



Worship Sundays at 10:30 AM

Mabaan Worship at 12:30 PM

### May Council Corner

I hope you have noticed some of the changes that have occurred in and around the church, thanks to the industrious committees working behind the scenes! I want to highlight a couple of those groups now and more will follow in the future.

1. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) has found a wonderful new Office Manager, Colleen Brady. Please take time to introduce yourself to her during her office hours, 7:00 am – 3:00pm weekdays. We may also get to see her during occasional Sunday worship.

2. The Building and Grounds Committee (Trustees) have been working with custodian, Tim Poppery, to maintain the building and property as a welcoming and safe environment. That includes disposal of the old van, which was taking up space in the parking lot and cleaning the surrounding grounds of debris prior to spraying weeds. Notice the beautiful planters, thanks to Angie Sadler and her team of helpers.

These folks deserve our respect and praise for their efforts on all our behalf! Why not take a moment to give them your verbal or written thanks. Here are their names:

Trustees:

John Sarosa, Chair    Dean Hosfelt    Ron Roulet    Craig Strayer

SPRC:

Ben Jung, Chair    Angie Sadler    Sally Hosfelt    Ned Johnson

Jacque Coulson, Chair

## **AMOS Mental Health Workforce Kick-off Join the Celebration!**

Join AMOS, Polk County Supervisors, and Children's Mental Health Agencies in the Kickoff of a Recruitment and Retention Program aimed at alleviating worker shortages and increasing services for children at risk!

When: Thursday, May 18, 6:30pm

Where: Corinthian Baptist Church- 814 School St. in Des Moines

After 5 years of organizing at the local and state-level, AMOS secured support to create a new Children's Crisis Mental Health system in Polk County including mental health professionals in 911 dispatch, youth-trained mobile response team, and youth stabilization center. Workforce shortages made it difficult to launch and grow these vital services.

In December 2021, AMOS gathered 25 Children's Mental health providers in Polk County to understand their specific workforce needs. Community listening sessions showed the need to diversify our workforce both racially and linguistically. AMOS leaders developed a funding proposal out of these conversations.

Why it mattered: Delays in assistance for children were prolonging suffering and contributing to health issues and potentially hampering their long-term development. In 2022, AMOS met with the Polk County Supervisors urged them to consider a retention and recruitment program for diverse Polk County mental health professionals.

The result: Polk County has allocated \$1.8 million of their federal American Rescue Plan funding to assist new or soon-to-be licensed therapists with their outstanding student loan debt (originating from both their bachelor's degree and master's degree courses). If you know anyone who may be eligible for this program, further details are available in the church office or by contacting Project Iowa:

<https://www.projectiowa.org/>

Jacque Coulson, Chair

## **Exploring Racism...Together: March Activities From your Anti-Racism Task Force**

Native American Board Schools and Their Continuing Legacy

From the FUMC Anti-Racism Task Force

“When I first started teaching here, we beat them. That’s how we were taught to teach you. We were supposed to kill the Indian to save the child. It’s just a saying. I didn’t literally kill Indians. We were supposed to make you give up being Indian. Your songs and stories and language and dancing. Everything. We weren’t trying to kill Indian people. We were trying to kill Indian culture. I hurt a lot of Indian kids when I was a young teacher.”

That’s Mr. P talking. He is an aging high school math teacher in Wellpinit, Washington on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Like the location itself, he is a fictional – one of a constellation of colorful folks who populate Sherman Alexie’s young adult, semi-autobiographical, award-winning novel *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.

While the character of Mr. P is fictional, the reality he describes is anything but. His statement is a pithy distillation of what was, for 150 years, federal policy – carried out across what would eventually become a system of 408 schools across 37 states (or then-territories) including 21 schools in Alaska and 7 in Hawai’i – from 1819 until 1969.

In June 2021, the U. S. Department of the Interior announced the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. That initiative began with an investigation into the nature and scope of the removal of children from Native American families and their placement in off-reservation boarding schools with the “twin goals of cultural assimilation and territorial dispossession of Indigenous peoples through forced removal and relocation of their children.” The initiative was also charged with identifying burial sites of children resident in those schools and the repatriation or disinterment of

remains of those children. The investigation had, as of May, 2022 when Volume I of its report was published, identified burial sites (marked and unmarked) at 53 different schools across the system. The investigation continues and the Department expects that the number of identified burial sites will increase.

These schools used what the report calls “systematic militarized and identity-alteration methodologies” in an attempt to assimilate these children. Besides corporeal punishment, these methodologies included such things as renaming children from Indian to English names, cutting their hair (often a cultural assault), and discouraging or preventing the use of their languages, religions, and cultural practices. The children were also routinely organized into units forced to perform military drills. The investigation found that the school system largely focused on manual labor and vocational skills with rudimentary attention to academic achievement.

While most of these schools were operated by the federal government directly, 156 were operated by religious denominations, among them Methodist, under contract to the federal government. In addition, many of those operated by the government itself employed denominational missionaries on their staff. Carlisle Indian School, opened in 1879 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and operated as one of the largest of the government-run schools, was known to employ Methodists missionaries on its teaching staff.

While the last of these schools was closed in 1969, the legacy of relocation and assimilation continues. Through the U. S. Foster Care System, children were, for decades, removed from their homes and placed in the homes of non-Native (often white) families. Despite the passage by Congress of the Indian Child Welfare Act in 1978 in response to the alarmingly high rate of Native children being separated from their parents, extended families and tribal communities, children continue to be taken from their homes and placed with non-Native families. Lawsuits and ongoing litigation continue to make their way through the courts in an effort to sort out the various claims of Native communities and the competing

claims of white families seeking to adopt children away from their original communities.

These painful and complex issues have their roots in the earliest years of this country, policies of genocide and forced assimilation, and religious communities' complicity in the implementation of those policies.

Sources: Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, Report and Recommendations, Volume 1, U. S. Department of the Interior, May, 2022

"Boarding School & Child Removal History," Northeast Jurisdiction UMC Native American Ministries Committee, [www.nejnamc.org/boarding-schools-history.hjtml](http://www.nejnamc.org/boarding-schools-history.hjtml)

Twila Glenn

## **YOU'RE INVITED!**

### **Meet Our Missionary**

Patrick Booth is a United Methodist missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries serving as the co-director of Project ARK. Project ARK's mission is to tackle poverty as a culprit of human trafficking by equipping and restoring livelihood and dignity through the construction trade while introducing quality, affordable family homes into the Cambodian real-estate market. First Church has been helping to support Patrick Booth's mission work in Cambodia for several year. We have learned about him through several issues of The Light when he shared his activities. Next week, we are privileged to meet him in person, ask questions, and learn even more about this crucial work he is doing!

Patrick will arrive in Des Moines on May 1st and spend the week visiting churches and other ministries in this area. On Sunday, May 7, he will speak during Sunday School time (see below), share the sermon, and stay afterward for a special Question and Answer time during after-worship Fellowship. If you would like a video introduction to Patrick, click on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMRn7zof2w8>

## **Patrick Booth To Speak To Pacesetters!**

You are invited to join the Pacesetters Class on Sunday, May 7th to hear our Missionary, Patrick Booth, talk about his work in Cambodia. He is serving at Project Ark in Phnom Penh and is said to have compassion for those transitioning and taking steps toward healing from human trafficking and other issues. Please join us to hear more about this important work and how our support makes us partners with him. There will be coffee at 8:50 and the program will begin promptly at 9:00 on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Eloise Cranke

## **Adult Studies at First Church**

**PACESETTER ADULT CLASS** invites you to join us Sunday Mornings on the lower level in room #4 for coffee and treats at 9:00 and program beginning at 9:15. The group is led by Ned Johnson, with discussion of issues presented, and occasional guest speakers.



## **Creative Center for Young Children (CCYC)**

As you might remember, we held our Art Auction one hundred percent online this year. It was held from March 22-25, 2023. We had some unique classroom pieces up for grabs along with some fun raffles for the parents and others to participate in. Parents had the option to purchase a teacher day off certificate for their favorite teacher as well. This is always a very popular item. This year we were able to raise \$5,262. We also held a Parents Night Out which was a very fun night for both the parents and the children. We were asked by one parent if we could do this monthly! Thank you to anyone who participated in our event. We appreciate everyone's generosity.

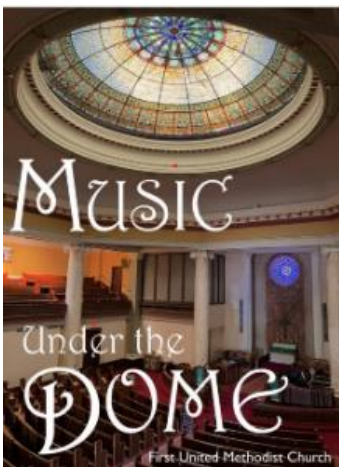
April has been another busy month. We have been getting ready for our Celebration of the Arts Night which was held on April 28th in the CCYC gym. It is always a great opportunity to see the wonderful work the children and teachers have put in over the last year. It is always impressive that the artwork covers so much of the gym.

We have also been enjoying the wonderful weather. With the help of Tim, Ms. Nicole and Ms. Amanda were able to get the air conditioners in. This was probably the earliest we have ever put them in, but it's nice for those warm days to have them in. We have been spending a lot of time playing outside on our playground, and one of our classrooms was able to take a walking field trip to the library this month as well. We've taken field trips to Hop-a-lot, Kid's Empire, Greater Des Moines Botanical Center, and even got a field trip to a park in.

May has us looking forward to celebrating Mother's Day by inviting our moms in for Breakfast with Mom on May 12th . This will be our first time having this event since 2019. We will also be having our parent teacher conferences in the first three weeks of May. This always gives the parents and teachers a great opportunity to have a conversation about where their children are developmentally and address any concerns they may have. We also have the opportunity to celebrate our teachers in May with Teacher Appreciation Week.

Miss Amanda, CCYC Director





## May Music!

Two special services are coming in May! May 14 is Mother's Day, so we will be honoring mothers, and the service will also feature Latinx music, the last of our Music Under the Dome Global Worship Series events of the season.

Then the May 28 Pentecost Service will be an engaging celebration of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. An interactive service, attendees will have the chance to create a crowd-sourced windchime portraying God's breath moving among the people, and then creating a visual of tongues of fire flickering across the congregation! You will hear 5 languages being spoken as the Spirit "falls afresh" on us. The beautiful red, orange and yellow banners will be displayed, and moving music and spoken word will create a multi-sensory experience of God's Spirit!



I will be beginning my annual time away in June and July, so thank you for a wonderful season of great worship! I am planning the Summer Music Series now, so if you have a musical talent you'd like to share, or ideas for special music, please let me know!

Ben Allaway, Director of Music & Composer-In-Residence

**South Sudanese Fundraising!**  
**You are invited, all are welcome!**

Where: First United Methodist Church: 1001 Pleasant St, DSM

When: Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Opening Prayer at 11:00 AM: with Pastor Aaron C. Limmo

Program with music, song, and speakers to follow.

12:30 PM Goodies to eat.

Come out and enjoy Mabaan & East Africa food with a delicious taste, come out, come all!! Poumkiji Church needs help to build a church, but there are no funds to build it. Therefore, they are requesting our help as a United Methodist Church. We are asking our brothers and sisters to help them out or to put our hands together. This fundraising focuses on the photo below.





PARTNER WITH ME, AS I SERVE

**CAMBODIA**

YOUR SUPPORT CAN PROVIDE

**FREEDOM**

TO SURVIVORS OF  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING

**Patrick Booth**  
**Advance#3022599**

[https://umcmmission.org/  
missionary-  
bio/3022599/](https://umcmmission.org/missionary-bio/3022599/)



**PATRICK BOOTH TO SPEAK TO PACESETTERS! MAY 7, 2023**

NOTICE of change of times from regular times.

\*8:50 coffee / treats

\*Program Promptly at 9:00AM

You are invited to join the Pacesetters Class on Sunday, May 7th to hear our Missionary, Patrick Booth, talk about his work in Cambodia. He is serving at Project Ark in Phnom Penh and is said to have compassion for those transitioning and taking steps toward healing from human trafficking and other issues. Please join us to hear more about this important work and how our support makes us partners with him. There will be coffee at 8:50 and the program will begin promptly at 9:00 on the 7th. Looking forward to having guests! (To donate directly please note the Advance#3022599 in the memo.)

**Patrick will also serve as our Good News Message special preacher May 7th.**

Please submit all articles, photos, and announcements for *The Light* by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the preceding month. Please submit all announcements for Cross Notes and the bulletin no later than the Tuesday preceding the Sunday service.



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## DEADLINE FOR FUTURE LIGHT ISSUES IS THE 20<sup>TH</sup> OF EACH MONTH



E-mail: [info@dmfirstchurch.org](mailto:info@dmfirstchurch.org)  
<https://www.instagram.com/1stchurchdsm/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/DSMFirstChurch>  
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We Welcome and Affirm Everyone

*First United Methodist Church - A Reconciling Congregation*

*First United Methodist Church, at the top of 10<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Des Moines, strives to love others as Christ loves us and, in doing so, to be the Body of Christ in word and deed.*

*As the Body of Christ, we welcome and affirm all of God's children, knowing that each is created in the image of God. We welcome and affirm people of all gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, races, ethnicities, family configurations, and physical and mental capabilities to join us in full participation as we come together to worship God and then go out to share God's love in the world around us.*