



Garner United Methodist Church

885 Maben Ave., Garner, IA 50438

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

Pastor's Office Hours: Flexible; please make an appointment

Admin. Assistant's 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

I have been praying and hoping fervently for Garner UMC. This has been a year of big events, and we're only halfway through! Our congregation has officially settled a lawsuit that was a source of great worry and turmoil. The General Conference of 2024 addressed a new realm of opportunity for the UMC as a denomination, officially ending the season of disaffiliation. I returned from parental leave and have been integrating back into church life and work over the last few months. We have been in a place of instability for so long, it is now going to take us some time to learn how to function well without chaos.

In worship, that means we will continue to seek unifying messages, music, and rituals to help us grow with God and one another in this period of new stability. On June 16, we will start a new worship series that explores the Hebrew understanding of רוח (ru'ach), which is the Spirit, Breath, and Wind of God. I will preach the first and last weeks of the series, and I have invited our District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Michel Lundula, to preach with us June 23. I am excited for you all to witness the heartfelt presence of the Spirit within him and the work he is doing with us in the Camp Clear Lake District.



Furthermore, I have not spoken directly about the implications of the General Conference activity because I know our congregation is of mixed mind as it pertains to theology, hospitality, and comfort with the decision to change the wording of the Social Principles and Book of Discipline. We have many people who have sought our congregation as a refuge from disaffiliation and contentious arguments about the direction of the UMC. While I have many feelings and opinions, they are not the benchmark for all people. What I know is that this congregation can begin the tough work of healing. We have closed some very hurtful chapters and want to enjoy our time together and to be faithful to God and the people we serve in the Garner and surrounding areas. Our Bishop, Rev. Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai, penned a pastoral letter to the Iowa Conference that spoke in clarity and hope. A part of that letter is below.

"... they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore." Isaiah 2:4

My hope is that we might put all our efforts and energy into living into our vision to make God's hope real through faithful leaders, fruitful communities, and fire-filled people.

If we are to do that, we must first calm anxiety by sharing accurate information about the changes and their impact. Some key points are as follows:

- *Clergy can choose to perform same-sex weddings or decide not to.*
- *Local churches can decide what kinds of events they hold in their buildings.*
- *No one needs to fear losing their clergy credentials or being denied ordination or commissioning because of their sexuality.*

Continued on next page

- *Pastors will continue to be appointed based on their gifts and graces and the best match for the church. The same consultative process that has always happened will continue.*
- *More detailed information about the actions of this General Conference will continue to come out in the next weeks. However, now is the time to begin to look forward. Let's imagine and look forward together to the ministry that is yet to come, to the lives we have yet to touch, to the ways we can till the soil for God's "kindom" so that hope can continue to grow."*

*Blessings and Peace,
Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai*

Garner UMC, it is our time to look forward, to nurture the goodness of what we have, and to be the community of Jesus Christ witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the end of the earth. Take sabbath rest and find a quiet center in the goodness of creation before us. God said that it is good. I believe God wanted us to experience that goodness.

In Peace,
Pastor Kristin

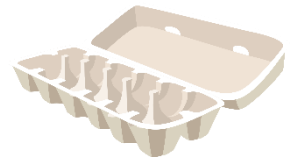
Worship Tech Assistants: Jill Blank, Stan Isvik, Kevin Sweers, Jody East, Steve East, Ruth Legge, Beth Myers, and John Bowman

June Quarters: 5 Loaves, 2 Fish

Sunday Schedule

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship

Please bring your empty egg cartons and place them on the bottom of the grocery cart in the lobby for God's Pantry. They will be used for fresh eggs being donated to the pantry. Thanks!



Bring Your Tabs: 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 in the lobby. Thanks!



The kids are graduating, warmer weather is here, and we're ready to enjoy all that summer has to offer. We collected quarters in April for El Salitre Women's and Children's Center and will be sending them a check for \$500. We are still collecting for pool passes during the rest of May, and in June quarters will support the 5 Loaves, 2 Fish ministry.

Thank you, everyone, for your continued help.
The Missions Committee

Henschen Scholarship Reminder

Garner-Hayfield-Ventura graduates and former graduates are reminded that 2024-25 William Henschen Scholarship applications should be submitted at this time. Application forms can be picked up at GHV High School or at either bank in Garner or can be found on the GHV website (under Schools/High School/Student Links/Scholarship Information). Applications are due **by June 15, 2024**, and should be sent to Wendell and Brenda Davison, 2325 290th St., Garner, IA 50438. Official transcripts are due by July 15, 2024, and should be sent to the same address. Questions can be directed to Wendall or Brenda at 641-927-4421.



June Ushers and Fellowship Servers

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

These are the June **ushers**:

June 2: Mike Brown and Jim Hill

June 9: Chase Schilling and Rick Gilbert

June 16: Jeff and Carrie Omans

June 23: Rob Legge and Pat Trulson

June 30: Steve Wood and Russ Trulson

These are the June **fellowship servers**:

June 2 Roger and Cheryl Tietjens

June 9: Sundaes on Sunday – Rebekah and Martha Circles

June 16: Mike and Cheri Brown

June 23: Jerry and Ronna Myers

June 30: Doug and Marilyn Jass

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.

June and July Worship Leaders

Below are the worship leaders for June and July. If you wish to be added to our list of liturgists, please let Debra Hill know. If you 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 **June worship leaders**:

June 2: Robin Sweers

June 9: Lynn Smith

June 16: Mel Hiscocks

June 23: Kevin Sweers

June 30: Debra Hill

These are the **July worship leaders**:

July 7: Robin Sweers

July 14: Mike Brown

July 21: Carrie Omans

July 28: John Bowman

Summer All-Church Fun & Fellowship

Make plans to join in these All-Church Fun & Fellowship events planned for the summer months. Watch the bulletins and future newsletters for more details.

June

IOWA CUBS BASEBALL GAME

Sunday, June 9



Leave after worship for Principal Park in Des Moines for a 1:08 p.m. game.

--Tickets paid for by GUMC

--Carpooling encouraged

Sign-up on the sheet on the lobby table by Friday, June 7, if you plan to attend.

July



LAKE TIME

Sunday, July 28

Gather by an area lake (lake to be determined) for a relaxing afternoon!

August

ZOO TIME

Saturday, August 10

We are tentatively planning a trip to Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines. This zoo offers lots to see but is not too big--great zoo for children and adults, too!



IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE



United
Women
in Faith

This Month's Bible Verse: Isaiah 40:31 (KJV)

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Monday, June 3
Out for Supper

Martha Circle: No June Meeting

Joy Circle: Summer Outing (TBD)

Rebekah Circle: Out for Supper (TBD)

The Sleeping Mat Project is off to a great start! Our loom was dedicated during the worship service on May 5, and regular work is now being done by the Mats Matter group on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. You are also welcome to work at other times. These mats are given to people who are sleeping in less-than-desirable conditions. It gives a dry, dirt-free space to get a good night's sleep. The mats are also resistant to ants and bed bugs. Completed mats are taken to Midwest Mission in Jefferson, Iowa, for distribution. These mats are freely given in the United States and also internationally. A side benefit from this is that the 1,080 plastic bags that make each mat stay out of the landfill. Scraps such as bag handles and unusable bags are also taken to Jefferson to be made into benches.

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream! United Women in Faith ice cream sundaes are *legen-dairy*. Don't forget to get yours on the second Sunday following worship during the months of June, July, and August. All freewill offering dollars are given to our missions. Last year we raised \$803 to help others. It's kind of like the daily double. 😊

Yay! We are less than a month from our Spiritual Retreat at Waldorf University in Forest City on June 15. Remember to turn in your registration slips on Sunday, May 26, if you haven't already. I hope to see you there, and if you need a ride, just give me a shout.

Also remember that all ladies have been invited to a Guest Day Luncheon at the Algona United Methodist Church on Thursday, June 6, at noon. Julie Cink will be the featured speaker and will present her mission trip to Guatemala. You can RSVP by calling 515-295-2779 by May 29.

We are blessed to be a blessing,
Debra Hill

Be Part of Mats Matter

Come join us as to work on mats that matter. Several people were trained by Alaire Willits from Midwest Mission in May and can help teach you. All kinds of tasks are involved in this: flattening, folding, and cutting bags and the actual weaving itself. The Mats Matter group meets on Thursdays from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall, but you can work anytime. Continue to bring in your plastic grocery bags. Contact Robin Sweers if you have any questions.

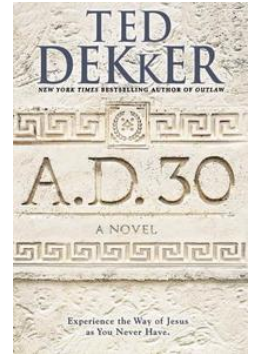


Check It Out: A.D. 30

by Debra Hill

This Biblical fiction is set in the time period of Yeshua (Jesus). The main character is a woman called Maviah who is an outcast among her people. She is faced with tasks that seem insurmountable to any woman during this time period. She has no knowledge of Judaism or Yeshua and no relationship with anyone who had already encountered him.

Numerous scriptures are used in the last half of the book. This is when Maviah encounters Yeshua. His words are woven throughout in story form. He asks Maviah what she is afraid of and challenges her to see her fears for what they are because what she sees and what Yeshua sees are not the same. Enter this story and see if you can see what Maviah saw. You will discover His Way through the lens of a foreigner.



The men are organizing a list of things to prepare for the Duesey Days Pie Stand in July. Sign-up sheets will be out in June for pies and workers. This is an all-church event with proceeds going to the Roof Fund.

Clean-Up Day

Saturday, June 15

9 a.m. – noon or 1 p.m.

Bring your rakes, trimmers, pruners, etc. to help spruce up the church grounds. Also bring supplies to wash the Fellowship Hall windows. Lunch will be provided.



Committee Chair Leadership Training

Crossroads Connection Circuit

Sunday, June 23, 3-4 p.m.

Crystal Lake UMC

Led by Rev. Les Green of Forest City & Crystal Lake UMC

All committee chairs are invited and encouraged to participate!

Old Testament Bible Study

will continue to meet this summer (but not June 4). If you would like to join, call Lorene at 641-210-5619 for the current assignment.



Garner Community Blood Drive

Garner United Methodist Church
885 Maben Ave. | Garner

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Text: LIFESERVE to 999.777 | Call: 800.287.4903 | Visit: lifeserve.info/schedule



FREE Weekday Lunch Meals

When: Mondays – Fridays starting May 29

Serving Food: Noon – 12:30 p.m.

Activities Following Lunch to 1 p.m.

Where: United Methodist Church, Garner

Who: All students through age 18

Parents/caregivers escorting small children can also attend.

Take-home meals are available.

Provided by 5 Loaves, 2 Fish, Inc.





Grads Jenna, Kollin, Valarie and Joline (who is not pictured because she was on the DC Trip) were honored during worship on May 5.



Almost 60 people attended the April All-Church Fun & Fellowship event. The Omans family prepared a delicious meal, and the kids enjoyed making seed balls. Lots of good visiting took place, too.



June Birthdays

Ella Chapman	June 6	Don Stubbs	June 14
Frank Arnold	June 7	Emmett Trulson	June 14
Gary Thoms	June 7	Gus Erickson	June 15
Pearl Brown	June 8	Ada Albertson	June 16
Alan Abbas	June 10	Coy Crawford	June 16
Chris Ebbers	June 10	Jean Sheets	June 18
Morgan Kramer	June 12	Tucker Legge	June 23
Cindy Schubert	June 12	Jill Blank	June 25
Sharyl Stadtlander	June 12	Josh Omans	June 25
Cheryl Tietjens	June 13	Michelle Chizek	June 28
Clarissa Welsh	June 13	Taylor Dirksen	June 28
Steve East	June 14	Ken Smith	June 29

June Anniversaries

Allen and Teri Kendall	June 6	Stan and Sheri Isvik	June 21
Don and Barb Stubbs	June 8	Mark and Allyson Fry	June 24
Lynn and Gail Keraus	June 12	Scott and Reneé Kramer	June 27
Chris and DeLyte Ebbers	June 13	Kim and Lorie Nelson	June 28
Jim and Deb Hill	June 16	Cassidy and Emberly Albertson	June 29
Alan and Tammy Abbas	June 18	Paul and Nancy Nelson	June 30
Braden and Haley Meints	June 19		

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

Administrative Assistant's 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

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