

July Flame Newsletter

ALGONA FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
2025



A Message from Pastor Russ

I was recently struck by the radical practicality of "The Prayer of St. Francis".

*Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace; Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek To be consoled as to console; To be understood, as
to understand; To be loved, as to love; For it is in giving that we receive, It is in
pardoning that we are pardoned, And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.*

Three simple words from the prayer challenge us with three core life questions:

SOW: What am I doing with my life?

Sometimes we get overwhelmed by the problems facing our community and world. That's understandable. Needs are overwhelming. But paralysis is not an option. The prayer of St. Francis gently guides us into action. We don't have to "solve" every problem. We just need to "sow" something positive. We can diffuse tension with a smile. We can greet anger with a smile. We can do a single act of kindness.

SEEK: What am I seeking in life?

The prayer refines the orientation of our heart. Are we absorbed in pleasing ourselves? Or are we increasingly following Christ in the way of selflessness?

FOR: What motivates the core of my value system?

The prayer is subversive as it challenges the foundational motivations of our world system. In its futile quest for fulfillment, humanity plays "king of the hill". We watch out for #1 and shove aside anyone in our way. Jesus' Kingdom hill was Golgotha. He calls us to self-abandonment and sacrificial service to others. We receive through giving. We find our true joy as we seek the well-being of others. This is a life of faith.

Let's allow ourselves to be spiritually re-created by this prayer.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Russ

MEN'S MINISTRY:

Come join us on Saturday, July 12, 8 am at the Louscher's Farmhouse. We enjoy breakfast, check-in with each other, and have an informal discussion of the book "Devoted to Jesus". All guys are welcome! We also help by cooking one meal a month for the kids ministry. Guys, we could use your help on Wednesday, July 16 as we feed the VBS kids. Let Pastor Russ know if you are interested or have questions.

DO YOU ENJOY ORGAN MUSIC?

We will have a special guest organist, Tom Dearchs, share his talents with us for our July 12 and 13 Worship Services. Pastor Walt plans to play the organ on the third Saturday of each month for our 5 pm Service.

WALK TO EMMAUS: Walk to Emmaus is a 72 hour retreat designed to immerse participants in the grace of God and basics of being a Christ follower. This is a wonderful time to invest in your relationship with God.

This summer's walks will be held in Humboldt:

Men's Walk – July 17-20 (Thursday evening – Sunday evening)

Women's Walk – July 24-27 (Thursday evening – Sunday evening)

Pastors Russ & Janelle Jacobsen will pay the full \$80 registration fee for anyone from Algona UMC who commits to attend an entire Walk. Talk to Pastor Russ and / or go to <https://www.iowawalktoemmaus.org/> for information and registration. You need a sponsor to attend. Contact Pastor Russ if interested.

If you have previously attended a Walk, please consider sponsoring a pilgrim and / or helping in one of the support roles.

SAVE THE DATE: ALGONA FIRST UMC HOMECOMING WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 27-28 – Special activities are in the works!

Do you enjoy cooking? Would you consider cooking once a month @ the Vine? All groceries for this meal will be paid for. If interested call the office. 515-295-7241

No Tuesday Prayer Devotions @noon the month of July. Prayer list will be sent out on Tuesday's, and, perhaps, a devotion! Enjoy the summer! Pastor Karen

Thomas Dearchs will be playing the organ for worship on Saturday, July 12, and Sunday, July 13.



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith

There is no Meeting in July.
The Circles are not meeting this month either.

Bible Verse: Ephesians 4:32 "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

Birthday's: Jill Cook (2) Linda Valentine (26)
Becky Helmers (30)

Save the date for our Fellowship Coffee on August 7 @ 9:30am!

United Women in Faith

On June 5, 2025 our United women in Faith met at 12 noon to honor our members in their eighties.

We enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon prepared by both the Friendship and Charity Circles.

After lunch Diane Nall opened the program by recognizing the UW in Faith members in their eighties. She also reminded us of some events, famous persons, music, and trivia from 80 years ago.

Next on the program we enjoyed musical entertainment by Mindy Duff and Jonathan Chambers who sang two songs popular eighty years ago. The songs were "Stormy Weather" and "Don't Get Around Much Anymore".

To introduce the theme of our program Jean Menning read a story and poem about "Buttons". The featured speaker of our day was Dr. Lorna Leavitt. Lorna is our District and Conference Education and Interpretation Coordinator. Lorna elaborated on the subject of buttons and kept us laughing and learning throughout the early afternoon. Lorna's final activity with us was making gold paper crowns using an assortment of buttons as well as jewels, fake ones of course. As each one of us modeled our crowns, we were reminded that we are all God's children, children of the King.

We concluded the program by singing "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me". The ladies in their eighties were gifted with home-made strawberry-rhubarb jam made by Jean Menning. The photos taken that day say it all: a good time was had by all!



VBS 2025 Camp Firelight

July 14-16
5:30-7:30pm

Ages: Preschool-4th Grade



Day 1: God Goes With Us! Trust God to Go with us!

Meal: Chicken Strips, Mac & Cheese

Day 2: Young Jesus Shares His Wisdom! Trust God to share wisdom!

Meal: Taco in a bag.

Day 3: Jesus Calms the Storm! Trust God to give us Peace!

Meal: Hotdogs/Hamburgers

VBS Decorating Night July 7 @ 6pm!

All are welcome to help with this. Many hands make light work!

Missions

FUMC Missions Committee's mission is to provide Ingathering School Kits, sending kits worldwide and around the corner.

FUMC Missions Committee collects items for school kits to be sent to Midwest Missions. This is an accessible way to demonstrate God's love by providing children with essential school supplies. Midwest Mission states, "Every person deserves hope! We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment".

There are easy ways to purchase supplies.

1. Purchasing supplies at big box stores, as supplies are out now and already on sale.
2. If you wish to donate for Ingathering School Kits, please mark your check or envelope Ingathering School kits.

If you wish to purchase supplies through Amazon, a link will be sent out later. Below are items needed for each kit.

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

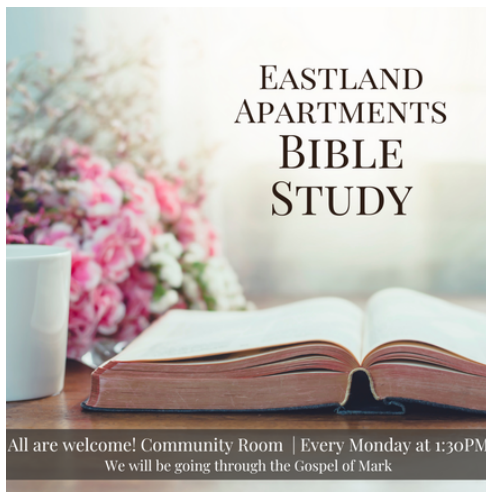
1 Box 24 Crayons

1 Pair of Student Scissors



Donations can be put in the Ingathering boxes outside the fellowship hall and sanctuary.

The kits will be assembled by our youth groups. This year's goal is to make 75+ kits! Education resources such as school kits empower children with opportunities to be successful in their future. Thank you for your help! For more information, contact Judy Samp at tjnsamp@netamumail.com



Butter Braid Fundraiser

You can place your orders July 1-15!

Pick Up Date July 29! \$16 each!

All proceeds go to the Food Pack Event in November!

NO DELIVERY!



Algona 1st UMC
Missions Fundraiser



Apple

Blueberry

Cherry

Raspberry

Strawberry



Wyhe's Choice
Fundraising

Cinnamon

Carmel Rolls

Four Cheese w/marinara

\$16 each

All proceeds go to our Food Pack in November!

You can order July 1-15. Pick Up Date: July 29

NO DELIVERIES!



PACK THE TRAILER EVENT JULY 14-18

ALGONA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Visit midwestmission.org/collect-donate
for more details

**WE ARE WORKING
WITH MIDWEST
MISSIONS!
COME AND JOIN US IN
PACKING THE
TRAILER!!!**

What to Collect

Bedding Kits

1 Pillow
1 Twin-size flat sheet
1 Twin-size fitted sheet
1 Pillowcase
Place items in an unscented
trash bag. **Items must be new.**

Sewing Machines

Electric sewing machines
must be in good, working
condition, outside of
cabinet. All treadle
machines are accepted.

Medical Supplies

Accepted items (used in good condition):
orthopedic items, walkers, wheelchairs,
canes, crutches. For more details, visit
midwestmission.org/collect-donate.

Non-Electric Tools

Accepted items: used non-electric tools
that are in good condition, rakes, and
shovels.

Bikes

Adult bikes in good, working condition
with minimal rust are accepted.

Other Items that will be Accepted

Anything listed on the Kit Brochure will be accepted
(scan QR code). This includes items like specific
handmade items and other Midwest Mission Kits.

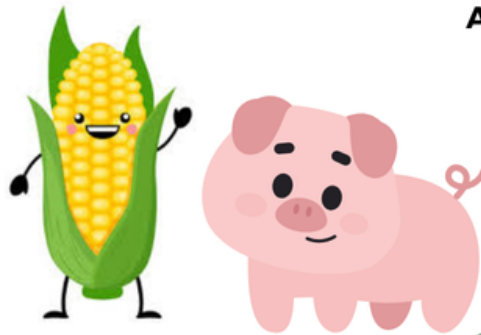


If you are a 50+ Year Member of the
Methodist Church; please contact Kim in the
office.

**ALGONA 1ST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH**

**PORK &
SWEET CORN
SUPPER**

**ADVANCE
TICKETS
\$12**



**AT THE DOOR
TICKETS
\$15**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE IN CHURCH OFFICE!
PROCEEDS GO TO FOOD PACKAGING**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5

4:30-6:30PM

**CARRY OUT/DRIVE THRU/ DINE
IN AVAILABLE**

**201 EAST NEBRASKA ST.
ALGONA IOWA**

Please come to the office to get a packet of tickets to sell. Kim is keeping a spreadsheet in the office with all the tickets going out and coming in. So it's very important to go through the office so we have record of it. Thank You!



Advanced Ticket \$12
☎ 515-295-7241
📍 201 East Nebraska Street

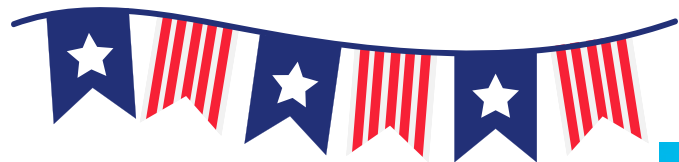
Algona 1st United
Methodist Church Pork &
Sweet Corn Supper
August 5
4:30-6:30

All money raised will go the the
Food Pack Event in November!



At the Door Ticket \$15
☎ 515-295-7241
📍 201 East Nebraska Street

Algona 1st United
Methodist Church Pork &
Sweet Corn Supper
August 5
4:30-6:30



Let's shower Dane with cards & letters this month! Thanking him for his service.

Kitzinger, Dane
9TH ESB ESC HESP
UPR 38430
FPO AP 96384



"May today be a reminder of how much you are loved and blessed by God. Happy Birthday!"

Brenda Davis 7/1
Ashley Franklin 7/1
Jon Grether 7/1
Jill Cook 7/2
Ethan Young 7/2
Kathleen Isaacson 7/4
Angie Asa-Lovstad 7/5
Sharon Meyer 7/5
Gail Nugent 7/6
Angela Johnson 7/7
Bruce Moe 7/9
Caitlin Louscher 7/12
Tracy Walker 7/13

Deb Manske 7/14
Joe Bormann 7/15
Kayla Walker 7/15
Quinn Bormann 7/16
Leah Wilhite 7/17
Kellen Bormann 7/18
Brittany Davis 7/19
Dionna VanGorKom 7/19
Erin Schmidt 7/20
Tom Dearchs 7/24
Linda Valentine 7/26
Reg Roberts 7/29
Steve Carlson 7/30
Becky Helmers 7/30



May the Lord bless you with many more years of love, joy, and His abundant blessings!

Jason & Angela Kelly 7/1
Steve & Karie Young 7/8
Dan & Kim Oldenkamp 7/16
Don & Cathy Gatton 7/18
Tom & Gail Nugent 7/25
Gene & Nancy Sorenson 7/28
