



A Message from Pastor Russ

Thanksgiving & Advent

Romans 12: 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

Thanksgiving is great! Harvest gathered, families gathered, tables laden. Practicing gratitude is so very beneficial to us. The Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend is a natural time for a worship celebration celebrating God's goodness and provision.

However, the liturgical calendar usually throws us a curveball. The last weekend of November is usually the first Sunday of Advent. That is the case this year.

People are often surprised that Advent has the audacity to start in late November instead of politely waiting for the first Sunday in December. Like me, it seems people want to hold on to Thanksgiving just a bit more before gearing up for Christmas.

But maybe there is something to this overlap of Thanksgiving and Advent.

Here is a common definition of Advent: *"Advent is a season of the liturgical year observed in most Christian denominations as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Christ at Christmas and the return of Christ at the Second Coming."* (Wikipedia)

Thanksgiving is a time to joyfully remember and affirm all the good that has come to us from the hand of God. There is so much goodness in the world. We have been blessed in so many ways. Our hearts know fullness and joy.

Advent is a time of expectant longing. Longing for the birth of our Savior. Longing for the return of our Savior. Advent assumes that this world is not as it should be. Wars are fought. Children go to bed hungry. Tests results come back showing advanced cancer. The world is not as it should be. Our hearts know emptiness and anguish. We long not just for better days, but for the Day of days when Christ shall return.

Christ followers are people of Thanksgiving. Christ followers are people of Advent.

Not one without the other. Both together.

We live in this great “in between” time. Laughter mixed with tears. Hope realized. Hope deferred. Celebrating the “good old days” that are today. Longing for the “good new days” that Christ will soon initiate.

Pastor Russ Jacobsen

Announcements from Pastor Russ

Saturday, November 1, 8 am - Men's Breakfast at the Church. All men are invited! Please note the change of location.

Wednesday, November 26, Thanksgiving Eve - All evening activities cancelled

SERVE Shelf Requests

Sadly, the SERVE funding is running on empty at this time. Although we have recently applied for some grants, so far we have not been awarded any more.

We have been SO BLESSED to receive funding from several, plus, from the generosity of our congregation over these four-plus years.

The Hospitality committee is again asking you to pick up an extra item or two at the store and bring it to the SERVE shelf.

These are the things we most need:

Long-shelf-life milk. You can get this at Dollar Tree for \$1.25 per quart. It is available in 2%, 1% and whole milk cartons

canned meats: chicken, tuna, and Vienna sausage

canned fruits: sliced peaches, pears, pineapple, mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail, others

canned soups: chicken noodle, tomato, cream of mushroom or chicken, others

canned vegetables: creamed or whole k. corn, green beans, peas, beets, carrots, pork n beans, others

jars of peanut butter: both creamy and chunky

squeeze bottles of jelly: grape or strawberry

boxes of: cocoa mix packets, microwave popcorn, cereal, cracker packets (PB, cheese)

In November we will be blessed to receive 10,000 packets of food from the Missions food packaging process. We have chosen four categories: a pasta soup, another variety of oatmeal, a rice and beans dish, and another pasta meal.

We appreciate any and all contributions. Financial donations may be turned in at the office, specifying SERVE shelves. Thanks and Blessings to you from

The Hospitality Committee: Janie Montang, chair; Kris Peterson, Rose King, Darlene Goodrich, Marlene Davis, Brenda Davis, Mary Clark



Join us for a sermon by guest preacher
Katharine Yarnell:

Five Generations in Your Church

November 15-16
First UMC, Algona



Katharine Yarnell, Executive Director of the Iowa United Methodist Foundation, has over 15 years of experience with Financial Stewardship and Estate Planning. She served a rural congregation in Kansas for 10 years, and as Field Outreach Minister of the North Central District for five years. She has her M.Div. D. Min. CFRE FCEP and AIF®



For more information, contact
Katharine:
515-974-8928 or info@iumf.org





United Women in Faith

UW in Faith

Birthday's

Sue Bjustrom 11/5
Diana Crail 11/11
Liz LeBlanc 11/11
Polly McNeill 11/11
Dee Johnson 11/24
Marlys Bjustrom 11/28

Executive Meeting @ 11:15am

General Meeting @ 12 noon

Luncheon served by: Charity Circle

Program: Rebecca Leigh, "World Thank Offering"

Jean Menning will lead the Memorial Service

Bible Verse: Corinthians 9:7 "Everyone should give whatever they have decided in their heart. They shouldn't give with hesitation or because of pressure. God loves a cheerful giver."

Prayer Partner Thank You



I would like to thank those who attended and/or gave a donation at our revealing get together on October 21 . Because of your generosity, we are able to give \$250 to Loving Hands Nursery. If you have not let your Prayer Partner know who you were for the past six months, I would ask if you would please do that. We will get together again in April. If you would like to join our group, please let me know.

A little history of our Prayer Partner Group. We started in the year 2000. Our donations collected have went to several projects in our church. We have also supported places and events in our community, and places owned by the United Methodist Church conference.

Thanks again.
Rebecca Leigh



Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon

November 13
11am-1pm
Tickets \$11

UW in Faith

In recent months, UWF has been even more active than usual. We conducted the Saturday night and Sunday morning services the last weekend in August. At our September meeting we voted to send \$1,000 to Midwest Mission Distribution Center (MMDC) to assist with the fundraising project toward purchasing the building currently in use in Jefferson, Iowa. In October, we hosted the State Annual Conference meeting and Prayer Partner gathering (see related articles). It is also the time of year to plan our programs for the next year and to elect officers. Following is a list of those who will lead the organization next year. We are blessed to have so many women willing to give their time and talents.

Officers. President: Janie Montang; Vice-President: Diane Nall; Secretary: Diana Crail; Assistant Secretary: Sue Thomas; Treasurer: Rebecca Leigh; Assistant Treasurer: Gloria McClure.

Mission Coordinators. Spiritual Growth: Marlene Davis; Social Action: Jean Kent; Education/Interpretation: Judy Samp; Membership/Nurture/Outreach: Janie Montang; Secretary of Program Resources/Reading Program: Sue Thomas; Nominating Committee: Liz LeBlanc; Historian: Diana Crail; Funeral Coordinator: Jean Kent; Prayer Shawl/Square Ministry: Rose King, Janie Montang; Card Ministry: Jodie Bormann; Prayer Partner Ministry: Rebecca Leigh; Aktion Kiwanis Committee Chairpersons: Rose King & Jean Menning; Kitchen Committee: Diana Crail & Rose King; Special Mission Recognition Pin Committee: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Fall Festival (Chicken & Biscuit Luncheon). Kitchen Coordinators: Diane Nall, Judy Weber, & Rose King; Dining Room Coordinators: Jean Menning & SanDee Voss; Pie Chairperson: Elene Price.

Circles. Friendship Circle Leadership Committee: Diana Crail & Marlene Davis. Charity Circle Leadership Committee: Judy Samp & Sandy Kollasch.

United Women in Faith welcomes anyone interested in becoming part of us. The General Meeting begins with a Noon luncheon on the First Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. We do not meet in June or July. Circles meet the Third Thursday of the month: Charity meets at 9 a.m. Friendship at 1:30 p.m. An individual may belong to UWF, one of the circles, or UWF and a circle. Please consider visiting a meeting.



Layette Kits

We had 21 completed Layette Kits.

Also sending 9 diapers, 5 onesies, 8 wash cloths, 74 diaper pins & 15 receiving blankets.

Make sure to ask if you have any questions.

Thanks. Judy



Pack a Shoebox!

November 12

6:15pm

Everyone is invited!



CVS Blankets November Mission of the Month

Purchase a Blanket for \$10

Student Kits

First United Methodist Church youth group assembles 101 School Kits for students around the Corner and around the World

There are many keys to success, but one of the most important is education. In the United States, we often take for granted the blessings we have when it comes to education. Most children have school supplies needed to further their learning.

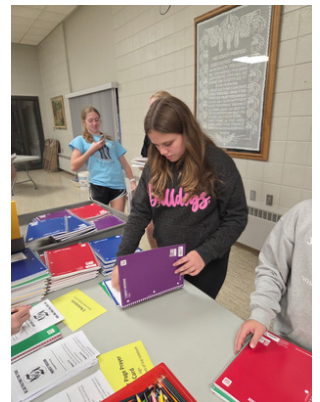
The problem is many students around the corner and around the world lack the basic supplies needed to accelerate the learning process.

Algona First United Methodist Church youth groups recently assembled 101 complete school kits (along the extra supplies of 25 crayons, 20 colored pencils, 9 scissors, 162 pencils, 52 pencil sharpeners, 30 erasers, 23 notebooks and 9 school bags). The school supply kits will then be sent to Midwest Mission ingathering on November 1st who send the kits on to students who cannot afford, or don't have access to, the items they need to succeed in school.

The Midwest Mission states that, "every person deserves hope! We send tangible resources to those in need to make an intangible difference in their lives through hope and empowerment".

Every Kit made, every step taken, every minute spent, every conversation had, every item collected, every volunteer hosted...it's all for His Kingdom!

For more information about the school kits contact Mission Committee leader Judy Samp at tjnsamp@netamumail.com or contact the church office at 515-295-7241



Hayden Mortensen, Addison Schutjer,
Kellen Bormann, Kennedy Roberts, Elaina
Hubbard, Hadley Friedrich, Eizley
Friedrich, Beau Schutjer, Blake Walker,
Sam Wartick, Jacob Morey.

Algona First United Methodist Church
invites you to our

FOOD PACK EVENT!

NOVEMBER 9, 2025

THIS IS FOR ALL AGES & GROUPS!

LET'S COME TOGETHER TO FEED THE HUNGRY!

**10,000 MEALS STAYING RIGHT HERE IN
ALGONA!**



**SIGN UP FOR A
SHIFT!**

**1ST SHIFT:
12:45-2:45 PM**

**2ND SHIFT:
3-5 PM**

**CALL 295-7241
TO GET SIGNED UP!**

**We are
needing
volunteers
for both
shifts!
This is a
family
activity!
Most ages
can do this!**

Poinsettias from Bloom

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for Christmas; there will be sign ups in the office or in the back of church. The cost is \$23. Color choices are: Red, Maroon or Winter Rose. You can also call Kim in the office and let her know. Make checks out to: FUMC with poinsettias in the memo. Orders are due by December 1st. Thank you!



Christian Ed News

Kids Club

We have just finished our unit on the Armor of God.

We start our new unit , November 5. It is called "Blessed!" Which is very fitting for the month of November.

We will NOT meet on 11/26.

7th and 8th Grade Confirmation

They continue to meet every Wednesday @ 6:15pm in the basement. They enjoyed making Student Kits on October 15. WE will NOT meet on 11/26.



High School Youth Group

The High Schoolers met up with the First Lutheran Highschooler's on October 15. Together they packed 48 Trick or Treat Goodie Bags filled with: candy, toys, toiletry items, coloring books, mini pumpkins and Christian messages. We will NOT meet on 11/26.

Children's Christmas Program

Save the Date! December 17
Catered Meal @ 5:30pm

Program @ 6:30pm, In the sanctuary.

Program Practice will be on December 3 & 10 During the Vine. (6:15-7pm)

November Acolyte Schedule

November 1- Camden Vaske
November 2- Elton Hubbard
November 9-Claire Redmaker
November 16- Kaylee Ruby
November 23- Greta Bormann
November 30- Hayden Mortensen

Please have your child there by 8:50 to light the Acolyte Candles!

November Vine Meal

November 5- Church Chicks
November 12- Men's Group
November 19- Rose & Jean

Free Will offering is appreciated!

High School Sunday School

Sunday's @ 10:15am in the basement. Led by Chris Brown. They are studying Exodus. Bring a friend!



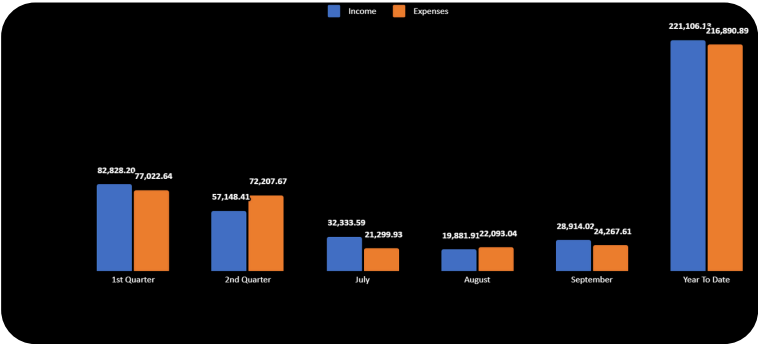
Finance

During the last Sunday in October and into November, the Stewardship and Finance Committee will be conducting the 2026 Stewardship Campaign. The theme of this year's stewardship campaign is "Honoring the Past and Securing the Future".

The stewardship committee felt a need to build off of last year's campaign of "It's a Wonderful Church", and look back on our history. The campaign last year focused on how our church touches so many lives. The conclusion was that we would leave an awful hole in this community if the First United Methodist Church did not exist because of what we do.

This year we want to look back and make sure we understand how the church began, and the work our past members have done throughout the years to keep the church vision that our founders hoped for when building this church.

If our campaign is successful, the congregation of the First United Methodist Church will see why it's important to secure the future with our time, talents, and resources to continue our legacy. We will then celebrate on "Harvest Sunday" by knowing that we will continue to grow and serve the people of the First United Methodist Church of Algona.



Column 1	Income	Expenses
1 st Quarter	\$82,828.20	\$77,022.64
2 nd Quarter	\$57,148.41	\$72,207.67
July	\$32,333.59	\$21,299.93
August	\$19,881.91	\$22,093.04
September	\$28,914.02	\$24,267.61
YTD	\$216,106.13	\$216,890.89
		Difference \$4,215.24

algonaumc@gmail.com	515-295-7241
algonaumc.com	201 East Nebraska St.

Have a blessed birthday full of joy and fulfillment! Give your path to the Lord, trust in him, and he will do the rest. (Psalm 37:5)



Nancy Johnson 11/1
Scott Walker 11/3
Molly Henderson 11/4
Garlene Schmidt 11/5
Carrie Gatton 11/6
Lisa Louscher 11/6
Siri Hartsfield 11/7
Erin Leigh 11/10
Cari Connick 11/11
Diana Crail 11/11
Gunner Geitzenauer 11/11
Liz LeBlanc 11/11
Polly McNeill 11/11
Lisa Rongved 11/11
Marilyn Wallick 11/12
Dixie Eichelberger 11/14
Matt Anderson 11/15
Ray Roof 11/15
Aaron Lewis 11/18

Rexann McEnroe 11/18
Lori Walton-Murphy 11/19
Marv Chickering 11/21
Megan Jahnke 11/22
Val Weis 11/24
Dee Johnson 11/24
Tom Wilhite 11/25

Elizabeth Gronbach 11/26
Hallie Henderson 11/27
Marlys Bjustrom 11/28
Len Davis 11/28
Richard Chase Jr 11/30
Gary Hoover 11/30
Chase Lewis 11/30



*Happy
Anniversary!*

Clayton & Molly Henderson 11/2
Dennis & Rebeca Leigh 11/29