



# Circuit Rider

## August 2023

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*A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist*

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### Reflections from Pastor Peggy

As we head towards the fall, we are preparing to hire a new Christian Education Director, and a new Outreach Coordinator. That may end up being the same person doing both jobs as one full-time position, or it may end up being two part-time people. But in either case we will be able to bring more focus on reaching out to families, children, and youth, and building up our educational opportunities for all ages.

We also know that we can’t expect a new staff person to do it all. It will take a lot of people working together to revitalize our ministry with children, youth, and families. So we need to prepare ourselves—imagine new possibilities together and ground ourselves spiritually.

My sermon series for August will be focusing on prayer as relationship. Just as we have some ideas of words to use and ways to build caring relationships with friends and family, we can use some of those same tools to build our relationship with God.

With a friend or family member, we start by saying hello, we welcome each other by finding a comfortable way to meet and checking in with each other, and then we listen. And so as we make space for God, we set aside some time, we make a comfortable way to meet, and we listen. Maybe we usually think of prayer as talking, but prayer is as much about being quiet and listening for God.

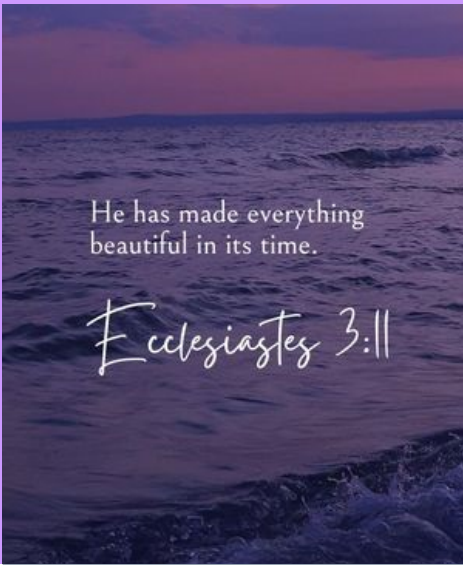
In relationships, we often do things together, or share a meal, and we can make small or larger requests of each other. So we use “please” and “thank you.” Being in a relationship is all about knowing that we don’t want to do it all alone. So we may ask for things, and say “Please, will you help me with this?” And we say, “Thank you so much! I really appreciated the help! It would have been a lot harder without you!”

And then there are times where we mess up. We are tired, or we don’t understand, or we feel hurt by something and lash out to say something mean, or we forget to do something we said we would. So we need to say, “I’m sorry. I messed up.” It can be hard to apologize, but acknowledging how we hurt someone is an important part of restoring the relationship. And so we also need to apologize to God as we develop that relationship.

When we really want a relationship, rather than a one-time meeting, we also will say some form of appreciation of the relationship, and make a commitment to getting together again in ways to continue the relationship. “I love you! I’ll plan to take out the trash in the morning, so you can sleep in.” “I really enjoyed getting together! Let’s get together again next month. What day works for you?”

Let’s remind ourselves of some tools to build up our relationship with God, and our relationships with each other, so we can move together with energy and excitement toward common goals.

*Pastor Peggy*



# Music Ministry

August always feels like the end of the summer because it's the last opportunity for kids to enjoy the time off from school. When I was teaching in schools, it was a turning point where my thoughts turned back to the classroom. We have also been on the summer schedule for music groups where we only meet for one rehearsal each month and then sing the following Sunday. This month, choir will be singing August 20<sup>th</sup>.



We will hold a "choir mini session" on Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity for you to try-out chancel choir on a small scale. We will have a 30-40-minute rehearsal and then treats. Choir is open to anyone who has an interest in singing! We have a lot of fun and it's a wonderful opportunity to meet people in a small setting. Seriously consider checking out to see what this group is all about!

*Angie Grecian-Bransky*

## Worship Schedule

**9:00 AM Sundays**

### Sermon Series for August: "Prayer as Relationship"

**August 6th —Communion**

Scripture: Psalm 25:1-5

Matthew 6:5-6, 9-10

Message: *Starting Point for Prayer: Hello! Welcome! And I'm Listening*  
by Rev. Peggy Garrigues

**August 13th**

Scripture: Psalm 70, Matthew 7:7-11,  
Psalm 147:1-7, John 11:38-44

Message: *Prayer When We Need Help or Guidance: Please and Thank You*  
by Rev. Peggy Garrigues

**August 20th—**

**Blessing of the Backpacks**

Scripture: Psalm 130, Matthew 6:12-23

Message: *Prayer to Restore Relationship: I'm Sorry*  
by Rev. Peggy Garrigues

**August 27th**

Scripture: Psalm 30, Psalm 101:1-3a,  
John 17:25-26

Message: *Prayer of Commitment: I Love You, I Will Do This For You*  
by Rev. Peggy Garrigues

**Come, let us praise the LORD! Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us! Let us come before him with thanksgiving and sing joyful songs of praise.**

*Psalm 95:1-2*

### Worship Attendance

	9:00 AM
July 2	71
July 9	62
July 16	55
July 23	53



# Mark Your Calendars!

Time to start marking those calendars with all the exciting programs that come with fall. Here is a little run down of things you may want to mark down as the school year approaches.

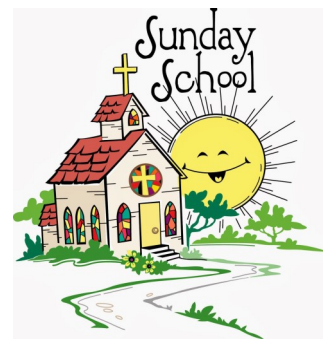
## ***Worship***

We will continue our current schedule for worship  
9:00 AM Worship—Sanctuary.



## ***Sunday School Kickoff***

Our Sunday School Kickoff event will be on **Sunday September 10th!** Stay tuned for more information.



## ***Youth Group***

Along with our other youth programs, we are in the planning stages, and plan for youth group to resume on Wednesday **September 13th at 6:30PM** in the FLC.



## ***Family Meals***



We are lucky enough to have the Richards family continuing to plan and cook up Family Meals once again! (YAY!) Meals will resume on **September 13th** and run with the Solon Community School District calendar. To continue this great tradition we need volunteers to help prepare, set up, tear down and clean up so please sign up when able to help. Meals begin at **5:30PM** and are available for a free will donation.

To provide these opportunities for our congregation we need volunteers to step up and help. Please consider volunteering for one of the above events. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact the church at [soloniaumc@gmail.com](mailto:soloniaumc@gmail.com)!

# We are HIRING!

We now have a job description for a part-time Christian Education Director position and a part-time Outreach Coordinator position!

These positions could also be combined into one full-time position.

We are very excited to begin the hiring process, please share with anyone you know that may be a good fit!

See details on our webpage:  
<https://soloniaumc.churchtrac.com/>



## Christian Education Conversation



### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Pastor Peggy will be holding a meeting, 'Christian Education Conversation' on Sunday July 30th at 7PM in the Hospitality Room in the LL of the church.

This meeting is open to ALL who have been involved in Christian Education here at SUMC past or present, and anyone who has ideas or would like to be involved in the future. Bring your ideas!

*Please note that we have changed the day from what was announced on Sunday. It will be Sunday night, not Monday night.*

### UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

The UMW does not meet in August. Please join us for our next meeting on September 6th!

For more information call Shirley Andersen 319-541-0732, or Barb Kalm 319-321-4078.



### United Methodist Men

Men's Group continues to meet Saturday mornings at 6:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. We focus our discussions based on the readings from the Upper Room and prepare a breakfast the first Saturday of every month. Our next scheduled breakfast is Saturday, August 5th.

Contact Mike Turner at 624-2061 for more information.

# WOMEN IN FAITH –2023 ROAD TRIP

On Tuesday, July 11, fifteen women set out on exciting day of learning and fun!

First stop was Foundation 2 in Cedar Rapids. The Foundation 2 Youth Shelter is a 24/7, 365 day a year emergency shelter for youth experiencing a personal or family crisis which makes it necessary to temporarily live away from home. The shelter is open to youth between the ages of 11-17.



*Listened to presentation of what the shelter offers children in need.*



*Viewed children's room currently being used.*

*"Phone Booth" as cell phones are taken away.*



Our second stop was to the Groundswell Café where delicious food was enjoyed!

The last stop of the day was to the Cultivate Hope Store. A little corner grocery that serves the local neighborhood. We were able to hear how and why the store was created and how it is currently supplied and staffed.

We ended our day with our bellies full, bags of fresh groceries, our spirits lifted and love in our hearts for one another and those in our communities.

Stay tuned for information on UWF Road Trip 2024!!!!



# Sunday School Donations Needed!



**Our Sunday School program is in need of donations! We are looking for things like crayons, markers, scissors, glue sticks, pens, pencils, hand sanitizer and Clorox/Lysol wipes. When you are out school shopping please keep us in mind! Donations can be dropped off to the donation box outside the church office. We really appreciate your support in restocking supplies as we prepare for the fall and kicking off our youth activities!**



Solon Community Schools, and most areas school districts will be returning to school on August 23rd.

Please add school staff, students and parents to your prayers this month.

Pray for an ease in fears as the world seems a bit out of control at times.

Pray for those who are anxious about the change in schedule. ✨

Pray for those beginning school for the first time, or are starting a new school.

Pray for a safe, healthy and happy school year.



# Annual Beef Days Luncheon 2023



**Do good.  
Be rich in good  
deeds.  
Be Generous.  
Be willing to  
share.**

**1 Timothy 6:18**

The Annual Beef Days Luncheon is quite the undertaking. Thanks to Tawnia Kakacek, Connie Railsback and Jeanne Erhart who served as co-chairs in organizing this event, and all who signed up to donate whether it was ingredients, tableware, desserts or their time. Once again it was shown how SUMC can pull together to create a wonderful fundraiser that doubles over as a way to pull the community and the church together.

While organization of the items needed and sign-ups started awhile back, food prep also started days before the event. You can see in a few of these pictures, some of the ladies that usually try and hide behind the scenes, yet do so much work for a variety of our events. Thank you to all who helped.

Proceeds of the luncheon will go to the general fund. Estimated proceeds are around \$1,650.00!



# Pastor Peggy's First Beef Days

Although I have lived nearby in Coralville for close to seven years, I must admit that I have never been to Solon Beef Days before!

On Friday evening, Sarah and I came to listen to Sugar and Spice for a little bit, while eating dinner. We were amazed at how many carnival rides were available, and all of the variety of food and treat options! For dessert we had some Heyn's ice cream at the robotics club booth.

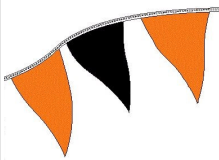
On Saturday morning, I came to see if there was a need to help set up for the luncheon. I helped a little, then watched the parade from right outside the kitchen. A couple of my photos from the parade are included here. There was quite a lot of community participation. I hope with a little more advance planning, we can have a Solon UMC presence in the parade next year. I am glad to offer my tiny yellow car as a way to catch people's attention. We'll just need to come up with a good slogan!

Once the church luncheon started, I helped make some tenderloin sandwiches for carry out, served some drinks, and then I mostly greeted people at tables—introducing myself as the new pastor here, and also collected some trays. Afterwards I pitched in to help wash dishes. The number of desserts was amazing, as were the number of volunteers who pitched in! Thank you to all who volunteered, especially to lead organizers Tawnia Kakacek, Connie Railsback, and Jeanne Erhart!

To round out my day, I followed up on Tom Moore's invitation to come see the archery tournament at the middle school. Once I got there, Jenny Moore used her persuasion skills to get me to register as a participant. I had last done archery in gym class in high school, so I was just a bit rusty! But with coaching from my high school archery team partner and the archery coaches, I got a total score of 65 on 15 shots. 150 was the highest possible score, and a number of the team members approached that—I was impressed! Tom managed to catch a photo of me preparing to shoot.

I enjoyed my experience of Beef Days, and look forward to having a brochure with some late summer and fall programming listed for next year!

*Pastor Peggy*



## Card Shower for Fred and Jeanne Bark!

**Fred and Jeanne Bark are celebrating their  
74th Wedding Anniversary on July 31st!**

Their family has asked that we shower them with some love and celebrate with them by sending cards. Please grab a card and mail it to them this week at:

Fred and Jeanne Bark  
623 E. 5th St.  
Apt. 201  
Solon, IA 52333





# Youth Mission Trip 2023

The 2023 Mission Trip focused on local needs this year. SUMC volunteered during Matthew 25's *Transform Week June 24th through 28th* in Cedar Rapids.

Those participating included:

Dade Altman  
Julia Woessner  
Brynn Haugland  
Kate Richards  
Mary Richards  
Tess Richards

Each day a breakfast was provided at church before our workers headed out. Thank you to the following ladies for their support in providing breakfast!

Connie Railsback  
Dee Swartzendruber  
Tawnia Kakacek  
Connie Koeppen



**Matthew 25**

Our Mission  
To improve the health of people and neighborhoods by investing in quality affordable housing, healthy food, educational opportunities, and community building.

Thank you



Kate, Tess, and Brynn tidying up the location where the transform team removed a six feet tall bush.



Tess pounding in the edging for a garden plot created for in a lady's backyard



Brynn, Dade, and Kate helping with stump removal.

*You're never too young to change the world!*

# Trustee Update

The Trustees Committee wants to Welcome Pastor Peggy to our church with all our blessings!

The kitchen island renovation was completed thanks to leadership of the project by Barb Kalm. Thanks to Al Hulse for disconnection and reconnection of the island electricity.

The kitchen stove metal edging was fabricated, donated and installed thanks to Dolfi Kalm.

Two dead ash trees were removed on the parsonage property lead by Tom Moore. Others helping were his son Justin, his wife Jenny, Paul Ruff and son Nathaniel, Al Hulse, Kris Kucera and Jill Weetman. Paul Ruff also provided use of a lift truck. One more dead ash tree will be removed from the open FLC lot.

The empty parsonage windows/screens and carpets were cleaned. Thanks to Al Hulse for fixing parsonage wall holes, doing touchup painting and some plumbing repair. Al also repaired the food pantry entry door at the church.

Continued appreciation goes out to Wayne Anderson for scrubbing the FLC gym and hallway floors every two weeks.

Same goes out to Verlee Lauderbaugh and Barb/Dolfi Kalm for continuous maintenance of the church and parsonage flowers and bushes.

## **Blessings!**

**Paul Miller- Chairperson of the Trustees Committee**



Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

-Colossians 3:23

# Prayers and Celebrations

## In Our Prayers

Kirk and his family following the passing of his sister Connie.

Jennifer and Jeff Allen and their family, following the passing of Jennifer's Dad, Bruce.

Nadine's Great-niece Lydia, who is battling pneumonia.

RuthAnn's granddaughter backpacking in Idaho.

Scott's son Luke, and his friend, traveling to Florida.

Travel mercies for Swartzendrubers as they traveled for the funeral of Dee's Aunt.

Nadine's great niece Lydia, who now has tumors all over her body, is paralyzed from the waist down, and has been told she has about 6 months to live.

Families of Suad Al Yasiri and Willie Davis of Cedar Rapids, who drowned when their canoe capsized on Lake MacBride.

Parks and Emergency staff who responded to the recent drowning at Lake MacBride.

Johnson County 4H youth as they exhibited animals and projects at the Johnson County Fair.

Those on RAGBRAI this week, please keep them safe.

## Joys + Thanksgiving

Thank you to Lynn Brown for again sharing her gifts and helping SUMC!

Those who have signed up/stepped up to help with the annual Beef Days Luncheon, thank you!

Tawnia Kakacek, Connie Railsback and Jeanne Erhart who co-chaired the Beef Days Luncheon this year.

Joys from the Wilkinsons as their two 8 year old grandsons recently visited!

Joys from Jeanne Erhart as her California family was able to celebrate her birthday with her this year.

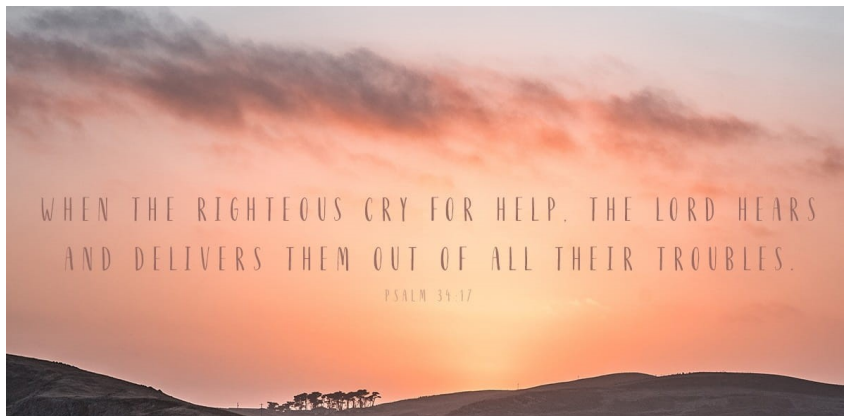
Congratulations to Phil and Tawnia who celebrated their anniversary and Phil's birthday!

Thank you to Jean Leighton, Gail Ross, Ruth Spieker and Verlee Lauderbaugh for providing altar flowers for the sanctuary for the month of July!



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

HERDLISKA, Linda	08/03
KRUSE, Brad	08/06
DOSCHER, Lydia	08/07
KESSLER, Julie	08/07
GORDON, Bennett	08/08
PAULSON, Dustin	08/08
RYAN, Josie	08/09
RICHARDS, Mary	08/10
FIALA, Dan	08/12
HANUS, Jared	08/12
JOHNSON, Piper	08/13
MCATEE, Shirley	08/13
KERKOVE, Tanner	08/14
NOSKA, Catherine	08/14
GERDIN, Clayton	08/17
JAURON, Adrianna	08/17
KALM, Barbara	08/17
KLEINSMITH, Zeb	08/17
KRUSE, Beckett	08/22
SHERMAN, Scott	08/22
LEIGHTON, Jean	08/23
SARGENT, Chris	08/23
HAWKS, Jennifer	08/24
KLEINSMITH, Toby	08/24
MCPHERON, Spencer	08/25
RUFF, Clarissa	08/26
RATHJEN, Joyce	08/27
UPAH, Tucker	08/28
KABELA, Shelby	08/29
GRUBER, Denny	08/30
DURR, Delainey	08/31



## Do you have a Prayer Request?

Please call or email the church office at (319) 624-2288 or [soloniaumc@gmail.com](mailto:soloniaumc@gmail.com) and let us know how we can help!



*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

**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