



The

CIRCUIT RIDER

September 2023

A Monthly 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 Youth/Adult C.E.
- pg 3 Treasure Seekers!
- pg 3 Finance Update
- pg 4 Family Meals
- pg 4 Confirmation
- pg 4 Church Parsonage
- pg 5 Trustees Update
- pg 5 Community Garden
- pg 5 Thank you Volunteers!
- pg 6 UWF Mission Complete!
- pg 6 UWF/UMM
- pg 7 Prayers & Joys
- pg 7 September Birthdays

Pastor Peggy's Reflections

Come to the Table. That is the theme of our worship series for September—using ideas from worship designer Marcia McFee. The series will actually end on World Communion Sunday, October 1. As we invite people to the table, just as Jesus shared meals and conversation at tables, we offer welcome and grace to those who don't always feel welcome. Jesus' lesson at the last supper was clear: the meal of the kin-dom of God is for ALL. Saints, strangers, those who persecute and betray you, those who are joyful and those who weep. The litmus test for Jesus was simply love.

Jesus' table is also a table of peace. We welcome each other at the table even when we disagree. Coming to tables of peacemaking is hard work. Accountability AND forgiveness are on the menu at God's table and we are called to sit down and find merciful ways to deal with one another despite our differences.

And God's table is one of plenty! God decides how much to give and gives more than we can ever imagine; more grace than we expect. In the face of such abundance, we called to be generous as God is generous. Indeed, at God's pot-luck of grace, even the last in line have more than enough to eat!

On September 13 we open our tables to the community with the Wednesday family meals—thanks especially to Dave and Carol Richards for taking the lead, and for many volunteers. Even though we don't have a Christian education staff person in place yet, we will begin offering a Treasure Seekers program afterschool to 1st through 5th graders before the dinner, and youth group for 6th through 12th graders after the dinner. MANY will be volunteering their time, skills, and energy to make these programs possible. See info on the following pages about adult opportunities as well!

We will also gather around tables, in circles, and in other forms as we begin Sunday school for children infants through 5th grade on Sunday mornings on September 10. Please let me know if you want to volunteer once a month or more on any of these programs! Still to be scheduled—Bibles will be given to our third graders!

Pastor Peggy

Letter Written by Our Iowa City Circuit of United Methodist churches to the Bishop

This summer, the Iowa City Circuit clergy and lay leaders created a letter to Bishop Bigham-Tsai to ask her to address some of the previous harm that has happened to United Methodist clergy because of either their sexual orientation, or that they performed a same sex marriage. (This harm does not include me, Pastor Peggy, because church charges have never been filed against me, or action taken against me as a minister.) You are invited to read more about that letter here (if you are reading an electronic copy of this article), or to pick up a copy in the church entryway.

Pastor Peggy

[2023 Circuit Letter to Bishop Bigham-Tsai](#)



Music Ministry

Worship Schedule

September Sermon Series:
“Come to the Table”

September 3rd - Communion
Scripture: Romans 12:9-21 &
Matthew 16:24-25

Message: *The Table of Hospitality*

September 10th—First Day of
Sunday School

Scripture: Romans 13:8-14 &
Matthew 18:15-20

Message: *The Table of Love*

September 17th

Scripture: Romans 14:1-12 &
Matthew 18:21-35

Message: *The Table of Peace*

September 24th

Scripture: Romans 14:1-12 &
Matthew 18:21-35

Message: *The Table of Grace*



It's back to school time which means it is also back to music activities at SUMC! Do you like to sing? Or maybe you like to make music but singing is not your thing? No problem! We have lots of opportunities for you to meet others and create music in a positive environment.

Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 6:15 following dinner in Fellowship Hall. It is directed by Angie Grecian-Bransky. In September we are going to have an opportunity for anyone interested to have a “try-out” session. We are not trying you out, but rather, you get to try choir out! We will get together on Wednesday, September 6th at 6:15 for a half hour rehearsal. Then we will have treats for the second half hour and an opportunity to chat and socialize. It is a way to try choir in a non-committal setting. Choir tries to sing twice a month on the first and the third Sundays. This is always a little flexible and can change depending on what is happening in the life of the church.

Bell Choir is a great way to make music if you don't want to sing. Bell Choir is directed by Mary Kucera and meets at 7:20 on Wednesday evenings following Chancel Choir. You can start out by playing just one single bell and add more as you feel comfortable. You play your bell every time it comes up in the music. It really is fun and great for mental exercise! The Bell Choir usually plays on the second Sunday of the month.

If you have questions about either group or want more information, reach out to me and I'll be glad to help. During Stewardship time, we always talk about giving of our time, gifts, and talents. What is your talent and how can you share it? Consider one of our choirs as a new way to share and meet others. I hope to see you there!

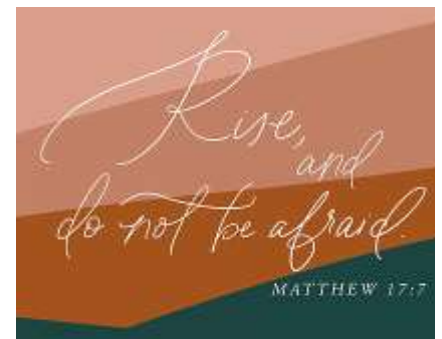


“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!”

Psalm 98:4

Worship Attendance—August 2023

	9:00 AM
August 6	60
August 13	68
August 20	64
August 27	46



COME JOIN US FOR
Sunday
Worship
Service

Youth and Adult Christian Ed. Opportunities!

Youth Group Will Begin September 13! Sue Wilkinson and LeeAnn Gilroy are taking the lead on our youth group for this fall. Youth group meetings will meet from 6:15 – 7:30 pm on Wednesdays, after the dinner. They will meet in the Family Life Center, and the youth will be part of deciding what they want to do and learn and enjoy together this year.

New Adult Bible Study: A Journey Through the Bible. This book by book walk through the Bible is for anyone who feels as if they don't know enough about the Bible or anyone who would like to learn more about the Bible and what it means for us today. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned Bible reader, you can always learn something new! We'll be looking at authorship, history, culture, context, characters, Bible stories and the overall big picture of God's Word. Retired pastor Jill Mack invites you to join her on Wednesday nights at 6:15 pm following the family meal. The class will start on Wednesday, September 20.

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin on September 10. Phil Kakacek is once again leading this class, that is using the book *Quest 52: A Fifteen-Minute-a-Day Yearlong Pursuit of Jesus*, by Mark E. Moore. The time for the class is still being clarified.



And keep your eye out for a class series for those adults who want to consider becoming members of Solon UMC!

After School Program—Treasure Seekers!

Treasure Seekers, an afterschool program for 1st through 5th graders will meet after school on Wednesdays in the FLC on September 13th through December 20th (not including Nov. 22nd). **3:30PM –5:15PM** Registration is required, click [HERE TO REGISTER](#).

Enjoy snacks, games, and creative ways of learning Bible lessons to seek out and explore the treasures of the Christian faith. Different weeks will rotate between cooking, science, storytelling and drama, art, and mission projects to serve others. This fall we will learn about Moses leading the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt, the story of creation and in December the birth of Jesus.

Adult volunteers from the church will walk children over from Lakeview to the FLC. Intermediate students can take the shuttle bus to Lakeview and walk over with the elementary students and adults. When weather is bad, drivers will bring the children to church.

Children should be picked up at the main church building between 5:15PM and 5:30PM. The whole family is welcome to have dinner with us at 5:30PM!

Family dinner will be available following Treasure Seekers in Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM each Wednesday, family dinner is open to ALL, with free will donation. Take out is available!



This chart is a summarized report on the 2023 budget performance of the General Fund, the primary fund of the church that pays all of the expenses of our programs and facilities. We previously voted that any shortfall for 2023 will be made up with earnings (not principal) from our Endowment Fund.

GENERAL FUND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:			
General Fund Financial Performance			
	2023 Actual	January - July 2023 Budget	2022 Actual
Income:			
Pledges & Offerings	109,978	111,940	115,020
Other	6,747	2,995	3,770
Total Income	116,725	114,935	118,790
Expense			
	147,907	162,263	167,962
Net Result	(31,182)	(47,328)	(49,172)

Family Meals are back!

Family Meals return on Wednesday September 13th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall!

Join us for a wonderful weekly meal kicked off by a prayer. You can eat in house and join in on some fellowship or grab for take out if you'd like.

Family Meals are held weekly on Wednesdays. The meal is provided as a community service with free will donation accepted.

This program is made available by volunteers who cook, wash dishes, serve meals and clean the kitchen and fellowship hall following the meal. Please consider signing up on the clipboard to volunteer for this program if you are able. Let's keep this wonderful community tradition growing and thriving.



ALL are welcome. Spread the word and we'll see you on the 13th!

Confirmation

Confirmation planning is in the works! We'd like to get a grasp on how many to expect this year, so if you have youth entering 7th through 12th grade that may be interested, please email the church at soloniaumc@gmail.com and we will add them to our contact list for the upcoming session. We are considering several options, including waiting until summer and having a confirmation camp.



Exploring Opportunities for our Parsonage

Pastor Peggy and her wife, Sarah, already own a home in Coralville, so they have declined use of the Solon UMC parsonage. This creates *an opportunity* for our church to consider options for its use. Those options may include keeping it for unanticipated opportunities that advance our mission—such as housing missionaries, housing young adult ministry interns, after school programming, short-term lodging or other programming, renting it out, selling it, or other options.

We are seeking interested members who would like to serve on a short-term Parsonage Task Force to develop options (including pros and cons), consider the financial and tax implications of those options, and to make recommendations to our Church Council for the best action to advantage our church.

We will especially appreciate one or two folks with background or contacts in real estate and legal/tax knowledge, but anyone who is willing to make contacts, do some research, and think through options is encouraged to consider this!

Please contact Pastor Peggy if you are interested: pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org, or 319-855-7911.

Trustees

The FLC HVAC unit that supports the gym AC was repaired after being down a couple of weeks. The service company brought in additional consultation for trouble shooting the issue. The unit is 20 plus years old and may need to be replaced soon due to ongoing issues.

The current SUMC minister will continue to live in Iowa City and not use the parsonage. Planning is underway for future use of the parsonage and currently sits empty. Carpets and windows were cleaned.

Thanks to Al Hulse for fixing picture hanging holes in the parsonage walls, doing some touchup painting and minor plumbing/electrical work.

The third dead ash tree, located on the open FLC lot, was removed and completes the tree removal project for 2023. Thanks goes out to the following that helped with the removal and cleanup: Tom and Justin Moore, Paul, Deb and Nathaniel Ruff, Nancy Worrell, Al Hulse and Mike Turner.

Big thanks goes out to Connie Railsback and Shirley McAtee for cleaning and prepping the church narthex and fellowship hall for Beef Days.

Thanks again to Al Hulse for fixing the food pantry door and installation of new electrical receptacles on the renovated kitchen island in prep for Beef Days usage.

*Blessings to all,
Paul Miller- Trustees Chairperson*



Area Events

St. Mark's United Methodist Church of Iowa City has a special event coming up! Katherine Parker is a Global Missionary of the United Methodist Church. She will be visiting us on Saturday, September 9, at 10:00 a.m. Katherine works in community development with the United Mission to Nepal. She has served in Nepal for 10 years and before that, served in Cambodia. On September 9, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and cookies, followed by a mission presentation from Katherine. There will be time for questions and answers after the presentation. A free will offering will be taken for Katherine's mission work. Everyone is invited!

This event is sponsored by St. Mark's UMM and Church & Society. If you have questions, contact Bob Kesselring or Mary Brown.

RSVP Mary Brown m001brown@gmail.com or Bob Kesselring sbkess@gmail.com



Community Garden Update

Work continues in the Community Garden with weekly deliveries to the Food Pantry. For example; on August 14, **50 pounds of produce were delivered** to those less fortunate than us!



Thank you Our Lord's Church and Volunteers!

On Monday, August 14, Solon UWF and other volunteers were involved in a large-scale clearing out of the contents of Our Lord's Church. As their church is now closed, the UWF was asked by church members to help them with this.

On Monday morning, a crew of volunteers sorted, boxed and delivered kitchen and miscellaneous items to the church Fellowship Hall tables, where they were again sorted, and homes found for nearly everything, all accomplished in less than 6 hours. That the effort was accomplished in such a short time was very much appreciated by church members, as the building had been sold.

Those assisting were: Connie, Chris and Jordan Railsback, Colleen Pumphrey, Ruth Spieker, Barb Kalm, Mary Kucera, Jan Stock, Maddie and Todd Schultz, Carol, Kate and Tess Richards, Norma Novak, Yvonne Strang and Audrey Howell.



United Women In Faith

Heart Pillows Delivered

On Tuesday, August 8, the Wesley Room was "humming" with activity!

Those attending the August UWF Workday were; Ruth Spieker, Shirley Anderson, Connie Koeppen, Carol Richards, Brynn Haugland, Kate Richards, Tess Richards, Jordan Railsback, Connie Railsback, Nadine Sojka, and Jan Stock



We were truly blessed to have children and other adults join us in this activity. Together we created 150 heart pillows that were distributed to Hall -Perrine Cancer Center (Mercy CR), Helen G Nassif Community Cancer Center (St Luke's) and U of I Stead Family Children's Hospital.

With help from Mary Richards and Shirley Anderson another 50 pillows will be delivered in September to Gilda's Club of the Quad Cities (Genesis Medical Center, Davenport).

"We had someone in today who travels a few hours to Genesis for their treatment mention that they are perfect for the car rides to protect their ports." - from Gilda's Club

These pillows delivered in August and September all contained a flyer in memory of Lydia Doran (Nadine's great-niece).

Today's delivery is in memory of
Lydia Doran 
who passed away from cancer at the age of 14 this week.

WOMEN OF FAITH (UMW)

After taking the month of August off, the Solon UWF will be meeting on September 6th the church's Fellowship Hall. The lesson by Jan Stock is entitled "Angels and what they stand for". Hostesses are Shirley Anderson and Nadine Sojka.

Those furnishing cookies for Bingo at the Solon Care Center on Sept 21 are Jan Stock and Verlee Lauderbaugh. We will be notified if outside visiting is cancelled due to the recent covid outbreak.

All women are welcomed, and we would be glad to provide transportation to the meeting if that is a problem.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We continue to meet every Saturday morning at 6:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our focus is on the Upper Room readings and all are welcome to join us.

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



Prayers and Celebrations

Concerns and Healing:

Jan Stock— prayers for healing for a nursing school classmate who has developed tumors.

A friend, named Kim, who was just diagnosed with breast cancer.

Doris and Mike Tritle's daughter in law Jessica Smith, who has been undergoing radiation and chemotherapy now has cancer throughout her body. She will be going to Mayo Clinic.

Kay Ellefson is in critical care with a blood clot in her lung

Reg, a friend of Dee is hospitalized

Pastor Peggy's brother Jim, who lives in Mexico, still awaiting surgery.

Nadine Sojka will be having surgery sometime soon, not scheduled yet .

Barb Kalm's son and his daughter have COVID, she lifts up prayers that more COVID cases are around again.

Melody lifts up prayers for cancer research.

Doris and Mike's daughter-in-law Jessica is in a lot of pain. She is going to the Mayo clinic soon.

Verlee's great niece who is awaiting results on a biopsy.

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 this past week

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

family in prayer

Comfort:

Nadine Sojka's family, her great-niece Lydia died, prayers for the whole family

Julie's niece Michaela, passed away

Niel Webster's sister's husband died suddenly.

His sister's name is Lynn, keep her and all of their family in prayer .

Other Prayers:

For the members of Our Lord's Church, which has closed, and had their last service in July.

For Pastor Peggy's wife Sarah, who attended a group canoe trip in Minnesota where she is helping to support a woman who is blind.

Families of those who have died and the many who have lost their homes in the wildfires on Hawaii

For teachers, students, and school staff who are beginning school.

All of those who have faced or are facing disasters, including Hurricane Hilary in California.

Joys:

Jeanne Erhart – Wilbur's nephew visited from Washington

Jeanne and Fred Bark are celebrating their anniversary on July 31

Mary and Denny Gruber are celebrating their anniversary on Aug. 1

Pastor Peggy's parents visited from Milwaukee area, and Peggy's wife, Sarah Ross, and mother-in-law Gail Ross were also in worship.

Joys and prayers were lifted up for Pastor Peggy's ministry here

Cathy and Dan Bogg's daughter Natalie now has a diagnosis, is getting better, and planning to go on a backpack trip.

Paul Saupe's wife Betsy had two heart procedures that went well, and he is grateful for the support they received.

Charles Whetstine has been undergoing radiation treatment, but is feeling well enough to go on a trip to Italy.

Sue Wilkinson gives thanks for long-term friendships.

Appreciations:

Sue Wilkinson – prayers of appreciation for all the RAGBRAI.

Connie Railsback – Thanks for community garden volunteers: Carol Richards, Wayne Anderson, and Audrey Howell. The food grown is donated to the food pantry.

A big thank you to Julie Hauser for keeping the flowerbeds around the church going through the dry weather. Without her Faithful attention, we would have lost many of the plantings. Also, thank you to Verlee Lauderbaugh for continuing her hard work with weeding around the church. These things often go unnoticed, but it is so appreciated. Thank you.

Craig, a friend of Sue, was in serious condition, but is now improving and has been taken off of life support

Verlee expressed gratitude for the rain
Thank you to Donna for playing our music this morning

For our choir, singing this morning.

Colleen's friend Kay had successful surgery, continued prayers for healing .

To Our Lord's Church for donating many items to us as they closed, including hymnals and kitchen items. All of the Solon UMC and UWF volunteers who helped bring things over to our church, and sort and store them .



Happy Birthday

PUETTMANN, Kyle	09/02
HERR, Keela	09/04
HUYCK, Bethany	09/04
DURR, Josie	09/07
HAURY, Ed	09/09
FOLKERTS, Katie	09/10
MALLY, Alice	09/11
OWEN, Addison	09/11
EVERS, Brady	09/12
JOHNSON, Eddie	09/14
STEBRAL, Terry	09/15
WHEELER, Payton	09/15
WOESSNER, Luke	09/16
KRUSE, Annika	09/18
HUNT, Mary	09/20
WEETMAN, Jill	09/20
SOJKA, Nadine	09/28



SEPTEMBER CIRCUIT RIDER

Return Service Requested

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

**Welcome
Connect
ignite
Love**



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
9:00 AM –Worship
9:00 AM—Sunday School
(Beginning September 10th!)

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