



The CIRCUIT RIDER

JUNE 2024

A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church

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Reflections from Pastor Peggy

Wow! It is hard to believe our first church year together is drawing to a close! We celebrated graduates on May 19, and we've already finished out the year with our Wednesday programming. Sunday school classes are taking a break for the summer, the bell choir played together for the last time this season as Mary Kucera retired on May 12, and the Chancel Choir will be winding down soon! And the Iowa Annual Conference happens June 7-9. I have really appreciated your welcome, and the chance to be back in active United Methodist ministry!

In addition, the larger United Methodist Church has taken some more steps to bring our denomination through a major period of conflict and transition. From April 23 to May 3, United Methodist delegates, both clergy and lay, from around the world, came together to vote on many items relating to the future of our denomination. The conference was originally scheduled to take place in May of 2020, but then COVID hit.

In the four years since then, close to a quarter of US churches left United Methodism, many because they understand homosexuality to be a sin, and no longer want to be part of a denomination that is now welcoming lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons into the full range of ministry and ritual. This general conference voted to allow lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people to be ordained and serve as ministers, and with permission for weddings to be performed uniting people of the same gender. At the same time, nothing is mandatory. Individual ministers and congregations will still decide how welcoming they will be to LGBTQ individuals, weddings, and ministers.

I definitely celebrate these actions of welcome and affirmation, but I am also aware that not everyone who has stayed with the denomination of The United Methodist Church is of one mind. We are still a denomination with much diversity, including theological diversity. I pray that we can trust in God's presence and grace working in our midst, and move into a future that does not focus nearly so much on our differences, but on how to share the love that we all have come to know through Jesus Christ.

There were many other kinds of decisions that were made at General Conference that affect the future of our denomination. I invite you to read more about some of those changes [here](#). You may also grab a paper copy in the Narthex.

In our Solon church, we have started a process to reach out more with Jesus' love as a congregation. See a listing in this newsletter of the main projects that drew interest from our recent workshop, and watch for an email, that will include a survey about possible outreach projects for us to do right here in Solon.

Summer blessings, Pastor Peggy

I close with a letter from our Iowa bishop, Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai:

"My heart breaks that more tornadoes have hit Iowa. Greenfield was devastated, with at least four people killed and many wounded. Homes and businesses were destroyed. Other communities were also impacted by extreme thunderstorms and flooding.

Please keep these communities in prayer. And please pray for our whole state for the destructive impact of these storms. In addition to harming people and infrastructure, tornadoes damage farmland and crops, kill livestock and other animals. All of God's creation groans under the weight of such storms.

Please help by donating financial gifts to Iowa Disaster Response [Special Advance #223](#).

Thank you,
Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

The Circuit Rider



Worship Schedule

June 2nd

Scripture:

Matthew 11:28-30,

Romans 7:14-25

Message: A Perfect Fit
By Ret. Pastor Jill Mack

June 9th

Scripture: 1 Samuel 3:1-20

Message: Here I Am, Lord
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

June 16th –Father’s Day

Scripture:

1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Message: The Surprising Call
of God

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

June 23rd

Scripture:

1 Samuel 17:20-49

Message: Against All Odds
By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

June 30th

Scripture:

Mark 5: 24b-34

Message: Your Faith Has
Healed You

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHICH
STRENGTHENETH ME.

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

MUSIC MINISTRY

In May, we sang a hymn for Graduation Sunday titled, “Go to the World”. While the melody is familiar to us as “For All the Saints”, the words are new. They were written by Sylvia Dunstan who was a chaplain, a minister and the editor of a Canadian worship resource journal. She began writing songs in the 1970s and transitioned to writing lyrics based on Scripture. “Go to the World” is a wonderful piece not just for Graduation, but for us all to reflect upon.

1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
Baptizing as the sign of our rebirth.
Alleluia, Alleluia.
2. Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Alleluia, Alleluia.

During the month of June, there is plenty of special music. From the Chancel Choir on June 2 to small groups and solos the other weeks, there is plenty to enjoy.

I am thankful for so many wonderful people willing to share their talents!

Angie Grecian-Bransky



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

9:00 AM

April 28	70
May 5	94
May 12	83
May 19	78

Christian Education

Greetings,

With the closing of our Sunday school year, one might think our students' education ended as well. This year I have sent packets home with the students for them to do during their summer to reinforce what they have learned over the school year. If your child didn't receive one or they would like to have another one, please contact me and I have more to share. For the months of June, July, and August we will provide our students with a bulletin with age-appropriate activities to do. I am working with Pastor Peggy to have the bulletins reflect her sermons.

Connection Junction is coming this summer. The focus of Connection Junction is to keep our students connected throughout the summer. We will be meeting once a month for fun activities, fellowship, and food. Our first meeting will be on June 23rd, Sunday, from 4-6 pm in the fellowship hall. We will be playing our favorite board games and having pizza! Bring a friend along to join the fun! This event is for students' pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Other dates to keep in mind for Connection Junction is July 21st and August 11th.

Vacation Bible is School back! Please mark your calendars for August 4th - 8th. Camp Firelight will be here at the church from 6:00 pm - 7:30 p.m. Keep looking in the bulletins and newsletters for updates and more information. If you would like to be a volunteer for this great activity, please contact me.

Our senior high youth group is having a work day at the Boggs' house. They will be helping them with yard work and then will have dinner and a bon fire afterwards. The youth and leaders will be meeting at the church at 1:00 p.m. on June 2. to car pool to the Boggs' residence. Please wear long pants and sturdy shoes. If you have work gloves they have requested you to bring them as well. I'm sure this will be a great time for getting much needed work done, fellowship, and fun.

Our youth group is continuing their education as well. On their mission trip to Louisville, they will have time to learn more about Jesus and share their faith with others. Don't forget to send them off on their journey on June 30th at the beginning of our worship service.

We would like to congratulate our seniors who will start on a new educational journey come fall. We have Brynn Deike, Keenan Kruse, Tyson Wheeler, Kate Richards going to Central College, Braden Haugland going to the University of Iowa, and Madison Kerkove going to the University of Iowa as well. We wish them the best in their next educational adventure.

May blessing be upon you and your family during the month of June.

Dee Swartzendruber
Christian Education Director
Deeswartz@soloniaumc.org
(319) 624-2288



Sunday School at SUMC

On Sunday May 19th, the SUMC Sunday School kids celebrated their last day of Sunday school for the 2023-2024 school year. They blew bubbles and talked about how bubbles remind us of the wind on Pentecost and enjoyed donuts, an egg bake and every kids favorite, lemonade. Thank you to all who joined in on the fun during Sunday School this year!

Kickoff for Sunday School for the 2024-2025 season will be held on Sunday September 8th!



Upcoming Youth Events



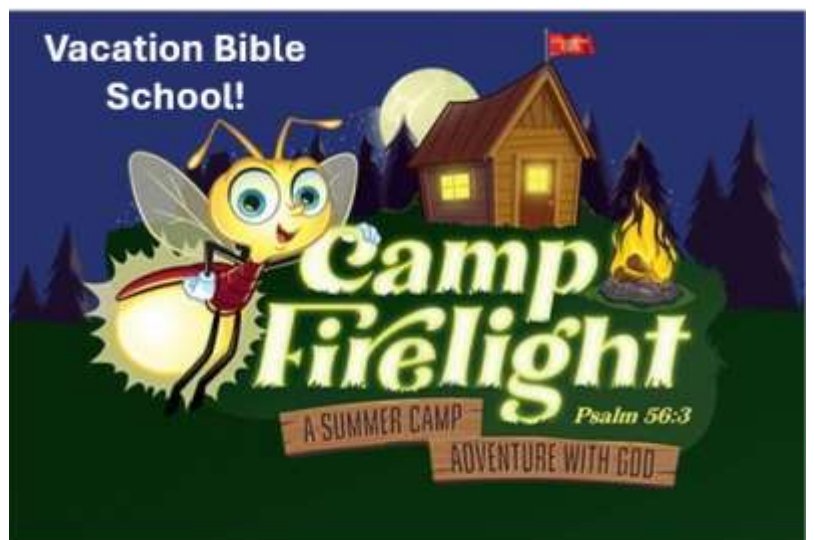
June 23rd 4:00-6:00 PM

**Board Game Night and Pizza
In Fellowship Hall**

All youth ages K through 12th grade are welcome to join in.
Bring a friend! Let's stay connected throughout the summer!



**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: CAMP FIRELIGHT
6:00PM-7:30PM ON
AUGUST 4TH THROUGH AUGUST 8TH.**



Solon Garage Sale SUMC Bake Sale



Love going to garage sales AND eating homemade goodies? Here is your chance! At the Solon city-wide garage sale on Saturday, June 1st at the Solon Public Library parking lot the SUMC will have a booth selling baked goods. Stop by for a pastry and free coffee to start your day; mid-day for a cookie or bar and free lemonade for a pick-me up and on your way home to soothe the ones left behind at home with some sweet treats. There is a sign-up sheet for donations of baked goods...kolaches, sweet rolls, muffins, cookies/bars and snack mix. See the clipboard to sign up!

The proceeds from this event will go toward the General Fund. For more information contact Nancy Worrell at 319-321-8537.



Ideas for Outreach from Our Workshop at the End of April

We had about 26 folks participate in the outreach workshop on April 28. Thank you to those who came, and who helped facilitate conversations!

Here are the top ideas that came from that workshop, with the number of “stickers of support” that each idea got. (Each person got several stickers, and they could put up to three stickers on any one idea if they really like it.) There were MANY other ideas that were brought up as well, but these gained the most traction.

- Reaching out to new residents in Solon, maybe some kind of welcome packet 20
- Addressing mental health issues and offer support groups 14
- Older adult issues and needs & people who don't use technology 11
- Reach out to former church attendees 9
- Ministry with LGBTQ youth and adults 6
- Retirement transition opportunities for volunteering 4
- Reaching out to bicyclists 4
- Community fundraisers for specific social issues or causes. 3



Watch for an email soon with more details, and with a link to a survey for those who didn't attend the workshop to give your input!

P.E. Scholarships!

The Permanent Endowment Committee is pleased to announce the 2024 recipients of a \$500 Scholarship to assist graduating seniors as they pursue their dreams.

This year's awards go to:
Braden Haugland, Kate Richards & Tyson Wheeler



Thank You, Mary!

On May 12th we enjoyed one last performance from the Celebration Bells with Mary Kucera as the Bells Director.

Mary served our church as director for 23 years!

We are so thankful for her work with both the youth and adult choirs and wish her the best in retirement. Mary will be out camping, exploring, and spending time with her family.

Thank you for everything you have done here at SUMC, Mary!



United Women In Faith(UWF) Missions Completed in May

Gilda's Club Quad Cities at Genesis Family Medical Center

The May UWF Workday was held on Tuesday, May 7. There were ten who participated in stuffing, sewing and bagging 200 pillows to be distributed to Gilda's Club in the Quad Cities. UWF Members attending; Verlee Lauderbaugh, Jan Stock, Jan Bishop, Shirley Anderson, Connie Koeppen, Ruth Spieker, Jeanne Erhart, Mary Gruber, Tawnia Kakacek and Connie Railsback. A good time was had by all, but we missed you!

These pillows; 200 heart pillows and 29 chemotherapy port pillows were delivered on May 8.

The next workday is To Be Determined. Watch for the announcement in the weekly bulletin or right here in the next release of the newsletter. We would love to have you join us!

All are welcome to participate.

Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County

At our monthly meeting 66 household items were collected for the Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County families.

Immigrant Welcome Network of Johnson County mission: Our mission is to empower and prevent homelessness among newly arrived immigrants and refugees by providing transitional housing, comprehensive support, education, advocacy, and assistance in securing permanent housing. Through these initiatives, we aim to create pathways to stability, opportunity, and empowerment.

Solon UMC Graduating Seniors Gift

On Graduation Sunday, the United Women in Faith presented gifts to each graduate of 2024.

Read aloud at presentation:

At first glance, it is easy to look at a towel as a most ordinary object. Have you ever stopped to think that for thousands of years, the towel has been used for many wonderful purposes? For example, a mother who wipes the ears of a child, the physician who binds the wounds of a patient, or the woman in her home wiping her hands as she moves from task to task.

Perhaps the most significant use of the towel happened nearly two thousand years ago when our Savior, only hours before He hung on the cross, took an ordinary towel in His loving hands and dried the feet of His disciples. This simple, loving act personifies the selflessness and loving service we seek to give during our lives. It illustrates that an ordinary thing like a towel, in the right hands, and with a giving heart, can lighten another's load. As with every action performed by the Savior on this earth, His act of service reminds us that simple day-to-day kindnesses are the Savior's way to bless and comfort.

Insert With Washcloth:

This washcloth is given with love and with the hope you will do works of goodness with it just as the Savior did so many years ago.

May the absorbing spirit of God's love blot your problems, soak up your sorrows and wipe away difficulties. May your journey in life be always bright and shining in your work and love towards others.

Sincerely, United Women in Faith



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF will be having their June meeting at Barb Kalm's house and enjoy a delicious brunch. In July we always have a road trip to view a local mission and learn how our group could help out followed, with a group lunch. Formal meetings will resume again in Sept.

Questions?

Contact Shirley at 319-541-0732 or Verlee at 319-530-2793.



UNITED METHODIST MEN

We will continue meeting Saturday mornings at 6:00 AM in Fellowship Hall and will prepare and cook breakfast the first Saturday of the month.

Interested?

Call Mike Turner at (319) 624-2061.



Prayers and Celebrations

Prayers

Wayne Anderson was in the hospital, fell and broke some ribs.

Melody's brother Jeff is in the hospital with a blood infection.

Barb's sister Karen and husband Carl are facing health issues.

Scott Nicol's sister-in-law Nancy had open heart surgery.

Melody Morris's sister-in-law Diana died. 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.

Nadine Sojka's sister-in-law died. She asks for prayers for the daughters and family.

Those impacted by the tornados in Iowa and Nebraska.

Continued violence and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Melody Morris's brother Jeff had his blood infection spread, and needed to have a toe amputated.

United Methodist General Conference that completed on Friday, and made a number of significant decisions, including removing the restrictive language related to LGBTQ people and ministry.

Prayers for Maddie Moses who broke her foot at school.

Prayers for Virginia Geers family in the loss of her brother-in-law, Mark.

High School Seniors and College Seniors as they approach graduation.

Roma Pearl asked for prayers for her son Jim's surgery.

Cheryl Byrne asked for prayers for her family, after her uncle Dave Ryder passed away Unexpectedly.

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

Joys

Richard and Norma Novak who celebrated their 62nd Anniversary.

Prayers of joy lifted up for John McFarland's singing here at the SUMC for 46 years.

Thank you to Marian Anderson for playing the piano!

Jeanne Erhart's brother Bud is home from the hospital and recovering.

Sue Wilkinson's nephew Jamil is home after being overseas with the Air Force.

Congratulations to Marilyn and Denny Hansen for being recognized as seniors of the year.

New members Dave Weetman (Sr.), Kathy Weetman, and Larry Meister.

Thank you to all of our Sunday school teachers and assistants, youth group leaders, Treasure Seeker leaders, and adult class teachers this year!!

Additional thanks to Pastor Peggy for helping to get educational programs going in the fall, and for Dee Swartzendruber for her leadership as our Christian Education Director.

Congratulations to Jan Stock's granddaughter, Maddie, who graduated from college.

Congratulations to Kay Geguzis' granddaughter, Charlie, who graduated from college.

Gratitude and blessing for all mothers, grandmothers, and women in faith.

Thankfulness for Mary Kucera's ministry as she retires after 23 years of directing the bell choirs.

We celebrate all of those graduating from Solon High School, especially our own Brynn Deike, Braden Haugland, Maddie Kerkove, Keenan Kruse and Kate Richards

Julia Woessner lifted up joy as their daughter, Leah, graduated from Iowa State.

Wayne Anderson expressed appreciation for the calls and prayers as he has been recovering from broken ribs.

Phil Kakacek lifted up joy for a good year of learning with the Wesley class, who is taking a break for the summer.

Thanks to Donna McCullough for playing.

Appreciation for our new screens to see the slides better in the sanctuary, and to Phil K. for doing the research and planning, and Al Hulse for spending a day supporting the electricians to get everything wired.

June Birthdays

GREGOR, Timothy	06/01
MOTTINGER, Jaynie	06/01
SWARTZENDRUBER, Dee	06/01
HANES, Pieta	06/05
ALLEN, Jeffrey	06/06
SHERMON, Owen	06/06
SWAN, Garrett	06/06
JOHNSON, Reilly	06/07
SMITH, Abigail	06/07
HANSEN, Marilyn	06/09
KUNKEL, Ginny	06/11
NOVAK, Norma	06/11
PROFFITT, Jay	06/11
OAKES, Madden	06/12
EVANS, Don	06/13
JEDLICKA, Rick	06/13
GNIDA, Zeb	06/14
REYNOLDS, Kirk	06/13
PUMPHREY, Coleen	06/15
GARRIGUES, Peggy	06/16
GALLOWAY, Payton	06/17
GEGUZIS, Kay	06/18
GERDIN, Grant	06/19
HUNT, Allan	06/20
WICKER, Ashley	06/22
SCHAFFER, Catherine	06/23
NICOL, Scott	06/25
WILKINSON, Sue	06/25
ERHART, Clinton	06/26
JAURON, Emma	06/26
SHERMAN, Karen	06/27
DEIKE, Kamryn	06/29
TIEDEMANN, Henry	06/29
STEBRAL, Trey	06/30



pray

*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
Ivan Hasselbusch, Treasurer
Ruben Galvan, Custodian



**Sunday Schedule
9:00 AM—Worship**

Church Phone: (319) 624-2288
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Facebook: Solon United Methodist Church—Iowa
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