



Garner United Methodist Church

885 Maben Ave., Garner, IA 50438

Rev. Kristin W. Peters; Email: pastorkristingumc@gmail.com

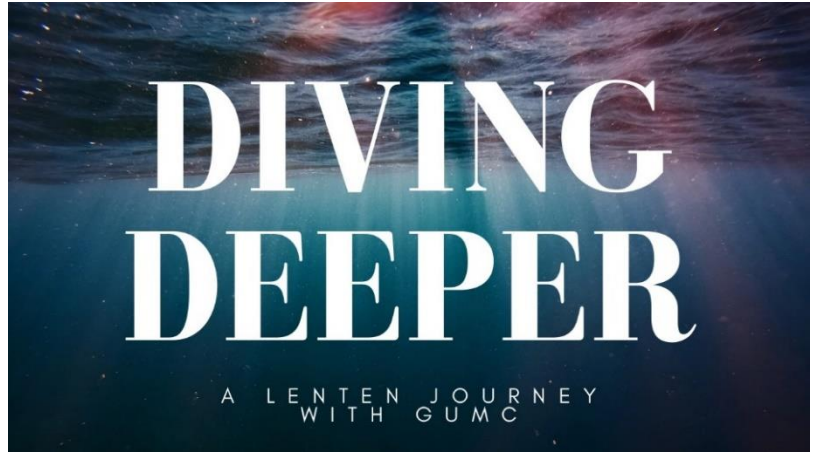
Pastor's Office Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., M-Th (Mondays from home—available by email/phone)

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

The season of Lent is upon us! Our theme for Lent is DIVING DEEPER. At GUMC, we grow with God in our community, and we desire to dive deeper into this relationship throughout our Lenten journey in 2024. Please join us for our special services--Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both at 6 p.m.--and for regular Sunday worship at 10:15 a.m. On Easter Sunday, we will offer coffee and treats at 9 a.m. to prepare for our Easter Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship will be at 10:15 a.m. All children and families are welcome to attend. There will be no hospitality following Easter service that day.



Join our Centering Prayer group during Sunday School at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. This is a time to deepen our spiritual practices. You need only bring yourself to participate.

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

During the season of Lent, I invite you to take on the practice of Centering Prayer daily, in the morning and in the evening. Set aside two 20-minute periods each day, preferably on awakening and before supper. Then, we have a weekly group time to practice Centering Prayer together on Sunday mornings and talk about our experience with it and one another.

Brochures on Centering Prayer are available on the table in the lobby. If you'd like to read more about the practice, I recommend getting the book *Open Heart, Open Mind* by Thomas Keating. This is not required reading but may help you deepen your practice of Centering Prayer. Dive deeper with us during Lent at GUMC!

In Peace,

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

Special Lenten Service Schedule

Palm Sunday: March 24, 2024: Palm Parade, 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday: March 28, 2024: Washing Service, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Good Friday: March 29, 2024: Service of Lament, 6 p.m., Chapel

Easter Sunday: March 31, 2024: Coffee Hour at 9 a.m., Egg Hunt at 9:30 a.m., Easter Service at 10:15 a.m., Sanctuary

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Pastor-Led Centering Prayer

Sundays through March 24, 2024, at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room

Diving Deeper Theme

Sunday, March 3, 2024 – Diving Deeper into Risk; John 2:13-22

Sunday, March 10, 2024 – Diving Deeper into Belief, John 3:14-21

Sunday, March 17, 2024 – Diving Deeper into Honor, John 12:20-33

Sunday, March 24, 2024 – *Palm Sunday* Diving Deeper into Grace; Mark 14:1-15:47

Thursday, March 28, 2024 – *Maundy Thursday* Diving Deeper into Service; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, March 29, 2024 – *Good Friday* Diving Deeper into Despair; John 18:1-19:42

Sunday, March 31, 2024 – *Easter Sunday* Diving Deeper into Hope; Mark 16:1-8

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

March (Lenten) Quarters: Jubilee Water Project (Water Wells)

Sunday Schedule

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



UMM will meet Monday, March 4, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Tentative plans are for a potluck and the finalizing of plans for the April 14 Earl Beshey Dessert Auction.



Our Lenten project this year will be The United Methodist Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tennessee. The project has met the unique needs of Hancock County, Tennessee, residents since 1991.

People living in the “hollers” even today lack access to clean, fresh water. The project builds about three wells each year in Hancock County, where many residents don’t have access to clean, safe water. Other kinds of Jubilee water projects include catch systems for rainwater, storage, and filtration and septic systems for wastewater.

Jubilee also focuses on food security in Hancock County. Unlike neighboring counties, the terrain makes it difficult to grow anything more than a small garden. Jubilee works with two food pantries in the county to make sure people have enough to eat.

The many ways that Jubilee approaches the pervasive poverty in the county is an indication of how these Appalachian Mountain communities have been left behind--for perhaps 100 years--in basic necessities like food, water, sanitation, and shelter. Just recently, the county received a substantial grant to work on water infrastructure, but once again, plans stopped at the foot of the mountains.

Watch for further details on the project at Garner UMC that has Hancock County, Iowa, residents helping those of Hancock County, Tennessee.
The Missions Committee



March Ushers and Fellowship Servers

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

These are the March **ushers**:

March 3: Terri Beshey and Russ Trulson

March 10: Ken Smith and Jake Pringnitz

March 17: Rob Legge and Ted Hovda

March 24: Doug Jass and Jim Jass

March 31: Rick and Diane Gilbert

These are the March **fellowship servers**:

March 3: Scott and Renée Kramer

March 10: Rick and Diane Gilbert

March 17: Todd and Julie Jass

March 24: Mark and Carrie Ricke

March 31: Maurene House, Jeff and Carrie Omans (9 a.m.)

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 (641-923-2191) know as well.

March and April Worship Leaders

Below are the worship leaders for March and April. If you wish to be added to our list of those willing to serve the church this way, please let Debra Hill know. If you have been assigned a Sunday and have a conflict, 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 Debra Hill, who will be happy to fill in last-minute. Her email is artwoman825@gmail.com, or text her at 641-425-2511.

These are the March **worship leaders**:

March 3: Robin Sweers

March 10: John Bowman

March 17: Carrie Omans

March 24: Mike Brown

March 31: Debra Hill

These are the April **worship leaders**:

April 7: Robin Sweers

April 14: Kay Mestad

April 21: Ted Hovda

April 28: Terri Beshey

Calling All Knitters, Crocheters, and Weavers

A new outreach group, the Prayer Shawl Ministry, is being formed at GUMC.

What is a prayer shawl? Throughout the ages shawls have symbolized shelter, peace, and spiritual sustenance. The National Prayer Shawl Ministry, started in 1998, is an ecumenical movement with people praying as they create hand-knitted, woven, or crocheted shawls for those in need. The creation and presentation of a prayer shawl, like all acts of generosity, enriches the giver as well as the recipient.



Participation is simple. There are no meetings to attend. Work can be done at home, on your own schedule. Beginning and completion prayers are available as well as sample patterns, if needed. Bags will be available in a basket in the entryway for completed shawls. Questions? Contact Nicole Pringnitz at Burgardt.nicole327@gmail.com or Robin Sweers at rrsweers@gmail.com.

Bring Us Your Bags!

Do you have an abundance of plastic bags at your house and don't know what to do with them? Don't throw them away; bring them to church! A collection tub will be available in the entryway by the coat rack. Later this year, we will begin using them to weave mats for people experiencing homelessness. Help us prepare for this new adventure by donating your extra bags!





United
Women
in Faith

This Month's Bible Verse: Colossians 3:17 (NIV)

And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Unit Meeting: Wednesday, March 6, 5:15 p.m.

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Monday, March 4, 5:30 p.m.

Hostess: Carrie Omans; Program: Ruth Legge

Martha Circle: Wednesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m.

Hostess: Joan Nielsen; Program: TBD

Joy Circle: Thursday, March 21, 9:30 a.m.

Hostess: Arlene Davis; Program: Mary Andrews

Rebekah Circle: Monday, March 25

Hostess: Myra Bowman; Program: Deb Trulson

I have it ready. My father's bell, complete with his name engraved upon it and used to call the start and end of classes during his teaching years, is close at hand. I plan to ring it on March 8 at my home for 15 solid seconds. Perhaps you'll join me. What is this nonsense, you might wonder? Well, that day is International Bell Ringing for Women's Rights in 2024. Ensuring women's and girls' rights across all aspects of life remains a human rights challenge. Progress for women benefits us all. Ring your bell.

Our first gathering of 2024 is finally here on March 6; yay! We will meet at 5:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at church (but for those of you working until 5 or after, please come when you are able). A light supper will be served by Sarah Circle, and the program organized by Joy Circle will feature Mary Ingham, the director of Crisis Intervention Service. This is tied to the shower Joy Circle is hosting (see boxed information below). We know we are called as women to put our faith into action, so we will also be collecting our Call to Prayer and Self Denial offering at this meeting. This offering will support programs for climate justice.

Looking forward to District News, our CCLD* Education and Interpretation Study will be held on Saturday, April 6. Mark the date on your calendar and plan to pick up a friend or two or three to travel to Mason City First UMC. Lorna Leavitt (our spiritual retreat presenter from last summer who was so fun) will be leading "Feasting with Jesus." The church is located across from MacNider Museum, not far from the Mason City Public Library.

Remember, women like you driven by God's love can change the world.

We are blessed to be a blessing.

Debra Hill, Communications Coordinator

*Camp Clear Lake District

Joy Circle invites the church to participate in a shower for

Crisis Intervention Service

When: March 7-21

How: Pick up a list of needs from the lobby table on or after March 7. Bring items to the church from March 7-21. *Items will be picked up March 21.* Gift cards should be given directly to Lori in the office.

Crisis Intervention Service's Mission: Provide persons affected by domestic violence and/or sexual assault with professional 24-hour services.



An Update from the Trustees

As we move into spring-like weather (Hasn't it been GREAT!), I wanted to go over a couple things from the Trustees' perspective. Spring means warm days and cool nights--and sometimes cool days and warm nights. It is as if Mother Nature cannot make up her mind. Our church uses hot water heat, provided by three boilers. While this is an efficient way to heat a large building like our church, it is not as responsive as the heat in a regular house. During these periods of large temperature swings, it gets harder for our heat system to keep up. This is why at times it is cooler or warmer than we would like in the building. Then at some point we have to turn off the boilers for the summer and start the air conditioners. When that will be, no one knows for sure. If we make the conversions too soon, there will be some cool weather and the church will be too cool. If we do it too late, there will be warm days in church. The Trustees team will try to make the best decision on this timing, but we all know how well the weather people do with forecasting, and that is all we can go by. We have this same challenging decision to make in the fall.



To add some additional complexity to the above normal decision, the controller that was working with the thermostats has decided it wanted to retire. This unit was installed in the early '90's (as near as we can tell), and there are no parts available. While we can manually control most areas in the church with the thermostats on the walls, we are having trouble controlling the Sanctuary and Chapel temperatures this way. We have a repair person currently working on this issue.

Once the Sanctuary issue is resolved, we need to work on a replacement controller to again automate the building temperatures and maximize our efficiency to save money. We will not be able to replace the whole heating controls system at once; it is too expensive, and roof replacement is still a top priority. But we do think we can do things in small steps over the next few years to build a new system and spread out the cost.

The Trustees Team takes the gifts given to the church as well as the responsibility we have to maintain the facilities very seriously. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to a Trustee team member or me.

Jeff Omans
Trustee Chair

Check It Out!

by Debra Hill

I have always enjoyed poetry and poetry books. My favorites are e.e. cummings and Robert Frost. I believe I heard something once that said poetry is a painting that speaks; that stuck with me since I like to paint. Then again, maybe it started in fourth grade when an eight-line poem of mine was selected by my teacher to send in for publication. It was a silly little ditty about a lobster and a fish and a fish and a whale. Kind of amazing in that I don't like seafood at all. Hmm.

I consider the following poetry:

*I asked of God,
but there was silence.*

I prayed to God,

but there was silence.

*I begged of God,
but there was silence.*

*I cried out to God,
but there was silence.*

*Then I was silent,
and there was God.*

I came across this on Instagram (She Rises), and it prompted my decision to join Pastor Kristin's centering prayer group on Sunday mornings. Perhaps you'll join too, or maybe you are already there waiting for me. If so, thank you, and I will see you soon.

Dear friends here at the Garner UMC,

I want to thank you for all the prayers that have been lifted up during my illness/surgery and now my recovery. Special thanks goes out to Pastor Kristin who came to the hospital to visit and have prayer. I am grateful to Barb Trulson who served my three pulpits on two different occasions. I was so blessed to be able to turn to Lorene Dykstra to help me with many different needs.

I am so humbled and grateful for everything, especially the prayers. It is through your prayers that I was able to feel the warmth of God giving me hope to know that I would get well. The prayers also gave me God's strength to get stronger and stronger each day. I am now slowly back doing ministry.

God bless you,

Pastor Deb

Klemme-Goodell-Thornton UMC



March Birthdays

Tammy Abbas	March 2	Jim Gatchel	March 19
Rev. Kristin Peters	March 3	Barb Stubbs	March 19
Sharon Jass	March 4	Darrell Schaper	March 21
Doug Blanchard	March 5	Dan Trulson	March 21
Jeff Omans	March 7	Mary Vaughan	March 22
Avery Furst	March 9	Tom Johnson	March 23
Chris Formanek	March 11	Cheri Brown	March 25
Jerry Myers	March 11	Rick Gilbert	March 27
Nancy Nelson	March 16	Nicole Pringnitz	March 27
Emberly Albertson	March 19	Etta Lou Bier	March 28

March Anniversaries

Steve and Jody East	March 7
Jeff and Carrie Omans	March 21

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

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

Email: pastorkristingumc@gmail.com

Office Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., M-Th (Mondays
from home—available by email/phone)