



Garner United Methodist Church

885 Maben Ave., Garner, IA 50438

Rev. Kristin W. Peters; Email: pastorkristingumc@gmail.com; Office Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., M-Th
Church Office Hours: 9-2, M-Th., Phone 641-923-2191, Email: garnerumc@comm1net.net

GUMC is a community of ordinary people seeking to put into practice the extraordinary love of God.

A Message from Pastor Kristin HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is so wonderful to be back with you all! I have missed you and feel excited to start this new year with renewed energy and hope. My family is so grateful for the time we shared together, and we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

The New Year brings anticipation of a fresh start and opportunities for our congregation. We have reviewed our ministry and have set goals and hopes for the upcoming year. This year we hope to focus our attention on building opportunities for meaningful fellowship and engagement to strengthen our bonds to one another and our faith. We plan to continue our development and maintenance of existing small group ministries and dream about what additional opportunities God may be calling us to focus our efforts on. We hope to grow in our intergenerational connections, and we want to continue the meaningful work of our Congregational Care Team to provide support to our members and friends.

We will plan our education, events, and outreach opportunities with these goals in mind, and we hope you will hold us accountable and support our efforts. I would love to hear what things have been meaningful to you at GUMC, and what you hope for. Please feel free to set up a time with me to discuss that in person, or let me know your thoughts via email. Your feedback is essential to our ministry.

Know that as you consider where you've been in 2023, God is with you now and wants good things for you and your future. At GUMC, we want to be a part of your faith journey. We want to nurture, learn, and build community with you. You matter to us, and we hope GUMC matters to you. Pray for each other and hope with us this year for a meaningful impact in the world through our discipleship pathway.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. - Jeremiah 29:11

In Peace,
Rev. Kristin W. Peters



Worship Tech Assistants: Jill Blank, Stan Isvik, Kevin Sweers, Jody East, Steve East, Ruth Legge, Beth Myers, and John Bowman

January Quarters: Heating Assistance

Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Sunday School (Youth, Adult)
10:15 a.m. Worship
11:15 a.m. Fellowship

Thank You

Thank you for all your prayers and the gift.
All are greatly appreciated.

Karen Johnson

January Ushers and Fellowship Servers

Join us for coffee and fellowship after our worship service each Sunday in the Fellowship Hall.

These are the January **ushers**:

Jan. 7: Rob Legge and Ted Hovda
Jan. 14: Terri Beshey and Russ Trulson
Jan. 21: Scott and Jody Seelhammer
Jan. 28: Pat Trulson and Mark Tue

These are the January **fellowship servers**:

Jan. 7: Paul and Nancy Nelson
Jan. 14: Jeff and Carrie Omans
Jan. 21: Ryan and Ami Frohling
Jan. 28: Kris and Joan Hanson

Thank you for your service. If you are unable to serve, please switch with someone or call Susan Hovda at 641-923-2909. If you find a substitute or switch, please let Lori in the church office know as well.

January and February Worship Leaders

Our congregation has been blessed to have so many of you serving our church as worship leaders. If you are willing to serve the church in this way and wish to be added to our list, please, please let me know. If you have been assigned a Sunday and have a conflict, please feel free to trade with someone and then let Lori in the office know (641-923-2191). If you wake up feeling under the weather, please contact me and I will be happy to fill in last-minute. My email is artwoman825@gmail.com, or text me at 641-425-2511. Again, thank you for blessing our church with your service.
Debra Hill

These are the January **worship leaders**:

Jan. 7: Robin Sweers
Jan. 14: Ted Hovda
Jan. 21: Deb Trulson & Jackson
Jan. 28: Beth Myers

These are the February **worship leaders**:

Feb. 4: Robin Sweers
Feb. 11: Lynn Smith
Feb. 18: Lorene Dykstra
Feb. 25: Kevin Sweers



Let's help
Grace Hartzell
celebrate her
103rd Birthday
on Sunday, Jan. 14, 2024!
Send your greeting to her at
Concord Care Center
490 W. Lyons St.
Garner, IA 50438

All-Church Fun & Fellowship

Mark your calendars!

Date: Sunday, Jan. 21
Time: 3-5 p.m.
Place: Fireside Room, GUMC
Plan: Popcorn and a Movie
Who: ALL are invited!

Watch future bulletins for more information.





United
Women
in Faith

This Month's Bible Verse: Romans 6:23 (NSRV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: No Meeting This Month

Joy Circle: Thursday, Jan. 18, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess and Program: Kay Mestad

Rebekah Circle: No Meeting This Month

Martha Circle: No Meeting This Month

We are a small but mighty group. Kind of a contradiction putting small and mighty together as generally the bigger things are, the mightier and more powerful they are. But not always so with God. We have only to look to the story of David and Goliath or Jesus born in a small town rather than the big city or Jesus using just 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed 5,000. What powerful witnesses of God's glory in the small.

United Women in Faith have been blessed with an abundant year. We thank you for sharing a meal with us on Souper Sundae, choosing fellowship with us first Sundays for Sundaes on Sundays, purchasing our frozen "made with love" casseroles, and buying our pecans. Your generous support has allowed us to give generously.

A special thank you and shout out to *Gifts Sew Sweet* located in Britt for donating 100 tee-shirts which we made into bags for families at Families Forward. This organization houses a pantry, child development center, emergency shelter, and affordable homes for vulnerable families.

We are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. - Ephesians 2:10

We are blessed to be a blessing.

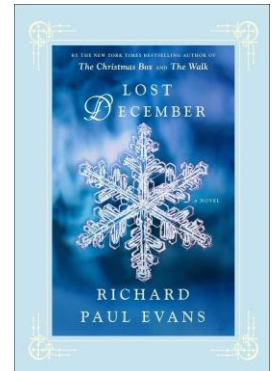
Debra Hill, Communications Coordinator



Check It Out!

A Book Review by Debra Hill

Are you looking for a good book about copy centers? Then this is the book for you! Well, it is not really about copy centers primarily, but they do play a role in this story of *Lost December* by Richard Paul Evans. It is a book with a beautiful cover because on it is one of God's temporary masterpieces. Pick it up and read it for the wonderful story enclosed, for the short chapters (some just one page long), but especially for the short quips from Luke Crisp's (main character) diary found on each chapter's start page. Chapter 10: "Someone should invent a pill for guilt. They'd make billions." Chapter 22: "The Bible says that money has wings. It doesn't. It has rocket engines." This is a much loved and reread book which I have lent to our GUMC library because it is a beautiful read. This is a story about joy. I hope you will check it out.



"I have learned that real angels don't have gossamer white robes and cherubic skin. They have calloused hands and smell of the day's sweat."

Chapter 26

Garner United Methodist Church 2024 Church Officers

Administrative Council: *Top decision-making committee of the church, responsible for coordinating overall ministry, including identity and vision*

Chairperson	Ted Hovda	2023-2025
Recording Secretary	TBD	2024-2026
Lay Leader	Robin Sweers	2022-2024
Lay Member/Annual Conf.	John Bowman	2024-2026
Alt. Lay Member/Ann. Conf.	Jill Blank	2024-2026
Treasurer	Jim Hill	2022-2024
Finance	John Bowman	2024
Trustees	Jeff Omans	2023-2025
SPRC	Jody Seelhammer	2023-2025
Education	Beth Myers	2022-2024
Co-Chair Missions/Outreach	Ruth Legge	2023-2025
Co-Chair Missions/Outreach	Deb Trulson	2024-2026
Congregational Care Team	Jan Sweers	2023-2025
Hospitality	Susan Hovda	2024-2026
UWFaith	Barb T./Myra B.	2024
UMM	John Bowman	2024
Youth Director	Beth Myers	2024
Pastor	Rev. Kristin W. Peters	

Finance: *Oversee financial aspects (budget, giving records, expenses, financial secretary, treasurer)*

John Bowman (Chairperson)	2024	Ted Hovda	Ad Council Chair
Kevin Sweers	2023-2025	Jim Hill	Treasurer
Lorene Dykstra	2022-2024	John Bowman	Lay Member to Annual Conf.
Morgan Smuck	2023-2025	Robin Sweers	Lay Leader/SPRC Rep
Jeff Omans	Trustees Rep.	Pastor Kristin	
Lori Griesert	Financial Sec.	Gary Thoms (Consultant)	
Sheri Weaver-Isvik	Stewardship		

Board of Trustees: *Oversee upkeep and improvement of assets, including building, contents, land, farm, responsible for legal issues*

Jeff Omans (Chairperson)	2023-2025	Julie Jass	2023-2025
Bruce Dykstra	2022-2024	Tom Johnson	2022-2024
Scott Seelhammer	2022-2024	Barb Trulson	2024-2026
Bob Abele (Consultant)	2022-2024	Paul Nelson	2023-2025
Kris Hanson (Consultant)	2022-2024		

SPRC: *Advise/support pastor and help healthy relationships with parish, oversee staff hiring and evaluation, communicate with D.S. in pastoral appointment*

Jody Seelhammer (Chair)	2023-2025	Janet Abele	2022-2024
Robin Sweers	2022-2024	Mike Brown	2023-2025
Deb Hill	2022-2024	Lorene Dykstra	2024-2026

Worship

Myra Bowman
Jill Blank
Robin Sweers

Deb Hill
Pastor Kristin
Secretary Lori

Mission and Outreach: *Coordinate the ministries of the church that reach out to the community and welcome new people into the congregation*

Ruth Legge (Co-Chair)	2023-2025	Tally Albertson	2023-2025
Deb Trulson (Co-Chair)	2024-2026	Val Anderson	2023-2025
Sheri Weaver-Isvik	2024-2026	Diane Gilbert	2022-2024
Karen Johnson	2022-2024		

Nominations Committee: *Evaluate needs for and recruit leadership, present slate of nominations to Church Conference*

Pastor Kristin Peters (Chairperson)

Jody East	2022-2024	Todd Jass	2023-2025
Allyson Fry	2022-2024	Mark Ricke	2024-2026

Education: *Oversee Sunday School, etc.*

Beth Myers (Chairperson)	2022-2024	Jan Sweers	2023-2025
John Bowman	2023-2025	Allyson Fry	2024-2026
Jean Sheets	2024-2026		

Other Committees/Task Forces/Ministry Groups

Congregational Care Team

Jan Sweers, (Chairperson)	2023-2025	Susan Hovda	2023-2025
Barb Trulson	2023-2025	Russ Trulson	2023-2025
Diane Gilbert	2023-2025	Janet Abele	2023-2025
Val Anderson	2023-2025	Deb Trulson	2023-2025
Cheryl Tietjens	2023-2025	Rob Legge	2023-2025
Stan Isvik	2023-2025		

Memorial: *Keep track of all memorials given to the church and the dedication of the memorials*

Ronna Myers (Chairperson)	2022-2024	Sharon Jass	2022-2024
Carrie Omans	2022-2024	Stan Isvik	2022-2024

Farm Committee: *Responsible for overseeing farm property and rent, reports to Trustees*

Rich Welsh (Chairperson)	2024-2026	Jim Hill	2024-2026
Jeff Omans	2024-2026		

Hospitality Committee: *Responsible for overseeing the hospitality throughout the church*

Susan Hovda (Chairperson)	2024-2026	Cheri Brown	2023-2025
Maurene House	2022-2024	Nancy Nelson	2022-2024

United Women in Faith

UWFaith Executive Committee and Coordinators

Co-Presidents	Barb Trulson & Myra Bowman		
Vice President	Carrie Omans	Membership/Nurture/Outreach	Julie Jass

Secretary	Susan Hovda	Program Resource	Cheryl Tietjens
Treasurer	Mary Thoms	Communications	Deb Hill
Assoc. Treasurer	Deb Trulson	UWF Responsibility	Ruth Legge
Social Action	Cheri Brown	Nominations	Carrie Omans
Spiritual Growth	Sheri Weaver-Isvik	Education/Interpretation	Robin Sweers

Circle Chairs

Joy Circle	Kay Mestad and Ronna Myers
Rebekah Circle	Myra Bowman, Barb Trulson, and Deb Trulson
Sarah Circle	Ruth Legge and Sheri Weaver-Isvik
Martha Circle	Jean Sheets and Carol Rork

Worship Ministries

Choir Director	Myra Bowman		
Organist	Myra Bowman		
Choir Pianist	Myra Bowman		
Communion Stewards	Mary Thoms (February – April)		
	Marilynn Jass (May – July)		
	Barb Trulson (August – October)		
	Ronna Myers (November – January)		
Drama Coordinator	Mike Brown		
A/V Techs	Jill Blank	Jody East	Kevin Sweers
	Beth Myers	Stan Isvik	Steve East
	Ruth Legge	John Bowman	
Offering Counters	Steve East	Don Stubbs	Morgan Smuck
	Jody Seelhammer	Terri Beshey	Scott Seelhammer
	Barb Trulson	Julie Jass	
	Joan Hanson	Todd Jass	

Other Ministries and Coordinators

Historian	Val Anderson
Auditors	Bruce and Lorene Dykstra
Kitchen	Mary Beth Cline

Work Group Chairpersons

Group 1	Russ and Barb Trulson Gary and Mary Thoms	Tally Albertson
Group 2	Rob and Ruth Legge Stan and Sheri Isvik	Kay Mestad
Group 3	Rick and Diane Gilbert Mike and Cheri Brown	Ted and Susan Hovda

Staff

Pastor	Rev. Kristin W. Peters	
Youth Director	Beth Myers	
Secretary	Lori Griesert	
Custodians	Dianne McCabe	Brionna Hill

January Birthdays

Deb Hill	Jan. 7	Ryan Frohling	Jan. 26
Grace Hartzell	Jan. 14	Sarah-Michele Ulven	Jan. 26
Angie Pringnitz	Jan. 17	Cody Glidden	Jan. 28
Everly Nelson	Jan. 20	Neil Johnson	Jan. 28
Travis Glidden	Jan. 21	Jason Ricke	Jan. 29
Mark Ricke	Jan. 22	Judy Schaper	Jan. 31
Shelly Bauer	Jan. 26		

January Anniversaries

Lynn Smith and Kathy Aberg	Jan. 11	Elton and Jean Sheets	Jan. 18
Jerry and Ronna Myers	Jan. 14	Bob and Janet Abele	Jan. 25
Rick and Diane Gilbert	Jan. 17		

If your name, birthday, or anniversary is listed incorrectly or is missing, please call the church office so we can update our information. Thanks!

The Joy of Christmas: Choir and Children, Dec. 17 Worship Service



*Thanks to Deb Hill for the *I Am* Advent art.

Contact Us

Church Office

Phone: 641-923-2191

Email: garnerumc@comm1net.net

Office Hours: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., M-Th

Office Closed on Fridays

Look for GUMC on Facebook by searching *Garner Iowa United Methodist Church*

YouTube Channel: Garner IA UMC-Media

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