



The CIRCUIT RIDER

FEBRUARY 2024

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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In February we will continue to reflect on our creative task of cooperating with God's work in the world as we follow Jesus. What are the creative ways that we can work together to do something new? What are the activities that fill you with joy that you can share with others?

This year Lent begins on Valentine's Day. We will have a special Valentine's day dinner on Wednesday evening Feb. 14 with the help of the youth, followed by an Ash Wednesday service.

For Lent we will be using the book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, by pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton to guide our worship. Throughout Jesus' ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, he met, dined, and traveled with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

For those who wish to go deeper, we will use Rev. Hamilton's book for a time of study together in small groups. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today. [Sign up here](#) to help host, lead, or participate in a home study group using Rev. Hamilton's Lent study of Luke.

As we enter Lent, I invite you to consider letting go of something in order to make a little extra space and time to connect with God and with your unique calling to follow Jesus. What would you be willing to let go of for a few weeks, to let God touch you in fresh ways? Maybe let go of a TV show you watch regularly, and instead read about the experiences of those getting released from prison. Maybe let go of a casual coffee time with a friend, and instead go with that friend to volunteer at a food pantry. Maybe let go of a quiet evening at home once a week and participate in the Lent study about Luke. Maybe let go of watching news that upsets you and instead talk with a friend who has a gay son or a lesbian daughter about their experience and help them offer love and support to their child. Maybe let go of hitting the snooze button on the alarm, and instead get up the first time the alarm goes off and spend ten minutes to start your day with prayer.

Blessings at this season of winter and Lent.

Pastor Peggy



Worship Schedule

February 4 - Communion

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-19

Sermon: *Drawn in to Re-Integrate*

February 11

Scripture: TBD

Sermon: *TBD, Phil Kakacek*

February 14—Ash Wednesday

Worship, 6:30 PM

February 18

Scripture: Luke 1:51-53

Sermon: *Lifting Up the Lowly*

February 25

Scripture: Luke 7:36-39, 8:1-3

Sermon: *Luke: The Woman Who Anointed Jesus*

Is it possible to simplify our life to reflect what we teach our children? I've often wondered why we must complicate the messages we send to each other.



As a former elementary music teacher, I love children, music for children, and books for children. While some may call the messages ideological, they really are at the root of human society. Just think - if we didn't add in politics, crazy world leaders, and self-serving individuals, we end up with exactly what Jesus taught. Show love and compassion to all you meet. A similar message was popular many years ago in the book and posters titled, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten", by Robert Fulghum. Both Fulghum and Jesus simplify their messages to be easily understood by all.

I was reminded of this last week while talking with Dee Swartzendruber about songs for the children to sing. Because February includes Valentine's Day, the first thing that popped into my head was "Love, Love, Love". This song was written by Herb Brokering in 1970 for Vacation Bible Schools.

Love, love, love.

That's what it's all about.

Cause God loves us, we love each other,

Father, Mother, sister, brother,

Everyone sing and shout, (which of course the kids scream!)

Cause that's what it's all about.

It's about love, love, love,

It's about love, love, love.

A preacher in Seattle, Edward F. Markuart, wrote "It's about love, love, love. From the moment you are born until the moment you die; and every second and every minute and every hour and every day and every month and every year and every decade, the purpose of life is God giving you and me the time to learn how to love, as God loves. The purpose of time, of every moment and every day and every year is that God is teaching us what it means to be truly loving people. That's what it is all about. That is what it has *always* been about."

Let's try to remember this message this month in how we interact with everyone around us! Sometimes the simplest messages are the best!

Music this month:

2/4/24 – Chancel Choir sings "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is"

2/11/24 – Bell Choir plays, "

2/14/24 – Ash Wednesday services, where Chancel choir will participate.

2/18/24 – Chancel Choir sings "Kyrie"

2/25/24 – Special Music

Angie Grecian-Bransky



JANUARY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

9:00 AM

January 7

69

January 14

22 *Online Only

January 21

55

January 28

57

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Chilly Greetings,

I hope you had a joyous Advent season. As we look forward to the season of Lent the Treasure Seekers are learning about Jesus' life as a fisher of people. Please come see our play "Fisher of People" on February 7th at 5:15 p.m. in the sanctuary and then stay for our family meal afterwards. In Sunday School we are also focusing on the life of Christ. Our junior and senior high schoolers are enjoying their Wednesday night Bible Study. They are looking at ways to show God's love in our community. We are researching local mission projects that they can do this summer.

Peace and Blessings,

Dee Swartzendruber



PERMANENT ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP



Applications are now being accepted. Forms are available on the church bulletin board, on the website or click [HERE!](#) Please fill out the application and turn into the church office.

DEADLINE is APRIL 15th!

SUMC ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER UPDATE

The Annual Soup Supper that is usually held in February WILL take place this year. The decision has been made to move it to March. Keep an eye on your email as March approaches for ways to volunteer, and donate! There will be lots of ways to be apart of this Church sponsored event.



SUMC Nominations Update

2024 LEADERSHIP SOLON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STAFF		BOARD OF TRUSTEES		
Lead Minister	Peggy Garrigues	<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2026</u>
Music Director	Angie Grecian-Bransky	Mike Turner	Kris Kucera	Al Hulse
Christian Education Director	Dee Swartzendruber	Dolfi Kalm	Jill Weetman	OPEN
Office Administrator	Lindy Hopp	STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE		
Director of Hand Bells	Mary Kucera	<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2026</u>
Treasurer	Ivan Hasselbusch	Jim Leighton	Jill Mack	Lisa Evans (ch)
Custodian	Ruben Galvan	Phil K. or Sue W.	OPEN	Scott Nicol
Security	Lisa Hilton	FINANCE COMMITTEE		
CHURCH COUNCIL		<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2026</u>
Chairperson, Church Council	Denny Gruber	OPEN	Cathy Boggs	Travis Kerkove
<i>*Council Chair, Council Secretary, Lay Leader, SPRC Chair (or rep), Finance Chair (or rep), Trustees Chair (or rep), Treasurer, Lay Member to AC, UMM Rep, UWF Rep, a young adult, a youth rep, the Pastor (with vote)</i>		OPEN	Justin Schmidt	OPEN
Lay Leader	Phil Kakacek & Sue Wilkinson	Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer		
Lay Member(s), Annual Conference	Phil Kakacek, Sue Wilkinson (alt.)	Denny Gruber (Council Chair), Pastor Peggy (Pastor), Phil K or Sue W (Lay Leader), SPRC rep, Trustees rep, Kay Geguzis (Financial Secretary), Kris Kucera (Endowment Chair)		
Council Secretary	Keela Herr	PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE		
Administrative Committee Chairpersons		<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/31/2026</u>
Chairperson, Trustees	OPEN	Ivan Hasselbusch	Keela Herr	Paul Saupe
Chairperson, Staff-Parish Relations	Lisa Evans	OPEN	Kris Kucera (ch)	Richard Novak
Chairperson, Finance	OPEN	<i>Finance Committee Representative: Ivan Hasselbusch</i>		
Chairperson, Nominations	Pastor Peggy	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
Chairperson, Perm Endowment	Kris Kucera	Dee Swartzendruber	Jill Weetman	Jill Mack
Membership Secretary	Alan Harrington	Melody Morris	Amanda Vollbrecht	
Financial Secretary	Kay Geguzis	WELCOMING MINISTRY		
President, United Methodist Men	Mike Turner	Norma Novak		
Pres. United Women In Faith	Shirley Anderson & Verlee Lauderbaugh	Care Committee:		
NOMINATIONS		Ron Puettman	Melody Morris	Jill Mack
<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	Connie Koeppen	Renee Lunemann	Linda Herdliska
Alan Harrington	Mary Gruber	Worship Committee:		
Pastor Peggy, (ch), Phil K. or Sue W.		Tawnia Kakacek (ch)	Julia Woessner	
<i>*Pastor is Chair, Lay Leader is on</i>		Joyce Cook		
MISSIONS MINISTRY TEAM		Church & Society Committee:		
<u>12/31/2024</u>	<u>12/31/2025</u>	<u>12/32/2026</u>		
Angie Grecian-Bransky	Dan Boggs	Nancy Worrell (ch)		
OPEN	Darcy Miller	OPEN	Jean Leighton	Keela Herr
			Alan Harrington	

Wednesday Night Family Meals

Join us for Family Meal! These meals are provided at no cost with free will donation. Take out is available, and ALL are welcome. See the schedule below, and check the worship clipboard to sign up to donate or volunteer!



February 7th	March 6th	April 3rd
14th	20th	10th
21st	27th	17th
28th		24th

Mission Trip Fundraiser

Our family dinner on February 14th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall will be extra special! Our youth group and leaders will be helping provide an extra special meal! We hope to raise some funds for a future mission trip.



UWF news! Barb Kalm has retired from many years as our co-chair of our group. We appreciate all of your time and service to our group.
Happy Retirement Barb!

Verlee Lauderbaugh has agreed to be co-chair with Shirley Anderson for 2024. Our next meeting will be February 7th in FH at 1:30. All women are invited to our meetings. We have a guest speaker this month, Former district president Lynn Calvert. Hostess is Nadine. Soup supper will be discussed, scheduled for March.

Interested in joining?

Contact Verlee Lauderbaugh, gverleeretired@hotmail.com or Shirley Anderson, swanderson@southslope.net

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am at the Family Life Center and on the first Saturday of the month come enjoy breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Interested? - call Mike Turner at (319) 624-2061.



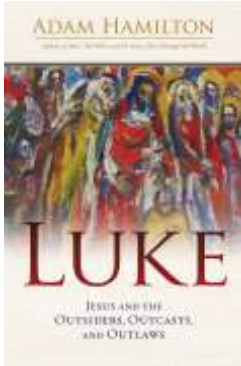
Ash Wednesday Worship

This year Ash Wednesday falls on Wednesday February 14th. We will hold our after school program, and Family Meal. Worship will begin in the Sanctuary at 6:30PM.

‘From dust you came, and to dust you shall return.’ -Genesis 3:19



Lenten Study



For Lent, which begins February 14, we will have a series based on Rev. Adam Hamilton's book *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*. Pastor Peggy is looking for volunteers to host a weekly or every other week study in their home, to facilitate a group study of the book, and/or to participate in the study. Copies of the book will be available for \$14 each, with some additional copies available at no cost.

Sign up online, [HERE](#) or contact Pastor Peggy if you have questions. pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org

On January 28 We Welcomed Five New Members to Solon UMC!

LeeAnn Gilroy moved to Solon with her husband, Bob, and their two children, Liam and Moriah in 2018, from Iowa City. LeeAnn has been teaching Spanish at Solon High School for 21 years. She has jumped right in at SUMC as one of the co-leaders of the youth group. Their family joined First UMC in Iowa City, then attended St. Mark's before they moved to Solon. In her free time, in addition to spending time with the family, LeeAnn likes to cook, bake, read, and read with her kids. Bob plans to join SUMC later this year.

Gail Kirchner first joined SUMC in the early 1990's. She had lived in Solon for about 15 years, but she now lives in Iowa City with her husband, Steve. Gail is glad to be back at SUMC after joining Our Lord's Church for several years. She worked for the University of Iowa before retiring in 2010, and she is currently working at Kohl's. Gail has enjoyed riding horses, golfing, and scuba diving. She currently enjoys singing with the SUMC choir.

Jill and Randy Mack moved to Solon when they retired in 2023, to be near family. Jill previously worked as a realtor, then for 21 years as a United Methodist local pastor. She most recently pastored Living Faith UMC in Tama and Montour, and Christ UMC in Toledo. Jill graciously shares her pastoral skills and experience as a lay reader and guest preacher, and teaches the Monday evening Bible study. She and Randy both volunteer as ushers, and Randy is one of the main volunteers with the Treasure Seekers afterschool program. Randy worked his whole career for the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources, in the area of fisheries. Randy enjoys hunting and fishing, while Jill enjoys reading, refinishing furniture, and sewing.

Darcy Miller and her husband Tom moved to Solon in 1978, and Darcy joined SUMC shortly after that. She volunteered in Sunday school—where Angie Grecian-Bransky was in the first Sunday school class she taught. Both of Darcy and Tom's daughters were married at SUMC. After leaving for a time, Darcy is happy to rejoin this wonderful church family. She is again enjoying choir and bell choir, is part of United Women in Faith and she just recently joined the Mission committee again. Darcy enjoys spending time with family, especially her grandchildren, and attending women's basketball games.

Welcome
New Members

Prayers and Joys

In Our Prayers

The Kabela Family following the passing of Bob on December 26th

Jeanne Bark and Family, following the passing of Fred on December 28th.

The Richards Family following the passing of Dave's Mother, Ruth Ann on December 28th.

Jeff Kaebring's family as Jeff's sister died on Christmas.

Connie Railsback who had surgery on January 4th.
For all traveling.

Those who have lost loved ones recently.
The victims, families, shooter's family,
And community of Perry, as well as surrounding communities, who were all impacted by the shooting at the high school in Perry.

Pastor Peggy's return to health.

Dee S lifted up her friend, Rose Alice, who is in the hospital.

Ivan H. lifted up his grandson, Ryan, who has diabetes and has eyesight complications.

Doris T. lifted up her sister-in-law, Susan, who will be having spinal surgery this week.

Keela H. asked for prayers for her niece and her baby, Layne, who was very premature.

Joyce Cook requested prayers for Rose Alice Brokaw, who is in the hospital.

Pastor Peggy requested general prayers for all who have been sick or who are sick.

Continued prayers for the families of those who died recently from our congregation: Ruth Ann Richards, Fred Bark, and Bob Kabela.

For the world: For all who have been impacted by the snow and bitter cold.

For all the places where there has been violence or the threat of violence, especially the community of Perry, in Israel and Gaza, and in the Ukraine.

Verlee asked for prayers for great niece Ally – she is having a very hard time with cancer drugs, and she also got COVID recently, so was in hospital.

Continued prayers for Jessica Smith, daughter-in-law of Doris and Jim Trittle, who has serious cancer, and will be going to Mayo clinic at the end of January.

Cathy Boggs asked for prayers for Ellie, a first-grader with liver cancer.

Connie Koeppen who fell and was taken to the emergency room at Mercy Hospital Iowa City on Jan. 21st.

Dolfi Kalm asked for prayers for his family in Romania, where a first cousin died.

Sue Wilkinson asked for prayers for truck drivers (several in her family) and for safety for all who have to drive in bad weather.

Additional prayers for Dave Richards and all of those working long hours to plow the roads.

Peace somehow to become more possible in the Middle East, and in all the places in the world where there is violence or fear of violence.

Pastor Peggy will be having surgery on her foot the first full week in February. It will mean she will miss one Sunday, and will have to do some work from home, and get some rides to church while she can't drive.

Larry Meister fell recently and has uncomfortable bruising. He hopes to make it back to church again soon.

Traveling prayers requested for Verlee and Arnie Lauderbaugh and Denny and Mary Gruber

Rejoices & Thanksgiving

Yvonne S., who lifted up the joy to two new great-grandsons in 2023 year and another great grandchild on the way in 2024.

Thankfulness for the wonderful music provided by Angie and Marian, and for Jill Mack filling in while Pastor Peggy was away.

John M. lifted up that the flowers he provided were in memory of his wife's passing.

Dolfi K. lifted up gratefulness for technology that enabled him to see and visit with his half-brother in Germany.

Doris T. lifted up that her daughter-in-law was taken off of hospice.

Al H. traveling to Arizona to beat the snow!

Connie R. thanked everyone for their prayers regarding her successful surgery.

Virginia lifted up prayers of thanks for the educators and support staff who do so much for their students.

The times we have seen people come together to help one another during this winter weather.

Congratulations to the Moses family on the birth of Jason Henry Moses on January 8th!

Birthday greetings for Dean Moel, a community member who is 98.

Tawnia Kakacek lifted up birthday joys for their older child who turned 38 today.

Lisa Evans shared joy that Erin came back to the US, and they were able to have a good family visit together.

February Birthdays

Werning, Holly	02/01
Haury, Denise	02/02
Hawks, Landon	02/03
Jedlicka, Terri	02/03
Mostrom, Kale	02/04
Feldkamp, Katelyn	02/06
Keith, Connie	02/13
Allen, Maxon	02/20
Railsback, Connie	02/22
Moses, Amelia	02/28

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in faith so that you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

ROMANS 15:13



*Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of our world*

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, Lead Pastor 319-855-7911
pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org
Dee Swartzendruber, Christian Education Director
Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Director
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Mary Kucera, Director of Hand Bells
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 AM—Worship

9:00 AM —Sunday School

10:15 AM—Adult Sunday School

Church Phone: (319) 624-2288
Address: 122 North West St., Solon, IA 52333
Website: <https://soloniaumc.churchtrac.com/>
Facebook: Solon United Methodist Church—Iowa
Instagram: soloniaumc