

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thurs., Jan. 1	5 p.m.	AA Meeting
Sat., Jan. 3	8 a.m.	Book Study
Sun., Jan. 4	2 p.m.	Emma Waddell Birthday Party
	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK—5th)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	9 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	10 a.m.	Worship and Communion
Mon., Jan. 5	11:30 a.m.	Boxing Up Christmas
Tues., Jan. 6	6:30 p.m.	Scouts - All Dens Meeting
Wed., Jan. 7	2 p.m.	Prairie Hills Worship
	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner for RYG and families
	6 p.m.	Food Packing Event for RYG
Thurs., Jan. 8	8:30 a.m.	Table Talk at Family Restaurant
	10 a.m.	Caregivers Support Group
	10:30 a.m.	Caring Conversation Grief
	5 p.m.	Support Group
	6 p.m.	AA Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting
	7 p.m.	Deacons Meeting
	7:50 a.m.	Church Council Meeting
Fri., Jan. 9		First Friday, parking lot
Sun., Jan. 11	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK—5th)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	9 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	10 a.m.	Worship
Tues., Jan. 13	10 a.m. &	6:30 p.m. Bible Study
Wed., Jan. 14	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
	5:30 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (6th—8th)
	6:15 p.m.	Dinner for Radiate Youth Group
	6:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (9th—12th)
Thurs., Jan. 15	12 p.m.	Tipton Ministerial Association
	5 p.m.	AA Meeting
	6:30 p.m.	It Takes A Village
Sat., Jan. 17	8 a.m.	Book Study
	9 a.m.	Bread of Life @ Foursquare
	5 p.m.	Confirmation Field Trip
Sun., Jan. 18	9 a.m.	Antioch Christian Church
	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK—5th)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	10 a.m.	Worship
	11:15 p.m.	Who Are We? First UCC!
Mon., Jan. 19		Grapevine Newsletter Submissions Due
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Tues., Jan. 20	10 a.m. &	6:30 p.m. Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Scouts
Wed., Jan. 21	9 a.m.	Women's Fellowship Meeting
	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
	5:30 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (6th—8th)
	6:15 p.m.	Dinner for Radiate Youth Group
	6:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Group (9th—12th)

Thurs., Jan. 22	9 a.m.	Cedar County Consortium
	5 p.m.	AA Meeting
Sun., Jan. 25	9 a.m.	Sunday School (PreK-5th)
	9 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	9 a.m.	Confirmation Class
	10 a.m.	State of the Church Sunday
	11 a.m.	Annual Meeting
Tues., Jan. 27	10 a.m. &	6:30 p.m. Bible Study
Wed., Jan. 28	4:30 p.m.	Loaves and Fishes
	4:45 p.m.	Radiate Youth Choir
	5:30 p.m.	Radiate YG (6th-8th)
	6:15 p.m.	Dinner for RYG
	6:45 p.m.	Radiate RYG (9th-12th)
Thurs., Jan. 29	5 p.m.	AA Meeting

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

LITURGISTS

Jan. 4 Darren Miller
 Jan. 11 Barb Cary
 Jan. 18
 Jan. 25

FLOWERS

Women's Fellowship

GREETERS

Blair and Pam Freet, Gary Lausen

USHERS

Jan. 4
 Jan. 11 Bruce Cary
 Jan. 18
 Jan. 25

ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION JANUARY

1. Whitney Gehrs 2. Jennie Handbury
 3. Nancy Mathias 4. John Mathias

DEACONS COUNTING OFFERING

Katie Kelly Teresa King

COFFEE AND COOKIE HOSTS

* Coffee Chairperson

Jan. 4 *Larry & Sharon Hodgden
 Jennifer Hodgden
 Jessica Gaertner
 Jeremy Hodgden
 Jan. 11 *Jared & Whitney Gehrs
 Angie Hodges
 Jay & Viki Meier
 Jerry Meier
 Jan. 18 *Nancy Mathias
 Jake & Teresa Bohlmann
 John Mathias & Joe Reilly
 Carolyn Siders
 Dustin & Megan Mason
 Jan. 25 *Michaela Wanek
 Ashley Resor
 Brittini Kuehl

January 2026

Grapevine

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

600 Mulberry St, Tipton, Iowa 52772

(563) 886-6361 • www.firstuccipton.org



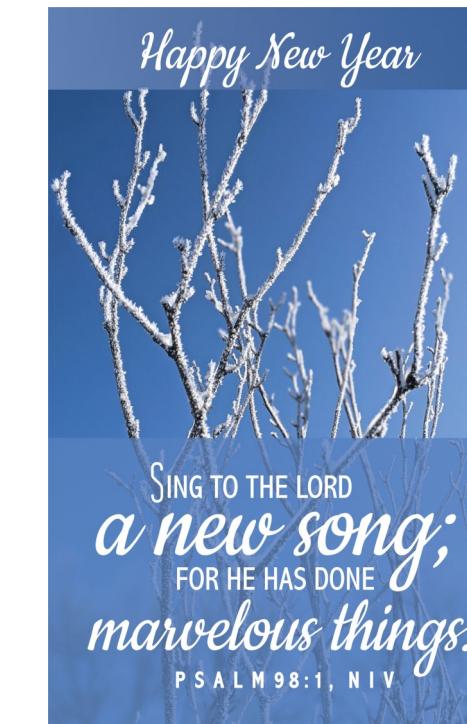
Hearing the birth story of Jesus this past season, it's the actions of Mary that stand out and cause me to pause. When she is first told by the angel that she is going to give birth to Jesus, her wonder changes to celebration in her beautiful song (Luke 1:46-55). Then, after she has given birth and the affirmation of Jesus' identity is provided, we read that "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." I often wonder what Mary is thinking: *What does this mean for the future? How great is God that I have been given this opportunity! I can't believe that God trusts ME! How could I ever doubt when God has shown up to me in so many ways like the angel, shepherds, magi, the animals, Joseph – all who show the love of God? Thanks be to God! What sort of song can I sing to celebrate this?*

Obviously, it is impossible to know what Mary was thinking, but she provides to us a model of how we might react to Jesus in our lives. What we know is that Mary takes time to treasure and ponder. When we reflect Jesus allows us to see His love in ways that we may not have understood or could comprehend in the moment. We begin to realize that the Lord comes to us right where we are: a hospital room, our home, the field, our place of employment, First UCC, etc. Taking time to treasure and ponder what God has done in our lives is a powerful exercise.

This presence of God is often a gift that comes in the form of people – a Church – who help support and love us by living out His love. Thank you, Church, for the many ways you have lived out the love of Jesus Christ. As my sixth year as your pastor reaches an end, I reflect and ponder the many ways I have seen the presence of Jesus in you (too many to count!). In looking to 2026, I am excited about the journey we get to continue together. We get to sing a new song to the Lord for the wonderful things He HAS done, and the anticipation of what He WILL do.

Blessings,

Pastor Kerri



Prayer Corner

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." -James 1:5

God, please grant me wisdom in the new year. Help me discern where You are leading me and what opportunities you have placed in front of me. Give me eyes to see those around me who I can learn from, serve and love. Guide my steps as I seek to shine Your light wherever I go. Amen.

ANNUAL
MEETING
January 25





Dear UCC Church,
Thank you so much for the opportunity to do this scholarship! Thank you so much for the money from this scholarship! I greatly appreciate it!

Thank you,
Clay Bohlmann

STATE OF THE CHURCH AND ANNUAL MEETING

Plan to celebrate 2025 on Sunday, January 25 at our annual State of the Church Sunday. We will give thanks to the Lord for the blessings of this past year. You will hear from various members of the Church who will share how the Lord is moving in beautiful ways.

Following worship will be the Annual Meeting in the sanctuary. There will be a vote from the membership to approve the annual reports and 2026 Budget. Annual Reports will be mailed out in January for review before this meeting. Please remember that a quorum is required for the vote to be valid.

Year-End Giving

Please note that monetary gifts/donations to First UCC for the 2025 yearend, need to be in the church office by noon on Mon., Dec. 29. We will not be to be able to consider postmarks as being in the office.

Thank you so much for your help in continuing ministries!

Thank you to all who helped decorate the building for Advent!

Thank you to everyone who helped with Advent readings and candle lighting!

Thank you to Women's Fellowship for serving the Rohl family!

Thank you to our Trustees for the amazing work you have done in 2025 on the facilities!

Thank you to the Church Council for your leadership this past year!

Thank you to Tony Young for serving as our custodian!

Thank you to Teresa Bohlmann, Amy Mente, Linda Beck, and Melissa Waddell for putting together the Children's Christmas program!

Thank you to Deb Schwitzer for leading the choir and special music for the Christmas services!

Thank you to MANY who provided special music during the month of December!

Thank you to Ron Challis for leading the kitchen crew for the Live Nativity and Beef Sundae Outreach!

Thank you to Mary Clark and crew for taking care of the pies for the Live Nativity and Beef Sundae Outreach!

Thank you to Jody Schroeder for all her work on the Live Nativity! Thank you to Dan McElderry for helping with the setup!

Thank you to THE CHURCH for your dedication and LOVE in OUTREACH to the community!



Year-To-Date Financials (Through November)

General Fund (YTD 2025)

Income \$ 151,464.44
Expenses \$ 139,561.05

Building & Maintenance Fund (YTD 2025)

Unrestricted Fund Balance \$ 10,807.01
Restricted Fund Balance \$ 8,525.53
Balance of B&M funds \$ 19,332.54



January 3
Joyce Coppess
Jaxson Knox
January 5
Emma Waddell
January 6
Mary Clark
Jerry Meier
January 7
Hattie Gillespie
Stacy Irons
January 8
Wed Miller
January 9
Skyler Hein
January 10
Karis Faust
Kaitlynn Hodgden

January 15
Logan Gaul
January 16
Jan Kramer
Beth Looker
January 18
Jenny Redlinger
John Newton
January 19
Braxton Heffernan
Emery Dawson
January 20
Scarlette Matthess
Riley Resor
January 21
Sandy Mente
Eleanor Pitt

January 22
Isaac Spangler
January 24
Holden Griebat
Keaton Koele
Jaxson Koele
Blair Kintzel
January 25
Cliff Mente
Clint Mente
Mike Wagner
Randy Shumaker
January 27
Donna Young
January 28
Aubrey Phelps
January 29
Caden Meier

Prairie Hills
219 S Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772
Dean Eiler
Larry Gadelmann
Clarence Senior Living
402 2nd Avenue
Clarence, IA 52216
Merlin Hulse
Betty Ann Miller
Alice Whitlatch
Beth Looker
Highland Ridge
100 Village View Circle
Apt. 59
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Jenny Morrow
Zearing Health Care Center
404 E. Garfield St.
Zearing, IA 50278



January 3
Chris and Amy Newton
January 11
Bob and Elaine Butterbrodt
January 14
Mark and Sharon Niles
January 20
Scott and Jan Kramer
January 24
Bruce and Barb Cary
January 20
Brad and Bobbie Lieser

PICTURE OF LAURA HERE!

New Custodian, Laura Schroeder

Laura Schroeder is the newest staff member of First UCC. Make sure to give her a warm welcome when you see her around the building!

MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES

Remember our members in care facilities by sending them a note of encouragement.

Cedar Manor
1200 Mulberry Street
Tipton, IA 52772
Elaine Butterbrodt
Pat Cantonwine

Prairie Hills
219 S Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772
Dean Eiler
Larry Gadelmann

Clarence Senior Living
402 2nd Avenue
Clarence, IA 52216
Merlin Hulse
Betty Ann Miller
Alice Whitlatch
Beth Looker
Highland Ridge
100 Village View Circle
Apt. 59
Williamsburg, IA 52361
Jenny Morrow
Zearing Health Care Center
404 E. Garfield St.
Zearing, IA 50278

The Wonder (and FUN) of the Christmas Season



Radiate Youth Group Schedule

Wednesday	1/7	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) - FAMILY FOOD PACKING EVENT! 5:30–6:00 p.m.– Dinner; 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Food Packing
Wednesday	1/14	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. - Choir; 5:30–6:15 p.m.–6 th -8 th grade; 6:15–6:45 p.m.-Dinner; 6:45–7:30 p.m.-9 th -12 th grades
Wednesday	1/21	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. - Choir; 5:30–6:15 p.m.–6 th -8 th grade; 6:15–6:45 p.m.-Dinner; 6:45–7:30 p.m.-9 th -12 th grades
Wednesday	1/28	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) 4:45 - 5:30 p.m. - Choir; 5:30–6:15 p.m.–6 th -8 th grade; 6:15–6:45 p.m.-Dinner; 6:45–7:30 p.m.-9 th -12 th grades

The Wonder (and FUN) of the Christmas Season



GET INVOLVED



BOOK STUDY COMING IN JANUARY!

Want to begin the new year with a focus on spiritual disciplines? All are invited the first and third Saturdays of January, February, and March from 8-9 a.m. when we will discuss a section of *The Ruthless Elimination of Worry* by John Mark Comer. Get your book (let the office know if you need one) and prepare for a focused and engaging discussion. Begins Jan. 3!



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study resumes Tuesday, January 13 at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. continuing with the viewing and discussion of *The Chosen*. This study will continue through February 17. Everyone welcome!

TABLE TALK

Table Talk is for anyone who would like to get together for a meal once a month. The group also signs cards for church members. It is a great way to meet people and enjoy non-structured time. Table Talk meets Thursday, Jan. 8, at Tipton Family Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

Grief SUPPORT Group

CARING CONVERSATIONS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Caring Conversations Grief Support Group meets the second Thursday of each month starting at 10:30 a.m. The group will meet on Jan. 11 with Joyce Coppess facilitating the group.

Anyone dealing with any type of grief is invited. This is a place where the name says it all — lots of caring along with conversation. If you have questions, please call Joyce at the office at 563-886-6361.

FIRST FRIDAY DONUTS & DEVOTIONALS

A very BRAVE group of volunteers met in the parking lot this morning (December 5) to spread cheer to the High School Students and staff in 19 Degree weather!

I, for one, am NOT a cold weather person but it was well worth the effort. We were able to hand out 64 donuts along with our best wishes for a great December. The blessings to all of us were the smiles and thank you's we received.

Those that joined me today were: Marcia Meyers, LuAnn Davis, Becky Young, Terry Behning, Tony Fletcher, Carla Heffernan, Nancy Mathias and Pastor Kerri.

As we look forward to 2026 I would like to thank you all for your support of this wonderful mission. We have served 358 donuts (students) so far this school year and can't do it without all of you. Please risk joining us as we plan to do it again on January 9, 2026, in the parking lot at 7:50 A.M..

Blessings,

Nancy Hipple

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Are you a parent who is overwhelmed with the grind of day-to-day life? You are not alone. Come connect with other parents, listen, share experiences, make new friends in faith, and gain valuable insights in a supportive environment. Together we can navigate the challenges of parenting and celebrate our successes.

Who: Any parent

When: Jan. 15

Where: Gehrs Residence, 545 East 4th St, Tipton

There is childcare at First UCC during the meeting. Drop your children off at 6:25 p.m., then head to the Gehrs' house. Contact Whitney Gehrs with any questions at 708-846-4620 or jaredwhitney27@gmail.com.

GET INVOLVED



Gather your friends and family for a Valentine's Day

Speed Puzzle

Competition!

Tipton First UCC

February 14th at 5pm

Join us for a Valentine's Day celebration!

Gather a team of up to 4 people of any age to compete in a race to finish a 300 piece puzzle first.

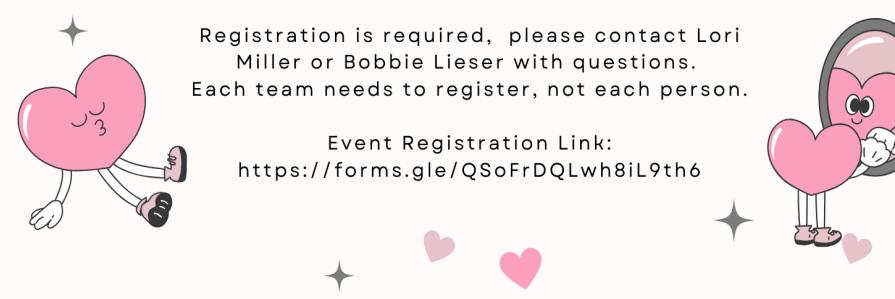
There will be prizes!

Soup and drinks will be provided for dinner, bring a snack to share.

Cost is \$10/team which includes the puzzle you will keep.

Registration is required, please contact Lori Miller or Bobbie Lieser with questions. Each team needs to register, not each person.

Event Registration Link:
<https://forms.gle/QSoFrDQLwh8iL9th6>



YOUTH GROUP OUTREACH FOOD PACKING EVENT

The youth group has received a \$2,000 grant from Farm Credit Services to help fight hunger in our community. This is such an amazing gift, and we are blessed to be a part of this. On January 7 the youth group and their families will gather to pack approximately 5,400 meals in an hour! 100% of these meals will stay in food pantries in and around Cedar County. What a blessing to be able to help feed so many!

This will be an assembly line process, and The Outreach Program (out of Union, Iowa) will be sending us all the food, packing materials, and any supplies needed. We will be asking you to watch for the signup so we can make this a great event!



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregivers Support Group will meet Jan. 4 starting at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. This group provides a safe space for those who are providing care for others. Nancy Hipple facilitates this group.

Please feel free to invite or share with anyone you know who is a caregiver. The group meets the first Thursday of each month. If you have any questions, please talk to Nancy Hipple or call the office.

WHO ARE WE? FIRST UCC

If you are interested in knowing more about the history of First UCC and what membership means, please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, January 18, at 11:15 a.m. This will be a great time to learn, to ask questions, and to find out what makes First UCC a "Family of Faith, Growing Closer to God." We will meet in the Youth/Meeting Room. All are invited.