

Worship ~ We Welcome & Affirm Everyone

December 03, 2023



OUR SHOCKING HOPE

—OUR SPIRIT WAITS WORSHIP SERIES—

Mission statement

To **connect** people with God, to **build** a welcoming and inclusive community that **serves** our neighbors through actions of justice and love, and to **develop** disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision

To be a Church that demonstrates justice, love, and inclusion for all.
All means all.

We are a Reconciling Congregation

First United Methodist Church, at the top of 10th 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.

*The land on which the First United Methodist Church building sits, the land which we occupy when we worship, was once the home of the oBaakiiwaki-hina-ki (Sauk), the Meskawaki-asa-hina (Fox), and the Baxoje Maya (Ioway).
We honor them.*

causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. (Isaiah 64:1-3)

Smith Family: In the midst of our own encounters with uncertainty and upheaval and our longing for deliverance, Jesus calls to us, "Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come." (Mark 13:35)

Congregation: *We wait as people surprised again and again by God who shakes us out of our complacency and wakes us up to the work of the kingdom all around us.*

Smith Family: We light this candle as a sign of our shocking hope. May we stay awake to God's activity in the world as we wait in expectation that even now God is with us, working to restore us to the fullness of life with God and one another. Amen.

*Smith Family, Kara, Gary, Mira and Eden

Special Music

Grace Will Lead Me Home
The Chancel Choir

Ben Allaway

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

***New Testament Reading**

Mark 13:24-37

Rev. Edgar F. Solís

Pages 61-62, New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)

Response: The Word of God for the people of God.

Praise to the Living Word.

Children's Time

¡Arriba, niños! (Get Up, Children!)

Ben Allaway

¡Arriba, niños!

Para una historia

Ven a escuchar

Escucha la historia

¡Arriba, niños!

Para una historia

Ven a escuchar

Escucha la historia

Vengan aquí

Que es la major

Del amor de Dios

¡Gozala!

Vengan aquí

Que es la major

Del amor de Dios

¡Gozala!

Good News Message

"Our Shocking Hope"

Rev. Edgar F. Solís

HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Setting

TFWS #2257

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

....as we join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

..... as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;
Christ will come again. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

.... all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen. Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

The LORD'S PRAYER (in unison)

Please join in the prayer Jesus taught, using the words most familiar to you, or choose one of the texts at UMH 894-96.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

(Today's Communion elements are regular and gluten-free bread and grape juice to make this sacrament accessible to all. We will receive it by intinction. Please touch the bread into the cup (being careful to allow the bread only, not fingertips) in the grape juice and consume them together. We will have pre-packaged elements available for those who prefer them. Alert an usher if you need to be served in the pews. We are glad to come to you with the elements of the bread and cup. Everyone is welcome and invited to receive.)

MINISTRY OF SHARING



You can use our QR Code for donations.

How do you scan a QR Code?

1. Open the Camera app on your smart phone.
2. Hold your phone so that the QR code appears in view.
3. Tap the notification to open the link associated with the QR code.

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Rev. Julia E.F. Poulsen

Offertory Music

O, Mary, Don't You Weep

Trad. Spiritual

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Julia E.F. Poulsen

SENDING FORTH

Commission and blessing

Rev. Julia E.F. Poulsen

The time is coming when God will call us to account.
Be alert and watchful, serving faithfully day by day.

We will look around us for signs of God's presence.

We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.

Use the gifts you have been given to the glory of God's presence.
We will open our eyes to ways to be helpful.

We will share our spiritual gifts in word and deed.

We will seek to be shaped by the potter's hands.

Grace to you and peace, from God and Jesus Christ.
Know that God is faithful, and Christ walks with you.

With hearts full of gladness, we will do what is right.

With great joy, our lives will show forth our faith.

Amen. **Amen.**

***Benediction**

Rev. Edgar F. Solís

Beloved of God, keep awake! Stay alert! Pay attention to God at work all around you. And now, go from this place blessed to be bowled over by hope and shocked out of our complacency to watch and wait and join in the work of bringing God's dream for all creation to life. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, June 2023.

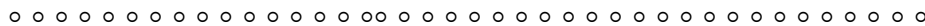
***Chimes**

Postlude

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

Nicolai, J.S. Bach,
FM Christiansen

CCLI License #4046832



Participants in Worship

Preacher	Rev. Edgar F. Solís
Worship Leader	Rev. Julia E.F. Poulsen
Ushers	Ned Johnson and Craig Strayer (Head Ushers) Ron Roulet
Special Music	The Chancel Choir
Greeters	Arnie Brown and Millie Wade
Director of Music	Ben Allaway
Song Leader /Piano/Organist	Ben Allaway
House Wide Open Band:	Ben Allaway, keyboards; Josh Gorman, guitar; Luke Lavelle, guitar; Jordan Gould, drums; Sharon Free, percussionist

First Church Staff

Rev. Edgar F. Solís – Pastor	pastor@dmfirstchurch.org
Ben Allaway-Music Director and Composer in Residence	musicdirector@dmfirstchurch.org
Michelle Mathews – Finance Manager	finance@dmfirstchurch.org
Colleen Brady– Office Manager	officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org
Marty McFly-Creative Content- IT	booking@dsmdancepartydjs.com
Amanda Claussen–CCYC Director	director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org
Timothy Poppert – Custodian	custodian@dmfirstchurch.org



Cross Notes & Bulletin announcements due Wednesday & LIGHT Articles due on the 20th every month to Office.

E-mail: info@dmfirstchurch.org Web site: www.dmfirstchurch.org

Facebook: DSM First Church Instagram: @1stChurchDSM Twitter: @des_first

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEWCOMERS, WE WELCOME YOU!

If you are here for the first time, we have a small gift bag for you at the parking lot door. Meet new friends after worship at the "Coffee Time" in Kenyon Hall. Everyone welcome!

RAINBOW STOLES AND PINS Today during service you are invited, if you so choose, to wear a rainbow stole or pin in support of our LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters. The rainbow stoles and pins are located on a table in the Narthex. The rainbow flag is a symbol of the diversity of the LGBTQ+ community and the spectrum of human sexuality and gender. Please return the rainbow stole or pin to the table when you exit the service.

THERE WILL NO PROGRAMS PRIOR TO WORSHIP NEXT WEEK DUE TO CHILDRENS PROGRAM BEGINNING AT 10:00 AM.

Please join us before Worship on December 10th for the annual Children's Christmas Program beginning at 10:00 AM. Practices will be held the prior 2 weeks during Sunday school and Wednesday evening December 6th from 6-7 PM in the Sanctuary. All Children are invited to the Children's Christmas Party December 9th from 10 AM- 1 PM,(where we may fit in a final rehearsal). Rehearsals will be in the sanctuary when Worship is not in session. All children are invited to participate in all events.

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Retired Pastor Julie Poulsen invites those interested in Bible study and discussion to join her in the Fellowship Hall, lower level, from 9-10 am on Sundays.

Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcast and Outlaws by Adam Hamilton is the Bible study on Sunday mornings at 9-10 am. Everyone is welcome. We meet in the lower level, at the east end of the Fellowship Hall. More books can be ordered if you would like a book, please contact:

Rev. Julie Poulsen, juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com.

Memorial Service for Mr. Dennis A.P. Fox



Mr. Dennis A.P. Fox, spouse of Rev. Julie E.F. Poulsen passed away on Saturday, November 25, 2023.

A **Memorial Service** will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church (1001 Pleasant Street, Des Moines, IA 50309) with lunch following the service. Please RSVP for lunch to juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com.

Rev. Julie E.F. Poulsen served Newton, St. Luke; Marengo; Cedar Rapids, New Creation; Washington; and Jefferson, First. She retired in 2021.

Mr. Fox served as probationary deacon and as a licensed local pastor serving East Dubuque, Wesley (Assoc.); Keosauqua-Bentonsport-Center Chapel; Calamus-Grand Mound; Cedar Rapids, Asbury; Cedar

Rapids, Asbury; Cedar Rapids, New Creation (Assoc.); and Washington (Assoc.).

A full **obituary** may be found at [Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home](#).

Survivors include his wife, Rev. Julia "Julie" E.F. Poulsen (134 SE Willow Run Lane, Ankeny, IA 50021); and sons, Isaac of St Louis, MO and James of Ankeny, IA.

Memorials may be designated to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice (formerly JFON) and sent to Slininger-Schroeder Funeral Home, 119 West Lincoln Way, P.O. Box 108, Jefferson, Iowa 50129.

SAVE THE DATE, DECEMBER 13th,

ADVENT SERVICE & SOUP SUPPER POTLUCK

Join your First Church friends December 13th for an evening worship event with special guest Lani Eclatt and The Chance Choir. We are inviting CCYC families along with having a kids ornament craft table. We have a sign-up for potluck items requested. We hope you will join us for a special Advent worship service following dinner. Evening will kick off in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 PM. We hope you will join us! Please sign-up for a dish to share at the current's events sign- up table.

SPIRITUAL SEEKERS

You are invited to join us as Pastor Edgar leads this group in our church. Each Tuesday, Pastor Edgar, and the new church attendees and those interested in having conversations on faith meet to discuss a new topic. All of this is in a very friendly and laid-back setting. More than a class, it is an open conversation!

Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 5, at 6 PM. Location: Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll.

SHARED ADVENT STUDY FIRST CHURCH & BURNS For those who have registered, the dates will be Dec. 3, 10, and 17, following worship. First Church will host the study on Dec. 3 and 17. Thank you.

Alternative Gift Mart- Gifts that Give Twice!



Once again, the Outreach Committee will be offering the Alternative Gift Market as an opportunity to make Christmas gift giving more meaningful. A catalog of the Gifts offered this season will be available during December, please check the tables in Fellowship Hall. Included in the catalog will be Backpack Buddies, Connection Café, and items from Heifer International to include a Share of a Heifer, Share of a Pig, and Honeybees. You may purchase your Gifts on December 10th and 17th after the worship service from our table in Kenyon Hall. Gifts may also be purchased at any time in December from the First Church web site. The gifts you choose from the catalog will honor your friends or loved ones while providing much needed financial support to ministries that give assistance to hungry, homeless, and hurting people in our society, both locally and abroad. Thus, your gift gives twice and brings joy in double measure! In addition, we will also be selling items made from olive wood from Palestine. All items can be paid for by cash or check.

ARTISANS FROM THE HOLY LAND DEC 10 & 17th

Conflict has many casualties. The artisans around Bethlehem depend on tourists for their living. They were just getting back on their feet following covid and now a war has once again put an end to visitors. You can help!

First UMC has received two large boxes of carved olive wood, shawls (some cashmere) and a limited amount of hand-blown glass from Hebron. There are lots of ornaments, nativity scenes, carvings, and necklaces.

You will be helping the artisans and their families and finding beautiful gifts from the Holy Land.

Cash and check only. We hope to see you there!

2023 Advent series to be led by Bishop Kennetha - Unrelenting Grace

Tuesday's at 7 pm on Zoom: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19, 2023

This Advent, explore God's Unrelenting Grace with the Iowa Annual Conference. Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai invites your congregation to join with others across the state as we continue to remember who we are. With a foundation of Bishop Ken Carter's new book, "Unrelenting Grace," we will have teaching sessions prepared by Bishop Kennetha, worship materials, and other resources for use in your church.

[Register](http://iaumc.org/adventstudy) today to join Advent Study Zoom Meetings at <http://iaumc.org/adventstudy>.

Visit the Conference website (www.iaumc.org) for more information.

Call to Order and Receive a Discount!

Order by November 30 for a discounted rate when you purchase "Unrelenting Grace" from Cokesbury. We have arranged for local churches to get the book for \$9.50 with free shipping if the order is over \$60. **Call Cokesbury's Contact Center at 800.672.1789 to place the order using the promotion code UNRELENT.**

We hope Advent in 2023 might be a season in which we embrace grace, seek holiness, and reconnect with one another, culminating in a conference-wide Epiphany worship service of commitment.

OUTREACH MINISTRY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

The Outreach Ministry Team is seeking a volunteer or volunteers to coordinate the meal that First Church prepares and serves for the Central Iowa Shelter each month. The coordinator will oversee the menu (there should be available pre-existing recipes for this), shopping for the groceries and finding volunteers to help prepare, clean-up and/or serve the meal on the second day of each month. The church provides reimbursement for the groceries purchased for the meal. Volunteers prepare a meal in the church kitchen for around 150 homeless people staying at the shelter.

Preparation for the meal starts around 3pm in the afternoon. The volunteers then transport the meal to the shelter in time to start serving at 6:30pm. Depending on the current Covid stipulations, the meals may be requested in to-go containers and dropped off only. The shelter coordinates this.

If you are interested in coordinating this important mission of First Church, please email Kay Pudil at kpudil@hotmail.com or contact the church office.

GriefShare UPCOMING JANUARY CLASS ANNOUNCEMENT:

Matthew 5:4 says, "Blessed are those that mourn, for they shall be comforted."

DSM First Church is excited to announce that we are offering another group discussion course for our Christ-Centered program called Griefshare. The purpose of Griefshare is to equip you through the church with resources that help offer ongoing, weekly, grief and loss support. This life-changing material ministers to grieving people who have experienced any form of loss.

Colette Klier is the Facilitator for the program. The content of the Griefshare course will guide the group through the process with God. This course stresses the importance of a relationship with Jesus Christ as your foundation during the healing process. True healing that comes from the pain of loss can only come from God's presence in the life of an individual experiencing it. This presence comes through their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The Bible provides direction from God as your source of real-world practical answers to grief and loss and this program presents a sensitive, compassionate manner with biblical concepts included.

First United Methodist Church offers this invaluable resource to our members and non-members of our church.

We are planning to start the next course on Sunday, January 21st from 12:30PM to 2:30PM and complete the course on Sunday, April 13th. This is a 13-week program with each chapter discussed weekly in our 2nd Floor Conference Room. Sessions 1-5 offer COMFORT, Sessions 6-9 offer ANSWERS, and Sessions 10-13 offer HOPE which is at the heart of everything. COMFORT, ANSWERS, and HOPE. At each meeting;

- 1.) We will open our discussion with prayer.
- 2.) Discuss the previous week's homework exercises.
- 3.) Watch a 30–40-minute video and a small snack will be provided.
- 4.) Discuss the video's content.
- 5.) Close our discussion with prayer.



Colette Klier has facilitated this course previously and highly recommends this program to anyone who is currently dealing with loss or has had a loss that's occurred perhaps months or even years ago and is still continuing to try to work through their grief.

A past participant in the Griefshare course gave the program a 5-star rating and said "The Griefshare program has helped strengthen my Christian belief in our God Almighty and has helped me immensely."

If you are interested in signing up for the program, please contact Colette directly by calling 641-831-6996 or contact the church by calling 515-244-6209. You can email us at officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org. You may also contact us through the DSM First Church website at <https://dmfirstchurch.org> by using our Contact Form. We want to hear from you.

Lord, let us trust in Your comfort, let us trust in Your Love. For we know that You will never leave us during our times of grief and loss. Thank you and Blessing to You All.



FIRST CHURCH WEEKLY CALENDAR OF MEETINGS & EVENTS:

- Sun, Dec.03:** 9 AM Sunday School, Pacesetters, Adult Bible Study,
9:45 AM Band rehearsal, Choir Practice
10:30 Worship, Advent Begins, Communion/Food Pantry Sunday, Childrens Church
Week 1 Advent, Registered Worship Study w/ Burns
- Mon, Dec.04:** 1:30 PM Memorial Service for Mr. Dennis A.P. Fox
2:30 PM Memorial Luncheon in Fellowship Hall
- Tues, Dec.05:** **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS DUE FOR NEXT WEEK**
6 PM, Spiritual Seekers, Caribou Coffee
- Wed, Dec.06:** **Childrens Christmas Program Rehearsal, 6-7 PM Sanctuary**
- Thurs, Dec.07:** 5:30 PM- Bell Choir Practice
7:30 PM- Choir Practice
- Sat, Dec.09:** **10:00 AM- 1 PM, Children's Christmas Party & final Christmas program rehearsal**
- Sun, Dec.10:** NO PRE-WORSHIP CLASSES
9:15 AM Band rehearsal, Choir Practice
10:00 AM Children's Christmas Program
10:30 **Worship Second Week of Advent**, Childrens Church,
Thank you to outgoing Church Council
11:30 AM, Advent Study w/Burns directly after Worship.
11:30 AM, ALTERNATIVE GIFT MART/BETHLEHEM ITEMS Kenyon Hall
Collection will begin for pledge cards