

The March Tower

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Decorah First United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 221
302 W. Broadway, Decorah, Iowa 52101

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Email: decorah-first-umc@iaumc.net; **Website:** decorahfirstunitedmethodist.org.

Office Phone: 563-382-3835 | **Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:00 - 1:00



It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade.

~Charles Dickens

Announcements

- ♣ **Wednesday, March 6th** - Weavers at **9:00 AM** followed by a light lunch.
- ♣ **DECORAH COMMUNITY MEAL!** Please join us for a free meal on **Thursday, March 7th, at 5:00 PM, at Decorah Lutheran Church, 309 Winnebago Street.** All are welcome -- this is a free meal -- serving until **6:15 PM.** This month we are hosted by members of the Northern Lights Chorale who will provide volunteers, salads, and desserts. The main course is provided by Sodexo of Luther College.
- ♣ **Sunday, March 10th** - **Inclusive Ministries** is beginning a 3-part presentation called *Theology, Identity, & Me* (An Affirming Study of Gender, Sex, & Sexuality) during Coffee Fellowship. See more information on page 4.
- ♣ **Thursday, March 14th** - **Ad Council** meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall at **5:00 PM.** All are welcome.
- ♣ **Sunday, March 17th** - **Hung Kai Tan** (H.K.) speaking about **Singapore** during Coffee Fellowship.
- ♣ **Irma Johnson change of address.** On December 7 Irma moved to Barthell Eastern Star Nursing Home. Her new address is 911 Ridgewood Drive, Decorah IA 52101. Her phone number remains the same, 563-382-3406, which is in the telephone book. She welcomes visitors and phone calls.

March Worship Leaders

Liturgist

Coffee Servers

March 3	Mark Landas	Spence & Kathy McKinney
March 10	Nancy Lerdall	Bill & Connie Bergstrom
March 17	Sherry Schilling	Nick & Lori Rissman & Olivia & Carter
March 24	_____	Steve & Sara Luse
March 31	_____	Sherry Schilling & Brian

If you are willing to help with coffee fellowship in **April**, please contact the **Nancy Ruen** or the **office**. If you are willing to help out with liturgy in **April** please contact **Alex Frost** at either the Church email or the office phone during office hours. Ad Council also approved the purchasing of bakery items from the coffee fund, so baking at home is not required. Turn in your receipt for reimbursement. Thanks for your generosity!



March Birthdays & Anniversaries



4th - Lorraine Rear, Mark Rhodes

6th - Nancy Limberg

9th - Karen Van Der Maaten

10th - Tina Shedinger

13th - Marc Folkedahl

14th - Arthur Limberg

27th - Barb Dale, Lisa Vsetecka

29th - Mark Landas, John Lubke

2nd - Gloria & Kenneth Nordheim's
56th Anniversary

25th Connie & Bill Bergstrom's **57th**
Anniversary





We are trying to fill the grocery cart with cereal every Sunday during March. The NE Iowa Food Bank in Waterloo hasn't had cereal for the local pantry to buy recently. Please consider bringing a box of cereal with you each Sunday in March.



You can help by bringing donations to 110 Railroad St any weekday from 8:30 to 4:30 (ignore the morning closed sign) or send a monetary donation to PO Box 26 or visit our website: decorahfoodpantry.org

The Pantry is open for in-person shopping by **appointment** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from **12:30 to 4:30PM**, and on Tuesday and Thursday from **12:30 to 7:00 PM**. For further information consult our website decorahfoodpantry.org or call the pantry during daytime hours at **563-202-0872**.

Check out our Facebook page or Instagram to see what is happening at the pantry



"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY FEB. 11th



79 pounds of canned soups and goods were collected on "Souper" Bowl Sunday! Thanks for your generous hearts and having some fun with other congregation members.

Our totals for each team were: 49ERs 55/ CHIEFs 36.

Calendar of Events

- ♣ Friday, March 1 world Day of Prayer at 9:00AM In Fellowship Hall

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer and action each year on the first Friday in March. Decorah area women will gather this year at the first United Methodist Church beginning at 9:00AM with coffee time in fellowship hall. The service will begin at 9:20AM.

Each year a different country serves as the writer of the World Day of Prayer worship service, interpreting the Bible in their own context, and lifting up issues of mission, justice. The 2024 program was written by Palestinian Christian women. Their theme is "I Beg You...Bear With one Another in Love," based on Ephesians 4:1-7. Martha Monson Lowe will be our guest speaker.

- ♣ Volunteers are still needed to serve as greeters and help with coffee time at 9AM

- ♣ Wednesday, March 6. United Women in Faith meeting at 1:00PM

Lyn White and Connie Bergstrom will hostess. Sally Stromseth and Barb Dale will be presenting a program on the Methodist Hymnal

Altar Flowers:

Jeri Osenga

- ♣ Lilies in honor or memory of loved ones may be delivered to the church on March 28 (and 29th)



Inclusive Ministries

We are working with the **Social Forums Committee** to bring a 3-part presentation beginning this month on Sunday, March 10 following coffee time in the Fellowship Hall.

Theology, Identity, & Me

(An Affirming Study of Gender, Sex, & Human Sexuality)

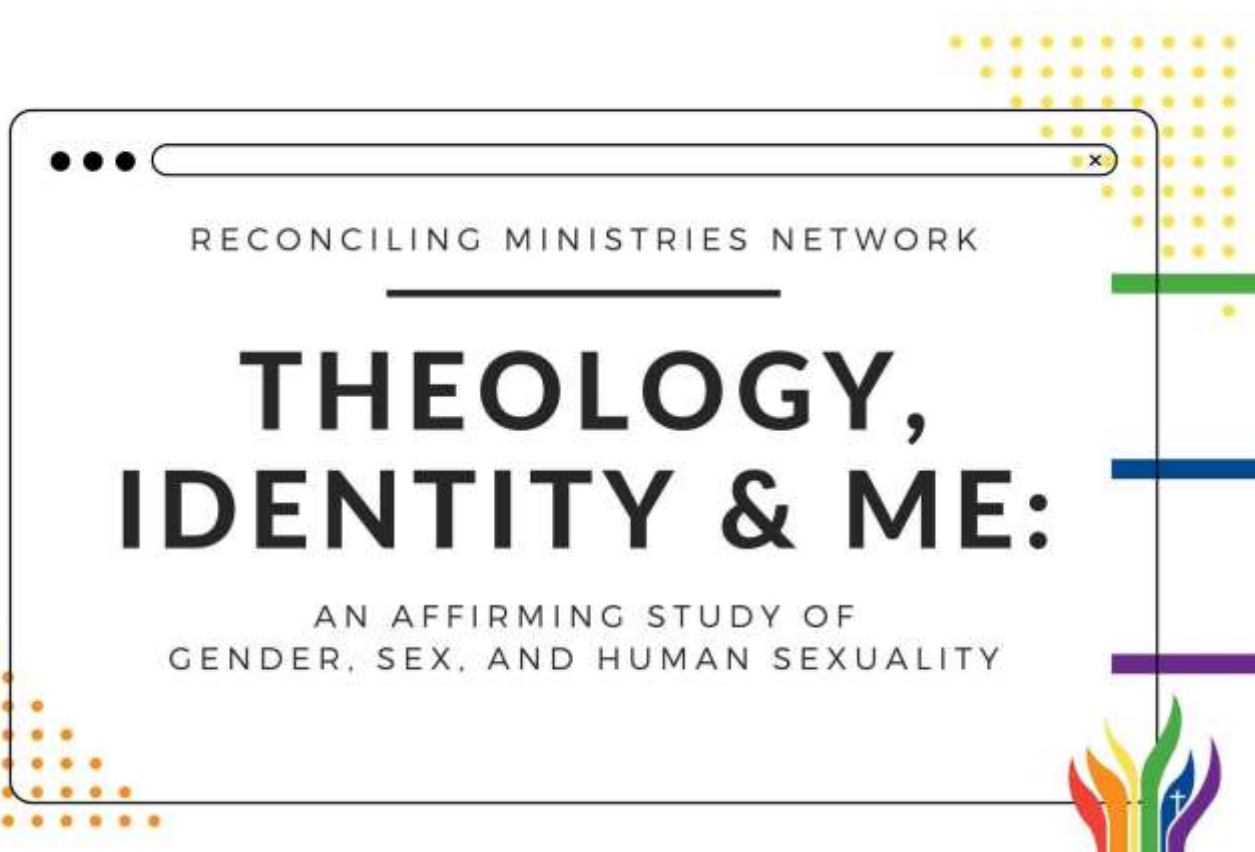
This is a 3-part video series where presenters share foundational knowledge about LGBTQ+ identities and how scripture affirms them through theological reflection, personal stories, and accompanying resources. Plan for meaningful guided conversations with others about LGBTQ+ affirmation.

Video Titles

#1 Gender & Gender Identity (**March 10**)

#2 Gender Expression (Date to be determined)

#3 Human Sexuality & Sexual Orientation (Date to be determined)



Volunteer at Vesterheim!

Do you want to deepen connections in the Decorah community and make new friends? Do you want to further something you're passionate about while learning something new? Do you love history and art? Vesterheim is seeking volunteers, and we'd love to meet you! No experience needed – just bring your enthusiasm!

Group trainings are happening late Feb.-April. Trainings are not necessary, but they are fun! For questions or to sign up, please contact Chivonne Marlow, Visitor Services Manager and Volunteer Coordinator at cmarlow@vesterheim.org or 563-387-6995. Find more information at vesterheim.org/vesterheim-seeks-volunteers-2024.

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Wednesday, February 12, 10 am-12 pm

Thursday, February 29, 1-3 pm

Wednesday, March 6, 10 am –12 pm

Monday, March 18, 2-4 pm

Tuesday, March 26, 11 am - 1 pm

Thursday, April 4, 2-4 pm

Monday, April 8, 10 am - 12 pm

Tuesday, April 16, 1-3 pm

Wednesday, April 24, 9-11 am