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

**Looking Ahead...**

**Summer Worship @ 1st Church**

June 3: Communion

June 10: Guest Preacher: Nancy Cameron

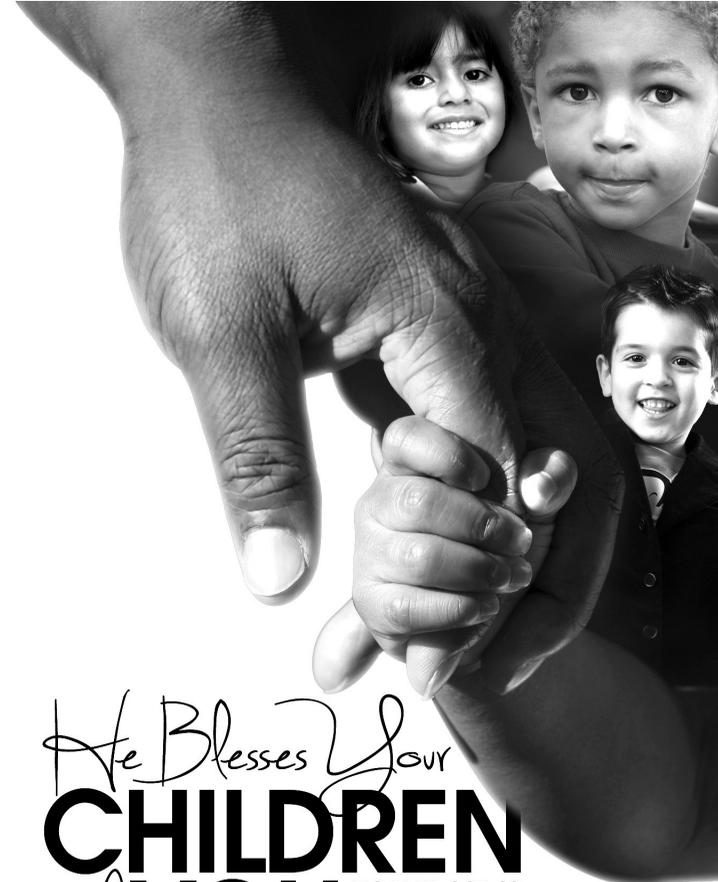
June 17: Guest Preacher: Pastor Leila Disburg

June 24: 10 am joint worship @ Wesley UMC

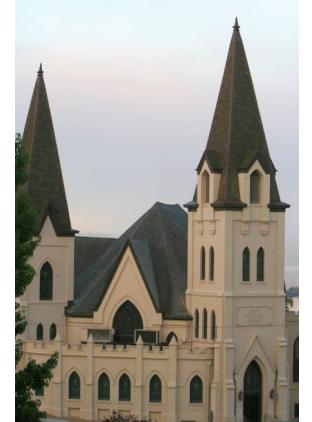
July 1: Guest Preacher: Pastor Leila Disburg

July 8: Service planned/led by Prayer Team; Guest Preacher: Diane Jorgensen

July 15: 10 am joint worship @ Willard St. UMC



He Blesses Your  
**CHILDREN**  
Within **YOU** PSALM 147:13



**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](mailto:fumcott@gmail.com)  
Website: [ottumwafirstumc.org](http://ottumwafirstumc.org)

Pastor's Cell Phone: (641) 680-7464  
Church Office Hours: 9-12:00 T-F

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



How to Be a Reckless Christian

- Always be vulnerable and honest and never pretend to be something you're not so that others won't have to pretend to be something they're not when they're with you.
- Ask and search out questions that don't have easy answers, or, perhaps, have no answer at all and you'll learn to trust God in your unknowing.
- Never be embarrassed to try something new, something creative, something mystical or something that reveals your faith.
- Worship with passion, with abandon and with the expectation that Christ can and will transform you.
- Speak kindly about people you don't like or with whom you disagree and you'll realize that compassion isn't received unless it is first given.
- Learn a new praise song or hymn. Read a book in the Bible that you've avoided or never read. Offer to pray at a gathering or study.
- Risk popularity to take a faith stand and you'll find that faithfulness and integrity outlive popularity.
- Share your faith goals with another person and ask them to hold you accountable.
- Listen for God's voice with as much desire as you hope God has when listening to yours.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jon

[This article was inspired by Cory Asbury's praise song, "Reckless Love." You can hear the song and view the video on youtube.com by searching the title.]

MISSIONS UPDATE

We will be collecting donations in June again this year for COATS FOR KIDS to help the Rotary Club purchase coats for children in our school area. They are in need of 402 coats this year. Your donations to this worthwhile cause will be a blessing to both you and the children!

In May FUMC sponsored book fairs at 2 north side schools, Wilson and James, and one south side school, Douma. This included about 800 students! Funds were received from the profits of the Second Hand Rose shop, the Fall Bizarre, United Methodist Women, and personal donations from our congregation. Thank you so much for giving to help a child read!

Please take time to look at the missions bulletin board in Fellowship Hall to see the THANK YOUS sent to us from the schools!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL PLANNING IS UNDERWAY!!

Our 2018 VBS will be held at FUMC with Willard Street UMC and Davis Street Christian Church! The theme is ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE and will be held from 5:15 to 8:00 pm each of the following dates:

- Tuesday: July 24
- Thursday: July 26
- Tuesday: July 31
- Thursday: August 2



Be in prayer about how YOU can participate! We will need decorating help, group guides and other positions, and inviting and bringing children!

Materials needed at this time: Small Square or Rectangular Aluminum Pans (8 , 9, or 10 inches) and any size BLUE plastic table coverings.

There will be an Ice Cream Social and VBS Registration on Sunday, July 22 from 5 pm - 6 pm @ FUMC.

More information will be given as it gets closer!

## 2018 Annual Conference

The Iowa Annual Conference session will be held in Des Moines from Saturday morning, June 9 to Monday afternoon, June 11. The 175<sup>th</sup> annual yearly meeting will feature powerful preaching, inspiring singing, informative teaching sessions, vital reporting, and the reconnection of fellow United Methodists from across the state.

Bishop Laurie Haller and other conference leaders have established the theme, "Creating Difference Makers in New Communities of Faith." Clergy and laity will leave the conference having been encouraged to ensure each congregation sees itself as making a difference in our communities.

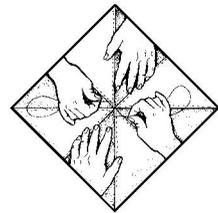
Attending from First United Methodist Church are Pastor Jon Disburg as clergy member and Michael Philipsen as lay member. Also attending will be Marva Philipsen as a lay equalization member. Lay equalization members are selected by the District Superintendent to ensure that the number of laity is equal to the number of clergy attending from the District (several retired clergy attend and must be "equalized" by lay persons). Please pray for our members attending the Annual Conference session. **You may view the conference on a live stream at [iaumc.org](http://iaumc.org).**

The Commission on a Way Forward will have given its final report to the Council of Bishops in an April/May meeting in Chicago. There will be a panel discussion about their report on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. that you may view on the live stream.

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### Our quilting group is in need of bed sheets for backing on their projects!

- ~Clean
- ~Gently used or new
- ~No holes or stains
- ~Flat, not fitted
- ~Prefer Queen or King size
- ~Prefer plain



Please leave them in Fellowship Hall or the quilting room. If you have any questions, please see Diane Jorgensen. **THANK YOU!!**

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Please consider being part of the Kids' Sunday School teaching rotation! We have lots of teaching material available and you will have just as much fun as the kids with the games and activities! Please talk to Kristi Meyers or Mary Jo Helgerson if you are interesting in taking a turn!

## Summer Reading Ideas

Here are some suggestions for your summer reading list that may enhance your spiritual growth.

What Is the Bible? by Rob Bell - How an ancient book can transform the way you think and feel about everything.

Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road? by Brian McLaren - Christian identity in a multi-faith world.

Vital Merger: A New Church Start Approach that Joins Church Families Together by Dirk Elliot - Pastor Jon has a few copies for borrowing.

-Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again by Rachel Held Evans - learning to be like Jacob and wrestle with the mystery until God gives us a blessing.

Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To: Spirituality without Stereotypes, Religion without Rants by Lillian Daniel. Nationally known pastor/author reminds us how we talk about Christian community matters. The Rev. Dr. Daniels pastors a church in Dubuque, IA.

The Very Worst Missionary: A Memoir or Whatever by Jamie Wright - an offbeat and hilarious memoir of faith lost and found again.

And, here are some Christian classics, if you haven't read them already.

In His Steps by Charles Monroe Sheldon.

The Cost of Discipleship by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis.

My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers.

Holy the Firm by Annie Dillard.

The God Who Is There by Francis Schaeffer

Stride Toward Freedom by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire by Jim Cymbala.