



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 01

*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

12 months
 52 weeks
 365 days
 8,760 hours
 525600 minutes

How do you measure a year? Personally, I tend to measure by Sundays and church seasons but I know that isn't how most people measure time. We can measure the week by how many work days are left. We measure the months by how long until the next trip. We measure the year by how long until our birthday, retirement, the next holiday etc.

There is a great song from the musical Rent that asks the same question, How do you measure a year? The song's answer is love. I like that idea-measuring the year by how much love we have given and how much love we have received. Love from God, love from each other, love for and from friends and strangers alike as a measurement of our precious time. Imagine how our priorities would change if love was the measurement of our day? Did I live out a life that shared love today? Did I hoard God's love or sprinkle it around like confetti?

I am not a big fan of New Year resolutions because they tend to set us up for failure. Starting something new in the middle of a season meant for rest and reflection doesn't bode well. But the idea of using love as a measurement of our time seems like a great way to start the new year. Let's make it a goal to be intentional in our love of neighbor this year. What a great way to start out 2023.

God's love to each and every one of you this coming year.

Pastor Mel

Youth Education in January >>>

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: is currently on break. Stay tuned for the start up of practices closer to the beginning of Lent!

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!

Youth Group: Attention: All 6th-12th graders! On Jan. 15th 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!



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

Fran Tillman 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
 Brady Jochims 01/12
 Cheryl Jones 01/12
 Mick 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 Garrett 01/21
 Ruby Heubner 01/21
 Bannen Davis 01/23
 Mikayla Brueck 01/24
 Debra Jochims 01/26
 Don Taeger 01/28
 Garvin Weitzel 01/28
 Blake Hagen 01/31

Mission Corner >>>



Winter is here—along with cold, wind, snow, and ice! So mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves are very necessary for comfort and safety.

Our annual **Mitten Tree** will be at the back of the sanctuary through the month of January. The winter items that you clip on the tree will go to help those in need of their warmth. Child size items will be taken to North Hill School, and adult sized items will be taken to the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter.

The **Quiet Ministry** for the third week in January will be the Community Action **Food Pantry**. Your kind donation that week will go to provide perishable food items and food purchased through the Iowa Food Bank. Please designate Quiet Ministry or Food Pantry on your donation. Thank you for prayerfully considering the plight of families who need help to feed their families!

Thank you to the sixteen cold and bold individuals who rang the Salvation Army bell on Saturday, December 10th! Your red noses and determination to help means the Salvation Army is able to better provide noon time meals to those in need.

Thank you for your loving support of the Eighteen Christmas Baskets which were given this Christmas season! In addition to the dry good grocery staples, milk, cheese, apples, potatoes, and eggs were purchased with the monetary donations. Your caring has made the Christmas time much merrier for many families!

Thank you to the people who have provided dessert, drinks, and their service washing dishes for the Shared United Methodist Ministry end of the month meal on Thursday, December 29! Your helpfulness is greatly appreciated!

First UMC will be providing the entree for the end of the month meal in March!

Adult Education in January >>>

The 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!



—LOFT Market News—

The LOFT Market has holiday items on **sale** now in January!

When cabin fever gets to you, stop in and see what artisans in lands far away have been making!

Walking Club

Meets Monday-Wednesday-Friday at 7:30 a.m.

Month of January alternating between *Crapo Park & Aspen Grove*; depending on weather conditions

Event Help!

We are in need of event hosting and set-up help in The Loft and the church. Most of the hours are evening and weekends. If this is an area you could help out in, please let Dane or Pastor Mel know. You will be compensated for your time.

Thanks!



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

Office Hours

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

Reverend
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Organist & Handbell Director:
Roxy Riessen

Custodian:
Bruce Dichraff

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

Live Stream and Tech
Shawn Johnson

Anniversaries

United Women in Faith >>>

Events/Meetings for the month of January:

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

Executive Board-01/09 at 3:00 P.M. in LOFT Library
 Miriam Circle-No Meeting
 Sarah Circle-No Meeting



United Women in Faith

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 **January 19th at 10:30 A.M. on LOFT 1st.**

Our Financial Health >>>

Financial Information as of
December 27, 2022

Budgeted Income	\$344,434.02
Actual Income	\$ 284,839.88
Event Income	\$ 33,863.50
Total Income	\$ 318,703.38

Budgeted Expenses	\$ 344,253.22
Actual Expenses	\$ 345,424.03



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	2 Office Closed 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 2pm - National Alliance on 6:30pm - Chess Club	3 9am - Heritage Baptist 9am - Mahjong	4 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club	5 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	6 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	7
8 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	9 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 9am - P.E.O. 3pm - United Women in Faith- 6:30pm - Chess Club	10 8:30am - Iowa Child 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges 6pm - Missions 7pm - Education	11 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	12 9am - Bible Conversations 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	13 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	14
15 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday 10:15am - Church Staff 10:15am - Youth Group 3pm - Lunsford Shower 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	16 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 12pm - P. E. O. 2pm - National Alliance on 6:30pm - Chess Club	17 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	18 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 12:15pm - Burlington 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	19 10:30am - Prayer Shawl 3:30pm - Fair Trade 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 7pm - Ad Council	20 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	21 12pm - Wallace Party
22 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	23 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 5pm - Girl Scouts 6:30pm - Chess Club	24 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	25 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	26 9am - Bible Conversations 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	27 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	28
29 7:30am - Chancel Choir 9am - Worship Service 10:15am - Adult Sunday 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous 6pm - Puppets of Praise	30 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 6:30pm - Chess Club	31 9am - Mahjong 5:30pm - Bridges	1 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen 8am - United Methodist Men 9am - Quilters 10am - Hope Haven 5:30pm - PB&J 6:30pm - Chess Club 6:30pm - Inspiration Ringers	2 5pm - Narcotics Anonymous	3 7:30am - Walking Club-Aspen	4

Caramel Recipe

I have had multiple requests for the caramel recipe from Dec 18th worship. So here it is. I originally found it in a 1995 Dec/Jan edition of Taste of Home. Enjoy!-Pastor Mel

Creamy Caramels

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1 cup butter
- 1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 tsp vanilla extract

Line an 8 inch pan with parchment paper and butter the paper. Combine sugar, corn syrup and butter in a 3 qt. heavy pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Boil slowly for 4 min without stirring (add a lid for two minutes, the steam will keep the sugar from crystalizing). Remove from the heat and add the sweetened condensed milk. Reduce heat to medium-low and cook until candle thermometer reads 238°, stirring constantly (seriously it has to be constantly, don't walk away, don't try to put the dishes away, don't get a treat for the dog). Remove from the heat and add vanilla. Pour into prepared pan. Cool. Remove from pan and cut into squares, rectangles, hexagons, whatever you like. Wrap with waxed paper.

Yields approximately 64 pieces.
Recipe can be doubled or tripled easily.

Bridges Update

The mission of Bridges is to empower individuals who are struggling in poverty to reach their fullest potential, develop their future story, and build a support system. Mona, Brittany, and Hannah do this so well that the Bridges program is growing exponentially. In order to continue to be able to serve their people and to allow for growth, Bridges will be making some changes in the near future. After much discussion and discernment, the Bridges Board has voted and approved to become part of City Hope.

This administrative change will allow Bridges to continue to grow, and give Mona the ability to focus more of her time on programming. City Hope, under the direction of Matt Shin, will take over fundraising, administrative and financial management for Bridges. The Bridges board will remain active in an advisory capacity, and Denise Johnson, current Bridges Board President, will be joining the City Hope Board.

Day to day, the Bridges Program will look and work just as it does now. Bridges will continue to operate out of their offices in the LOFT. They will continue to hold class on the Second Floor, and use the Church Lower Level for the kids' programming. We, as a church, will get to continue to support them and the wonderful work they do now, just as we have in the past. We give thanks to God that we have a program like Bridges in our community, and our church, that works to serve those in need.

Pastor Mel

From Mona:

We are beyond grateful for every opportunity we have had working together, and look forward to years of continued partnership in serving our community. We are all in this together, and together we do more.