



# The CIRCUIT RIDER

SEPTEMBER 2024

*A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church*

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It's hard to believe fall leaves, fresh apples, and pumpkins along with many other signs of fall are soon on their way! School is almost ready to start as I write this, and Labor Day is around the corner!

And the election season has been building, with almost daily polling numbers on the Presidential candidates. Many of us have noticed the polarization around politics. There is often little respect for people of differing views, and it is often easier to not talk about politics unless you know you are with people who agree with you.

I have chosen to use a sermon and worship series for September called "Do Unto Others." It is focused on how we can live out the values of kindness, compassion, humility, respect, and love in the midst of the anxiety of an election season. Outlines for worship and themes and some graphic designs are provided by a combination of folks at Rev. Adam Hamilton's Resurrection United Methodist Church in Kansas City, and by Marcia McFee, who runs the Worship Design Studio. If you'd like to be part of this message of kindness in an election season, we will be offering yard signs and stickers that you can order with the logo of a heart that is part blue, part red, and part purple with the words of Jesus, "Do Unto Others" in the purple section. Next to the heart is the word "kindness." Click [HERE](#) if you are interested in yard signs or stickers.



Politics is one way that we live out our values in the world, so it is not something that we can or should avoid altogether in church. We do, however, want to avoid disrespectful political arguments, and instead talk about how we can express the values that we hold in ways that reflect the love of God for all people. What do the proposed budgets or policies of either party or various candidates say about their priorities and values? What does the character of a particular candidate say about how they will lead our country or our state or our county or our town as we face many challenges? Do their words and policies allow more voices to be heard, or try to limit whose voices can be heard? Are there groups of people that are discounted or disrespected? Does a candidate speak in ways that promote fear and anger, or promote working together for creative solutions? Do they find ways to give ordinary people more of a say and sense of control in their future? Do they provide a vision that calls us to be the best that we can be?

How do you want to be treated? How can we help others to also be treated in the same way? May we find ways to live out Jesus' words to "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you," even, and especially, in an election season.

*Pastor Peggy*

His  
MERCIES  
ARE NEW  
every morning



# Music Ministry

## Worship Schedule

September 1st - Communion

Scripture: Luke 6:31-36

Message: *Red & Blue Make Purple: Kindness & Compassion*

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

September 8th—*First Day of Sunday School*

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6

Message: *Listen More, Speak Less: Humility*

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

September 15th

Scripture: TBD

Message: TBD

Guest Preacher, Phil Kakacek

September 22nd

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:1-26

Message: *Living Together on Uncommon Ground: Respect*

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

September 29th

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-40

Message: *Malice Toward None: Love*

By Rev. Peggy Garrigues

It's September and back to school time! This also means that Chancel Choir and Celebration Bells have begun their rehearsals. Backpacks are not required, although a sharp pencil is always helpful. If you have even thought about singing or playing bells, let me know and I'm happy to talk about it and let you know what is involved.

We are happy to announce that Todd Bransky has stepped in to direct the SUMC Bell Choir! Todd has an extensive musical background. He taught 7th-12th grade instrumental music in the Solon Community School District for 7 years, taught private brass lessons for many years, is a member of Iowa Brass, Mississippi River Brass Band, CR Jazz, Backroad Brass, and Brass Transit Authority. He is also the coordinator of the Wurst Brass Festival. It's safe to say that music is his passion.

Practices for the Bell Choir start on the 28th of August. *(Please see a note from Todd on page 9 of this newsletter).*

Below is the schedule for performances by the Chancel Choir. We look forward to sharing our music and efforts with the congregation.

**September 1** – Special music by Pastor Peggy on violin

**September 8** – Chancel Choir singing “River in Judea”

**September 15** – Celebration Bells playing “Festive Peal on Hymn to Joy” and Chancel Choir singing “Praise and Exaltation”

**September 22** – TBD

**September 28** – TBD

*Angie Grecian-Bransky*

*SUMC Choir Director*



COME JOIN US FOR

Sunday  
Worship  
Service

### Worship Attendance—August 2024

9:00 AM

August 4	46
August 11	46
August 18	60
August 25	42



# Christian Education

## *Greetings,*

Where did the summer go? With a successful VBS behind us I am looking forward to working with our students in Sunday school, youth groups, and Treasure Seekers. I would like to reflect on this past summer and talk about our summer activities for our students.

We sent 7 youth and 2 adults to Louisville KY on a mission trip. Everyone stated they had a great time and grew in their faith. We look forward to another mission trip next summer.

We held our first VBS since 2021! Camp Firelight was attended by 12 students, of which 75% have parents who do not attend our church's Sunday service. I want to give a big THANK YOU to all of our VBS volunteers!

Chef Verlee Lauderbaugh who provided all the snacks and was our snack leader. Melody Morris who was not only at the registration table but was our game leader. Jill Mack was our craft leader and provided some material for our crafts. She brought her niece, Amelia, and her friend Vanica to help out one day! Angie Grecian-Bransky who not only was our music director but also our AV technician. Joyce Cook who was at our registration table and did a great job of informing the team when students were going to be gone or late. Randy Mack who helped with games.

We had a number of middle schoolers and high school students who helped out as well. Tanner Kerkove who helped create Lu's cabin with me. Also, these camp counselors who lead the 2 groups around Gidyon and Toby Kleinsmith, Ayla Mostrom, and her friend Jori. A special thank you to Eric Swartzendruber who filled in one day for us and was on stand by if we needed an extra hand.

A huge thank you to Pastor Peggy who was Counselor Peggy and performed the opening and closing skits with me and was our main photographer. We couldn't have done it without all these people!

After talking with some of the students and parents, VBS was a hit with the families. We look forward to next summer's VBS.

Connection Junction was new this year. Each event was attended by a small group of people. We had fun playing games, cleaning up Solon after Beef Days, playing at Randall Park and eating a variety of food including s'mores! We plan on bringing this group back next summer for more fun, fellowship, and food.

With the school year here I would like to inform you about our upcoming groups and Sunday school classes.

Our children's Sunday school has grown! With a growing student population we have decided to hold two classes to meet the needs of our students. The first class will be for ages preschool through 4th grade. They will be focusing on people in the Bible by doing different activities every week. Our second class will be for grades 5th-8th. They will have their own curriculum focusing on their spiritual needs.

Sunday school will start September 8th. We still need volunteers to teach and to assist in teaching these classes.

Treasure Seekers and youth groups will start September 11th. The Treasure Seekers will start off the school year learning about the creation story in the Bible. Our high school youth group will be using the series Groove published by Cokesbury. This series will invite teens to learn more about their faith and how to engage the world in serving Jesus.

We are now offering a middle school youth group/confirmation class for grades 6th-8th. I will be working with Pastor Peggy on their curriculum. If you know anyone who has a youth in middle school and would like to be confirmed please contact Pastor Peggy or myself.

With the school year just around the corner, please be prayerful of how you can help our Christian education program grow.

*Peace,  
Dee*



# Camp Firelight 2024! SUMC Vacation Bible School



# Adult Sunday School

Wesley SS Class: this class can best be described as one of "exploration & discovery", as we seek a better understanding of God's Word. Using a book as our guide, we discuss the meaning of scripture in its day, & how we feel this scripture applies to present day. Books & coffee are provided and the class is open to "all" ages.

Location: The Wesley SS class meets across the street at the FLC (downstairs room) from 10:20am-11:30am (after Church & Fellowship). The room can be accessed from either the main front doors & down the stairs, or you can drive around to the rear of the facility and enter directly through the lower level doors.

Curriculum: The class will begin on *Sunday, Sept. 8* and we will be starting William Barclay's "The Parables of Jesus"



**Hope you're able to join us!**

## After School Program—Treasure Seekers!

Treasure Seekers, an afterschool program Kindergarten through 5th graders will meet after school on Wednesdays in the FLC on September 11th through December 18th (not including Nov. 20th). **3:30PM –5:15PM**

Registration is required, click [HERE TO REGISTER](#).

Enjoy snacks, games, and creative ways of learning Bible lessons to seek out and explore the treasures of the Christian faith. Different weeks will rotate between cooking, science, storytelling and drama, art, and mission projects to serve others.

This fall we will be learning about the creation story. Our first mission project is to help the local animal shelters.

Adult volunteers from the church will walk children over from Lakeview to the FLC.

Intermediate students can take the shuttle bus to Lakeview and walk over with the elementary students and adults. When weather is bad, drivers will bring the children to church.

Children should be picked up at the main church building between 5:15PM and 5:30PM. The whole family is welcome to have dinner with us at 5:30PM!

Family dinner will be available following Treasure Seekers in Fellowship Hall at 5:30PM each Wednesday, family dinner is open to ALL, with free will donation. Take out is available!



## Congratulations to Grant!

Grant Moses won third place in the five-and-six-year old category at the Iowa State Fair's Ag Art competition.

Each entry was a color drawing demonstrating the theme 'Farm Fever' and was displayed in the Paul R. Knapp Animal Learning Center.

Congratulations, Grant!



# Family Meals

Family Meals return on Wednesday September 11th at 5:30 PM in Fellowship Hall!

Join us for a wonderful weekly meal kicked off by a prayer. You can eat in house and join in on some fellowship or grab for take out if you'd like.

Family Meals are held weekly on Wednesdays. The meal is provided as a community service with free will donation accepted.

This program is made available by volunteers who cook, wash dishes, serve meals and clean the kitchen and fellowship hall following the meal. Please consider signing up on the clipboard to volunteer for this program if you are able. Let's keep this wonderful community tradition growing and thriving.

ALL are welcome.

**Spread the word and we'll see you on the 11th!**



# SUMC Community Garden

The SUMC garden has continued to help support the Solon Food Pantry each week this summer. A huge thanks to Wayne Anderson for consistently keeping up with the garden and to Carol Richards, Audrey Howell and Connie Railsback for stepping in when available.

Help with weeding is still needed. Volunteers are harvesting weekly til the end of the season.

We have struggled this year due to lack of volunteers, so please consider putting this on your volunteer list for next year. We'd hate to have to discontinue such a great support to our pantry.



# United Women in Faith Missions (Jun.-Jul.-Aug.)

## Olivet Neighborhood Mission

On July 30 and August 6 there were clothing, hygiene products and food delivered to Olivet Neighborhood Mission as an urgent need. The estimated value of the products delivered was \$308.15. This will help that neighborhood get through until September when they need to find another location as HACAP will be taking over their building. Thanks to all those who contributed and pray for this Neighborhood Mission!



## St. Luke's Birthing Center

Baby Hats delivered to during June, July and August totaled 69. WOW!! Verlee has been busy! If you are interested in being a part of this mission for newborn babies, contact Verlee Lauderbaugh.



## Cash Donations

Cash donations went to Wilton UMC Pastor Braudt Memorial of \$25, UMCOR Tornado Relief for Greenfield IA \$100 and Free Medical Clinic of Iowa City \$50. We are thankful to have earned the UWF Barbara Csomay Be Bold Grant three years in a row which has allowed us to be generous with our giving to others.



## United Way School Supplies Distribution

United Way of Johnson & Washington County School Supplies Distribution Event.

On July 29 UWF volunteers (Shirley Anderson, Connie Koeppen and Connie Railsback) went shopping for the school supplies and backpacks needed for this event. They were delivered to the Salvation Army that was assisting with gathering and sorting the items prior to the event.

On August 9 UWF Volunteers: Connie Koeppen, Jan Stock, Darcy Miller and Connie Railsback assisted families with their backpack selections and other stations that were setup including school supplies, hair cutting, dental exams and vision exams. This was United Way's first time holding this event. They plan to have it again in 2025 and we encourage you to get involved.

We served a total of 1,559 children with school supplies.



# United Women in Faith Missions (Jun.-Jul.-Aug.)

## UWF Workday

The August 13 UWF Workday was another great success! There were eleven of us to create 175 heart pillows!!

Ruth Spieker, Jan Stock, Nadine Sojka, Connie Koeppen, Jeanne Erhart, Jan Bishop, Shirley Anderson, Mary Gruber, Mary Hunt, Jordan Railsback and Connie Railsback. Delicious cookies were provide by Shirley Anderson (wish you had come now?).



120 Chemotherapy Port Pillows were created by Jan Bishop, Shirley Anderson and Jan Stock. These were bagged and counted for distribution. Because of their size, these are created at home and brought in to be bagged and counted for distribution. These pillows are getting more and more popular and now distribute them not only to UIHC but also Hall Perrine Cancer Center and Gilda's Club. We need more participation as these are created at home not on workdays. If you can help at your convenience, please contact Jan Bishop or Shirley Anderson.

The recipients of these pillows were the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center (Mercy CR) receiving 75 heart pillows and 50 chemotherapy port pillows. UIHC received 100 heart pillows and 70 chemotherapy port pillows. UIHC said that these pillows are used by all departments at the hospital. The cardiac ward especially likes the heart pillows.

***Please consider joining us at our next workday in September when we will have our final pillow making event for 2024. These pillows will go to Gilda's Club in Davenport. Mark your calendar; Tuesday, September 10, 8:30-11:30, FLC, Wesley Room. We would love to have you join us!***

*"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others." PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4*

## WOMEN OF FAITH

Eight women from WMF toured The Free Medical Clinic in Towncrest on Monday, July 22nd. We learned about all the free services given for low income families or have no insurance at all. Volunteers are welcome to help and they will take food from gardens or food in boxed containers. You can visit their web site to view their wish list at [www.freemedicalclinic.org](http://www.freemedicalclinic.org).

We had lunch at Midtown Restaurant and enjoyed free pie on Mondays.

Our next meeting will be September 4, 2024 in Fellowship hall at 1:30.

Hostesses will be Jan Bishop and Verlee Lauderbaugh.



## UNITED METHODIST MEN

We continue to meet every Saturday morning at 6:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. Our focus is on the Upper Room readings and all are welcome to join us.

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





# SUMC Bell Choir

Join the Solon United Methodist Church Handbell Choir!

We are excited to kick off another season of beautiful music with the Solon United Methodist Church Handbell Choir, and this year brings some new changes! I, Todd Bransky, have stepped into the role of director, following in the footsteps of the dedicated Mary Kucera. I am eager to continue the rich tradition Mary has built.

Our rehearsals are held on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 pm to 8:15 pm, starting on August 21st. We welcome anyone interested in joining us—whether you have experience with handbells or not. While it's helpful to know how to read music rhythm, it's not a requirement; we're happy to teach you!

This year, we're thrilled to welcome a few new members and we're hoping to add even more to our group. Our first performance is scheduled for Sunday, September 15th, at the 9 am service.

Come give it a try, meet new friends, and explore the joy of making music together. Hope you can join us!

Warm regards,  
Todd Bransky, Director  
SUMC Handbell Choir

## Bell choir Rehearsal Schedule

**Aug - Sept.**

**08/28 - 7:15pm**

**09/04 - 7:15pm**

**09/11 - 7:15pm**

**09/18 - NO**

**09/25 - 7:15pm**

## Finance

The Finance Committee has begun planning for the 2024 Stewardship Campaign which will occur during the month of October. Last year, the response to the campaign was very positive and, better yet, actual payments received suggests a potential year-end surplus of pledge payments made vs the actual pledge amount.

Each of you should be aware by now of the financial challenges facing SUMC. We will need another year of 'positive campaign response' to help manage these challenges going forward into the next year.



## Funeral Preplanning Workshop

We invite you to learn how planning for your final wishes may shield your family from unnecessary emotional and financial burden. Join us for complimentary treats while we learn more about pre-arrangements, veteran benefits, cremation, burials and more.

Discussion Topics: Cremation & Burial, Traditional Funerals, Legal Designee, Celebration of Life, Veteran Benefits, Payment Plans and Pre-arrangements

This program will be presented by Murdoch Funeral Homes & Cremation Service.

**Sunday, September 29th at 4:00 PM**



# A Visit from Doug and Martha!

Sunday, September 8, former SUMC Pastor Doug Peters and wife Martha Schut will be our guests for 9:00 worship, an 11:30 potluck, and visiting time after the potluck. At present Doug and Martha divide their time between an Italian residence and Iowa City. They also make time to stay connected with Doug's children, Matt, Tim and Anne, who have been scattered over the US and around the globe.

Doug was pastor from 1983-2002, and known for his great stories, song writing and guitar messages, and Martha, her beautiful singing voice.

It is our pleasure to have them back to visit before returning to their Italian home.



## Confirmation Update!

### Confirmation Class to Be Combined with Middle School Youth Group

We are excited to announce Confirmation Class and a Middle School Youth Group for this academic year! If you have a youth in 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade, or a 9<sup>th</sup> grader who has not yet been confirmed, please reply to let us know your interest in having them part of a combined Confirmation Class and Middle School Youth Group that will meet on Wednesday evenings, from 6:15-7:30 after the Family Meal from September through April. We have chosen to include several grades participating together in order to have a large enough group for robust and engaging programming.

Pastor Peggy and Dee Swartzendruber will lead this combined program, along with mentors who will attend 6 or 7 sessions during the year, and other volunteers and guest leaders. We will have a variety of activities, mission projects, games, interviews, creative learning opportunities, and visits to other faith communities as part of the programming. Our regular meeting place will be one of the upper level rooms in the Family Life Center. Two or three times we may have activities at another time during the week, likely on a Saturday or Sunday.

We invite parents and youth to come together to the first session at 6:15 on September 11 to learn more details about how the program will work. Youth who are part of the majority of the programming will be offered an invitation to be confirmed, but there is no requirement to be confirmed by coming on Wednesday evenings.

Contact Pastor Peggy ([pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org](mailto:pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org)) or Dee ([deeswartz@soloniaumc.org](mailto:deeswartz@soloniaumc.org)) or fill out the form [HERE](#) to let us know your youth will be participating. Also, if you or your youth know about other youth who might be interested, please let us know to make sure we contact them!



**“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together as is the habit of some.”**

**Hebrews 10:24-25**

# Prayers and Celebrations

## Prayers

Scott Nicol's sister-in-law, who had had open heart surgery several months ago, has now fallen and broken her hip.

Darcy Miller lifted up prayers for two friends: Valerie who has liver cancer, and Terri who will be having cataract surgery.

Kay Geguzis asked for prayers for her son Chris, who is having medical tests.

Dolfi Kalm asked for prayers for the family of George Steinbron, a former classmate who died.

Retired Pastor Jill Mack who will start August 15 as part-time pastor at the Wilton UMC, whose pastor was recently killed in a car accident.

Sue Wilkinson's granddaughter Meela, who is stuck in the airport in Charlotte because of storms with a group of 14 teenagers and chaperones trying to get home to Des Moines.

Paul Saupe who has also been stuck in the Charlotte airport.

Our District Superintendent, Brian Oliver.

Our Bishop Kennetha Bigham-Tsai, in her continuing ministry here, and the many other United Methodist bishops, some of whom have been reassigned.

All those impacted by wildfires.

All those impacted by the hurricane.

Darcy Miller requested prayers for her son-in-law, Oliver, having knee surgery.

Darcy Miller's friend Valerie, home now, but is having challenges in her recovery from liver cancer surgery.

Pastor Peggy's kids Izzy and Beth as they look for affordable housing in the Boston area.

For students and teachers and staff as the school year starts.

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

Leaders in our congregation.

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

Alice Crossley's daughter Susan is in the hospital.

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.

## Joys:

Thank you to all who participated in and volunteered for our Vacation Bible School.

Jeanne and Wilbur Erhart shared joy at the birth of great-grandson Cyrus Marcus Erhart on August 1.

Al Hulse shared joy that his granddaughter, Sydney, was able to fly out of Florida just before the storms from the hurricane started.

Barb Kalm lifted up joy at the ministry of the Solon Food Pantry, and that we are able to provide space for it.

Dee S. was happy to have her sister, Karen, visiting from Florida.

Todd B. announced that his daughter-in-law was in labor and they would be grandparents very soon!

Praises for the travelers who returned safely who had been stranded in airports due to storms - Paul S and Sue W's daughter.

Arnie L. was grateful for "Iowa Nice" when someone found some medicine he had lost in his travels and they returned it by mail.

Prayers for Pastor Peggy as she spends time with family in Boston and for safe travels.

Dena Reynolds shared joy that Kirk got a hole in one at a golf tournament, at a hole for which there was a \$10,000 prize for a hole in one!

Dolfi's brother Fredi and friend Heidi are visiting from Germany.

# September Birthdays

PUETTMANN, Kyle	09/02
HERR, Keela	09/04
HUYCK, Bethany	09/04
DURR, Josie	09/07
HAURY, Ed	09/09
FOLKERTS, Katie	09/10
MALLY, Alice	09/11
OWEN, Addison	09/11
JOHNSON, Eddie	09/14
BRANSCOMB, Colton	09/14
WHEELER, Payton	09/15
WOESSNER, Luke	09/16
MACK, Randy	09/17
HUNT, Mary	09/20
WEETMAN, Jill	09/20
PAULSO, Keith	09/20
SOJKA, Nadine	09/28



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**SEPTEMBER CIRCUIT RIDER**

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Return Service Requested

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

**Welcome  
Connect  
ignite  
Love**



**Rev. Peggy Garrigues**, Lead Pastor 319-855-7911  
pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org

**Angie Grecian-Bransky**, Music Ministry  
**Dee Swartzendruber**, Christian Education Director  
**Lindy Hopp**, Office Administrator  
**Ivan Hasselbusch**, Treasurer  
**Todd Bransky**, Bell Choir Director  
**Ruben Galvan**, Custodian  
**Lisa Hilton**, Security

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
9:00 AM –Worship  
9:00 AM—Sunday School  
(Beginning September 8th!)

**Church Phone:** (319) 624-2288  
**Address:** 122 North West St., Solon, IA 52333  
**Website:** <https://soloniaumc.churchtrac.com/>  
**Facebook:** Solon United Methodist Church—Iowa  
**Instagram:** soloniaumc