

- 1 Timothy 5:9-11 & 16 No widow may be put on the list of widows unless she is over sixty, has been faithful to her husband, and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the Lord's people, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds . . . As for younger widows, do not put them on such a list. For when their sensual desires overcome their dedication to Christ, they want to marry . . . If any woman who is a believer has widows in her care, she should continue to help them and not let the church be burdened with them, so that the church can help those widows who are really in need.

Can we explore new Mission Partnerships? There are times we want to help meet human need, especially for those impacted by catastrophic events and / or are incapable of caring for themselves. But a strong component of our mission work should be devoted to helping people to gain economic self-sufficiency. Here are some examples to consider:

- Heifer International
- Mujilla Falls Agricultural Center
- International Justice Mission
- Bridges of Hope, Des Moines

What does economic empowerment look like in our own community? Is God calling us to take some bold and creative steps?

Algona First United Methodist Church



Welcome Serve Love

This Week’s Schedule

May 24

- Worship 5pm

May 25

- Worship 9am
- Adult Bible Study 10:15am

May 26

- Closed. Memorial Day

May 27

- Homestead 9am
- Van Buren 10am
- Prayer Devotions @ 12 noon
- Ad Board Meeting @ 6:30pm

May 28

- ELO 9-2pm

May 30

- ELO 9-10am
- Office closes @ 12noon

May 31

- Burns Graduation Fellowship Hall Rental 8-2pm
- Worship 5pm

Announcements

Hospice of the Heartland’s Annual Memorial Butterfly Release on Thursday, May 29, 2025. Program will begin @ 5pm in the KRHC Dining Room & Courtyard. Come and celebrate your loved one.

VBS Registration and Volunteer Sign Ups are open!

Blood Drive is June 2 from 12:30-5:30pm

Our Church Foundation is the Mission of the Month for May.

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

L: How wonderful it is to be in a dwelling place for God!

P: The refreshing springs of God’s love cleans and restore us.

L: There is a place here for everyone. No one is turned away.

P: The least and the lost; the homeless and hopeless are always welcome in God’s house.

L: Praise to God who invites and shelters us all.

P: Praise to God who heals and sends us forth to serve. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Father, we come before You today with hearts of humility. Help us to worship You with reverence and awe, recognizing Your greatness and majesty. Teach us to surrender our pride and to approach You with a spirit of humility. May we be mindful of Your holiness as we gather to worship and honor You today.

***Song #144** “*This Is My Father’s World*” (Saturday) “*He Is*” (Sunday)

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 8: 10-18*

Congregational Prayer #429 “*For Our Country*”

***Song #696** “*America the Beautiful*”

Sharing of Joys & Prayer Requests

Ministry Presentation Riding Light Ministries

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Offering & Doxology

***Offertory Prayer**

Father God, you are the maker of heaven and earth. Accept the tithes and offerings we present to you today. Please help us to be diligent savers and wise spenders. Enable us to apply biblical principles of stewardship so we can continue blessing others and supporting your ministries. Our faithful God, bless this time of giving. Amen.

***Song #139** “*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*”
Verses 1, 3, 4, 5 (Saturday) “*Good, Good Father*” (Sunday)

Children’s Message

New Testament Reading *See message insert*

Message “*God’s Plan for Providing for His People*”
Part I

***Response #581** “*Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*” *Verses 1, 2, 4*

***Benediction** *Numbers 6:24-26*

May the Lord bless you and protect you.

May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord show you his favor and give you his peace.

Semon Notes

An important balancing act:

- Personal responsibility is important! “Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper.” Proverbs 13:4
- Helping the poor is important! “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.” Proverbs 19:17

How do we balance these two? Consider the Old Testament law of “gleaning”. Hardwired into God’s law was a way to encourage human responsibility and dignity while ensuring that basic human needs were met:

- Leviticus 19:9-10. When you reap the harvest of your land, do not reap to the very edges of your field or gather the gleanings of your harvest. Do not go over your vineyard a second time or pick up the grapes that have fallen. Leave them for the poor and the foreigner. I am the LORD your God.
- Deuteronomy 24:17-22 Do not deprive the foreigner or the fatherless of justice, or take the cloak of the widow as a pledge. Remember that you were slaves in Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you from there. That is why I command you to do this. When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the LORD your God may bless you in all the work of your hands. When you beat the olives from your trees, do not go over the branches a second time. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again. Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow. Remember that you were slaves in

Egypt. That is why I command you to do this.

- This is the background of Ruth 2:2-3 And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, “Let me go to the fields and pick up the leftover grain behind anyone in whose eyes I find favor.” Naomi said to her, “Go ahead, my daughter.” So she went out, entered a field and began to glean behind the harvesters.

The principle of balancing personal responsibility and social ministry is continued in the New Testament: Personal responsibility and family responsibility come first with charity as a back-up:

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: “The one who is unwilling to work shall not eat.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 Our desire is not that others might be relieved while you are hard pressed, but that there might be equality. At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality, as it is written: “The one who gathered much did not have too much, and the one who gathered little did not have too little.”
- 1 Timothy 6:17-18 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.