



A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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**SUMC will
transition to a
Summer Worship
schedule beginning
on July 2nd with
one service at
9:00AM.**

TELLING AND LISTENING TO OUR STORIES TO WELCOME EACH OTHER

Where do you come from? Who is your family? What do you do? What do you like? What's important to you?

These are some of the questions we might ask each other as we get to know someone we haven't met before. Quick answers can give us a small glimpse of someone, but they can also make it easy to just put the other person into boxes or categories, and we can pretend we know something about them. But when we take the time to listen to each other's stories, we get a much more nuanced and personal view, and we can usually appreciate more about the other person.

Our US culture right now is so polarized that it's easy to just want to know a few things about someone new, and then categorize each other about whether they are on the "right" side or whether we are like them. But when we slow down we can take the time to tell and listen to each other's stories. After hearing each other's stories we can understand more about where other people are coming from, and more of the nuances of what makes up who they are. And we can be more open to being changed by our relationship with them.

If you ask me, "Where do you come from?" I can say, "I grew up in the Chicago area." And you can place me geographically, and probably think of someone you know there, or a time you visited there.

Or I can tell you I was born in the midst of an adventure and tell you a story.

My mom and dad were engaged—living and working in New Jersey. My mom worked as a chemist. My dad worked for the Singer sewing machine company, and he was getting transferred to Germany. They decided to move up their wedding date so they could go on a European adventure together. They began their marriage taking the Queen Elizabeth II across the Atlantic and living in Germany. Not long after that, my dad got transferred to Helensburgh, Scotland—where I was born on Father's Day. Then we all moved back to Germany, and then to the US, to the Chicago area before I turned two.

Where I come from also includes awareness of my ancestors: the Garrigues side of the family moved to the US from southern France in the 1700's. (In French, Garrigues is pronounced Geh-reeg. It later got anglicized, so that now it rhymes with "asparagus.") Another side of my family came to the US on the Mayflower. Two of my mom's grandparents immigrated here from the Ukraine. And my dad's mother's family name is McNabb, with Scottish ancestry. So both because of being born in Scotland, and therefore a dual US and UK citizen, and awareness of my ancestry, I have a sense of being a world citizen. I have taken language lessons in German, French, Spanish, Hebrew, and Scottish Gaelic, although I don't speak any of them fluently.

I can also tell you where I come from spiritually. My parents were connected to the Methodist/United Methodist church my whole life. I grew up in the smallest of three United Methodist churches in Elmhurst, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago, where my parents were very active in leadership, and sang in the

Worship Schedule

July 2 Communion

Scripture: John 6:30-37, Matthew 13:33, Luke 4:1-4, Luke 24:13-35

Message: Nourished by the Bread of Life
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

July 9

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30, Luke 10:38-42, Mark 4:1-9

Message:
Fresh Greens: Bountiful Harvest
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

July 16

Scripture: TBD

Message: TBD by Lynn Brown

July 23

Scripture: John 6:8-13, Matthew 22:1-5, 8-10, Luke 15:11-15, 18-24

Message: Preparing for a Feast
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

July 30

Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 10:30-37

Message: Being Salt and Adding Spice
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues



continued

started singing in the adult choir before I was in high school. My Sunday school classes were small, and I attended the adult Sunday school class while I was in high school—so I had lots of good discussions about faith with the teachers or with adults in the church. My mom’s dad taught a 40 person Sunday school class for many years, so he basically gave a Bible lesson (basically a sermon) and prayers and hymns every week. He was my family example for becoming a minister.

So I have a very strong United Methodist background, including attending a United Methodist seminary when I decided to become a minister. But I have also worked in settings with people of other Christian denominations, with people of other faiths, and with people who don’t believe in God, or are on an ongoing journey of working out what they believe.

I don’t tell you all these details about myself just so you can know me better. I tell them as an example and as a reminder that if we take time to share our stories with one another, and to be curious about one another’s stories, we can have a much richer journey together. I hope to begin to hear many of your stories! We can start to imagine new possibilities for our life together. We may even have fun!

I hope to begin hearing some of your stories at the Meet and Greet sessions that are being organized for July in various member’s homes!

Jesus took time with people, and didn’t accept society’s simple categories of who was right and good, or who was important. He welcomed children. He lifted up women. He ate with “tax collectors and sinners.” He told stories of everyday farmers and shepherds. He reached out to people of other cultures and faiths. He invited people to “come and follow.” Jesus invited people to journey with him on an adventure, and to learn new things, live in new ways, and to see God with fresh eyes.

I hope that in our time together we can be travelling companions on a journey with Jesus, telling and listening to each other’s stories, sharing meals and nourishing each other, encouraging each other to let our light shine, and reaching out with love and healing and hope to our neighbors both near and far.



Pastor Peggy

May 28

8:00AM

25

9:30 AM

17

Total

42

June 4

15

21

36

June 11

28

45

73

June 18

19

22

41

June 25

26

13

39

Worship Attendance

The church office will be closed
June 29th to July 6th
for staff vacation. Emails will be
checked remotely during this time.

For you have been called to live in freedom...use your freedom to serve one another in love. Galatians 5:13

Graduation Sunday

On Sunday May 21st we celebrated our 2023 Graduates at SUMC. Graduates donned their cap and gown and were presented with gifts from the United Women in Faith. Washcloths with a hidden inspirational message were presented to each graduate. Read below to see the meaning behind this thoughtful gift.

This washcloth is given with love and with the hope you will do works of goodness with it just as the Savior did so many years ago.

May the absorbing spirit of God's love blot your problems, soak up your sorrows and wipe away difficulties. May your journey in life be always bright and shining in your work and love towards others.

Sincerely,

The United Methodist Women

Congratulations to our

2023 Graduates:

Briana Kerkove

Kale Mostrom

Adam Smith

Garret Swan

Luke Woessner



Happy Retirement Pastor Ken!

Last fall Pastor Ken announced that he would be retiring in June of 2023. On Sunday June 11th we celebrated, and bid him farewell. We enjoyed some pictures from his years here, shared cake, and memories during fellowship time. The congregation came together with donations to present Pastor Ken with a retirement gift of a \$550 gift card to get his woodshop going! We wish Pastor Ken and Chrisa the best and thank you for your time here at SUMC!



HAPPY
retirement

General Fund Performance

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 <https://soloniaumc.churchtrac.com/> 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 the office 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

		January - May:	
		Actual	Budget
Income:			
Pledges & Offerings	Pledges & Offerings	79,135	76,844
Other		<u>3,461</u>	<u>2,225</u>
Total Income	Total Income	82,596	79,069
Expense			
		<u>103,195</u>	<u>113,476</u>
Net Result		(20,599)	(34,407)



Beef Days Luncheon 2023

Beef Days is right around the corner!

Mark your calendars for July 21st and 22nd!

SUMC will host the Beef Days Luncheon once again. The Luncheon will be on Saturday the 16th from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM.



**SOLON
BEEF DAYS**

Last year it was a huge success and we are looking for a repeat! In order for that to happen we NEED volunteers like you! Are you interested in donating items and wanting to sign up to help? Signups are on the clipboard! Stop in the church and sign up or use our online sign ups! [Donations Sign Up HERE](#) [Volunteer Sign Up HERE](#)

The Beef Days Luncheon helps support our Youth Mission Trip.

Let's show the community how Solon UMC comes together and puts on a great event!

As always, many hands make light work!

Community Garden

Work has begun on the Community Garden! Soon we will be harvesting; zucchini, eggplant, cucumbers, peppers, white potatoes, sweet potatoes and onions

The garden has made use of the Solon City mulch and that is currently helping keep the moisture in the ground after watering. This should help with the water bills supporting this mission.

The produce will be harvested on Monday's and provided to the Solon Food Pantry. Later week harvesting and excess Monday harvests will be delivered to Solon Community Housing.

We have a lot to be grateful for;

Those who came before us to nurture the soil

Liz Kroul's family who provide plants for the garden

The city of Solon for mulch and Dave Richards for the delivery

Those offering to help with harvesting, Wayne Anderson

Congregational support with funding and especially prayers

2023 Garden Team lead by Audrey Howell and Carol Richards,

support by Connie Railsback

Most importantly GOD who strengthens us!



Congrats Solon UMC Women In Faith!

The Solon United Women in Faith group has one again been awarded the **Barbara Csomay Be Bold Grant!** This grant is awarded annually by Iowa Conference United Methodist Women. This year the **Solon UWF received \$1,000.00**, the top amount awarded, for their upcoming service and work in the community.

Thank you Solon Women in Faith for all you do for our church, Solon, and far beyond!



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! RSVP BY JUNE 30TH

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.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We meet Saturday mornings at 6 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The first Saturday of the month we meet for breakfast! Come join us!

Contact Mike Turner at 624-2061 for more information.

Prayers and Celebrations

In Our Prayers

Continue prayers for Margaret Korpel, who is healing from colon cancer.
Deb Ruff's Mom as Larry is undergoing chemotherapy treatments
Travel mercies for Verlee & Arnie & their family.
Travel mercies for Jay & Helen Proffitt.
Our Congregation as we transition to a new Pastor.
Our new UMC Bishop in bringing everyone healing, hope, & optimism.
Doris Tritle, for daughter-in-law, Jessica.
Jen Hawks, for Fred Mally, healing prayers.
Ken and Chrisa as they settle into retirement.
Charles Whetstine as he begins radiation.
Mary Gruber, prayers that medicine will break up a kidney stone.
Travel mercies to Cathy Boggs traveling to see grandbabies.

Rejoices & Thanksgiving

Welcome summer 2023, let us take time to slow down and enjoy family and friends.
Prayers of thanks for Donna filling in with her beautiful piano playing!
Thank you for our friends and family.
The beauty of nature that God has provided.
Congrats to first time Grandparents, Phil & Tawnia Kakacek!
Amen to the much need rain!
Praises to moving to one worship service.

Do you have a Prayer Request?

Please include it on the Communication Card in the pews, or call or email the church office at (319) 624-2288, soloniaumc@gmail.com.

WANTED: A volunteer to serve as backup to Paul Saupe to make the weekly deposit of cash and checks to SUMC's bank account.

Duties: prepare the deposit ticket for currency, coins and checks received in the past week. Prepare a summary report of amounts received and the purpose of the gift.

Make copies of all checks received as support for SUMC's copy of the deposit ticket.

Take the deposit to the bank

Time Requirements: 1/2 to 1 1/2 hours per week, preferably on Monday morning.

Frequency: this need exists only for the limited times Paul is not in Solon to prepare the deposit. Best estimated would be 3 - 4 times within a year.

Skill Requirement: any church member can do this. Bookkeeping/accounting knowledge not required.

Compensation: satisfaction that you are helping the church do a small but critical task!

July Birthdays

MECHTENSIMER, Gary	07/01
RYAN, Taylor	07/01
SILBERSTEIN, Kathryn	07/01
SILBERSTEIN, Neil	07/01
RICHARDS, Jill	07/04
WEETMAN, Eric	07/05
SCHMIDT, Grayson	07/12
ERHART, Jeanne	07/15
FIALA, Grace	07/20
FIALA, Mary	07/20
RANARD, Allison	07/20
UTHOFF, Susan	07/20
WHEELER, Wendy	07/20
PUETTMANN, Karla	07/23
REYNOLDS, Dena	07/24
DVORSKY, Brooklyn	07/25
KAKACEK, Phil	07/25
MOSES, Madelyn	07/26
NOVAK, Richard	07/27
NOSKA, Junior	07/28
LYMAN, Emily	07/31



Weekly Worship Volunteer Sign-Up

Want to help out at SUMC, but can't commit in the evening or every week? Check out our Weekly Worship Volunteer sign up. You can sign up for any Sunday service to provide services for greeting, ushering, acolyte duties, running the visuals or even providing baked goods for fellowship. All these bits and pieces are very important, but don't take a lot of your time. Please consider volunteering!



Check out our online sign up [HERE](#)

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

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, Lead Pastor 319-855-7911
pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org

Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Ministry
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Mary Kucera, Director of Hand Bells
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian
Lisa Hilton, Security



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
July and August 9:00 AM

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