



The

Circuit Rider

October 2023

In This Issue

- pg 1 Reflections from Pastor Peggy
- pg 2 Music Ministry
- pg 2 Worship Schedule/Attendance
- pg 3 SUMC action!
- pg 4 Adult Sunday School
- pg 4 Youth Group
- pg 4 Kids Corner!!
- pg 5 Trustees
- pg 5 Missions Updates
- pg 6 UWF Missions Update
- pg 6 UWF & UMM
- pg 7 Maui Wildfire Relief
- pg 8 SUMC Bell Choir
- pg 8 Solon Senior Support
- pg 9 Worship Volunteering
- pg 9 Family Meals
- pg 9 Students/Military
- pg 10 Community Events
- pg 11 Prayers & Joys
- pg 11 October Birthdays!

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

October begins with a reminder that we are connected to Christians around the world, with World Communion Sunday on October 1. That will also be the last Sunday of our series called "Come to the Table." We'll celebrate with a potluck brunch after worship. Especially consider bringing a breakfast or lunch dish from another country.

On October 8 we will begin with a series of services focused on stewardship, gifts, and giving, with the theme, "God's Gifts, Our Hands." Look forward to hearing from several people about why they give to Solon United Methodist Church, and we hope to arrange some special music and presentations from youth and others with special talents.

We have not yet found a Christian Education Director, and I have heard that there is a wider shortage of applicants for Christian Ed positions. So we may need to rethink how to design a staff position to cover some of the needed coordination tasks for good programming, while using people we can find locally, and working more with volunteers to actually lead the programming.

We have gotten off to a good start with Sunday school and the after-school Treasure Seekers program, the Family Dinners, and the youth group with mostly volunteers. We also have a new adult Bible study class that has started on Wednesday evenings: Journey through the Bible. All of these thanks to many, many volunteers!

On October 15, the Council will have an information and conversation session after the service, to share some of the topics we have been discussing, and directions we have been looking for our church. It will include a financial update, proposals that will be voted on at the charge conference, what we need to assess how to make the best use of the parsonage, and looking at goals for the future, among other things.

On Thursday evening, October 26, will be our Circuit Charge Conference—eight churches meeting together, and it will include an educational component, to learn about family ministries. All Solon UMC members are encouraged to attend, to meet our new District Superintendent, Rev. Brian Oliver, and learn about what some of the other churches in our circuit are doing.

On Sunday October 29, we will conclude our focus on Stewardship and Giving and probably have some kind of celebration after the service. Details are still to be decided.

We will celebrate All Saints' Day the first Sunday in November.

God is doing many things in our midst, and surprising us with joy and healing and new possibilities.

Pastor Peggy



The Circuit Rider

THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING, AND A SEASON FOR EVERY ACTIVITY UNDER THE HEAVENS.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



MUSIC MINISTRY

Can you feel the weather changing? Only last week as I stood in the sanctuary and looked out towards the south I could see a tree changing its colors. There it was - the bright red of a maple tree that always seems to be one of the first that I see each year. In my own yard, many leaves are just turning brown and dropping with the lack of moisture this summer. It's another signal that nothing stays the same. We are constantly in motion and evolving.

With all of this movement we often forget to take a moment to breathe deeply and reflect. I am hugely guilty of this. I love the refrain of the old hymn, "It is Well with My Soul". It is a melody that you can't rush. It is slow and forces us to take a few moments to sing the words: It is well...with my soul,...it is well, it is well with my soul.

Take some time this month to reflect and time to sing. No one has to hear you! Just sing for yourself. Meditation experts tell us to choose a phrase to repeat. Why not, "It is well with my soul"? In case you are curious, the hymn is found in the United Methodist Hymnal on page 377. Enjoy!

Musically
Ange Grecian-Bransky




Sunday Worship Schedule

October 1

World Communion Day
International Potluck after Worship

Message :

Come to the Table of Joy

Acts 2:1-4, 43-47 &

Matthew 6:30-34

October 8

**Message: God's Gift, Our Hands-
 Love Deeply**

1 Peter 4:8 & Ruth 1:15-18, 22

October 15

**Message: God's Gifts, Our Hands –
 Offer Hospitality**

1 Peter 4:9 & Genesis 18:1-12

October 22

Third Grade Bible Presentations
Message: God's Gifts, Our Hands –

**Use Whatever Gift You Have to
 Serve Others**

1 Peter 4:10 & John 4:7-10, 27-29, 39

October 29

**Message: God's Gifts, Our Hands –
 Serve with the Strength God Provides**

1 Peter 4:11 & Acts 5:12-16

Worship Attendance—September 2023

9:00AM

September 3	44
September 10	83
September 17	48
September 24	65

HE sees US
 HE loves US
 HE hears US
 PSALM 116:1-2

FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I WITH THEM. -MATTHEW 18:20



SUNDAY SCHOOL



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is underway and that means Adult Sunday School is too! Join in on the Wesley class in the LL of the Family Life Center, Sundays at 10:15AM. All are welcome, we hope to see you there!



MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP IS BACK!

A combined (for now) middle and high school youth group is meeting Wednesdays from 6:15 to 7:30 PM at the Family Life Center, upper floor. Leaders are LeeAnn Gilroy and Sue Wilkinson.

For our first week, five youth were present and we engaged in a great discussion about what they hoped to experience in youth group.

Following that discussion, the leaders decided on a study of the life of Christ, chronologically from birth to death. using a guide that will challenge our youth to think about their opinions, learn about themselves and grow in their faith. We hope to get involved in some community projects as well.



We welcome any youth to join us, whether they are currently involved with our church or just want to learn more about their faith!

YOUTH GROUP



Attention Parents! Be sure to check out the newly redesigned Kids Corner in Fellowship Hall! Barb Kalm, Connie Railsback and Carol Richards have spent some time recovering the table, organizing shelving, and stocking the Kids Corner with activities for the little ones. We hope this area allows your children some entertainment while you enjoy fellowship or attend meetings.

Please help us by tidying up after use. Enjoy!



TRUSTEES UPDATE

The Trustees wish to thank the following for their church support!

- Thanks to Ruben Galvan and Wayne Anderson for cleaning and waxing the FLC gym floor, the floor looks fabulous!
- Thanks to Julie Hauser, Barb/Dolfi Kalm and Verlee Lauderbaugh for maintenance of the church/FH building flower beds!
- Thanks to Al Hulse for continuous facility repair needs!



Blessings to all,
Paul Miller- Trustees Chairperson

WARM WINTER WEAR DRIVE 2023

The Consultation of Religious Communities of Iowa City are collecting winter clothing and winter outerwear. Time to clean out your closets! Bring your donations to church narthex by Tuesday, October 10, 8:00am. On Tuesday those items will be delivered to their Southgate location. The donations will be sorted and displayed for shoppers when they arrive on Wednesday – Saturday, October 11-14.



Note: The donation tote for school kits will be removed to support this event. If you have products for this opportunity contact Connie Railsback, railco@southslope.net.

MISSIONS: STUDENT KIT PRODUCTS FOR MIDWEST MISSION



SENDING HOPE AND EMPOWERMENT
around the world and around the corner



Thank you
Your supplies have shipped

FOR YOU HAVE BEEN MY HELP, AND IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS, I WILL SING FOR JOY.
PSALM 63:7

In 2022 you donated scissors, erasers, colored pencils, crayons, pencils, rulers, pencil sharpeners, notebooks and book bags to Midwest Mission for the creation of Student Kits valued at \$1,370.15.

Our products were combined with other donations to create the Student Kits. We just received notification from Midwest Mission that because of your generosity 2,520 Student Kits were provided to Michael's Mission in MD. Michael's Mission is based out of Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Maryland. They reach out to their local community to provide basic necessities.

From Midwest Mission: "Thank you to all our donors and mission volunteers who purchased and assembled these essential kits that show God's love in a practical way. For every dollar spent in 2022, \$7.85 of supplies were shipped. Every kit assembled at Midwest Mission is made by a volunteer. Without your dedication, we would not be able to continue to help others."

Thank you to all who supported!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH— MISSIONS UPDATE

UWF Missions: Willis Dady Homeless Shelter

The following was a plea made by the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter during the extreme temperatures in August.

With the rising temperatures expected to last for days, the Willis Dady Shelter says they do not have bed space available for the local homeless population who are out in the heat.

Cedar Rapids' homeless population has seen a 600% increase since, leaving local shelters scrambling to get resources out as best they can.

Denine Rushing is the shelter services director at Willis Dady. She says this summer heat left them limited for bed space all summer long.

"We have a total of about 30 single men's beds, and then we have 10 beds for veterans, and we also have four units where we shelter single women and families. And right now, our beds have been staying full," she said. Willis Dady is the only male shelter in Linn County.

"Water is a big thing, especially right now. So if anyone is able to donate cases of water we can always use those,"

Two cases of water (100 bottles) were immediately provided by UWF to the shelter.

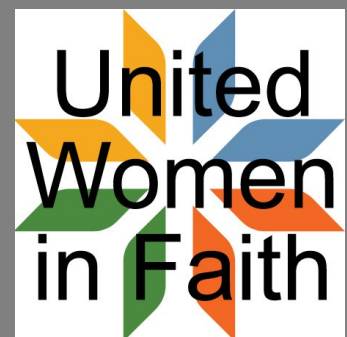
This stresses the importance of being prepared to help others in crisis at any time. United Women in Faith are committed to responding in a timely manner to help those in crisis within our community. Won't you join us?



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF will meet on Weds. Oct. 4 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship hall. Coleen will have the program and the hostess is TBD. All women are invited to attend.

If you have questions, please contact Shirley Anderson at 541-0732 or Barb Kalm at 321-4078.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am at the Fellowship Hall. The SUMC men are studying the Bible. If you would like to attend, call Mike Turner at (319)624-2061.

MISSIONS: MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF

We received notice from Midwest Mission on August 18 that they were in need of donations to help them provide help to those in need after the Maui Wildfires.

Thanks to you we were able to send a check for \$677 to Midwest Mission, Maui Wildfire Relief.

The following is from Midwest Mission email requesting help.

During the second week of August, wildfires sparked around the island of Maui that quickly led to a devastating inferno that destroyed the historic community of Lahaina.

The community of Lahaina was made up of local residents. This was their home — not their week of vacation or temporary living. Many of the people that had to evacuate and who lost everything, really lost everything. They lost pieces of their culture, their historic landmarks, and a piece of the island that was their own.



Shortly after the wildfires began, Midwest Mission was in contact with Convoy of Hope, out of Springfield, Missouri. Convoy of Hope was on the ground in Lahaina distributing disaster relief within a week of the fires igniting.

After discussing what we had and what their needs were, it was decided that we would send Bed Packs (sheet sets and bed pillows), Hygiene Kits, and Rice Meal Bags for Convoy to distribute at their discretion.

On Monday, August 28, a container arrived that would go to one of Convoy of Hope's warehouses in Sacramento, California. Needed items would be flown to Maui.

Midwest Mission's operations team loaded the container, and everyone gathered around to pray for the safety of the shipment and for those who had been impacted by the fire.

What was already a heart-wrenching moment became more personal as NOMAD volunteers, Mary and Mark Grant, shared their personal connection to the disaster.

"Our son Nick and his wife Beth have been in Lahaina for about 8 years now, and they lost everything," Mary shared with the group. As the fires spread towards their apartment complex, the couple fled on foot to safety.

"They were good people to lose things because they basically live out of their backpacks. They lived in a furnished apartment they were renting... **but the apartment is gone, the car they were going to buy is gone, both of the dive shops they worked at are gone and all of the dive boats.**

"They don't have jobs and they don't have stuff, but they don't really care about that.

"They care about being a part of that community. They really feel that Lahaina has become home. They have realized that most of the people who live in Lahaina are the ones who do the work on Maui - the ones who serve all the tourists and fix things and teach the kids. They want to be part of that community and help them as much as they can through all of this."

The couple was given a hotel room by their insurance company, but they gave it to someone else in need, and are staying with friends on different parts of the island. Since the fire, they have jumped in to help in the relief process, helping with tarps and gas, and they make supply runs for the community.

We were blessed to be able to hear a personal story about the people who are the recipients of the shipment that was sent off.

We don't know if Mark and Mary's son and daughter-in-law will receive our Hygiene Kits or Bed Packs, or maybe they will be assisting in the distribution of the supplies. But, we do know that needed resources will reach the people of Lahaina, because we serve a good God who is present in the midst of disasters.

May the supplies and the love that was sent with them bring hope in the midst of the crisis, and peace in the chaos.

Please be praying for everyone affected, and specifically for Nick and Beth as they seek to serve their community, even within their own devastation.

Bell Choir

Fall is here...the crispness of the air, the smell of harvest, shorter days, the colors of red, orange, yellow popping up on trees, in the fields, and flowers all around.

Most of all, I know when fall is here when bell choir practices start! Its members return to catch up from a fun filled summer off and with renewed energy to begin ringing and produce those wonderful sounds and songs that we love to hear.

Did you know that each handbell is a gift from a member or past member/s? In 1999 the Give-a-Bell Campaign was organized to acquire our 4-octave set of high-quality Malmark handbells. Additionally, through memorial gifts we have also been able to acquire the complementary hand-chimes. There is a personal inscription on each bell handle that carries the message designated by the donor(s). Check them out sometime.



I became director of our Celebration Bell Choir in January 2001. I had been a member of the handbell choir prior to this but had my doubts that I could actually direct this choir. Well, 21 years later, not only did I figure out how to direct a bell choir, but more importantly, I feel that I am able to challenge its members to play up to their full potential...to play and create music that brings so much beauty, fun and spiritual reflection to our services.

We have had many members (40) over the years...some with experience, some none at all. The bells are arranged like a piano, with low notes on one end and high notes on the other. Our choir takes each of these individual bells, with their own unique sounds and plays together to create a song that is beautiful and melodious. So even though there are many bells, each player, as they are ringing, makes this collection of sounds into one instrument! We have a lot of fun "playing" with the music (accents, volume, techniques, tempo) to make it the best version of what we are playing.

We would love to have others join us no matter what your musical background (or lack thereof). You can even start out with one bell and then work your way to 2. Come and try it out, we would love to have you join us!



We practice on Wednesday nights at 7:15 PM. We perform on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the 9:00 service. Our next performance is scheduled for Sunday, October 8th.

"Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise." Psalm 98:4

Thank you!

Thank you to all who donated to Solon Senior Support for the Mission Moment. Your generous donations totaled \$415!

We are making a positive difference in the community by sharing our time and talents. Recently, we updated our mission statement which now is "a non-profit volunteer organization focused on connecting local volunteers with Solon-area older adults to maximize their independence, health and well-being." Currently, we offer a local and medical transportation service, monthly senior newsletter, weekly coffees, and free exercise classes for our older adults. Our volunteers also visit homebound seniors and help them in their homes. We are working toward a Community Senior Center and have completed Pickleball courts at the Family Life Center, which offers great exercise and socialization! Your donation will help us cover the cost of all of these much-needed activities for our neighbors.

Blessings to all for your giving spirit!

**Jill Weetman, President
Solon Senior Support**



ONLINE VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS

If you want a quick and easy way to sign up to volunteer, use the link below to sign up to volunteer Sunday morning to assist in worship.



[Sunday Worship Volunteer Sign Up](#)

FAMILY MEALS—WEDNESDAYS 5:30PM

Be sure to join us Wednesday Nights for Family Meal! Meal starts at 5:30 PM and is provided at no cost, taking donations to help provide meals to others that are in need.

TO GO meals ARE AVAILABLE!

Check our Facebook page each Wednesday morning as we post the menu for the evening.



Family Meal is a great way to catch a break from cooking and clean up during the week. It is also the perfect opportunity for some fellowship with fellow church goers and community members!

Donations for desserts are much appreciated—there is a sign up on the clipboard if you'd like to donate! We also appreciate volunteers volunteering to clean up, prepare and serve the meal, please consider signing up to volunteer once a month to help make Wednesday nights a little brighter for all!

COLLEGE STUDENT? MILITARY SERVICE?

If you know of a college student or someone serving in the military please contact the office so we can update our records. SUMC takes pride in sending out care packages a few times a year and we'd like to make sure that we don't miss anyone!

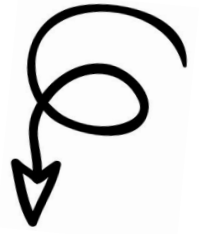
You can e-mail information to the office at soloniaumc@gmail.com





Upcoming

COMMUNITY EVENTS



BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Solon Community

Tuesday, October 17th 3:30 pm – 6:00 pm

United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall – 122 N. West St.

To schedule an appointment, contact ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401.
Visit us at www.bloodcenter.org to schedule online.

Please eat & hydrate before donating and bring a Photo ID.

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 08/22/23

Group Sponsor Code: 682



SAVING LIVES IS IN MY BONES!
Give & get your choice of a gift card or bonus points to shop our store for our new Halloween shirt & more.



21ST ANNUAL JOHNSON COUNTY 4-H PANCAKE BREAKFAST



October 1, 2023

8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Building C, Johnson County Fairgrounds
4261 Oak Crest Hill Rd SE, Iowa City, IA 52246

Come enjoy breakfast with family and friends at the annual pancake breakfast and silent auction!



Funds raised will support 4-H events, enrollment fees, and recruitment.

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
Extension and Outreach

This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.



The Solon Community Pantry is asking for volunteers for our two shifts on Monday's, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

For info please contact: sandrahanson@southslope.net or call 319-430-8655.

For you were called to freedom, brothers.
Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

PRAYERS AND CELEBRATIONS

In Our Prayers

All those with COVID, including Connie Koeppen, from this congregation.

Larry Meister's wife, Delores, who is in memory care.

Angie's mother in law, Del who had surgery.

Neil Webster's sister's husband died suddenly, his sister's name is Lynn, keep her and all of their family in prayer.

Families of those who have died and the many who have lost their homes in the wildfires on Maui, offerings through Midwest Mission or UMCOR.

Teachers, students, and school staff for the start of the school year.

LeeAnn Gilroy went to Emergency room with a possible blood clot, but fortunately it was not a blood clot.

Those who experienced damage and flooding in Florida from Hurricane Idalia.

Connie Koeppen is home from Mercy Hospital, recovering a bout of diverticulitis.

Kris Kucera's mom still in hospital, had surgery, hoping to be home soon.

Gloria Bulechek lifts up prayers for her granddaughter, Allison, who has breast cancer.

Those who lost family, home, businesses, community resources in Morocco after the earthquake – over 2,000 died.

Those potentially in the path of Hurricane Lee.

Connie Railsback had a fall and after some tests is recovering well at home. She asks for prayers for healing.

Nadine Sojka who faced two different surgeries recently and is now recovering.

Deb Ruff's mom and dad are both having health issues

Jill Mack's mother, Jan Seabrooke, passed away. We offer prayers for Jill, Randy, and their family.

Jill and Randy Mack are remembering their son Joshua, who died when he was nine, and would have had his birthday in September.

Families of those who died, and all who lost homes, businesses, and community from the flooding and dam break in Libya

Verlee Lauderbaugh's great-niece Ally is beginning treatment for an aggressive cancer. The treatments could continue 6 months to a year.

Scott Sherman will be having eye surgery.

Prayers for Denise and Tim Gregor on Tim's brother's death.

Schlapkohl family, following the passing of both Bill and Jerry this past week.

Mary Gruber's cousin David just lost his wife to cancer.

Prayers for Jan Stock and her friend Joyce who are travelling to New England to see fall colors.

Joys + Thanksgiving

Pastor Peggy's brother Jim, who came through surgery well.

Pastor Peggy's visit with family in Dallas, Texas and Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Larry and Delores Meister, who just celebrated their 66th Anniversary.

Sue Wilkinson gives thanks for long-term friendships, in particular for her friend, Sybil, who visited recently.

Ruth Ann Richards is glad to have a great visit with her son and daughter in law visiting from Arizona, along with her great granddaughter from Wisconsin.

Tawnia and Phil Kakacek were excited to complete their first ever camping trip.

Jeanne and Wilbur Erhart are grateful for a nice family reunion with lots of family.

Gloria Bulechek lifts up prayers for her daughter Jennifer visiting, and for her granddaughter, Megan, who is expecting twins.

Betty Musgrave gives thanks for the birth of grandson Parker Joseph.

For a full church!

For raising \$677 for helping those who lost homes and family in the Maui wildfires.

That both Connie Koeppen and Connie Railsback were back in church after facing health issues

Dan and Cathy Boggs were able to be there when their son proposed to his girlfriend, and she said yes.

That the Wednesday programs all got off to a good start: Treasure Seekers after school program, Family Dinner, and Youth Group. Thanks to the many volunteers who made them possible!

For Randy Mack's birthday today

Thank you to Dave and Carol Ann Richards for providing a surprise breakfast after the service!

October Birthdays

ANDERSON, Shirley	10/01
CRAY, Hudson	10/01
LANDUYT, Sienna	10/03
HAUGLAND, Brynn	10/03
SOJKA, Dick	10/04
JANSSEN, Bo	10/06
SARGENT, Addie	10/06
TURNER, Cash	10/07
JOHNSON, Tripp	10/11
MCDONALD, Barbara	10/11
OAKES, Maverick	10/11
PROFFITT, Isaac	10/13
ADAMS, Eva	10/14
FIALA, Susan	10/15
MOORE, Justin	10/18
MCPHERON, Mitchell	10/20
MOSTROM, Ayla	10/20
LUDVIGSON, Bronwyn	10/21
JANSSEN, Angela	10/23
GERDIN, Nicholas	10/24
ADAMS, Henry	10/25
RICHARDS, Ruth	10/28
SHERMAN, Natalie	10/28
TIEDEMANN, Terry	10/28
RICHARDS, Dave	10/29



OCTOBER 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

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