Thank you for returning the completed school kits for Ingathering to the
10/15 tubs in the church or the Loft by Sunday, October 8th! The Mission Committee
10/16 will be packing them up at their October 10th meeting and taking them to the
10/16 Ingathering pick up location at the Mt. Pleasant UMC on November 4th.
10/18 The Quiet Ministry focus for October 15th will be our own
10/19 Matthew 25:40 funds which help provide bus tokens and food to the needy
10/19 who walk into our church offices.
10/21 The focus for September was the Community Action Food Pantry.
10/22 Our church is collecting children's underwear for the December Toys for
10/23 Tots event at Memorial Auditorium. Children's sizes 2T — 4T are requested,
10/23 although any size for the children are welcomed.
10/23 Please see Andree Halden or Roxy Riessen for more information!
10/24

Fluid Movement

10/27 This class meets every Thursday morning at 10:00 A.M. on the second floor of the LOFT.
10/27 The class addresses many things at different times. We focus on breathing exercises, stretching
10/27 exercises, strengthening our bodies, balance, flexibility, forms of Tai Chi, Ai Chi, meditation,
10/28 relaxation. A little martial arts thrown in for fun. Please attend in comfortable clothing and shoes.
10/30 A basket for monetary money will be present. All the money goes to our church. You can remain
10/30 seated or standing as your body requires and stop and rest as needed. It is your class, I just guide
10/30 you. Please come and enjoy our hour of healthful suggestions.
10/30 Hope to see you on Thursday, and bring a friend. It is open to everyone.-Karen Kay Piper
10/31

United Women in Faith>>>

Events/Meetings for the month of October:

Executive Board: 10/09 at 3:00 P.M. LOFT 1st

Miriam Circle: 10/16 at 7:00 P.M. at Lancaster Home

Quilting Group: Meets at 9:00 A.M. every Wednesday on Loft 3rd

The FUMC United Women in Faith group has donated \$2000 for a new live-stream and worship device and also updating the Sanctuary Sound System. They are challenging all other church groups and individuals to match their generous gift. UWFaith is a missional organization, but they believe firmly in how important live-streaming and online worship is to building our faith community, and helping those that cannot attend in person. Please direct all questions to the LOFT office.



United
Women
in Faith

Adult Education in October>>>

The Brunch Bunch is currently studying the TV series "The Chosen."

They meet upstairs on the second floor after church.

The Life and Laughter class is currently studying the Gospels.

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 October:

Week of 10/02 Rec Plex

Week of 10/09-Crapo Park

Week of 10/16-Aspen Grove Cemetery

Week of 10/23-GRMC

Week of 10/30-Perkins Park

2nd Annual Ice Cream Social

A big thank you from the United Methodist Men for a very successful social and fundraiser. Over \$1000 was raised to improve FUMC's live-stream and sound board technology. Thank you to all that volunteered their time and energy to make and serve the ice cream, and those that helped with set up and cleaning up afterwards. We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Church Family Loss

Barbara Kinneer, a former member, has passed away in Ft. Collins, CO. If you would care to send a card to Rob, her husband, his address is 403 S. Whitcomb, Ft. Collins, CO 80521.

A Very Special Thank You!

A heartfelt Thank You to my church family for the many cards and well wishes for my 90th birthday. I will forever treasure the friendship & love shown to me. Lovingly, Marilyn Lancaster



Our Financial Health >>>

Financial Information as of
September 25, 2023

Budgeted Income	\$ 262,733.20
Actual Income	\$ 218,646.21
Event Income	\$ 18,553.97
Total Income	\$ 237,200.18

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



Budgeted Expenses	\$ 262,363.97
Actual Expenses	\$ 236,358.80



—LOFT Market News—

Cheryl Jones has retired from volunteering at the LOFT Market after serving for almost ten years! Thank you, Cheryl, for all the love and help that you so graciously gave.

Anyone who would like to help at the Loving Opportunities Fair Trade Market is encouraged to volunteer! Please contact Ann Ure or any Fair Trade volunteer for more information!

Office Hours

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

Reverend

Dan G. Fernandez
pastor-first@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/Event Help:

Betty Banks
Bruce Dichraff

Childcare Providers:

Racheal Fenton
Shelby Trafton

Live Stream and Tech

Shawn Johnson
Marek Patejak

Burlington, First United Methodist Church completed the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) at the direction of District Superintendent Doug Cue with the intention of establishing a clearer picture of the church for a better pastoral transition. This summary seeks to share the main insights from that assessment. This assessment allows leaders to “make better decisions in less time with more confidence.” It gives objective clarity about the church’s current reality so everyone can take better next steps.

- Ryan Christenson, Interpreter

Congregation Assessment Tool Survey Responses

Your church had **84 responses** to the survey.

Representing **86%** of your average worship attendance.



Your Unique Church Drivers of Vitality

The CAT measures the primary areas of focus and highest areas of expectation for your congregation. When these things are happening, the church feels highly vitalized. The converse is true: when these things don’t happen, the church feels dissatisfaction and low energy. The following DNA indicates a collective “leadership focus,” so the church will thrive as purpose, prayer, and transparent deliberation happens.



Our Pastor helps us accomplish our mission by bringing out the best in everyone.



In important decisions in our church, adequate opportunity for consideration of different approaches is usually provided.



Our Pastor communicates with people in a way that keeps us informed and connected.



Persons who serve as leaders in our church are representative of the membership.



Our Pastor makes things happen.



Your Top Goals Priorities

As your church looked to the future, your top goals are:

- 1 Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church.
- 2 Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach new people and incorporate them into the life of the church.
- 3 Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to financially support the ministry of the church.
(much higher priority compared to other churches)
- 4 Provide more opportunities for Christian education & spiritual formation at every age & stage of life.



luncheia@q.com, LOFT & Church EVENTS, Holidays in United States

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

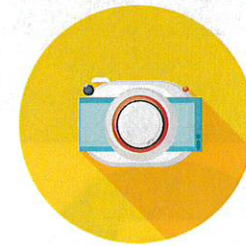
Thu

Fri

Sat

Oct 2023 (Central Time - Chicago)

7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 1:30pm - L1-Ruchinski Shower 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 6:30pm - CB-Prayer Group	8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 6pm - Treble Clef	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	10am - Fluid Movement 4pm - Shoquouon Children's 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 6:30pm - Charge Conference 7pm - Bel Canto	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 1pm - Hawkeye Heritage Quilt	8am - Four Oaks
7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 2pm - National Alliance on Mental 4pm - Four Oaks 6:30pm - CB-Prayer Group 7pm - United Women in Faith-	8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges 7pm - Education	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 12pm - Staff Meeting 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	10am - Fluid Movement 3:30pm - Fair Trade 4pm - Shoquouon Children's 5pm - Chairity Auction 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Bel Canto Board 6pm - Trustees 7pm - Ad Council	7:30am - Walking Club-Rec Plex 1pm - Hawkeye Heritage Quilt	6pm - L2-Cottillion
7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC	8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 12:15pm - Burlington Lunchtime 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	10am - Fluid Movement 4pm - Shoquouon Children's 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bel Canto	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC	12pm - L2-Peterson Shower
7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC	8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	10am - Fluid Movement 4pm - Shoquouon Children's 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bel Canto	7:30am - Walking Club-GRMC	
Bel Canto Fall Concert Weekend 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday School 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous	7:30am - Walking Club-Perkins 6:30pm - CB-Prayer Group	Halloween 8am - Tuesday Guys 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Building Bridges	First Day of American Indian 7:30am - Walking Club-Perkins 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 9:45am - Hope Haven 3pm - Silver Singers 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	10am - Fluid Movement 12pm - Bridges Chairity Auction 4pm - Shoquouon Children's 5pm - LM-Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Bel Canto	7:30am - Walking Club-Perkins	



A Snapshot of Your Church *Morale, Theology, Flexibility, Strengths*

Through the assessment, your church shared sentiments about the church and details about themselves. Knowing more about your current reality helps guide the best next steps. In conversation with church leaders, the following unique insights stand out.

Morale: Feeling OK.

47% of you indicated that you were clearly satisfied with things at your church. Altogether, your church has average vitality when compared to other churches who have completed the CAT. You are well-positioned to take a step this year—going from “good” to “great.”

Theology: Centrist and Diverse

Burlington, First UMC is centrist when compared to all other churches who have completed the CAT. You share a variety of perspectives in understanding God, faith, and how to live out your faith.

Flexibility: Keep Taking Steps!

Appreciating that you named the top goal as “Make necessary changes to attract families with children and youth to our church,” more than half of the respondents expressed hesitation at making changes to reach those new people. Keep clarifying your purpose, and keep taking steps!

Strengths: Worship and Education

Burlington, FUMC felt more positive about worship than 67% of other churches. Additionally, 80% of respondents agreed that “our church provides high quality education that is appropriate to every age and stage of life.”

Be Curious and Take Steps Together

Every CAT provides crucial feedback and clarity with the hope that the insight gained is “not good or bad, but helpful.” Each response and the cumulative guidance provides clarity for taking the most helpful next steps and for starting well with the next pastor.

Specifically, this insight will help shape the formal ministry expectations that your incoming pastor, leadership, and district superintendent will form this coming summer. Over the coming year, I recommend (1) developing a plan to keep prayer and purpose at the forefront of leadership and (2) inviting an outside specialist to facilitate a conversation around stewardship and finances (goal #3).

Adopt a posture of curiosity and hope—listening to God, each other, and your self.

This is an opportunity for discernment and discovery that you may grow in love, knowledge, and faith—all to the glory of God.

.....
“Let’s run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let’s throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, and fix our eyes on Jesus faith’s pioneer and perfecter.” – Hebrews 12:1-2a

