

# WORSHIP AT DES MOINES FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## March 16, 2025 ~ 10:30 a.m.



SECOND SUNDAY

### OUR VISION

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

### 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.

### WE ARE 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.

***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 oBaakiwaki-hina-ki (Sauk), the Meskawaki-asa-hina (Fox)  
and the Baxoje Maya (Ioway). We honor them.***

*If you are able, please stand wherever there is an \*.*

*UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red); TFWs = The Faith We Sing (black)*

*Congregational Responses in **bold***

## THE GATHERING

**PRELUDE**

God and God Alone

Phill McHugh

**WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Rev. Julie Poulsen

**SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS**

Rev. LaTonya Calderon

**PRAYERS FOR OTHERS | THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Almighty God we offer up these people and situations in our world today. For those who need the necessities of life: food, clothing, shelter, relationships.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those suffering sickness and disease, be it physical, mental, or spiritual.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those who have suffered tragic events or natural disasters.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For our world, those in war-torn countries, for the political & theological divides.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those who are grieving loss no matter the time frame.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those who are in abusive - evil situations and suffer violence and endure trauma.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those suffering from addiction.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those fighting the injustices of this world.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

For those who don't know you and don't have a relationship with you.

**Lord, in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Receive all these prayers O God, and those still resting on our hearts, minds, and souls. We offer these prayers with the prayer that Jesus taught us.

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## ENTERING WORSHIP

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Adapted, by Dr. Lisa Hancock*

Rev. Julie Poulsen

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Children of God, when you are surrounded on every side by shadows that frighten and voices that deride and confuse, what do you say?

**God is our light and our salvation! Whom shall we fear?**

When threats bombard you from every corner, stealing the security and peace you long for, what do you say?

**God is the stronghold of our lives! Of whom shall we be afraid?**

When anxiety and loneliness overwhelm and you do not know who or what to trust any more, what do you say?

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

Because God knows our suffering. God makes a home among us, welcoming us to come home to God and one another.

**Come! Let us worship God who hides us in the day of trouble and conceals us together under the cover of the tent of Love. Amen.**

### **\*RESPONSIVE HYMN**

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

UMH # 526

### **\*OPENING PRAYER**

Rev. Julie Poulsen

**Loving God, we pray for those in our community who are bombarded with troubles, surrounded on all sides by threats to their well-being, their livelihood, and their thriving. God, be their shelter in the time of storm.**

**We pray for those in our community who long for peace, those who are burnt out, shut out, and ready to hide out because it all feels like too much. God, be their shelter in the time of storm. We pray for those in our world who can't remember what safety feels like, who, after years of violence and unrest, cannot imagine what a day, a week, a year without fighting would feel like. God, be their shelter in the time of storm. God, teach us to be your sanctuary in the world. Give us the courage to make peace, extend care, and provide for the thriving of all who wonder how they will even survive. Help us be their shelter in the time of storm. In Christ name we pray. Amen.**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Psalm 27

Rev. Julie Poulsen

*Page 619, Old Testament (front portion of pew Bible)*

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Pastor LaTonya

*Sing "Jesus Loves Me" UMH # 191 while children come forward*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

Kyrie

by Sherri Porterfield

*Carys Nelson*

*Translation: Lord have Mercy. Christ have Mercy.*

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Luke 13:31-35

Pastor LaTonya

*Page 93, New Testament (back portion of pew Bible)*

This is the Word of God for the People of God. **Thanks be to God!**

**SERMON**

*Steadfast Love*

Pastor LaTonya

*"Conceal Me"*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

I invite you into a moment of prayerful reflection...

Pastor LaTonya

You are now invited to share in this prayer of confession.

*Adapted, by Paul B. Robinson*

**We live in the shadow of peace, O God, but too often, we face the shadow and not the light. We pray for peace today because we know we are not a whole people without it. Forgive us our warring madness, our**

**abuse of power, and our disregard of the rights of others. Lift from us the burden of the need always to be in control. Teach us the ways of mutual love for all people. Help us to give peace a chance.**

Beloved, the saying is sure: If we confess our sins, God is merciful and just and forgives us our sins, and cleanses us from all unrighteousness. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and redeemed.

**In the name of Christ, we are forgiven and redeemed. Glory to God!  
Amen.**

## **TITHES & OFFERINGS**

**INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

Pastor LaTonya

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

O Jesus, Grant Us Hope and Comfort

JW Franck

**\*DOXOLOGY | SONG OF PRAISE**

My Tribute

UMH #99

**To God be the glory, to God be the glory, to God be the glory for the things he has done. With His blood, He has saved me, with His power, He has raised me; to God be the glory, for the things He has done.**

**THANKSGIVING PRAYER**

Pastor LaTonya



Use our QR code for donations. Enter amount, select one-time or recurring, choose where to direct your gift (general budget defaults), select your payment options, then fill in other fields. Thank you!

How do you scan a QR code?

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

## **SENDING FORTH**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

Leave It There

UMH # 522

**\*BLESSING**

*Adapted, by Dr. Lisa Hancock*

Pastor LaTonya

Beloved, go, now, in the blessing of God who conceals you in the tent of God's love, that you may invite others to come home to God who is Love.

**With God's help we will! Amen!**

**\*EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**POSTLUDE**                      O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High      arr. David Johnson

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**PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP**

Preacher .....Rev. LaTonya Calderon  
Worship Leader/Liturgist ..... Rev. Julie Poulsen  
Children’s Church..... Laurie Hoskins  
Greeters ..... Lesley Gesaman  
Ushers..... Craig Strayer, Ron Roulet  
Song Leader ..... Carys Nelson  
Organist/Pianist ..... Debbie Sychra

**FIRST CHURCH STAFF**

Rev. LaTonya Calderon | Pastor ..... pastorlatonya@dmfirstchurch.org  
Jennifer Shide | Music Director ..... jfootesings@msn.com  
Amanda Claussen | CCYC Director ..... director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org  
Ryan M. Rippentrop | Office & Finance Manager ..... officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org  
E. David Solís | Production & Creative Manager .....productionmanager@dmfirstchurch.org  
Sidney Shide | Organist  
Timothy Poppert | Custodian  
Renea Losee, Jill Fresh | Nursery Childcare



# 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 "Coffee Time" in Kenyon Hall. Everyone is welcome!

## **INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?**

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a member of First UMC, please speak to Pastor LaTonya. We welcome and invite all to join our faith community.

## **FIRST CHURCH PLANNING PRAYER SESSIONS**

As we enter 2025, we are making a concentrated effort to discern God's plan for First Church. The church board has been gathering to pray, meditate, and vision for the future of our church. Now it's time for everyone to participate.

During Lent, all church members and friends are welcomed to join these sessions to pray for our church and God's plan for it in the greater Des Moines community and beyond. For Lent, consider giving God 90 minutes of time and join us: **Saturdays Mar. 8, 15, 22, 29, Apr. 5, 12. 9-10:30 a.m., Chapel.**



## **SINGERS & RINGERS WELCOME!**

Join our music ministry! Childcare is available.

**Wed. 6:00 p.m. Chancel Choir & 7:30 p.m. Bell Choir.**

See Jennifer Shide if you have any questions!

## **FIRST CHURCH CHILI COOK-OFF IS COMING!**

The battle for the best First Church chili will be on **Sunday, March 23, after worship.** Six contestants signed up to compete at the cook-off! Come see who will win the trophy.

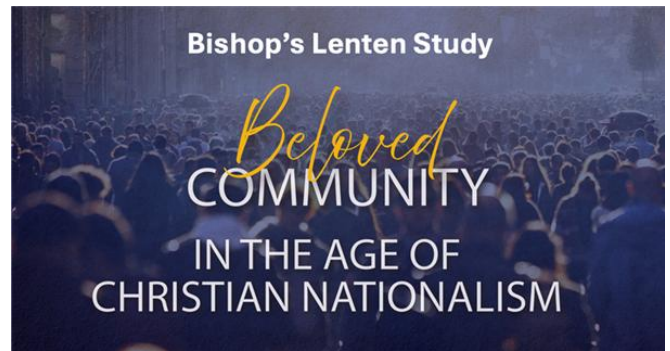
Donate at the cookoff, receive a ticket, taste the chilis, and vote for your favorite. Then sit, relax, and enjoy a bowl of your favorite!



Donations will go to the UMCOR US Disaster Response and Recovery for California Fire Relief. We suggest a \$20 donation, but any amount will get you a vote. Sign up in Kenyon Hall, on the attendance slip, or call the office to reserve your spot at the cookoff. Good luck to our contestants!

## **BISHOP'S LENTEN STUDY**

Pastor LaTonya will lead a group study of our Bishop's Lenten Study in the Main Floor Conference Room on **Tuesdays, April 1, 8, and 15, at 7:00 p.m.** During this interactive session we will watch the Bishop's Zoom presentation followed by lively discussions. Unable to attend in person? Sign up on the Conference website to get your personal Zoom link to watch the bishop's presentation.



Guided by the Gospel's call to "love your neighbor as yourself," Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai will examine how the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's vision of a beloved community can counter Christian nationalism. This is a crucial topic for our church community, and we will reflect on the lectionary passages for the Lenten season and the call of the church as we approach the season of resurrection.

In this three-part study, she will explore the theological concept of grace and discuss how **love**, **service**, and **solidarity** can help churches expand their impact and reach. She will share her experiences building a beloved community within and beyond the church.



**Sunday, March 30, 1:30 p.m. Sanctuary** – Our Music Ministry is hosting a "Concert of Choirs" to raise funds for UMCOR to support needs from the California wildfires. Multiple area choirs will perform along with a mass choir performance! Come enjoy an amazing afternoon of music and donate to a worthy cause!

**Sunday, April 6, after worship** – Missions & Social Concerns will lead the Bread for the World "Offering of Letters"—a letter-writing event to end hunger. Watch for more details.

**Saturday, April 26** – United Women in Faith Meeting. A day of activities for the women of our congregation and beyond. Watch for more details.





## **SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BEFORE WORSHIP**

First Church offers a variety of options for youth and adults. **Laurie Hoskins** leads **youth age 3+ from 9:15-10:15 a.m.** Nursery care is available for those under 3 so parents may attend an adult class. Both meet lower level in education wing.

## **SUNDAY BOOK STUDY – ADULT & TEEN CLASS**

**Starting March 9**, Julie Poulsen is leading a study on *24 Hours That Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. **Join at 9:00 a.m.** for coffee and discussion.

Retrace the day that changed human history to experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death like never before.

Contact Julie Poulsen for questions. [juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com](mailto:juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com) Everyone is welcome. Come late, leave early, you are always welcome!

## **PACESETTERS CLASS — ADULT CLASS**

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., Lower-level Room 4, for coffee and treats with program at 9:15 a.m. Ned Johnson leads the group with discussion of issues presented, and occasional guest speakers. Please join us!

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## **NEW LGBTQIA+ SUPPORT GROUP – ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Looking for a safe and welcoming space to connect with others in the LGBTQIA+ community? Grace UMC is launching a new support group where queer, trans, and gender non-conforming individuals (ages 18+) can come together, share experiences, and build community.

This is not a religious group, though it is hosted at a church. No matter your faith background—or if you don't have one at all—you are welcome.

Join us for open conversations, support, and a place to celebrate the joys and navigate the challenges of being a sexual or gender minority in today's world. Whether you want to share your story or simply be in a space with others who understand, you are invited.



**Weekly: Sundays at 6:00 p.m.**

**Location: Grace UMC, 3700 Cottage Grove Ave, DSM**

**Questions? Contact: [admin@gracedesmoines.org](mailto:admin@gracedesmoines.org)**

## **AMOS INVOLVED IN DART CONCERNS**

Last month, we learned that First Church is a member of AMOS (A Mid-Iowa Organizing



Strategy), a non-profit that seeks to improve our communities. One of those improvements was the creation of a Community Last Trust. Now, we want to share a second effort: improving the DART mass transit system.

AMOS became concerned last year when the DART board announced they may be forced to decrease service by 40% due to budget shortfalls. AMOS worked with other concerned organizations and individuals to pressure leaders to intervene. As a result, Des Moines found temporary funds to finance DART for 2 years. DART also hired a consultant to study the current system and recommend ways to make it more efficient. That study, called Reimagine DART, will include a public input portion in late spring or summer of 2025. We hope to impact the input level provided.

While much of the discourse about DART has focused on survival and maintaining the status quo, we believe it's time for a broader conversation. Let's envision a public transit system in our metro area that not only survives but thrives, providing economic opportunities and responding to calls for environmental and social justice. This vision is within our reach, and your participation can help make it a reality.

**Perhaps you are asking yourself: I have a car, so why should I be concerned about our bus system?** There are several reasons. We want to have a larger conversation to envision the future of public transit in our metro area. According to DART's own studies, support in DSM is overwhelmingly positive, with 94% believing public transportation is important, even though they themselves do not use it. We'd like to mobilize that 94% to advocate for a better DART.

Therefore, we are providing a forum to learn more and share ideas.

**When: April 10, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

**Where: Central Presbyterian Church, 3829 Grand Ave;  
upstairs in Fellowship Hall**

This will be a Civic Academy, an action-oriented workshop to help identify talented potential community leaders who want to get more involved in an issue campaign and/or public life. In this case, the issue is Public Transportation and the changes facing DART in the DSM area.

## Sign up for Parking Lot Door Greeter!

SignUp  
Genius Form



Click "Sign Up" on date > Click "Save & Continue" at bottom of screen > Enter info > Click "Sign Up Now"

Be the first face people encounter when they enter First UMC for worship on Sunday! Warmly welcome visitors and direct them as needed. If you have questions, ask our great resources Mildred Wade or Arnie Brown.

## Sign up for Sunday Liturgist (Reader)!

SignUp  
Genius Form



Click "Sign Up" on date > Click "Save & Continue" at bottom of screen > Enter info > Click "Sign Up Now"

Sign up to be the reader and assist Pastor LaTonya lead worship as our liturgist. You'll receive an advance copy during the week so you can practice the readings and ask any questions. All are welcome!

## Sign up to be an Usher!

SignUp  
Genius Form



Click "Sign Up" on date > Click "Save & Continue" at bottom of screen > Enter info > Click "Sign Up Now"

Sign up to help usher on Sunday mornings. Help pass the offering plates, hand out bulletins, and point visitors toward restrooms, etc. All ages are welcome to learn and help!

## Sign up to be an Office Volunteer!

SignUp  
Genius Form



Click "Sign Up" on date > Click "Save & Continue" at bottom of screen > Enter info > Click "Sign Up Now"

Sign up to help Ryan in the office-- answer the phone and door, assemble bulletins on Thursday, and do other projects now and then. There are three-hour slots, 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. or 12 p.m.- 3 p.m., but any amount of help is welcome!



- Sun, Mar 16** 9:00 a. Pacesetters class, Room 104 Lower Level  
 9:00 a. “24 Hours” class, Fellowship Lower Level  
 9:15 a. Children’s class, Room E112 Lower Level  
 10:30 a. Worship, Sanctuary, Main Floor  
 Fellowship Time, Kenyon Hall Main Floor  
 12:30 p. GriefShare, Conference Room 2nd Floor
- Tue, Mar 18** 5:30 p. Building & Grounds, Conference Room Main Floor
- Wed, Mar 19** 1:30 p. CCYC Lead Team Meeting, Conference Room Main Floor
- Thu, Mar 20** 6:00 p. CCYC Staff Meeting, Conference Room Main Floor
- Sat, Mar 22** 9:00 a. Church Planning Prayer Session, Chapel 2nd Floor
- Sun, Mar 23** 9:00 a. Pacesetters class, Room 104 Lower Level  
 9:00 a. “24 Hours” class, Fellowship Lower Level  
 9:15 a. Children’s class, Room E112 Lower Level  
 10:30 a. Worship, Sanctuary, Main Floor  
 Fellowship Time, Kenyon Hall Main Floor  
 Chili Cookoff Contest, Fellowship Hall Lower Level  
 12:30 p. GriefShare, Conference Room 2nd Floor  
 5:00 p. Rehearsal for Concert of Choirs, Sanctuary
- Mon, Mar 24** Serve at Connection Café at St John’s Lutheran, 600 6<sup>th</sup> Ave, DSM  
 6:00 p. Church Board, Conference Room 2nd Floor

**Cross Notes** (weekly e-news) & **Announcements** due *Wednesday at noon to Office Manager.*

**First United Methodist Church | 1001 Pleasant Street | Des Moines, IA 50309**

PH: 515-244-6209 | FAX: 515-282-6106 | [www.dmFIRSTchurch.org](http://www.dmFIRSTchurch.org)

Guest Wi-Fi Password | Welcome!



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