



Garner United Methodist Church

885 Maben Ave., Garner, IA 50438

Rev. Kristin W. Peters – Currently on Parental Leave

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.

Guest Message: On Gratitude. . .

by Kevin Sweers

Is it already time to be talking about gratitude and Thanksgiving and sweater weather? Weren't pie stands and Hobo Days and outdoor summer activities just happening? Here in Iowa, we are certainly used to all seasons, but it still surprises me that we should be turning toward Thanksgiving and Christmas and another New Year's Eve already. Of course, as Christians, gratitude and thankful praise can be a focus of our everyday life. As I write this, it is sunny outside, I woke up safe and unafraid of rocket fire, there is plenty of clean, running water on tap, and Pastor Kristin's family is getting to know baby Isaiah—the reason for my writing this article. I have heard it suggested we write down three to five things to be grateful for at the end of each day, but I don't see any reason why we cannot practice thankfulness even more frequently. For instance, I am also grateful that God brought Lori to us and she reminded me today that I agreed to write this article several weeks back!

In my line of work, we tend to look for academic sourcing by about the second paragraph, so now might be a good time to read up on some source material:

1 Chronicles 16:34-35 -- *"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. Cry out, 'Save us, God our Savior; gather us and deliver us from the nations, that we may give thanks to your holy name, and glory in your praise.'"* What does "forever" even mean? We say it frequently, sometimes we sing or we say "forever and ever," but how enormous is the love of God that it literally touches all space and time? I know my mind has a hard time attempting to grasp the greatness of God. Our human minds probably cannot grasp his power and glory. . .and that omnipotent being loves you and me!

Psalms 100:4 -- *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."* This verse makes me think about being in the presence of God and what might be the right thing to say. In another way we enter God's court when we come into the sanctuary at GUMC; do we enter from a place of praise and thanksgiving? Absent of another idea I suppose that praise to the Lord God Almighty should be a good place for us to begin. Selfishly I am hoping that he will take some of that praise through song, and you probably have your own preferred methodology. If God is as big as we considered in the paragraph above, he can probably deal with us on many different levels.

Psalms 103:1-- *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless his holy name."*

This verse reminds me of a song we are rehearsing in choir. Two or three millennia since the Psalms were written and we're still creating and offering songs using these inspired words. Father Mulcahy on M*A*S*H said you can't miss if you've got good material.

In searching for a way to close, the fourth chapter of Philippians came up on the web. Philippians 4:6 speaks to thankfulness, and 4:7 is a verse that has hung on my walls since my confirmation in the United Methodist Church a few decades back. I will leave you with these thoughts stated better by Saint Paul than I ever could:

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, shall guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."



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

November Quarters: God's Pantry

Sunday Schedule

9 a.m. Sunday School (Youth, Adult)

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship



We hope everyone has been enjoying the fall colors. During October we collected quarters for outerwear for kids. We recently sent \$500 to 5 Loaves, 2 Fish for them to purchase outerwear for the distribution event on Nov. 6 at the Garner Presbyterian Church. In addition, thanks for your donations of new and/or gently used items placed in the collection box during October; those will also be distributed to those who need them on Nov. 6.

Ruth will deliver 99 student school kits and 63 personal dignity kits to the Ingathering on Saturday, Nov. 4. That total includes 13 personal dignity kits put together by the ladies' group from Britt. Thanks again for your donations of quarters and school supplies that allowed us to do this.

During November we will be collecting for God's Pantry. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.
The Missions Committee

November Ushers and Fellowship Servers

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

These are the November **ushers**:

Nov. 5: Jeff and Carrie Omans

Nov. 12: Mark Tue and Paul Nelson

Nov. 19: Terri Beshey and Russ Trulson

Nov. 26: Jim Jass and Doug Jass

These are the November **fellowship servers**:

Nov. 5: Roger and Cheryl Tietjens

Nov. 12: Elton and Jean Sheets

Nov. 19: Jerry and Ronna Myers

Nov. 26: Jan Sweers and Kevin Sweers

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.



Nursery Ministry Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are needed to staff the nursery during worship on Sundays. Sign-up sheets are on the lobby table if you are interested in serving as a nursery volunteer to make this valuable ministry available to our congregation.

Be Part of the Next All-Church Fellowship & Fun Event

Join us Sunday, Oct. 29, from 3-5 p.m. at GUMC as we gather as a church family for some fun activities and quality fellowship. Here's what we have planned for this event:

- Hayrides
- Spooky games
- A meal
- "Boy Scouts" peach cobbler made by Bob Abele

As before, all ages are welcome! Please join us!



If you need pastoral care while Pastor Kristin is on parental leave, call Lori in the church office (641-923-2191) if it's during office hours, or call Jan Sweers, Cong. Care Team leader (641-843-4055 or 641-860-1887).



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Monday, Nov. 13, 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Deb Hill; Program: Ruth Legge

Joy Circle: Thursday, Nov. 16, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess and Program: Arlene Davis

Rebekah Circle: Monday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Robin Sweers; Program: Jan Sweers

Thank you to all who supported Food for the Soul, our casserole fundraiser. We sold 26 large lasagna casseroles, 26 large chicken casseroles, 37 small lasagna casseroles, and 60 small chicken casseroles!

Our Garner UWFaith members received a shout out at the General Conference for the 14 readers who read 40 books as part of the conference reading program.

Upcoming Unit Meetings:

Friday, Nov. 17, at 10 a.m. -- UWFaith Executive Board meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 29, at 5:15 p.m. -- Unit Meeting with a light supper provided by Rebekah Circle and a program presented by Sarah Circle, election and installation of officers, and World Thank Offering envelopes collected. We hope to see you there!

Cheri Brown
Publicity Chair

[We believe love in action can change the world.](#)



UMM to Return in January

All men are invited to the next meeting of United Methodist Men, which will be on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. At that time we will be finalizing plans for a dessert auction in April. We will also be discussing plans for the Duesey Days pie stand. Watch for more details in the January newsletter.

Thankful for YOU

In this month of giving thanks, I want to take time to say THANKS to YOU! The Hospitality Committee calls upon many of you to serve. We appreciate those who serve Fellowship Time after our services. It's such a nice time to catch up with our church members to see what's happening in their lives.

I wish all of you who help with funeral lunches could hear the many positive comments and compliments from families and friends I hear. For those who made salads, baked bars, or set the tables, thank you for your help. Please know how much they are appreciated by the family.



I'm very thankful for my Hospitality Committee of Maurene House, Cheri Brown, and Nancy Nelson. We have wonderful chairpersons of our Work Groups that organize funerals and other events at our church. A special thanks to Russ and Barb Trulson, Tally Albertson, Gary and Mary Thoms, Kay Mestad, Rob and Ruth Legge, Stan and Sheri Isvik, Mike and Cheri Brown, Rick and Diane Gilbert, and Ted Hovda for serving in that role.

Susan Hovda, Hospitality Chair

Help Needed for Garner's Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Zion E & R Church (760 W. 8th St.) will host this year's community Thanksgiving dinner on Thursday, Nov. 23 (Thanksgiving Day). We are responsible for 10 pumpkin and 14 fruit or cream pies for this year's dinner. If you'd be willing to bake one or more pies, please sign up on the sheet on the lobby table. Pies should be in disposable pans and not cut and at the Zion church by 8 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to help that day; a sign-up sheet for that is also on the lobby table. More information on the dinner itself will be in the bulletin and on the bulletin board next week.



Time for Pecans

Rebekah Circle members will be selling pecans after church in the lobby on the first two Sundays in November (Nov. 5 and Nov. 12). For \$14, you can purchase a one-pound bag of mammoth pecans to use in your holiday baking or enjoy as a tasty snack.

November Birthdays

Angie Schilling	Nov. 1	Caleb Dirksen	Nov. 22
Cindy Sonquist	Nov. 1	Emma Frohling	Nov. 22
Stan Isvik	Nov. 5	Kellen Krutsinger	Nov. 23
Croix Glidden	Nov. 7	Jody East	Nov. 24
Cody Kramer	Nov. 10	Al Jenniges	Nov. 24
Taylor Krutsinger	Nov. 12	Robin Ginapp	Nov. 25
Ken Ausborn	Nov. 13	Amarie Abbas	Nov. 26
Steve Wood	Nov. 13	Mary Thoms	Nov. 26
Terri Beshey	Nov. 14	John Bowman	Nov. 28
Ellen Duffy	Nov. 14	Kael Krutsinger	Nov. 28
Deb Risius	Nov. 14	Arlene Davis	Nov. 29
Doug Olhava	Nov. 17	Andrew Legge	Nov. 29
Isaac Myers-St. Ores	Nov. 18	Jennifer Kramer	Nov. 30
Tjaden Kramer	Nov. 21		

November Anniversaries

Derek and Morgan Smuck	Nov. 3	Andrew and Taylor Legge	Nov. 28
Kyle and Sarah Prahm	Nov. 7	Jake and Nicole Pringnitz	Nov. 28
Jordan and Jacki Paulsen	Nov. 8	Mike and Cheri Brown	Nov. 30
Alan and Barb Bredlow	Nov. 11	Mark and Carrie Ricke	Nov. 30

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

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

Jan Sweers, Cong. Care Team Leader

Phone: 641-843-4055 or 641-860-1887

Email: janicesweers@gmail.com



Laity Sunday – Oct. 15
The Heart of Our Church



Mark your calendars for Sunday, Nov. 26, when we will meet in the Sanctuary right after church to hang the greens as we begin to prepare for Advent and the eventual arrival of the Christ Child. All are welcome to help or simply supervise and enjoy the fellowship. A potluck will follow.

Baby Shower
for Kelsi Pringnitz
Saturday, Nov. 4
Mitchell, South Dakota

If anyone from the congregation would like to send a gift, Angie Pringnitz and Nicole Pringnitz will be going. You can contact Nicole at 641-860-0362.



Thanks!

I want to thank you for all the prayers
and the care package from UWFaith.



-Karen Johnson



THANK YOU for helping staff God's
Pantry in October:

- ✓ 5 Monday morning shifts
- ✓ 4 Thursday afternoon shifts
- ✓ 27 volunteer slots filled by you
- ✓ 6 people who worked multiple days

Fine job, people!



Reminder: Daylight Savings
Time ends in the early
morning hours of Sunday,
Nov. 5. Remember to set
any clocks back one hour
that don't automatically
adjust. Enjoy your extra
hour of sleep!

