



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

Hallelujah! Christ has risen! Eastertide at GUMC will be a time to center our hearts upon the magnificent creation God has given us to steward. Because Jesus came into the world to show us how to live, and trusted us to share the ways of discipleship with the world upon his ascension, taking care of our world is an important piece of our faith journey.

A few years ago our United Women in Faith did a study on the book *Embracing Wholeness: An Earth Perspective for Covenantal Living* by Jessica Stonecypher.

Our Eastertide series will follow the chapters of *Embracing Wholeness* and invite the congregation of GUMC to consider how our faith, lifestyle, and the earth intersect. The series is very family friendly and will be perfect for talking to young children and kids about caring for the planet as people of faith. GUMC will offer ways to engage all generations in worship, at home, and everywhere in between.

Embracing Wholeness is available in the UW Faith library and for purchase on Kindle. If you'd like a hard copy, please contact the office as the book is no longer in print. However, we have a few copies floating around with UW Faith members who are willing to lend them out on a temporary basis.

On April 14 we will take a break from our Eastertide series to participate in our Crossroads Connection Circuit's annual Pulpit Swap. GUMC will welcome Rev. Leila Blackburn from Belmond UMC, and I will be preaching with Crystal Lake and Forest City UMC. Please prepare to welcome Rev. Leila with warmth.



Embracing Wholeness

April 7 - The Sacred Creation; Romans 8:19-22

April 14 - Pulpit Swap with Rev. Leila Blackburn from Belmond UMC

April 21 - The Sacred Community; John 2:1-12

April 28 - The Sacred Self; Psalm 8

May 5 - Covenantal Living; Psalm 23:3-6 & Genesis 9:9

May 12 - Ascension Sunday; John 17:6-19

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

April Quarters: El Salitre Women's and Children's Center

Sunday Schedule

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

We plan to deliver aluminum can tabs to the Rochester Ronald McDonald House this fall; our quarters will support them in September. Please continue to pull your can tabs and place them in the jug outside the offices. Thanks!



We will conclude our Lenten project, The United Methodist Jubilee Project in Sneedville, Tennessee, on Easter Sunday. Thank you for your donations to help residents in that Appalachian Mountain Hancock County community gain access to clean, safe water and to help make sure people have enough to eat.

Our quarters in April will go to the El Salitre Women's and Children's Center. After years of planning and fundraising, they were able to move into their new building last October. The Center now gives women a safe place to apply the skilled crafts of sewing and embroidering as they are now behind high walls that protect them from the gang violence of the impoverished community where they live. Center seamstresses earn a living wage, have health insurance and retirement, and have the funds to feed their children every day and keep them in school.



Education is a critical feature of the El Salitre Center. Guatemalan schools operate only half a day, so the children come to the Center the other half day for activities focused on increasing literacy and math skills and building scientific understandings and artistic expression. Preschool children take part in play and learning time as well. Additionally, they began to create gardens and an orchard in February to supplement their families' food supply.

Thank you for your contributions that will help them continue to make a difference in all these areas. Speaking of contributions, your generosity allowed us to make a \$600 donation to Hancock County Co-op Oil to help those in need of heating assistance.

The Missions Committee

April Ushers and Fellowship Servers

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

These are the April **ushers**:

April 7: Paul Nelson and Gary Thoms

April 14: Ken Smith and Russ Trulson

April 21: Jim Hill and Bob Abele

April 28: Scott and Jody Seelhammer

These are the April **fellowship servers**:

April 7: Mark and Carrie Ricke

April 14: Earl Beshey Dessert Auction & Bake Sale

April 21: Dean and Marcia Sonquist

April 28: All-Church Fun & Fellowship

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.

Time to Staff the Pantry

GUMC is helping staff God's Pantry in April. Two to three volunteers are needed each Monday morning from 9-11 a.m. and Thursday afternoon from 4-6 p.m. Sign-up sheets will be on the lobby table after Easter. Please consider signing up for a shift or two. You will need to arrive 10-15 minutes early for your shift to go over what you'll be doing.

Thanks for the help!



Another Way You've Made a Difference

Thanks to all those who donated to the Crisis Intervention Service shower sponsored by Joy Circle. From March 7-20, you brought in a variety of items like fruit cups, soup, crackers, tuna, mac and cheese cups, toilet paper, paper towels, dish soap, sheet sets, new pillows, and kitchen towels to meet pantry and household needs as well as personal products like deodorant, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, and sunscreen. You also donated gift cards. The Crisis Intervention advocate who picked all this up estimated your donations totaled over \$400 in value! All this will help them in their mission to provide persons affected by domestic violence and /or sexual assault with professional 24-hour services. Thank you again for making a positive difference!



Left: Joy Circle members “showered” Crisis Intervention Service during their March meeting. Above: These are just some of the items donated by GUMC members as part of the CIS shower.

April and May Worship Leaders

Below are the worship leaders for April and May. 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 April **worship leaders**:

April 7: Robin Sweers

April 14: Kay Mestad

April 21: Ted Hovda

April 28: Terri Beshey

These are the May **worship leaders**:

May 5: Robin Sweers

May 12: Josh Omans

May 19: Deb Trulson & Jackson Trulson

May 26: Beth Myers

Did You Know?

The Congregational Care Team is a group dedicated on one hand to the visitation of our elders and sick and, on the other hand, to the support of our littles as they grow in the church from baptism throughout their lives. We support integrating new members into the congregation through new membership classes and mentorship. We meet to discuss our members in need of visitation and how we can work together to make sure our GUMC family has a meaningful connection to the church from cradle to grave. We grow in discipleship by serving others in our church by nurturing their connection to GUMC in all aspects of their lives.



For pastoral care or concerns, contact chairperson Jan Sweers at janicesweers@gmail.com or call or text her at 641-860-1887.



Join us for the
**Earl Beshey
Dessert Auction & Bake Sale**

Sunday, April 14, After Worship

On the Agenda:

Light lunch of sloppy joes, baked beans, chips, and a drink

Auction of Desserts after the meal
Have some fun and bid up your favorite dessert.

Bake Sale

Purchase pre-priced items to enjoy after lunch or to take home.

All proceeds from the sale go to the Building Stewardship
Fund to support the roof replacement.

Sponsored by the Garner United Methodist Men

**Let's Support Todd and Ruth
in the 2024 Walk MS!**

Date: Saturday, April 27

Place: Southbridge Mall in Mason City

Walk Time: 9:30 a.m.

Registration: Begins at 8:30 a.m.

You are welcome to join Todd and Ruth's joint team and walk with them that day. You can support them through donations made to the National MS Society given that day, online, or through a check written and sent with Todd or Ruth that day.



**Wanted: Desserts for April 14 Earl Beshey
Dessert Auction & Bake Sale**

Sign up on the sheets in the church lobby to donate a dessert to be auctioned or to donate goodies for the bake sale. If you make something for the bake sale, please price your items.



**GARNER COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**

Garner United Methodist Church
885 Maben Ave | Garner

**Tuesday, April 16, 2024
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Text: LIFESERVE to 999-777 | Call: 800.287.4903

Visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org

APPOINTMENTS ARE ENCOURAGED



Bring Us Your Bags!

Do you have an abundance of plastic grocery/shopping bags at your house and don't know what to do with them? Don't throw them away; bring them to church! Two collection tubs are 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!

Alaire Willits of Midwest Mission points out that grocery bags make a nice size loop when weaving the mats. Bigger sizes of bags are okay as long as the weight is the same.



The UMM will meet Monday, April 1, at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All men are invited to join us as we put the finishing touches on our plans for the April dessert auction and bake sale.



United
Women
in Faith

This Month's Bible Verse: John 12:26 (NIV)

Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me.

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Monday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Nancy Nelson; Program: Susan Hovda

Martha Circle: Wednesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Jean Sheets; Program: Mel Hiscocks

Joy Circle: Thursday, April 18, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess: Cheryl Tietjens; Program: Maurene House

Rebekah Circle: Monday, April 22, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Deb Trulson; Program: Jan Sweers

UWFaith Girlfriends,

We have grown from eight women in 1869 to nearly half a million members today, encompassing 150 years and a milestone of mission-minded work. We do have reason to celebrate.

I will give a bit of a refresher for those who lost a bit of memory during Covid. You may have forgotten our tea party at the front of the sanctuary where some of us dressed in all sorts of costumes and hats and did a small play about our beginnings. Two wives of missionaries to India made a plea to a group of eight women. Help was desperately needed for poor women in India who could not be treated by male doctors. In addition, schooling for girls was almost non-existent. Those eight called a meeting of more women, wrote a constitution, and became the Methodist Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, a mouthful to be sure and a mighty group. They raised funds and sent an educator and female doctor to India. Ms. Thoburn began a school with just six young girls that went on to become a college, Asia's first women's college, in fact. Dr. Swain's medical work resulted in the first women's hospital in Asia. Both institutions continue to serve the people of India today. And from there our work as Methodist women emerged and continues to this day. We have had many names but continue to believe love in action can change the world.

An absolutely huge thank you goes to Barb Stubbs who made cake for our celebration! There are people who say you can't have your cake and eat it too. Well, those people obviously don't understand what you're supposed to do with cake, right?

Here's a call to action for ideas for the Barbara Csomay grant. Even if you don't have all the important stuff figured out, please do submit your unfinished idea to Myra or Barb T.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at First United Methodist in Mason City on Saturday, April 6. If you need a ride, let me know. Always a good time when women in faith gather together. Lastly, mark your calendars now for our next unit meeting on Monday, May 1. Our special speaker will be Alaire Willits from Midwest Mission, and she will be bringing our loom and showing us how to weave sleeping mats.

We are blessed to be a blessing,
Debra Hill



Save the Date!

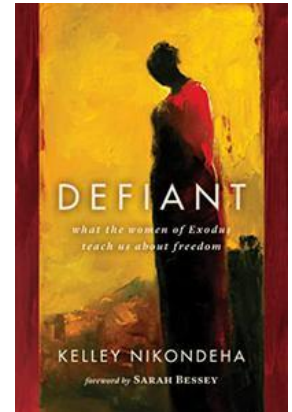
All-Church Family Fun & Fellowship: Sunday, April 28, after worship
Greet the Grads: Sunday, May 5

Check It Out

by Debra Hill

Many are gathering early on April 6 at First United Methodist in Mason City to discuss a book from our reading program called *Defiant: What the Women of Exodus Teach us About Freedom* by Kelly Nikondeha. We all know the story of Moses, but do we often dwell on the idea that there would be no Moses, no crossing of the Red Sea, no story of breaking the chains of slavery if it weren't for the women in the Exodus story? These women defied Pharaoh, raised Moses, and plundered Egypt. They summoned courage, used their intelligence, and gathered resources to enact justice.

This book is part of our UWFaith Reading Program. The books in our program will open your eyes by challenging you to read beyond your comfort level, explore your faith, and be aware of a world beyond your own. Check it out.



April Birthdays

Tally Albertson	April 1	Deb Trulson	April 20
Iva Nelson	April 6	Jackson Trulson	April 20
Jim Jass	April 8	Pat Trulson	April 21
Susan Hovda	April 12	Boni Pringnitz	April 22
Alyssa Abbas	April 15	Teri Jenniges	April 24
Lynn Keraus	April 18	Kylie Casey	April 29
Avis Haberkamp	April 19	Muriel Haberkamp	April 29

April Anniversaries

Scott and Jody Seelhammer	April 21
Doug and Marilyn Jass	April 23

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

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