first CHURCH

Worship at Des Moines First United Methodist Church

October 11, 2026 • 10:30 a.m.

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 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 "Jesus Loves Me" Elaine Wedeking
arr. Fred Bock

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISSION MINUET Julie Poulson & Sara Frahm

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 do not know you or find it difficult to believe in you.

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP** by Dr. Lisa Hancock Julie Poulson

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.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

We gather to praise the Creator, the one who formed the mountains and the seas.

God looked upon all that was made and declared it good.

We are called to be stewards of this good creation, to tend it with love and care.

Let us worship the God who sustains all life, and whose love extends to all creatures.

Let us rejoice in the wonder of creation and commit ourselves anew to its healing.

***OPENING HYMN** "All Creatures of Our God and King" vs. 1-5 UMH#62

***OPENING PRAYER** Julie Poulson

Gracious and loving God, Creator of all that is, we stand before you in awe of the beauty and complexity of the world you have entrusted to our care. We praise you this morning for the blessings of good weather and for the fertility of the land upon which we dwell. We praise you for the sun that shines upon our endeavors and for the moon and the stars at night, which remind us of your glory. We thank you for the many good things that you have bestowed upon us. As we worship you today, stir within us a passion to participate in your healing work, so that your creation may flourish and testify to your glory. We pray this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

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OLD TESTAMENT READING Psalm 148:1-13 Julie Poulson

Page 716, Old Testament (front portion of the 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

ANTHEM "Lamb of God" Maggie Steffen

by Twila Paris

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Genesis 1:26-31; 2:15 Pastor LaTonya

Page 28, Old Testament (back portion of the pew Bible)

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

UNITED METHODIST MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH IS TO MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE WORLD.

UNITED METHODIST VISION STATEMENT

OUR VISION IS TO FORM DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO, EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, **LOVE BOLDLY**, **SERVE JOYFULLY**, AND **LEAD COURAGEOUSLY** IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND WORLDWIDE CONNECTIONS.

SERMON SERIES: OUR SOCIAL PRINCIPLES Pastor LaTonya

COMMUNITY OF ALL CREATION: "CALLED TO TEND THE GARDEN"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Please join me in a moment of prayerful reflection. Pastor LaTonya

You are now invited to join me in this prayer of confession:

We confess that we have not always been faithful stewards; we have taken more than we needed, polluted what was pure, and ignored the suffering of your creation. Forgive us, O Lord, and open our eyes to see the interconnectedness of all life. Grant us the wisdom to act with justice, the courage to change our ways, and the compassion to protect the vulnerable.

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. Glory to God! Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING 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.

OFFERTORY MUSIC "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Elaine Wedeking
arr. Eugene Butler

DOXOLOGY/SONG OF PRAISE ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING (VS.7) UMH#62

LET ALL THINGS THEIR CREATOR BLESS,
AND WORSHIP HIM IN HUMBLENESS,
O PRAISE YE! ALLELUIA!
PRAISE, PRAISE THE FATHER, PRAISE THE SON,
AND PRAISE THE SPIRIT, THREE IN ONE!
O PRAISE YE! O PRAISE YE!
ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

THANKSGIVING PRAYER Pastor LaTonya

SENDING FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN** "O God Who Shaped Creation" UMH# 443

***BLESSING** by Dr. Lisa Hancock Pastor LaTonya

Go forth as good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.
O God, may it be so! Amen!

***EXTINGUISHING THE CHRIST CANDLE** *Please be seated for the postlude*

POSTLUDE "Amen" Elaine Wedeking
arr. Mark Hayes

Go in Peace

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PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Pastor..... Pastor LaTonya
Worship Leader/Liturgist ..... Julie Poulsen
Children's Church..... Laurie Hoskins, Shirley Christoffersen
Greeters ..... Jacque Coulson, Eloise Cranke
Ushers..... Craig Strayer, Ron Roulet
Song Leader ..... Maggie Steffen
Organist/Pianist ..... Elaine Wedeking

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
Luke Aunan • Production & Creative Manager .....productionmanager@dmfirstchurch.org
Sidney Shide • Organist
Timothy Poppert • Custodian
Renea Losee • Nursery Care

BE IN THE KNOW!

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?
Are you considering making First UMC your church home? We would love to welcome you into our faith community!
If you'd like to learn more about becoming a member of First UMC, please speak with **Pastor LaTonya**. She would be happy to answer your questions and help you take the next step.
All are welcome here, and we invite you to join us on the journey of faith!

PACESETTERS CLASS — ADULT CLASS

Start your Sunday morning with good conversation, coffee, and treats!
Join us **Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** in **Lower-Level Room 104**.
Our program begins at **9:15 a.m.**, with **Ned Johnson** leading an engaging discussion of the issues and topics presented. We also enjoy occasional guest speakers who bring new perspectives and ideas.
Come for the coffee, stay for the conversation—and bring a friend!
We'd love to have you join us!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Church offers a variety of options for youth and adults. **Laurie Hoskins** leads our Children's Church for **youth age 3+ during Worship.** Laurie and Shirley lead Children's Sunday School **before Worship.** Shirley Christoffersen has volunteered to teach the younger children. Laurie will teach third grade and above. 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.

CREATING BIG CHANGE!

Have you bought something at the Fair Trade Cart lately? If you have, not only did you have a delicious product to enjoy, but you're also creating Big Change.

Big Change for Farmers: Your purchase helps small scale farmers in developing countries who are part of co-ops owned and run by the farmers themselves. Because they are paid fair prices for their crops, they are able to make investments in community projects, educational programs and technical training.

Big Change for the Environment: Equal Exchange, the group that supplies our products, is committed to supporting sustainable farming methods, such as organic practices, natural resource conservation and reforestation, thus supporting efforts to protect local ecosystems.

Prices for these products are generally comparable to prices in the grocery store. And like grocery stores, sometimes there must be an increase in prices. Shipping costs have increased recently, and the cost of materials needed to prepare the products has also increased in recent months. So these changes may be reflected in the prices at the Fair Trade Cart.

Nevertheless, you get double value when you buy from the Fair Trade Cart. You get to enjoy high quality products, while creating Big Change for our neighbors far away. So, see you soon at the Fair Trade Cart as we Create Big Change for our neighbors far away

Your Vote Matters

"But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Joshua 24:15

Voting is an act of choosing whom we will serve and what values will guide our society. Just as Joshua called the Israelites to choose whom they would serve, we too are called to make decisions that reflect our commitment to God's will for justice, righteousness and peace. Just like the Israelites faced decisions about who they would serve, we too face decisions as we mark our ballots. As election day nears, we encourage you to approach voting with the same seriousness and prayerfulness you would any other significant decision in your spiritual lives, remembering that your vote is an opportunity to choose justice and righteousness over indifference and apathy.

See you at the polls!

GRIEF SHARE

The first Grief Share session started on September 27th.
The time will be from 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM in the 2nd Fl. Conf. Rm.

National Coming Out Day

An annual international observance celebrated on October 11 to support lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other LGBTQIA+ individuals in "coming out of the closet" and living life openly.

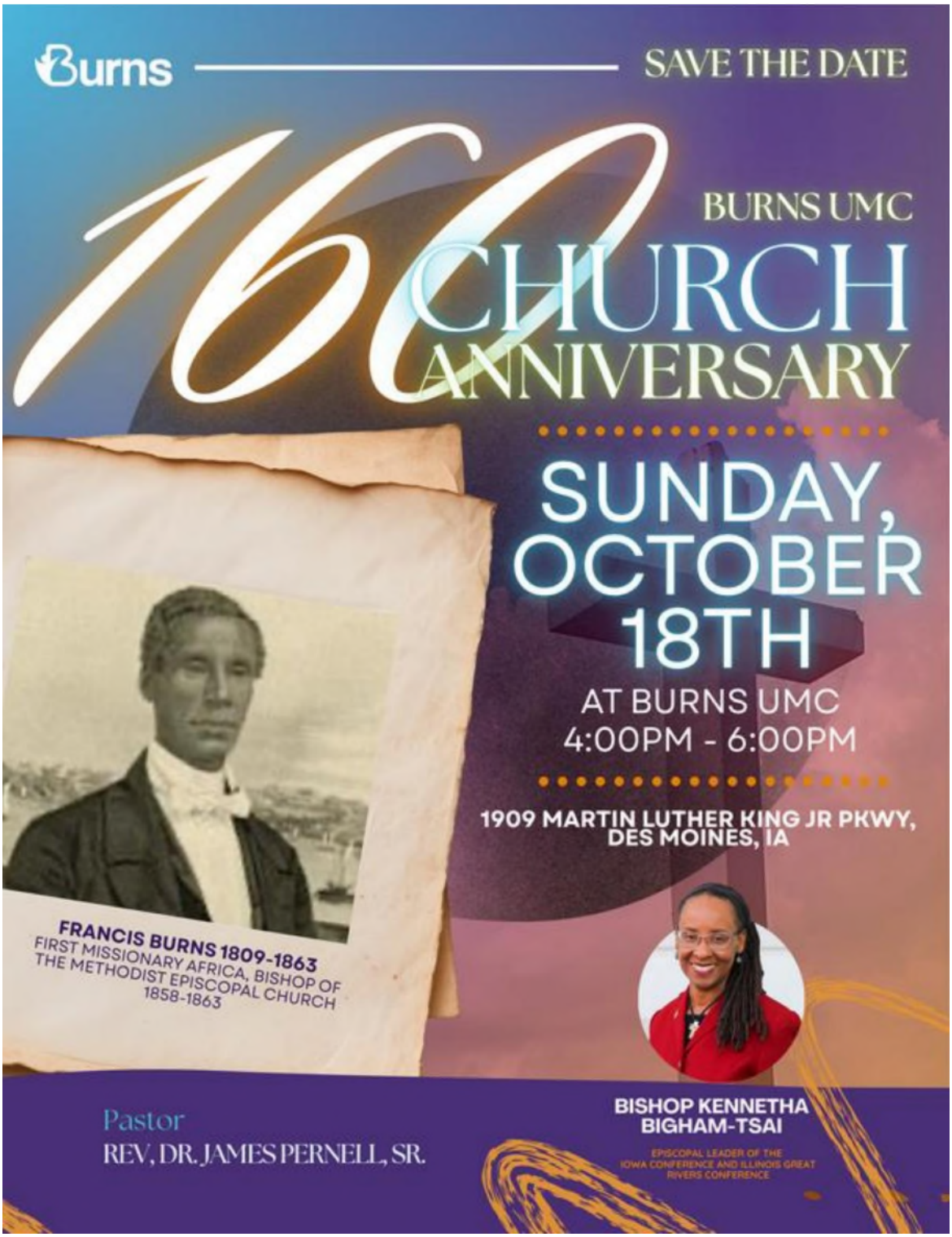
This day was established in 1988 by psychologists and activists Robert Eichberg and Jean O'Leary. It was founded on the one-year anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, where roughly 500,000 people gathered to demand equal rights.

The founders believed that homophobia and prejudice thrive in an atmosphere of silence and ignorance. They operated on the belief that once people realize a loved one, friend, or colleague is LGBTQIA+, they are far less likely to hold or support oppressive views.

Burns UMC will be celebration their 160th Anniversary on **Sunday October 18th** from **4:00pm to 6:00pm.** They will be celebrating the history of Burns with a special guest, Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai who will be sharing an inspiring message.

A reception to follow - all are welcome! Please attend if you are able.

In order to help Burns celebrate this historic milestone, FUMC has decided to have a special offering on **Sunday, October 11th & 18th** to be given to Burns as a gift. The goal is to collect $160. If you would like to contribute to the offering, please use one of the envelopes provided in the pew and drop it in the offering plate along with your attendance slip.



SPECIAL VOTING ALERT: Pastor Latonya attended a clergy meeting where those gathered were encouraged to share with their congregations the importance of voting and voting early this year. This is to counter threats that have been made that could potentially disrupt voting in this mid-term election.

Voting date & Times: November 3, 2026, 7 AM – 8 PM

YOU MUST BE A CITIZEN OF THE US TO VOTE; YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN THE STATE OF IOWA

Am I registered to vote?
https://apps.sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterreg/regtovote/search.aspx
How to register?
https://sos.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-06/Updated%20VR%20Form%206-29-2026.pdf

Mail completed form to:
Polk County Election Office
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310
To Vote:
You must be:

- at least 18 years old by election day.
- a US citizen.
- registered to vote in Iowa.

You must
 vote at your own polling locations (unless voting early- see below). To find your voting location follow this link:
https://sos.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-06/Updated%20VR%20Form%206-29-2026.pdf

You must show one of the following forms of identification:

- Iowa Driver's License (not expired more than 90 days)
- Iowa Non-Operator ID (not expired more than 90 days)
- U.S. Passport (not expired)
- U.S. Military or Veteran ID (not expired)
- Iowa Voter Identification Card (must be signed)
- Tribal ID Card/Document (must be signed, with photo, not expired)

EARLY VOTING IS AVAILABLE: Oct. 14 – Nov. 2
Location: County Auditor's Office, 2309 Euclid Ave. Des Moines, IA 50310
515-286-3247
Early Voting Satellite Locations Oct. 19-Oct. 24
https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/media/kcolwois/2026-early-voting-satellite-locations.pdf

Absentee Voting Rules:
https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/pdf/absenteeballotapp.pdf

IF YOU HAVE A FELONY CONVICTION
If convicted of a felony you may not be able to vote. Follow this link to learn more:
https://restoreyourvote.iowa.gov/#voting-status

BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Bible Study with Pastor LaTonya will now be held on Zoom instead of in person.(See the link below) It will be on **Thursdays** from **6:00-7:00 p.m.**

The Bible Project will lead us in our study, which will be informative, thought-provoking, and full of great discussion for the purpose of strengthening your faith. I am excited and look forward to seeing you on Thursdays on Zoom for bible study.

Join Zoom Meeting using the link below.

https://zoom.us/j/96034057461?pwd=WUyqdhxpKMIlPYcUOfCEoA7kUCQafp.1

Meeting ID: **960 3405 7461** Passcode: **484144**

WEAR YOUR NAME TAGS

In October, please wear your name tags!! Let's help newcomers and old-timers know our names! It's a great way to show hospitality. If you need a new name tag, please write a note on the Attendance slip and place it in the offering. Please consider adding your Pronouns to your name tag.

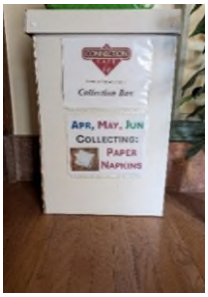
Thank you for loving all God's children!

CHANCEL CHOIR AND BELL CHOIR

Our choirs were on break for August. If you are interested in joining a choir or sharing special music or being a substitute organist, please speak to Jennifer Shide, Music Director.

THE CONNECTION CAFE COLLECTION BOX FOR NEEDED ITEMS

October - December = 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.

Ingathering is Saturday, November 7th

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Ingathering

This year we will be collecting items for school kits and home care kits. We will be collecting items Sundays in October. Here is a list of what is needed.

School Kits

3 Notebooks - 1 subject spiral 8”x 10 1/2”
1 Ruler - 12” long with metric
6 Pencils - unsharpened
1 Pencil sharpener
1 Eraser - 2” or larger
1 Box 12 colored pencils
1 Box 24 crayons
1 Pair student scissors
Place all items in the cloth bag or a clean grocery sack

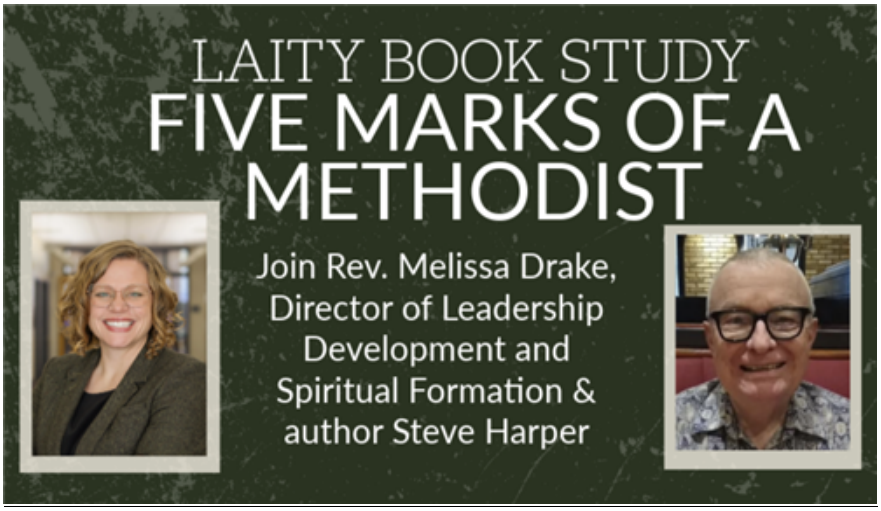
Home Kits

Dish soap - 42-64 oz total
Liquid laundry detergent - 100-150 oz total
1 Scrub brush - with or without handle
Thanks to Landon and Sara Frahm who provided the buckets needed to hold the supplies and the requested liquid household cleaner!

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!*



Join Rev. Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation, for a Laity Study on the Five Marks of a Methodist with special guest Steve Harper, author of the study!

We will be learning about and practicing the "distinguishing marks" of a Methodist: what John Wesley understood to be the foundation of discipleship that puts us on the right foot to sustain us for a lifetime of relationship with God and one another.

We will use the book *Five Marks of a Methodist* by Steve Harper, as well as the *Five Marks of a Methodist Participant Guide*.

We will practice embodying these marks as our way of living in the Methodist Movement, reclaiming our joy and passion of being disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today.

When: **Monday nights, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm**, beginning Oct. 12 and Nov. 16th
Where: **Zoom** link to join from home or wherever life takes you
Special Guest: Author Steve Harper will be joining us on Oct. 12th and Nov. 16th.

RSVP: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/JHM6K2WsTBmHM6zxrFIN8w#/registration
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing the information you need to join us.

What do you need:

Free copies of the *Five Marks of a Methodist* were distributed at the tables at Annual Conference this year. If you didn't receive one, check with your pastor to see if they have copies they can share before ordering.

There are four additional copies left. Reach out to Officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org to arrange to receive one.

- Book: "Five Marks of a Methodist" by Steve Harper - Find it at Cokesbury.com.
- Participant Guide: - Find it at Cokesbury.com.

Please email Melissa.Drake@iaumc.org with questions.

Support Our Oakridge Neighbors

You have been reading about our immigrant neighbors at Oakridge and their food insecurity. You can help! Each month we will ask for donations of a food item and a non-food item. There will be a table available in Kenyon Hall for you to place your donations. For the month of **October**, we are asking for **spices (salt, pepper, garlic powder, paprika, cayenne pepper, sugar) and dish soap.**

Your gift can help a family keep hunger at bay.

As the apostle Paul tells the Thessalonians, "and as for you, brothers and sisters, never tire of doing what is good." 2 Thessalonians 3:13

YOU ARE INVITED

Join us for our October outing to an immigrant-owned restaurant.
Watch here for details.

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 Luke Aunan and share your experience.
Thank you for helping us improve our worship experience for everyone!

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first CHURCH

THIS WEEK at a GLANCE

Sun, Oct 11 **9:00 am,** Pacesetters Class, Rm 104 Lower Level
9:15 am, Children's SS Class, *Rm E114 Lower Level*
10:30 am, Worship, *Sanctuary, Main Floor*
10:45 am, Children's Church, *Rm E114 Lower Level*
After Church Fellowship Time, *Kenyon Hall Main Fl.*
12:30 pm, Grief Share, *2nd Fl. Conf. Rm.*

Wed, Oct 14 Bulletin Announcements & Cross Note Articles Due

Thu, Oct 15 **6:00 pm,** Bible Study with Pastor LaTonya, *Zoom Meeting*
6:00 pm, CCYC Staff Meeting, *Conf. Rm. 2*

First United Methodist Church • 1001 Pleasant Street • Des Moines, IA 50309
PH: 515-244-6209 • FAX: 515-282-6106 • www.DMFirstChurch.org
Guest Wi-Fi Password • Welcome!

Facebook.com/dsmfirstchurch
Instagram.com/dsmfirstchurch
YouTube.com/@dsmfirstchurch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Coming Soon

Ways to give, celebrate and serve together this season

Christmas Poinsettias

Order deadline: Sunday, November 22

FOR THE CHURCH

Fill our sanctuary with Christmas color. Give a poinsettia in honor or in memory of a loved one; names will be printed in the bulletin.

FOR SAINTS AT HOME

Share the joy of the season with members who are homebound. Your gift sends a poinsettia and a word of love to someone who can't be with us in person.

Order forms will be in the bulletin, CrossNotes, and in Kenyon Hall.
For Questions: officemanager@dmfirstchurch.org

Laity Sunday

Sunday, October 18

Lay members lead our worship as we celebrate the ministry of all God's people. Come support those sharing their gifts in leadership, music and word.

Palestinian Goods Sale

Saturday, November 28

Olive oil, olive wood crafts, embroidery and other items made by Palestinian artisans and farmers. Every purchase supports families and communities in the Holy Land.

Alternative Gift Mart

Sundays, December 13 & 20

Give gifts that change lives. Make a donation to one of our mission partners in honor of someone on your list, and receive a card to give them.

Young Adult & Pastor Gathering

Watch for the next Young Adult & Pastor Gathering. 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.