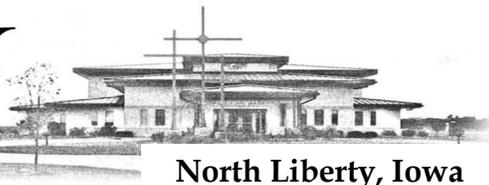


THE JOURNEY

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



North Liberty, Iowa

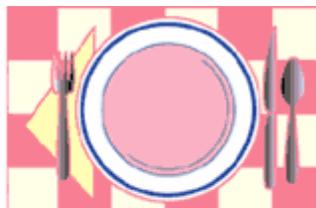
NEWS FROM PASTOR ALECIA'S STUDY...

A Place At the Table

Come and feast! When we break bread together, whether at the family dinner table or at the Lord's Table, we share in fellowship and love with God and with one another. Over these four weeks we move from setting the table to inviting guests, blessing the meal and extending the table. This series focuses on Holy Communion and the biblical theme of shared meals.

Sept. 6	Setting the Table	John 14: 2	Place settings
Sept. 13	Invitation to the Table	Luke 14: 15	Youth and children masks
Sept. 20	Blessing the Table	Joel 2: 28	Pantry items
Sept. 27	Extending the Table	John 17: 21	Communion for you and others

Each week all of us will have an opportunity to continue to be the church. After worship, with the help from folks on the Decorating Team, we will set our table out under the portico at the main entrance. Each week households will be invited to bring something to help further God's present kingdom. For instance, on Sunday, September 6, we are asking to bring dinnerware for our friends at the **Inside Out Re-Entry Community**. Bring place settings which would serve 2-4 people. New or gently used matching items might include plates, silverware and cups. Our friends in the program often times do not have the initial items to set up an apartment. Let's work to help them set **A Place at the Table**. The following weeks we will be collecting the items you see listed.



After each service in September, drive through the church parking lot and change a life. We will be going on FB live so we can share in community with one another! Let's be the church!

RE-ENTRY PLANS

The Re-Entry Team will be meeting later in September to determine if we can begin meeting on-site for worship beginning in October. Their task is to help us to discern the timing as we weigh the information we have concerning cases of Covid-19 in the Johnson County area. If we are able to begin, the format will continue with only one service at 10:00 AM. This service will be limited to 100 people, including the worship team. We will continue our live-streaming of worship. Live-stream is here to stay! There will not be any children or youth classes on Sunday mornings, nor a coffee bar at this time. We will send out the protocols as the time draws nearer.

REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH FINANCIALLY

As we continue to serve God in our church and broader community, please remember your church financially. This church continues to be in mission and service. As is typical for summer, offerings are down, although the expenses remain. This church continues to serve as a staging ground for many ministries, such as Bike Ministry, Stephen Ministry, Prayer Shawls and Blankets, Children and Youth, and Small Groups. Creation Kids and the Pantry serve many households in North Liberty. Many of you served on Service Work Teams to help clean up after the derecho. New ministries are forming currently. God is continuing to call us to move beyond our walls. As disciples of Jesus Christ, please consider how God is asking you to give. We want to continue to say, "Yes" to all God calls us to do.

Peace,

Alecia



SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE

10:00 Contemporary Live Stream

Ask for help!

After the storm, many people needed help and didn't call to ask. No one knows who needs help and what kind of help you need, unless you call and ask.

We helped members of the congregation and then went to help others outside our congregation and now some of our own folks feel like no one cared. We care and we want to help, but we need you to tell us what you need and how we can help.

Don't sit back and feel like no one cares, just give us a heads up and let us know what you need. Call the church office if you need help—and let us help!!!



Children's Ministry

By Pastor Beth

I can't believe it is already September! While 2020 may not have looked the way that we thought it would, I am constantly aware of God's grace and presence with each step and decision we make. Our ministries are looking different this fall, and children's ministry is no exception. While we are not having a traditional Sunday school this fall, we do want to share two exciting things with you:

Back to School Family Party—September 13 at 4:00 pm — Join us for a socially distanced family party full of treats, messy games, and prizes in the church parking lot. Sign ups and more information will be posted on our Facebook page, website, and through emails.

Sunday school Bible Missions — This year, we are inviting all of our families to act out their favorite bible story—VBS Style! These dramatizations will take the place of Sunday school and will air each week prior to our worship service at 9:45 am. Sign ups and more information will be posted on our Facebook page, website, and through emails.

EPIC Student Ministry

This fall, EPIC will be meeting every other week instead of each Sunday. EPIC's kick-off will take place Sunday, September 20 at 5:00 pm in the church parking lot with messy games and paint wars. Following the kickoff, EPIC will meet bi-weekly at the Hershberger residence for small groups starting on October 4.

Back To School Prayers — Another school year has begun, but it doesn't look the same. As our students return to school in whatever capacity that may be, I invite you to join me in these Back-to-School Prayers:

Students—Pray for their protection, pray against any anxiety or fear, pray for clarity of mind and the ability to focus.

Teachers—Pray for their safety and health, pray for provision for all of their classroom needs, pray against anxiety and fear.

Parents—Pray for wisdom to make decisions for their child's education, pray for patience, understanding and peace.

School Administrators—Pray for wisdom to make good decisions, pray for provision to provide resources for teachers and families, pray for grace.

School Support Staff—For assistants, nurses, custodians, and all others who support schools, pray for protection and health, pray for peace and grace.





The Associates Corner

By Pastor Beth Graham

Our church has been around for over 120 years. Being part of the Corridor community is interwoven into our DNA. As such, we feel a part of and invested in things that happen around us. When the derecho storm hit suddenly and without warning a few weeks ago, our community was shaken. Within our congregation, many struggled. But the damage of the derecho extended farther than our neighborhoods, up into Hiawatha and across our great state.

One of the strongest features of the United Methodist Church (and our congregation in particular) that has always drawn people in to our church has been the constant presence and focus on outreach in the community. There has been an attitude that once church is over, we move out into the community beyond our church walls—taking the presence of the church out into the community to whatever needs arise.

This mindset has never been more apparent than the past few weeks surrounding the sudden derecho storm. In the midst of our own cleanup, over 75 members from our church have donated their time, energy, and resources to aid in disaster relief in the corridor area following the storm. Over the course of six days, people from our church helped with clean—up at six different homes, distributed food for HACAP to over 1,000 families, and partnered with a resource center in downtown Cedar Rapids to make sure low—income families were cared for. Because of you, hope, healing, and health has begun to rebuild here in our community. This is what the church is all about. In the midst of all that has changed in 2020, the church hasn't. The spirit is moving—can you feel it?





Small Group Update

By Suzette Betts

The Small Group Committee met via ZOOM with new members, Gary Vance and Deb Brastrom contributing great new ideas, on August 18. The group continues to reimagine the techniques to hold small groups while keeping all participants safe. Most of the groups beginning in September will meet via ZOOM video conferencing. If numbers of COVID19 cases drop or level off, we hope to hold sessions with 10 people or less in backyards, driveways, possibly the church meeting rooms, or inside person's homes. Also we hope to assemble small groups in neighborhood clusters based on geographic locations to reduce number of persons in each group. We will have more details as classes begin in this manner.

We are pleased to announce that we will begin some new classes and resume some ongoing classes mid September. Ongoing: Senior Saints, which meets via Zoom on Mondays at 10:30 am, will begin a new book "Love Thy God" as the last book in the series for this class. Contact Kathy Boyd if you are interested in joining this lively group. The Monday Night Men's group also will be resuming their weekly meetings as well, stay tuned for more details or contact Richard Grugin. Wednesday Evening Women's group will start again in mid-September with a new study. The Wednesday morning Men's Bible study is meeting via Zoom year round led by Dick Bornkessel. The Path to Discipleship, a popular study led by Laura Bibby and Gary Vance, will also resume in September, this is an indepth study that will deepen and strengthen your faith. Contact myself or any others on the committee for more details or stay tuned with weekly Companion News.

We also hope to offer a new class with a Beginners Bible Study that will be led by Pastor Alecia, focusing on understanding and reading the Bible. This class will be followed up with an intermediate and advanced study on the same topic in the future. Also, continuing our focus on racial equality, we plan to build upon the awareness gained from the book study White Fragility, conducted this summer, by offering another class. Pastor Beth will lead a scriptural based and action inspired discussion based on the book written by Latasha Morrison titled Be the Bridge. Specific information about both of these classes will be announced soon.

We will be announcing an All Congregational Advent study for November and December at a future date. We have many more topics and discussion groups we will begin when possible. Remember small groups are an excellent chance to reach out and increase your faith while enjoying the community of others!





Pantry Happenings

Thursday Means Vegetables! — Thursday evening is vegetable time at the Pantry. The Pantry Farmers Market is open and Veggie Rx shares and the Pantry's CSA shares are available. The peach tree was loaded with fruit and we have zucchini. We also have tomatoes, peppers, and herbs—all the ingredients for fresh salsa and a recipe to make it.

Pantry as a Community Resource — In addition to providing food and clothing to those in need in our community, the Pantry works to provide those who come to the Pantry with as much information about available programs as possible. We have a particular focus on food programs, and currently there is assistance for families affected by the pandemic and the derecho. We passed on information from the Iowa Attorney General's Office about the ***Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) Program*** card, which will come in the mail to households with children who lost access to free and reduced—price school meals due to COVID—related school closings last spring. The program is administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the card is loaded with \$307.80 for families to use to purchase groceries.

The ***Iowa Department of Human Services*** has disaster assistance programs, and one program is for those who had to throw away food they received from SNAP/Food Stamps/EBT because of power loss due to the storm. Those people may apply by September 17 to have the cost of spoiled food replaced.

Thanks to Table to Table — The Pantry lost power during the derecho storm August 10 and was closed the following day. The wonderful staff and volunteers at Table to Table helped fill our refrigerator so we could provide eggs, butter, milk and orange juice to our families.

Donation, Delivery and Volunteer Information — Donation hours are Monday—Thursday from noon to 3:00 pm. We currently are not accepting donations of clothing, plastic bags, or any other non—essential items. The most effective donation right now is money for us to purchase food.

Food delivery is available for all of Johnson County. Call 319-519-6165 to request delivery of pre—packed bags of food, based on what is available.

The Pantry continues to need volunteers. During this time of COVID, some of our volunteers cannot participate. Check your schedule to see if you have a few hours to spend helping feed your neighbors who are really struggling to meet basic needs.

For additional information, call the Pantry at 319-626-2711 between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday. To keep up on activities, changes or needs, visit [facebook.com/nlcpantry](https://www.facebook.com/nlcpantry).





- 1 Brityn Gryp
- 2 Keith Roof
- 2 Nolan Sojka
- 3 Nora Banks
- 3 Karen Pool
- 6 Ashlynn Lough
- 6 Kelli Purkapile
- 7 Steve Schrepfer
- 7 Cassy Darling
- 7 Evan O'Donnell
- 7 Apollo Welchance
- 7 Curis Welchance
- 8 Amara Just
- 8 Ashlynn Hervey
- 9 Cathy Clemens
- 9 Terri Davies
- 9 James Gaffey
- 9 Lexi Just
- 10 Brenda Schippers
- 11 Laura Bibby
- 11 Lois Feuss
- 12 Pam Black
- 12 Laina Davies
- 12 Eli Smith
- 12 Evan Smith
- 13 Brendon Benton
- 14 Tina Aubrecht
- 14 Nathan Hooper
- 14 Wendy Danger
- 15 Lexi Knorr
- 15 Lucie Baez-Dils
- 16 Liam Davis
- 17 Judy Bornkessel
- 17 Sharon Ingle
- 18 Melissa Holway
- 18 Hunter Richey
- 19 Ashley Smith
- 21 Rebekah Ahrens
- 21 Lydia Marshall
- 21 Lyle Muller
- 22 Connor Greer
- 23 Karen Schaapveld
- 23 Gordon Cook
- 24 Michelle Schrepfer
- 25 Lori Meyer
- 26 Ronan Egly
- 26 Blake Gordley



- 2 Keith & JoDee Roof
- 2 Mark & Cindy Larson
- 5 Mike & Cynthia Bunten
- 5 Terry & Robbie Donahue
- 6 Jason & Crystal Danger
- 7 Brian & Kathy Courtois
- 7 Dan & Rhonda Bernacki
- 7 Bruce & Heather Sexton
- 9 Glenn & Joan Siders
- 13 Matt & Tami Lyvers
- 14 Jay & Susie Robertson
- 16 Tom & Lindsey Jones
- 16 Justin & Corrine Shay
- 16 Mike & Marsha Myers
- 20 Tom & Natasha Houselog
- 21 Kevin & Colleen Olson
- 24 Todd & Alecia Hilmer
- 24 Jon & Michele Maakestad
- 26 Randy & Susan Hahn
- 27 Dale & Gwen Fangman
- 28 Gordon & Sharon Doak
- 28 Josh & Angie Stokes
- 29 Don & Jody Schneider



September Birthdays—
Continued

- 27 Denise Brotherton
- 27 Mike Spangle
- 28 Julie Khamphulanouvong
- 28 Donna Hostetler



Do you know what the church mission is?

**TO FOLLOW AND INVITE
OTHERS
TO FOLLOW JESUS CHRIST**

SEPTEMBER

September 7—Church Office,
Creation Kids & Pantry Closed
for Labor Day

September 20—EPIC—Parking
Lot



Important Dates in October

October 4—EPIC

October 13—Pastor
Appreciation Sunday

October 18—EPIC

October 31—Halloween



*The fear
of the LORD
is the beginning
of wisdom;
all those who practice
it have a good
understanding.*





September 2020



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Worship	2	3	4	5
6 Regular Sunday	7	8 Finance	9 9:30 Staff Meeting	10	11	12
13 Regular Sunday	14 7:00 Discipleship—Zoom	15 SPRC	16	17 7:00—Stephen Ministers— Zoom	18	19
20 Regular Sunday 5:00 EPIC—Parking Lot	21 7:00 Discipleship—Zoom	22 7:00 Ministry Council—Zoom	23 6:30—Pantry Board—Zoom	24	25	26
27 Regular Sunday	28 7:00 Discipleship—Zoom	29	30		Regular Sunday 10:00 Worship—Zoom	Rooms C = Chapel CK = Creation Kids EW = Education Wing FH = Fellowship Hall L = Library S = Sanctuary