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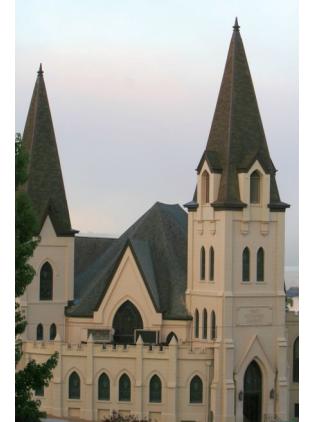
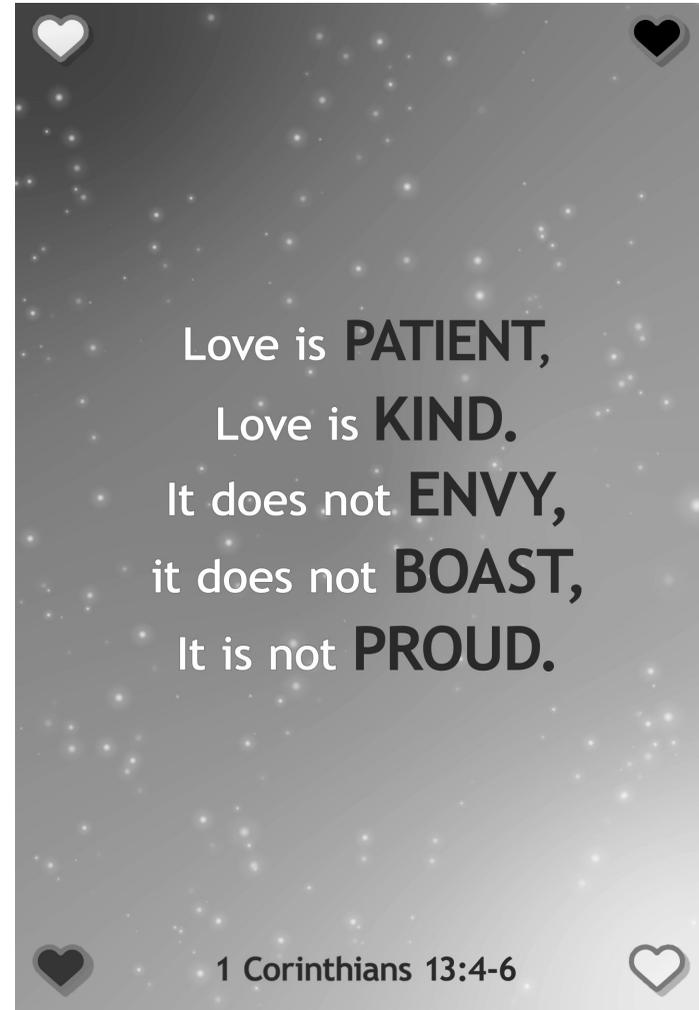
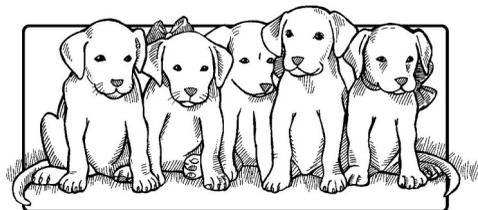


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First United Methodist
Church
202 E. Fourth St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501

Heartland Humane Society Annual Soup Supper, **Friday, February 16th in FUMC's Fellowship Hall, 5:00-7:00 pm.** Serving several soups, relish, cornbread, home-made desserts and drink!

Tickets are \$7.00 and are available at the door. Carryout is available. All proceeds benefit Heartland Humane Society. Any questions, please call Jean Sporer at 682-9777.



Church Staff:

- Jon Disburg
Pastor
- Julie Vose
Office & Finance
- Michael Philipsen
Director of Music
- Anthony Navarro
Custodian

Staff may be contacted at the church or through the church's email.

First United Methodist Church
202 E. Fourth St.
Ottumwa, IA 52501
Office: (641) 684-5451 or 684-5452
FAX: (641) 684-8052

E-mail: fumcott@gmail.com
Pastor's Cell Phone: (641) 680-7464

Julie's office hours vary. Please call ahead if you need to see her.



A Unique Lent/Easter

If you haven't looked ahead, you may be surprised to learn that Ash Wednesday is February 14 (also known as Valentine's Day) and Easter is on April 1 (also known as April Fools' Day)! If you can't remember this ever happening before it's because this is the first time it's happened since 1945 – 73 years ago.

I'm not sure there's any secret meaning in this coincidence, but an event that has happened only two other times in over 300 years seems noteworthy. This unique confluence of secular and sacred calendars is dependent upon one thing... the moon. In order for this to happen, the first full moon after the first day of spring must be on March 31 and that March 31 must be a Saturday...oh, and it can't be a leap year.

This astronomical/liturgical convergences like this one may also be a "nudge" from the Creator of the Universe reminding us that each and every day is a gift. We take for granted the fact that tomorrow will always be there for us. But the Lenten journey to the empty tomb of Easter begins with Ash Wednesday, a day in which we're all reminded: "Dust you are and to dust you shall return."

Lent is our yearly reminder that our spiritual health needs tending every bit as much as our physical health. I invite you to make this Lenten season as unique as our calendar this year. If worship isn't a part of your weekly routine, commit to weekly worship from Valentine's Day through April Fools; Day. Perhaps add some devotional readings to your daily life (devotional guides will be available on Feb. 18). God's gifts are many, varied and paradoxical: earthly life is finite, but God's salvation is eternal; losing life is gaining it; blessing is found in mourning and being poor in spirit.

I think the paradox of remembering our mortality on Valentine's Day and celebrating an empty tomb on the day that has, for centuries, been set aside for pranks is God winking at us and saying, "It's all grace...it's all love...enjoy!"

Oh, and I know at least one person is wondering when....The answer is 2029...and then not again for over 100 years.

MISSIONS UPDATE

A big THANK YOU to our United Methodist Women for their very generous donations to FUMC at the end of the year! Their donations are designated for:

- Elementary School Book Fairs
- Elder Fund
- Good Samaritan Fund
- UMCOR



Also, proceeds from our 2017 Fall Festival have been designated for:

- Elementary School Book Fairs
- Justice for our Neighbors
- Women at the Well
- 2018 Vacation Bible School
- Missions Fund
- UMCOR

Richard and Crystal James will be returning to Haiti February 12-27 with Team Iowa Haitian Christian Missions. Crystal will teach in orphanages and Sunday School, plus other outreach, and Richard will be building and rehabbing earthquake and hurricane damaged homes, and other outreach.

Richard and Crystal have appreciated FUMC's support and prayers for past trips! If you are interested in supporting them for this upcoming trip, a suitcase has been placed on the Missions table in Fellowship Hall for any donated items. Any items that you donate that they can transport to the Haitian people are much appreciated! If you wish to give monetarily, please make your check to FUMC and note "Haiti Trip" and we will pass it on them.

To My Church Family:

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the many expressions of kindness and support, the many cards, calls, gifts, food, and especially the thoughtful visits during and following my surgery. Because of you, I have experienced what might have been a nightmare, as a series of joys and blessings! I treasure my prayer shawl. It's gorgeous! And to those who gathered to pray for me, never question the powerful effects of such a generous act. I went into surgery feeling calm and strong. I knew I was in good hands. Our church family is amazing and God is Good, all the time!

Love and hugs, Peg



Ash Wednesday is February 14th! The service is at 6:00 pm and will feature our Chancel Choir and, of course, the imposition of ashes.

FUMC will host the community Lenten Service and Soup Supper on March 13th. All services are open to the public! Attend any or all, and invite a friend!



- February 20: Davis Street Christian Church
- February 27: First Presbyterian Church
- March 6: Bethany Baptist-Church of the Brethren
- March 13: First United Methodist Church
- March 20: Willard St United Methodist Church
-
- Soup Supper: 5:15 PM
- Worship Service: 6:30 PM

Sponsored by the Ottumwa Fellowship of Pastors.

REHAB Lenten Worship Series - February 18 – March 18

Rehab is a word that can refer to many different things. You can rehab your home from disrepair, your body from injury, or your mind from addiction. In general, the word *rehabilitate* means to restore to a condition of good health, ability to work; to restore to good condition or operation; or to restore a person's reputation.

Similarly, the annual observance of the Lenten discipline among Christians is a time to seek restoration for our lives. It is a time to reflect, take stock of our spiritual condition, and realign our lives.

There is much to consider on our Lenten journey this year within the frame of rehab, much to explore, much to learn. But the core of the learning in rehab, like the core of the learning in Lent, isn't cognitive. It's behavioral. In rehab, we learn how to live differently, to set a "new normal" for ourselves and our relationships after a period of time or perhaps a crisis has made it clear to us it is impossible to live as we had before.



United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Saturday, February 17th

8:00 to 9:00 a.m

At Country Kitchen

Join men from all 3 United Methodist churches for a meal and Bible Study!

Sunday Schedule: 9:00 Sunday School
 10:00 Fellowship Time
 10:30 Worship Service

February 2018

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

Please see page 6 for the schedule of community
 Lenten Meals & Services!

1 2 3
 10:00-2:00 Quilting

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1:00-4:30
 Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall
 Reserved

9:30 Women's Bible
 Study

10:00 Prayer Shawl
 Work Session
 6:00 PEO Meeting

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Blessings Meal Prep
 and Service
 9:30 Women's Bible

6:30 Boy Scouts



6:00 Ash Wednesday

10:00-2:00 Quilting

Kitchen in use all day
 5-7 Heartland Humane
 Soup Supper in FH
 See Page 8

8:00 Men's Breakfast @
 Country Kitchen

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

6:30 Ministry Council
 6:30 Boy Scouts

6:30 Choir Rehearsal

25 26 27 28

6:30 Boy Scouts

6:30 Choir Rehearsal



TOWN HALL MEETINGS
 9 a.m. in Fellowship Hall