

The U N I T E R

*First United Church is a place where
God's love, our faith, and real life intersect.*



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- Phone: (320) 632-5468
firstunitedlf@gmail.com
- May 2025**
- 4 – Communion Sunday
Worship & Sunday School
- Items out of storage for sale
 - 5 & 6 - UCWA Sale set up
 - 7 – **Intergenerational
Community Bowling Party**
– (NO Coffee & Conversation)
 - 7 & 8 – UCWA Sale
 - 11 – Sunday Worship &
Sunday School
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
 - 13 – **Finance Team**
– **Ad Council reports due**
 - 14 – Coffee & Conversation
– UCWA
 - 15 - Volunteer at Food Shelf
 - 17 – **ARMED FORCES DAY**
 - 18 – Sunday Worship &
Sunday School
**- Yard Clean-up Youth
Mission Trip Fundraiser**
 - 20 - **Ad Council**
 - 21 – Coffee & Conversation
 - 25 – Sunday Worship, **Sunday
School Recognition &**
Sunday School
**- Hot Cocoa & Coffee Youth
Mission Trip Fundraiser**
June Uniter deadline
 - 26 – **MEMORIAL DAY**
OFFICE CLOSED
 - 28 – Coffee & Conversation



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

*The annual meeting of the congregation of
First United Church will be held Sunday, June 1st, 2025, following
Worship Service, for the purpose of accepting reports, conducting
church business, and electing officers. All members have the right
to vote at meetings of the congregation.*

UCWA SPRING RUMMAGE & REPURPOSING SALE

Sunday, **May 4th**: Set boxes out after worship
Monday, **May 5th** & Tuesday, **May 6th**: Set up.... 9am - ?
Wednesday, **May 7th**: SALE....9 am - 5pm
Thursday, **May 8th**: SALE, \$5/bag....9 am - 2 pm

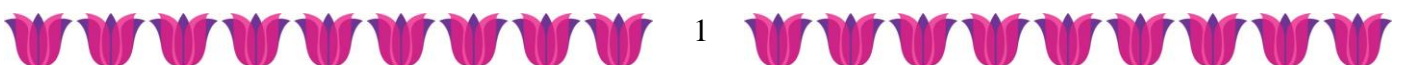
You are invited to donate new or gently used items for the sale,
have items brought to church by Monday, May 5th at noon.

To bring items to church or if you would like to help or if you
have any questions about the sale, **please contact Nancy F.**

Needed: Paper grocery bags.

Proceeds from the sale will be given to local charities.

All help on any or all days is greatly appreciated!





Please hold the following in your prayers:
Pete Hall's daughter, Jim Hill's sister and sister-in-law Families,
Jo Ann Kinzer, Roxanne Matsen's mother,
Helen McLennan's sister Carol,
Susy Prosapio's friend Tom, Amanda Romaine's Uncle Doug,
Lucy Tanner's Brother Jim, George Toschak
Our Nation

Attention: First United Church's policy is to keep names on this list for one month at a time. After this month, if you would still like prayers for your loved one, please contact the church office and request that their name(s) be added to the Prayer Chain. A good way to do this is to fill out a prayer card at the back of the sanctuary and drop it in the basket on the credenza.

Donations to the Memorial Fund

Robin Felix	in Memory of	Margaret Flolid
Edith Lowe		
Lynn McCarthy		

Donations to the Easter Flower Fund

Margaret Larsen	in Honor of	My daughters & their families
Craig & Jackie Pooler		Muriel Pooler
LaVonne Adams	in Memory of	Don Adams
Barb Behrens		Ron Zaltz
Dianne Spillum		Jay Spillum
Marcy Larson Family		Greg Larson
Allison Hendrickson		Joanie Bellig
Renae Oothoudt		Tom Oothoudt
The Romaine Family		Our grandparents
Diana Poehler		Mary Lou Yatckoske
Rich & Peggy May		Melvin & Della Swanson
Craig & Jackie Pooler		Robert Pooler, Harry & Evelyn Sykes, Cheryl Sykes
Heather Quammen		David & Barbara Quammen, Clifford & Imogene Beebe



THANK YOU to all that donated to the Easter Flower Fund!
Thank you Debra Bultnick for gathering and arranging the Easter Flowers!
The sanctuary was beautiful on Easter Sunday!



Team leaders: Please submit your 2024 annual report to the church office - word document via email preferred - by: **Sunday, May 4, 2025.**
THANK YOU to those of you that have already submitted your report!

Weekly Receipts – April 2025



Date	Amt. Budgeted	Amt. Received
4/6/25	\$2,808.00	\$9,991.00
4/13/25	2,808.00	3,673.00
4/20/25	2,808.00	5,251.00
4/27/25	2,808.00	2,505.00

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Friends,

The poem *The Work of Christmas* is from Howard Thurman's "The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations." I often remind us of this poem in the weeks after Christmas to talk about how we are to carry the message of Christmas throughout the year. In the same vein, the work we do through Lent and Easter is important for us to continually remember throughout every season. So, I have adapted this poem to be the *Work of Easter*. I shared this as a prayer on the Sunday after Easter, and share it here again, so we can pray this, chew on this, feel this, practice this, and live this very important "work." I pray you have a blessed May and that the joy and hope of our risen Savior will be in your hearts always, Amen.

The Work of Easter

When the desert journey is over and the testing has passed,
when the star that shone so brightly in our lives has dimmed,
when Christ the King, God Incarnate, our Blessed Savior, has died and risen,
when the cross is empty, the grave is empty, and the people have gone home,
when the Way is just beginning and Christ's love is but a flickering hope,
the real work of Easter begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among people,
To make music in the heart,
To forgive as Christ died to forgive,
To love as Christ rose to love.

Blessings,

Pastor Tony

MESSAGE FROM OUR LAY LEADER

The First United Church Annual Congregational meeting is June 1st. We will be voting on a slate of officers.

Teams are writing an annual report which will highlight their activities for the past year. At the annual meeting you will be given an opportunity to ask questions regarding their activities.

Last year we were busy getting ready to celebrate 50 years in this building. We need to brainstorm more uses for our large building. An opportunity to offer your thoughts regarding the use of our empty spaces.

How do we invite more people to attend our church?

We have a nominating committee who have been hard at work finding people to have on a team. They have also replaced people who wanted to move off a team.

Please look forward to attending the meeting. The meeting will be in person and on Zoom.

Your Lay Leader,

Carol Ann Hoffman

FIRST UNITED CHURCH – YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Wrapping Up the Year and Leaping Into Summer!

Dear Church Family,

Celebrating a Joyful Year!

As May arrives, we will soon come to the close of a wonderful program year for Sunday School. From our children's Sunday school classes to intergenerational events like the Fairy Garden Workshop, Chili Cook-Off, and Taking Faith Home devotionals, we have spent a year growing together in faith, fellowship, and service.

A heartfelt **thank you** to all the parents, volunteers, teachers, and youth who have shown up with energy, kindness, and curiosity each week. You make our ministry vibrant and full of life!

We look forward to celebrating the end of the Sunday School year with a special **Recognition Sunday** on May 25th —watch the announcements for more details!

Summer 2025: Faith in Action and Fun!

Yard Clean-Up Fundraiser – May 18

Need help with spring yard work? Hire our youth group for raking, weeding, or brush hauling! Proceeds help fund the mission trip. Sign up on the oak table or contact Shelley with questions!

Summer Pop-Up Events





Throughout the summer, we'll host informal get-togethers like Ice Cream Meet-Ups, Movie Nights, and Picnic & Play events. These are great opportunities to stay connected in a relaxed, family-friendly way. Watch for dates in the bulletin and on social media!

Service-Learning Trip – July 27–August 1

Fourteen youth and adults will travel to Bentonville, Arkansas, for our Intergenerational Service-Learning Trip with **Be the Neighbor**. We'll spend the week learning about food insecurity, housing challenges, and how faith calls us to love and serve our neighbors right here in our community!

Help Support Our Mission Team!

You can still help make our summer mission trip possible:

-  **Donate** toward travel and program expenses
-  **Sponsor** a meal or gas
-  **Hire Youth** for the Yard Clean-Up Fundraiser
-  **Pray** for our team's learning, safety, and spiritual growth

Your support makes a real difference—not just for the youth traveling this summer, but for the future of our faith community. You are helping to shape leaders with hearts for justice, service, and compassion.

Looking Ahead

Though our Sunday School year is ending, our faith journey together never stops. This summer, we hope you will continue to worship, gather, serve, and grow with us. One great way to stay connected during the busy summer months is by engaging online with our Taking Faith Home Daily Devotionals. Together, we are building a church where every generation is nurtured in faith and equipped to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

Thank you for a beautiful year—and for the exciting summer ahead!

With joy and gratitude,

Shelley Lindenfelser

Youth & Family Program Coordinator



FIRST UNITED CHURCH
Administrative Council Meeting – April 15, 2025

Lay Leader Carol Ann Hoffman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present were:

Pastor Tony Romaine	Jan O'Quinn – PPR
Carol Ann Hoffman, Lay Leader	Renae Oothoudt – Worship Team
Al Libke, Recording Secretary	Dianne Spillum – Financial Secretary
Andrea Lauer – Member at Large	Rosie Brower - Treasurer
Deanna Anderson – Assistant Lay Leader	Edith Lowe – Member at Large
Diana Poehler – Memorial Fund Secretary	Garry Bultnick – Member at Large
Nancy B Flolid – Food Shelf, Mission & Ministry & Outreach	

Opening devotion - Pastor Romaine read from Numbers 11, verses 16-17 & 24-25 and comments related to communal leadership.

Agenda: Pastor Romaine, Lay Leader Carol Ann and Jan O'Quinn had items to add to the agenda. Andrea Lauer moved to approve the agenda with the items added. It was seconded by Rosie Brower and passed.

Ad Council Minutes: Dianne Spillum moved to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2025, Ad Council meeting, second by Nancy Flolid. Passed

Financial Report. Deanna Anderson moved to approve the March 2025 Financial Report. Seconded by Dianne Spillum and it passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Romaine reported he has been busy with Easter / Holy Week preparation and events.

Committee Reports:

Nancy Flolid moved to approve the name of the M & M committee to Mission, Ministry and Outreach, it was seconded by Andrea and passed.

Nancy Flolid made a motion to approve renewal of a Mission, Ministry and Outreach CD at the best available rate. It was seconded by Edith Lowe and passed.

Unfinished Business

Carol Ann Hoffman read a letter from the Haiti Partnership concerning the March 18, 2025, AD Council action regarding noisy offerings. After discussion, Nancy Flolid moved to rescind her motion of March 18, and Andrea Lauer rescinded her March 18th second. It was voted to rescind the action taken March 18, 2025.

New Business:

Carol Ann Hoffman raised the possibility of a by-law change to change all team member terms to two years. After discussion the item is tabled until after the 2025 annual meeting.

There was discussion on the need to repair or replace the sidewalk on the North side of the church for safety reasons. Garry Bultnick commented that the building and grounds team is working on it.

The 2025 First United Church annual congregational meeting is set for June 1, 2025.

Jan O'Quinn brought up that there is often leftover food in the refrigerator. There was general discussion on ways to address the issue.

After discussion, Diana Poehler moved that we approve giving an unused safe to a person who will take it. Second by Rosie Brower and passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next AD Council meeting will be at 7:00 pm on May 20, 2025 in the Fireside Room.

Al Libke – Recording Secretary

BE the church! Sign-up sheets on the oak table in the back of the sanctuary for:



Hospitality – Be in charge of a specific coffee hour. If you have not done this before, please don't hesitate to contact the office.

Greeters: Welcome all to Sunday Worship.

THANK YOU to each of you that have signed up!




Life Line Screening will be at First United Church on Monday, June 2, 2025 offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

Three ways to register:

- **Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466** promote your business.
- **Online: <https://www.lisa.social/hzca>**
- **Text: the word **circle** to 216-279-1607**

NOTE: Three COMPLIMENTARY SCREENINGS/value applied toward screening package are available to three individuals, as a thank you for to First United Church for hosting Life Line Screening. Comps are available in the office, FIRST THREE TO EMAIL will each receive a comp.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<h1>May 2025</h1> <p>Please be in prayer for people listed on the calendar at the top of each day. Birthdays are in <i>italics</i> at the bottom of the day.</p>							
		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The First United Church Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 1st.</p> </div>			1 Jim Hill	2 Dave & Amanda Hlad <i>Mike Podtburg</i>	3 Carol Ann Hoffman
4 Ren & Ida Mae Holland 9:30am Communion Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10:30am UCWA Sale items out of storage 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180 <i>Pat Toschak</i>	5 Jeff & Allie Kotzian UCWA SALE SET UP 9-? 7:30pm Courage to Change 4am & 4pm - Worship Ch. 180	6 Doug Larsen & Cathy Hartle UCWA SALE SET UP 9-?	7 Peg Larsen UCWA SALE 9-5 No Coffee & Conversation 7:00pm Intergenerational Community Bowling Party	8 Marcy Larson UCWA SALE 9-2 \$5/bag	9 Andrea Lauer	10 Al & Pat Libke 12:00pm UCG	
11 Shelley Lindenfelser 9:30am Sunday Worship & Sunday School 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180 HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY!	12 Edith Lowe 7:30 Courage to Change 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180	13 Shurod & Sarah Marrow 2:00pm Finance Team Ad Council reports due <i>Ron Flolid Jill Griffith</i>	14 Carl & Tiffany Mathwig 10:00am Coffee & Conversation 1:30pm UCWA	15 Roxanne Matsen & Randy Norcutt 5:30pm Volunteer at Food Shelf	16 Jim & Julie May	17 Rich & Peggy May 12:00pm UCG ARMED FORCES DAY <i>Katie Klosowski</i>	
18 Lynn McCarthy 9:30am Sunday Worship & Sunday School 11:00am Yard Clean-up Mission Trip Fundraiser 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180p <i>Robin Felix</i>	19 Helen McLennan 7:30 Courage to Change 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180 <i>Carroll DeFries George Toschak</i>	20 Andy & Mary Lee Moberg 7:00pm Ad Council <i>Ayla Hlad</i>	21 Kris & Nellie Oothoudt 10:00am Coffee & Conversation <i>Margaret DeFries</i>	22 Renae Oothoudt	23 Maxine Orton	24 Buck & Jan O’Quinn 12:00pm UCG	
25 Jenelle Peters 9:30am Sunday Worship, Sunday School Recognition, Sunday School 10:30am Hot Cocoa Bar & Coffee – Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180 June Uniter deadline	26 Bruce & Kathy Pederson MEMORIAL DAY OFFIC CLOSED 7:30 Courage to Change 4am & 4pm – Worship Ch. 180	27 Mike Podtburg & Laurie Boening <i>Anton Surma</i>	28 Carrie Poehler & Zachary Bissell 10:00am Coffee & Conversation	29 Diana Poehler <i>Allie Kotzian</i>	30 Jeff Poehler <i>Carol Ahlin</i>	31 Muriel Poehler 12:00pm UCG <i>Garry Bultnick Zachary Klosowski Edith Lowe</i>	