



The CIRCUIT RIDER

NOVEMBER 2023

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A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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As cooler weather starts to make its presence felt, and some of the leaves are showing brilliant hues of orange and red, we will be remembering, offering gratitude, living into our United Methodist faith, and exploring grace.

November starts off with All Saints Day—remembering those who have died. There have been many congregation members and friends who have lost loved ones this past year, but only one who was directly related to our congregation. We will remember Buck Keith, with an opportunity to also speak aloud the names of other loved ones who have died this past year. We will continue the theme of remembrance as we remember and give thanks for some of the events and themes in our Solon UMC history (many thanks to the grand work of Barb Kalm in collecting and writing up our history in Hallowed Ground!).

In addition to looking back and remembering, we will also look to the future as we have a class for those who either are newer to the congregation, or those considering joining or rejoining SUMC, or any who want a refresher on United Methodism with a “United Methodist Basics and Preparation for Membership Class.” We will probably have a new member ceremony for those who want to join on the first Sunday of Advent, Sunday December 3.

On November 19 we will have Thanksgiving Sunday. We’ll talk about giving thanks in a variety of ways, including stories of Native Americans to whom the early settlers owed much.

On November 26 we will begin to look at distinctive ways of understanding grace in the United Methodist tradition, as we start together a 4 week study of the book *Unrelenting Grace*, by United Methodist Bishop Kenneth H. Carter Jr. Look for the article in the newsletter to sign up for this four week book study during Advent—either online with our own Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, or to host, lead, or participate in an in-person group here in Solon.

Unearned grace, grace for all, grace as a gift is a foundation of the Christian faith. So we will join in this study together as we prepare our hearts for the Christmas season, and welcoming Jesus into our lives in fresh ways.

I give thanks for the opportunity to minister in your midst. Fall blessings to all!

Pastor Peggy

The Circuit Rider

DON'T FORGET TO


**Fall
Back**

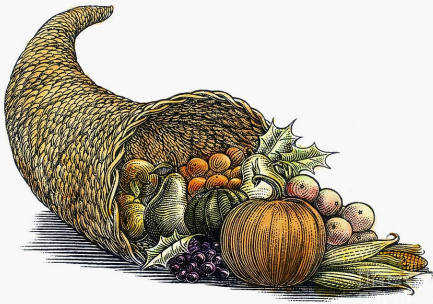
NOVEMBER 5TH

Music Ministry

Come

W O R S H I P

WITH US



I have always loved cornucopias. At the very least, it's a fun word to say! Their cone-like shape begins narrow and then opens wide, with fruits and harvest items spilling out onto the table. For many years I have used one as a decoration in the fall. I usually try to put in a few small miniature pumpkins, gourds, and some colorful corn, still on the stalk. The trick is to

make it look like it has tipped over and the bounty is beautifully spilling out.

This parallels the thankfulness we can practice every day! Start small with listing one or two things that you are thankful for that happened that day. Then as you notice little things around you, it gets easier and easier. A smile of a child, the bounding steps of a dog on a walk, the sun shining, colorful leaves....the list goes on! The bounty of thankfulness begins to spill out of you. To live in a spirit of thankfulness is a wonderful way to live. It is the true meaning of the word, Thanksgiving.

The Faith We Sing, #2036
"Give Thanks"

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!

Angie

GIVE
thanks
with a
GRATEFUL
heart

November 5 –All Saints Sunday
Scripture: Revelation 7:9-17
Message: *Remembering with Hope Those Who Have Died*

November 12-Guest Preacher
Scripture: TBD
Msg: *TBD*

November 19
Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:7-18
Msg: *Remembering and Giving Thanks*

November 26
Scripture: Acts 10:1-8, 23-29
Msg: *Unrelenting Grace: The Gift of God's Grace*

Worship Attendance—October 2023

9:00 AM

| | |
|------------|----|
| October 1 | 57 |
| October 8 | 54 |
| October 15 | 68 |
| October 22 | 72 |



COME
Worship
WITH US

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 5th we will celebrate *All Saints Sunday* at SUMC. It is a tradition during each of the worship services to have a remembrance of those who have died since last year's All Saints Day. During the worship service a candle will be lit in honor of those we have lost.



This year we remember:

Buck Keith

**We give thanks for our loved ones
and their place within the legacy of our
church community.**

THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS

On Sunday October 22nd 2023 at 9AM worship, we presented Bibles to our Third Graders, and new SUMC Youth.

Third Graders Who Received Bible in Worship:

Myles Mack

Madelyn Moses

Not able to be present:

Marla Dyer

Liam Gilroy (7th grade)

Moriah Gilroy (5th grade)



A rite of passage in many United Methodist churches is awarding Bibles to third-graders. Every year, in congregations across the United States, third-graders line up to receive their Bibles. Names are inscribed inside. They new book smell is strong, and the excitement is great,

a very proud moment for these youngsters. Third-grade minds are like sponges - open to new words and ideas. What a perfect time for the Bible to come into their lives. With the help of parents, teachers, volunteers and the entire congregation, that new Bible will make an imprint on their hearts.



United Methodist Basics and Preparation for Membership

If you would like to learn more about the United Methodist Church and its history and unique approaches to faith, and/or you would like to become an official member of the Solon United Methodist Church, you are invited to a three week class series on Thursday nights in November. We will meet from 7-8:30 pm on Thursdays in the Fellowship Hall, November 2, 9, and 16th . This class is a requirement for those who would like to become official members of our church, and will be offered two or three times a year in case you can't make this series. We will have conversation and short reading assignments about the start of United Methodism, UM approaches to the Bible, how our church is part of the larger United Methodist Church, and the changes that are happening currently in our denomination. We will also hear some stories about the history of this congregation, and invite you to consider opportunities for engaging your faith, your interests, your passions, and your gifts as we do ministry together in Solon. Whether you have been a member for a while, and would like a refresher and an opportunity for conversation with some newer folks, or you have been attending but have not yet joined Solon UMC, or you used to be a member and want to rejoin as a member, or you just want to learn more about United Methodism, this class is for you!

Please fill out this form to let us know you would like to join the class!

<https://forms.gle/TL1Gto3sKnW3TS9a8>

Contact Pastor Peggy with questions—<mailto:pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org> or 319-855-7911.



Unrelenting Grace: Advent Book Study



Online with Bishop Kennetha or in person in Solon
Tuesday's at 7 pm on Zoom: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, 2023

[Watch](#) Bishop Kennetha's Invitation Video

Friends, in November, we will begin a virtual, conference-wide Advent Study of Bishop Ken Carter's new book, *Unrelenting Grace*. Bishop Carter calls grace the essence of a holy life, in which we recognize that God's

loving presence in our lives is a gift. Being able to receive that gift and extend it to others "...stretches us, mystifies us, unravels us, and ultimately heals us," he writes.

For this season of Advent, I invite you to explore the unrelenting grace of God with friends and colleagues from around our conference. The study will help us remember who we are as United Methodists and give us a sense of common belonging, shared identity, and unity. Maybe it will even put us on a road to healing. The study will last for just four sessions and will be entirely online on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Central, beginning on November 28, then continuing on December 5, December 12, and 19.

[Register](#) today to join Advent Study Zoom Meetings with Bishop Kennetha.

If you would prefer to have a study locally and in person, with friends from Solon UMC, [sign up here](#) to indicate your interest in hosting, leading, or participating in a study group.

CHRISTMAS KALEIDOSCOPE FEATURING CHRISTMAS WALK

DECEMBER 2ND!

It's hard to believe that the Tree Walk is about here again, but it is time to plan and make preparations so that we help make this community wide event the best possible. There are some changes this year! The name of the event is one of them! **Christmas Kaleidoscope featuring Christmas Walk** will be held Saturday December 2nd from 10 AM—3 PM ! SUMC will again host the Tree Walk in our Family Life Center Gym. There will be lots of beautiful trees to check out, lunch and homemade desserts served by SUMC. We'll have a Solon Area Artists Market, Craft and Bake Sale, Themed Basket Silent Auction, Christmas Ornament Scavenger Hunt, and Mr. and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance from 12:30 to 2:30 PM!

There will be more Solon events planned for that day and also during the following weekends before Christmas. Watch the SUMC and City of Solon Facebook pages, as well as church announcements and the Solon Economist for details!

In order to make this a successful event **WE NEED YOUR HELP**, some ways to help are listed below!

- baking, cutting/serving pie during the luncheon
- decorating and displaying a tree for the walk
- donating frozen cookie dough
- helping bake fresh cookies during the walk
- bake sale and craft sale attendants/cashiers
- setting up tables/chairs for the luncheon
- tear down after the event



Please see the special "Christmas Walk Clipboard" with all the signups and look for a Sign Up Genius email to sign up to help online! Please consider how your family can contribute and pick a couple things to contribute or volunteer for.

[Christmas Walk Donation Sign Up](#)

[Christmas Walk Volunteer Sign Up](#)



Treasure Seekers have adventures on Wednesday Afternoons!

In September and October, the Treasure Seekers have enjoyed stories, games, snacks, and craft projects related to the story of God guiding Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. We also have also learned about modern day refugees and immigrants and tied three fleece blankets for the Immigrant Welcome Project in Iowa City. We have 13 children this semester who are journeying together. Several of the women in United Women in Faith helped us to prepare unleavened bread and an apple mixture for a Passover meal, fixed a couple of other snacks, and prepared the fleece blankets for the children to tie. Thank you, UWF! Regular leaders Dee Swartzendruber, Randy Mack, and Pastor Peggy were also supported by Audrey Howell, Jill Mack, and Janeen Moses have made this program possible.

In November, we will explore the theme of gratitude and thanks, and in December we will learn more about Jesus' birth in preparation for Christmas.

Registration forms for our next round of Treasure Seekers, January through April, will be available soon. Keep an eye on our website, or check the bulletin board near the office.

The accompanying photos show paper weavings our adventurers made when we learned about Guatemalan immigrants, who are known for their weaving, from guest speaker Sally Hartman, with the Immigrant Welcome Project.



**TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD
HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. -Proverbs 22:6**

So far we have only received communication from one family interested in confirmation class this year. If you have a youth in 8th-12th grade who has not been confirmed yet, please let us know of your interest in confirmation.

If we only have 2 or 3 interested, we will be considering a format of just a few longer sessions, or possibly joining with another United Methodist church for a confirmation retreat or a confirmation camp over the summer.

So please let us know if you are interested!

Pastor Peggy

Confirmation  *Class*

Trustee Update

1. The church parsonage remains vacant, a small task force was formed to discuss options going forward for use of the house. The garage space only is being leased for boat storage.
2. The Family Life Center will need to have the HVAC systems replaced with in a year or so. Both current HVAC units are original since the building was built in 2003, the larger gym unit has been experiencing numerous operating downtime and expensive repairs. The estimate received for replacement of both units is ~\$72,000.
3. Discussion continues for increase of usage fees for church facilities , especially the FLC.
4. Big thank-you's go out to:
 - Al Hulse for continued support of church repair needs.
 - Lindy Hopp for providing area facility usage fees for comparison.
 - Ivan Hasselbusch for providing the annual financial data on the FLC expenses vs income flow.Last 12 month total expenses= \$29,404 vs \$12,407 total income, net loss= (\$16,997)



Blessings,

Paul Miller- Trustees Chairperson

Let the Clanking begin!

This may be considered as a reminder, refresher or new information. Any loose change in the collection plates becomes designated as a gift to missions. The amounts are recorded in a separate mission fund and the Mission Committee will, from time to time, allocate these monies.....generally, to a local mission in the Solon or Johnson County area. This was a very active activity prior to the pandemic so this message is intended to maybe get it jumpstarted again. Normally, during the offertory, it is rather quiet as we listen to music from Angie. In this case, however, it will be OK if the quiet is disturbed by the clanking of coins hitting the offering plate!



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF's next meeting is Nov. 1 at 1:30pm in FH. Jeanne will have the program on Negotiation Skills. Hostesses are Jeanne and Barb. Bingo helpers on Nov. 16th are Norma and Shirley. All women are welcome to attend.



**United
Women
in Faith**

UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am at the Family Life Center and on the first Saturday of the month they have breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to attend, call Mike Turner at (319)624-2061.



Upcoming Holiday Missions

SUMC will again be collecting for Toys for Tots

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve which distributes toys to children whose parents cannot afford to buy them gifts for Christmas. The program was founded in 1947 by reservist Major Bill Hendricks.

During 2022 Johnson and Washington Counties of Iowa distributed 6,945 toys and supported 3,534 children. You can make a difference this holiday!

The donation bin is in the Narthex! We will collect unwrapped toys through December 10th. Please consider donating to this great cause!



Although it may seem early, you'll soon be seeing the Project Holiday Christmas Tree in the SUMC Narthex. Each year we collect to help spread joy to those families in need, right here in our area!

Project Holiday is the Crisis Center's annual holiday meal distribution which takes place the week before Christmas each year. The goal behind this drive is to provide families with the **ingredients they need to create their own family traditions. Each year, the Crisis Center provides meals for over 1,700 families in our community.**

Will you help us spread joy this holiday season? Your \$25 contribution covers the cost of the meal for one family, including a turkey, ham, or other entrée item, sides, vegetables, and a variety of other grocery items needed to prepare a holiday feast. By taking a tag and returning it to the Crisis Center, you help us brighten the holidays for hundreds of our neighbors in need.



Happy Holidays!

The Crisis Center of Johnson County

Missions : Too Much Halloween Candy?

Bring in your unwanted Halloween candy (individually wrapped) that can be used for future missions. For example, the chocolate candy is used for as Bingo prizes monthly at the Solon Nursing Care Center. A marked container is in Fellowship Hall for your donations.



Missions : Red Scarf Project

Do you like to knit or crochet? Whether you are a beginner, an expert or somewhere in between, your handiwork can send warmth and encouragement to a student from foster care. The handmade red scarves in Foster Care to Success (FC2S) Valentine's Day care packages become treasured keepsakes that our students wear for years.



America's College Fund
for Foster Youth

"Your hands are a window into your heart and soul. There is love in every stitch, and a handmade scarf is like a hug. The FC2S Red Scarf Project gives us each an opportunity to show that someone out there truly cares about our foster youth." Lily Chin, Master Knitter

All scarves will be mailed the end of November to arrive in time to be included in the Valentine's Day care packages. The deadline to be included in the mailing is November 30. Contact Connie Railsback with your finished products.



RED SCARF PROJECT GUIDELINES

Size: Approximately 60" long and 5" to 8" wide. Scarves should be long enough to be wrapped around the neck, with tails long enough to be tied in the front.

Style: Think unisex collegiate. Fringes are optional. Your scarf should drape, tie easily and be soft.

Color: Red! However, this could mean burgundy, cherry, russet, red stripes with other colors, or multicolor hues including red.

Finished & tagged: Yarn ends should be securely sewn in. For a personal touch, attach a tag saying "Handmade for You" with your first name, city, and group affiliation, if any. Donors have also included washing instructions, messages of encouragement, gift cards, and more.

Missions : Community Garden Completed!

The Community Garden was very productive this year! An approximate total of 300 pounds of produce was delivered to the Solon Food Pantry. Among the delivered produce were; eggplant, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, potatoes, onions and sweet potatoes.

2023 Garden Crew; Carol Richards, Audrey Howell, Wayne Anderson and Connie Railsback



It was hard work, but it was also a lot of fun! Consider helping out or leading the 2024 Garden Crew by contacting the Solon UMC office.

Special thanks to Kroul Farms who donated the plants for the garden in Liz Kroul's name.



Missions – Midwest Mission Student Bags Completed

On October 9 Mission Workday, we counted and boxed the Student Kit items to be taken to the 2023 In Gathering on November 4. A total of 425 items were donated. This represented an approximated value of \$1,784.51 in donations. Special thanks to the creators of the book bags; Shirley Anderson, Jan Stock and Nadine Sojka They topped last year's number of bags delivered with an outstanding 153 bags!!! Way to go ladies!

Workday Helpers: Shirley Anderson, Jan Stock, Mary Gruber, Denny Gruber, Logan Gruber, Grace Gruber, Yvonne Strang, Julie Hauser, Connie Koppen and Connie Railsback

We welcome everyone to our workdays.



Missions – Warm Winter Wear Completed

On September 18 we were notified that the Consultation of Religious Communities (CRC) we hosting their annual Warm Winter Wear Donations 2023. Religious communities are encouraged to collect winter clothing and winter outerwear. Every October the CRC organizes a large distribution of these items. In 2021, they distributed over 1300 winter coats, along with countless items of winter clothing, to 270+ families and in our community.

On October 9, a group met in the Wesley Room to sort, count and bag the items collected.

Workday Helpers; Shirley Anderson, Jan Stock, Mary Gruber, Denny Gruber, Logan Gruber, Grace Gruber, Yvonne Strang, Julie Hauser, Connie Koppen and Connie Railsback

With their help we were able to pre-sort into bags and deliver two shopping carts full!! Solon UMC delivered 93 Warm Winter Wear items for this distribution.



These items had an approximate value of \$995.

Thank you to everyone who contributed!

We welcome everyone to our workdays including children when they are available. Logan and Grace were a HUGE help!



PRAYERS AND CELEBRATIONS

In Our Prayers

Nadine Sojka had two different back surgeries recently.
Scott Nicol who had eye surgery.
Jill Mack's mother, Jan Seabrooke, who recently passed.
Prayers for Denise and Tim Gregor on Tim's brother's death.
Schlapkohl family, following the passing of both Bill and Jerry.
Mary Gruber's cousin David just lost his wife to cancer.
Barb and Dolfi Kalm's great-grandson, Briar Kalm, who was treated for a serious infection.
Mary Hunt as she recovers from carpal tunnel surgery.
Verlee Lauderbaugh's great-niece Ally is beginning treatment for an aggressive cancer. The treatments could continue 6 months to a year, she has now had her head shaved .
Deb Ruff's coworker Dee, who has a recent diagnosis of breast cancer.
People of NY and NJ area who experienced flooding.
Ivan Hasselbusch who underwent radiation treatment for a tumor in his lung.
Verlee Lauderbaugh lifted up prayers for her daughter Angela, their whole family has COVID and is now recovering.
Arnie Lauderbaugh, who is facing challenges from arthritis.
Scott Nicol lifted up prayers for his family, on the unexpected death of his nephew Marc.
Fighting and horrific violence in Israel and Gaza, prayers for peace in the region, for the families of those who have been killed, and for all those who have been taken hostage
Earthquake in Afghanistan
Connie Koeppen had gall bladder surgery on Friday, and is now at home.
Verlee Lauderbaugh's family who gathered on Oct. 15th to remember her mother, Gretchen Smith, who would have been 104.
Mary and Randy, friends living in Israel, of Kira who was visiting them.
Safety for farmers and for good crops, in memory of Gretchen Smith who would often lift up farmers in prayer.

Connie Railsback was hospitalized for gall bladder issues.
Larry Meister just got over COVID, now has a bad cold. He is missing his wife, whom he can't see until he is better.
Kay Geguzis' daughter-in-law has been diagnosed with cancer.
Mary Gruber had cataract surgery on one eye, will be having cataract surgery on the other soon.
Continuing prayers for all impacted by the horrific violence in Israel and Gaza. We offer prayer for all who are suffering, and prayers for peace in the region. We are glad that at least some humanitarian aid is now being allowed into Gaza.

Joys + Thanksgiving

Mary Kucera's daughter Candace and partner Tyler just bought a new home.
Al Hulse lifted a gratitude for sounds of a young child in the service, and for parents who bring their children.
Thanksgivings as the Erhart's granddaughter Kira, who was on a trip in Israel, was able to get a flight out and home.
For the stained glass window, donated by the quilting group .
Melody Morris is grateful for spending time with good friends several days this past week .
Dee Swartzendruber was happy to have her two sisters visiting, one from Tennessee, and one from Florida.
Dee offered joy and gratitude for the fall colors.
Barb Kalm offered thanks for the Richards family in preparing the Wednesday dinners, and the conversations and programs that happen before and after.



| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Kerkove, Travis | 11/04 |
| Herdlika, Ron | 11/05 |
| Kerkove, Brianna | 11/07 |
| Mottinger, Chris | 11/08 |
| Roe, Allison | 11/09 |
| Telecky, Bess | 11/10 |
| Harrington, Alan | 11/11 |
| Noska, Carlie | 11/11 |
| Richards, Beth | 11/11 |
| Hofsommer, Nick | 11/14 |
| Kleinsmith, Selma | 11/16 |
| Woessner, Leah | 11/16 |
| Hasselbusch, Ivan | 11/19 |
| Puettmann, Ron | 11/19 |
| Schmidt, Reagan | 11/19 |
| Stebra, Lexi | 11/21 |
| Locke, Tyler | 11/24 |
| Wears, Wendy | 11/27 |
| Hauser, Julie | 11/28 |
| Dvorsky, Brittney | 11/29 |



NOVEMBER CIRCUIT RIDER

*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