

May 2026



The deadline for the next issue of the Herald is **Tuesday, April 14th**. Information can be mailed to the church, or emailed to media@waterloofirst.org. Please clearly mark the item for the Herald or the bulletin.

614 Randolph
Waterloo, IA 50702
Phone (319) 235-7088
Fax (319) 235-7171
www.waterloofirst.org

Rev. Dr. Hojin Shin
Pastor
pastor@waterloofirst.org

Kristy Klinger
Administrative Assistant
office@waterloofirst.org

Emily Forsberg
Director of Music
music@waterloofirst.org

Sally Thurman
Media Specialist
media@waterloofirst.org

Kris Stewart
Financial Assistant
admin@waterloofirst.org

Dr. John Roberts, Ed. D.
Pianist

Worship Time:
Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

180th Anniversary Waterloo First United Methodist Church

Chapter 1

In 1846, the white settlers were trekking westward to find their dreams.

The Charles W. Mullan, George Hanna and William Virden families were attracted to the Cedar River area, so they located where Waterloo now stands. All three families were Methodists. Before a floor was laid in the Mullan log cabin, they felt the need to worship God. Asbury Collins, a Methodist circuit rider appeared and he held a preaching service, the first in this locality.

Early that fall 1846, the first society was formed. This record has been found in George W. Hanna's Bible written in his own hand: "The first Methodist Society formed by Brother J. Johnson in 1846. Five members: G. W. Hanna, Leader; Mary Hanna, Rebecca Virden, Wm. Virden, America Mullan." From this humble beginning in a log cabin of Methodist pioneers, the First United Methodist Church has grown.

For some ten years, the Methodists held their worship services in various log cabins ministered to by a succession of Circuit Riders. The work at that time was known as the Big Woods Mission. It was part of the Iowa City District, and the nearest regular preaching plan was Cedar Rapids.

As the church grew and the seasons passed, the Circuit Rider came and neighbors gathered from near and far. Here around the evening campfire could be heard the singing of hymns, preaching in the outdoors, praying of penitent sinners for salvation... lives were changed.



Chapter 2

As the village of Waterloo grew, the First Methodist membership outgrew cabin homes as meeting places, and services were held in the Waterloo Seminary which stood then at Ninth and Bluff Streets, and later alternated between Benight's Hall and Capwell's Hall on Commercial Street. By 1859 the membership had grown to 122, with 145 pupils in the Sunday School.

The need of a church edifice was imperative, and though the outbreak of the Civil War called men to arms and disturbed conditions badly, the Church started its first building venture in courageous faith, in 1862, corner of Jefferson and Fourth. The lot for the church was donated by George W. Hanna.

At first, only the basement was enclosed and services were held there. The Upper Iowa Conference, which had been organized at Maquoketa in 1854, held its session in the basement of the unfinished building. In 1866 the building was completed and dedicated by Bishop A. J. Kynett.

During the next two decades First Church continued to enlarge its strength and service, keeping pace with a growing city. A larger and better building became necessary especially as the evangelistic power of Rev. W. F. Barclay, the pastor, added 200 new members in a single revival. Thus the second building venture produced a fine church edifice for that day, corner of Fifth and Jefferson, dedicated February 16, 1890 by Bishop Thomas Bowman.

March Attendance and Offering

Week	03/01/26	03/08/26	03/15/26	03/22/26	03/29/26
Attendance*	81	78	42	78	101
Pledge**	\$9,565	\$6,995	\$7,932	\$4,375	\$11,934
Capital	\$200	\$400	\$685	0	\$20
Miscellaneous	\$587	\$593	\$330	\$618	\$1,026

April Ushers

Bill Arndorfer, Kathy Breckunitch,
Don Faris, Kim Chapman

**Attendance for these Sundays is taken from Facebook, www.waterloofirst.org, and in-person worship.*

***Stock Donations – If you are donating stock to the church, please contact Kris at admin@waterloofirst.org or call the office to speak with her. She will make certain this donation is credited correctly to your account.*



Combined Worshp Music Sunday

We will meet at First Congregational UCC on May 3 at 10:30 am for our annual Combined Choir Mucis Sunday Service. We will NOT meet at Waterlo First UMC on May 3. Enjoy an extra hour to get to church and join us in this joyful celebration!



United Women in Faith- May

Bible Verse: Romans 8:28 (CEB)

“We know that God works all things together for good for the ones who love God, for those who are called according to his purpose.”

Thursday, May 14

World Thank Offering

Sarah Circle: 6:30 pm

Dinner Out– Monarca Modern Mexican Kitchen



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will Meet on

Saturday, May 16th: 8 am

Join the men at HyVee on Ansborough Ave. for food and fellowship



Fellowship & Coffee Time at Friendship

Village with Pastor Hojin

Thursday, May 28

10:00 am



Sunday School Classes

10:45 am

Last Day of Sunday School is May 15

Stay after worship, join us in Fellowship and then join a Sunday School Class

Searchers– Fireside Room

Genesis– Dinette

Youth– Melissa Warren

Elementary– Susie Karns & Lynn

Kloberdanz



Amplify Media

Use Amplify to plan your devotionals and Small Group lessons:

Use the code **BXWDJR** to sign up and start exploring Amplify Media for your personal bible study and or small group study. Contact Sally at media@waterloofirst.org if you need help.



Fellowship Servers

Thank you for signing up to serve fellowship!

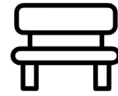
May 3- Worship at First Congregational UCC
May 10– Birthday/ Anniversary/ Sarah Circle & the Genesis Class

May 17-

May 24 – Youth

May 31- Breakfast Potluck- Sarah Circle/ Genesis Class

Sign up for 2026 Sundays today! If no one signs up, there might not be .



Pew Cleaners- Thank you Lynn Kloberdanz for signing up for the month of May!



Volunteer at the NE Iowa Food Bank

Tuesday, May 26th at 2:00 pm

Contact Donna Brown if you're interested in serving



Scrip Cards for Every Day Life!

Use Scrip cards everyday....at the gas station, the grocery store, when you buy coffee, or go out to eat! A percentage of each card comes back to the United Women of Faith and we use that money for the church.

Ask Kris Stewart during fellowship what's in stock and how to order the cards you want. Add \$1 to each card for shipping expenses.



Noisy Coin Offerings

Offerings will be held on May 10th and 17th. The coins collected will be given to the House of Hope.

Bring your spare change to worship!



Breakfast Potluck & Contemporary

Worship- Sunday, May 31

9:00 am Potluck, bring a dish to share and join us in Hartman Hall for a contemporary wohtship Serivce.

Has The Passion Passed?

John Wm. Roberts, ED.D.

One of the greatest joys of worship is the singing which occurs. The blending of voices praising sincerely the blessing of God in their lives. This blending is not only the voices of the choir, but the melodious voices of the congregation. I, recently, read an article from a religious organization which asked a similar question. Many churches have gone the way of 'performance-based religious worship' versus 'participatory-based religious worship.'

Historically and traditionally, worship with music has always been participatory. It is one of the high points of the worship experience – hearing the natural melodies and harmonies of both choir and congregation exalting the goodness of God. This exaltation, often times, would penetrate the sacred area of the pulpit. Pastors, preachers, and evangelists would begin rhythmically tapping their knees, their feet, clapping and waving their hands, stand in acknowledgement, and even singing with the choir and congregation.

With the emergence of 'megachurches,' this participatory-based portion of worship has been replaced with professional singers and musicians who make up 'Worship or Praise Teams.' These musicians have replaced the choir in many megachurch congregations. Many pastors are encouraging members not to participate during the singing portion of the service. Several reasons may underpin this decision; however, it discourages members to participate in, for them, and integral part of the worship experience. In this performance-based form of worship, many of the musical numbers are almost entirely contemporary. This is not an indictment of this religious music genre; however, without the infusion of 'songs of the faith', younger members of the congregation know nothing about the music which has buoyed faith and faithful and the importance of these music selections in the foundations of their faith/faith system. This, also, excludes many older members of remembering and connecting them to their spiritual journey.

Worship is intended to be a conduit for the faithful to connect with God. It is not based on how perfectly a song is performed; it is based on the participation of the congregation with the choir. Personal connection to God is, or should be, the spiritual rudder for each believer. By allowing this musical connection to be severed diminishes the connection of the faithful. Participation in the musical portion of the worship experience is essential...always!

Participation vs Performance is a slippery slope – musically. The majority of churches aren't able to afford paid professional musicians/singers. These congregations rely on the participation of congregants with the choir. It brings a sense of communal connection to God and elevates the worship experience for everyone. Never let the passion for connection to God diminish for the faithful or the music of the faith to become performance rather than participatory!





Excerpts from the
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETING REPORTS

April 16, 2026

No meeting was held in February. This is the reports from the committees.

Leading –

Pastor Hojin is currently on sabbatical.

180th Celebration

Looking for little mementos to provide. The next meeting will be May 7th. Make an opportunity at each church service to promote the date, particularly when visiting family members may be present.

Committee Reports

Finance – Monthly financials were e-mailed for review.

Foundation

Current balance is \$616,515.17 with disbursements of \$6,040.02 as of March 29th. Total disbursements to the church in 2026 have totaled \$19,473.48. Thank you.

Matthew 25 – Continues to be very active.

Food Nook

From March 26th through April 11th, 116 households were served with 1948 # of food distributed in April. There have been two additional food rescue locations added: Hy-Vee on Ansborough and Dollar General on W 5th Street.

Habitat for Humanity Women's Build

Our church team of women builders received enough contributions to meet the \$500 sponsorship level. Although there is normally not a building opportunity at this level of giving, an opening was available that our church volunteers will fill this summer in July.

The Job Foundation

The "Job Store" for middle school students is this month. Please give any final donations for the store to the church office.

Partner in Education (P.I.E.) with Irving Elementary

The school has recognized outstanding students and staff for "Flipping the Script" which changes a less-than-desirable circumstance into a positive one.

Thank you for snacks and cards of encouragement for students during their Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress tests.

Hy-Vee receipts and Box tops for Education are due by Friday April 17th.

Irving was one of the 29 Iowa schools awarded a "Trees for Schools" grant through the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Trees will be planted on April 24th (Arbor Day) from 11am to 3pm but volunteers will need to meet at the school at 9Am. Let Kristy in the church office know if you are interested in helping by April 20th.

Teacher appreciation week is May 4- May 8th.

10% Easter offering

Ten percent of the Easter offering is going to House of Hope in Waterloo, with a total to date of \$193.50.

Blankets to several new families at the House of Hope were provided. The sewing group will meet the afternoon of April 23rd to tie more.

World Grace Project

A bake sale and donation box held at the “No Kings” rally on March 28th brought in \$3,650 to support immigrants in our community.

SPRC

Annual staff reviews will start next week.

A search for an organist has begun with the job description being shared with UNI and Wartburg music connections.

Any leads on potential keyboardists are welcomed.

Sue Feltman may be able to fill in on a short-term basis while Dr. John is on leave

Technology

The new headsets for the microphones are coming next week

The new piano mic is working well.

The auracast system for hearing aids is up and running.

Trustees

It has been a challenge to find a contractor to do plaster repair in the sanctuary and other parts of the church.

Started a list of “must do” projects prior to the 180th celebration. Will enlist the help of the congregation to complete the tasks closer in early fall.

Looking for a new company for snow removal.

Will evaluate if the balconies can be roped off as not in use.

Worship Committee

- 4/19 Dave Senchina to give message
- 4/26 Sam Anderson to give message
- 5/3: Music collaboration at First Congregational
- 5/10: Music Sunday at WFUMC, Noisy Coins, Mother’s Day
- 5/17: Noisy Coins
- 5/24: Baptism, Graduation Sunday
- 5/31: Camp Sunday
- 6/28: Church Picnic

United Methodist Men

Will meet this Saturday at the Hy-Vee on Ansborough at 8AM.

United Women in Faith – The next meeting will be on May 14th at 6:30 pm at Monarca Mexican Kitchen. Our District Officer Shepherdess, who is from Cedar Falls, will be joining us.

Other

Vicky Bjortomt shared information on a program she attended given by Erin _____ Page who is the granddaughter of a holocaust survivor that was sponsored by the Waterloo Synagogue. Historical information was shared as well as current events which may parallel with some of those experiences. An appropriate way to make this information available to more individuals was discussed. She will contact the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council.

Next Meeting is scheduled for 5/21/26 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 pm. (Gary Brown/)

Respectfully Submitted,
Arlene Wright Recording Secretary

“They treat the wound of my people as if it were nothing.”

Jeremiah 6: 14a



Dear Friends in Iowa,

As news of the Epstein files and the horrific trafficking and abuse of girls and young women continues to come out, many are experiencing trauma. The abuse of these young people, by Mr. Epstein and his accomplices, caused the survivors trauma. The Justice Department’s decision to release files, without redacting sensitive personal information about the victims, has caused layers of additional trauma.

We also know that trauma does not just affect the immediate victim but can impact families, communities, indeed a whole society. Those who have been sexually abused and have seen their abusers escape meaningful accountability are being re-traumatized by these events.

As the Prophet Jeremiah reminds us, we must not treat the wounds of our people as if they were not serious. Let us stand with our General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in saying,

“...to survivors of sexual harm, we acknowledge the pain, grief, and trauma that may be triggered by reports of sexual abuse and its coverup. What happened to you was wrong. What happened to others is wrong. And failure to prevent further harm to more people is wrong.”[1]

We make this acknowledgement as we find ourselves in the days following Women’s History Month and in honor of the courage and resilience of all survivors of sexual abuse and assault. If you are a survivor, know that we take your wounds seriously and that we are praying for justice and for healing and peace.

As your bishop, I encourage all Iowa United Methodists to wear black this coming Thursday in concert with the “Thursdays in Black Campaign,” a World Council of Churches effort to address gender-based violence. I would encourage all United Methodist clergy to wear a black clergy shirt and collar. We do this in solidarity with the Epstein survivors and all survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

Our Iowa Annual Conference Commission on the Status and Role of Women is committed to advocating for victims of sexual assault and abuse. They offer the following prayer and blessing for those traumatized by Epstein’s crimes, by the unprofessional and uncaring release of files, by failures of accountability, and by our society’s failures to prevent the abuse of women and girls.

In Christ,

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai





- 1- James Kimpston
Larry Klinger
Yihoon Shin
- 4- Bailey Butz
- 5- Vicki Stanford
- 8- Ruth Yan
- 14- Pam Arndorfer
- 20- Gerald Fain
- 22- Emmanuel Gilbert
- 25- Joan Craft
- 27- Donn Harris
- 29- Brady Dean



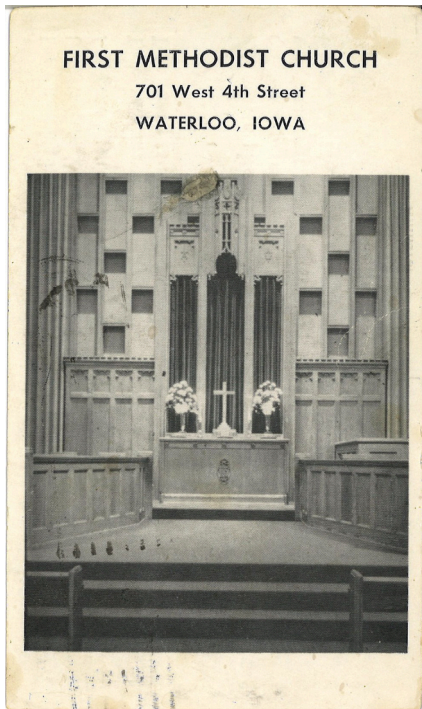
Altar Flowers

Memorize and occasion of a loved one
with altar flowers

Sign-up in VonLackum Lounge

\$37

- 7- Jarred & Jessica Crouch 20
- 20- Jeff & Debbie Foulk 47
- 30- Kent & Barb Opheim 55



180th Anniversary Memorabilia

These postcards were brought to the church by members of the congregation. The one with the sanctuary is from the 60's and was used by the pastors to send notes to members & visitors. The postcard of the outside of the church is from 1914.

Do you have any memorabilia you can share with us? Bring it in to the office!

WATERLOO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
3 10:30 am– Combined Music Worship at First Congregational UCC	4 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead	5 9:00 am– Staff Mtg.	6 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 4:15 pm– Partners in Education at Irving Elementary	1 8 7:00 pm- Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	2 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15 9 10:00 am– Food Nook
10  9:30 am– Worship/ Music Sunday 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– Sunday School 12:00 pm– Lunch at Le Christophers	11 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:00 pm– Trustees	12 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 12:00 pm– I Team Waterloo First Mtg	13 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 10:00 am– Church Row Structural & Safety Team	14 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:30 pm– Sarah Circle at Monarca Modern Mexican Kitchen	15 7:00 pm- Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	16 8:00 am– UMM 9:30 am– Church Row Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg. 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15
17 9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School 12:00 pm– Church Row Coalition Mtg.	18	19 Herald Deadline 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee	20 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	21 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead And Staying Ahead 6:00 pm– Ad Team	22 7:00 pm- Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	23 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15
24  9:30 am– Worship/ Baptism 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School	25  Office Closed	26 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 12:00 pm– Team Waterloo First Mtg	27 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	28 9:30 am– Food Nook 9:30 am– Herald Assembly 10:00 am– Fellowship at Friendship Village	29 7:00 pm- Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	30 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15
31 9:00 am– Breakfast Potluck 9:30 am– Worship In Hartman Hall						



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Waterloo IA
Permit No. 1599

Return Service Requested



Herald Deadlines 2026		Herald Assembly 2026	
May 19	June 16	May 28	June 25
July 21	August 18	July 30	August 27
September 15	October 13	September 24	October 22
November 3	December 1	November 12	December 10

Congrats, Esther!



Esther Yigyoung Shin

Esther is graduating from West High as a top five student in her class, earning academic honors while completing the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. She has received Academic Honors every year (maintaining a 3.5–4.0 GPA) and was recognized with the 2024 –25 National Community Service Award. Throughout high school, Esther has demonstrated exceptional leadership and service, serving on the Waterloo Youth City Council as Mayor (2025–26), Secretary/Parliamentarian (2024–25), and a member of the Marketing Committee (2023–24). She has also been active as Vice President of the National Honor Society, a member of Link Crew and Student Senate, and was honored as Homecoming Queen. In addition, she has faithfully served as part of the Diakonos at the Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Athletically, Esther has been deeply involved in sports, swimming competitively for 12 years, including time with the YMCA Pirates while in Waterloo, and qualifying for state twice. She also participated in West High volleyball for two years and competed in Track and Field for four years, specializing in hurdles and qualifying for state as a freshman, with hopes to return this year. Most recently, she was a member of the Waterloo Girls High School Swim Team. Musically, Esther is an accomplished violinist, participating in the Iowa All-State Orchestra for four years, NEISTA for four years, and ISTA for three years. Following graduation, she will attend Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. While currently undeclared, she is interested in pursuing studies in medicine or public policy, possibly combining both fields.



The money collected for **WHO** is greatly appreciated. Every week people come into the office needing help. Sometimes all we can do is listen and refer them somewhere else, but thanks to the WHO Fund, sometimes we can help them pay a utility bill. They are always grateful. Thank you for your continued help.

Please use the envelope included in this newsletter to send in one check, using this form and your check memo line, to divide your donation, in whatever manner you chose.

_____ Pledge _____ Capital Improvement
_____ General Budget _____ WHO