

The Tower

September 2024

Decorah First United Methodist Church

302 W. Broadway, PO box 221, Decorah, Iowa 52101

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



**A Message from
Rev. Cat**

How can it be September already? Time really does fly. I love fall. It's my favorite season of the year. While we may still be some time away from the changing of the leaves, there are still signs all around us that help us connect with and remind us of God's presence. In the spring, we have the flowers and budding trees, the summer brings us fresh fruits and vegetables from gardens and farms, and parties of celebration with neighbors and strangers. The fall brings us bright colors, harvest time, cooler days, and preparations for winter. Winter brings us snow with flakes that are not identical and show beauty in their differences, reminding us that we are each unique and beautiful. Whatever your favorite time of the year is, God's beauty and love can be found in and expressed through all creation. We just need to take a moment to step back and open our eyes. Blessings.

October 6 Sesquicentennial Celebration

10:00 Worship Service followed by Celebration Potluck

The month of celebration is coming closer! **We are looking for pictures of weddings** that were held in our beautiful building or performed by ministers serving our congregation. We would like to have a *"Display of Love"* set up for our celebration. Please bring any pictures of your own, or your family's, or friends to the church office during the week or on a Sunday morning. Let us know the names of the couple and the date of the wedding if known. Ann Duder has put together a publication about the clergy that have served in this church. The booklet is titled [Spiritual Leaders of the First United Methodist Church 1851-2024](#). They will be available the 2nd and 3rd Sundays in September. **They are free**, thanks to an anonymous generous donor for 65 copies, one to each family. (If someone wants an extra copy, they can contact the church office) If anyone wants to make a donation, we can put it towards the cost of any more copies needed.



September Worship Leaders

Liturgist

September 1	Don Stromseth
September 8	Kathy Johnson
September 15	Landan Folkedahl
September 22	Deb Tekippe
September 29	Syd Stephenson

Coffee Servers

Sweet Young & Emily Young/Johnson
Deborah Bishop
Sherry & Brian Schilling
Nick and Lori Rissman, Olivia & Carter
Deb Tekippe

If you would like to volunteer as a worship leader or help with serving coffee in September, please let Nancy Ruen know. We are grateful to all who help keep our church family sharing God's love with all.



Flowers for September

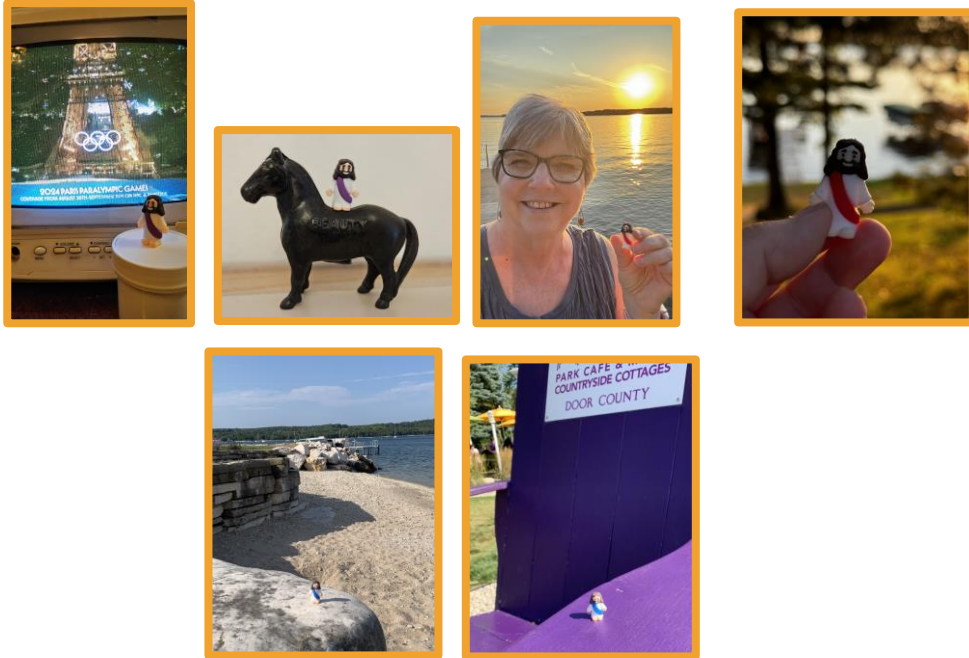
Flowers for the altar this month are provided by Deb Tekippe. If you would like to bring an arrangement to share in honor or memory of someone, please contact Deb.



Announcements & Prayer Concerns

- ◇ Ad Council meeting Tuesday, September 10th at 5:00
- ◇ Congratulations to Wayne & Phyllis Wasta of 69 years of marriage on August 14
- ◇ Congratulations to Lawrence & Millie Jensen on 67 years of marriage on August 18
- ◇ Prayers for all the students and teachers as they begin the new school years.
- ◇ Prayers for Millie Jensen following her fall, hospitalization, and a stay at Aase Haugen. Prayers for Lawrence as they adjust to changes in their lives.

“Little Jesus” Adventures



Little Jesus enjoyed watching some Olympics from Paris and tried a little horse-back riding! He also took a trip to Door County WI with Bill & Connie Bergstrom and Lac Courte Oreilles by Hayward WI with Nancy Ruen. Please continue to send us pictures of your adventures with little Jesus. Wonder where he might travel this fall?

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE ASSISTANT ELLIE VAN FLEET!



Hello! My name is Ellie and I am excited to be FUMC's new secretary. I am from Alexis, IL, and graduated from Luther College last May with a degree in English. I love to read and talk about books, so feel free to tell me about some of your favorites! I also love my cats, my friends, and to garden.

Thanks to Stephanie Folkedahl for your great work this summer!

A Note of Thanks from Nathan!



Here is Nathan playing our beautiful piano on his final Sunday as our accompanist on July 28th. We look forward to hearing him again when he returns to visit us! He sent this note of thanks to our choir and congregation.

Hello everybody! Here is my new information:

Address:

731 S Plymouth Ct. Apt. #415

Chicago, IL 60605

YouTube channel :)

<https://youtube.com/@nathanieleck?si=BRs1wnpEnKv8LUef>

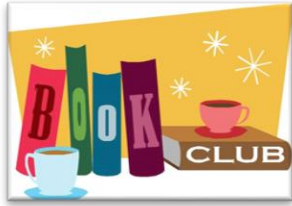
I'll be thinking of you all as I continue pursuing what I am meant to do. You have shown me unwavering grace and gratitude throughout the years, I can't find the words to express how meaningful that's been. Through you all I have come closer to understanding the infinite, unbounded love of God, and nothing is more precious than that. Thank you.

With love, Nathan



September Birthdays please let the office know of any errors or additions

- ◇ 4th – Pamela Ransom & Kath Zierath
- ◇ 9th – Joshua Vsetecka
- ◇ 16th – Herbert Hageman
- ◇ 20th – Karen Gipp & Jim Thompson
- ◇ 21st – Jane Vande Berg
- ◇ 22nd – Wayne Wasta
- ◇ 24th – Brenda Headington
- ◇ 29th – Deb Tekippe



Book Club Information

Our book selection for September is *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick. We will be meeting at 1:30 on Thursday September 19. Sherry Schilling will be hosting at 710 South Ave in Decorah and Nancy Ruen will be providing the treats. If you plan to attend, please let Jane Hardy know by email: jhardy3333@aol.com or phone 563-382-5316.



The Pantry is open shopping **by appointment** Monday through Friday from 12:30 to 4:30PM and on Tuesday & Thursday from 12:30 to 7:00 PM. **Check out our Facebook page to see what is happening at the pantry.** For further information consult our website decorahfoodpantry.org or call the pantry during daytime hours at 563-202-0872. **The Pantry could use small bottle of laundry detergent, paper towels, 4-pound bags of sugar, brown sugar, powdered sugar, baking supplies, and jam/jelly, and school supplies.** We are always interested in more volunteers if you are looking for a way to help spread God's Love in our community.



United Women of Faith Corner

September 4 UWF Meeting in Fellowship Hall at **1:00 PM**

- Syd Stephenson and Nancy Ruen will hostess coffee fellowship
- Business Meeting followed by a program presented by Jeri Osenga
- Come early to work on mat weaving from 9AM until Noon. A light lunch will be served between weaving and the meeting.

Quilting group meets on Tuesday Mornings from 10 to Noon September 3, 10, 17 & 24

Mat Weavers will meet on Wednesday, September 4 10:00 AM- Noon and 18 from 9:00 AM to Noon

UWF District Meeting on September 21, 2024 at Strawberry Point UMC

- We will leave Decorah @ **8AM** in the morning and return to Decorah around 4PM. Contact Candace for more information or if you would like to attend.

Altar Flowers for September Deb Tekippe

Looking ahead: **October 2** Mat weaving and UWF Meeting

Program: Sharon Rossman

Hostess: (*Please contact Candace to volunteer*)

October 6 All Church Sesquicentennial Celebration 10AM Service followed by Potluck dinner. *Kitchen and clean-up volunteers needed*

October 8 Bingo at Aase Haugen

October 15 Bingo at Wellington

Candace Arp 380-5996 or darpcarp@hotmail.com



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY PHOTOS

Thanks to all who have sent pictures and information for our updated Pictorial Directory. Nancy Ruen is working on what she has so far and hoping for many more to get this task accomplished. *If you haven't already, can you please send her a complete list of names of members in your household, your correct address, phone numbers, and a current picture. If you don't have a current picture, Nancy is willing to meet with you and help take a photo for you. Please have these to Nancy by September 30.* The goal is to be able to complete the book sometime this fall, possibly before November. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Rev. Cat or Nancy nancyruen@gmail.com 563-380-2110.

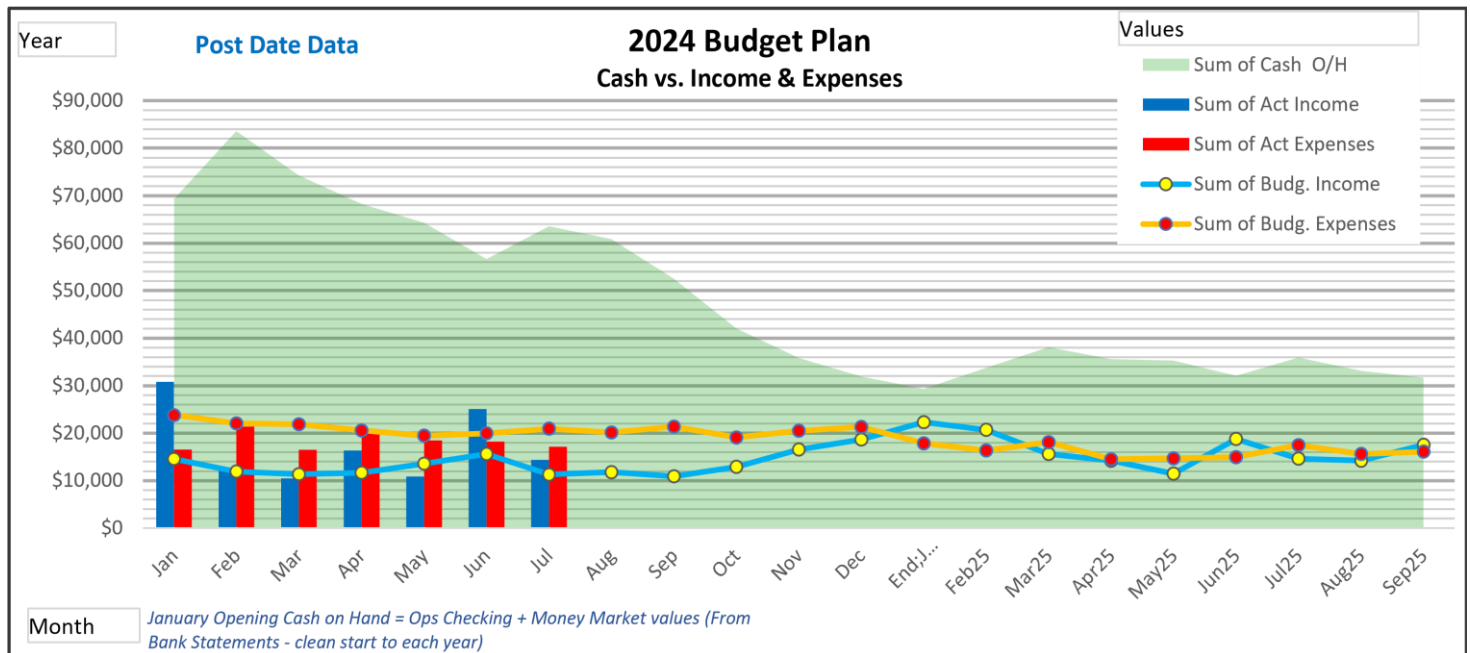


Note from Trustees

The church submitted its first payment of \$73,000 for restoration work during the month of July. The Restoration staff reported defects in the roof below the East Tower partly due to the missing down spout which is being supplied by Lifetime Gutters. Some of these leaks have been present for years resulting in damage to the underlying masonry. This initiated a change order of an additional \$20,000 and an anticipated additional ten days of labor to repair the roof and prevent further damage.

We continue to wait for an inspection and paperwork from Aliant Energy before we are able to make use of solar energy.

An Update from the Finance Committee and our Treasurer, Steve Rarick



Members,

July gave us a nice reversal to our June results (recall that in June we were seeing a negative cash position out in Q3 of next year). With our “slightly” better than planned income and our “moderate to good” performance in expense control, our projected negative cash position out into the future has been removed. However, keep in mind that swings like we see for June/July, can just as easily go the other way in future months...it doesn’t take much of a miss to drive a seemingly large forecast change.

While the “new” picture looks much better than it did last month, it is still something that we are watching very closely and are hoping that we can delay or not use our financial support levers that I mentioned last month. Please continue to reflect and pray about the financial condition of our wonderful church.

One question that I have gotten several times in the past few weeks is “are we seeing a reduction in our electricity billing now that the solar panels are installed.” The answer is not yet, we had to wait for our installation certification to be approved, this was completed at the end of July, so we likely won’t see a billing reduction until the September billing cycle (August billing is already in process). I will report on that as soon as I see an adjustment in our future billing.

Peace and God’s blessing to all,

Steve Rarick, Treasurer – Decorah 1st UMC
(847) 830-9891

Today



September 2024



Month ▾



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sep 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church service 10am Coffee 	2 Labor Day	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Quilting Group 10am Historical Team meeting 11am Pastor Cat goes to Pastor Bill 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Mat weaving 1pm UWF meeting 	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5pm Decoran Community Meal @ 1 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Cat in Des Moines (BOT meet) 	7
8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church service 10am Coffee 	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Quilting Group 9:45am Fall Ministry Fair (Luther) 11am Pastor Cat goes to Pastor Bill 5pm Ad Council Meeting 	11	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am Circuit meeting 	13	14
15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church service 10am Coffee 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pastor Cat Professional Interview 	17 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Quilting Group 	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Mat weaving 	19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District UWF meeting
22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church service 10am Coffee 	23	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Quilting Group 11am Pastor Cat goes to Pastor Bill 	25	26	27	28
29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Church service 10am Coffee 10:30am Bible Study 	30	Oct 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Quilting Group 11am Pastor Cat goes to Pastor Bill 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Mat weaving 1pm UWF Meeting 	3	4	5