



The Tidings is published monthly by  
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A Monthly Update for First United Methodist Church Burlington Iowa Volume 87 Issue 8

*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

Contact us at 319-754-8421 [www.umcburl.org](http://www.umcburl.org)

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

### Vacation Bible School Wrap Up

Vacation Bible School 2021 was a huge success!! With over 40 kiddos every night, everyone had so much fun. Discovering the Armor of God is no easy task, but these kids danced, sang, and acted their way through the journey with such ease! This week would not have been possible without the help of our amazing staff and volunteers, (being the Sparky puppet and dressing up like a knight are not very easy tasks!). The Christian Education team wants to thank everyone who donated items, built decorations, and all of those who put time into making this VBS happen. Thank you all so much-**Sue and Lucy**



*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.



**WORSHIP**

August First  
 "All Things New"  
 Praise Service  
 guided by  
 Gary Richards

Back-to-School  
**Blessings**

Sunday, August 22  
 9:00 am

Join us as we introduce and pray over our school staff and students.

3RD GRADE  
**BIBLE SUNDAY**

Sunday, August 29 9:00 am  
 Please let Pastor Melisa know the exact spelling for your third grader for the nameplate by August 8.



Calling all puppeteers! Puppets will start practicing again in early August. If you are going to be in 3rd grade or older and would like to participate in the puppet ministry, please contact Andrea Hartman at [ondi28@hotmail.com](mailto:ondi28@hotmail.com). Adults are also invited to participate. Two performances are already scheduled for this fall!

**Celebrations >>>**

**Birthdays**

Macey Crose	08/01
Keaton Hoschek	08/02
Linda Pilger	08/02
Taden Jameson	08/04
Ross Alexander	08/06
Cleo Babcook	08/06
Jessica Kendell	08/06
Geneva McWhirter	08/07
Aeva Babcook	08/08
Tommy Hoffman	08/08
Jim Evans	08/10
Lincoln Freitag	08/11
Blake Dichraff	08/14
Mary Taeger	08/14
Joy Witte	08/14
Nicole Fritz	08/16
Duane Hendrichsen	08/16
Riley Richards	08/18
Melodee Kennedy	08/19
Marilyn Rheinschmidt	08/19
Kamden Stotlar	08/19
Joe Sullivan	08/20
Malachi Bracht-Wagner	08/25
Bill Pilger	08/26
Emily Cone	08/27
Kayleigh Hartman	08/27
Ryan Freitag	08/28
Drew Wynn	08/28
Lisa Hill	08/29
Sutton Stotlar	08/29
Lleyton O'Brien	08/30

**Anniversaries**

Chuck & Beverly Siekman	08/02
Joe & Amy O'Brien	08/04
Jerry & Lois Rigdon	08/07
Jerry & Wendy Zick	08/07
Gerald & Marilyn Lancaster	08/08
Mike & Kristi Westfall	08/09
Larry & Sarah Crabtree	08/12
Greg & Denise Johnson	08/12
Randy & Mary Schulte	08/19
David & Barb Miller	08/22
James & Mary Priebe	08/22
Ryan & Shauna Freitag	08/26
Nathan & Nicole Fritz	08/28
David & Amy Camp	08/29

**Mission Corner >>>**



**Bridges Meals** Thank you to the Choir who provided the meal for the July 6 Bridges picnic at Polmiller Park! The Bridges clients enjoyed a delicious meal while having a fun evening. No meal for Bridges will be served in August. Mission Committee will be providing food for the Tuesday, September 7, Bridges meal, and the Balcony Dwellers will be responsible for the October 5 meal.

**Ingathering School Kits** Our church is collecting school supplies so children who are unable to collect their own supplies will be prepared to go to school. There are gallon ziplock bags containing a list of supplies which are needed that are available on the table in the sanctuary so you can pack an entire kit. Please return your completed school kit to the tubs in the office or sanctuary. These kits will be taken to Ingathering in Mount Pleasant on November 6 and then to Midwest Mission Distribution Center from where they will be shipped to students in developing countries.

- Listed below are the supplies that are needed:
- 3 notebooks--1 subject spiral 8"x10 1/2,
  - 1 ruler--12" with metric
  - 6 pencils--unsharpened
  - 1 pencil sharpener
  - 1 eraser--2" or larger
  - 1 box of 12 colored pencils
  - 1 box of 24 crayons
  - 1 pair of student scissors

**New Project: Preparing Cleaning Tubs--**

In August the Mission Committee will be preparing cleaning tubs for local people who are in need of cleaning supplies. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact the office or Ann Ure (319-759-2990) for more information.

**Adult Sunday School Class >>>**

Adult Sunday School 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 **Life and Laughter** class will finish up the video series on the Apostle Paul in August. This video series is a trip to the holy lands, guided by Pastor Adam Hamilton, and has offered a deeper understanding of the scripture. They meet after the church service on Sundays in the choir room. All are invited to attend at any time.

- The **Brunch Bunch** continues to meet for brunch on Sundays and are looking forward to a study on Wesley's Covenant Prayer in September.

**United Methodist Women >>>**

Monday September 20, an All Church Meal and a Program will again be offered, with the program being Clay Beckman with his K-9. Again, the meal will be free for all to enjoy, so **save the date** and plan to come to the Loft 2nd floor for an educational and enjoyable evening.!

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 August
- Quilters-Every Wednesday @ 8:30-12pm on 3rd LOFT
- Miriam Circle- 08/16 @ 7:00 pm on 1st LOFT
- Sarah Circle- 08/23 @9:30am on 2nd LOFT



July 19 August already? In a blink of an eye, our summer shifts to back to school. Vacation Bible School and Summer mission experiences are in our rear view mirror. Ahead awaits confirmation, school blessings, and third grade Bible distribution (8/29).

In a blink of an eye, our world shifts from illness to health. Wealth to poverty. Life to life everlasting. Blinks can be short or long. Blinks can be unexpected or something we long for.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 <sup>51</sup> But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! <sup>52</sup> It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. <sup>53</sup> For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.

While we do not know which blink will be life changing, we live as if any blink is the one. The one that needs gentleness and faithfulness. Goodness and kindness. Living in our corner of the Kingdom - on earth as it is in heaven - we focus our eyes on the Living Christ. We know that the Advocate - the Holy Spirit - is ever present ready to guide. Hold us. Refocus our vision.

May you focus on a God that is active today. A God who needs you to partner alongside as you are gentle with others. May your blinks focus on God's Love and Grace. Melisa BW

**Class of Fluid Movements**

Will begin on August 26th at 10:00 am on the second floor of the Loft. You may remain sitting or standing or both. Benefits include: Cardiovascular Fitness, Muscular strength, Muscular endurance, Coordination, Flexibility, Breathing, and Relaxation techniques. Wear comfortable clothing. A basket will be on a stand for an offering that will go to our church. Hosted by Karen Kay Piper.

**Sunday Morning Volunteers**

- August 1st All Things New Contemporary Service
- August 8th Plein Family
- August 15th
- August 22nd
- August 29th Chancel Choir

**Our Financial Health >>>**

Financial Numbers as of July 20, 2021

Budgeted Income	\$180,655.25	Budgeted Expenses	\$195,945.08
Actual Income	\$119,160.25	Actual Expenses	\$127,926.56
Event Income	\$ 13,376.69	(With Pastor Melisa returning to full time, please help us keep current with expenses.)	
Total Income	\$132,536.94		

\$15,000 of \$40,000 has been paid toward the 2021 apportionment. Thank you



**Fair Trade Market >>>**

The LOFT Market, the fair trade ministry of First United Methodist Church, is governed by the Fair Trade Committee which promotes this ministry that provides the Burlington community an opportunity serve those in need in the international community.

To spread the news of what fair trade is all about and to encourage local shoppers to share this ministry, the Loft Market advertises in the Burlington Civic Music program and through Facebook postings.

If you see these advertisements, please tell the friends by whom you are sitting at the concert or share the Facebook posting so that others in your circle of friends can learn about our church's ministry and share in the blessing of serving others!



**Office Hours**

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

**Office & Event Manager/Choir Director**

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

**Custodians:**

Tim Votaw & Bruce Dichraff

**Childcare Providers:**

Ilianna Murphy & Racheal Fenton

**Live Stream and Tech**

Rohit & Savannah Bhawle

**Rev Melisa Bracht-Wagner**

pastor@umcburl.org  
319.929.3281

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Worship Service 10:10am - Education Hour 1pm - Basketball 5pm - N.A. Group 6:30pm - Evangelistic Bible 7pm - Confirmation Parent 7:45pm - Upperclassmen	2 5:30pm - Pickleball 6pm - Four Oaks	3 5:30pm - Bridges	4 8am - UMM Breakfast 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 6pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Basketball	5 3pm - Farmers Market 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I.	6 4pm - Basketball	7
8 9am - Worship Service 10:10am - Education Hour 1pm - Basketball 5pm - N.A. Group 6:30pm - Evangelistic Bible	9 5:30pm - Pickleball 6:30pm - Prayer Group	10 T.C.A.B. 5:30pm - Bridges 6pm - Mission Committee 7pm - Trustees	11 8am - UMM Breakfast 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 6pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Basketball	12 3pm - Farmers Market 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6pm - SPRC	13 4pm - Basketball	14 9am - Four Oaks
15 9am - Worship Service 10:10am - Education Hour 1pm - Basketball 5pm - N.A. Group 6:30pm - Evangelistic Bible 7pm - Confirmation	16 9am - P.E.O. 1pm - Hawkeye Heritage 5:30pm - Pickleball 7pm - Miriam Circle	17 5:30pm - Bridges 7pm - Education	18 8am - UMM Breakfast 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 6pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Basketball	19 3pm - Farmers Market 3:30pm - Fair Trade 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I. 7pm - Ad Council	20 4pm - Basketball	21 SE District
22 Back to School Blessing 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:10am - Education Hour 1pm - Basketball 5pm - N.A. Group 6:30pm - Evangelistic Bible	23 9:30am - Sarah Circle 5:30pm - Pickleball 6:30pm - Prayer Group	24 5:30pm - Bridges	25 8am - UMM Breakfast 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 6pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Basketball	26 10am - Fluid Movement 3pm - Farmers Market 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 7pm - Silver Singers	27 8:30am - School Reliance 4pm - Basketball	28 11:30am - Wedding
29 Third Grade Bibles 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:10am - Education Hour 1pm - Basketball 5pm - N.A. Group 6:30pm - Evangelistic Bible 7pm - Confirmation	30 5:30pm - Pickleball	31 5:30pm - Bridges	1 8am - UMM Breakfast 8:45am - Quilters 3pm - Silver Singers 6pm - Four Oaks 7pm - Basketball	2 10am - Fluid Movement 3pm - Farmers Market 5:30pm - Pickle Ball 6:30pm - N.A.M.I.	3 4pm - Basketball	4

Service versus Obligation

As members of the United Methodist Denomination, we are called to do "good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all." This service can be achieved in many ways, like being active in our local communities and in ministry globally. This feeling can be akin to a moral or legal necessity.

In comparison, obligation can come out of rules set out to maintain order that comes from an agreement between parties. Service is a step beyond faithful participation in a church's ministry through prayer, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Obligation is most often referred to in relationship with church leadership. While all church members are called for service in their local communities, a higher obligation can arise as These vacancies are filled with servant leaders.

We as a congregation must always be listening for that call, to either give of ourselves in worship, or to shoulder the burdens, share the risks, and celebrate the joys of fellow members from a position of leadership. We are called to use our spiritual gifts, each in our own way. This is not always clear, but we can grow closer to the Lord through prayer and quiet introspection. As we listen and learn, our path through life and our church family will become clear.

**-Dane Feenstra**

The **United Methodist Women** want to especially thank all who helped make the Free Meal and a Program on July 12 a big success. The meal serving and cleanup were accomplished in record time and everyone in attendance enjoyed the Big Hollow presentation by Chris Lee!

Burlington First United Methodist Church, Thank you so much for your very generous donation of \$10,000.00. Since the beginning of Bridges, you have been an integral part of the work we do. We are thrilled to have partnerships like yours, that come alongside us to help families struggling with insurmountable barriers. Thank you for being intentional in your ministry, in loving and serving others.

Through your donations, we will be able to help many families. Families like Ms. Ellie, a single mom of two children. Since beginning Bridges, she no longer needs government assistance, was able to buy a house, build emotional and mental strength, and become a part of a healthy support system. Through the learning and the support in Bridges, she overcame significant obstacles, and continues writing her future story. You are a pivotal part in making that happen!

We have many more success stories; 10 classes, 76 graduates, who are transforming their lives and those of their 100+ children. Thank you for coming alongside us in this mission. It would not be possible without your help.

We are in this together!

**Mona Ash, Director of Burlington Building Bridges**



Dear FUMC Education Committee, Thank you for providing scholarship money so we could attend camp at Wesley Woods! The first night we made S'mores along with new friends! We went swimming, horseback riding, and had lots of great meals! Thank you again for this special opportunity! Sincerely, **Edward & Kimberly Bickel**

Dear Burlington First UMC, We want to say thank you and what a wonderful way to be in connection by sharing VBS ideas, decorations, and supplies. We pray that you have a successful VBS experience this week with lots of kids who come to know more about God in their lives and ways that they can help share the love of Christ in the world. We will be having our VBS August 2-6 and cherish your prayers. It is a wonderful expression of our United Methodist connectionalism to assist one another in ministry. Hopefully, we can find more ways to support one another and grow in God's Kingdom in Southeast Iowa. Be Bold, be strong.

**-Pastor Dave and First UMC Mt. Pleasant**



**First United Methodist Church  
Burlington, Iowa**



July 22, 2021

Since November 2018, together, we have fought a battle of cancer. Together, we have navigated two rounds of IV chemo, 3 rounds of radiation, 33 hyperbaric chamber treatments, 3 surgeries, hair loss, and fatigue. As a congregation, you have loved on my family well. Provided grace in the pulpit.

On July 21, the oncologist revealed the hard truth that my cancer remains. The cancer will not be cured on this side of heaven.

With this information, my last day will be September 30, 2021. As a church, you need a leader focused on COVID restarts, confirmation, and caring. Together, we have fought cancer. But now, I need to step away. Be with my boys. Live life on my terms.

The family will move into the Mount Pleasant parsonage in August. The boys will transfer school districts. I'll commute to Burlington for the remainder of our ministry together as lead pastor.

The district superintendent, Doug Cue, will be in touch with SPRC (Staff Parish Relations Committee – HR). The SPRC team will help guide the cabinet in my replacement. Unfortunately, appointment season is in the spring. This means the cabinet has some extra work to find a great match for us.

For now, I remain your pastor. PLEASE continue to share your joys and concerns with me. Please let me pray for you as you pray for me. Please let us continue to be in ministry together.

We still have a lot of work to do in our corner of the Kingdom. Thanks for being in ministry with me.

Blessings,

Rev. Melisa Bracht-Wagner  
(319) 929-3281

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