



Garner United Methodist Church

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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.

Good Enough: Join the Lenten Bible Study

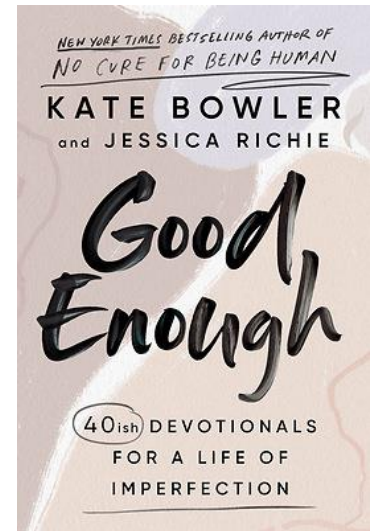
This Lenten season we will be using the devotional *Good Enough* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. This book of 52 short spiritual reflections focuses on a life of imperfection.

Written gently and with humor, *Good Enough* is a permission slip for all those who need to hear that there are some things you can fix. And some things you can't. And it's okay that life isn't always better. In these gorgeously written reflections, Kate Bowler offers fresh imagination for how truth, beauty, and meaning can be discovered amidst the rubble and chaos of life. Her words celebrate kindness, honesty, and interdependence in a culture that rewards ruthless individualism and blind optimism. And ultimately, in these pages we can rest easy in the encouragement to strive for what is possible today—while recognizing that though we are finite, the life in front of us can still be beautiful (from Cokesbury).

Our Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5 and continues to Easter on Sunday, April 20. To foster deeper relationships, we will have small groups meet throughout the week to engage in the devotional book, and we hope you choose the small group that best fits you and your schedule. The Sunday School class will be utilizing this during the 9 a.m. Sunday School hour before worship, so that's one option. We are gathering leaders for the small groups of no more than five people that will meet at a variety of times and places. Once the logistics are figured out, we'll have a sign-up sheet on the lobby table and will also send that out as a PDF so you can email the church office (garnerumc@comm1net.net) to sign up. While you can work through the devotional on your own, we encourage you to find a small group so that we can grow together in community.

We are asking that you sign up for a copy of the devotional on or before Tuesday, Jan. 28, so that we can get the books ordered and have them here before Ash Wednesday. You can sign the sheet on the lobby table or email the church office to let Lori know you'd like a copy. The cost of the book is \$16 if you'd like to donate to offset the cost.

We hope you'll join us as we learn to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress. As we look forward to our Lenten journey, be reminded all evening services (Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday) will be held at 6 p.m.



Next GriefShare Session to Begin Feb. 16

During these cold, blustery, overcast winter days, a person must work hard to stay positive. The task is even more difficult if one is grieving the loss of a loved one. We are here to help. The next GriefShare session begins on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 2-4 p.m. in the Fireside Room here at GUMC. Please consider joining us and/or passing the information along to others. Questions? Contact Robin Sweers (641-860-1704).



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

February Quarters: To be decided



Brrrrr...it's been a chilly January! While we know that many are able to snuggle up in their warm homes to beat the cold, we also know that for others the challenge to pay higher utility bills is real. We collected \$404.25 for heating assistance in December and will continue to collect quarters for heating assistance through the month of January.

The Missions Committee will be meeting soon to set further plans for the year, so watch upcoming bulletins for the February quarters designation.

Thank you to everyone for your support.
--The Missions Committee

February Ushers and Fellowship Servers

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

These are the **February ushers:**

Feb. 2: Gary Thoms and Russ Trulson

Feb. 9: Bob Abele and Rick Gilbert

Feb. 16: Jim Hill and Ted Hovda

Feb. 23: Rob Legge and Steve Wood

These are the **February fellowship servers:**

Feb. 2: Jan Sweers and Kevin Sweers

Feb. 9: Souper Sundae (Sarah Circle)

Feb. 16: Elton and Jean Sheets

Feb. 23: Russ and Barb Trulson

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.

February and March Worship Leaders

Below are the worship leaders for February and March. If you have a conflict, feel free to trade with someone and then let Lori in the office know (641-923-2191). Please contact Debra Hill (artwoman825@gmail.com or 641-425-2511) if you need a last-minute replacement.

These are the **February worship leaders:**

Feb. 2: Robin Sweers

Feb. 9: Ted Hovda

Feb. 16: Lorene Dykstra

Feb. 23: Kevin Sweers

These are the **March worship leaders:**

March 2: Robin Sweers

March 9: John Bowman

March 16: Carrie Omans

March 23: Mike Brown

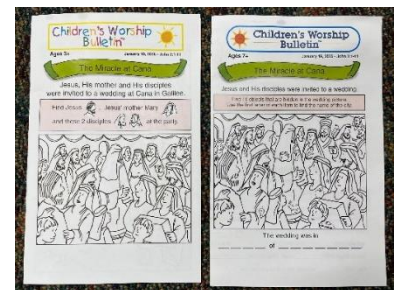
March 30: Debra Hill

In Kids' News. . .



Our children will now have bulletins tailored to their ages for worship that follow along with the Bible story for the day! See our ushers on Sunday morning to pick one up for your little one. One is designed for ages 3-7, and the other is for ages 7-12.

Also, we have spruced up our worship bags for kids. New crayons, markers, books, toys, and coloring pages can be found in the bags, and you'll also notice an age range clipped on the bags to help you pick what best fits your kiddos.





United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: No February Meeting
Hosting Souper Sundae on Sunday, Feb. 9, after Worship

Martha Circle: Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1:30 p.m.
Hostess: Jean Sheets; Lesson: Cindy Schubert

Joy Circle: Thursday, Feb. 20, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess: Maurene House; Program: Deb Hill

Rebekah Circle: No February Meeting

This Month's Bible Verse: 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.

Greetings!

Our 2025 UWFaith program books have been printed and handed out. On the cover is a scripture attributed to 2 Timothy 1:5: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you." As we remember Ruth from the grandmothers of Christ, here we are actively gleaned our faith from other women. The matriarchs of our church such as Lois Gibbs and Eunice Johnson are women I can remember, and although Paul was not writing specifically about them, had he lived in this century, he surely could have. As grandmothers, mothers, and daughters, we represent the past, present, and future of the United Women in Faith here at Garner United Methodist. We continue to work and model turning faith, hope, and love into action to help women and children around the world. Let's have a great year!

As we return to more circle activity, please mark your calendars for Souper Sundae hosted by the Sarah Circle after church on Super Bowl LIX Sunday, Feb 9. Come for the soup and sundaes, football chatter, and/or just fellowship with friends for a good cause. Donations will be accepted, and all proceeds go to missions.

We are blessed to be a blessing,
Debra Hill
Communications Coordinator

Join Us at Mats Matter

Want a way to liven up your week, help provide a dry place for people to sleep, and enjoy coffee and cookies? Join us at Mats Matter on Thursday afternoons from 1-3 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall here at GUMC. The more the merrier!



Join us for

Souper Sundae

Sunday, Feb. 9
Super Bowl Sunday
Right after Worship
in the Fellowship Hall

Menu

Chili
Chicken Noodle Soup
Ice Cream Sundaes

Freewill offerings will
support UWFaith
mission projects.

Hosted by Sarah Circle

New Ministry - Benches for the Blind

Our congregation is partnering with a special Lion's Club based in Clear Lake, Ohio. Yes, that's Ohio, not Iowa. This is a special group from all over the United States comprised mostly of vision-challenged members. Their goal is to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic to turn into a bench to put outside the center for the blind in Ohio.

Here is what they are collecting: the leftover plastic from our mats, bread wrappers, plastic around large paper products, and plastic packing materials. Attention, farmers: We can even recycle the shrink wrap that comes around seeds! A receptacle is in the entryway for collection. Please help us with this new phase of our Mats Matter project: Benches for the Blind.





Share
your heart.
Donate blood.

AMERICAN
Heart Month



SCAN ME

Garner Community
Blood Drive

Garner United Methodist Church
885 Maben Ave. | Garner

Tuesday, February 18
1:00 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.

GARNER UMC HELP WANTED:

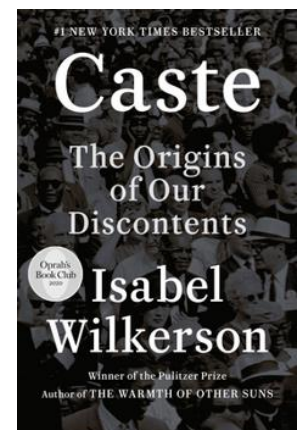
Garner United Methodist Church seeks a part-time **Director of Multi-Generational Programming**, for **20 hours per month**. Position focuses on family ministries, including spiritual development, and multi-generational Christian fellowship activities.

Applications and a **full job description** is available by emailing GUMC at GarnerUMC@comm1net.net
Applications and resumes accepted until filled. EOE

Check It Out: *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*

by Debra Hill

I am in a book club that meets at the library monthly. We do not read the same book and dive deep into discussion about that one book; instead, we delight in the books chosen by the individuals in our group and their musings about what they have read during the month. Following the brief or not-so-brief review given of each book, the individual gives stars with a five-star book being a very high recommend. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent* by Pulitzer Prize author Isabel Wilkerson will be garnering a solid ten-star review from me next month, and I am not quite finished with it. This is one of the most powerful books I have ever read (I'm talking about my lifetime of book reading), which is why I am not finished with it. I continue to go back and reread parts and make notes, and the entire time I am reading my eyes are overflowing and my heart is melting with prayer for our humanity. This is a world history book but more so a history of our America from its beginnings.



Our beginnings in Garner involved the purchase of a house. It was built by someone else, lived in by other people, and upon our purchase, through the help of a bank, became our home. When items fell into disrepair, we replaced them. Shingles, siding, doors, floor covering, and more were required to keep our house livable. It seems sometimes that the

repair never ends--new furnace, water softener, windows.... We know that what needs fixing will never go away, that it will only get worse unless fixed. Even though we had nothing to do with the building of the house or the lot it was fixed upon or the people who first lived in it, it is our house now, our home, and we are the current occupants. Any further repair is in our hands. Do you see where I am going here? This country, this home of our states and cities, is in disrepair, and we can say we had nothing to do with the start of it, but we are the current occupants. We must repair and we cannot fix the problem if we cannot see it.

Caste is the silent earthquakes rumbling beneath the surface of our lives. It is about assigning power based upon the value of a human being based upon their origins, the color or their skin, or whether or not they are Christian. Wilkerson examines three caste systems that have stood out: the lingering caste system of India, the chilling system of Nazi Germany, and the unspoken, shapeshifting, race-based caste pyramid in the United States. Each system relied upon justifying dehumanization of those deemed inferior. Wilkerson describes it as a flash card to the public about how they are to be treated, where they are expected to live, what kinds of jobs they can hold, whether they can speak on authority on this or that subject, whether they will be administered pain relief in a hospital, whether their neighborhood will adjoin a toxic waste site or have contaminated water flowing through its pipes, whether they will survive childbirth in this most advanced nation in the world, whether they may be shot by authorities with impunity.

If I can shake it loose from my hands, read this book. And if I cannot, find it in a library. How can you not? Genesis 1:27 of the Bible says, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

February Birthdays

Bennett Omans	Feb. 1	James Crawford	Feb. 12
Case Ploeger	Feb. 2	Ainsley Abbas	Feb. 13
Ryan Sonquist	Feb. 2	Ty Glidden	Feb. 18
Sandi Jo Pringnitz	Feb. 3	Autumn Gnerer	Feb. 18
Mary Beth Cline	Feb. 4	Tristin Peterson	Feb. 18
Mary Andrews	Feb. 6	Mary Snizek	Feb. 21
Allyson Fry	Feb. 6	Scott Seelhammer	Feb. 22
Val Anderson	Feb. 9	Renee Heitmeyer	Feb. 26

February Anniversaries

Ted and Susan Hovda	Feb. 24
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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

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

Email: pastorkristingumc@gmail.com

Office Hours: Flexible; please make an appointment

Look for GUMC on Facebook by searching *Garner Iowa United Methodist Church*

YouTube Channel: Garner IA UMC-Media

Website: <https://umcgarneria.org/>

