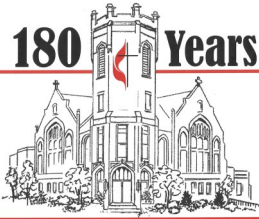


180 Years



WATERLOO FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1846-2026

The Herald

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.

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Financial Assistant
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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)

"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

The word Creed comes from the Latin credo, meaning "I believe." It is a confession of faith, "I believe." Within it are contained the essential beliefs that the Church has confessed for over two thousand years. We believe that God is the Creator, and we confess the resurrection of the body and life everlasting.

Throughout this Lenten season, we have been exploring the Apostles' Creed together. Before sharing in Holy Communion, we also confess various versions of the creed. These are found in our hymnals and include the Nicene Creed, composed around A.D. 325; the Traditional version, which was solidified through baptismal catechesis around the eighth century; the Ecumenical Affirmation of Faith; the statement of faith from the United Church of Canada; and the creed of the Korean Methodist Church.

Though their wording differs slightly, they all conclude with one unified confession: "We believe in the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting." This confession of resurrection faith is the grace of God that completes the Christian life.

Doctrinally speaking, what sinners cannot do is overcome sin on their own. We cannot save ourselves, nor can we overcome death, which is the consequence of sin. Yet the Son of God, Jesus Christ, atoned for our sins through his death on the cross. This is why we call him our Redeemer and Savior.

If the story of Jesus had ended in death, His sacrifice might have remained a moving story, but we would still be trapped under the power of sin and death. We would still be living under the shadow of death, unable to overcome its fear, with no hope to hold onto.

But the gospel does not end there. Jesus conquered death and rose again. His resurrection is not merely an event concerning one person; it is an event

(Continued on page 2)



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

(Continued from page 1)

that opens the future for us all. Therefore, we confess that although our lives have a beginning and an end, that end is not truly the end.

Death is not a period, but a comma. We believe in “the resurrection of the body.” This is not merely a vague hope that our souls will remain; it is the promise that God will renew our whole being. We also believe in “life everlasting.” This is not simply endless time, but the fullness of life lived in communion with God.

A theologian once said that the resurrection is not something to be proved, but something to be interpreted. As I understand it, this means that we as Christians are called to demonstrate through the way we live our belief in the resurrection of Jesus, the resurrection of our own bodies, and the promise of eternal life.

To believe in the resurrection is to live without fear of death, and to choose hope even in the midst of despair. To believe in the resurrection is to trust that even now, in this very moment, God is at work making all things new. May the resurrection of Christ be a great and living hope for you.

He is risen!

Pastor Hojin



HOLY WEEK

March 29– Palm Sunday

9z;30 am- Worship

April 2– Maundy Thursday

5:30 pm– Potluck

6:30 pm– Worship Service

April 3– Good Friday

6:00 pm– Worship Service

April 5– Easter

9:00 am– Easter Egg Hunt

9:30 am– Worship Service with Communion

April Worship Schedule:

Pastor Hojin will be taking renewal leave from April 6– May 4. We will have guest speakers for three Sundays in April. On May 3, we will worship at First Congregational UCC with our combined music choirs.

April 12– David Senchina

April 26– Sam Anderson

April 19– Dr. John Roberts

May 3– Combined worship at First Congregational UCC

180th Celebration

180 Acts of Love: Our congregation is continuing to make an impact in our community! We currently have over 800 hours logged. Don't forget to let Kristy know your volunteer hours. When we reach 1800 will take down the smaller awards on the wall and put up a big one.

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

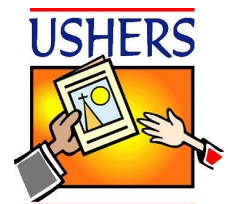


February Attendance & Offering

Week	2/1/26	2/8/26	2/15/26	2/22/26
Attendance*	71	91	184	69
Pledge**	\$1,717	\$4,153	\$1,900	\$8,625
Capital	\$200	\$120	0	\$20
Miscellaneous	\$21	\$1,294	\$170	\$60

*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.

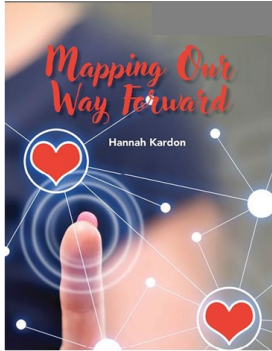


April Ushers

Bill Arndorfer, Kathy Breckunitch,
Don Faris, Kim Chapman

Belong

United Women in Faith



April

Bible Verse: 1 Timothy 4:10 (NLT)

"This is why we work hard and continue to struggle for our hope is in the living God, who is the Savior of all people and particularly of all believers."

May

Thursday, April 9

Sarah Circle: 6:30

Hostess: Amy Anderson

Co-hostess; Lynn Kloberdanz

Devotions:

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

April 5: No class. Easter!

April 12: Bob Dize on "Creating the Bible"

April 19: Bob Dize on "The Origins and Evolution of the Old Testament"

April 26: Bob Dize on "The Origins and Evolution of the New Testament"

Genesis– Dinette

Youth– Melissa Warren

Elementary– Susie Karns & Lynn Kloberdanz



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.



The United Methodist Men will Meet on Saturday, April 18th at 8 am.

Join the men at HyVee on Ansborough Ave.

Fellowship & Coffee Time at Friendship Village with Pastor Hojin



No Fellowship in April



Bless



Fellowship Servers

Thank you for signing up to serve fellowship!

April 5 Easter- Sue Carver, H & R Craven

April 12- Birthday/ Anniversary/ Sarah Circle & the Genesis Class

April 19-

April 26- 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



Job Foundation Store

Our "Job Store" for our middle school students is coming up this month and we are collecting items for the store! As a reminder to what this is: during a weekly middle school lesson students earn "Job Bucks" which is monopoly money for the following: participating in the lesson, being respectful to others, saying please & thank you, helping others, being kind and following instructions. These bucks are then spent at the end of the quarter at the Job Store. The students are really excited for this day thanks to all of you who have donated items to the store!

We need the following to help restock the store:

- Personal care products for girls/boys (middle school age)
- Little Debbie Snacks (the boxed share size)
- Fun Paper pads
- Art Supplies
- Makeup
- Beef Sticks/Jerky
- Craft Supplies
- Snack mixes large bag
- Hair accessories
- King Size candy (candy bars, gummies, etc)
- **Anything else a middle school student may enjoy
- Fake Fingernails/Nail Polish
- Bubble Gum
- *We will accept slightly used items.
- Basketballs/Footballs/Soccer balls/ Frisbees
- Board Games/Card Games
- Flashlights w/batteries
- Fun Pens
- Taki's Snacks...large bags



Altar Flowers
Memorize and occasion or a loved one with altar flowers
Sign-up in VonLackum Lounge
\$37



Order your Easter Flowers NOW!

The last day to order is March 30

Faith is Constant

John Wm. Roberts, ED.D.

We've just ended the season of Advent, heralding the birth of Our Blessed Savior, entered the season of Lent which signifies the suffering and commitment of Jesus' mission to the world. We reveled with family and friends during the season of giving; yet, for many this has been a season of intense reflection yielding feelings more of regret than joy. During Lent, many have suffered losses – great and small; tasks unfinished, goals unachieved, and problems unresolved.

Frank C. Huston wrote "O soul, weighed down with sorrow, beneath a heavy load, Remember God will help you, How ever rough the road. His grace is still sufficient, For ev'ry load of care. God ever loves His children, And He answers prayer. Keep on believing, God will answer prayer, Keep on believing, never despair; Tho' you be heavy laden, And burdened down with care, Remember God still loves you, And He answers prayer." Additionally, Ira F. Stanphill wrote "I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day. I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray, I don't worry o'er the future, for I know what Jesus said, And today, I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead. Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand; But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand."

We say and sing these words. Do we believe these words we say and sing? We have faith when we see a chair, knowing it will hold us as we sit; we have faith the home where we reside will protect us from the elements; we have faith the sun will rise each morning, yet we don't live our lives as though we know God will always do what He says. Faith is constant and consistent! Faith never wavers!. It is up to us to be consistent in our faith that God will always do what He promises.

When does our faith waver? When we're passed over for a promotion, when our acts of kindness to family and friends are unappreciated? When this happens, do feelings of being forsaken and loneliness sweep over us like waves on a restless sea? Matthew 28:20b reassures us of the constancy and consistency of God's presence in our lives..."and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Author Debbie Macomber says and I'm paraphrasing..."Loneliness comes not from the lack of company or praise. Loneliness come from a lack of purpose." God's purpose for each of us is to live a life of doing unto others as He has done unto us. God has faith that we would love one another as He loved us. If God's faith in our life's purpose is constant, our faith that His abiding love, guidance, grace and mercy should be constant. It should never be questioned. If this faith is never questioned and remains constant, it will never waver!



Herald Deadlines 2026		Herald Assembly 2026	
April 14	May 19	April 23	May 28
June 16	July 21	June 25	July 30
August 18	September 15	August 27	September 24
October 13	November 3	October 22	November 12
December 1		December 10	



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Use Script cards everyday...at the gas station, the grocery store, when you buy coffee, or go out to eat!

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

The App is up and running, invitations are giving us problems.

If you're interested in trying it out, please let Kristi know. (office@waterloofirst.org)



NORTHEAST IOWA
FOOD BANK

Volunteering at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank

April date to be announced

Contact Donna Brown if you're interested in volunteering.

Clothing Drive



April 18 is the date for the **Coalition's Spring Clothing Drive** from 9-11 a.m. at the **Royal Legacy Christian Academy** (old Sacred Heart gym). Please start collecting clothing and bedding. It is recommended that bedding be labeled according to size. Donations can be dropped off at Sacred Heart the week of April 12. Specific dates/times will be announced later.



Excerpts from the
ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM MEETING REPORTS

March 16, 2026

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

Leading – Pastor Hojin Reports/Conversation/Action

Pastor Hojin has participated in the following events since the last meeting:

- Ash Wednesday Service with Potluck
- Lent Worship Series - What We Believe
- Sacrament Blessings - Linden, St. Paul's
- Team Waterloo First
- Staff Meeting
- Council on Finance & Administration meeting (IA Conference)
- Easter Letter Sent Out
- NCJ Board Meeting
- Child Baptism Class
- Worship Committee

Committee Reports

Finance – Monthly financials were e-mailed for review.

- Pledges are at \$203,000 with 58 pledge units. Creative Planning (Bergan) has changed the format of the financial reports listing accounts alphabetically rather than by account numbers. WFUMC is fortunate to receive allowable funds from the Foundation. These funds are being reported under the non-pledged account. This support has allowed three apportionments to be paid.
- Gary Brown, Jeff Foulk, and Kris Stewart have been working diligently on many software changes being made through the financial institution. They will determine if changes are needed, keeping in mind that an outside set of eyes is preferable.
- There is concern that during the change from VPN Fiber to Waterloo Fiber that the timing of the notification for separation was not adequate. Negotiations are underway to resolve the concern.

Foundation

Current balance is \$593,214.79 with disbursements of \$13,433.46.

Matthew 25 – Continues to be very active.

Food Nook- In February 80 households were served and so far in March 69 households, with 1665# and 1850# of food distributed respectively.

Community Learning Collaborative The Collaborative sponsored two showings of the documentary, Join or Die. The film's premise is humans need a social community to help sustain them and without these communities, humans are more likely to die. The message may be included for the adult Sunday School classes.

Habitat for Humanity Women's Build- The cost to sponsor the "Women's Build" day project experience has significantly

(Continued on page 9)

increased from last year. The Women's build participants would like to be able to attend the Breakfast. WFUMC will sponsor our ladies' team at the \$500 level to include breakfast. The builders will sign up to work on a regular Heartland Habitat project during the year.

The Job Foundation- The Job Foundation operates a "Job Store" for its middle school students who earn "Job Bucks". Donations of snacks, art and craft items, card or board games, hair accessories, etc. can be placed in the box in Von Lackum Lounge.

Partner in Education (P.I.E.) with Irving Elementary- Irving Elementary was recognized as one of the top schools in the country for its 3rd Grade reading scores (with economic levels factored in). Snacks, OR cards of encouragement for students when they take the Iowa Statewide Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP) tests are needed. The school is very grateful for the snacks WFUMC already has donated. The deadline for all donations is March 25th. Irving Elementary is collecting Hy-Vee receipts and Box Tops for Education until mid-April. Pen Pal letters need to be returned to the church office by Tuesday, March 24th.. 10% Easter offering Ten percent of our Easter offering will go to House of Hope in Waterloo. Church Row Coalition The Coalition is sponsoring a spring clothing give-away on April 18th at the Royal Legacy Christian Academy gym (formerly Sacred Heart Church). Donations can be dropped off at the Academy gym in the week of April 12th. Northeast Iowa Food Bank The NEIFB is hosting its Empty Bowls fundraiser on Friday, March 27th, The NEIFB's mission to ensure everyone has access to food. World Grace Project Proceeds from the bake sale at the No Kings Rally on Saturday, March 28th, will go to the World Grace Project.

Memorials –\$177.17 from Mary King's memorial fund was used to replace the plexiglass on the Altar.

Nominations and Leadership Development- The group reviewed the Ad Team job description. Wording of the meeting frequency will be adjusted to match current practice which is more than quarterly which is required by the book of discipline.

SPRC

- Annual staff reviews will begin soon and may be completed by May.
- Will begin the search for an organist, who are hard to come by a. Sue Feltman will play one Sunday per month in the interim. b. John will continue to play keyboards and has been filling in for Emily in her absence. We are thankful for his willingness to serve!
- Pastor Hojin has a scheduled sabbatical from April 6th through May 4th. Guest preachers have been confirmed.

Technology

- A new microphone for the piano and new headsets have been ordered from Maximum Sight & Sound for the wireless, personal mics. New transmitters will not be needed.
- Monies donated will be used for new cords and microphone stands.
- The current assisted hearing devices will continue to work. For those with hearing aids, there is a possible option to use the blue tooth connection with a system called Auracast, a broadcasting feature, which will connect directly to individual's hearing aids through the sound system.

Trustees

- Service Roofing has completed installing gutters on the entry way from the alley.
- Koch construction will look at plaster repair in the sanctuary. Would like that completed before making a decision on the carpet.

(Continued from page 9)

· Looking at door closure timing to ensure code is met.

Worship Committee • 3/22 Communion, UWF to present prayer and call to self-denial • 3/29 Palm Sunday, communion • 4/2 Maundy Thursday-5:30 Potluck, 6:30 Service • 4/3 Good Friday-Service at 6:00 • 4/5 Easter- Easter egg hunt at 9:00 • 4/12 Dave Senchina to give message • 4/19 John Roberts 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 • 5/17 Graduation Sunday, Noisy coins • 5/24 Baptism

· 5/31 Camp Sunday & breakfast potluck

United Women in Faith – Nine members met at Sally Thurman’s in March. Planning dinner out in May with our District Officer Shepherdess, who is from Cedar Falls

Visitation- Going well

Next Meeting is scheduled for 4/16/26 at 6:00

Respectfully Submitted, Arlene Wright Recording Secretary



3- Callista Clark	23- Atiana Harmon	
Arlene Wright	Ryan Rikkels	
4- Ben Bockenstedt	24- Jack Locke	
6- Bonnie Humble	25- Kaylissa Arndorfer	
10- Randy Walker	28- Don Faris	
11- Chris Dean	29- Gloria Lee	
13- Ollie Thurman	30- Scott Cooley	
15- Chuck Mattson	Jill McCool	
Mary Ellen Warren		
17- Miles Forsberg		
Sandra Warren		
		5- Randy & Ann Walker 39
		15- Eric & Shasta Locke 19
		22- Brian & Kim Butz 30

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal	2 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:15 pm– Partners in Education at Irving Elementary 5:30 pm– Potluck 6:30 pm– Worship	3 6:00 pm– Worship 7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	4 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15
5 9:00 am– Easter Egg Hunt 9:30 am– Worship/ Communion 10:30 am– Fellowship	6	7 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee	8 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	9 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:30 pm– Sarah Circle at Amy Anderson	10 7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	11 10:00 am– Food Nook 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public
12 9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School 12:00 pm– Lunch at Le Christophers 12:00 pm– Church Row Coalition Mtg.	13 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead 6:00 pm– Trustees	14 Herald Deadline 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee 12:00 pm– Team Waterloo First Meeting	15 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead And Staying Ahead 6:00 pm– Ad Team	17 7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	18 8:00 am– UMM 9:30 am– Church Row Neighborhood Assoc. Mtg. 9:00 am– Spring Clothing Drive 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15
19 9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School	20 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead	21 10:00 am– Church Row Prayer Walk & Coffee	22 9:00 am– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal	23 9:30 am– Food Nook 9:30 am– Herald Assembly 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead	24 7:00 pm– Worship on Waterloo Public Access 17	25 3:00 pm– Worship on CF Public Access Chanel 15 7:00 pm– Trivia Night
26 9:30 am– Worship 10:30 am– Fellowship 10:45 pm– Sunday School 1:30 pm– NE District Conference @ CF FUMC	27 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead	28 12:00 pm– Waterloo First Team Mtg.	29 5:45 pm– Golden Bell Rehearsal 7:00 pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal	30 9:30 am– Food Nook 4:00 pm– Getting Ahead		



2026 easter FLOWERS

Help decorate the sanctuary this glorious Easter. Please have your orders in by Monday, March 30th, 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.

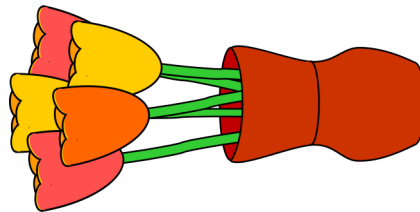
Thank You!!



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Lenten Altars



“What We Believe”



Upper left:

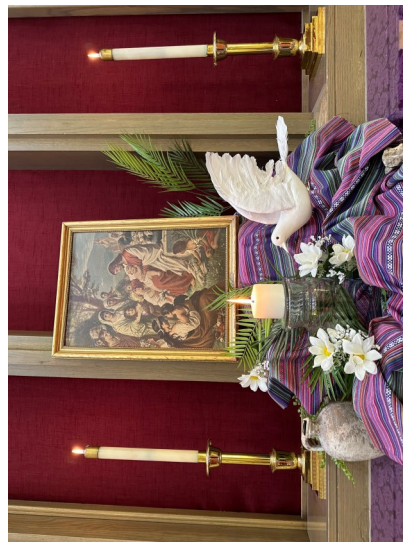
“I Believe in the Holy Spirit”

Upper right:

“I Believe in Jesus Christ”

Left:

“I Believe We Belong”



Right:

“I Believe in Forgiveness”



women build

It is Habitat for Humanity's Women Build time again. We are so fortunate to have Habitat concentrating on the Walnut neighborhood, and Church Row-our neighborhood. Habitat has changed it amounts to be able to have a team work on a project alone, but our enthusiastic crew still wants to volunteer, and attend the Habitat breakfast. Some of you have already donated to Habitat through Matthew 25. Please donate so that the willing and able crew from our church can volunteer together.



The money collected for **WHO** is greatly appreciated. We continue to help people keep their utilities on. 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 ___ WHO

___ General Budget ___ Women Build

___ Capital Improvement