



# The CIRCUIT RIDER

NOVEMBER 2024

## In This Issue

*A Monthly Publication of Solon United Methodist Church*

Pastor's Message	pg 1
Music Ministry	pg 2
Worship Schedule	pg 2
Worship Attendance	pg 2
All Saints Sunday	pg 3
3rd Grade Bible Presentations	pg 3
Christian Education	pg 4
Youth Group	pg 5
New Member Class	pg 5
Charge Conference	pg 6
Christmas Tree Walk	pg 6
Missions	pg 7
UWF & UMM	pg 7
UWF Missions –Oct.	pg 8
Toys for Tots	pg 9
Thank you!	pg 9
SUMC Advent Study	pg 9
Rev. Enna Bio	pg 10
Trunk or Treat Success!	pg 10
Prayers/Joys	pg 11
November Birthdays!	pg 11

November will be the culmination of months of political campaigning. From what I hear, we are not likely to see a final result of the Presidential race on election night. Results may be very close and challenged in ways that will drag out the response that we hear. So I invite all of us to keep the elections at national, state, county, and local levels in our prayers, that they may bring out our higher values more than fear and hostility. May we all keep in mind the ways that Jesus and the scriptures call us to love and care for our neighbors and the poor and the immigrants in our land.

In October we had our Stewardship Campaign—Growth through Growing in Christ. We are excited about the ways our ministries are growing, especially reaching children and youth. Thank you to all who have already made a pledge supporting our mission and ministry in 2025! If you have yet to make your financial pledge, it is not too late!

An annual event in United Methodist Church life is the charge conference for each congregation. All members of Solon UMC are invited to attend, and are able to vote at the charge conference, which will take place at First UMC in Iowa City, along with representatives from the 9 others churches in our Iowa City Circuit. This will be on Sunday afternoon, November 10, from 2:30-4:30 pm.

In the church, November will begin with a celebration of All Saints Day. We will gather for communion and for remembering those members and friends of our congregation who have died in the last year. This year we will especially remember Fred Bark, Bob Kabela, and Ruth Ann Richards. We and their families have entrusted them to God's care, and know that they continue to be held in God's love. And yet we still grieve, because we may be missing them deeply for months and years after their passing. We also give thanks for all the ways that saints of our congregation have helped to leave a legacy through their involvement with Solon UMC.

In November we will also offer gratitude for the diversity within our culture and within The United Methodist Church. Our service on Nov. 10 will focus on African American culture and ministry. On November 17, Rev. Enna Antuñez, from Grace UMC in Tiffin (see her bio on p.10) and I will be having a pulpit exchange. After the 9:00 service here, she and I will together lead the Spanish speaking service in Tiffin at 11:15. On Nov. 24, we will focus on Native American culture and ministries. I will read one version of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Thanksgiving Address, which offers greetings to the natural world. In that tradition, the Thanksgiving address is not meant for one day of the year but used at almost every ceremonial gathering. I also hope to arrange a visit to an African American church worship service during November for our confirmation class. Watch for details on this!

May we give thanks to God for our many blessings: for families and friends, for those who have gone before us, for the diversity of neighbors we have in our society, and also keep in mind how we can pass and share those blessings along to others.

**Pastor Peggy**

*The Circuit Rider*



# Music Ministry

*Come*

W O R S H I P

WITH US

In 1973, the new musical "Godspell" hit Broadway. It was based on a book by John-Michael Tebelak and the music was written by the talented composer, Stephen Schwartz (also famous for Pippin and Wicked). The storyline is a series of parables, mostly based on the Gospel of Matthew. The setting is NYC and disciples spread over the city spreading Christ's message of love and tolerance. While, admittedly, it is a little weird and totally "70s" by today's standards, it has so many great musical pieces! Day by Day, Prepare Ye, and Beautiful City are some of my favorites. However, the best, (in my opinion!) is All Good Gifts.

All Good Gifts always comes to mind, to me, around Thanksgiving.

We plow the fields and scatter the good seed on the land...  
But it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand...  
He sends the snow in winter, the warmth to swell the grain...  
The breezes and the sunshine, and soft refreshing rain...

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from Heaven above  
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love...

We thank thee then, O Father, for all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food,  
No gifts have we to offer for all they love imparts  
But that which thou desirest, our humble thankful hearts!

All good gifts around us  
Are sent from Heaven above  
So thank the Lord, oh thank the Lord for all his love...  
I really wanna thank you Lord!

This month's special music:

Sun, Nov 3rd- Chancel Choir sings "Brother James's Air"

Sun, Nov 10th - Celebration Bells play "As With Gladness" and "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Sun, Nov 17th - Chancel Choir sings "Come With Glad Thanksgiving"

**November 3 –All Saints Sunday,  
Communion**

Scripture: Isaiah 25:6-9, Rev. 21:1-7  
Message: God is Making All Things New

**November 10**

Scripture: Psalm 105:1-3, 26-28, 37-41  
Amos 5:21-42

Msg: Gratitude for Diversity: Celebrating  
African American Culture & Ministry  
We Have Come Over a Way that with  
Tears Has been Watered

**November 17**

Scripture: TBD  
Msg: Gratitude for Diversity: Celebrating  
Latinx Culture & Ministry  
Guest Preacher, Rev. Enna Antunez

**November 24**

Scripture: Psalm 19:1-4 & Joel 2:21-27  
Msg: Gratitude for Diversity: Celebrating  
Native American Culture and Ministry  
Greetings & Thanks for All the Gifts  
of Creation

## Worship Attendance—October 2024

9:00 AM

October 6	62
October 13	71
October 20	83
October 27	73





# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 3rd we will celebrate *All Saints Sunday* at SUMC. It is a tradition during each of the worship services to have a remembrance of those who have died since last year's All Saints Day. During the worship service a candle will be lit in honor of those we have lost.



This year we remember:  
**Fred Bark, Robert Kabela & Ruth Ann Richards**

We give thanks for our loved ones  
and their place within the legacy of our  
church community.

## THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATIONS



On Sunday October 20th 2024 at 9AM worship, we presented Bibles to our Third Graders, and new SUMC Youth.

Third Graders Who Received Bible in Worship:  
Max Allen, Cal Gordon & Pieta Hanes

Not able to be present: Colton Branscomb and Reagan Schmidt

Every year, in congregations across the United States, third-graders line up to receive their Bibles. The new book smell is strong, and the excitement is great, a very proud moment for these youngsters.

Third-grade minds are like sponges - open to new words and ideas. What a perfect time for the Bible to come into their lives. With the help of parents, teachers, volunteers and the entire congregation, that new Bible will make an imprint on their hearts.



## Fall greetings,

As our leaves turn a brilliant orange, red, yellow and rust I am reminded that our God rejoices when things change into something beautiful like the fall colors. Our Christian education continues to change and grow into something wonderful. We decided to use our energy this fall in creating a third classroom/nursery instead of having Treasure Seekers since we had very few students interested in the program this fall. We hope to bring this fun program back in January.

Our pre-k-4th grades learned about Noah last month in Sunday School, and this month they are learning about the last supper. They are learning a drum song about the last supper. Our students learned that other cultures use drums in their celebrations as well. Pastor Peggy served communion to the class after the service on October 6th.

Our Bible Bash was a hit on October 20th! We had 5 youth get their Bibles this year. They were Colton Branscomb, Max Allen, Pieta Hanes, Cal Gordon, and Reagan Schmidt. We enjoyed doing activities including matching Bible verses to different types of candy. After the activities we all enjoyed pizza for lunch.

Our 5th-8th graders continue their journey through their walk of faith using the Bold series. They have learned that God loves them no matter what happens and forgiveness is hard to do sometimes and that God wants us to continue to try our best to forgive others as he continues to forgive us.

Our 3 and under classroom/nursery is coming soon! We have been approved to hire a nursery coordinator. This person will work 2 hours every Sunday morning and help coordinate a simple lesson for the 2-3 year olds and be in charge of the nursery. If you or know anyone interested in this very part time position please let the office know.

Our confirmation youth met with their mentors on October 9th. They got to know each other by sharing their faith journeys, asking each other questions, and creating items out of marshmallows and spaghetti. On October 16th our youth visited the Solon Food Pantry. They delivered 60 pounds of food. Way to go youth! Our next fun activity was to serve treats for fellowship hour on October 20th. Our middle and high schoolers also hosted a Trunk and Treat at Solon's Monster Mash on October 27th.. The theme is "get hooked on Jesus". We look forward to learning more about our faith, the Bible, and what it means to be a Christian.

*Dee Swartzendruber*

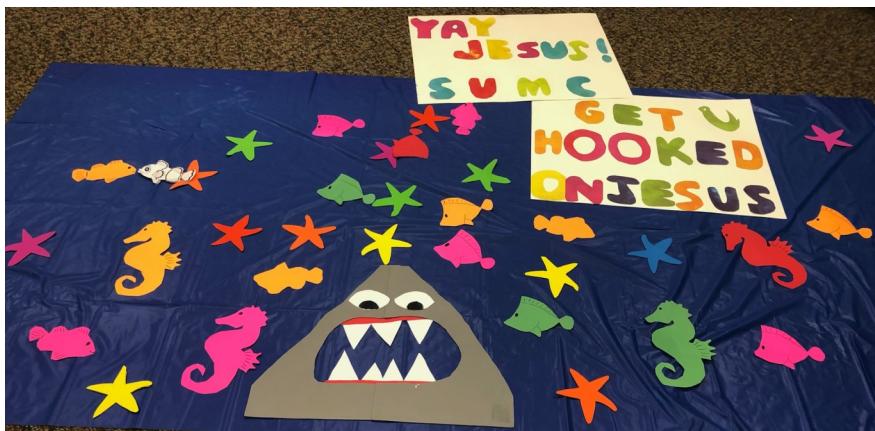




# Youth Group

## Hello all!

The month of September found the youth group beginning again. Our current attendance of 7 is just a wonderful, inquisitive group! When asked about things they would like to see on the agenda answers included: Mission trip with Youthworks, putting on our own worship service (look out! because here we come to your Sunday service!) Fundraiser return of the Super Bowl Sunday Subs and more. We always have the goal of learning where the books of the Bible are located and getting more comfortable praying out loud. Our Wednesdays in October included Safe sanctuary learning, learning about how the Church formed and what it is today, creating a scene for the Trunk or Treat "GET HOOKED ON JESUS" and making the decorations for that. Our wonderful youth have also helped staff Sunday School these months and helped in many small ways. This crew loves deeply, works so hard, and truly want to learn God's work and plan for us all. We also wanted to thank Carol Richards and Randy Mack for their regular substituting with our group.



## New Member Classes

### Interested in Joining Solon UMC?

Pastor Peggy will be leading two orientation sessions for those who would like to consider becoming members of Solon UMC. The classes are not a requirement to join, but will help you get to know a few other folks in the congregation, and have some conversations about United Methodism and learn some of the history of our church here in Solon.

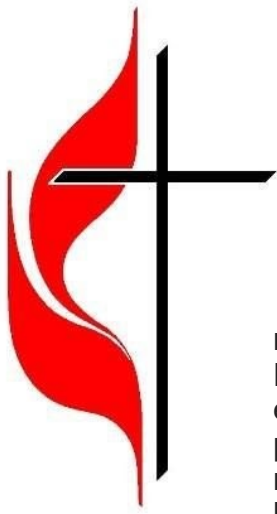
The two class sessions will be on Thursday evenings – Nov. 7 and Nov. 14, from 7-8:30 pm. We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall. Both evenings we will have some conversation to get to know each other and our backgrounds. Nov. 7 will focus a little more on United Methodism in general, and on Nov. 14 Barb Kalm will join us to highlight some of the history of this congregation. Barb wrote a book about the history of Solon UMC.

On Sunday, December 8, we will plan to have a new member ceremony for those who decide to join as members.

Please let Pastor Peggy know you are interested in the classes, and/or in joining the church [at this link](#). You can also indicate if you have questions.



Contact Pastor Peggy with questions—mailto:pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org or 319-855-7911.



# Charge Conference

On Sunday November 10, from 2:30 – 4:30 pm, members of Solon UMC and members of the 9 other churches in our Iowa City Circuit will gather together at First United Methodist Church in Iowa City to hear about some of the ministry each congregation is doing, and to make the official votes for church leaders and pastor salaries and several other items that happen at charge conference. All members of Solon UMC are invited to attend and vote. We'll send out an email before then to let you know what will be voted on.

Contact Pastor Peggy ([pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org](mailto:pastorpeggy@soloniaumc.org)) or Church Council Chair Denny Gruber ([dgruber86@yahoo.com](mailto:dgruber86@yahoo.com)) if you have questions.

Rev. Peggy Garrigues, Pastor  
Solon United Methodist Church

## SOLON ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE WALK AND ARTISTS' FESTIVAL DECEMBER 7TH 10:00 AM–3:00 PM SUMC FAMILY LIFE CENTER

The date is set!!! Mark Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> for the Solon Annual Christmas Tree Walk and Artists' Festival. The SUMC Family Life Center will be hosting the majority of the events that take place from 10 AM—3 PM.

Any person, family, group, or organization can enter a tree in the contest. Set-up is 9-5PM on Friday, take down will be Saturday from 3:30PM-5:30 PM. More information will be published in the Solon Economist.

Please pray fully consider volunteering for a shift - many to pick from as well as donating items for lunch and the various craft and bake sales. We'd also appreciate it if you would save your clean ice cream buckets and donate them towards this event. There will be a table for these located in Fellowship Hall.

Sign Up on the clipboard or online: [volunteer sign-up genius](#) , [donation sign-up genius](#). Thank you in advance for your support of this SUMC major fundraiser.

**Questions** - please contact Co-Chairs Barb Kalm, [dbjkalm@gmail.com](mailto:dbjkalm@gmail.com) or Darcy Miller, [djmiller@southslope.net](mailto:djmiller@southslope.net)





# Mission Response



As it has done so in the past, the people of SUMC have responded when a need has been placed before them. To date, \$1,417 has been collected for the Hurricane Helene Relief effort.

## 2024 Winter Clothing Distribution

Sponsored by the Consultation of Religious Communities and the Iowa City Police Department, the annual Winter Clothing Distribution was a great success.

**Thanks to all who contributed!** There was a total of 106 items delivered!

It was very much appreciated that members of our congregation volunteered to help with this event. They made it easy to schedule a time and task that fit into your schedule using Sign Up Genius. This is a yearly event so if you did not have the

opportunity to participate this year, stay tuned, you will be reminded next fall.



### UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

UWF's next meeting is Nov. 6 at 1:30pm in FH. We will have a speaker, Marilyn Muhle who works with Human Trafficking. Hostesses are Barb & Shirley. Our Bingo helper on Nov. 21st is Shirley. All women are welcome to attend.



# United Women in Faith

### UNITED METHODIST MEN

Join us every Saturday morning at 6:00 am in Fellowship Hall. On the first Saturday of the month they have breakfast!

If you would like to attend, call Mike Turner at (319)624-2061.



# UWF Missions Completed (October)

## Families Helping Families

Families Helping Families of Iowa (FHF) is a non-profit organization designed to help and support children in foster care. Our vision is to create positive opportunities, relationships, and better overall health for youth in our state who have been moved from their home.

UWF delivered 12 child sized blankets and 18 stocking hats to Families Helping Families.

Thanks to Coleen Pumphrey and Verlee Lauderbaugh for their time and talents in the creation of these items for children in need.



re-

## In-Gathering

This annual event is coordinated by the laity of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church. It is open to anyone wanting to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs.

The UWF have created 170 School Bags for Midwest Mission that will be delivered on November 2 to Cedar Falls First United Methodist Church. Thanks to Shirley Anderson, Jan Bishop, Jan Stock and Nadine Sojka for all their hard work and creativity in producing these School Bags.



## Foundation 2 - Fostering Futures

The goal of Fostering Futures is to help young people transitioning out of foster care to have the support and resources they need to reach and maintain stability as independent adults.

Services include Iowa aftercare services, Fostering Higher Education, Achieving Maximum Potential (AMP) youth advocacy and peer group, Youth Transition Decision Making, and more. Services are provided in the Cedar Rapids-area.

Clients work with their Foundation 2 caseworker to identify barriers, set goals and work toward stability. Additionally, financial stipends are available for participants who meet the qualifications. Participation in the program is voluntary.

The Foundation 2 Crisis Services' Fostering Futures team can support a young adult with independent living challenges including:

- Housing
- Education
- Employment
- Driver's license
- Budgeting
- Health care

On October 2, UWF hosted representatives from Foundation 2 – Fostering Futures. Katie Curtis and Renae Koth from Fostering Futures explained how children who have aged out of the foster care system in Iowa are assisted to begin life on their own.

One of the main services is to provide a large suitcase of products needed to run a household. With this in mind, members of UWF donated 77 items for Katie and Renae to take with them for use by these young adults and a \$50 donation.

Just a reminder that everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, especially when speakers are scheduled. Check the Sunday Bulletin for specifics when they are scheduled. We would love to have you!





# Upcoming Holiday Missions

## SUMC will again be collecting for Toys for Tots

The Marine Corp Reserve Toys For Tots is a yearly local program that allows children of less fortunate families experience the joy of Christmas. During 2023 they were able to provide gifts of toys and books to over 5,400 children. 100% of all funds donated stays in Johnson and Washington counties.

Our donation box is located just inside the front entryway with copies of the suggested list of books/toys.

Place your new, unwrapped gift in the collection box by Sunday, December 8. If you prefer, you can donate money and leave the shopping to the Toys for Tots volunteers.

Checks can be made out to SUMC with Toys For Tots in the memo line. Click [HERE](#) for toy suggestions or you can also shop from home using the [Amazon toy list](#) and they will ship directly to Toys For Tots. Thank you for your generosity.



## Thank you from Solon Senior Support

Dear SUMC Friends,

Thank you so much for your donations from Mission Moment to Solon Senior Support. Because of your generosity, we were able to purchase a commercial coffee maker, coffee cart, and all supplies needed for our Senior Coffee Group on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-11am. We are hoping the coffee group will offer a way to fight isolation and give older adults the opportunity to meet for conversation and community!

Blessings to all,

Jill Weetman  
President, Solon Senior Support



## Join in Our Advent Study – On the Way to Bethlehem

On the Way to Bethlehem follows the long journey to Christmas. The story begins in Rome with a decree issued from the seat of worldly power for a census, setting into motion events leading to the birth of the Savior of the world in a town that represents the very opposite of worldly power, Bethlehem. Author Rob Fuquay provides insight into the geographical and historical significance of Rome, Jerusalem, Nazareth, and Bethlehem, along with the important characters through whom the Christmas drama unfolds. You will be drawn into those places in a way that helps you experience the spiritual truths each location holds. The reflection we give in these places prepares the heart and soul to experience wonder, awe, mystery, and joy.

Chapters include: Rome – A Place of Longing; Jerusalem – A Place of Waiting; Nazareth – A Place of Simplicity; and Bethlehem – A Place of Humility.

Sunday morning worship services in Advent will follow the themes from this study.

Please [follow the link here](#) to sign up for a copy of the study book, and to indicate your interest in being part of a group study or even leading a group study of the book. The Monday evening Bible study group will use this study during Advent, and the Wesley class is also considering it.



# Meet Rev. Enna Anutunez!

My name is Rev. Dr. Enna Antunez, I am from Honduras, I am married to Marco Cabrera and we have two daughters Ninfa Reinoso and Terri Cabrera, a son in-Law Javier Reinoso and two grandsons Javier and Samuel Reinoso.

I came to Iowa from Honduras and I have been living in Iowa for more than thirty five years. I am glad to live in Iowa and I am very thankful to God for the opportunity to serve him and his people

I am serving the Anglo/ Latino Congregation of Tiffin, but, I am devoted to helping the Hispanic/ Latino community because I can relate to them. I understand and know the problems and challenges that immigrants and poor people face in the United States. I have always been drawn toward the needs of hurting people, whatever those needs may be and I have been active in volunteer work throughout my adult life.

I am an Ordained Elder in full connection and I am deeply passionate, convicted about preaching the word of God, administrating the Sacraments, and pastoral caring for people. Also I am very enthusiastic reaching others and sharing with them the Love of Jesus Christ.

I am so happy to worship with you pretty soon

Blessings,

Rev. Enna Antunez



## Solon Monster Mash Trunk or Treat 2024



On Sunday October 27th a few of our Middle School and High School Youth Group kids hosted a trunk for the Trunk or Treat at the Solon Monster Mash Bash held at the Solon Nature and Recreation Area. They came up with the theme, created the decorations, set-up and handed out over 3,000 pieces of candy to local children. Thank you to Luke Dieke, Tanner Kerkove, Toby Kleinsmith, Ryan Locke and Grace Allen for all the work you put into this event!





# PRAYERS AND CELEBRATIONS

## In Our Prayers

Al Hulse's former brother-in-law, Jack, suffered a TIA (minor stroke).

Connie Railsback's son, Chris, is having spurs removed from his ankle.

Verlee Lauderbaugh is waiting 6 weeks for a hip replacement, she asks for prayers for herself and patience for Arnie.

Arnie Lauderbaugh's brother, Richard, is having a knee replacement.

Kay Geguzis' grandson and kids, on the death of his wife/their mother.

Pastor Peggy lifted up a friend whose husband just left her.

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.

Alan Yegge, a friend of Gail Kirchner who has bone cancer. He is getting further testing to work out a treatment plan.

Jeanne and Wilbur Erhart asked for prayers for their son, Tom.

Coleen Pumphrey's daughter, Sophie, who is in Florida, where Tropical Storm and potentially Hurricane Milton is likely to strike.

All who lost family members, homes, and more from Hurricane and Tropical Storm Helene and Milton.

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.

Connie Railsback's brother-in-law, Dennis, is in critical care at Iowa.

Roma Pearl's sister-in-law Sharon is being treated for cancer.

Andy Bishop, of Ability Physical Therapy, had a stroke. Prayers for him and his wife, Lisa.

Safety for farmers as they work long hours this time of year, and patience for drivers as they share the road with farm vehicles.

Judy Grecian and her friend Linda as they travel overseas

Gloria Bulechek is home now after her hip surgery. She would be glad to receive cards.

Prayers for Roma Pearl and her family on the death of her sister-in-law Sharon.

Ivan, cancer in his lung metastasized to a rib, and radiation treatment that worked very well on his lung, did not work on the rib. He is contemplating chemotherapy, asks for guidance in discernment, and support in his healing journey.

Ministry of the other UM churches in our Iowa City area circuit.

Kris McAtee as she continues to recover from her foot infection.

Connie Koeppen for recovery from illness

Darcy Miller asks for prayers for her friend Val, who recently had liver surgery herself, and her daughter had her tonsils removed, and her husband just knee replacement surgery.

Betsy Saupe is in the hospital for being severely anemic.

Roma Pearl and her family on the recent death of her sister-in-law Sharon

Darcy Miller asked for prayers for her family, after the death of her brother-in-law Phil Short.

Family of Rita Ann Brannaman, who died this past week. She was very active in the Solon schools/

## Joys + Thanksgiving

Mary Gruber's brother and sister-in-law, Dennis and Marcia Johnson are visited from Fort Dodge.

Cathy Boggs shared joy that her granddaughter's friend, Ellie, who had liver cancer, after treatment and a liver transplant, is now cancer free.

Nadine Sojka shared joy that she and her husband are celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary.

Jeanne and Wilbur Erhart enjoyed a camping trip with their grandson.

Darcy Miller's grandson Jonathan got engaged to Maddie.

Sue Wilkinson shared gratitude for a wonderful experience of God's presence a couple of weeks ago.

Ruth Spieker and Neil Webster shared the joy of the birth of a granddaughter: Elliot Webster

Al Hulse celebrated his birthday Oct. 27th!

pray

# November Birthdays

Kerkove, Travis	11/04
Herdlika, Ron	11/05
Kerkove, Brianna	11/07
Mottinger, Chris	11/08
Roe, Allison	11/09
Telecky, Bess	11/10
Harrington, Alan	11/11
Noska, Carlie	11/11
Richards, Beth	11/11
Hofsommer, Nick	11/14
Kleinsmith, Selma	11/16
Arrowhead, Jacki	11/16
Woessner, Leah	11/16
Wears, Wendy	11/17
Hasselbusch, Ivan	11/19
Puettmann, Ron	11/19
Schmidt, Reagan	11/19
Stebreal, Lexi	11/21
Locke, Tyler	11/24
Gilroy, Liam	11/24
Hauser, Julie	11/28
Dvorsky, Brittney	11/29
Ruff, Deb	11/30



---

***NOVEMBER CIRCUIT RIDER***

---

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

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



**Sunday Schedule**  
**9:00 AM—Worship**  
**9:00 AM —Sunday School**  
**10:20 AM —Adult Sunday School**

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