



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

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*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 6

# Tidings



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

Contact us at 319-754-8421 [www.umcburl.org](http://www.umcburl.org) Facebook: [fumeburlington](https://www.facebook.com/fumeburlington)

Join the Service Opportunities

- \*Take Away Hunger
- \*Bidwell-Riverside
- \*Bridges Meal or Staying Ahead Partner
- \*Summer Worship Special Music

RSVP at the Church Office 754-8421



<<<Pew News

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

**A Season Ahead**  
 Within the life of the church, the leaders are always working for the next season. Since we are in the summer season, one of Lucy's tasks will be to survey parents. Especially, in June, she will be contacting parents regarding Confirmation Schedule possibilities as well as PBJ and youth group. Please help her gather information to create a fantastic fall kickoff.

**Adult Sunday School Classes**  
 Adult Sunday Classes realize that summertime often brings more travel. However, activities to stay connected through the summer will be planned and announced in the weekly Pew News. The Brunch Bunch will be doing a video series on the apostle Paul in the month of June.

**Christian Camps**  
 It's not too late to sign up for camp. Remember that the Education Committee will fully fund camper-ships for members and active participants. FUMC will also fund 50% of camp for a friend of a member. Check out the United Methodist Camps at <https://www.iaumc.org/camps> and the Summer Games University at <http://sgu.camp>.

## Mission Opportunities

**Take Away Hunger-Missions**  
 Saturday 6/12 10-11am  
 Messiah Lutheran Church

**Bidwell-Riverside in Des Moines**  
 Wednesday 6/23  
 Work in their food pantry  
 Leave 7am- work until 3pm  
 Be home around 6pm

RSVP with LUCY 850-2469

## Vacation Bible School July 19-23 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us for a meal, games, Bible, crafts, and music.  
 Age 3 to youth rotation leaders.

Kids learn Jesus is always with them and he rescues ....  
 Day 1: Armor Up with Truth!  
 Day 2: Armor Up with Justice!  
 Day 3: Armor Up with Peace!  
 Day 4: Armor Up with Faith!  
 Day 5: Family Night



Hosted at First United Methodist Church 421 Washington, Burlington  
 Questions: Sue 319.759.4884 [education@umcburl.org](mailto:education@umcburl.org)



**Birthdays**

- John Cavanah 06/01
- Amy O'Brien 06/01
- Ethan Zaiser 06/01
- Norah Harris 06/03
- Heather Brueck 06/04
- Kara Stoner 06/06
- Mike Westfall 06/07
- William Almack 06/08
- Larry Crabtree 06/09
- Dudley Cone 06/11
- Jessica Davis 06/13
- Oliver Cone 06/14
- Janet Brissey 06/15
- Mark Taylor 06/15
- Landon Wynn 06/15
- Lexi Wynn 06/15
- Marion Bennett 06/16
- Nicholas Hagen 06/17
- Jim Masengarb 06/18
- Carol Zaiser 06/21
- Parker Davis 06/22
- Dana Williams 06/22
- Lynn Egan 06/24
- Ed Fort 06/24
- Tim Seibert 06/25
- Cooper Crose 06/29
- Kay Hagen 06/29
- Alicia Kelley 06/29
- Lisa Babcook 06/30
- Anthony Hoffman 06/30
- Landon Wells-Carter 06/30

**Anniversaries**

- Lisa & Paul Babcook 06/02
- John & Margaret Wozniak 06/03
- Mick & Vera Anderson 06/07
- Ed & Lois Fort 06/11
- Barry & Andree Halden 06/11
- Melanie & Joe Sullivan 06/12
- Alicia & Cory Duff 06/13
- Bob & Judy Adams 06/13
- Jim & Barb Evans 06/15
- John & Roxy Riessen 06/20
- Bill & Linda Pilger 06/22
- Dave & Ann Ure 06/23
- Andrea & Duane Hartman 06/24

**Take Away Hunger**

You are invited to join in a one hour, multigenerational, international mission adventure! Tweens through senior citizens are invited to join together on Saturday June 12 to pack bags of enriched foodstuffs to send to poorly nourished people in places around the world. For one hour from 10 am to 11 am, participants, working together in an assembly line manner, will be able to pack meals for as many as 2,000 people! To place your name on the list to participate, please contact the office by Friday, June 11. Participants will need to be at Messiah Lutheran, 2411 West Avenue, Burlington, by 9:45 am on Saturday June 12. For more information, please contact Ann Ure, Sue Dichraff, or the Loft office.

**Road Trip!**

We are going on a road trip to Des Moines to the largest volume food pantry in the state, Bidwell-Riverside, on Wednesday June 23, to stock shelves, fill grocery orders, and work in a donated clothes closet! We will leave from the mall parking lot, Penney's side, at 7 am, arrive at Bidwell-Riverside around 10 and work until 3 pm with a break for lunch at a nearby fast food restaurant, returning about 6 pm. If you are interested and between the ages of 10 and 100, please contact Sue Dichraff, Ann Ure, or the Loft office for more information.

**Thank you** to everyone who provided food and helped with the Thursday May 27th End of the Month meal at Grace UMC! Your help in feeding the hungry whose budgets are tight at the end of the month is greatly appreciated.

**Bridges out of Poverty**

The Bell Choir provided the evening meal for the May Bridges Out of Poverty meal. Thank you! The June 22 picnic meal for Bridges will be provided by the Brunch Bunch Sunday School class. The new class of students appreciates your support in their new adventure!

New addresses for:

Geneva McWhirter:  
4200 Wyntree Drive  
Apt 100  
Newburgh, IN 47630

Carolyn Bouquet:  
4925 West Avenue,  
#109 A  
Burlington, IA 52601

From Fran Tillman:

Thank you for all the thoughts and prayers, beautiful cards, goodies, and love while I was laid up with a broken ankle.

**Paint-A-Thon**

September 7th-11th. Contact Sue Stauffacher for more info

*United Methodist Women*



**Upcoming Events-Mark your calendars!**

July 12, Monday-UMW will prepare dinner for all who would like to attend. Good way to visit with church members and friends. More info to follow!

September 20, Monday-UMW are planning a church potluck for anyone who wants to bring a dish to share. Good opportunity to catch up with friends!

November 7, Sunday-UMW are planning a Harvest Celebration. This year we are planning a silent auction and a bake sale. We will be asking for items for the auction and your favorite cookies, cakes, or breads to be donated!

**More info will be coming so save the dates!**

**Events/Meetings:** Executive Board-None in June  
Quilters-Every Wednesday @ 8:30-12pm on 3rd LOFT  
Miriam Circle- 06/21 @ 7pm Sarah Circle- 06/28 @9:30am on 2nd LOFT

Navigating the polarization of our current worldviews is displaying signs of stress in our relationships. No longer does it seem we have a middle ground in any of our circles of life. Social media and the news seems only to divide us more.

In recent weeks, God has placed GENTLENESS upon my heart. The need to respond gently to one another as we have differing views. The Bible has over 100 verses containing the word gentle. If it is repeated, it must be important. Take a moment and type the word gentle into biblegateway.com. Proverbs 15:1-A gentle answer deflects anger, but harsh words make tempers flare.

While we may not be able to change the world, we can change the three feet around us. In the three feet around us, we hold the greatest impact. We can be gentle with those we disagree. We can love those who hold different opinions. We can choose to ignore posts that rub us the wrong way. We are able to begin conversations with the other in peaceful ways.

The Lord's Prayer states thy kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. As we work on our gentleness, more peace is in our corner of the kingdom. Be gentle my friends. -Rev Melisa BW

Observations from my time at Burlington First UMC:

- People are supportive. One of my early experiences was someone wanting to meet me—her first question, "What can I do to help?"
- People are generous.
- People volunteer and say yes when asked. I asked for help with Good Friday—quick and easy--I had the help needed.
- Missions is a focus—you truly believe God's commission to go into the world and help.
- People like to laugh and have fun.
- People talk about tough subjects and try to view them as God wants us to.
- The church building is beautiful.
- I sound good when I sing if I stand near Dane!
- Music is amazing—and I was here during COVID time!!!
- Food is part of fellowship! Oh, so good.
- There are many different talents in the church and they are being used.
- The staff are all absolutely wonderful.
- Pastor Melisa provides amazing leadership.
- The connection with Bridges is a great fit for helping others through a program that really works for people in need. Mona is an amazing director for Bridges.
- I have been so blessed serving with you for 5 months. Thank you Thank you Thank you. God is Good!

Blessings to all of you. Keep doing what you are doing. Keep growing closer to Jesus. And continue being God's church for the world. Peace and Joy Joan Rodgers

Thank you for the lovely hydrangea shrub. I have an area I have wanted to redo and this bush is the perfect center piece for it. It will remind me of the blessed time I spent with you. My husband and I also thank you for the gift certificate. Mexican is a favorite and Little Mexico is a great place to eat. With Christian Love Joan

**Our Financial Health >>>**

*Financial Numbers as of May 21, 2021*

Budgeted Income	\$123,561.87
Actual Income	\$ 78,847.10
Event Income	\$ 9,306.00
Total Income	\$ 88,153.10



Budgeted Expenses	\$134,488.86*
Actual Expenses	\$ 69,417.28

(Pastor Melisa's medical leave accounts for the difference)

\$10,000 has been paid toward the 2021 apportionment. Thank you

**Fair Trade Market >>>**

Why should you support Fair Trade and the LOFT Market? The global fair trade concept began with the bold belief that when marginalized people are given access to fair wages, safe working conditions, and a place to sell their goods, they can thrive.

These producers, primarily women who are supporting their families, can avoid exploitation and sex trafficking. They can put food on the table, provide education for their children, save for the future, and contribute to their communities by building clinics, digging wells, or whatever their community needs AND IT WORKS!!

For over 75 years, the fair trade movement has invested in the livelihoods of people in developing countries and provided opportunities for people, like you and me, to work together to do great things and help others in need as they strive to thrive!

The LOFT Market has been a ministry of First United Methodist Church since March of 2014. Not only has the LOFT Market supported the needy overseas, but our fair trade committee regularly donates to local institutions like the Burlington Homeless Shelter, the Domestic Violence Shelter, and the public library. The LOFT Market is looking for a few good people who wish to be part of an ongoing ministry in service to God's children around the world. Please contact Cheryl Jones or the LOFT office for more information!

**Office Hours**

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-3:30 pm

**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 & Savannah Bhawle

**Rev Melisa Brach-Wagner**  
pastor@umcburl.org

UMM will continue meeting Wednesdays at 8 AM at the All-Star Diner in West Burlington. They also thank all of the grant and scholarship winners who were able to join us on 05/23 for our certificate celebration during church. It was a joy seeing and talking to each one of you!





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9am - Worship 10:10am - Education 11:30am - Grad 1pm - Basketball 3pm - Pickle Ball 4:30pm - Youth	31	1 6:30pm - Prayer	2 8am - UMM 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 5pm - Basketball 7pm - Basketball	3 3pm - Farmers 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I.	4 Towa Annual Conference 4pm - Basketball 5pm - Grad Party	5 1pm - Grad Party
6 Towa Annual 9am - Worship 10:10am - Education 1pm - Basketball 3pm - Pickle Ball 5pm - N.A. Group	7 9am - P.E.O. 6pm - Four Oaks	8 6pm - Mission 7pm - Trustees	9 8am - UMM 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 5pm - Basketball 7pm - Basketball	10 3pm - Farmers 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6pm - SPRC 6:30pm - N.A.M.I. 7pm - Bel Canto	11 4pm - Basketball	12 9am - Four Oaks 10am - Take Away
13 9am - Worship 10:10am - Education 1pm - Basketball 3pm - Pickle Ball 5pm - N.A. Group	14 1pm - Quilt Guild 6:30pm - Prayer	15 7pm - Education	16 8am - UMM 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 5pm - Basketball 7pm - Basketball	17 3pm - Farmers 3:30pm - Fair Trade 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I. 7pm - Ad Council	18 4pm - Basketball	19
20 7:30am - Choir 9am - Worship 10:10am - Education 1pm - Basketball 3pm - Pickle Ball 5pm - N.A. Group	21 9am - P.E.O. 7pm - Miriam Circle	22 6pm - Bridges Picnic	23 Bidwell Riverside 8am - UMM 8:45am - Quilters 11am - GirlSTEM 3pm - Silver Singers 5pm - Basketball 7pm - Basketball	24 3pm - Farmers 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I.	25 4pm - Basketball	26
27 7:30am - Choir 9am - Worship 10:10am - Education 1pm - Basketball 3pm - Pickle Ball 5pm - N.A. Group	28 9:30am - Sarah 6:30pm - Prayer	29 5:30pm - Bridges	30 8am - UMM 8:45am - Quilters 11am - GirlSTEM 3pm - Silver Singers 5pm - Basketball 7pm - Basketball	1 3pm - Farmers 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I.	2 4pm - Basketball	3

To say that these have been difficult times would truly be an exaggeration of Biblical proportions. For many businesses and industries, though not all, it has been a time of unprecedented loss and re-trenchment.

For the “industry” that is church, it has been an equally hard time. This statement, this fact, includes our own First Methodist here in Burlington, and while we are better off than many of our church brethren, we can’t lose sight of our immediate goals and our forever mission.

We cannot lose track of what we see Sue Dichraff do every Sunday and must remember there is so much more behind the scenes. We cannot forget our commitment to Bridges Out of Poverty. We cannot ignore our mission trips—locally to Take Away Hunger (6/12/2021) and to Bidwell-Riverside in Des Moines (TBD).

[By the way, sign ups for both events are still needed. See Ann Ure or Sue Dichraff to get involved, especially Sue to be sure the tweens are involved.]

And we mustn’t forget that the Missions Committee is always looking for people of all ages to participate in events like Take Away Hunger and would be happy to schedule future Saturdays for you and your group. The Education Committee will certainly take adults of all sizes and descriptions as helpers for Vacation Bible School.

There’s the initiative to get more kids to church camp that’s going on right now, and though that’s been pretty much put to bed for this year, we need to begin planning already for next year. Then we have the Fair Trade Market in the Loft whose commerce provides support and opportunities for families all around our world. There are the end of the month meals at Grace Methodist that can always use extra hands to serve and additional cooks to prepare.

But, of course, everything takes time and money.

Through the challenges of last year and this, our giving has been lower normal, especially here in 2021. As a counterbalance, our spending has been equally sparse. We are, however, in midst of more changes. The most significant and happiest is the return of Pastor Melisa. Her presence among us will stretch our resources thinner compared to what Joan Rodgers’ time with us did, complicating our budgetary picture.

We need to be mindful of where we are and where we need to continue to strive to be. So, let me encourage each of you to continue your support of our church, and if you’ve fallen a little behind of where you’d meant to be at this point of the year with your giving, let me also encourage you to make up that difference at your earliest convenience.

And let us move forward in love and kindness.

David Ure  
2021 Finance Committee Chairman, FUMC Burlington