



The CIRCUIT RIDER

MAY 2024

In This Issue

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

- pg 1 Pastor's Messages
- pg 2 Worship Schedule
- pg 2 Music Ministry
- pg 2 Worship Attendance
- pg 3 Christian Education
- pg 3 Youth Mission Trip
- pg 4 Youth Group
- pg 4 Treasure Seekers
- pg 5 Family Meal
- pg 6 Easter Breakfast
- pg 7 Bake Sale
- pg 7 SUMC Garden
- pg 7 April Showers
- pg 8 UWF Missions
- pg 9 UWF Missions
- pg 9 UWF & UMM
- pg 9 Graduation Sunday
- pg 10 NAMI Walk 2024
- pg 11 Prayers & Joys
- pg 11 May Birthdays

May feels like winding down and winding up at the same time! Our Wednesday dinners and programming will have finished for the year, but we also have graduation, new members, Mother's Day, and Pentecost. We will continue our worship series on Daring to Dance Again for most of May.

And on May 12 Mary Kucera will have her last Sunday leading our handbells after 27 years as our Handbell Director! We are grateful for her creativity, encouragement, and commitment over those many years, helping to build community around making great music!

In April it was exciting to have an infant baptism – as Jason Moses was baptized! It was also exciting to finish our first year of the Treasure Seekers program! We started up in the fall with primary leadership from Dee Swartzendruber, Randy Mack, and myself, but with no one in the Christian Education staff position. It has been wonderful to see Dee take on more responsibility as she moved into the staff position, and then Eric Swartzendruber started volunteering as well.

This year we have seen a solid core of youth develop into a new youth ministry program, under the committed and caring leadership of Sue Wilkinson and LeeAnn Gilroy. We look forward to sending the youth off on their mission trip at the end of June and beginning of July!

In May we will hear how the international United Methodist General Conference went—April 23 – May 3 in Charlotte, North Carolina, and what decisions were made to lead our denomination into the future. In the US, about 23% of churches left the denomination, and about the same percentage in Iowa. One of the decisions that will be made by the conference is how churches in other parts of the world will be able to leave the denomination if they choose to do so. Other decisions include changing language and policies to be more welcoming of LGBTQ individuals and ministers, looking at new ways of making decisions in different parts of the world, and whether there are possibilities for online attendance at General Conferences for the future. My hope is that after this General Conference there will be more clarity, more unity, and a hopeful way forward.

I will be on a spiritual growth retreat in Wisconsin for a week during the middle of May, and I will attend the United Methodist Michigan Annual Conference at the end of May and the first Sunday of June. My clergy membership is still with the Michigan Conference for now, so that is where I am asked to attend, and it has been several years since I have seen my Michigan clergy colleagues! I will also attend the Iowa Annual Conference, which is from June 7-9, but I will be here for Sunday morning worship on June 9.

We have experienced many blessings in our first year of ministry together as pastor and congregation! Thank you to the many committed volunteers who make such a variety of ministries possible! I look forward to what lies ahead over the summer and in our second year together!

Pastor Peggy

The Circuit Rider

Spirit, Lead me
where my trust is
without borders

Music Ministry

Happy Spring! As this time of renewal and new beginnings has officially arrived, so has it in our music department.



Worship Schedule

I was thrilled with the music we were able to present for our Easter service. We had extra music from the choir, a guest trumpet to accompany the choir anthem as well as provide some descants to our hymns, and an offertory solo on euphonium by Todd Bransky. It made for an extra-special Easter service.

I will be out a few Sundays this month and am thankful for wonderful substitutes, Marian Anderson and Donna McCullough. They make it possible for me to do some traveling for work and family. They are so competent, and I know I leave things in great hands!

While the Chancel Choir will be officially finished on Mother's Day, they have committed to offering special music throughout the summer. You won't want to miss the musical selections they are planning.

This month, the Celebration Bells will be performing for their last time before summer break on Mother's Day. They will present Worthy of Worship for the Opening Music and Our God for the anthem. Chancel Choir will also pop in to sing Song of Ruth for the Offertory that day.

It is with great sadness that I announce that Mary Kucera will be retiring as the director of Celebration Bells. She has been the director since January 2001! She will be spending time with grandchildren as well as exploring other hobbies and interest. She is sure to get some camping and traveling adventures in there as well! We will miss her passion for bells and dedication to this important music ministry.

We wish her all the best and thank her for her over 23 years of service!

Angie Grecian-Bransky



May 5 -Communion & New Members
Who Can Withhold? Break Forth!
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues
Psalm 98; Acts 10:44-48

May 12 -**Mother's Day**
Just Do It!
By Ret. Pastor Jill Mack
1 Timothy 4:8-12; John 14:15-21

May 19—Graduation Sunday and Pentecost
Spirit Poured Out—Dare to Dance Again!
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Acts 2:1-21

May 28 –Memorial Day Sunday
Born of Water and Spirit
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues
Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-8



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

	9:00 AM
April 7	77
April 14	75
April 21	84



Christian Education

Our students learned about the Bible this year using the Celebrate Wonder series. Each month we focused on a concept with Bible stories that talked about the idea. April's concept or word was Share. Bible stories focused on how Jesus told the disciples to share their knowledge of God with others. We will finish our year on May 19th with a celebration breakfast. We will have a float in the Solon Beef Days highlighting our vacation Bible school. Look for announcements in the bulletin for a family work time on the float! Yes, we are bringing back Vacation Bible School this summer! It will be held here at the church on August 4th-8th in the evening. The time has yet to be determined. The theme this year is Camp Firelight. So mark your calendars and get your camping gear ready!

Our children's Sunday school class has grown this year. Instead of a one room school we are looking forward to having two classrooms in the fall. We plan on having a class for 4-year-olds-3rd grade. Then a class for those students in 4th grade through 8th grade. Please be prayerful on how you can help with our growing Sunday School next fall.

I want to thank all the volunteers that have helped out with either teaching a class or helping with teaching a class including our adult classes, Treasure Seekers, and our youth group. We will be honoring these individuals on May 5th during our service. Please come and show your support for these great volunteers!

Dee Swartzendruber
Director of Christian Education



YOUTH *Mission* TRIP

Louisville Kentucky Bound!

We have 10 excited people going on the mission trip this year. Seven youth and 3 adults. Our group will be working with inner city organizations in Louisville. Some of the outreach programs they may participate in are a food pantry, clothing distribution center, and simple home repairs. We will be sending the group off with a breakfast and sack lunches on June 30th before our worship service. They will be returning on July 5th.

If you are interested in helping with the sendoff breakfast or providing snacks for the mission trip. Please contact Dee Swartzendruber at deeswartz@soloniaumc.org

Youth Group

Our high school youth group continues to meet on Wednesdays following the family meal.

During Lent we participated in the youth version of the Bible Study by Adam Hamilton, "Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts and Outlaws." Our big news is the upcoming mission trip to Louisville, Kentucky in late June! Seven youth plan to attend, along with three adult leaders. They are very excited and have been active in the planning and fundraising. We want to thank everyone who supported us with the Dave's Coffee Cake fundraiser. We hope you enjoyed the delicious coffee cakes! The youth also helped with the Valentine's Day meal by assisting with meal preparation, serving the guests at their tables and cleaning up afterwards. Stay tuned for more information as our plans are finalized. Our last youth group session will be Wednesday, April 24 and will start again in the fall.

Sue Wilkinson & Leann Gilroy



Treasure Seekers

What a year we had in Treasure Seekers! We had an average of 10 students participating in many different activities. We broke the year into 5 different sessions.

The first session the students learned about Moses and how he led his people out from Egypt. They even ate locusts made out of Swiss roll cakes and pretzels! They performed a skit for their parents and friends showing them what they had learned from that session. Next, the children studied the blessed event of Jesus' birth. Our students went to the Solon Care Center where they performed a Christmas play, sang carols, and passed out treats to the residents. After winter break the students learned about how Jesus used ordinary people to become his disciples and how He taught them how to be fishers of men. They made snow people and played different types of fishing games. They finished the unit once again with a play showing Jesus asking the fishermen to follow him. We followed this unit with a study of prayer and the book of Luke. This unit reinforced the idea that God uses people like you and me to spread His love. They learned that it doesn't matter where or what you say in your prayer. A person just needs to talk to God. They learned about the Lord's Prayer. At the end of the session the students learned how to sign the Lord's Prayer to music in American Sign Language. Our very last session we focused on the events surrounding Easter. They learned about the empty tomb by making Resurrection Rolls where their marshmallow representing how Jesus disappeared. They also learned that Jesus gave the disciples instructions after he arose from the grave to spread the word of God to the rest of the world. Besides playing games and doing activities based on what they were learning, for that session we had missions that they participated in. The students had two different drives for our Solon food pantry. The first one was canned goods, and the second one was personal care items. They went to the Solon care center twice to pass out treats and to sing to the residents. They also made 3 tie fleece blankets to give to refugee families.

We look forward to having another another fun filled session of learning, activities, and missions this fall. We will be starting sometime in September.

Watch the newsletter for updates!



Family Meals 2023-2024



Thank you to the **Richards Family** for your selfless service in organizing, shopping for, cooking and serving Wednesday Night Meals.


Thank you also to the many other volunteers that helped setup, prepare meals, serve and clean up each week to make Family Meal a success. Family Meals are a great asset to both SUMC and the Solon Community!

Easter Breakfast

Thank you to all who donated, prepared, cooked and cleaned up at our Annual Easter Breakfast on Easter morning! This is a wonderful tradition that so many enjoy.

Proceeds from the Easter Breakfast will go into the Camp Fund and totaled approximately \$350.00! Thank you all!





SUMC will be holding the 3rd Annual Bake Sale during the City-Wide garage sales on Saturday, June 1st from 7am – 1pm. We will be offering free coffee/lemonade with any purchase! We would appreciate donations of baked goods for this event, see the clipboard to sign up! Stop out while you are shopping and enjoy a treat to show your support!

SUMC Garden

The SUMC Vegetable garden has been a huge producer in years past! All of the produce we grow is then donated to the Solon Food Pantry or to Solon Senior Citizens.

If you would like to help with the garden or have items to donate, please contact the church. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out.! In late June thru September, we will need help picking the produce to give to the Food Pantry. Help is always welcome anytime whether you want to help one time or weekly.



If anyone is interested in helping with the vegetable garden or has questions, please contact the church office at 319-624-2288 or soloniaumc@gmail.com

April Showers at SUMC!



Every April we try to ‘shower’ the church with a little love in donations for items that we use here daily. This year we received stamps, multiple packs of paper towels, plates for fellowship and more! Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference. THANK YOU for supporting SUMC and making it rain this April!



United Women in Faith Missions—April Work Day (UIHC)

The April UWF Workday was held on Tuesday, April 9. There were nine who participated in stuffing, sewing and bagging 150 pillows to be distributed to UIHC. UWF Members attending; Verlee Lauderbaugh, Jan Stock, Jan Bishop, Shirley Anderson, Connie Koeppen, Yvonne Strang, Jeanne Erhart, Tawnia Kakacek and Connie Railsback. A good time was had by all, but we missed you!

These pillows (150 heart pillows) along with 23 chemotherapy port pillows and 13 mastectomy pillows were delivered on April 10 to UIHC. At that delivery we were informed that this amount of pillows would be gone in less than an month. SO we will be continuing to provide comfort to the patients at UIHC by scheduling another delivery later in the year.

We want to thank those who contributed materials and cash donations in the support of our ability to purchase poly-fil and material that are used in the creation of these pillows. If you were not able to contribute on April 7, no worries, you can at any time use the Mission envelope and write 'UWF' on it to make a donation at your convenience. We work together as the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus.

The next workday will be Tuesday, May 7, when we will again work on stuffing and finishing pillows for distribution to Gilda's Club in Davenport. We will meet in our usual place, the Wesley Room in the Family Life Center from 8:30-11:30, with coffee and treats provided. Come for an hour or three, just come with joy in your heart.



Don't miss out on this time of fellowship. All are welcome to participate!

Willis Dady Homeless Shelter

All those pasteries left over at the Easter Breakfast and what do do with them? Well, the men and women at the Willis Dady Homeless Shelter in Cedar Rapids were SO GREATFUL to receive them.

They were immediately put out to enjoy with their coffee. Thanks to all those who contributed those delicious pasteries and please know they did not go to waste but were appreciated by those who had not had a homemade dessert is a while. May God bless the bakers!



Bridgehaven

There were 13 baby gifts created that contained receiving blanket, bibs and burp pads for new mothers who are supported by Bridgehaven in Cedar Rapids. Thanks to Coleen Pumphrey for these requested gifts.



St. Lukes NICU



Coleen Pumphrey created burp pads that were donated to the Neonatal intensive care unit at St. Lukes in Cedar Rapids.

Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County

On April 2 we received a request from Consultation of Religious Communities that read as follows:

“At the Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County, a significant aspect of our mission involves providing transitional housing for newly arrived immigrant families for a period of 45 days. During this time, we connect them with social services, enroll their children in school, assist them in finding employment, and ultimately help them secure permanent housing. One family transitioned from the Welcome House to their own apartment on April 1st, and we need your assistance! They require supplies to set up their new home.”

The very next day at our monthly meeting members of UWF responded with a total of 161 household items and a \$50 check to support this family!

We have asked this organization to attend our UWF meeting to inform us of their mission and how we can support them in the future. If you would like to know more about them, you are welcome to attend! May 1, in Fellowship Hall, 2:00pm.



United
Women
in Faith

The UMW will be meeting Wednesday, May 1st at 1:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We will have a guest speaker at 2:00 Pm who represents, “Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County.” This group is involved with providing immigrant families that have just arrived with transitional housing, enroll their children in school, find employment and social services if

needed. . Yvonne and Jeanne will be hosting. Anyone is welcome to attend!

Looking ahead, the June 5th brunch will be held at 9:30 at Barb Kalm's home in Lisbon. Non-members are invited, and can contact a UWF member for car pooling arrangements. A good time of food and fellowship always awaits. The July meeting involves the group's annual road trip, with more to come as to time and date. There is no meeting in August.



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.



Graduation Sunday

SUMC will hold our Annual Graduation Sunday, including our Senior Slide Show, on Sunday May 19th at our 9:00 AM Worship Service.

Please plan to come and encourage our graduating seniors as they celebrate their accomplishments and look toward the next chapter in their lives.



Together We CAN Make a Difference!

JOIN US to Advocate for Mental Health Awareness by signing up with
Solon Striders: Walking with Purpose

for the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) Annual Walk.

Every step you take supports mental health education, advocacy, and support programs. Support NAMI's mission to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Top 5 Reasons to Join the NAMI Walk

5. Terry Trueblood is Awesome—Come enjoy the beautiful scenery!
4. Get in Your 10,000 Steps (actually less than 2 miles)!
3. Fellowship with other Fun Church and Community Walkers!
2. Free Nourishment and Music!
1. **Make a Difference Advocating for Mental Health with your Feet or Pocketbook!**

If you would like to be part of the team, we'd love for you to join us!
Information below.



Mental Health Awareness—NAMIWalks

Date: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Location: Terry Trueblood Recreation Area Iowa City

Check In: 8:30 am

Walk Starts: 10:00 am

Please consider joining our team **Solon Striders: Walking with Purpose** on this walk, and/or donating to the team through the NAMI website. We have set a fundraising goal of **\$2,000** but would love to raise much more, as all donations directly support the mission of NAMI.

For more information, go to <https://www.namiwalks.org/team/64662>

The link will take you to a page that contains details of the walk as well as links to register (“Join our Team”) and to donate to this event (“Support Us”). If you click on Roster, you can select an individual team member to support, as well.

If you have any questions, contact Keela Herr at keela.herr@gmail.com or 319-389-5173.

Thank you for your support.



Prayers and Celebrations

In Our Prayers

Jeanne and Wilbur Erhart's son, Wyatt is recovering well after a second hospital stay.

Verlee's niece Ally, had surgery on 3/25.

Roma Pearl asks for prayers for her son, Jim, who was recently diagnosed with cancer.

Jean E's brother, Bud, who is having health issues.

Tanner Vollbrecht asked for prayers for his Aunt Amy who has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

Jeanne Erhart's brother, Bud, has gone to a new hospital for surgery.

Gail Kirchner's friend Jody is celebrating her 40th birthday, and going into an eating issues recovery program.

Oliver Miller was in a motorcycle accident.

LeeAnn Gilroy's sister is returning to May Clinic Hospital with internal bleeding. LeeAnn's family at least had the joy of playing with her sister's kids.

Prayers for the Joyce Barta family after Joyce's recent death.

Melody Morris's mother-in-law, Kay, is transitioning into the Solon Care Center.

Jill Mack's friend, Norma, is recovering from back surgery.

Jill Mack's friend, Debbie, is facing some challenging health issues.

Melody Morris's sister-in-law Diana died this past week. Prayers for the family, especially Craig and their children.

Doris Tritle asked for prayers for the family of her daughter-in-law Jessica, who died after a long battle with cancer. Especially lift up Tyler, Jessica's husband, and their children Sophie and Max.

United Methodist General Conference that begins on Tuesday. This is the conference that was supposed to take place in 2020, and had to be postponed until this year. Prayers for all the delegates, prayers for bishops, organizers, those who are traveling, families who are at home.

Rejoices & Thanksgiving

Shirley Anderson is recovering well from her knee surgery, and is worshipped with us on Easter. She is grateful for the supportive community here.

Dolfi and Barb Kalm celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on Easter Day.

Tawnia Kakacek shared joy that she is now officially retired.

Darcy Miller shared appreciation for those who helped lead and prepare the Maundy Thursday service.

Dee Swartzendruber expressed joy at a successful Easter Egg hunt, with 40 children participating, and for those who donated candy, and filled eggs, and for the youth who hid all the eggs.

Phil K. thanks the Richards Family, Connie Railsback, and all who helped with the Easter Breakfast. About \$350 was raised for youth camperships.

Thank you to Jill Mack for preaching last week while Pastor Peggy was ill.

Sue Wilkinson expressed gratitude that her son-in-law and grandson are healthy and alive after a wheel came off their vehicle at highway speeds.

We celebrate the baptism today of Jason Henry Moses!

Verlee Lauderbaugh's birthday (April 21st)!

Dee Swartzendruber's dad is now settled into his new apartment in Ankeny, where he moved from Florida. His condo in Florida is now sold.

Dee shared joy that her sister, Karen, is here from Florida.

RISE UP
&
PRAY
Luke 22:46

Church Office Summer Hours

As the summer months approach, and some of our regular activities slow, we again will be scaling back our office hours to adjust to the lightened work load, all while saving the church some money. The office will be open on Monday and Thursday mornings, May through August. Dee and Pastor Peggy will be in throughout the week as normal. As always, email will be monitored daily. Don't hesitate to reach out at soloniaumc@gmail.com or on Facebook Messenger through the church page!



May Birthdays

Hallie Mottinger	05/01
Winnie Hofsommer	05/02
Everly Hanes	05/03
Melissa Tiedemann	05/03
Grace Allen	05/04
Greg Kunkel	05/04
Laurie Stebral	05/04
Janet Stock	05/05
Braden Haugland	05/06
Johanna Doscher	05/13
John Lighty	05/14
Roger Swartzendruber	05/17
Malinda Constanct	05/18
Paul Saupe	05/19
Moriah Gilroy	05/20
Jeannie Jedlicka	05/20
James McATee	05/21
Adam Smith	05/21
Ethan Swan	05/22
Marla Dyer	05/23
Elena Swan	05/25
Kollyns Hawker	05/27
Dan Boggs	05/30
Luke Deike	05/30
Emmett Dyer	05/30
Wayne Anderson	05/31



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

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, Lead Pastor 319-855-7911
pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org
Dee Swartzendruber, Christian Education Director
Angie Grecian-Bransky, Music Director
Lindy Hopp, Office Administrator
Mary Kucera, Director of Hand Bells
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian



SUNDAY SCHEDULE
9:00 AM—Worship

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