



Circuit Rider

April 2022

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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My Friends, ever closer to Easter we go. Consider:

According to Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is Pride.

Unchastity, anger, greed, drunkenness, and all that are mere fleabites in comparison: it was through Pride that the devil became the devil: Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind.

Does this seem exaggerated? If so, think it over. I pointed out a moment ago that the more pride one had, the more one disliked pride in others. In fact, if you want to find out how proud you are, the easiest way is to ask yourself, "How much do I dislike it when other people snub me, or refuse to take any notice of me, or shove their oar in, or patronize me, or show off?" The point is that each person's pride is in competition with every else's pride. It is because I wanted to be the big noise at the party that I am so annoyed at someone else being the big noise. Two of a trade never agree. Now what you want to get clear is that Pride is essentially competitive-is competitive by its very nature-while the other vices are competitive only, so to speak, by accident. Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man. We say that people are proud of being rich, or clever, or good-looking, but they are not. They are proud of being richer, or cleverer, or better-looking than others. If every else became equally rich, or clever, or good-looking, there would be nothing to be proud about. It is the comparison that makes you proud: the pleasure being above the rest. Once the element of competition has gone, pride has gone. That is why I say that Pride is essentially competitive in a way the other vices are not. The sexual impulse may drive two men into competition if they both want the same girl. But that is only by accident; they might just as likely have wanted two different girls. But a proud man will take your girl from you, not because he wants her, but just to prove to himself that he is a better man than you. Greed may drive men into competition if there is not enough to go round; but the proud man, even when he has got more than he can possibly want, will try to get still more just to assert his power. Nearly all those evils in the world which people put down to greed or selfishness are really far more the result of Pride. -From Mere Christianity by C.S. Lewis

As we step into Palm Sunday and Holy Week and look to Easter,
Rise in Hope my friends. Rise in Love!

Shalom

Ken



The Circuit Rider



Music Ministry

Worship Schedule

April 2—Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 26:14-27-27:66

Games of the Mind -Pastor Ken

April 6 —Maundy Thursday 7PM

A New Day -Pastor Ken

April 9—Easter Sunday

7AM & 9:30AM

Scripture: John 20:1-18

Matthew 28:1-10

A New Narrative -Pastor Ken

April 16

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Thomas Days- Pastor Ken

April 23

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

On the Road Again -Pastor Ken

April 30

Scripture: John 10:1-10

Doors and Gates -Pastor Ken

Did you know that our most famous Easter hymn, “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”, was written by our founder, Charles Wesley? He wrote it in 1739 for the inaugural service at the Foundry Meeting House, London’s first Wesleyan chapel.



Originally, it did not have the alleluias at the end of each line. They were later added to make the tune better fit the melody.

Last month, I wrote about how other Christian groups keep the alleluia out of their Lenten liturgies. This made Easter even more exciting to sing the proclamations! Early Christians began greeting each other on Easter with a call and response of: “Alleluia! He is risen!”; “Alleluia! He is risen indeed!” Alleluia is meant to convey emphatic joy, thanksgiving, and triumph.

Holy Week is full of musical selections! We will begin April 2nd on Palm Sunday with the Sunday School children singing “Hosanna to the King” with the Chancel Choir. It has been fun to teach them their portion. Last week after second service, the two groups rehearsed together. The Holy Thursday service will feature quieter, more minor sounding musical selections to set the tone for the reflective time. Easter Sunday will begin early at 7:00 a.m. with our first service where the choir will present “The Lord is Risen”. Not to worry if 7:00 isn’t your thing – we will also sing at the second service. The following week will feature the Bell Choir. So much great music!

Wishing everyone a great start to Spring as the weather warms and the promise of Easter is just around the corner!

Angie



MARCH WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	8:00 AM	9:30 AM	Total
March 5	38	53	91
March 12	35	25	60
March 19	32	47	79
March 26	30	101	131



2023-Holy Week Schedule

April 2	Palm Sunday	8:00 & 9:30 AM	
April 6	Maundy Thursday	7:00 PM (Worship)	
April 7	Good Friday		
April 9	Easter	7:00 AM	Sunrise Worship
		8:00 AM	Easter Breakfast
		9:30 AM	Worship



...”and very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, “Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back” ... already been rolled back..

What is Maundy Thursday?

Maundy Thursday is an alternate name for Holy Thursday, the first of the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. The English word "Maundy" comes from the Latin *mandatum*, which means "commandment."

As recorded in John's gospel, on his last night before his betrayal and arrest, Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and then gave them a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34).

This is why services on this night generally include the washing of feet or other acts of physical care as an integral part of the celebration.

While John's gospel does not record the institution of the Lord's Supper among the events of this night, the other gospels do. This is why Christians have traditionally observed this night both at the basin (foot washing) and at the Lord's Table (Holy Communion).



EASTER BREAKFAST CAMP FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, APRIL 9th



Join us for our Annual Easter Breakfast Easter Sunday at 8:00 AM. Donations from this event will go towards the Camp Fund providing scholarships to SUMC Youth for Summer Camp! Enjoy breakfast after our Sunrise Service or come eat before 9:30 AM worship.

Bake goods donations for the breakfast may be dropped off to the serving island in Fellowship Hall on Friday or on Sunday morning before 8AM.

SUMC's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 5TH
AT 6:15 PM**

**WHERE: GREEN SPACE IN
FRONT OF THE FLC**

This event is for children fourth grade and younger.

Christian Education Update

We wanted to provide the congregation with an update regarding the Christian Education Director position here at SUMC. Please see below.

Due to Pastor Ken's retirement, and the fact that we will be welcoming a new Pastor, hiring for the Christian Education Director position has been put on hold until we find out who our new Pastor will be.

We want to ensure that the new Pastor, and whoever is hired for the C.E. Director position, have a congruent vision for Christian Education here at SUMC. We would like our new Pastor to be involved in both the vision and hiring process.



Confirmation Sunday—March 26th 2023

For the past several months, a fine group of young adults has stepped forward to learn more and confirm their faith in Christ. at the 9:30 service on March 26th, supported by their family, friends, and the SUMC congregation we celebrated a newly baptized member and confirmed members to SUMC.

With Phil Kakacek and Carol Richards, the confirmands met weekly reading, learning, reflecting, and sharing using the "Confirm" study guide. This United Methodist Confirmation study allowed learners to identify their spiritual journey, look through the history of their Christian faith, develop a credo for themselves, and recognize how they may be called now and in the future to follow, serve, and continue allowing the trinity to lead them through life's journey.

Through the process, confirmands shared what they learned.

"Jesus, God, and the Holy Spirit play a very important role in my life."

"I learned many different ways to pray"

"I learned about the quadrilateral."

"I learned how important Holy Spirit, God, and Jesus are."

"I learned how to welcome Jesus into my life every day."

"I strengthened my relationship with Christ."

"I learned how to pray."

Jackie Arrowhead
Luke Deike
Grant Gordon
Brynn Haugland
Audrey Howell
Piper Johnson
Tanner Kerkove
Carver Ludvigson
Tess Richards



Thank you to
Carol Richards and
Phil Kakacek for
leading Confirmation
this year!

The confirmands were presented a certificate, a devotional reading book entitled "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas Kempis, and a compass inscribed with an inspirational Bible verse. Barb Kalm presented each confirmand the book she authored "Hallowed Ground". Following the service, all celebrated with cake and treats in the fellowship hall. If you see any of our new church family members, remember to congratulate them and support them as they continue their spiritual Christian walk.



**Baptism of Confirmand
Audrey Howell**

CAT Survey Update

Church council met with Ryan Christenson, Associate Director for Congregational Excellence for the Iowa Conference, on March 21 to review the results of our CAT report. This report is an in-depth look at the results of the 120 survey responses we received. It compiles our results and also compares them to other churches who have completed the CAT.

We will soon receive a much shorter and easier to understand summary of the report that will be shared with the congregation. Ryan will also return to Solon to present that summary to all interested and answer questions. More information will be available soon on that and also for how to review the complete results. We won't be distributing those to everyone due to the size of the report.

Thank you to everyone who completed the survey! Results far exceeded our expectations! Now the hard work begins. You've provided church leadership with your input and it will take EVERYONE to implement the plan that will be developed.

*Dave Weetman
Bill Musgrave
Sue Wilkinson*



Last Family Meal—Wednesday April 26th

ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 26TH AT 5:30 PM WE'LL HOST our Last Family Meal of the school year. It is tradition to hold a cookout on the Last Family **MEAL. WE'LL PLAN ON BURGERS AND HOTDOGS AND** hope for good weather so the kids can chalk in the parking lot and maybe we can even eat outside! Please consider joining in this wonderful event!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN SETTING UP, SERVING or tear down or would like to donate desserts, please see the clipboard!



Trustee Update

- The trustees committee wants to welcome Ruben Galvan as newest team member.
- We wish Al Hulse a full recovery from pneumonia while visiting relatives in Arizona!
- Steve Fisher repaired the upper ceiling area in the Fellowship Hall dining area.
- Mike Turner cleaned the water stains off the east stairwell wall masonry, second cleaning may be needed.
- Lindy Hopp ordered the parts and Phil Kakacek installed the pads/batteries on the two AED machines and tested both.
- Connie Railsback cleaned the FH kitchen, dining hall and narthex floors/entry doors.
- The kitchen stove was cleaned by Barb & Dolfi Kalm.
 - Stainless steel heat protection guards will be made and installed on both sides of the kitchen stove lead by Dolfi Kalm.
- The church council approved the renovation of the FH kitchen island presented by Barb Kalm, design by Barb Messer.
- Kris Kucera assisted with proper on-line WIFI install of the FLC gym thermostat along with Lindy Hopp.
- Congrats to Mike Turner for coordinating a successful church soup supper.

Big thank you's go out to all mentioned above for their leadership of the work activities outlined above!

*Peace to all,
Paul Miller- Trustees Chairperson*



PE Scholarship Application Deadline April 15th

Permanent Endowment (PE) Scholarships

Did you know SUMC awards scholarships each year to HS Seniors who are going on to higher education. We encourage all of our HS Seniors to learn more and fill out an application by going to our website:

<https://vwtom.com/solonumc/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/03/PE-Scholarship-Application.pdf>



Deadline for submitting applications is April 15th, these can be filled out and emailed to the office, at soloniaumc@gmail.com or mailed to the church at 122 N West St, Solon IA 52333.

April Showers

We are once again holding our annual April Showers event for SUMC! Please see the list of items that the church could use and consider donating! There is a table in the Fellowship Hall to place donations.

Let's shower the church with these items to help aid in our mission!

Country Time Lemonade(powder)

Folgers Coffee

Paper Towels

Small paper plates

Napkins

Pens

Post It Notes

Stamps



SUMC Garden

The SUMC Vegetable garden has been a huge producer in years past! Our record for food production in one year is currently 1000 pounds! Wow!! All of the produce we grow is then donated to the Solon Food Pantry or to Solon Senior Citizens.

We are preparing for the upcoming planting season!

If you would like to help with the garden or have items to donate, please contact the church at soloniaumc@gmail.com. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out. Help is always welcome. We are looking ahead to the next steps to prepare the garden such as, planting the seeds and plants and adding straw around the plants to reduce the weeding. Then in late June thru September, picking the produce to give to the Food Pantry. Help is always welcome anytime whether you want to help one time or weekly.



Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains.

James 5:7



NEW Office Hours beginning in April

The church office will be open on
Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 8:00AM to Noon

This change will be both beneficial for the church and for our staff. Pastor Ken will still be in the office on Tuesdays. You can always email the office at soloniaumc@gmail.com as emails are checked remotely on a regular basis.

WOMEN IN FAITH (UMW)

UWF (UMW) will meet on April 5 at 1:30 pm in FH. We will have a speaker from Houses to Home; a fairly new non-profit in Johnson county. We welcome anyone in the congregation to come and learn about this organization. We are encouraged to bring donation items for this group; a list of accepted items is found on their website or contact Connie Railsback or Shirley Anderson for a list. Hostesses for the meeting are Coleen and Julie. Verlee and Shirley will be providing cookies for Bingo at the Care Center on April 20.

Questions? Contact Shirley (319-541-0732) or Barb (319-321-4078).



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We continue to meet at Fellowship Hall Saturday mornings at 6:00 AM. Join us!

Interested? - call Mike Turner at (319) 624-2061.

Understanding God's Love

Take a moment to take in a little explanation and story explaining how pure God's love for us is. He is ALWAYS with us. He will ALWAYS love us.

Here's what we need to understand. Our choices do matter. What kind of person I become does matter. My moral conduct does affect other people, and therefore it affects God. It's up to me to choose what sort of person I shall be, but God has decided to bet on me, as it were, to pay the price which that entails. If I make the wrong choice, it will affect not only me and my friends and love ones. It will affect God.

Leslie Weatherhead tells in one of his books about a young man living in Scotland, who got off on the wrong track. Although he'd been a good boy through his teen years, he'd fallen in with the wrong crowd. Before long, the boy had begun to drink too much, to stay out until very late hours, and to show no inclination to become a responsible adult. His parents were patient, but as every mother and father will know, their pain was deep.

One night the boy stumbled home, obviously having had way too much to drink. He ignored his parents, staggered up the stairs and disappeared into his room. For a time the parents sat before the hearth fire in silence. Finally, Mother got up and left the room. After a time, Dad, concerned for his wife, went upstairs and peeked in his son's room. The boy lay sound asleep on his bed. As the father watched, his wife, who was sitting quietly nearby, leaned over and gently kissed her son's cheek. When she looked up and saw her husband, she whispered: "I'm sorry. He won't let me do this when he's awake."

So it is: a parent's pain.

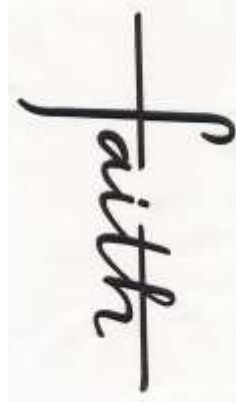
The eternal hope of a change, an awakening of the spirit. A love which endures and never turns away. A willingness to suffer what pain is necessary to be faithful, to hope that tomorrow will be different, that the suffering is not in vain. So with the love of a devoted mother. So with the love of God.



Prayers and Celebrations

In Our Prayers

Bruce who has stage 4 cancer.
 Ukraine and Russia war.
 Kelly and Phillip who are dealing with an enormous amount of stress.
 Al Hulse who is battling Pneumonia.
 Logan Wolf as he recovers from a snowmobile accident.
 Jake as he recovers from an organ transplant.
 Clay who has stage 4 cancer.
 Gary Mechtensteimer who was recently hospitalized and is doing rehabilitation.
 Travel mercies for sports teams and their families.
 Solon Archery and Solon Basketball teams.
 Connie, who is entering hospice.
 Sarah and family.
 Natalie who is recovering from knee surgery.
 Melody Morris, prayers for healing.
 All the spring break travelers.
 Tim, who is facing health issues.
 Ray, who is recovering from triple bypass surgery.
 Harry, following the sudden death of his wife.
 Rocco and Janelle as they face a cancer battle.
 All who are affected by cancer.



Rejoices & Thanksgiving

Thanks to the Confirmands for helping with worship!
 Joys for the wonderful signs of spring—birds chirping and outdoor activities!
 Happy Birthday wishes to Wilbur Erhart!
 Health, Family, and Friends.
 Congratulation Confirmands!
 Congratulations to the Hawker Family on the baptism of Krew Michael.
 Congrats to Barb & Dolfi Kalm as they celebrated their 61st wedding Anniversary!



Prayer Requests

The SUMC family wants to support and encourage you throughout your time of need. If you have a prayer request, please fill out the Prayer Request Card located in the pew and place it in the offering plate during worship. If you would like to add your prayer request to our church-wide prayer chain, please call the church office at (319) 624-2288, or email us with your request.

April Birthdays

Kruse, Keenan	04/01
Telecky, Jim	04/01
Whitfield, Erin	04/04
Vollbrecht, Emma	04/04
Ranard, Ben	04/06
Evans, Lance	04/07
Stiegelmeier, Westen	04/07
Strang, Yvonne	04/08
Beasley, Airabella	04/12
Lewis, Elizabeth	04/14
Durr, Madison	04/18
Hanus, Lee	04/19
Hess, Terry	04/20
Miller, Austin	04/20
Lauderbaugh, Verlee	04/21
Pearl, Roma	04/22
Railsback, Ed	04/22
McPheron, Cassandra	04/23
Smith, Adam	04/25
Boggs, Cathy	04/26
Kerkove, Madison	04/26
Vollbrecht, Tanner	04/26
Kunkel, Kacie	04/28
Kunkel, Sydney	04/28



Do you have a birthday in this month but don't see your birthday listed? Contact the Church at 624-2288 or soloniaumc@gmail.com.

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ
for the transformation
of our world*

Rev. Ken Ferguson, Lead Minister
Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Director
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Mary Kucera, Director of Hand Bells
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian
Lisa Hilton, Security



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
8:00 & 9:30 AM—Worship
9:30 AM—Sunday School

Church Phone: (319) 624-2288
Address: 122 North West St., Solon, IA 52333

Website: www.soloniaumc.org
Facebook: Solon United Methodist Church—Iowa
Instagram: soloniaumc