



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.

2024 in Review – The Finances of Garner UMC

Garner UMC has closed the books on 2024 and has completed all the reports necessary, submitting them to the Iowa Conference. Bruce and Lorene Dykstra have conducted the audit for the past couple of years and agreed to do the church audit again this year. This audit includes preparing the financial statements required by the Iowa Conference of the UMC and is made easier because the primary people the auditors work with, Finance Secretary Lori Griesert and Treasurer Jim Hill, are helpful. A copy of the full report has been provided to the Administrative Council, the Finance Committee, the pastor, and the Iowa Annual Conference; as required by the Book of Discipline. If you desire more information, a copy is available in the office.

Last year, we made a small change in the way the counters handle their work on Sunday mornings, designed to protect both them and Lori from charges of mismanagement. We are pleased that this added little time to their duties and has worked well.

When all the accounts of Garner UMC are added up, the church ended the year with \$20,000 less than where we started the year. Thanks to the generosity of the members, this is a major accomplishment, considering there were some major expenses above and beyond the general budget. This includes spending over \$80,000 on the flat roof, about \$23,000 on the HVAC system, work on the parsonage, AV equipment, etc., and over \$32,000 in missions and benevolent giving.

Looking Forward to 2025

As the church moves into 2025, the financial support for Garner UMC continues to be impressive. Through the second week of February, the offerings are ahead of the giving in 2024. Hopefully, this will continue as challenges will certainly come up that will need attention. For those members that are having to consider RMDs for the coming year, giving to the church has certainly helped meet the needs of our congregation.

Besides the general budget, one of those needs is the HVAC system. It has served us well but is about sixty years old... WAY past its life expectancy. Our trustees are working on this and other projects in phases, but it is hardly surprising that a building this large, and this age, is starting to need major repairs and replacements.

Finally, the Finance Committee thanks anyone that has helped count the Sunday offering the past several years, especially since COVID. Special thanks to Terri Beshey, Don Stubbs, and Jody Seelhammer, who have stepped up almost every Sunday to complete this task. The *Book of Discipline* requires that there be two non-immediate family members to count the offering each Sunday. Once the offering is counted, it is deposited in the bank for safety. It is picked up the next morning to be recorded by the Financial Secretary. Lori completes the record keeping, fills out the deposit slips, and then returns the offering to the bank for the final deposit.

The offering counters for 2025 include the following:

1st Sunday – Deb Trulson, Mel Hiscocks

2nd Sunday – Terri Beshey, Joan Hanson

3rd Sunday – Barb Trulson, Morgan Smuck

4th Sunday – Kevin Sweers, John Bowman

Continued on next page

5th Sunday – Todd Jass, Steve East

Continued from previous page

Don Stubbs will continue counting the quarters for missions each Sunday.

If you are interested in helping count the offering, contact the church office, and someone will reach out to you.

On behalf of the Finance Committee, thank you for your generous contributions. It is because of you that we are able to do impactful ministry in the world. As we have made great strides toward our mission, know that we appreciate your efforts and look forward to fulfilling our financial goals that will serve our neighbors from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth!

John Bowman, Finance Chair

Rev. Kristin W. Peters

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

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



The Missions Committee recently met to decide on projects to support this year. Our December and January quarters collected for heating assistance totaled nearly \$700, and we gave \$1,000 to Hancock County Co-op Oil to apply to accounts of those needing heating assistance.

The season of Lent is nearly here. The theme for our special Lenten project is *Good Enough*. Money collected during this time will go to El Salitre, the women's and children's center in Guatemala, to help them build their programs. Each Sunday the children's sermon will focus on one of their projects, which will be represented by a rung on the ladder we'll be using as our visual. We hope our ladder is very tall by the end of Lent!

We will also be continuing to collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald house throughout the year. You can bring in your tabs and place them in the jug near the offices in the lobby.

Thank you to everyone for your help for these much-needed projects.

--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 2: Terri Beshey and Russ Trulson

March 9: Ken Smith and Paul Nelson

March 16: Scott and Jody Seelhammer

March 23: Derek Smuck and Rick Gilbert

March 30: Mark Ricke and Kris Hanson

These are the **March fellowship servers:**

March 2: Paul and Nancy Nelson

March 9: Kylie Casey and Robin Ginapp

March 16: Jim and Sharon Jass and Todd and Julie Jass

March 23: Ken and Mary Beth Cline

March 30: Ryan and Ami Frohling

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.



Lenten Service Schedule – Join Us!

Ash Wednesday – March 5 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday -- April 17 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Good Friday – April 18 at 6 p.m. in the Chapel

Easter Sunday – April 20

Easter Egg Hunt: 9:15 a.m. (Ages 2 and under) or 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Worship at 10:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary



United
Women
in Faith

Circle Meetings

Sarah Circle: Monday, March 3, 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Ruth Legge; Lesson: Carrie Omans

Martha Circle: No March Meeting

Joy Circle: Thursday, March 20, 9:30 a.m.
Hostess: Pearl Brown; Lesson: Ronna Myers

Rebekah Circle: Monday, March 24, 7 p.m.
Hostess: Jan Sweers; Program: Robin Sweers

This Month's Bible Verse: Psalm 46:10 (KJV)

*Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted
among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."*

We begin the month of March with Ash Wednesday, a solemn reminder of our human mortality and our need to turn back to God.

Love God. Love your neighbor.

During our March Unit meeting we will be collecting Prayer and Self-Denial offering envelopes. This yearly event is a time when we celebrate selfless giving for a common cause and is a faith-filled time with a spiritual communion with God. Put your faith into action and help support the ongoing racial justice work of UWFaith's national office. Go to your Circle book and discover what your offering will support.

Love God. Love your neighbor.

Having a guest speaker to educate and help motivate us is a gift. Lora Brown's future son-in-law will be here to speak about the plastic scraps we have been collecting for the bench project. He will also have his seeing-eye dog and will share how that ties to the plastic projects.

Love God. Love your neighbor.

Also, mark your calendars and sign up for a day with Lorna Leavitt who will be leading an Education and Interpretation Study on Monday, April 7. The day will be divided into two sessions and will cover the topic of "Who Is My Neighbor?: Embracing Christ's Love for the Immigrant." The first session begins at 9:30 a.m., and the second concludes at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served along with arrival coffee and a treat. Reserve your place with \$10 lunch fee by March 24. Get a carload together and head to Gowrie UMC for a fast-paced day.

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

March and April Worship Leaders

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

March 2: Debra Hill
March 9: John Bowman
March 16: Carrie Omans
March 23: Mike Brown
March 30: Kevin Sweers

These are the **April worship leaders:**

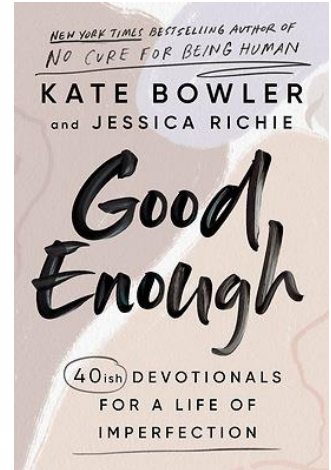
April 6: Barb Trulson
April 13: Kay Mestad
April 20: Ted Hovda
April 27: Terri Beshey



Good Enough: Lenten Study

- Option One: **9 a.m. Sunday School Hour**
Option Two: **Mix of Wednesdays/Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., The Omans Home**
Leader: Carrie Omans
Option Three: **Thursdays at 5 p.m., GUMC Youth Room**
Leader: Jody Seelhammer
Option Four: **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m., GUMC Fireside Room**
Leader: Morgan Smuck
Option Five: **Fridays at 10 a.m., The Hill Home**
Leader: Debra Hill

Options Two through Five are small groups of no more than five people. Sign up for your preferred time on the sheet on the lobby table, or call the church office (641-923-2191) so Lori can sign you up. (Sunday School class members do not need to sign up.) Extra books and guides are available in the church office.



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

Sunday, March 30, After Worship

On the Agenda:
Light Lunch

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 Phase II of the HVAC project.

Sponsored by the Garner United Methodist Men

Wanted: Desserts for March 30 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.

Reminder

Daylight Saving Time begins in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 9.



Save Your Hy-Vee Receipts

Put them in the container in the corner of the kitchen. Janet Abele will be sure they get to an organization that can benefit from them. Thanks!



HELP WANTED

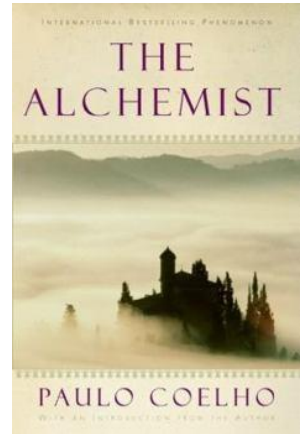
Garner UMC seeks a part-time **Director of Multi-Generational Programming** for 20 hours per month. Position focuses on family ministries, including spiritual development and multi-generational Christian fellowship activities. Applications and a full job description are available by emailing GUMC at garnerumc@comm1net.net. EOE.

Check It Out: *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

by Deb Hill

This book is not only a favorite of mine but also of celebrities like LeBron James and Oprah. Coelho, a Brazilian author, has dedicated his life completely to literature. In his youth he rebelled against his Roman Catholic upbringing, and his parents committed him to a psychiatric hospital. Later, a renewed interest in Catholicism developed as he walked a 500-mile route. His books often use spiritually motivated journeys by his characters.

When Coelho published *The Alchemist*, its slow initial sales convinced his first publisher to drop the novel, but it went on to become one of the bestselling Brazilian books of all time and has been translated into over 80 languages. It is an account of a shepherd boy who journeys across North Africa in search of treasure. On his journey he meets a king, an Englishman, and an alchemist. *The Alchemist* will make you think about life and what is important. I loved this book and own a dog-eared copy which I will loan out upon request.



Still alive, Coelho uses the Internet to broaden his readership by blogging and making his books available for free. He founded the Paulo Coelho Institute in 1996 to provide aid to children and the elderly. A remarkable man worth getting to know through his book.

March Birthdays

Tammy Abbas	March 2	Jim Gatchel	March 19
Rev. Kristin Peters	March 3	Barb Stubbs	March 19
Sharon Jass	March 4	Dan Trulson	March 21
Doug Blanchard	March 5	Lincoln Kramer	March 22
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
Natalee Dippel	March 15	Nicole Pringnitz	March 27
Nancy Nelson	March 16	Lora Brown	March 29
Emberly Albertson	March 19		

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

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/>

