



The CIRCUIT RIDER

MARCH 2024

A Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

In This Issue

- pg 1 Pastor's Message
- pg 2 Worship Schedule
- pg 2 Music Ministry
- pg 2 Worship Attendance
- pg 3 Annual Soup Supper
- pg 4 Easter Festivities
- pg 5 Christian Education
- pg 5 Valentine's Dinner
- pg 6 Youth Group Fundraiser
- pg 6 UWF & UMM
- pg 7 UWF Missions Updates
- pg 8 Johnson County Energy
- pg 8 Women's Retreat
- pg 9 Welcome Home!
- pg 9 Attention Seniors
- pg 9 Loose Change Adds Up!
- pg 10 Spring Break 2024
- pg 10 April Showers
- pg 10 PE Scholarship
- pg 10 Last Family Meal
- pg 11 Prayers/Joys
- pg 11 March Birthdays

Reflections from Pastor Peggy

It's not too late to join in reading through the Gospel of Luke as a congregation during Lent! You can find a copy of the schedule of readings [here](#) or pick one up in the entryway at the church. Luke's gospel is unique in its focus on how Jesus lifts up those who are on the margins—the outsiders, outcasts, and outlaws. Our Monday night Bible study, Sunday morning adult class, and the youth group are all using Adam Hamilton's study on the gospel of Luke, which has this focus on how Jesus lifted up those who were pushed down or pushed aside or not valued.

Some of how Jesus taught was through parables—simple stories that offer a spiritual lesson. In many of those parables, especially in Luke, there are surprises and reversals. In the Good Samaritan, it is the outsider who is the good neighbor to the man who was attacked on the road. It is the poor man, Lazarus, who goes to heaven, while the rich man who ignored Lazarus, right outside his door, is tormented “in Hades” after he died.

As we move through Lent, may we reflect on who today is being pushed down, pushed aside, not valued, or just facing major challenges. How can we offer a sign of good news and resurrection to them? How can we accompany them in the burdens they bear, and offer signs of new life and hope?

Jesus chose to allow himself to be pushed down, made fun of, arrested, beaten, and killed on a cross in order to stand up for the love God offers to us all. As we tell the stories of Jesus' journey to the cross, and then of the resurrection this Lent and Easter, may we be open to surprises and reversals. May we find Jesus accompanying us through the challenges to new life, may we find ways to accompany those who are outcast to find hope, and may we be open to see those who are outsiders inspiring us to greater love in Jesus' name.

At Easter we celebrate one of the greatest reversals—the joy of resurrection that follows after the agony of suffering and the grief of death and dashed hopes.

Pastor Peggy





Worship SCHEDULE

It is March! It always feels that March is the turning point, “In like a lion and out like a lamb”. So it is with our spiritual life as well. We come into Lent tired of the winter, grouchy, and waiting for the light to awaken us again. Through Lent we process through the quietness and contemplativeness. When we arrive on the other end we are truly ready for the joy and beauty of Easter and the season of Spring.

Our musical selections will be showing this transformation as well. Please join us for so much beautiful music this month during Lent as well as on Easter Sunday!

Sunday, March 3 - The Chancel Choir will sing a beautiful arrangement of John Steiner’s, “God So Loved the World”.

Sunday, March 10 - Bell Choir will open with “People Need the Lord” and then play “10,000 Reasons”, arranged for bells.

Sunday, March 17 - TBD

Sunday, March 24 - Chancel Choir will enter with palms and later sing “Blessed Is He Who Comes”. John McFarland will sing, “The Holy City (Jerusalem)”

Sunday, March 31, Easter - Chancel Choir will open with “Jesus Christ, Is Risen Today.” The special music will be “This Glorious Easter Day!”

Enjoy the music of March and welcome the process of seasonal and liturgical change through our music. Join us!

Angie Grecian-Bransky



March 3 –Communion
Scripture: Luke 18:9-14 & Luke 15:11-32
Message: *Parables from the Underside*

March 10—No Sunday School
Scripture: Luke 9:51-53 & Luke 17:11-17
Message: *On the Journey to Jerusalem*

March 17
Scripture: Luke 19:1-10 & Luke 22:24-27
Message: *The Final Week*

March 24 –Palm & Passion Sunday
Scripture: Luke 22:32-49
Message: *Crucified with the Outlaws*

March 28
Maundy Thursday Service w/Choir
7:00 PM

March 31 –Easter Sunday
7:00 AM & 9:00 AM
Scripture: Luke 24:1-35
Message: *Resurrected Life*

February

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

February 4	47
February 11	62
February 18	60
February 25	50

faith

Come

W O R S H I P
W I T H U S

S U N D A Y S
9 A M

ANNUAL SOLON
UNITED METHODIST Church
SOUP SUPPER

Saturday, March 2nd



Adults -\$10, Children -\$5
(12 and under)

Meal served from 5:00-7:00 PM

Menu

**Chicken Noodle Soup or Chili
Hot Dogs, Dessert, and Beverages**

Solon United Methodist Church, 122 N West Street, Solon, Iowa 52333 (319) 624-2288

Holiday Worship Services

March 24	Palm Sunday	9:00 AM	
March 28	Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM	
March 31	Easter Sunday	7:00 AM	Sunrise service
			Following 7AM Service Easter Breakfast
		9:00 AM	Worship



..."and very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back"...

EASTER BREAKFAST CAMP FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, May 31st



Join us for our Annual Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday following the 7AM service.

Donations from this event will go towards the Camp Fund providing scholarships to SUMC Youth for Summer Camp! Enjoy breakfast after our Sunrise Service or come eat before 9:00 AM worship.

Bake goods donations for the breakfast may be dropped off to the serving island in Fellowship Hall on Friday or on Sunday morning before 7:30 AM.



Easter is right around the corner!
We are planning a fun
Easter event. On March 27th, right
after the Wednesday Night Family Meal, we will be having
an

EASTER EGG HUNT!

This event will take place at 6:30 over in the garden area at the FLC.

To support this event we will need candy donations! If you would like to donate, please drop candy off to the church office by March 20th.

Christian Education

Blessings be upon you this season of Lent!

Our youth are growing by leaps and bounds in their faith. Our junior and senior youth group have joined the Lenten study as they continue studying the Bible. The youth served the family meal on Valentine's day as part of a fundraiser for their mission trip. We have started to work with local agencies to see what local missions/projects they can participate in.



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom
come, thy will be done, on earth, as it
is in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen



Our Treasure Seekers continue their study about Jesus' life. They are currently learning about the Lord's Prayer and how to sign the prayer in American Sign Language. The class will sign the prayer as the family meal grace on March 6th. Come see what they have learned and stay for a great meal. Besides Learning the Lord's Prayer they are participating in the Lenten Study as well. Please take a minute and go downstairs to see the bulletin board the students help create.

Our children's Sunday school class is learning about how Jesus taught his disciples how to spread God's love and the events leading up to his crucifixion and Easter.

*Peace,
Dee Swartzendruber*

Youth Group Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser

More than sixty people enjoyed a delicious Valentine's dinner of roasted pork with cherry sauce, rosemary roasted potatoes, almond green bean salad, rolls and desserts with the proceeds going towards our upcoming Youth Mission Trip. Thanks to the extremely generous donations, we raised more than \$1,000! Many thanks to the Richards family, especially Chef Dave, for preparing the meal!

Our youth helped with set up, meal prep, serving our guests and cleanup afterwards. Many thanks to these energetic youth, as well: Kate, Mary and Tess Richards, Ryan Locke, Tanner Kerkove and Toby Kleinsmith! Our youth group continues to grow from our start in September, with up to nine youth attending each week.

Please support our ongoing coffee cake fundraiser as well. We'll have order forms after worship on March 3rd and also at the family meal on February 28th.

Again, many thanks!

Leeann Gilroy
Sue Wilkinson
Youth Group Leaders



Mission Trip Fundraiser—Round 2!

You may have seen them...maybe even tasted them...and you can still order them!

The SUMC Youth Group is taking orders for Dave's Coffee Cakes through March 3rd! If you'd like to help out a good cause, AND get something in return, please ask our youth about this fundraiser.

The coffee cakes are \$22 per cake, with \$5.50 going right to our youth to be used for a future mission trip.

Please make checks payable to Solon UMC.

Payments are due to Sue Wilkinson no later than Sunday March 3rd.

Coffee cakes will be delivered to the church on Wednesday March 20th and can be picked up at Family Meal that evening or after worship on Sunday March 24th. Arrangements may be made if either of these dates do not work for your schedule.

The SUMC Youth Group thanks you for your support!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

The UWF will meet March 6th at 1:30 in the Fellowship Hall, and Nadine Sojka has the lesson. Hostesses are Connie Railsback and Connie Koeppen. Bingo is 3/21 at the Solon Care Center at 1:45 with Cookies supplied by Verlee Lauderbaugh.

Interested in joining? Contact Shirley Anderson, swanderson@southslope.net or Verlee Lauderbaugh at gverleeretired@hotmail.com



United
Women
in Faith

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. We continue to meet every Saturday morning at 6 AM in fellowship hall. Breakfast is prepared the first Saturday of the month and we focus on the Upper Room ministry for our discussions.

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



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith (UWF) Missions Completed in January and February

Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center

The February UWF Workday was held on Tuesday, February 13 when seven women were joined by one student to create 75 heart pillows for cancer patients at Helen G. Nassif Community Cancer Center (St Luke's). A fun time of sharing was enjoyed by all.

The **next workday will be Tuesday, March 12**, when we will again work on stuffing and finishing pillows for distribution to one of: UIHC, Gilda's Club in Davenport, UIHC Downtown or the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center (Mercy CR). We will meet in our usual place, the Wesley Room in Family Life Center from 8:30-11:30, with coffee and treats provided. Bring nothing but your attitude of giving. All are welcome to participate.



St. Lukes Birthing Center - Verlee Lauderbaugh created and delivered 18 baby hats for the St. Lukes Birthing Center. If you would like to participate in this mission work contact Verlee.

Olivet Neighborhood Mission - Women's and Men's clothing, shopping totes, blankets and valentine treat packages were delivered in January and February.

Foundation 2- Blankets (3 XL Twin) and valentine treat packages (24) were delivered.

Willis Dady Shelter, Cedar Rapids -Blankets (19) were delivered.

Shelter House Iowa City - Gently used books (122), puzzles (19) , CDs (20) and DVDs (91) were delivered for their upcoming book sale in support of the Shelter House.



LEARN HOW TO SAVE MONEY ON UTILITY BILLS

How to Save Money on Your Utility Bills – in a More Comfortable Home

Johnson Clean Energy District (JCED) is offering free home energy audits and energy coaching to help you reduce your utility bills and make your home warmer and less drafty. Come hear about how you can make your home more energy efficient with federal incentives paying part of the cost! The federal incentives are especially generous for low-and-moderate-income households.

JCED will provide a brief informational presentation at the **Solon United Methodist Church on Monday, March 25th starting at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.** In addition to learning about new technologies for energy efficiency and the federal incentives to utilize them, you will gain information about how to sign up for a free home energy audit.

Please reach out to Joni Howland with questions regarding the March 25th informational presentation (jhowland@mtmercy.edu). For more information about JCED and our Good Energy Newsletter, please go to

<https://johnsoncleanenergydistrict.org/>



Those who attend the energy saving workshop
get a free package of LED lightbulbs!

WESLEY WOODS CAMP WOMEN'S RETREAT

Come join us for a weekend away filled with solid teaching from God's word, rest from responsibility, and fun with your friends! You won't have to lift a finger! Delicious food, encouraging worship, and a dynamic speaker, Pastor Lana Williams from Ankeny 1st UMC, who will leave you ready to return to your home, families and work feeling refreshed. This annual spring retreat is for women ages 16 and older.

Learn more and register at:

www.wesleywoodsiowa.org/women's-retreat

The graphic is a promotional poster for the 2024 Women's Retreat. At the top, it says 'WESLEY WOODS CAMP + RETREAT CENTER' in small white letters. Below that is a small white tree icon followed by '2024' in large green letters. The main title 'WOMEN'S RETREAT' is in large, bold, green letters with a white outline. Below the title, the dates and pricing are listed: 'MAY 10-11, 2024 \$150 EARLY BIRD (BY 4/1) OR \$175'. A circular inset photo shows a smiling woman with red hair, identified as Lana Williams. At the bottom, a white box contains the text: 'GUEST SPEAKER: LANA WILLIAMS ASSOCIATE PASTOR ANKENY FIRST UMC'. The background of the graphic is a photograph of a woman sitting in a field of tall grass, with her hands clasped in prayer.

Welcome Home LT Erin Whitfield!

Don and Lisa Evans and Erin and Tyler Whitfield would like to extend a big thank you for the cards, prayers and support during Erin's deployment. She is now stateside and was even home the end of the last month for bit. Erin's husband Tyler is still deployed, so keep the prayers coming.!



Attention Parents of Seniors

SUMC is beginning preparations for Graduation Sunday, May 19th! If you are a senior, or have a senior student, we need to hear from you! Each year we recognize our seniors during worship and present a slideshow during service.



Please contact the office at soloniaumc@gmail.com We would like to collect a baby picture and senior picture of your graduate.

Reminder: Loose Change Adds Up!



Just a friendly reminder that loose change placed in the offering plate becomes designated for a local mission account. Periodically, the Missions Committee will use the loose change amounts collected to benefit local charities.....generally in the Solon or Iowa City communities.

Let's hear the sound of your coins hitting the offering plate!

Spring Break Office Hours/Activities

Solon Spring Break is
March 8th through
March 17th.



There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday March 10th.
There will be NO Family Meal and NO Youth Activities on Wednesday March 13th.

The Church office will have modified hours during spring break. If you need anything, please contact the office via email or stop in Tuesday morning. We hope that everyone is able to take time to enjoy some downtime with their family and friends during this time!

Planning Ahead: April Showers



You know the saying...while this shower is a little different but can have the same flowery outcome. Let's shower; the church with love and gifts this April! It may be a bit early, but Spring is on the way and is such an exciting time of year. See the list of items below and if able donate an item or two.

We'll have a table set up in Fellowship Hall after Spring Break to start collecting items. We appreciate your donations!

Examples of Items to donate:

- Small paper dessert plates
- Napkins for fellowship
- Country Time Lemonade
- Copy Paper
- Stamps
- Posit-It Notes
- Plastic Table Cloths
- Retractable pens

Permanent Endowment Scholarship

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

DEADLINE is APRIL 1st!



LAST NIGHT OF WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES: APRIL 24TH

JOIN US FOR A COOKOUT! WEATHER PENDING, WE'LL EAT OUTSIDE, ENJOY GAMES AND MUSIC AND FELLOWSHIP AS WE CLOSE THE 2022 SCHOOL YEAR ACTIVITIES! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



PRAYERS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Our Prayers

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

Larry Meister fell recently, and has a lot of uncomfortable bruising. He hopes to be back in Sunday services soon.

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

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.

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

Larry Meister fell recently, and has a lot of uncomfortable bruising.

Gail Kirchner, her legs are very painful.

Patty Lau, on chemotherapy, but now has fallen and injured her shoulder.

Deb Ruff and family—Deb’s mother who passed away while visiting Texas.

Sue Wilkinson lifted prayers for Ankeny Centennial school, where grandchild attends, they had a bomb threat this week.

Prayers of continued recovery and rehabilitation to Pastor Peggy and Jill Mack following their respective surgeries.

Darcy Miller asked for prayers of comfort & healing to the family & friends of Karen Ciha who passed away.

Dan & Cathy Boggs lifted up prayers of healing as several of their family members recently contracted Covid.

Prayer of thanks to Paul Saupe for the purchase of a medical device designed specifically to save choking victims.

Continued prayers for our world in that all must learn how to live together and be in communion with God.

Dan & Cathy Boggs lifted up prayers of healing as several of their family members recently contracted Covid.

Jeanne Erhart’s brother Bud in hospital from blood clots.

Susan Whetstine – in hospital with heart issues, her husband Charles has cancer.

The family of Matt Ferguson who died from a heart attack.

The family of Kim Bulecheck recently passed away.

The Anthony family – caretakers at the Raptor

Center, where there was a fire, and several of the birds died.

Continued prayers for our world in that all must learn how to live together.

Pastor Peggy with her continued foot rehab and battling a stomach bug.

Wilbur Erhart recovering from a recent fall.

John McFarland contending with a throat issue.

Renee Lunemann for upcoming knee surgery.

Connie Koeppen healing and rehab from a shoulder injury.

Deb Ruff asked for prayers for her Mom’s husband, Larry, following his wife’s death and the uncertainty that lies ahead.

Traveling mercies, especially for our young people in their comings and goings.

Dee S. as she remembers her mother by providing altar flowers.

Joys & Celebrations

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

Dee Swartzendruber lifted gratitude for working with Pastor Peggy.

Prayers of gratitude also for Dee, and for all the children, youth and families in our church.

Mt. Vernon and Solon girls’ basketball teams for making it to State.

Sue Wilkinson lifted up her niece Erica and husband Adam as they announced they are expecting!

“Let my prayer stand before you like incense; let my uplifted hands be like the evening offering.”

PSALM 141:2



March Birthdays

Sherman, Caroline	03/01
Evans, Lisa	03/02
Kakacek, Tawnia	03/04
Ruff, Abigail	03/05
Connelly, Kent	03/06
Johnson, Jude	03/07
Lindemann, Jerry	03/07
Folkerts, Matthew	03/09
Sargent, Emily	03/09
Deike, Brynn	03/11
Erhart, Wilbur	03/13
Feldkamp, Kellie	03/13
Moses, Grant	03/13
Janssen, Jillian	03/17
Noska, Loren	03/17
Wheeler, Tyson	03/17
Strang, Tracy	03/18
Wilkinson, Joe	03/18
McAtee, Jerry L.	03/21
Richards, Carol	03/25
Feldkamp, Lary	03/26
Tiedemann, Kate	03/27
Koeppen, Connie	03/28



MARCH CIRCUIT RIDER

Return Service Requested

*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

**Welcome
Connect
ignite
Love**



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
8:00 & 9:30 AM—Worship
9:30 AM —Sunday School
**No Sunday School March 12th*
10:15 AM , FLC -Adult Sunday School

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