

180 Years



WATERLOO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1846-2026

The Herald

The deadline for the next issue of the Herald is **Tuesday, March 17th**.
Information can be mailed to the church, or emailed to media@waterloofirst.org.
Please clearly mark the item for the Herald or the bulletin.

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Pianist

Worship Time:

Sunday - 9:30 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

(or by appointment)

“The Mission of Waterloo First UMC is to be a church of people who live as disciples of Jesus Christ by providing a place for spiritual growth in a caring, inviting community.”

Become

“Why Lent Slows the Pace of Our Lives”

Every year when Lent begins, this is probably the most common question we hear at church: *“What are you giving up this year?”* People answer with things like chocolate, meat (which is why fish sandwiches suddenly appear!), alcohol, cigarettes, coffee ... and nowadays social media or late-night snacks. These practices certainly have meaning. Historically, however, Lent was never merely about giving up one small habit. It was a season for reshaping entire way of life.

The early church understood Lent as a time for training the heart. It first served as a preparation period for new believers who would receive baptism on Easter. The church believed that if a person was entering a new life in Christ, they needed practice in letting go of their former way of living that are the patterns shaped only by the world. They could not continue to live in the same direction, at the same pace, with the same impulses and habits. Therefore, Lent became a time to reset life’s style.

Compared to 365 days in a year, six weeks is short. But even for this brief period believers stepped back from good things in order to focus their hearts on God. Why would the church go this far? We find the answer in the early Christians’ understanding of sin. They did not see sin merely as breaking rules. They used the word *hamartia* (ἁμαρτία) — an arrow missing the target. Sin meant a life that had drifted off its true aim: forgetting God while living according to the flow of our desires.

So, Lent is a time to realign the center of our lives. The Desert Fathers taught: *“When you feel hunger, pray.”* *“When desire rises, remember God.”* *“When the body is trained, the soul awakens.”* The purpose of fasting, therefore, was to create space for prayer and to keep watch toward the Lord.

Today we live in the fastest age in human history. Cell phone constantly

(Continued on page 2)



FROM OUR
PASTOR

(Continued from page 1)

speaks to us, the news never stops, and games never rest. Even our rest is scheduled in our phones' calendars. We did not intend to reject God, but surrounded by so many things, we have become people who no longer have the quiet to hear Him.

For this reason, Lent may be more necessary now than ever — a season to give something up so that we may listen to God. Just as one stepping back helps us see a situation more clearly, Lent invites us to step out of the current of our hurried lives and stand still long enough to remember who we are and whose we are. So, again, *"What are you giving up to listen to God?"*

Pastor Hojin



Lenten Series — What We Believe

Throughout Lent we will walk through the Apostles' Creed in a series titled "What We Believe." For centuries, Christians have confessed this creed. We will listen to the questions believers have always asked and the answers they have discovered together.

Week 1: What does it mean to believe in God?

Week 2: How do we confess Jesus Christ?

Following weeks: the Holy Spirit, the Church and Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, and the resurrection and life everlasting.

We are not just studying doctrine. We are learning how Christians across generations have trusted God in times of doubt, suffering, and hope and how we might do the same today. I hope you will walk this season with us.

180th Celebration

180 Acts of Love: One of the ways we will celebrate is by measuring our impact on the community. Please submit all your volunteer hours to the church office (email works) and let us know the impact you are making in the community. We will keep track of the hours and celebrate every time we hit 180 hours.

Thank you everyone who has submitted their hours already. Check out the wall in VonLackum lounge! Send us your volunteer pictures and we will fill the wall with 180 certificates and pictures!

Look for more celebrations throughout the year. If you have an idea, please let our core 180th committee know:

Pastor Hojin, Prudy Klinger, and Kristy Klinger

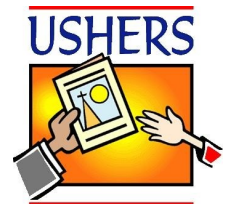


January Attendance & Offering

Week	1/4/26	1/11/26	1/18/26	1/25/26
Attendance*	75	78	71	68
Pledge**	\$5,975	\$9,917	\$17,061	\$9,449.93
Capital	\$50	\$50	\$600	0
Miscellaneous	\$125	\$549	\$157	\$104.40

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

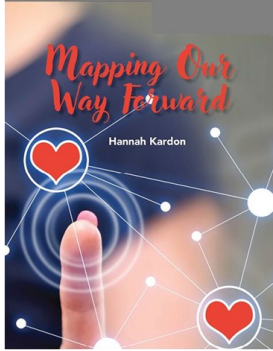
**Stock Donations – If you are donating stock to the church, please contact Kris at admin@waterloofirst.org or call the office to speak with her. She will make certain this donation is credited correctly to your account.



March Ushers

Julie Johnson, Carl Leavell,
Mary Schollenbarger, Wendy Potter

Belong



United Women in Faith

March

Bible Verse: Proverbs 3:5 (NLT)

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.”

Thursday, March 12

Sarah Circle: 6:30 pm

Hostess: Sally Thurman

Co-hostess: Debbi Shoopman

Devotions: Amy Anderson

Program: Debbi Shoopman

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

10:45 am

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



FEBRUARY LECTURE SERIES

During the month of **February** the **Searchers** Sunday school class will be hosting guest lecturer **Prof. Bob Dise**. Bob was born in San Diego to a Navy family which facilitated frequent moves on both coasts. He was a USAF officer and radar controller in air defense. He graduated from the University of Virginia, majoring in ancient history. He received his MA and PhD from the University of Michigan in Roman history. Bob taught college full time for 38 years, 33 of them at UNI before retiring in May. He was a recipient of the top teaching awards at UNI and has taught a total of 15, 00 students.

Lecture Topics

March 1 – Greco/Roman Mystery Cults

Everyone is welcome to attend these thought provoking and challenging lectures being held in the Fireside Room. Class will begin promptly at 11 am.



The United Methodist Men will Meet on Saturday, March 21 at 8 am.

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

Fellowship & Coffee Time at Friendship Village with Pastor Hojin

Tuesday, March 24

10:30 am



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.

Bless



Fellowship Servers

Thank you for signing up to serve fellowship!

March 1-Sue Carver, H & R Craven

March 8- Birthday/ Anniversary/ Sarah Circle & the Genesis Class

March 15-

March 22- Youth

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



Pew Cleaner

Sign up to be Pew Cleaner in 2026!

Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in VonLackum Lounge.



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

Volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Thursday, March 19th

2:00 pm

Contact Donna Brown if you're interested in volunteering.



Spring Forward March 8!

As we spring forward into a new season, may we also step into the fresh grace God provides each day. Though we may have lost an hour of sleep, we gain time together in His presence—a reminder that His mercies are new every morning.



Altar Flowers

Memorize and occasion or a loved one with altar flowers

Sign-up in VonLackum Lounge

\$37

A New Charge for 2026

John Wm. Roberts, ED.D.



When Charles Wesley published the hymn, “A Charge to Keep I Have,” in Short Hymns on Select Passages of the Holy Scriptures in 1762, little did he realize how this hymn would affect Christians nearly 264 years later in 2026. Verse 1 says “A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, A never dying soul to save And fit it for the sky.” One of the major functions of music in the church is to inspire congregants of the glory of God toward His people. In the process, the people of God have an obligation to God...to glorify Him for all He has, is, and will do. This glorification is accomplished not merely through the singing of songs but applying the lyrics of the songs to their lives. Christians must take the words of many hymns of the church literally and put them into action. The Holy Scripture says...”For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.” James 2:26 [KJV]. How many times have Christians sung “Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior,” yet, at the same time, see a stranger on the street in need of assistance and just pass them by as if they do not exist? The words in the chorus say, “While on others, Thou art calling, do not pass me by.” Some Christians tend to pick and choose those to stop and help and those not to stop and help. Is this God’s charge? The Good Samaritan did not hesitate to help the man in distress on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho although he was left by the side of the road by a priest and Levite. Jesus did not pick and choose those He offered salvation. Should Christians be judgmental as to whom we offer physical help and spiritual support?

A Charge to Keep I Have, Verse 2 says, “To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage To do my Master’s will!” Are we, as Christians, during this present age, going to do what is necessary to fulfill God’s will...to love one another... or are we going to pick and choose the times we put our ‘faith’ into ‘works’ and fulfill the Master’s will? Mahalia Jackson sang a song which is apropos to underscore the thoughts stated in this article. “I’m gonna live the life I sing about in my song; I’m gonna stand for right and I always shun the wrong; If I’m in the crowd, if I’m alone on the streets or in my home; I’m gonna live the life I sing about in my song. Everyday, everywhere, on a busy thoroughfare; Folks may watch me; some may spot me, say I’m foolish, but I don’t care. I can’t sing one thing and then live another – be saint by day and a devil undercover. I’ve got to live the life I sing about in my song.”

This is the charge to be kept. Will we, as Christians, keep it?



Herald Deadlines 2026		Herald Assembly 2026	
March 17	April 14	March 26	April 23
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



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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.

Coming Soon, Our Very Own App for Your Phone

Get ready! We have one more test to perform and we will be ready to send out invitations.

When you get your invitation from one of us from Amplify Ministry Brands, follow the links on your computer, tablet or phone to the website to create your own private log in. Then download the app to your phone and log in. If your having trouble, anyone in the office would be happy to help you.



The app is pictured at left, it is the **My Church Home app**,

available in the Google and Apple Stores.

Once you've established your log in, downloaded and sign in on the app you will be able to:

- Access members address, phone numbers & emails
- Access your own membership and giving information
 - Be able to donate right from your phone
- Access our livestreaming and sermon information
 - Access a church event calendar

Watch for more information and your email invitation soon.

emptybowls Join us Friday, March 27, at Bien VenU Event Center in Cedar Falls for an evening that brings our community together to fight food insecurity in northeast Iowa.

This year's theme is Bloom with Purpose: Growing Young Leaders. Fighting Food Insecurity. You'll hear from young people who will help carry our mission forward for years to come and inspire the next generation of community support.

Throughout the event, attendees will learn more about the Northeast Iowa Food Bank while raising awareness and educating our community about hunger. Guests will have the opportunity to purchase tickets and bid on both silent and live auction items.

Tickets are on sale now! Go to <https://events.handbid.com/auctions/empty-bowls-2026> to get yours!



Excerpts from the ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETING REPORTS

February, 2026

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

Loving

The reading in my devotional book a couple of weeks ago talked about God's gifts of faith, hope, and love. Two lines from the reading stood out to me which I wanted to share:

Whatever we do, whether in word or in deed, may we do it with trust in God's faithfulness and hope in God's promises. May God's love be our unshakable foundation and ultimate motivation.

Sometimes, and frankly more often lately, it has been hard for me to stay centered when dealing with a super busy work life and living in a world climate that I can't always make sense of. This reading really struck home to me as a reminder that when I'm feeling overwhelmed and things seem out of control, it's so very important to rely on God's faithfulness, hope and love as my foundation and to strive for God's love to guide my actions in every situation. Something I am working towards, especially during this Lenten season.

Leading – Reports/Conversation/Action

- A. Pastor Hojin 2/8: Prudy Klinger provided pulpit supply
1/15: Administrative Council 2/9: Trustees Committee
1/18: Cross Cultural Celebration 2/10: Team Waterloo First
1/19-22: Continuing Education 2/11: Mentoring meeting
1/25: Commissioning Sunday 2/12: Boundary & Ethics Training at Cedar Rapids
1/27: Team Waterloo First, SPRC 2/15: Jazz Sunday
1/28: Sacrament Blessings - Linden, St. Paul's 2/16: Worship Committee
1/29: NCJ Korean Association Board Meeting 2/17: Council on Finance & Administration meeting (IA Conference)
1/29: Letter to Longterm absentees sent 2/18: Ash Wednesday Service with Potluck
2/2: IA Korean Caucus meeting at Iowa City
2/3: Staff meeting
2/5: 180th Anniversary Celebration planning meeting
2/22: Lent Worship Series - What We Believe

Lay Leader (Prudy)

Jazz Sunday was a big success with 163 in attendance at the services; 115 stayed for the meal (thanks to John & Thom for donating and cooking the meal!)

180th Team met and everything is progressing as planned

Committee Reports

Foundation (Phil) The Foundation covered expenses for the church valued at \$7,878.36 in January.

Matthew 25 –

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Food Nook- Food Nook gave out nearly 4,000 lbs of food in six weeks.

Donna Brown has recruited new volunteers to help at the Food Nook: Susan Card, Blair Thielen, Jose Vargas, and Shirlene Stigler. Thank you, Donna!

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

In December, Irving Elementary's Partners in Education collected items for the school's Baskets of Love. Waterloo First United Methodist and other partners collected enough items to fill 90 baskets for Irving Elementary's families.

Irving Elementary children in grades 3-5 take the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) tests. The school asks for 225 snacks per day (four days of testing) OR cards of encouragement for the students. Partners in Education help collect these items. Waterloo First United Methodist (through the Food Nook) has donated 260 'Squeeze and Go' applesauce packets, and 72 packages of Doritos Golden Sriracha tortilla chips. Other treat suggestions are: pretzels, goldfish, popcorn, fruit snacks, granola bars, mints, and crackers. The school needs all donations by March 25th.

Irving Elementary is collecting HyVee receipts and Box Tops for Education until mid-April. The following website lists the products that are eligible for the Box Tops program: <https://boxtops4education.com/s/box-tops-products> Put your receipts and box tops in the big can at the bottom of the stairs in VonLackum Lounge.

The next Partner in Education meeting at Irving Elementary will be on March 5th, 2026, at 4:15 pm.

Upcoming

Community Learning Collaborative

The collaborative is: Waterloo First United Methodist, Impact Church of Hope, Orchard Hill Church, Iowa Heartland Habitat for Humanity, the City of Waterloo, and link (Laura Hoy, Link Christian Development). It's hosting a free film, Join or Die, on Sunday, March 8th, 2:30 pm, at Orchard Hill Church (please enter through Door 2). This documentary was released in March 2023, and describes a decades-long decline in community connections that may help explain our democracy's current crisis. The film is 1.5 hours long.

Memorials (Lois) The Memorial Committee approved a \$100.00 donation from Steve Holbrook's memorial for Searchers to send to a food bank in Minneapolis. This Minneapolis food bank provides food to immigrants who may be afraid to leave their homes.

SPRC (Sam)

1. SPRC has received a letter of resignation from Linda Sharp who says she has had recent problems with her recovery and it will be much longer than she had anticipated. The search is on for a new organist.
2. Sue Feltman will be subbing as organist one Sunday/month for a while. The Sunday will be variable.

Technology (Sally) Continue to research new microphones and trying to determine why the new wireless mic keeps cutting out.

Trustees (Larry) Still trying to decide about how to replace the carpet in the sanctuary, biggest problem would be man-/woman-power to move the pews out of the way and then reinstall.

Trying to get on the schedule for plaster repair in the sanctuary, would like to get done this summer.

Service Roofing is working on eliminating the water problem on the entryway roof. During heavy rains it overruns the drain.

We will not run out of things to do!

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Worship (Corinne)

- 2/18: Ash Wednesday-Potluck at 5:30, Service at 6:30
- 2/22: Communion, guest musicians
- 3/1: Communion
- 3/8: Communion
- 3/15: Communion

United Women in Faith (Sally) Met at Lynn Kloberdanz's home and will submit an application for the Barbara Csomay Grant for the Food Nook.






Purchased balloons and decorated the sanctuary for Jazz Sunday.

- 3/22: Communion
- 3/29: Communion
- 4/2: Maundy Thursday-Potluck at 5:30, Service at 6:30
- 4/3: Good Friday-Service at 6:39
- 4/5: Easter service, Easter Egg Hunt?
- Looking ahead-Church picnic will be June 28 at Byrnes Park



- 1- Linda Boots
Shasta Locke
- 3- Joshua Faga
Jacob Iliome
Whitney Zuzich
- 4- Vincent Bockenstedt
- 7- Barb Dodge
- 8- Vickie Gordon
Brooke Grady
Maryann Locke
- 9- Lyle Hildebrand
- 11- Aline Sturch

- 4- Marge Herrick
- 15- Donna Rastetter
- 18- Brenda Durbahn
- 19- Rowena Smith
- 22- Susan Card
Marvin Shepard
- 24- Debbie Foulk
Mary Shollenbarger
- 26- Sara Loerzel
Landon Sturch
Abbie Tallman
- 27- Linda Messenger
- 30- Scott Foulk
Robert Miller
- 31- Jan Finzen
- 9- Jessica & Ben Bockenstedt 6

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am–Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– Sunday School 12:00 pm– Church Row Coalition Mtg.</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9:00 am– Staff Mtg, 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 4:15 pm– Partners in Education at Irving Elementary</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p>	<p>7</p> <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15</p>
<p>8</p>  <p>9:30 am– worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 am– SS 12:00 pm– Lunch at Le Christophers</p>	<p>9</p> <p>4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:00 pm– Trustees</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 12:00 pm– Waterloo First Team Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 10:00 am– Church Row Structural & Safety Team 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:30 pm– Sarah Circle at Sally Thurman’s</p>	<p>13</p> <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 am– Food Nook 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am– Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:00 pm– Getting Ahead</p>	<p>17</p>  <p>Herald Deadline 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 12:00 pm– Team Waterloo First Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9:30 am– Food Nook 2:00 pm– Volunteer at the Food Bank 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead And Staying Ahead 6:00 pm– Ad Team</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 am– UMM 9:30 am– Church Row Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg. 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am– Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:00 pm– Getting Ahead</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 10:30 am– Fellowship at Friendship Village 12:00 pm– Waterloo First Team Mtg.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9:30 am– Food Nook 9:30 am– Herald Assembly 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17</p>	<p>28</p> <p>3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15 7:00 pm– Trivia Night</p>
<p>29</p>  <p>9:30 am– Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



2026 easter FLOWERS

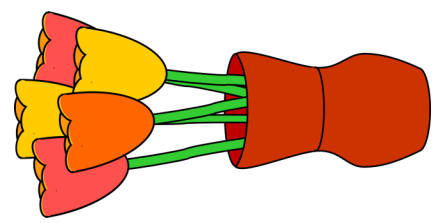
Help decorate the sanctuary this glorious Easter. Please have your orders in by Monday, April 14th, but order early to ensure you get the flower you want.

My Name: _____

- I would like to purchase a Hyacinth (\$23.00)
- I would like to purchase a Tulip (\$23.00)
- I would like to purchase a Florist Mum (\$23.00)
- I would like to purchase a White Lily (\$16.00)

I would like my Easter Flower to be in memory of:

I would like my Easter Flower to be in honor of:



*Please plan to pick up your plant, we will not be bringing plants to shut-ins.
 Please fill out one form per plant.*

Thank You!!



614 Randolph Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50702

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The money collected for **WHO** is greatly appreciated. We continue to help people keep their utilities on. Thank you for your continued help.



New Microphones

We've chosen the style of new microphone but have not heard back about the pricing. We've also asked for help with our new handheld mic that keeps cutting out. Thank you for the donations we have already received. We'll update the information as soon as we receive it.

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 _____ **WHO**

____ General Budget _____ **New Microphones**

____ Capital Improvement

Saturday, March 28, 2026

7 pm

Doors open at 6:30



Waterloo First UMC
614 Randolph Waterloo, IA

Gather your friends for a fun night of trivia.

Teams consist of Tables of 8 and are

\$120/table or \$15/person.

There will be snacks and beverages available.

Funds raised will go towards

Christian Education.