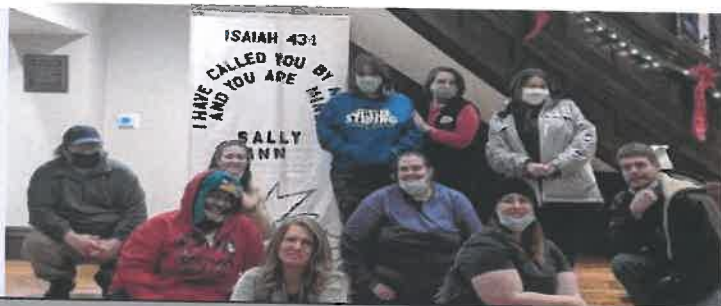


As Christ's Light of Hope, together we Become, Serve, Celebrate and Share



A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 87 Issue 1

Tidings



Traditional Worship 9:00 am with masks or Live Stream

Young Disciples >>>

JUMP: (Jesus You and Me Pray) children's Sunday School during the last half of the church service. It is for PK through 4th graders with masks will resume when in-person worship resumes Sue Dichraff will be our leader.

PBJ: will restart once COVID concerns have subsided and enough volunteers have been obtained.

ZOOM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:

Sundays invites in Pew News

2nd-4th Grade: 4-4:20 pm

PK-1st Grade: 4:30-4:50

TWEEN YOUTH: Sunday nights from 5-6 pm on ZOOM

PUPPETS are beginning to organize small Christmas Eve ideas.

Music Ministry >>>

Inspirational Ringers continue to give God praise through practice and worship.

Chancel Choir COVID break continues. If you are interested in doing special music, please contact the church office—754-8421

There are several offerings to further your journey in Christ starting the week of January 10th. For classes held via Zoom, the links will be shared in Pew News or you can get it by calling the church office.

Beginning, Wednesday January 6 at 7 pm, there will be a discussion group for the series "The Chosen" via Zoom. Those wishing to participate should watch two episodes prior to each week. Facilitators will be Barb Evans and Sue Dichraff. YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=craeyJdrCsE> The Chosen App eliminates production commentary.

On Wednesdays at 10:00 am, Jerry Rigdon will facilitate discussions on spiritual information using the book of Matthew. They will meet in the church's choir room with social distancing and masks.

Lastly, all are welcome to join one of two classes on Sunday mornings which will cover Bishop Laurie Haller's book, "Wandering into Grace." Books are available in the church office. One class will be on Zoom. For invite, check Pew News. For the Brunch Bunch, the COVID-factor will dictate on-line or in-person gatherings. Meeting venues will be announced in early January.

"Wandering into Grace" is a narrative of Haller's 2018 trekking trip in Nepal. Haller shares her adventures alongside lessons for navigating difficult issues with grace, learning to adapt in a changing world, leading calmly, using collective wisdom to solve problems, serving others out of love, and the value of rest to be fruitful in the long haul. Through Haller's examination of experiences wandering high on the mountain, she encourages you to look to God as the creator, sustainer, and original wanderer who leads and guards your life story.

If you have questions, please contact Cindy Seibert at tcjaseibert@mchsi.com



Birthdays

Fran Tillmann	01/01
Sarah Crose	01/03
Russell Brissey	01/05
Alexis Davis	01/05
Beverly Reeder	01/09
John Wozniak	01/10
John Phillips	01/11
Braden Jochims	01/12
Cheryl Jones	01/12
Charles Anderson	01/13
Edward Bickel	01/13
Lois Fort	01/14
Gale Lofgren	01/14
Wanda Abernathy	01/16
Sue Dichraff	01/19
Pam Farr	01/20
Marilyn Lloyd	01/20
Marilyn Garrett	01/21
Ruby Heubner	01/21
Bannen Davis	01/23
Kayla Brueck	01/24
Debra Jochims	01/26
Donald Taeger	01/28
Garvin Weitzel	01/28
Jane Adams	01/29
Blake Hagen	01/31

Anniversaries

Savannah & Rohit Bhawle	01/07
Jim & Jane Adams	01/10
Lennis & Alicia Kelley	01/10
Bob & Dee Alberts	01/12
Bruce & Sue Dichraff	01/14

Meetings

Education Tuesday January 5 @ 7
 Mission Tuesday January 12
 Fair Trade Thursday January 14
 Ad Council Thursday January 17 @ 7

Many many thanks to my FUMC Church Family. Your cards & notes have been a true blessing to me. I am so looking forward to once again being in the choir loft and seeing your faces. May you all stay well and have a great Christmas and New Year.

Carolyn Bouquet

Christmas Baskets & Bell Ringing

What a wonderful outpouring of love for the Christmas baskets! Thank you! Not only did you, our congregation, fill all the items listed on the Christmas basket sign up chart for fourteen families—more than the ten families that we've supported in the past—but the monetary donations allowed each of the fourteen families to receive extras—a gallon of milk, a block of cheese, a bag of carrots, and a dozen eggs. Thank you for your gracious support of this mission for God's vulnerable children!

The weather outside was frightful, but the spirit inside was delightful! Burlington First UMC rang the Salvation Army bell outside of the Agency Hy-Vee on Saturday, December 12. Thank you to the bell ringers who bundled up and wished a Merry Christmas to shoppers as they rang the bell to support this mission to help the needy in our community!

Unfortunately, there will still be hungry people after the Christmas season. The shopping cart at the back of the sanctuary has been the repository for our donated grocery items in the past. Since we have not been able to meet to worship in person, any food gifts that you wish to give can now be brought to the Loft office.

Tim Votaw has generously offered to take the cart of food to the Food Pantry on Jefferson this fall. Please **keep** Tim busy and give him the opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise often in the weeks to come by donating more food.

Mitten Tree

Caps and gloves and scarves and mittens! January is Mitten Tree month!

While we may not have a tree up to place for this mission project, we will be collecting winter wear—stocking caps, winter hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens—for children and adults at the Loft to donate to the children of North Hill Elementary and to the adult residents at the Burlington Homeless Shelter.

A box is in the corner at the Loft One to place your warm donations!



United Methodist Men

It's time to plan to apply for Ken Koch Memorial scholarships and Mildred Westfall grants for the Fall semester of school year 2021. Application forms are available on the church web-site and in the office. Submissions are due via delivery to the church office or mail postmarked on the last Friday of March.

United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and blessings to all families during this festive time of year!

My name is Joan Rodgers. I am a child of God and that makes us sisters and brothers!



I live 20 miles north of Mt. Pleasant with my husband Dave. We are both retired with part time jobs. Mine is with Olson-Powell Memorial Chapel in Mt. Pleasant. We have three sons. Justin lives near us, Tyler, along with his wife and three children live in Mt Pleasant, and Craig, along with his wife and three children live in Des Moines. My 91-year-old mom lives in Wayland and my 88-year-old mother-in-law in Mt. Pleasant.

I have a Master's Degree in social work. My professional career was 37 years in Medical Social work. I was the renal dialysis social worker in Burlington from the time it opened until 2005 and worked for Great River Health and Hospice the last 10 years of my career. I found Hospice to be the most rewarding and meaningful work of my career.

My home church is Finley Chapel UMC just north of Trenton. We are very small. I am a certified lay speaker in the Iowa Annual Conference. I did work at First UMC in Mt. Pleasant for 3 1/2 years as Director of Lay Ministries, thus I know Melisa and Dave! My parents taught me from birth to love and serve God and I have been active in worship and serving him. I look forward to sharing my spiritual journey and learning about yours over the next few months.

Joan Rodgers will focus her time with us on Preaching and Pastoral Care serving as a quarter time pastor. PLEASE share your concerns and struggles with her. She is known for loving people well. Her email is joan@umcburl.org.

For administrative needs, please contact Dane Feenstra admin@umcburl.org or 754-8421.

Fair Trade Market >>>

Although the Loft Market has not been open to the public in the past month due to the high Covid-19 numbers, it is open to shoppers who make an appointment! Please let Dane in the office know if you would like a private shopping experience! 754-8421

Possible Reopening date is January 4th.



Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:00 pm

Interim Pastor Joan Rodgers
319-754-8421 joan@umcburl.org

Office and Event Manager
Dane Feenstra 754-8421
admin@umcburl.org

Director of Christian Education
Sue Dichraff 319.759.4884
education@umcburl.org

Ministry Intern
Lucy Cockrell 319.850-2469

Organist & Handbell Director:
Roxy Riessen

Choir Director: Dane Feenstra

Custodians:
Tim Votaw & Bruce Dichraff

Childcare Providers:
Ilianna Murphy & Racheal Fenton

Live Stream and Tech
Rohit Bhawle & Christian BW

Rev Melisa Bracht-Wagner
Medical Leave pastor@umcburl.org

Our Financial Health >>>

Financial Numbers as of December 18, 2020



Budgeted Income	\$315,746.42	Budgeted Expenses	\$345,309.14
Actual Income	\$296,974.54	Actual Expenses	\$307,050.89
Event Income	<u>\$ 12,627.18</u>		
Total Income	\$309,601.72		

2020 Apportionments have been paid in full. THANK YOU.



The Tidings is published monthly by
 First United Methodist Church
 416 Jefferson St.
 Burlington, IA 52601

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 BURLINGTON, IA
 PERMIT NO. 650

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Contact us at **319.754.8421** www.umcburl.org

Facebook: [fumcburlington](https://www.facebook.com/fumcburlington)

Inperson worship????

As COVID numbers decrease, please watch the PEW NEWS for the date to return to in person worship.

Worship with us Online

Website
umcburl.org/recorded-services

Youtube
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf5Sk8GT07ZLVzqIP6qoN1w>

Facebook
www.facebook.com/fumcburlington

Up to date news >>>

*For congregational prayer concerns plus weekly updates, please contact the church office to subscribe to the **Pew News**. 754.8421*

<<<Pew News

2021 Leadership Team for Burlington First United Methodist Church

Church Council

Chair	Tim Seibert	21
Secretary	Jesse Saar	
Lay Leader	Chris Robbins	
SPRC CoChair	Duane Hartman	
SPRC CoChair	Amy O'Brien	
Finance Chair	David Ure	
Trustee Chair	Gary Williams	
Treasurer	Jackie Brockert	
Lay Member AC	Andree Halden	
Equalization AC	Jerry Jochims	
UMM	Jim Corder	
UMW	Mary Taeger	
	Marilyn Lancaster	
Endowment	Scott Zaiser	
Mission Chair	Ann Ure	
Financial Secretary	Tim Votaw	
At Large	Adam Plein	23
	Vicki Wischmeier	22

SPRC

Jim Evans	21
Shauna Freitag	21
Amy O'Brien	22
Don Lofgren	22
Julie Anderson	22
Duane Hartman	23
Larry Crabtree	23

Endowment

Barb Carter	21
John Schulz	21
Scott Zaiser	21
Sue Stauffacher	21
Bob Adams	22
Mark Taylor	22
Mary Jane Hemphill	22
Darvin Kendell	23
Denise Johnson	23

Trustees

Scott Hoschek	21
Gary Williams	21
Chris Almack	22
John Youngquist	22
Lisa Hill	22
Cindy Brown	22
Diana Wells	23

Memorial

Terri Elliott	22
LaVern Neal	21
Barb Miller	23

Passion Team Leaders

Altar Flowers	Carol Zaiser
Blood Drive	Howard Toops
Card Ministry	Gloria Jewett
Christmas Basket	Ann Ure
CROP Walk	
Historian	Dave Camp
Home communion	Gloria Jewett
Library & Prayer Shawl	Barb Evans
Puppets	Hartmans
Reading	Barb Cameron
Softball	Dave & Duane
Tuesday Team	Dave Miller
Welcome Team	Bob Adams
Women at Well	Ann Ure

Education

Cindy Seibert	c
Ryan Freitag	
Lori Rockwell	
Andrea Hartman	
Sue Dichraff - Staff	
Lucy Cockrell - Staff	

Fair Trade Team

Ann Ure - Chair
Cheryl Almack
Marilyn Lancaster
Dana Readinger
Cheryl Jones
Mary Taeger
Terri Elliott

Mission

Randy Ross
Janet Owens
Patty Neal
Marek Patejak
Cindy Seibert
Ann Ure - Chair

Nominations

Barb Evans	21
Andrea Hartman	21

Dane Feenstra, admin@umcburl.org, 754-8421 will email meeting documents and Zoom invites.

Tim Seibert: TSeibert@carlanelsonco.com

David Ure: sirure@gmail.com

Duane Hartman: duane.hartman55@gmail.com

Amy O'Brien: amy.obrien@grellc.net

Sue Dickraff: education@umcburl.org

Cindy Seibert: tcjaseibert@mchsi.com

Ann Ure: annlucilleure@gmail.com

Gary Williams: gary.williams@snapon.com

A Message the desk of Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner

On December 19, 2020, I begin medical leave. The effects of chemotherapy have become too intense to continue working. While taking leave has been a profoundly difficult decision, it is time to focus on healing, hope, and rest. Very intentional steps have been taken to be sure you as a congregation are well taken care of during my absence.

Joan Rodgers, joan@umcburl.org, will be your pastor. She is known for taking care of people well. Joan will not be full time. Her focus will be on preaching and pastoral care. Please, please, please let her know when you are hurting or when someone needs care. Either drop her an email or call the church office 319.754.8421.

As COVID restrictions turn from Red to Yellow (50 people in worship) to Green, your Christian education team is ready to restart ministries. Sue and Lucy have been laughing while leading ZOOM meetings. Cindy Seibert has organized adult education opportunities. Be sure to try out January offerings, located on the first page of the Tidings.

My health next steps in a nutshell: the next chemo infusion is on December 21. As a family, we are expecting a week of FOB (flat on bed). Radiation and chemo pills begin at Mayo on January 4. January holds a plethora of surgical consultations. Surgery is scheduled for January 22. We are expecting a three month recovery. Many details will ebb and flow between now and then. Yet, Dave and I want to thank you for all the support to our family during this extremely challenging time.

While at Mayo in January, I'm planning to paint by number a lake scene, improve my Spanish, go to medical appointments, and rest. Heal. Be Still.

Never would I have imagined to battle cancer once. Let alone three times since November 2018. As a congregation you have showered me with love. Expanded my understanding of the body of Christ.

I have every confidence that ministry in our corner of Burlington will grow, strengthen, and be celebrated these next several months. Thank you in advance for allowing Joan into your lives.

Philippians 4:6-8 Passion Translation. ⁶ Don't be pulled in different directions or worried about a thing. Be saturated in prayer throughout each day, offering your faith-filled requests before God with overflowing gratitude. Tell God every detail of your life, ⁷ then God's wonderful peace that transcends human understanding, *will make the answers known to you* through Jesus Christ. ⁸ So keep your thoughts continually fixed on all that is authentic and real, honorable and admirable, beautiful and respectful, pure and holy, merciful and kind. And fasten your thoughts on every glorious work of God, ⁹ praising God always. *

For Health Updates, <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/melisabracht-wagner>