

February 2020

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

TIPTON, IOWA

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" - Ecclesiastes 3:1

As the snow falls, there is the feeling of anticipation for sledding and snowman building. There is the feeling of thankfulness for the moisture that the snow will bring to the earth. There is the feeling of frustration with the added work the snow brings - scooping, shoveling, and having to move a little slower to ensure safety. In all the emotions the snow brings, we know that that a new season is coming.

We, too, travel through seasons in our lives. We go through times of great celebration as well as times of intense struggle. God hears our thanks and our requests. In the books of Psalms, we read of several people's reactions to God in the seasons of their lives. We read verses in Psalms that sound completely out of sync with how we feel we "should" talk to God. We read about people who are angry with God as they struggle with loneliness, loss, and depression. We read about people who celebrate God's goodness, abundance, and abiding love. Psalms give us an avenue for which to speak to God and remember that our Lord wants to hear from us no matter the season we are experiencing.

Beginning February 4, we will gather for Bible study to look at Psalms. This four-week study will meet February 4, 11, 18, and 25. Two options are available for you to attend: 10:00 a.m. or 6:00 p.m. The sessions will be identical; however, you are welcome to attend both. Please plan to bring a Bible and a writing utensil. This will be a time of fellowship and learning.

In this new season, we also celebrate the Church Council: those who have served so faithfully, those who will continue to serve, and the new members. These individual's willingness to selflessly serve for the good of the Church is appreciated and essential. Please continue to hold the members of the Church Council up in prayer as they make decisions for what is best for our future.

Finally, the Lenten season will begin on Wednesday, February 26, with our Ash

Wednesday service at 7:00 p.m. that will include the imposition of the ashes. Please prepare for a meaningful service followed by five weeks of Lenten services at the our neighboring UCC communities.

May we continue to give thanks to a God who continues to hold us together as a Church that edifies, glorifies, and models the love of Jesus Christ. May this be a season of hope as we anticipate all that is ahead. What a celebration to a God that hears all!

Blessings,

PASTOR KERRI

Story Book Donations

Christian Education students are currently collecting good quality picture story books suitable for reading aloud to groups of children. These will be sent to a Des Moines hospital, where a doctor reads to patients and then gives them the books. Donations to our service project are most appreciated. A container on the church bookshelves is available to receive donated picture 'story' books. Thank you for helping us to help others!

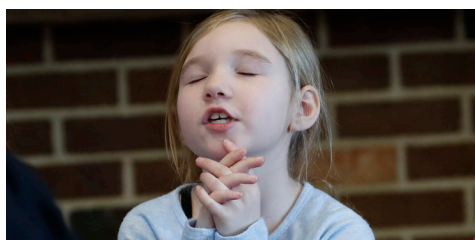
Kids' Night Out

Kids' Night Out will be Friday, February 14, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. All 1st through 4th graders are invited to attend! We will have a Bible lesson, games, and snacks. Parents, please plan to drop your kids off and enjoy some time to yourselves. This will be a lot of fun for all! Permission slips are available outside of the sanctuary and should be turned in by Tuesday, February 11.

Family Fun Night

Wednesday, February 19, will be Family Fun Night from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. We will have dinner, devotion, games, and lots of fun! All are invited! Please sign up outside the sanctuary if you plan to attend.

Valentine's Lunch Feb 9 following worship



Avery Hodges praying during worship

Wednesday Lenten Services (Some are with our UCC Neighbors)

Ash Wednesday (No meal)

Feb 26 7:00p Ash Wednesday Service at First UCC, Tipton

Lenten Meals, serving 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Services at 7:00 p.m.

Mar 4 at Zion UCC, Lowden
Pastor Matt Schneider-Adams from St. John's UCC preaching

Mar 11 at Peace Church, Bennett
Pastor Steve Stepp from Zion UCC preaching

Mar 18 at St. Paul's UCC, Wheatland
All Ministers together

Mar 25 at St. John's UCC, Clarence
Pastor Kerri Sandusky preaching

Apr 1 at First UCC, Tipton
Pastor Tess Cavey from St. Paul's preaching

First Friday

January 3 was a beautiful morning in the parking lot. It was the first Friday of 2020 and the day that THS students and staff returned from Christmas break. It is such fun to greet everyone and wish them a good day, good month and good year to come. There were fewer participants today and we missed those that couldn't attend.

The group that came to help included: Pastor Kerri, A.J. Williams, Melinda Stonebraker, Deb Schwitzer, Jan Ford, Ron and Lois Salmonson, and myself. Many thanks to all of them.

Once again I thank everyone for their donations of juice boxes and money to enable us to continue this ministry. To be able to offer the students the support of our churches and surround them with good wishes is our way to share God's love to all of them. Blessings to you all.

NANCY HIPPLE

Open House

Please plan to attend an Open House at the Church Parsonage on Sunday, February 23, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Come and enjoy some light snacks in appreciation for the fruits of your hard work. Everyone is invited! The parsonage address is: 514 E. 5th St., Tipton.

Acts of Kindness

The Iowa State Extension and Community Partnerships for Protecting Children have challenged the community to perform different acts of kindness during the month of February. Their challenge calendar is posted on the church's bulletin board. As you do a challenge please send an email to daedlow@iastate.edu and your name will be entered into a drawing for a prize to be awarded on Feb 27th. Your name will be entered each time you send an email with the act of kindness that you participated in. So the more you do, the greater the chance you have at winning the prize! You can also post your acts of kindness to social media with the hashtag #BeTheOne. The first challenge starts on Monday, Feb 3rd. Please share!

Call For Plastic Bags

Do you have used plastic bags lying around? The Conference will take 'em!

One of the projects at National Youth Event 2020 (NYE) is converting disposable plastic bags into sleeping mats for people who are homeless. Let's get plastic out of the landfill and put it to good use!

What kind of bags are needed?

Any size, color, and shape of plastic bag or even dry-cleaning wrap will do. Material needs to be fairly clean and unripped. Please DON'T buy new material just for the project, there is already enough plastic on the planet.

Drop off plastic bags at First UCC in the box outside the offices under the coat rack!

Valentine's Day Cards

During this valentine season, please remember our members who are currently in a care facility or assisted living.

~ Ina Hack ~ Edith Steffen ~ Emogene Stiff ~
Gwen Thien ~ Millie Eiler ~

Cedar Manor, 1200 Mulberry St, Tipton

~ Mary Casterline ~ Joyce Hakeman ~ Roberta Parks ~ Delores Rohlf ~ Bernice Schluter ~
Alberta Thien ~

Prairie Hills, 219 S Cedar St, Tipton

~ Betty Ann Miller ~

Clarence Assisted Living, 408 2nd Ave,
Clarence 52216

~ Beth Looker ~

Highland Ridge, 100 Village View Cir Apt
59, Williamsburg IA 52361-9698

~ Gene & Joyce Morrow ~

Windmill Manor, 2332 Liberty Dr,
Coralville IA 52241

~ Dot Schulz ~

PO Box 347, Sheffield IA 50475-0347

First UCC Scholarship

The First UCC College Scholarship application is now available. Scholarships are awarded to Covenant Members of the First United Church of Christ in Tipton who are enrolled or are enrolling to college. They are awarded on an annual basis; you must reapply each year. The amount awarded varies each year. The application is due April 1. To receive an application, email the church, office@firstucctipton.org.

This N That

Pastoral Visit: If you are in the hospital or wish to have a pastoral visit, please contact the church office 886-6361 to arrange a visit with Pastor Kerri Sandusky.

Prayers: If you wish to be prayed for, call the office (563-886-6361) or Evelyn Sterner (563-886-1278) to be added to the prayer list. If you would like to pray for those in need, let the office know and we'll add you to the Prayer Circle. To invite others to pray for your concern, you may allow us to publish it in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

Did you know? If you use Bill Pay through your bank, then you can set up your giving as a recurring bill and never worry about forgetting to give to your church.

Council Minutes are posted on the bulletin board outside of the secretary's office.

To keep current with all of **First UCC happenings**, check the calendar on our website page at www.firstucctipton.org.

Remember to **update the church** when your phone number or address changes or when there's a birth in your family. Also, let us know if you have joined another church.

Food Pantry

Feb 15

The community food pantry is hosted by Calvary Foursquare Church on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:00-10:00a. Anyone in need of food is welcome to get a food box.

2020-2021 USHER LIST

If you are not able to serve or would like to switch or be added to the list, please contact the office, 886-6361.

We appreciate your help in creating a friendly and warm setting for worship service.

MARCH	JUNE	SEPTEMBER	DECEMBER	FEBRUARY 2021
*Larry & Sharon Hodgden	*Greg Hipple	*Hobert & Terry Flory	*Jeff Meier	*Jerry Meier
Dave Young	Gary Lausen	Whitney & Jared Gehrs	Myron Holden	Jake Meier
Doug & LuAnn Davis	Gary Hipple	Ken Herring	Jim Clark	Jay Meier
		Kathy Sparrow		Joel Meier
				Mike Wagner
APRIL	JULY	OCTOBER	JANUARY 2021	
*Darren Miller	*Dean Eilers	*Larry Hanon	*John Mathias	
Brian King	Larry Hansen	Ron Challis	Maury Krob	*Head Usher
Bruce Cary	Roger Hakeman	Tim Beckler	Ricky Shumaker	
Kyle Miller	Will Hansen	Bob Butterbrodt	Rob Shumaker	
Todd Mente	Stan Hack		Scott Kramer	
Blair Freet			Cody Bohlmann	
			Clay Bohlmann	
MAY	AUGUST	NOVEMBER		
*Aaron Kelly	*Sue Hall	*Bill Schwitzer		
Clay Kelly	Bryon Arensdorf	Buzz Achey		
Nelson Meyers	David Swan	Dave Pinegar		
Scotty Pratt	Bob Butterbrodt	Sharon Niles		
	Kathy Sparrow			

Thank You!

Thank you Bill & Shirley Pinegar, Alice Whitlatch, and Lois Hartig for assembling the January newsletter!

Thank you Mary Clark, Ron Challis, Sharon Hodgden, Clay Bohlmann, Jan Esbeck, Kathy Sparrow, Greg Hipple, and Linda Jacobsen for reading during Christmas Eve worship!

Thank you Barb Cary, Mary Clark, Whitney Gehrs, Linda Jacobsen, Susan Lorenzen, and Marcia Meyers for covering office/cleaning duties while Janet was on vacation!

Thank you to all who helped with the Blood Drive:

- Nancy Mathias & office volunteers for calling for blood donors;
- Clay Bohlmann, Miles Christian, and Grace Hodges for signing up people to donate blood;
- Linda Jacobsen, Mary Clark, Kathy Sparrow, Alice Whitlatch, Susan Lorenzen, and Sharon Hodgden for providing hospitality;
- Todd Mente for locking up the church after the drive was over!

Thank you to all those who took down Christmas decorations!

Thank you Bill & Shirley Pinegar, Lois Hartig, Bruce & Barb Cary, Susan Lorenzen, Kathy Sparrow, Alice Whitlatch, Nancy Hipple, and Pam Freet for assembling the Annual Reports!

Thank you Bruce Cary and Phil & Sue Hall for assembling chairs and a desk for Pastor Kerri's office!

Thank you Dean Eilers for taking down and setting up tables and chairs for the blood drive!

Thank you Todd Mente for clearing away the Magnolia tree limb!

Family Foods UPC Symbols

Cut the UPC symbols off Family Foods brand food items (including bread) and place them in the box on the shelf across from the offices. We will submit to the Bread of Life Food Pantry located at the Calvary Four-square. The Food Pantry receives \$0.05 per label to purchase food for the Food Pantry.

SECRETARY HOURS:
Mon, Wed, Thurs 10a-5p;
Friday 10a-1p

Thank You!

Thank you for your participation in the Tour of Lights Soup Supper. You helped to make it a success! - Linda Boots

We want to thank the First United Church of Christ for its donation to The Gathering. Your generosity is very much appreciated and will be used wisely. Being remembered by so many in the community - by donations and some volunteers is what helps us serve these young people and continue to expand on our "vision". Thank you! - The Gathering Board Judy, Teresa, Tanya, Lise, Jen, and Charline

Thank you so much for your donation to the Tipton Senior Center. We appreciate your support of our center and the programs we provide. Thanks again! - Karen LaFrenz

Thank you for your generous monetary gift. We are thankful and blessed to have supporters like you. Shared Blessings started as a simple idea to feed those in need. It has grown beyond that to include "something to look forward to" for both those that dine and those that serve. May 2020 bless you as you have blessed us!! - Shared Blessings

A huge and thankful note of appreciation for all your congregation and staff have done for those who suffer from the effects of domestic violence - not just at holiday time - but throughout the year! The physical space you let us use for counseling - the donations of just about everything - the gas cards - all vital to helping someone through a horrible journey in their lives. Please also keep praying for those who do the work - especially law enforcement and the victims. - Cedar Co Advocate Alda

HACAP Mobile Food Pantry

HACAP hands out food from their mobile food pantry truck in various communities.

Feb 7	3:30-4:30p	Tipton UMC
Feb 11	3:30-4:30p	Bennett Ambulance Bldg
Feb 18	3:30-4:30p	West Branch Fire Dept

2020 Offering Envelopes

2020 offering envelopes are available. Numbers are not preassigned. Once you use your envelopes, that number will be assigned to you.

Thank You!

As we came to the conclusion of our time together in December, the Congregation of First United Church of Christ honored me with the most wonderful reception and "shower" of cards in honor of this ministry. Please accept my gratitude for the reception, the cards, and the well-wishes that were abundant on December 29th.

Your words of thanks and appreciation for my ministry often included expressions of what I had done here. While I did work with you, you also worked with me. We became acquainted, learned to trust, struggled a little bit, and we both grew. I might have facilitated, but you, First United Church of Christ, did the growth, and have entered into a new covenant with your new Pastor, Kerri Sandusky, and a new sense of mission and pilgrimage that God opens to you.

I will always cherish the time we spent together, grew together, laughed together, worshipped together. You have a bright future ahead of you. Thank you for trusting me to walk with you for a while.

BLESSINGS,
MARK E. BUCK

Wow, what a great blood drive! Thank you so much for your support of our mission!! You ended up with 29 donations (39 people presented but 10 were deferred). This means that up to 116 local patients in need of blood and blood products will receive them because of the generosity of your church and the Tipton community.

What else is so cool is that you had 5 first time donors. Hoping that they turn out to be life-long donors.

Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

Mary Circle

Feb 12

Join Mary Circle on Wed, Feb 12 at 8:30a for breakfast (purchase your own) at Tipton Family Restaurant. RSVP to Darlene Elgin 563-886-2920 to be included in the reservation.

Shared Blessings

Feb 8, 22 & 29

A free community meal hosted by First United Methodist Church on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Saturdays of each month from 11:00a-12:00p. Anyone is welcome to attend.

February

Sun, Feb 2	9:00a	Sunday School
	10:00a	Worship, Communion, Installation
	11:00a	Coffee & Cookies Fellowship
	6:00p	Cedar Cty Bicycle Coalition
Mon, Feb 3	6:30p	Lion's Den Meeting
Tue, Feb 4	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Adult Bible Study
Wed, Feb 5	10:30a	Cedar Manor Communion
	4:00p	Confirmation Class
		Youth Group (See box)
	6:00p	Christian Ed Meeting
Thu, Feb 6	12:00p	Lion's Club Lunch
	8:00p	AA
Fri, Feb 7	8:00a	First Friday
	3:30p	Organist's Meeting
Sat, Feb 8	11:00a	Shared Blessings Meal @ UMC
Sun, Feb 9	9:00a	Sunday School
	10:00a	Worship
	11:00a	Valentine's Lunch
	3:00p	Cedar Manor Worship
Tue, Feb 11	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
	2:00p	Prairie Hills Worship
	6:00p	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Wolves Den Meeting
	6:00p	Webelos 1 Den Meeting
Wed, Feb 12	8:30a	Mary Circle Meeting @ Family Rest
	4:00p	Confirmation Class
		Youth Group (See box)
	7:00p	Church Council Meeting
Thu, Feb 13	6:00p	Webelos 2 Den Meeting
	8:00p	AA
Fri, Feb 14	6:00p	Kids' Night Out
Sat, Feb 15	9:00a	Food Pantry @ Foursquare
Sun, Feb 16	9:00a	Sunday School
	10:00a	Worship
	11:00a	Scout Soup Lunch
Tue, Feb 18	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Tiger's Den Meeting
Wed, Feb 19	4:00p	Confirmation Class
		Youth Group (See box)
	6:00p	Family Fun Night
	6:30p	Bear's Den Meeting
Thu, Feb 20	11:30a	Tipton Ministerial Assoc Meeting
	6:30p	Lion's Club Supper
	8:00p	AA
Sat, Feb 22	11:00a	Shared Blessings Meal @ UMC
Sun, Feb 23		NO Sunday School
	10:00a	Worship
	11:00a	Coffee & Cookies Fellowship
	1:00p	Open House @ Parsonage

Mon, Feb 24	6:30p	Girl Scout Meeting
Tue, Feb 25	10:00a	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Adult Bible Study
	6:00p	Scout Pack Meeting
Wed, Feb 26	9:00a	Women's Fellowship
	4:00p	Confirmation Class
		Youth Group (See box)
	7:00p	Ash Wednesday Service
Thu, Feb 27	9:00a	Cedar Cty Consortium
	8:00p	AA
Sat, Feb 29	11:00a	Shared Blessings @ UMC

Inclement Weather Cancellations will be on KCRG.

BIRTHDAYS

<i>Feb 2</i>	<i>Feb 17</i>
Jeremy Hodgden	Seth Cary
<i>Feb 5</i>	<i>Feb 20</i>
Mary Casterline	Ryan King
Ashley Mente	<i>Feb 21</i>
Amy Mente	Teresa Bohlmann
<i>Feb 6</i>	Harrison Gehrs
Ellie Owen	Gary Hipple
<i>Feb 7</i>	Delores Rohlf
Carol Lamp	<i>Feb 22</i>
<i>Feb 8</i>	Nora Beyer
Barbara Achey	Ina Hack
Emily Armstrong	Evan Meier
<i>Feb 9</i>	<i>Feb 23</i>
Ava Meier	Aaron Kelly
<i>Feb 10</i>	<i>Feb 24</i>
Vickie Meier	Justine Wood
<i>Feb 12</i>	<i>Feb 25</i>
Tiffany Burmeister	Jenny King
<i>Feb 14</i>	Angela Knox
Melissa Jackson	<i>Feb 26</i>
Teresa King	Taylor Doermann
Nivea North	Edward Arensdorf
Jordi Pitt	<i>Feb 27</i>
Reba Shotwell	Stephanie Steffen
<i>Feb 16</i>	
Jeff Nantz	

ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Feb 13</i>
Doug & LuAnn Davis
<i>Feb 14</i>
Larry & Sharon Hodgden
<i>Feb 17</i>
Greg & Pat Hipple
<i>Feb 18</i>
Jeff & Christina Nantz
<i>Feb 26</i>
Trey & Maddie Lemburg

We apologize if we inadvertently missed your birthday or anniversary. Please call the church office to have it added to the list.

LITURGISTS

Feb 2	Larry Hanon
Feb 9	Hovert Flory
Feb 16	Jared Gehrs
Feb 23	Tiffiny Meinert
Feb 26	Bev Reid

FLOWERS: Lois Moon

GREETERS: Hovert & Terry Flory
Blair & Pam Freet

USHERS: Jerry Meier, Jake Meier, Jay Meier
Joel Meier, Mike Wagner

ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION:

(First brings elements, second assists, third & fourth help)

Feb 2

1. Greg Hipple, 2. Linda Jacobsen
3. Mike Wagner, 4. Nancy Hipple

DEACONS COUNTING OFFERING:

Pam Freet & Marcia Meyers

COFFEE & COOKIE HOSTS

(Please refrain from making treats with peanuts, due to peanut allergies, and consider bringing something for those with diabetes.)

Feb 2 Teri Jo Griebat, Scott & Jan Kramer
Doug & LuAnn Davis

Feb 9 Valentine's Lunch
Hosted by Women's Fellowship

Feb 16 Scouts Soup Lunch
Everyone is invited

Feb 23 Jeremy & Hannah Bower
Susan Lorenzen
Bev Reid
Mark & Sharon Niles

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

Held at Calvary Foursquare

5:00p	Middle School Youth Group
6:30p	Supper
7:00p	High School Youth Group

First

United Church of Christ

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