



The CIRCUIT RIDER

OCTOBER 2024

In This Issue

- pg 1 Pastor's Message
- pg 2 Music Ministry
- pg 2 Worship Schedule/Attendance
- pg 3 SUMC Activities!
- pg 4 Christian Education
- pg 5 Rental Updates
- pg 6 Church & Society
- pg 6 Winter Clothing Drive
- pg 7 UWF & UMM
- pg 7 Whitfield Update
- pg 8 UWF Missions
- pg 9 Finance
- pg 9 Worship Volunteers
- pg 9 Family Meals
- pg 9 College/Military
- pg 10 Upcoming Events
- pg 11 Prayers & Joys
- pg 11 October Birthdays!

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

Halloween costumes and decorations appearing, pumpkins and apple cider, and pumpkin flavored everything are signs of October around us. In the church, the first Sunday of October is World Communion Sunday. We remember that it isn't just the people we know in this church gathering for communion, it is Christians of many countries and cultures all gathering for communion as a celebration of our connections in the Body of Christ.



We will also have a celebration of baptism in October, and the third graders will receive their Bibles! We welcome all ages in church, and we have expanded our Sunday school this fall to also include a class for 5th through 8th graders, and we are hoping to add a nursery and toddler room! In September Dee and I began leading a combination Confirmation Class and Middle School Youth Group for 6th through 8th graders. So we are adding more options for how all ages can grow in Christ.

But we don't stop growing as adults! For adults, Pastor Jill Mack leads a Bible study on Monday evenings at 5:30, and our adult Wesley Class, led by Phil Kakacek, meets on Sunday mornings at 10:20 in the lower level of the Family Life Center. We also offer other short term opportunities for study two or three times a year, and a short class series for those who wish to learn more about the United Methodist Church, following Jesus, and membership in this congregation.

Our worship in October will have the theme "Growth as Growing in Christ," which will also include our Stewardship Campaign. We will take the opportunity to celebrate the mission and ministry we are already doing, how those things are growing, and we will invite each other to make our financial and volunteer commitments to the mission and ministry we will be doing together as a church in 2025.

The theme scripture is Ephesians 4:15-16, "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." We will hear testimonies from people in our congregation who have been nurtured by this part of the Body of Christ here in Solon, learn how they have grown in faith, and how they have grown in how they live out their faith in the world.

May we find new ways to encourage each other to grow in faith, and to be active disciples of Jesus Christ in the world!

Pastor Peggy



The Circuit Rider



MUSIC MINISTRY

Ahh, it's starting to feel like fall! We have a few leaves on the ground near our driveway which is thankfully covering the dead spots. It is all a part of the seasonality of things and our lives continue to change and evolve. So too, does our church music!

In October, we will be focusing on World Communion Sunday on October 6th. The Chancel Choir will be singing "O Taste and See" to reflect this theme. It's a great opportunity to reflect on our oneness as humans. Throughout the month we are also focusing on our giving to the church. I pulled an "oldie but a goodie" from our files for the choir to sing on the third Sunday. The lyrics are beautiful. Our congregation has such a warm heart. This piece reminds us of how much potential we have in this space!

*In this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us
And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us
And there's quite enough hope
And quite enough power
To chase away any gloom
For Jesus, Lord Jesus
Is in this very room*

*In this very room, there's quite enough love for all of us
And in this very room, there's quite enough joy for all of us
And there's quite enough hope
And quite enough power
To chase away any gloom
For Jesus, Lord Jesus
Is in this very room*

*Yes, there's quite enough hope
And quite enough power
To chase away any gloom
For Jesus, Lord Jesus
Is in this very room
In this very room
In this very room
In this very room*



The second Sunday of October, the Celebration Bells will be performing. You won't want to miss it! Remember to sit closer to the front of the sanctuary to get a good seat to be able to see all the action!

Enjoy the beautiful fall leaves and this time of change and new beginnings.

'Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song
and sing praises! *Psalm 98:4*

Worship Attendance—September 2024

9:00AM

September 1	49
September 8	60
September 15	99
September 22	70

Worship
WITH US

Sunday Worship Schedule

October will Focus on Our
Stewardship Theme:
Growth Comes from
Growing in Christ

October 6-World Communion Day
Children Sing
Message : Preparing to Grow in
Christ
*Ephesians 4:5-16
Matthew 25:14-30*

October 13-Baptism
Message: *Growing Stronger in
Christ
Luke 2:41-52
Ephesians 4:1-7*

October 20-
3rd Grade Bible Presentations
Message: *Growing Fruit for Christ
Psalm 92:12-15
Acts 2:42-47*

October 27-Commitment Sunday
Message: *Committing to Grow in
Christ
Mark 4:1-9
Ephesians 4:15-16*

be still
and know that
I am God.
psalm 46:10

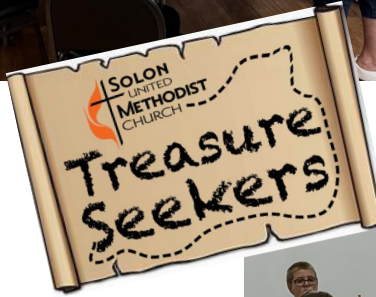
FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE GATHER IN MY NAME, THERE AM I WITH THEM. -MATTHEW 18:20



Children's Message



SUNDAY SCHOOL



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Here at church we have had a wonderful start to our school year. For those of you with students in school, I pray that you had a great start as well. It has been wonderful seeing all these young faces in church. As you know we now have two Sunday school classrooms and three youth groups. That shows how our church is supporting our students. Please be prayerful of the growing needs of our children's education program. We are exploring the possibility of adding a 3rd classroom/nursery to accommodate the needs of our families that have children three years of age and under! Just a reminder, our students will sing the first Sunday of every month. Come and hear our children sing during the children's message!

Our Pre-k through 4th grade class is learning all about Noah and how he followed God's instructions to save the animals and the people from the great flood! They have created rainbows out of yarn, a rainbow template, and cotton balls. During their second class they made an ark out of tasty snacks and animal crackers! Both classrooms are enjoying singing "Rise and Shine" (better known as the Noah's ark song) and the "Rainbow Song".

Our 5th grade-8th grade classroom is using the Bible to find answers to some tough questions they may have in their lives right now. The first Sunday they learned was about doubting God and how some people in the Bible doubted God as well. We talked about how to use the Bible, the church, and our friends to get us through some hard times. The class also learned about forgiveness. We discussed what the Bible said about forgiveness, how important it is to forgive someone, and how God forgives us as well. Our class has a special bulletin board downstairs that each week will have a new focus word and a scripture that will tie into the lesson for that week. They also get a mystery mission to take home with them to reinforce what they learned that week. Please reach out to these wonderful students about their bulletin board or their mystery missions! They have great insight on the lessons they are learning.

I want to thank everyone who has volunteered so far to help grow our program including our high schoolers that are stepping up to the plate. They have agreed to be our teacher's assistants in the younger classroom. We still need volunteers to help with our growing Sunday school program. Please contact me if you want to volunteer and help our young students on their journey as they learn more about God's love.

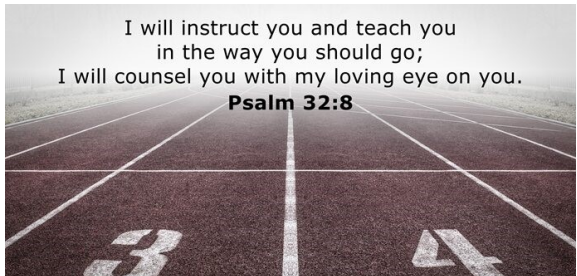
Our 3rd graders will be getting their Bibles on October 20th! If you know of any third graders please let either Pastor Peggy or myself know so we can order the Bibles. We will be holding a pizza party for the 3rd graders and their families. After lunch we will have fun activities so they can learn how to use their Bibles.

Our Treasure Seekers group started on September 11th! They are learning about how God created the earth through games, snacks, and activities. Our group is small this year. If you know of a student who is in kindergarten through 5th grade and would like to join or even try out this fun group, please contact me.

We have eight students attending our middle school youth group/confirmation class. They will be learning more about their faith journey, Christianity, and the Methodist church. Our students will have field trips to other faith communities, mission projects and fun activities throughout the school year. Each student will be assigned a mentor to help them through this journey. If you wish to be a mentor please contact either Pastor Peggy or myself.

As I reflect on the past couple of weeks, I see God working in so many different ways. I see families worshipping together, hearing children's voices during the Children's sermon, and volunteers saying we want to help our children in their faith's journey. May we continue to see how God is working in the education program as it continues to grow.

*Peace,
Dee*



I will instruct you and teach you
in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you.

Psalm 32:8

SUMC RENTALS UPDATE

There are some updates on rentals here at SUMC! The Trustees and Council have updated rental policies to allow rentals of the Fellowship Hall to church members, active constituents and non-profit groups at no charge! Rental Requests will still need to be made via our form, which can be accessed [HERE](#). Requests will need to be approved and added to the church calendar by the office administrator.

Family Life Center Rental rates are now \$40 per hour for sports rentals. The one time event fee for up to 3 hours of gym time for a reception or birthday party are \$50. Church members, and active constituents may receive a discounted rate at 50% of the normal fee for one time use rentals. Discounts will not be given for sports rentals. As is for Fellowship Hall rentals, FLC rentals must be requested by form to the Office Administrator during normal business hours, please plan accordingly. To submit your request via email, send to soloniaumc@gmail.com. All other requests may be done in person on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and Noon.

Some refreshers on rentals:

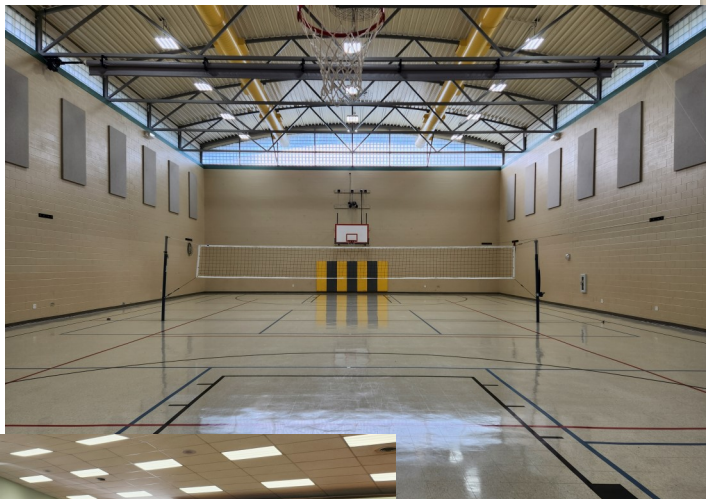
If using Fellowship Hall...

- trash must be taken out following your event
- chairs and table must be put back as you found them
- all areas need to be wiped down and swept
- keys will only be given if event is outside of our normal hours

If using the Family Life Center

- a key deposit of \$50 is required for ALL
- lights need to be turned off following your event
- doors need to be locked at the end of your rental
- any tables or chairs used need to be put back in their respective areas
- pickleball, volleyball and basketball equipment is available for use

We have such a wonderful space available. Let's make the best of it and respect it when used. We would love for you to consider hosting a practice, reception, meeting or birthday party here at SUMC!



CHURCH & SOCIETY

United Methodist General Board of Church and Society Condemns the Flagrant Lies and Hate Perpetrated Against Haitian Migrants

General Board of Church and Society September 16, 2024

(Excerpted statement)

Former President Donald J. Trump and Senator J.D. Vance (R-OH), along with other extreme conservative public figures, have made unfounded, racist statements claiming that Haitians from the immigrant community in Springfield, Ohio, are “stealing and eating pet dogs and cats from the residents who live there.” There have been no credible reports of pets being stolen, harmed, injured or abused by the Haitian community, according to Springfield city manager and the head of the Springfield police. This has proven to be a lie.

As a result of these false, egregious claims, the nearly 20,000 Haitians who legally live and work in Springfield have been harassed, threatened with bombs, and now fear for their lives.

The General Board of Church and Society and the General Commission on Religion and Race (GCORR) unequivocally condemn the flagrant lies and hate perpetrated against Haitian migrants. You can view the [General Board of Church and Society's full statement here](#). You can view [GCORR's statement here](#).

According to the United Methodist Social Principles, we “affirm the dignity, worth, and rights of migrants, immigrants, and refugees.” We further resolve, “as followers of Jesus, to eliminate racism and violence directed toward newly arriving migrants to the United States.”

Note from Pastor Peggy: I am deeply grieved at this and other racist statements that have been circulated in this election season. I pray that we as individuals and as the Solon UMC can find ways to reach out with support and positive messages to the immigrant community here in Solon and the Iowa City area. The United Women of Faith and the Treasure Seekers groups have already offered support to the Immigrant Welcome Network in Iowa City.

2024 WINTER CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

2024 Winter Clothing Distribution is being sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and the Iowa City Police Department. The United Women in Faith Group here at SUMC is sponsoring a collection drive to donate to this cause.

That means it's time to clean out your closets! Bring your donations to the church narthex by Monday, October 14, 8:00am. On Monday morning those items will be delivered to The River Community Church for sorting and setup for distribution that will begin on Wednesday going through Saturday.

As in past years, we are looking for **donations of gently used or new WARM winter wear, with an emphasis on coats, snow pants, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots & winter shoes. Heavy sweaters & sweatshirts are also appreciated.**

We were able to donate an ample supply of winter weather gear last year, please consider donating towards this mission once again!



Whitfield (Evans) Update!

Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the support over the last year as my husband and I were gone on deployment. Your continued prayers and support mean the world to us.

I got back from deployment in January after several months in the Mediterranean Sea and in Poland. I became fully qualified in the E-2D Hawkeye this year after 3 years of training. My squadron is currently training again to go out on deployment. I had the opportunity to participate in the St Louis Airshow in June which was a great opportunity to share the Hawkeye with the public. We'll be headed back to the carrier in October for more training. We appreciate your continued support and prayers as we get to follow our dreams and do the jobs we love.

E. E. Whitfield
LT, USN



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UMF will meet October 2nd at 1:30 with Jeanne Erhart giving the program. Hostesses will be Julie Kessler and Coleen Pumphrey.

We are asking for any quart jar donations to be brought into FSH as we will need them for our homemade soups for Christmas Tree Walk.

Our November meeting on November 6, at 1:30 will include a speaker, Marilyn Muhle who works with Human Trafficking and any one is welcome to attend the program. If you have questions, please contact Shirley Anderson at 319-541-0732 or Verlee Lauderbaugh at 319-530-2793.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am at the Fellowship Hall. The SUMC men are studying the Bible. If you would like to attend, call Mike Turner at (319)624-2061.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH SEPT. MISSIONS

Shelter House, Iowa City

The Shelter House in Iowa City has had to resort to passing out tents for the homeless. These are for individuals that are unable to pay the high cost of rental properties in the Iowa City area.

Pictured is Christopher who came to Iowa City from Chicago with hopes of a better life than he had in the big city. Next to him was a woman and her son previously living in Williamsburg. She had lost her job in Williamsburg and came to Iowa City for employment and help in getting on her feet. With the increase in those needing help the Shelter House was asking for hygiene products to pass out to those less fortunate. With Congregational support we were able to deliver approximately \$100 in hygiene products.



Tapestry Farms

On September 14, the United Women in Faith, Golden Valley District Annual Meeting was held at the DeWitt United Methodist Church. Nadine Sojka, Shirley Anderson, Jan Stock, Connie Koeppen and Connie Railsback were in attendance to represent our Solon chapter of UWF. The group meeting collected hygiene products to be given to the Tapestry Farms organization. At that meeting a representative from Tapestry Farms provided information on that organization.

Tapestry Farms generously invests in the lives of refugees who resettle in the Quad Cities. The Tapestry Farms urban farm system reclaims underutilized local land to grow culturally specific fresh produce and flowers. Refugees and volunteers work together in 10 plots throughout the QC, growing regeneratively to benefit our community. Produce is distributed to people in the Quad Cities who live with limited resources, by delivery and through a network of food pantries. We also sell produce at the 100 percent local Quad-Cities Farmers' Market at Schwiebert Park.



Gilda's Club, Quad Cities at Genesis Family Medical Center

Our September Workday was used to create 183 heart pillows and 101 chemotherapy port pillows to be delivered to Gilda's Club Quad Cities. This is our last workday for the creation of comfort pillows for local hospitals in the area. This mission will resume in 2025.

Those in attendance were Alana Buser (student), Jossalyn Walker (teacher), Nadine Sojka, Shirley Anderson, Jan Bishop, Jan Stock, Mary Gruber, Darcy Miller, Connie Koeppen, Connie Railsback, Verlee Lauderbaugh, and Dee Swartzendruber.



**Our 2024 total comfort pillows; 952 Heart Shaped Pillows,
273 Chemotherapy Pillows and 13 Mastectomy Pillows
1,238 Comfort Pillows created in 2024!!!**

St. Luke's Birth Center

Baby Hats delivered to St Luke's Birthing Center during September totaled 28. **The total number of these hats delivered so far in 2024 is 148!!!** All done by Verlee. She has been very busy! If you are interested in being a part of this mission for newborn babies, contact Verlee Lauderbaugh.



FINANCE

The 2025 SUMC Stewardship Campaign will begin October 6 and continue for the month of October, culminating with Commitment Sunday on October 27.

The attached links provide a preview of the pledge card for the campaign as well as the ability to fill in an online pledge card form should you feel ready to make your 2025 commitment to SUMC.

[Printable Pledge Card](#)

[Online Fillable Pledge Card](#)



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

If you want a quick and easy ways to sign up to volunteer, use the link below to sign up to volunteer

Sunday morning to assist in worship. Spots include lighting candles before worship, ushering, providing fellowship and more!



[Sunday Worship Volunteer Sign Up](#)

FAMILY MEALS—WEDNESDAYS 5:30PM

Be sure to join us Wednesday Nights for Family Meal! Meal starts at 5:30 PM and is provided at no cost, taking donations to help provide meals to others that are in need.

TO-GO meals ARE AVAILABLE!

Family Meal is a great way to catch a break from cooking and clean up during the week. It is also the perfect opportunity for some fellowship with fellow church goers and community members!

Donations for desserts are much appreciated—there is a sign up on the clipboard if you'd like to donate! We also appreciate volunteers volunteering to clean up, prepare and serve the meal, please consider signing up to volunteer once a month to help make Wednesday nights a little brighter for all!



COLLEGE STUDENT? MILITARY SERVICE?

If you know of a college student or someone serving in the military please contact the office so we can update our records. SUMC takes pride in sending out care packages a few times a year and we'd like to make sure that we don't miss anyone!

You can e-mail information to the office at soloniaumc@gmail.com



UPCOMING

EVENTS



BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Solon Community

Tuesday, October 15th 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall – 122 N. West St.

To book your appointment, contact ImpactLife at (800) 747-5401.

Visit us at www.bloodcenter.org to schedule online.

Please eat & hydrate before donating and bring a Photo ID.

Last Date to Donate Elsewhere: 08/20/24

Group Sponsor Code: 682



Give & get choice of a gift card, a donation to area food banks or bonus points to the rewards store!



The city of Solon is again hosting their Monster Mash Bash with Trunk or Treat!

This event will be held at SRNA in the parking lot in front of the Timberdome from 2:00–4:00 PM on Sunday October 27th.

Come see the SUMC Youth as they will be hosting a Trunk!



PRAYERS AND CELEBRATIONS

In Our Prayers

Alice Crossley's daughter Susan who was hospitalized.

Darcy Miller's son-in-law Oliver's surgery went well, keep him in prayer as he recovers.

Nadine Sojka's former co-worker Susan had a stroke.

Peggy's kids Beth and Izzy have some leads but are still hunting for an affordable apartment in the Boston area.

Leaders in our congregation.

Our District Superintendent, Brian Oliver.

Our Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai.

Prayers for all the places in the world where there is war, violence, hunger, fear, and poverty.

Political process that lifts up values and hope for all people.

Homeless in Iowa City. The homeless shelter does not have enough space for the need, and is now providing tents for people to set up outside the homeless shelter.

Jeannie Erhart's younger sister Kerry is having health issues.

Cathy Boggs asked for prayers for her son-in-law Andy who is having seizures. She is going to help care for him for a couple weeks. (Dan will be on his own while she is gone.)

Mary and Al Hunt came back from a retreat with COVID.

Prayers for all the places in the world where there is war, violence, hunger, fear, and Poverty.

Julie Hauser's family after the passing of Julie's mother.

Steve Vollbrecht's Dad; Gary; recuperating from a stroke.

Dee & Roger's friend Rich in Hospice Care.

Charles Whetstone in Hospice Care.

Coleen's neighbor Holly and caregiver Mary.

Jill Mack's upcoming cataract surgery.

Verlie Lauderbaugh and her continued healing.

Prayers of support for the Faith Initiative in Omaha, NE .

Alice Crossley's daughter Susan hospitalized a UIHC.

Roma Pearl's son Jim, continuing with treatments .

Maria Montenegro's continuing health treatments & concerns .

John Kakacek's continuing treatment & tests.

The families of the 9/11 victims as anniversary remembrances were this past week.

Scott (friend of Phil & Tawnia's) who was diagnosed with an illness.

Kris McAtee hospitalized with a serious foot infection.

Keela Herr's friend, Renada, whose house burned and recently lost her husband.; also for Keela's step mother, Gerri, who recently fell and suffered a broken hip.

Allie who is in need of more cancer related surgery, lifted up by Verlee.

LeaAnn Gilroy and family, following the loss of LeAnn's sister.

Darcy Miller's Aunt Marilyn, her son-in-law's father who was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and for Bob Lancaster.

Cindy, who recently broke her leg (friend of Al Hulse's sister).

The family of Dick Swailes following his passing.

The residents of Springfield, Ohio as they deal with the nature of politics.

Liz, who faces uncertainty with a mass in her pancreas (friend of Jan Stock).

Heather, a coworker of Nadine Sojka.

Wilbur Erhart is recovering well from an outpatient procedure on Thursday.

Kris McAtee is home from the hospital, recovering from her foot infection.

Pastor Peggy will be having surgery on her foot to remove the plate and screws.

Tawnia K's ex-stepmother has had issues with falling, and will be moving to be with her daughter.

Tawnia's friend, Joan, is dealing with health issues with both her mom and sister.

Another friend of Tawnia has a daughter who is getting tested for MS.

Joys + Thanksgiving

Dolfi's brother Fredi and friend Heidi were able to visit from Germany.

Pastor Peggy's wife Sarah and son Jeremiah were here for worship , to celebrate Jeremiah's birthday.

Jeanne Erhart shared joy at having a family reunion.

Sue Wilkinson shared joy that local athlete Jessica Heims placed 6th in the discus throw at the Paralympics in Paris.

Having our Church activities starting up again.

Seeing so many new and familiar faces at our service.

The wonderful choir performance this morning .

Former pastor Doug Peters and Martha Schutt's beautiful duet.

October Birthdays

ANDERSON, Shirley	10/01
CRAY, Hudson	10/01
LANDUYT, Sienna	10/03
HAUGLAND, Brynn	10/03
SOJKA, Dick	10/04
JANSSEN, Bo	10/06
SARGENT, Addie	10/06
JOHNSON, Tripp	10/11
OAKES, Maverick	10/11
FIALA, Susan	10/15
MOORE, Justin	10/18
MCPHERON, Mitchell	10/20
MOSTROM, Ayla	10/20
LUDVIGSON, Bronwyn	10/21
JANSSEN, Angela	10/23
GERDIN, Nicholas	10/24
HULSE, Al	10/27
SHERMAN, Natalie	10/28
TIEDEMANN, Terry	10/28
RICHARDS, Dave	10/29



OCTOBER CIRCUIT RIDER

Return Service Requested

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



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 AM—Worship
9:00 AM —Sunday School
10:20 AM —Adult Sunday School

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, Lead Pastor 319-855-7911
pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org
Dee Swartzendruber, Christian Education Director
Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Director
Todd Bransky, Handbell Director
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian
Lisa Hilton, Security

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

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