



Garner United Methodist Church

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

Just a Thought or Two

Guest Message: Musings from the Auditor

by Lorene Dykstra

Bruce and I completed an audit of our church's finances recently. This is a requirement for all UMC churches, and we found it wasn't as difficult a process as we had feared. The primary

purpose is to assure that our finances are well-cared for, and we are following procedures that will protect both the church and the people handling the money.

We can assure the church that all those involved in handling the church's finances are very careful to fulfill their duties in a faithful way. From the Sunday offering counters to the financial secretary, from the church treasurer to the Finance Committee, all are very careful to ensure that external controls are in place to make sure they are stewarding the church's resources carefully. If anyone wants to see a copy of the completed audit sheet, feel free to contact the office for information.

Our church has been richly blessed with generous people who have left money or property to us in their wills. For example, we were gifted property by Allen and Karen Housh, and this became seed money for building our parsonage. Another gift of property was that of Iris Fleenor, whose gift of a farm in memory of both herself and her parents, the Riehms, is now the Riehm-Fleenor farm account.

As I found bits and pieces of information related to the farm account, I discovered that we have used this particular account liberally. We have used it to pay our regular bills, to pay our apportionments, and basically to handle any bills that we as a congregation don't manage on our own. It is a blessing to have such a gift, but it can be a curse if it means as a congregation we don't "pay our own way" because, after all, "we have the farm."

This past year, we used that fund to pay for new boilers, certainly a necessary expense. However, our building trustees budget has been grossly underfunded the last few years, meaning any and all large expense items such as repairs and maintenance would have to come from other sources, like the farm. It isn't sustainable long-term. Looking through some of the few archival records I could find, I discovered that the farm account has been used not only for regularly covering our budget, but for nearly all expenses related to the parsonage: new appliances, carpeting, etc. These are expenses that we could have budgeted for, but didn't. Is this the best stewarding of our resources?

Indeed, the audit showed that the farm account began this past year with about \$50,000 in it and ended the year with \$27,000. This is not a sustainable plan. As a church, it is our responsibility to plan for, budget for, and then support with our offerings a budget that not only covers our regular bills, staff salaries, utilities, and apportionments, but also regular maintenance and upkeep of our parsonage and our beautiful church building. We have not done that. It would certainly make sense to use accounts such as the farm account to help with unexpected and costly issues: new boilers, new roof, catastrophic losses; but if we continue to use it for regular annual expenses in place of budgeting, this is simply not sustainable. Our farm account has the capacity to help us dream about and fund new ministry opportunities, and instead we are using it, as Pastor said the first week of August in her sermon, to "get by." I believe we are called to more than that, and I believe we are up to the task at GUMC.

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My takeaway is this: We have a challenge before us, but one I believe we can handle together. We have to fund our annual budget responsibly, and we are only able to do that through your financial contributions.

Bruce's family were always tithers, but I came to the idea with skepticism. It took us a few years to step up to the full tithe, but it has been one spiritual discipline we have maintained, and even added to. We have found that when we began to give "off the top," God always made sure the bills got paid. We asked ourselves how important the church was in our lives, and how important our faith was to us. And we try to make our giving reflect those answers.

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

September Quarters: Ingathering Health Kits

September Brings Schedule Changes

Sept. 3: Last Sunday of 9:30 a.m. Worship

Beginning Sept. 10:

9 a.m. Sunday School

10:15 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Fellowship



Thank You!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for celebrating the coming arrival of Isaiah with us on Aug. 19. We had a wonderful time with friends, family, and the congregations that are supporting us as we walk through this exciting experience in our lives. Your love and support mean the world to us.

Love,

Pastors Lou and Kristin, and Willow Peters too!



The Missions Committee has decided to send \$2,000 to the Conference for the UMCOR fund set up for Maui relief.

We don't know the totals for the school kits yet as we are still collecting supplies through August; we will update you next month. During September we will continue collecting quarters for the items we will be purchasing for health kits for the Ingathering.

We appreciate the generosity of everyone as we share our blessings with those who are in need.

The Missions Committee



September Fellowship Servers and Ushers

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

These are the September **ushers**:

Sept. 3: Terri Beshey and Gary Thoms

Sept. 10: Kris Hanson and Kollin Hanson

Sept. 17: Ken Smith and Rick Gilbert

Sept. 24: Scott and Jody Seelhammer

These are the September **fellowship servers**:

Sept. 3: Mark and Carrie Ricke

Sept. 10: Stan and Sheri Isvik

Sept. 17: Pat and Deb Trulson Family

Sept. 24: Dean and Marcia Sonquist

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.



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Tuesday, Sept. 5, 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Julie Jass; Program: Karen Springer

Joy Circle: Thursday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess: Ronna Myers; Program: Pearl Brown

Rebekah Circle: Monday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Deb Trulson; Program: Myra Bowman

Psalm 68: 11 (NIV): "The Lord announced the word, and great was the company of those who proclaimed it."

United Women in Faith spent a great day in July at our Spiritual Retreat! Many thanks to Lorna Leavitt for her leadership for the event and to all who helped in any way! You are appreciated! The end of August is another event we hope will result in new people attending our unit meeting and lots of t-shirt bags being made for our national mission institution, Families Forward, in Des Moines, Iowa.

September brings our fundraiser, "Food for the Soul." We will be making lasagna and chicken casseroles, both in a large size (8 x 11) or a small size (4 x 7). The large pans will sell for \$25 and the smaller ones, for \$15. Janet Abele will once again apply for a Thrivent Action Grant to help with grocery expenses. Sales will begin after worship on Sept. 10 and again on Sept. 17. You can also call or email Myra or Barb T. with your order. The pick-up date for the casseroles will be Sept. 30 from 9-10:30 a.m.

As with any project, many hands make light work. Here is the schedule for preparing the casseroles during the last week of September.

Monday, Sept. 25—

9 a.m.—Cook chicken and chop celery and onions. (2-3 people)

5 p.m.—Debone chicken and chop it up. (6 people)

Tuesday, Sept. 26—

9 a.m.—Assemble the chicken casseroles. (10 people)

1 p.m.—Another group assemble chicken casseroles. (10 people)

Thursday, Sept. 28—

9 a.m.—Brown hamburger. (2-3 people)

5 p.m.—Assemble the lasagna casseroles. (10 people)

Saturday, Sept. 30—

9-10:30 a.m.—Pick-up of frozen casseroles. (3 people)

We are hoping for another successful project as we fund UWFaith Mission projects that help women, children, and youth here and around the world.

Blessings to all,

Myra Bowman

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Jlmkbowman51@comm1net.net

Barb Trulson

641-843-3387

russbarb1946@comm1net.net

We believe love in action can change the world.



UMM Is Back

All men are invited to the first meeting of United Methodist Men for the 2023-24 year, which will be on Monday, Sept. 11, at 6 p.m. We will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for a supper. Sandwiches for the meal will be provided. Bring either a side dish or a dessert to share.

At this meeting we will decide the calendar for the year. Hope to see you there!

Join the Adult Sunday School Study This Fall

The adult Sunday School classes are combining into one class with co-teachers John Bowman and Jean Sheets this year for an exciting study called *Making Sense of Scripture: Big Questions about the Book of Faith*. This is a "kitchen table"



conversation examining seven major questions about the Bible:

1. What is the Bible?
2. Is the Bible true?
3. Is the Bible the Word of God?
4. Where did the Bible come from?
5. How can I read the Bible with greater understanding?
6. Is there a center to scripture?
7. What kind of authority does the Bible hold?

We will be gathering for our first session on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 9 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Books are available in the office. It is also available for a Kindle if you prefer to have your books on a tablet.

It would be helpful to have read the introduction and first chapter of the book before class. But even if you have not read the book ahead of time, come anyway. All are welcome to attend.

Old Testament Bible Study Is Back

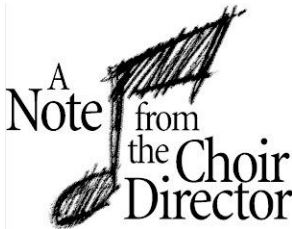
The Old Testament Bible Study will begin again Sept. 5, the Tuesday after Labor Day, at 4:15 p.m. We are beginning with the book of Joshua, and the assignment is to read Chapters 1-5. Feel free just to show up or contact Lorene Dykstra (641-210-5619) for more information.



Come Sing with Us

"Praise the Lord! Because it is good to sing praise to our God! Because it is a pleasure to make beautiful praise!"

Psalm 147:1



The GUMC church choir will start its season with a rehearsal on Wednesday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Here is your chance to make beautiful praise to our God. We welcome all who love to sing, and we hope you will enjoy the fellowship of our choir family. If you are unable to make the first rehearsal, our next practice will be Wednesday, Sept. 13, and we will sing in church on Sunday, Sept. 17.

Looking forward to a great choir season!
Myra Bowman, Choir Director

Sunday School Kickoff

Sunday, Sept 10, 9 a.m.



Sunday School returns on Sunday, Sept. 10. Youth 4+ will meet in the Fellowship Hall for light breakfast snacks and registration that morning, and kids can make a craft together.

We encourage parents to accompany their child or children to fill out paperwork and meet the teachers, if they haven't done so already. Registration forms will be available on the church's Facebook page and on the lobby table in the church beforehand.

Substitute Sunday School teachers are needed periodically to help with scheduling conflicts. If you are interested in serving as one, watch for a clipboard on the lobby table; you can sign up there.

Family Kickoff Event

All Ages Welcome



Sunday, Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m.

McIntosh Woods State Park, Ventura, Iowa
Picnic Shelter

Snacks, Drinks, S'mores (Provided)

Games and Fellowship

Bring your lawn chairs and join us!

You're Invited! 50th Anniversary Celebration

for

PAT AND DEB TRULSON



Saturday, Sept. 16, 4-7 p.m.

Main Ave. Event Center
(Next door to Britt Bar & Grill)

130 Main Ave. N

Britt, Iowa



Garner Community Blood Drive

Garner United Methodist Church
885 Maben Ave | Garner

Monday, September 11

1:30 PM - 6:00 PM

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



LifeServe
BLOOD CENTER

YOUR BLOOD. YOUR HOSPITAL. YOUR NEIGHBORS.

A Look Back at Changemakers Lab

For VBS 2023, we again partnered with the Garner United Presbyterian Church and learned to be Changemakers. Our church building became an evening gathering place for about 15 children (from 18 months to late elementary) and many volunteers (up to their nineties!). As you can see from the pictures, everyone was kept very busy with Bible lessons, games, music, projects, and snacks. A great time was had by all!



Nursery Ministry to Return in September

Volunteers (two per Sunday) are needed to staff the nursery during worship on Sundays starting Sept. 10, 2023, and running through May 26, 2024, from 10-11:15 a.m. Sign-up sheets for each month will be on the lobby table if you are interested in serving as a nursery volunteer. We are excited to bring back this ministry.

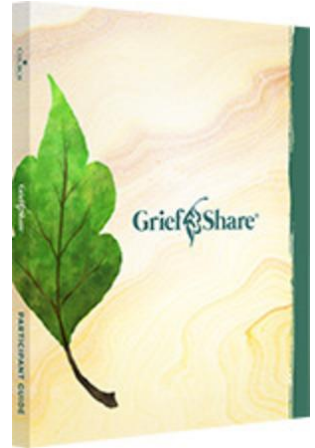


Thanks to Deb Hill (and her helper Jim) for all the work done to get the nursery ready for its return. Be sure to check it out if you haven't done so.

New Session of GriefShare to Begin

The 13-week fall session of GriefShare will begin Sunday, Sept. 10, and will meet here at GUMC in the Fireside Room from 2-4 p.m. each time. GriefShare is a free, faith-based grief recovery seminar and support group open to people of any denomination. New participants can join anytime.

GriefShare is a video seminar series featuring individuals who have personally experienced the death of a loved one as well as some of the nation's foremost Christian experts speaking on grief and recovery topics as seen from a Biblical perspective. It also includes healthy living tips, timely articles, and more. Each session includes a time to allow participants to discuss the content of the DVD and to share how they are dealing with their own loss. The fall session will utilize updated GriefShare materials just released this year.



If you have questions, please contact Robin Sweers (641-860-1704) or the church office (641-923-2191).

September Birthdays

Valarie Welsh	Sept. 1	Teri Kendall	Sept. 15
Cody Schoneman	Sept. 2	Cooper Smuck	Sept. 16
Theresa Glidden	Sept. 3	Kelsi Tobin	Sept. 16
Barb Bredlow	Sept. 5	Megan Springer	Sept. 18
Jake Pringnitz	Sept. 5	Evan Welsh	Sept. 19
Jerrod Smit	Sept. 6	Lennon Kramer	Sept. 24
Pete Duffy	Sept. 8	Kevin Paulsen	Sept. 26
Doug Jass	Sept. 9	Matt Sonquist	Sept. 26
Sarah Prahm	Sept. 9	Scott Kramer	Sept. 27
Elizabeth Tompkins	Sept. 9	Barb Trulson	Sept. 27
Rachael Hanson	Sept. 10	Zach Abbas	Sept. 29
Margaux Hovda	Sept. 12	Nicole Trulson	Sept. 29
Paula Schoneman	Sept. 13	Laurel Clement	Sept. 30
Amber Clevenger	Sept. 14	Deb Flaugh	Sept. 30

September Anniversaries

AJ and Taylor Krutsinger	Sept. 1	Pat and Deb Trulson	Sept. 15
Levi and Amy Paulsen	Sept. 2	Rich and Clarissa Welsh	Sept. 21
Martin and Nicole Furst	Sept. 4	Nelson and Kylie Casey	Sept. 22
Randy and Jamie McGrath	Sept. 7	Doug and LeAnne Blanchard	Sept. 26
Kevin and Sheila Kelly	Sept. 15		

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