



Circuit Rider

June 2023

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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My Friends, when I first found the writings of John Wesley, I knew I had found what I had been looking for as a guide. From the quadrilateral to the “means of grace” I had been led by God to the Wesleyan way. Not perfect, but one who encouraged all of us to seek perfection in Christ.

What first stood out to me with John Wesley was his passion for the word of God as contained in the 66 main books we refer to as the Bible. Old and New Testament woven as a beautiful tapestry designed by a master and brought together to form a story of my family back to the beginning. A story not bound by one people or culture. Rather a collection of people from all walks of life and all very, very different. Not dominated by the narrow view of humanistic thought which seeks to divide by skin, culture, economics, gender, or any other excuse to divide. No, we are blessed with a myriad of options, yet the amazing fact is all depends on one pivotal person. Christ Jesus is His name.

I first came to know my savior in the book of Ecclesiastes found in the Old Testament collection. However, my introduction was not only that one book, it was also the wealth of life I soon discovered. The wealth of life found in tradition and experience making greater sense when I used my reason. Yes, the quadrilateral John Wesley put it this way:

I am a creature of a day, passing through life as an arrow through the air. I am a spirit come from God and returning to God; just hovering over the great gulf, till, a few moments hence, I am no more seen; I drop into an unchangeable eternity. I want to know one thing -the way to heaven; how to land safe on that happy shore. God himself has condescended to teach the way; for this very end he came from heaven. He hath written it down in a book. O give me that book! At any price, give me the book of God! I have it; here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be homo unius libri.



The phrase “*homo unius libri*” is latin which means man of one book. The thought can be traced back to Thomas Aquinas and no doubt to many more. However, the reference is clear to point us to the Scripture and The Bible.

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*I Came
THAT
they may
HAVE
LIFE
and
Have it
Abundantly*

Worship Schedule

June 4th

Scripture: John 5:1-15

Message: Do you want to be healed?

By Phil Kakacek

June 11th –Ken’s Last Worship

Happy Retirement Ken!

Scripture: John 1:1-5

Message: The Family

By Rev. Ken Ferguson

June 18th –Father’s Day

Scripture: TBD

Message: TBD

By Lynn Brown

June 25th

Scripture: TBD

Message: TBD

By Lynn Brown

Within the Bible is a truth which speaks and resonates into our very souls our value in God’s eyes. We are indeed all children of God who has spoken to us in Christ Jesus. To truly see and discover how deep and wide this love God has for us you need only to look to the Bible and find support in the community of believers called The Church. Oh, we are not perfect! But like you, we are on our way. As a final reflection on this, once again, here is John Wesley:

But true religion, or a heart right towards God and (humanity), implies happiness, as well as holiness. For it is not only righteousness, but also “peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.” What peace? The peace of God, which God only can give, and the worlds cannot take away, the peace which “passeth all understanding,” all (barely) rational conception, being a supernatural sensation, a divine taste of “the powers of the world to come,” such as the natural man (or woman) knoweth not, how wise soever in the things of this world, nor, indeed, can...know it, in his (or her) present state, “because it is spiritually discerned.” It is a peace that banishes all doubt, all painful uncertainty, the Spirit of God bearing witness with the spiiit of a Christian, that he (or she) is a child of God.

Shalom

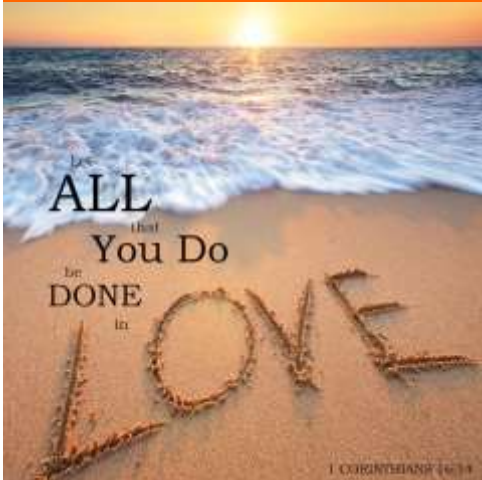
Rev. Ken Ferguson



June always has felt like the beginning of summer with the change of activities. As a teacher, I always hoped that we wouldn’t have too many snow days stocked up and didn’t have to go too far past the set end of school date!

For our music programming at SUMC, it also marks a great change. Bell Choir had its last performance in May and will resume again in September. Chancel Choir will switch from a twice a month singing schedule to once a month. There is not a “set” Sunday for those but rather it will be when it works for most of our schedules.

Angie Grecian-Bransley



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Total
April 30	33	39	72
May 7	36	40	76
May 14	35	47	82
May 21	35	60	95

Solon Garage Sale SUMC Bake Sale

Love going to garage sales AND eating homemade goodies? Here is your chance! At the Solon city-wide garage sale on Saturday, June 3 at the Solon Public Library parking lot the SUMC will have a booth selling baked goods. Stop by for a pastry and free coffee to start your day; mid-day for a cookie or bar and free lemonade for a pick-me up and on your way home to soothe the ones left behind at home with some sweet treats.



There is a sign-up sheet for donations of baked goods...kolaches, sweet rolls, muffins, cookies/bars and snack mix. See the clipboard to sign up!



The proceeds from this event will go toward the General Fund.
For more information contact Nancy Worrell at 319-321-8537.

P.E. Scholarship!

The Permanent Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the 2023 recipient of a \$500 Scholarship to assist graduating seniors as they pursue their dreams. This year's award goes to:
Luke Woessner



Transform Week! - Mission Trip

Calling all people who want to SERVE others and be the hands, feet, and heart of Christ can come together for Transform Week June 26th - 30th.

During this week, those interested will meet at the SUMC in the morning, go to Cedar Rapids, and be a part of the mission's work through prearranged connections with people to work on various housing and construction projects. Volunteer for a day or the whole week. You will be a vital part of the transformation!

Here is a [register now under SOLON SERVANTS](#).

We will plan to meet at SUMC in the mornings. Lunch will be provided. Then return in the afternoon.



Contact Carol Ann Richards for more information. 319-541-1424.

Message From the Finance Committee

About a year ago, the chairperson of the Church Council, Nancy Worrell, gave a presentation about our financial situation and the direction we were headed. My purpose today is to provide an update to what Nancy presented.

Nancy talked about a declining trend in our income. This included a projection that indicated the General Fund, the fund that operates the church, would run out of money around the middle of this year. My update today generally confirms that projection. The 2023 budget for the General Fund indicates we will exhaust the surplus balance brought into the year at the end of June. Now, for the first four months, the actual result has been better than budget, but that doesn't solve the problem. It will only serve to push the same outcome to later in the year.

The Finance Committee and Church Council have wrestled with this situation. In a desire to provide both the new pastor and, perhaps, a new director of Christian Education, a stable platform with which to work, the Church Council approved a three-year plan, beginning with 2023, in which any operating loss of the General Fund would be covered by earnings from the Permanent Endowment Fund. And, please note, I said 'earnings' of the P.E. Fund. Nothing is to come out of the principle. This plan will be reviewed at the end of each of the three years and modified if needed.

So, how did we get to this situation? There are many factors. Our church has a strong body of consistent, faithful givers, who support the church year in and year out. Many of those givers are here today. However, overall, our giving has been on a decline since 2017. You know the reasons for people discontinuing their giving better than I do. Each year, we have new givers that did not give in the prior year, but their gifts have not made up for the gifts lost. The irony is we see growth all around us in Solon yet we do not experience that growth.....in our membership, or our giving.

The recently completed congregational survey has "attracting new members" as a high priority.

So, how do we do this? Hudson Ludvigson, a former chair of the Finance Committee, used the term 'engagement'. We need to engage with the new people coming to town and attempt to re-engage with former church members. A lot of this will likely be defined by the Church Council and our new pastor. If these efforts are successful and new people come through the front door, then we all can do our part by being prepared to welcome a new generation of believers to a warm and welcoming church. We need new members for us to grow spiritually as a church and to inject a spiritual vitality into the congregation. We need to welcome people from different parts of the country and differing backgrounds allowing for a blending in and enhancement of the Christian spirit that exists here today. So, the bottom line is this - the situation we find ourselves in is not about the church getting, it's about the church giving – giving more love and hope and a relationship with Christ to people who need a church family. Each one of us needs to take ownership of this and do our part, in whatever manner that may be.



SUMC Finance Committee

General Fund Performance Report

SUMC's new comprehensive software package, ChurchTrac, allows members to view the status of their giving at any point in time. Just access SUMC's website at SolonUnitedMethodistChurch/churchtrac, click on the 'Sign In' at the upper right and click on 'Create an account' on the next page. Once your account is established, you will have access to your giving history. If you are having difficulty in establishing online access, please contact Lindy Hopp or Ivan Hasselbusch.

The following is a summarized report on the 2023 budget performance of the General Fund, the primary fund of the church that pays the expense of our programs and facilities.



January – April

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Giving	67,014	63,191
Other Income	<u>3,662</u>	<u>2,140</u>
Total Income	70,676	65,331
Expense	<u>81,243</u>	<u>89,976</u>
Net Result	(10,567)	(24,645)

UWF Summer Road Trip –July 11, 2023



United
Women
in Faith

On July 11 United Women in Faith will be taking their Summer Road Trip to Foundation 2 Crisis Services in Cedar Rapids. We will meet in Fellowship Hall to carpool at 9:30am. If you would like to join us please let Connie Railsback (319-430-9057 or railco@southslope.net) know for planning lunch counts with Groundswell.

All are welcome!

Foundation 2 is a nonprofit human service agency committed to positive youth development, suicide prevention, and helping build the foundation for stronger and healthier families and safer communities for everyone. Our services include a 24-hour crisis phone line, crisis chat and text, family counseling, mobile crisis outreach, an emergency youth shelter and independent living support for youth.



1714 Johnson Ave NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

LUNCH: Matthew 25's Groundswell Café
201 Third Ave SW, Cedar Rapids



GROUNDSWELL

Optional Stop after Lunch:

Location: 604 Ellis Blvd NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402



HEALTHY GROCERIES IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Affordable Food in the Time Check Neighborhood

Located in a former food desert, our non-profit grocery store offers a variety of fresh and affordable grocery staples, including produce, dairy, meat, and dry goods. Aid our mission by shopping at the store or donating to our free produce section to assist community members in need.

UWF Golden Valley Seminar

On Saturday, April 29, members of the United Women in Faith (UWF) attended Mission Day Apart at St. John's Methodist Church in Davenport provided by the UWF Golden Valley District. A day of history, education, music, food, fun and fellowship was enjoyed.

The sessions included:

- Three women of the Bible from their prospective
- Human Trafficking
- The life of Corrie Ten Boom and her book The Hiding Place

At the May UWF meeting the sessions were reviewed for those that were unable to attend.



The Hiding Place

The Triumphant True Story of Corrie Ten Boom



Cornelia Arnolda Johanna "Corrie" ten Boom
(April 15, 1892 – April 15, 1983) was a Dutch watchmaker and later a Christian writer and public speaker, who worked with her father, Casper ten Boom, her sister Betsie ten Boom and other family members to help many Jewish people escape from the Nazis during the Holocaust in World War II by hiding them in her home.



Those in attendance were;

Connie Keoppen, Deb Ruff,
Jeanne Erhart, Jan Stock and
Connie Railsback



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMWs brunch is scheduled for June 7th at 9:30AM at Barb's home. A road trip will take place sometime in July. Formal meetings will resume again in Sept.

Questions?
Contact Shirley at 319-541-0732 or
Barb at 319-321-4078!



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We will continue meeting Saturday mornings at 6:00 AM in Fellowship Hall and will prepare and cook breakfast the first Saturday of the month.

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



Prayers and Celebrations

Prayers

Tim and Denise Gregor—Brother-in-law who is battling cancer.

Verlee Lauderbaugh—Niece, Jill, who is having surgery on a disc in her back.

Sarah's Family, following her death and preparing for Celebration of Life.

Dina and Kirk Reynolds—Connie Reynolds who has been moved to hospice for cancer.

Sue Wilkinson—Wally who is battling throat cancer.

Betsy Saupe who was hospitalized with A-Fib issues.

Al Hulse who is once again battling pneumonia.

Travel mercies to Al and Mary Hunt.

Travel mercies to the Solon Archery Team traveling to Nationals in Kentucky.

Kalms—Fran and her family following her death.

Wilbur Erhart with ongoing health issues.

Mary Hunt who is healing from an ankle injury.

Sue Wilkinson—Prayers for the church and it's financial status.

Margaret Korpel, healing prayers as she is dealing with colon cancer.

Those affected by the lay offs in Cedar Rapids

Rejoices & Thanksgiving

Richard and Norma Novak celebrated their 61st Anniversary!

Sue and Joe Wilkinson celebrated their 45th Anniversary!

Sue Wilkinson—Phillip and his 800m race at Drake.

Tim and Denise Gregor—Amy who recently got married!

Yvonne Strang who is a Great Grandmother again!

Kirk Reynolds celebrating his retirement! Happy Mother's Day!

Thanks to the council and leadership for your work with the CAT survey.

Congratulations to Kate Richardson in being inducted into the National Honor Society!

Thank you for sharing your gifts, Angie and the SUMC Choir!

Congratulations to the 2023 Graduates!

Congratulations to Solon Girls Track who claimed the 3A State Championship Title!

Thank you to ALL school staff as we end the 2022-2023 school year.



June Birthdays

GREGOR, Timothy	06/01
MOTTINGER, Jaynie	06/01
SWARTZENDRUBER, Dee	06/01
ALLEN, Jeffrey	06/06
KLEINSMITH, Ely	06/06
SWAN, Garrett	06/06
JOHNSON, Reilly	06/07
SMITH, Abigail	06/07
HANSEN, Marilyn	06/09
ADAMS, Jack	06/11
NOVAK, Norma	06/11
PROFFITT, Jay	06/11
OAKES, Madden	06/12
EVANS, Don	06/13
JEDLICKA, Rick	06/13
REYNOLDS, Kirk	06/13
PUMPHREY, Coleen	06/15
GALLOWAY, Payton	06/17
GEGUZIS, Kay	06/18
GERDIN, Grant	06/19
HUNT, Allan	06/20
KLEINSMITH, Gidyon	06/21
RUNGE, Jordan	06/22
SCHAFFER, Catherine	06/23
NICOL, Scott	06/25
WILKINSON, Sue	06/25
ERHART, Clinton	06/26
JAURON, Emma	06/26
SHERMAN, Karen	06/27
DEIKE, Kamryn	06/29
TIEDEMANN, Henry	06/29
STEBRAL, Trey	06/30

Missions Committee

In May we:

- ◇ Collected monetary donations and items for Personal Dignity Kits for Turkey/Syrian people devastated by earthquakes.
- ◇ Collected donations for the Youth Mission trip occurring in June.

In June we will collect donations for Solon Senior Support.



Church Office Summer Hours

As we take a break from youth ministries, music, and family meals our staff has adjusted to a lower work load and teamed up to cover our office and save the church some funds! **The office remains open Monday and Thursday mornings.** Don't hesitate to reach out via email, Facebook Messenger or voicemail if needed!



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

Rev. Ken Ferguson, Lead Minister
Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Director
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Mary Kucera, Director of Hand Bells
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian
Lisa Hilton, Security



**Sunday Schedule
8:00 & 9:30 AM—Worship**

Church Phone: (319) 624-2288
Address: 122 North West St., Solon, IA 52333

Website: www.soloniaumc.org
Facebook: Solon United Methodist Church—Iowa
Instagram: soloniaumc