

APRIL 2026

THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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BIRTHDAYS

1 - Claire McConnaha
3 - Penny Gafeller
4 - Amanda Tisinger
6 - Jonathan Blayer
6 - Angie McConnaha
6 - Natalie Miller
6 - Dave Phillips
7 - Clarence Crew
7 - Garrett Tisinger
8 - Emily Nelson
12 - Xander Maxson
13 - Allison Lacina
22 - Aimee Bergmann
23 - Rebecca Carver
23 - Mike Schropp
24 - Hunter Mast
24 - Carolyn Richards
25 - Hanna Tisinger
25 - Taylor Tisinger
28 - Carl Heck
28 - Jake Paul
30 - Lori Phillips

ANNIVERSARIES

1 - John & Joanna Fletcher (18)
14 - Max & Jamie Kober (8)

SUMC'S MISSION, VISION & VALUES

Mission

We exist as a church to make disciples, bringing persons to Jesus Christ and to Christ's community.

Vision

*The Church bulges with attendance; Babies cry in the back pew; and Cheerios can be found on the floor.

*Many people get their hands dirty serving God's church and God's children.

*Persons of all ages regularly meet together in every nook and cranny for spiritual support and nurturing.

*Congregations gives joyfully.

Values

*Everything we do is based on our worth as God's children and seeing that in others.

*We use all we have and are to serve God and God's people.

*We believe in joy, content to give thanks to the Lord in all things even through tough times of darkness.



REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS

As I write this article, my desk is covered with notes, bulletins, sermon ideas, etc. It is the week before Holy Week, and I am busy working on multiple worship services in preparation for the "high" holy day of our year- Easter. But to get there, we must journey through the remembrance of that week so long ago, when Jesus went from "Hosannas" on Sunday to "Crucifies" on Friday. It is a week of extreme highs and deeply depressing lows.

Yet our journey does have a joyous ending. When all seemed lost, when death, betrayal, and denial seemed to permeate everything, just at that moment, the unexpected happened. On that Easter morning, when it looked as though all was finished, God surprised the world. Our savior, Jesus the Christ broke the power of sin and death, returning to the world as a proclamation of hope and new life.

Our focus in Lent has been journeying—we have traveled through various Biblical stories to reach Jerusalem with Jesus. Now, in Eastertide, we will be encountering persons whose faith was deepened by the power of the resurrection. Some like Peter, will get second chances. Others will proclaim their faith based on what they witnessed after the resurrection. We will learn new things from all as we experience anew the joy of new life and spring.

May this be a blessed Holy Week and Easter season for all. Join us for worship throughout the month as we celebrate the resurrection of our Savior.

Rebecca

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 8 - Discipleship Night @ WBUMC, 5:30 p.m.
- UMW @ SUMC, 6:30 p.m.
- April 12 - Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- April 13 - Family Faith Night, 6 p.m.
- April 15 - Discipleship Night @ WBUMC, 5:30 p.m.; **Need volunteers to serve dinner and provide baked goods**
- April 19: Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Birthday Sunday; Fellowship
- April 22: Discipleship Night @ WBUMC, 5:30 p.m.
- April 26: Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.
- April 27: UMW Bingo @ Crestview, 2:30 p.m.; Ad Board 6:00 p.m.

APRIL WORSHIP

Theme for the Month: Being Known

April 2

Holy Thursday, Communion
Scripture: John 13:1-17; 31b-35
Sermon: "Love to the End"

April 5

Easter Sunday, Communion
Scripture: Luke 24:13-35
Sermon: "Be Known"

April 12

Second Sunday of Easter, Diane Speaking

April 19

Third Sunday of Easter, Birthday Sunday, Fellowship
Pastor Leila Preaching

April 26

Fourth Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 2:42-47; 1 Peter 2:19-25
Sermon: "Astray"

**Adult Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Wednesday Night Discipleship 5:30 p.m. - WBUMC**

SONG OF THE MONTH



EASTER IS JUST THE BEGINNING

April brings us to the celebration at the heart of our faith: Easter. We rejoice in the resurrection, in the hope of new life, and in the promise that Christ is still at work in the world today.

But as United Methodists, we also recognize something important:

Easter is not the finish line — it is the starting point.

As John Wesley taught, faith is lived out through both *personal holiness* and *social holiness*. The good news of the resurrection is not meant to stay within the walls of the church — it is meant to be shared, lived, and embodied in our daily lives.

From Invitation to Connection

Throughout Lent and Easter, many of us extend invitations — to worship, to events, to experiences like Family Faith Night. April is the time to continue what started.

Outreach and evangelism are not one-time moments. They are ongoing relationships.

This month, we are invited to ask:

- Who joined us during Easter that we can reconnect with?
- How can we move from a friendly greeting to a meaningful relationship?
- Where is God already opening doors for deeper connection?

A warm welcome is powerful — but a continued connection is transformational.

Simple Ways to Follow Up

As a congregation committed to Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism, we can take small but meaningful steps:

- **Reach out again** — A simple message or conversation can make a lasting impression
- **Extend a second invitation** — Worship, small groups, or upcoming events
- **Be present** — Sit with someone new, learn their name, hear their story
- **Pray intentionally** — For those who visited, and for those still seeking

Evangelism in the United Methodist tradition is rooted in relationship. It is about walking alongside others as they encounter Christ.

Living the Resurrection Daily

The resurrection is not only something we celebrate — it is something we live.

When we show kindness, we reflect new life.

When we build relationships, we reflect hope.

When we serve others, we reflect Christ.

Our community does not just need to hear about Easter. They need to see it lived out in us.

Family Focus: Keeping Easter Alive at Home

For families, April is a wonderful time to continue the joy of Easter beyond a single Sunday.

Try these simple practices:

- **Share “God sightings”** — Where did you see love, kindness, or hope this week?
- **Practice invitation** — Encourage children to invite a friend to church or an upcoming event
- **Stay connected** — Reconnect with families met at Family Faith Night or Easter
- **Serve together** — Find a simple way to help a neighbor or someone in need

When families live out resurrection hope in everyday moments, children begin to understand that faith is active, joyful, and ongoing.

Easter reminds us that new life is possible — not just once a year, but every day. As we move through April, may we continue the work we began: welcoming, connecting, serving, and sharing the love of Christ with all.

Paula Rogers
COME Chair

WB FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHES CLOSET DONATIONS

April

Canned Fruit and Fruit Cups

May

Deodorant, Shampoo, Body Wash, etc.
Underwear (infants to adult)

June

Swim Diapers, Sun Screen, Aloe
New or Gently Used Swim Goggles and Swimsuits (infants to adult)

July

Freeze Pops (the liquid ones)
New or Gently Used Summer Clothes (infants to adult)

August

School Home Lunch Items (Peanut Butter, Jelly, Chips, Juice, Etc.)
New or Gently Used Shoes and Socks (infants to adult)

***77.8 pounds donated through the end of March**

QUARTERLY FINANCE REPORT

Item	Budgeted
Committee - Staff/Parish Relations	\$17,122.00
Committee - Trustees	\$16,190.00
Committee - Altar	\$80.00
Committee - Worship	\$1,175.00
Committee - COME	\$1,000.00
Committee - Education	\$5,550.00
Committee - Finance & Stewardship	\$50.00
Committee - Lay Leadership Development	\$200.00
Apportionments	\$5,204.00
Administrative Operations	\$905.00
Miscellaneous	\$1,225.00
Total	\$48,701.00

For 2026, Springdale UMC has a budget of \$48,701.00. Through the end of February, expenses total \$6,518.46, while giving has reached \$7,288.25—leaving us with a positive balance of \$769.79.

We are grateful for your continued generosity and faithfulness. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you can continue to be a strong steward of Springdale UMC through your time, talents, and treasures. As our membership vows remind us, we are called to serve with our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.

For additional details about the church's financial status, please feel free to contact a member of the Administrative Board or our Treasurer, Jessica Grace.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

5:30 p.m. - PK-6th grade classes meet in classrooms
6:10 p.m. - Family Worship
6:30 p.m. - Family Supper in Fellowship Hall
(Parent/Guardian required for students in 5th grade and under)
7-8 p.m. 7-12 grade Youth Group

SUMC is looking for volunteers to help prepare, serve, and clean up for the Family Supper the Third Wednesday of every month. We also need volunteers to provide baked goods (6 dozen). Please contact Rebecca or Paula for more information and to sign up.

Looking for other ways to support this ministry? Visit the following supply wish list links: [Walmart](#) [Amazon](#)

A poster for Family Faith Night. The title "FAMILY FAITH NIGHT" is in large, bold, white and pink letters. To the right is a pink heart outline with a cross inside. Below the title, there is a calendar icon and text: "2nd Monday of the month 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM". Next to that is a location pin icon and text: "Springdale United Methodist Church 554 290th Street West Branch, IA 52358". To the right of these details, there is text: "We're starting something new in March! A short, relaxed Family Faith Night once a month. No weekly commitment. Just food, faith, and time together. Everyone is welcome." At the bottom, there is a globe icon and the website "www.springdale.church".

FAMILY FAITH NIGHT

 2nd Monday of the month
6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

 Springdale United Methodist Church
554 290th Street
West Branch, IA 52358

We're starting something new in March! A short, relaxed Family Faith Night once a month.

No weekly commitment.

Just food, faith, and time together.

Everyone is welcome.

 www.springdale.church

CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS

Food, Justice & The Land

Addressing Food Insecurity, Local Food Production,
and our Connection to the Earth

Saturday, April 11
10 AM to noon

First United Methodist Church
& Wesley Foundation
214 E. Jefferson Street - Iowa City

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Timothy Eberhart

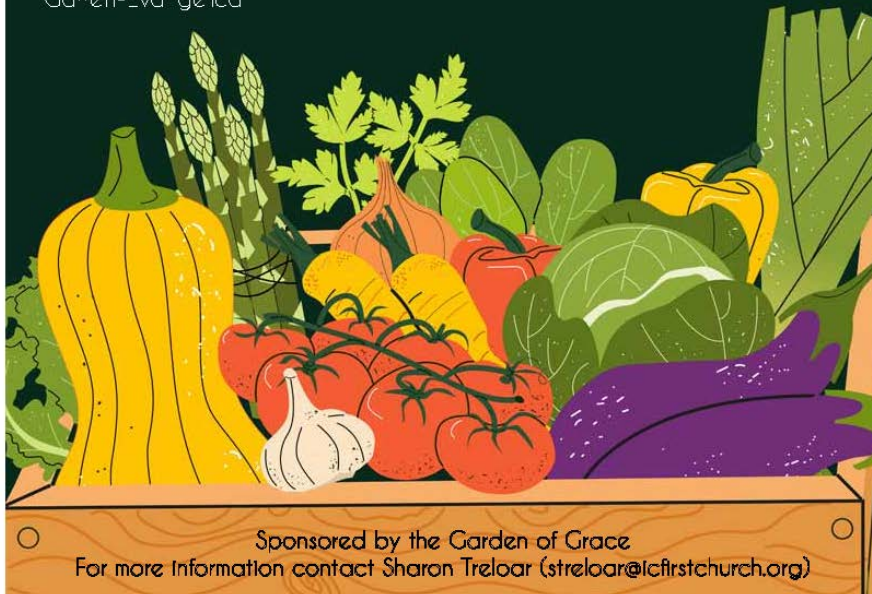
Associate Professor
of Ecological Theology &
Practice at
Garrett-Evangelical

Ryan Markle

Food Bank & Financial
Services Manager at
Community Crisis Services

John Weeg

Johnson County
Demonstration
Master Gardener



Sponsored by the Garden of Grace
For more information contact Sharon Treloar (streloar@icfirstchurch.org)





For More Visit:

[Iowa Conference](#)
[Southeast District](#)
[United Women in Faith](#)

District Superintendent

Rev. Brian Oliver

Email: brian.oliver@iaumc.org

Phone: (319) 382-0436

AD BOARD MINUTES

Springdale UMC Leadership Board meeting—March 23, 2026

Full Leadership Board: 6 p.m.

Attendance: Rebecca, Steven, Julie, Jessica G., Jo, Lynda, and Paula

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer
 1. John 16:33
3. February 23, 2026 Minutes
 1. Jo moved to approve the February 23, 2026 minutes. Lynda seconded. Motion carried.
5. Trustees
 1. Security—weird things lately
 1. Lights on in the sanctuary over the weekend
 2. Side door Thursday and Sunday morning the deadbolt was stuck out just a bit and the door was not closed all the way
 3. Changed the stop on the front door
 4. Discussion was had about installing cameras and/or starting to lock the door.

1. Question about where are keys for the doors
 2. West Branch UMC has First Trend: 8 cameras - \$400. No subscription cost
3. Storm damage–Travis Dimmer looked
 1. Deductible over \$5,000
 2. We have sustained hail damage both to the siding as well as to a storm window
 3. UMCOR \$\$ available and Brian Oliver said we should contact him as well if we need assistance
5. Drums
 1. Joel will order drum heads this week and then the set will go to the school
 2. Jo has a backup plan if necessary
7. SPRC
 1. Upcoming Dates
 1. April 12–Diane share on mission trip
 1. WBARC pulpit exchange
 2. St. Bernadette's is not participating this year
 3. April 19–Steven at WBUMC & Leila at SUMC
 4. June 14 Annual Conference - Joint Circuit Worship or check with West Branch about doing a joint service
 3. Nominations (Lay Leadership Development)
 1. Worship Committee: Jessica G., Amanda B., and Rylee.
 5. Evaluation of Rebecca due by May 1
9. Stewardship
 1. Treasurer's Report–through February, 2026
 1. Paula moved to approve the report. Lynda seconded. Motion carried.
 3. Update for newsletter
 4. Empower data input (attendance, pledges, donations, etc.)
 1. Keep track of attendance at small groups for tracking in Empower
 2. Asked Jo to start providing worship attendance sheets monthly to the church
11. COME
 1. Family Faith Night–April 13
 1. Invite family/friends to attend
 2. Resurrection Gardens
 3. Sloppy Joes for dinner
 3. Food Pantry updates/ideas
 1. April–Fruit/Fruit Cups
 2. May–Deodorant, shampoo, body wash, underwear
 3. June– swim diapers, sunscreen, aloe, goggles, swim suits
 4. July– freeze pops, shorts, tank tops, tshirts
 5. August– School lunch items (juice, chips, peanut butter, jelly, etc.) - tennis shoes and socks
 6. Do we need flyers and/or cards for people to take if they aren't at church?
 5. Summer/Fall Events
 1. July 5 - Outdoor Worship and picnic lunch @ Cedar Valley
 2. July 12 - VBS
 3. September 27 - Blessing of the Animals
 4. Relay Race
 7. Other
 1. Lent season workshops
 1. Palm Sunday
 1. Hartz's are bringing Eeyore for the donkey walk
 2. Jo has arranged for the palms
 3. Maundy Thursday
 1. Paula will be available for slideshow
 5. Good Friday
 1. At West Branch
 7. Sunrise Service and regular worship w/ communion
 1. Flowering of the Cross
 3. Rebecca needs suggestions for April's song of the month
13. Next Meeting:
 1. April 27, 6 p.m.
15. Closing Prayer

SUMC 2026 AND BEYOND MINISTRY GOALS AND PLANNING

Goal

Key Action Steps

Timeline

Resources Needed

Increase outreach

Identify at least 3 community events for presence or sponsorship; develop simple materials; set up volunteer sign-ups

Ongoing

Flyers; social media posts; volunteer schedule

Increase family attendance

Host family-friendly worship & outreach events quarterly (e.g. picnic, mini-VBS, outdoor service)

Ongoing

Family-friendly activities; food budget

Show appreciation for current attendees

Create quarterly recognition Sundays (e.g. "Birthday Sunday"); thank-you notes

Ongoing

Cards, refreshments

Organize and store church photos

Gather photos; assign a small group to organize photos and develop a storing system (digital and/or physical)

Q2 2026

Photo boxes and/or scanner

ADA Building

Finalize accessibility plan; obtain bids; research grant opportunities

Q1 2026

Contractor bids and grant research

Grow worship attendance by 5% each year

Track attendance; launch invite campaign; feature personal testimonials on social media

Ongoing

Data tracking sheet; social media posts

Separate praise/worship time

Pilot an alternative or contemporary service once per month

Q2 2026

Committee

Outdoor worship/picnic

Schedule at park or church lawn; plan lunch & music

Summer/Fall 2026

Committee

Bi-Annual Bible/Book Study

Identify a study

Q1 & Q3 2026

Curriculum/book; identify a study leader

Lenten Devotional Book

Collect devotions from members; publish by Lent.

Q1 2026

Printing or digital platform

Bless the Animals Sunday

Select date; promote

Fall 2026

Marketing, supplies

Christmas Caroling

Organize routes and songbooks

December 2026

Committee

Weekly blog devotions

Create schedule of authors; make weekly posts

Q1-Q4 2026

Website access

Update Church Directory

Collect info/photos; publish printed & digital copy

Q4 2026

Camera; printing; design

Worship at Little Bear

Contact campground; schedule annual summer service

Annually through 2027

Volunteer; bulletins; sound system

Mission day to Matthew 25 (CR)

Coordinate service team

Annually through 2027

Volunteers

Engage with local celebrations

Participate in at least 2 community festivals each year

Ongoing

Volunteers; identify celebrations

Better utilize west wing & closet

Inventory space; create multipurpose plan (storage ministry use)

Q2 2026

Volunteer

Church-wide clean-up/purge

Annual spring cleaning day

Q2 each year

Create cleaning list and recruit volunteers

Grow connections within circuit

Host or join shared worship/mission events

Ongoing

Identify opportunities

Weekend Retreat (Youth and/or adult)

Plan small retreat at local camp

2026-2027

Identify programming; location; date; promote

Rebuild youth programming

Recruit 2 volunteers; plan quarterly youth events and/or Sunday programming

Q2 2026

Volunteers; curriculum

155th Anniversary Celebration

Form committee at least 1 year in advance; plan worship; meal; and community event

2029

Committee formed by 2028

Revised Yule Buffet

Refresh menu & decor; invite community

Annually beginning 2028-2030

Committee

ADA Building (completion)

Finish all accessibility upgrades

2028-2030

Committee

Increase pastoral support (1/2 to full-time)

Stewardship campaign; reassess budget & needs

2027-2029

Assessments

Long-term stewardship study

Implement multi-week giving & vision series

2026-2028

Committee

Upgrade/update Kitchen

Assess needs, fundraise, and complete renovation

2027-2029

Committee

Seal Time Capsule

Identify items to include

Q1 2026

Announcement as to date

Sew personal dignity kits for Midwest Mission

Recruit sewers or those willing to learn

Q2 2026

Machines, sewing materials