

THE TOWER

OCTOBER 2024

DECORAH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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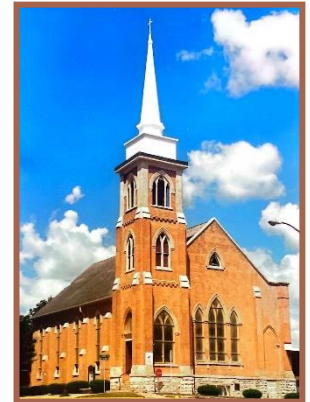
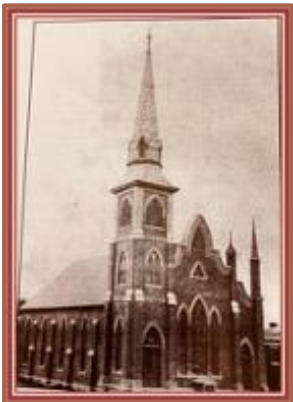
A Message from Rev. Cat



This month I head off to Greece and Turkey for two weeks. I will be following the journeys of Paul. I am so excited to get to go on this trip and to see places such as Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Istanbul, and Cappadocia to name a few. I even get the privilege to present the devotional for the day in Antioch. I have also earned the privilege to provide the devotional for the conference Board of Trustees at our November meeting because, as my friend Elizabeth says, 'She'll be full of the Holy Spirit when she returns.' Haha! Of that I have no doubt. While I am gone, if you have any pastoral needs please don't hesitate to call Rev. Kim Gates. She is the pastor at St. Paul's UMC in Waukon and at Monona UMC. Her phone number is 641-777-4996. She is covering for me from October 7 until October 22.

Blessings, Rev. Cat Stokes

Sesquicentennial Celebration Month is Here!



Our time to celebrate has arrived!

Please invite your family and friends to worship, feast, and share in our joy!

October 6 Worship service 10:00 am

Potluck Luncheon following in Fellowship Hall

Turkey/Dressing main dish, table service, & beverages will be provided.

Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



October Worship Leaders

Liturgist

Coffee Servers

October 6	Nancy Ruen	Celebration Potluck!
October 13	Ann Duder	Bill & Connie Bergstrom
October 20	Linda Watson	Steve & Sara Luse
October 27	Deb Tekippe	Kay Bronshteyn & Syd Stephenson



Flowers for September

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



Announcements & Prayer Concerns

- ❖ Pastor Cat will be traveling to Greece & Turkey October 7th-21st. Jim Dale & Allie Scott will be our guest preachers.
- ❖ Circuit all church gathering is being planned for November 17th at 3:00 pm in West Union UMC. More details will be available in next months Tower.
- ❖ Congratulations to Deanna & LeRoy McClintock on 20 years of marriage on October 15th
- ❖ Congratulations to Lyn and James White on 46 years of marriage on October 21st

Inclusive Ministries

Pride Parade is scheduled for October 12. Plans are being made for area churches to gather before and march together. More details will follow. Watch the Facebook page or email announcements.

Capital Campaign Update

Interior damage due to water leaking through a defect in the roof has added \$19,743 to our contract sum. The original contract called for replacing 12 buttress cap stones at a cost of \$2,750 per stone. Closer evaluation of the stones in the tower revealed cracks in many of them. They had been covered by cementitious material and were showing more signs of deterioration than had been anticipated. The restoration company offered to replace 26 more cap stones at a cost of \$2,237 per stone totaling \$58,162. It is estimated the roof repair will take an additional 10 days and the additional cap stone will take an additional 15 days. The original contract was for \$441,559. Adding in the amounts of the two change orders the updated contract total stands at \$519,464. Completing the replacing of tower cap stones while they are on site will cost \$58,162 compared to cost of \$75,000 to \$90,000 if done at a later date based on inflation cost and replacing scaffolding.

Campaign funds stand at \$494,408 pledged and \$351,671 in collected cash. The committee intends to apply for a loan to cover additional costs of the project. To date Building Restoration Corporation has been paid \$298,880.



October Birthdays

**3rd – Britt Rhodes

**4th – Ron Taylor

**7th – Andy Van Der Maaten

**12th – Chandler Dawley

**16th – Irma Johnson

**21st – Alice Holdiman

**27th – John Carver

**29th – Spence McKinney

**4th – Nick Rissman

**5th – Ken Vande Berg

**9th – Scott Zierath

**13th – Nina Taylor

**16th – Olivia Ann Rissman

**26th – Shirley Dynes

**28th – Ann Rhodes

Please let the office know of any errors or additions



Book Club Information

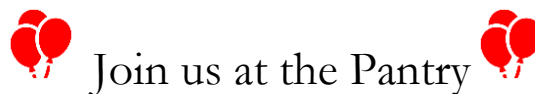
Our October 17th book selection is *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. We will be meeting at Sweet Young's home located at 807 Maple Ave in Decorah.

If you plan to attend please let Jane Hardy know by emailing jhardy3333@aol.com or phone at 563-382-5316



October 13, 1:00 pm

Building Awareness of Local Hunger



110 Railroad Street

We will walk on the sidewalks up Washington Street to Water Street and then down Mechanic Street returning to the Pantry. All ages welcome!!

Participate by registering on site with a free-will donation or non-perishable food items if you would like.





United Women of Faith Corner

Quilting group meets on Tuesday mornings from 9:00am-11:00pm – October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Mat Weavers will meet on Wednesday October 2, 16, and 30 from 10:00am-12:00pm

October 2nd UWF Meeting in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 pm

- ❖ Millie Jensen & Nancy Ruen will hostess coffee fellowship
- ❖ Business Meeting followed by a program present by Barb Dale

October 7th Iowa Conference UWFaith Annual Meeting- St.Paul's UMC, Cedar Rapids, IA.

October 8th Bingo at Aase Haugen

October 15th Bingo at Wellington Place

Altar Flowers for October provided by Virginia Leidahl

Looking Ahead:

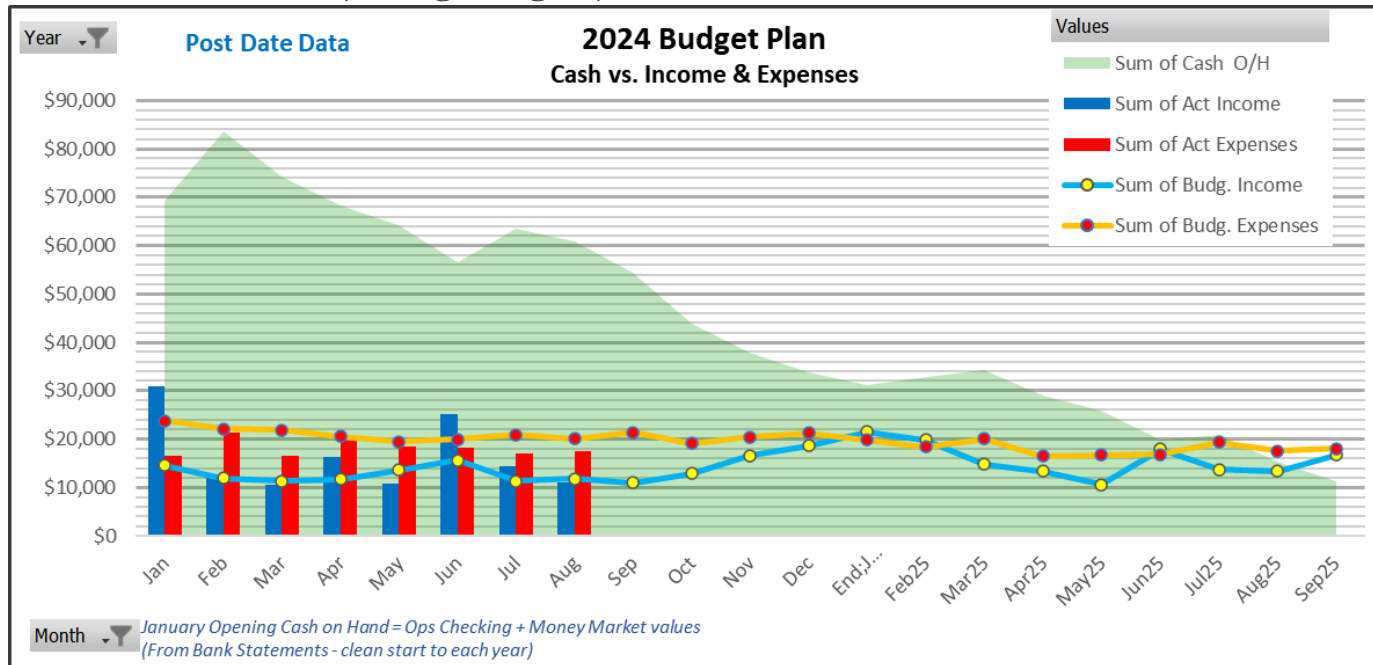
- ❖ November 4th Thanksgiving gathering, First UMC, Cedar Falls
- ❖ November 6th Mat weaving & UWFaith Meeting
 - Hostess: Kathy McKinney

Candace Arp 380-5996 or darpcarp@hotmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Members,

Our Current Picture (through August)



August was typical for an August. Income, while lower than the past two months, did manage to come in close to plan. Expenses, while higher than income, did at least come in a bit lower than plan. Obviously, the higher expense ratio had a negative impact on our long-term Cash-on-hand outlook, but at least we did not project negative for the 12-month horizon. Right now, our Cash-Forward-Coverage position is 3.32 months, i.e., right now we have enough cash on hand to cover the next 3.32 months of expenses, if no additional income came in at all; this of course is NOT likely to happen, but it does give us a way to measure a worst-case scenario.

The good news is we should start to see some higher income numbers as we move into the 4th quarter (typical for that time of year). We're also hoping that our expense trend (coming in below plan each month) will continue. Of course, we're about ready to shift over to heating season and snow-removal season, so say a prayer for another mild winter...every little bit helps!

Also, we did receive (in our last electric billing) the first impact of the solar panels. I hesitate to publish the rate/savings impact as it only represented 9 billing days in the last cycle and therefore gave us a minimal savings impact, but I did promise to share this information with you when it came in so here goes:

- We saved just under 5% on those 9 days; a total of \$14 on a billing of roughly \$270.
- In all honesty, we really won't get a good feel for a savings level until we complete a full-year billing cycle.
- Also remember that the solar panels will have their biggest impact during our high-electric usage (AC) months.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions.

