



OUR VISION

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

Worship at Des Moines First United Methodist Church

May 3, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday

RAINBOW STOLES AND PINS

Today during the service, you are invited 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!



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 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 celebrate God's gift of diversity and value the wholeness made possible in community, equally shared and shepherded by all. We welcome and affirm people of every gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation, of every age, race, ethnicity, physical and mental ability, level of education, and family structure, and of every economic, immigration, marital, and social status, and more. We acknowledge that we live in a world of profound social, economic, and political inequities. As followers of Jesus, we commit to pursuing justice and pledge to journey in solidarity with all who are marginalized and oppressed.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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.

*If it is comfortable for you, please stand wherever there is an *.*

UMH = United Methodist Hymnal (red book); TFWS = The Faith We Sing (black book)

*Congregational Responses in **bold***

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Sonata No. 3 Mvt. 5”

by Georg Philipp Telemann

Nick Robie & Donavan
Mann (Euphonium)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christine Anders

This is the day the Lord has made! **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

SHARING JOYS & CONCERNS

Pastor LaTonya

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 a loss, no matter the time frame.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For those who are in abusive/evil situations & suffer violence & 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 find it difficult to believe in the power of the Resurrection.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive all of 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

Choral Introit “Reach Out to Your Neighbor” vs2 Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP** by Dr. Lisa Hancock Christine Anders

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.

Easter people, in the midst of our questions and doubts, Jesus answers:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of our worry and distress, Jesus assures us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of misinformation, confusion, and distrust, Jesus reminds us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

In the midst of dead ends and impossible challenges, Jesus shows us:

I am the way, the truth, and the life.

Come, let us worship as we learn to follow Christ, who is our way, our truth, and our life.

Come, let us worship! Thanks be to God! Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** “The Church’s One Foundation” UMH#545
Bell Choir

***OPENING PRAYER** Adapted from Richard Fairchild Christine Anders

O God, we thank you and praise you for this day and for the opportunity you have given us in this good land to gather and to worship you without fear. Most Holy God, we pray that you would be with us in this place of praise and prayer and that through the ministry of your Holy Spirit you would form

the minds of your faithful people. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found and that our every action might show forth the light of your Son, Christ Jesus our Lord, he who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

CHILDREN'S TIME

Pastor LaTonya

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

ANTHEM

"A Hymn of Freedom"

Chancel Choir

by Eric H. Thiman

NEW TESTAMENT READING

John 14:1-14

Pastor LaTonya

Page 132, New Testament (back portion of the pew Bible)

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

SERMON

"THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE"

Pastor LaTonya

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Please join me in a moment of prayerful reflection.

Pastor LaTonya

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - I invite you to join me in this prayer of confession: Let us confess that we have failed to understand and live into the way, the truth and the life.

Forgive us, we pray, and open our hearts, our minds, our souls, and our understanding unto the revelatory power of the Holy Spirit. Let us confess our sins before God.

Silent confession

Friends, hear the good news: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us proclaim the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.

Musical setting for communion responses

TFWS# 2257 a-d

The Communion Table is open to All. As you come forward, please bring your tithe/offering and your attendance sheet and place them in the trays when receiving communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Improvisation #16”

Sidney Shide

by Sidney Shide



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.

THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Pastor LaTonya

SENDING FORTH

*CLOSING HYMN

“When We All Get to Heaven”

UMH#701

*BLESSING

by Dr. Lisa Hancock

Pastor LaTonya

May God bless you as you leave this place to follow the Way, to seek after the Truth, and to rejoice in the Life of the Triune God who draws us together and sends us out to be agents of Resurrection life in a hurting world.

O God, may it be so! Amen!

*EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Please be seated for the postlude

POSTLUDE

“SONATA NO. 2 MVT. 1”

NICK ROBIE & DONAVAN

BY GEORG PHILIPP TELEMANN

MANN (EUPHONIUM)

Go in Peace

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Preacher Pastor LaTonya
Worship Leader/Liturgist Christine Anders
Children’s Church..... Laurie Hoskins
Greeters Deb Sychra
Ushers..... Craig Strayer, Ron Roulet
Song Leader Jennifer Shide
Organist/Pianist Sidney Shide

FIRST CHURCH STAFF

Rev. LaTonya Calderon • Pastor pastorlatonya@dmfirstchurch.org
Jennifer Shide • Music Director jfootesings@msn.com
Amanda Claussen • CCYC Director director@creativecenterforyoungchildren.org
David Calderon • Administrative & Fiscal Officer..... officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org
E. David Solís • Production & Creative Manager productionmanager@dmfirstchurch.org
Sidney Shide • Organist
Timothy Poppert • Custodian
Renea Losee, Jill Fresh • Nursery Care

NEWS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & MORE!

NEWCOMERS, WELCOME!

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

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

If you want to learn more about joining First UMC, please speak to Pastor LaTonya. We welcome and invite all to join our faith community.



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 at the lower level in the education wing.

PACESETTERS CLASS – ADULT CLASS

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 am, Lower -Level Room 104, for coffee and treats with a program at 9:15 am. Ned Johnson leads the group with a discussion of issues presented and occasional guest speakers. Please join us!

FINANCE NEWS – First Quarter 2026 Update

Many thanks to all who give financially to the First United Methodist Church through pledges, donations, or one of its various funds and special offerings. Your generosity continues to make a meaningful difference in the life and ministry of our church.

During the first quarter of 2026, we saw strong support not only for regular giving but also for mission-focused opportunities. Contributions to UMCOR were especially generous. Your gifts truly matter.

Our church's operating fund is supported by pledges from members and attenders, as well as contributions from guests and visitors. We also receive interest income from the church's Endowment Fund, which helps offset some expenses. As we move through the first quarter of 2026, we are encouraged by the steady commitment to giving and the faithfulness of our congregation.

2026 -1st quarter totals:

Pledged donations from members totaled **\$41,608.00**, up \$15,000.00 from last year's 1st quarter total.

Unpledged donations from members, guests, and visitors totaled **\$6,392.00**, up \$2,269.00 from last year's 1st quarter unpledged donations.

If you pledged, the church budget benefits greatly when you are able to fulfill your commitment. Many Thanks for your continued support. The operating fund sustains the essential functions of our church, including utilities, staff salaries and benefits, office needs, and the foundational expenses that allow our ministries to thrive.

If you have not yet pledged, we invite you to consider making a weekly or monthly gift. Please remember that you may adjust your pledge at any time if your circumstances change.

We give not because God needs our money, but because we are grateful for all that God has done for us. Giving is a spiritual gift and discipline; it shows our love of God and our support for the mission and ministry God has given us.

If you would like more detailed financial information or have questions, please contact the Fiscal Officer, David Calderon, at officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org

Jacque Coulson, Finance representative of One Board

Help Our Immigrant Neighbors



Many immigrants arrive in the U.S. knowing how to grow vegetables, but don't have land on which to grow them. Enter Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). This organization works with immigrants to provide land and skills that help them develop a business.

Recently, they opened a greenhouse where they are starting their vegetables that will soon be planted outside and will provide produce to be sold at a the Global Greens Farmers Market and through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture).

Currently, in another on-site greenhouse, you can purchase plants for your own garden. These plants help support the program. The greenhouse is located on NW 51st St. just north of Meredith Dr. in Urbandale.

The weekly Farmer's Market will begin on May 23rd and is located at the Polk County Public Health Department, 1907 Carpenter Ave. The hours are 9:00 am -12:30 pm. Check it out! There are American favorites and exciting international vegetables to try. By purchasing from Global Greens, you are helping our immigrant neighbors and getting healthy food!



All of these beautiful plants will soon grow vegetables available at the Global Greens Farmer's Market.

Food Drive for Our Oakridge Neighbors

Some First Church members have been visiting the Oakridge Neighborhood in order to re-establish a relationship with our neighbors across Center Street.

Initially, we met with their staff and later with residents in an AMOS House meeting.

What we learned surprised and saddened us. As immigrants, many of the folks there are unable to find work. Additionally, their assistance has been cut and they are hungry. Although the DMARC Food Pantry visits, each family receives only one box per month. As a result, the Missions and Social Concerns ministry team is planning to sponsor an additional monthly food drive. Watch this space for more specific information to come.

Second Chances: Advocating for Restoration in the Criminal Justice System



April is recognized as Second Chance Awareness Month, a time dedicated to eliminating stigmas, reducing barriers to successful transitions, and enhancing the dignity of more than 70 million Americans with criminal records in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Understanding the Scope of the Issue

According to the Center for American Progress (2023), about one in three people in the United States are former convicted criminals. In addition, there are millions more currently held in jails, prisons, and detention facilities across the country, who, upon release, will face substantial challenges in securing housing, employment, and personal security.

At the close of 2023, correctional authorities in the United States had jurisdiction over more than 1.25 million people in state or federal prisons. Additionally, 650,000 individuals were held in local jails, often due to unaffordable cash bail, as reported by the Prison Policy Initiative (2024). Alarming, 70% of the jail population—approximately 468,000 people—were not convicted but were awaiting court action. This means that many individuals are incarcerated without having been found guilty of any crime, according to Bureau of Justice Statistics data cited by The World Data (2025). This situation reflects a system focused more on containment and punishment than on restoration.

Theological Perspective and the United Methodist Church's Role

For United Methodists, observing Second Chance Awareness Month is more than a civic responsibility—it is a theological imperative. This observance provides an opportunity for the church to advocate for a legal system that prioritizes restoring community bonds, ensuring fair sentencing, and removing the persistent obstacles faced by those who have completed their sentences. Mass incarceration is not just a crisis of justice; it is also a crisis for families and communities.

UMC Criminal Justice Social Principles Point of View

The 2025–2028 Social Principles affirm that every person has inherent worth as a child of God. The church is called to seek a criminal legal system that focuses on rehabilitation, restoration, and the common good, rather than on punishment.

The United Methodist Church's Criminal Justice Social Principle specifically states: “We encourage systemic monitoring for prejudice and bias in all criminal justice systems. We further support access to competent legal representation for people who are accused and/or convicted of criminal acts” (The United Methodist Church, 2025, Paragraph E).

Actions for a Restorative Criminal Justice System

There are practical steps United Methodists can take to advance a criminal justice system rooted in the theological vision of restoration at the federal level.

- Congregations and annual conferences are encouraged to ask their members of Congress to co-sponsor legislation such as the Smarter Pretrial Detention for Drug Charges Act of 2026 and the First Step Implementation Act of 2025.

(This article taken from an article published by the UM Board of Church and Society)

Young Adult Gathering

The next gathering will be on **May 17th from 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.** This is a great opportunity to get acquainted with other young adults and spend time with our pastor. Friends are welcome!

For more information, please contact **Pastor LaTonya** or **Kristen Isaac**.

ADULT Bible Study

You are invited to share in Bible study in the Kenyon Hall Conf Rm.
On Sundays at 9 AM

New adult SS book/Bible study

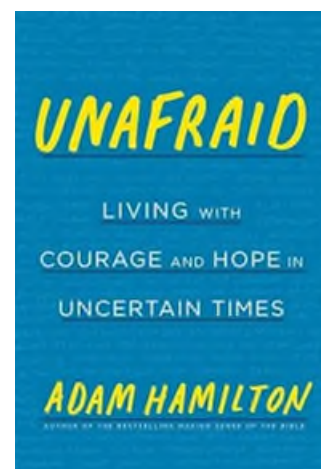
Starts: April 19th

Concludes: May 24

Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times
By Adam Hamilton

Study, watch video, and discuss.

For more info: Julie Poulsen 319 461 3146
or juliaefpoulsen@gmail.com



Weaving in May



Mat #7 has been started, and we will soon be using two looms!

Saturday morning, May 9, 9:30-11:30.

Join us to see how it's done!

Everyone is welcome! Donuts and coffee are provided.



“Give Them Something to Eat!”

In Matthew 14:16 when the disciples asked Jesus to send the hungry crowd away, He replied, “You give them something to eat.” Our faith still issues that challenge to us today as we learn about children suffering from hunger and malnutrition in Gaza and other war-torn countries, and even here in this country, more than one in five children are at risk of hunger.

While we can’t personally go and feed every hungry person, we can do something. We can write our members of Congress who have the power to impact the policies and programs that can end hunger, programs like WIC and SNAP and US AID.

Each year Bread for the World organizes churches and other organizations to do just that.

First Church will hold its annual Offering of Letters on Sunday, May 3rd, following worship. Our letters combined with thousands of others from across the country are an expression of faith and hope, and can help to change the hearts and minds of legislators to support policies that help to end hunger.

On that Sunday there will be information, a sample letter, paper, pens, addresses---all that you need to write these letters.

Please join us, and help heed the command of Jesus to “Give them something to eat.”

On **May 3rd** help feed hungry children!



THE CONNECTION CAFE COLLECTION BOX FOR NEEDED ITEMS

April - June. = Napkins

The Bridge Board thanks you for helping! Your contributions are definitely making a difference. Please deposit donated items in the collection box in the Narthex outside the Sanctuary. First Church does not allow Styrofoam products! Direct questions to one of the Bridge Board members from our church—Pastor LaTonya, Lesley Gesaman, Ned Johnson, or Kay Pudil.

SPECIAL RECYCLING AT FIRST CHURCH

Did you know that you can bring the following items to First Church for Recycling? Containers for these recyclable items are available in the Narthex. Thank you for doing your part to keep toxic waste out of the landfill.



- AA, AAA, C, D & 9 Volt Rechargeable & Alkaline Batteries
- Hearing Aid Batteries
- CFL Light Bulbs (the swirly bulbs)
- Prescription Eyeglasses
- Ink Cartridges

CCYC is Now Enrolling 2's, 3's, and Preschoolers!

We're excited to share that CCYC is currently enrolling for 2's, 3's, and Preschool programs!

If you know a family looking for **loving, high-quality childcare** in a nurturing and engaging environment, we'd be thrilled to welcome them to our CCYC family.



✨ *Spaces are limited—contact us today to learn more or schedule a visit!*

Thursdays in Black

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence.

We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and men, boys and girls, are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets – in all places in our societies.

The campaign is simple but profound. Wear black on Thursdays. Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you.

<https://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black>

Church Bulletin Notice

Having Trouble Hearing the Worship Service?

We want everyone to be able to fully participate in worship. If you have experienced any difficulty hearing the service—whether it’s the microphone volume, speakers, or overall sound quality—please let us know.

Your feedback will help us make improvements so that everyone can clearly hear the message and music.

If you have had any issues hearing during the service, please contact **Jennifer Shide** or **David Solis** and share your experience.

Thank you for helping us improve our worship experience for everyone!



first CHURCH

THIS WEEK ^{at} GLANCE



Sun, May 3

9:00 am, Pacesetters Class, *Rm 104 Lower Level*
9:00 am, Bible Study “UNAFRAID”, *Fellowship Hall Lower Level*
9:15 am, Children’s Class, *Rm E114 Lower Level*
10:30 am, **Worship**, *Sanctuary, Main Floor*
Fellowship Time, *Kenyon Hall Main Floor*
Communion Sunday
Food Pantry Sunday
11:30 am, **Offering of Letters**

Wed, May 6

Bulletin Announcements & CrossNote Articles Due
1:30 pm, CCYC Lead Team Meeting, *Conf Rm 2*

Sat, May 9

9:30 am, Weaving for Homeless, *Kenyon Hall*

Sun, May 10

9:00 am, Pacesetters Class, *Rm 104 Lower Level*
9:00 am, Bible Study “UNAFRAID”, *Fellowship Hall Lower Level*
9:15 am, Children’s Class, *Rm E114 Lower Level*
10:30 am, **Worship**, *Sanctuary, Main Floor*
Fellowship Time, *Kenyon Hall Main Floor*

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

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Guest Wi-Fi Password • Welcome!



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Notes

Have a Blessed Day