

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Fri., May 1 7:50 a.m. First Friday
 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 Sat., May 2 8 a.m. Book Study
 Sun., May 3 9 a.m. Sunday School (PreK—5th)
 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10 a.m. Worship
 Mon., May 4 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 Tues., May 5 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 2 p.m. Prairie Hills Worship
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Scouts—Den Meeting
 Wed., May 6 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 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., May 7 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 10 a.m. Caregivers Support Group
 5 p.m. AA Meeting
 7 p.m. Trustees Meeting
 Fri., May 8 8 a.m. Large Group Choir Rehearsal
 Sat., May 9 6:30 a.m. Large Group Choir Contest
 Sun., May 10 9 a.m. Sunday School (PreK—5th)
 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10 a.m. Worship—Mother’s Day
 Tues., May 12 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 Wed., May 13 4:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes
 5:30 p.m. Radiate Youth Group (ALL)
 Thurs., May 14 10 a.m. Table Talk @ First UCC
 10:30 a.m. Caring Conversations
 Grief Support
 5 p.m. AA Meeting
 6 p.m. Deacons
 6:30 p.m. Elders
 7 p.m. Council
 Sat., May 16 8 a.m. Book Study
 9 a.m. Bread of Life Food Pantry
 Sun., May 17 9 a.m. Sunday School (PreK-5th)
 9 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 10 a.m. Worship w/Graduate Recognition
 11:15 a.m. Who Are We? First UCC!
 1:30 p.m. VBS Organization Meeting at First UCC
 3 p.m. Cedar Manor Worship
 Tues., May 19 6:30 p.m. Scouts—Pack Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 Wed., May 20 9 a.m. Women’s Fellowship
 Thurs., May 21 12 p.m. Tipton Ministerial Association
 5 p.m. AA Meeting
 6:30 p.m. It Takes A Village
 Fri., May 22 2 p.m. Private Graduation Party
 Sun., May 24 10 a.m. Worship
 Tues., May 26 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 Wed., May 27 4:30 p.m. Loaves and Fishes
 Thurs., May 28 9 a.m. Cedar County Consortium
 5 p.m. AA Meeting
 Sun., May 31 10 a.m. Worship

SUNDAY PARTICIPANTS

LITURGISTS

May 3 Kevin Eilbeck May 10 Darren Miller
 May 17 Darren Miller May 24 Barb Cary
 May 31 Larry Hanon

FLOWERS

Jan Esbeck & Linda Lamp

GREETERS

Jim & Maureen Bowie, Ev Buol, Marcia Meyers

USHERS

May 3 Lora Zaruba, Ron Challis
 May 10 Lora Zaruba, Ron Challis
 May 17 Lora Zaruba, Ron Challis
 May 24 Bill Schwitzer, Ron Challis
 May 31 Bill Schwitzer, Ron Challis

ELDERS SERVING COMMUNION

1. Mary Clark 2. Megan Mason
 3. Jody Schroeder 4. David Swan

DEACONS COUNTING OFFERING

Katie Kelly Ron Challis

COFFEE AND COOKIE HOSTS

* Coffee Chairperson

May 3 *Dustin & Megan Mason
 Angela Knox
 Tony Fletcher
 May 10 *Jared & Whitney Gehrs
 Chris & Kyla Burnett
 Donna Young
 May 17 * Women’s Fellowship
 Graduation Celebration
 May 24 * Myron & Jan Holden
 Phil & Sue Hall
 May 31 * Wayne & Bonnie Deerberg
 Wade & Shelley Winekauf
 Mark & Sharon Niles

WOMEN’S GATHERING

Coming Saturday, May 16, 9-11 a.m. at
 First UCC

All women invited! Invite your family and
 friends!

There will be teachings, activities, and many
 ways to connect with others.

We look forward to being together!

May 2026

Grapevine

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

600 Mulberry St, Tipton, Iowa 52772
 (563) 886-6361 ♦ www.firstucctipton.org



Celebrating the Goodness of God!



Confirmation Students:
 Maxson Christian, Mason Jeffries, Jaxson Knox, Avery Hodges, Avery Kelly, Avery Mente, Cassandra Burnett, Caroline Smith, Harper Bolger, Ada Herold, Harper Lemburg, Riley Resor, Jarrett Burnett, Kinley Williams, and Callie Bohlmann. Thank you to all of the mentors! Thank you to Kevin Eilbeck for the hours of assisting and showing us the love of Jesus!



Thank you for the kind words, cards and gifts for my confirmation. I look forward to being a member of this church and growing in faith with you.
Riley Resor

Thank you

Thank you to Dorie Kordick-Wanek and Teresa King for playing instruments for the Easter service!

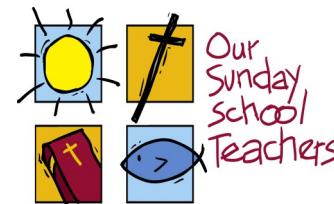
Thank you to Tony Fletcher and Teresa King for singing during Communion on Easter Sunday!

Thank you to Devin & Laura Schroeder and Sean & Mackenzie Isaacsen for the tank and help in the immersion baptisms on Confirmation Sunday!

Thank you to all the parents and Kevin Eilbeck for their time and dedication in ensuring their children understand the importance of confirmation!

Thank you to Women's Fellowship for serving the family of Elaine Butterbrodt at the luncheon!

Thank you to Tony Fletcher for leading the songs at the funeral of Elaine Butterbrodt!



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Thank you to Teresa Bohlmann, Amy Mente, Linda Beck, and Melissa

Waddell for teaching our children about Jesus. The Sunday School season ends on May 17. Thank you to Dan McElderry for leading the Adult Sunday School. Please make sure to give them a "shout out of thanks" for all they do!

Thank you, Youth!! Thank you for the beautiful service you conducted on April 19. The camaraderie you share, the joy you radiate and the faith you live were on full display! Your Church appreciates you and is inspired by you. As you grow your faith, we grow ours. Blessings to our youth!! "Children are a gift from the LORD; they are a reward from him."

First UCC Congregation Member

Thank you to Nancy Mathias and Nancy Hipple for organizing First Friday!



Thank you to Ron Challis for organizing the Heartlanders hockey game!

Thank you to Bill Schwitzer for taking care of all Easter Sunrise Service logistics and Pat Barglof for providing music!

Thank you to Tipton High School for the use of the timpani for Easter service!

Thank you to the choir members who shared their gifts during Holy Week and Easter Sunday—WOW!

MAY Birthdays

May 3 Buzz Achey Aaron Beckler Lucas Lieser Sharon Kleppe	May 11 Dave Pinegar May 12 Ashley Resor May 13 Landon Cary May 17 Kiley Daedlow Lakyn Noard May 18 Wendy Daedlow May 19 Janelle Holden May 21 Megan Mason Mia Mayhew	May 22 Audrey Simmons Oliver Cotterill May 23 Morgan Petersen May 24 John Mathias Hannah Bower May 27 Lila Burke May 29 Gabriel Resor May 30 Cale Lemburg May 31 Tony Fletcher
--	--	--



Elaine Butterbrodt
June 3, 1938-April 12, 2026

Family Members of First UCC:
Bob Butterbrodt, husband

MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES

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

Prairie Hills
219 S Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772
Dean Eiler
Larry Geadelmann
Bev Reid
Alice Whitlatch

Clarence Senior Living
402 2nd Avenue
Clarence, IA 52216
Merlin Hulse
Betty Ann Miller

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

MAY Anniversaries

May 6 Erica and Mark Christian May 7 Elyse and Seth Cary May 24 Maureen and Jim Bowie	May 27 Whitney and Jared Gehrs Rhonda and Mike Young May 28 Deb and Bill Schwitzer May 31 Pam and Blair Freet
---	--

RADIATE YOUTH SCHEDULE

Wednesday	5/6	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) 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	5/13	Radiate Youth Group (RYG) – DQ Night! Last night before the summer break!

All youth grades 8th through 12th are invited to participate in the Rooftop Church Youth Retreat! Please type in <https://rooftop.org/youth-retreat/> for more information. There will be ropes courses, obstacle courses, and LOTS of great time to meet people and learn about God. Funds are available to help with costs! Please register by June 15.



DEACON'S QUARTERLY REPORT

We are now 25% through 2026 and we are off to a great start! The graphs show the year-to-date cumulative monthly offering and expenses for 2024 thru 2025.

At the end of March, our offering was \$10,000 (19%) ahead of last year at this time. Special missions, like Loaves and Fishes, are well funded and prepared to meet rising needs. We have an adequate cash balance to pay the bills. Our expenses are \$4,000 (8%) higher than planned, but near budget, coming out of winter.

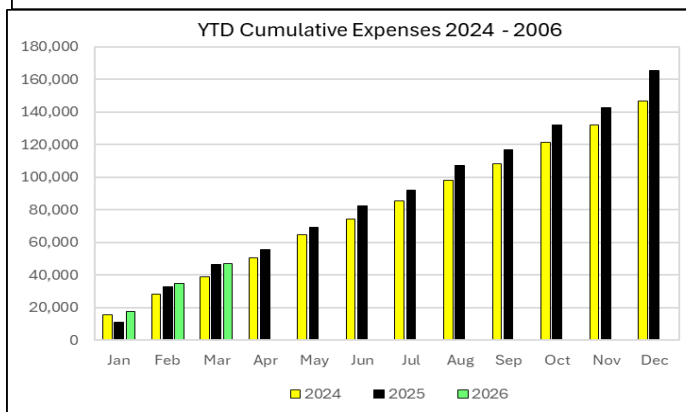
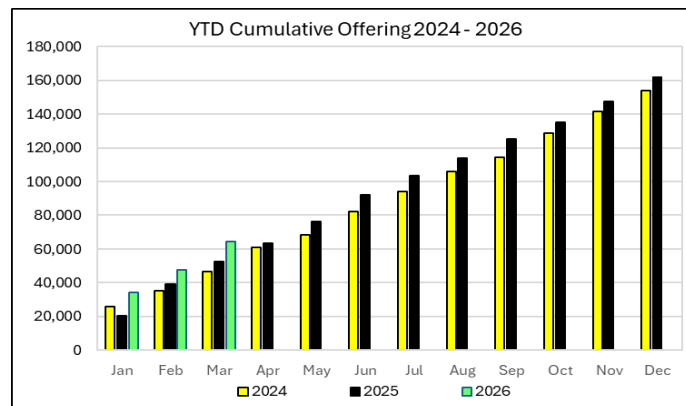
We all have choices on where to spend our time and money.

General Fund (March 2026)
Income \$16,809.43
Expenses \$13,648.48
Year-To-Date Total - \$29,632.72

Building & Maintenance Fund (March 2026)
Unrestricted Fund Balance \$15,041.90
Restricted Fund Balance \$9,497.34
Balance of all B&M funds \$24,539.24

Your generous and loving gifts of both help us build our missions and service those in need.

Thank you and God bless!
Terry Behning,
Council President



GET INVOLVED

GET INVOLVED



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: Thursday, May 11
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 jaredwhitney27@gmail.com. OR 708-846-4620.



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 May 14 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.

BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study will resume starting on May 5 and go thru June 30. Meetings will be held at 6:30 p.m. only.



FIRST FRIDAY DONUTS & DEVOTIONALS

We had a great time this morning handing out donuts (6 dozen) and greeting even more students on April 10. It was a damp and cold morning but the smiles and happy spirits helped warm us all.

Today I was joined by: Laura Schroeder, Deb Schwitzer, Carolyn Herring, Sharon Kleppe, Marilee Oldorf, LuAnn Davis, Terry Behning, Tony Fletcher, Nancy Mathias and Pastor Kerri.

The last First Friday of this school year will be on May 1 in the church parking lot at 7:50 a.m. We are done with this fun mission by 8:30 a.m. We DONUT want you to be afraid to join us for a very rewarding start to your day!

Blessings,
Nancy Hipple



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Save the date! Community VBS is slated for July 13-16 at Trinity Lutheran Church from 6-8 p.m.

each night. The theme is "Rainforest Falls." Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday will be filled with songs, Bible lessons, scriptures, games, and adventures. Our mission focus will be raising money for the Bob and Betty Thumma Elementary School in Gboata, Liberia.

The closing on Thursday is for all families and will take place at Bennett Park with Miss Sarah from Cedar County Conservation. There will be all sorts of activities including hiking, slip & slide, canoeing, dip nets, playground, s'mores, hotdogs, chips, and drinks.

Would you like to help? The next organizational meeting is May 17 at 1:30 p.m. at First UCC. We will also be making decorations.

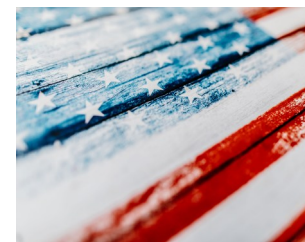


REALM CONNECT

First UCC has been using a software program called Realm for about five years for all church records (database) and accounting. In July 2025, we added Realm Connect which is for leaders and the congregation to access events, see where your skills and interests might be used, join groups, and track giving.

The goal is for every member or visitor of the church to have an account – either with the Realm Connect app or just receiving email news and updates. The hope is that all communication, events, calendars, and updates will be through Connect. A one-stop shop for everything! Please reply to the email invitation you have received to set up your account and download the Realm Connect app. We will continue to communicate in many ways through June. Beginning in July we will only use Realm Connect and the Grapevine newsletter. We will no longer be using the weekly news email or signup genius after June. We are thankful to Tony Young for building the foundation in 2025 and to Bobbie Lieser for moving it forward!

Please contact Joyce at office@firstucctipton.org or 563-886-6361 to ensure your email is updated. We believe this will be a huge asset in "connecting" you with timely communication and serving opportunities. Thanks for your help!



FLAGS FUNDRAISER

We are looking for volunteers to deliver and/or retrieve flags during the year on specific holidays. First UCC will be the recipient of a donation from the Lions Club for your service.

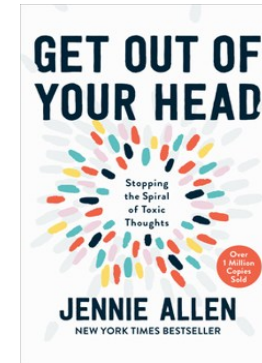
The money will be used to support upcoming First UCC mission or community projects. For each date a driver with a truck is needed plus three riders. Please contact the office if you are willing to help with this fundraising service!



CHURCH CAMP

Check out summer camp opportunities at Pilgrim Heights UCC Camp in Montour, Iowa. Please check out the Events page at the Pilgrim Heights website for information. Scholarships are available through First UCC.

BOOK STUDY



Book study will be held the first and third Saturday mornings in May and June at 8 a.m. Our book is *Get Out of Your Head* by Jennie Allen. Order your own or grab a copy out of the Fireside Room. We would love to see you there!



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

The Caregivers Support Group will meet on Thursday, May 7 starting at 10 a.m. in the Fireside Room. This group provides a safe space for those who are providing care for others. The facilitator for this group is Nancy Hipple.

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.

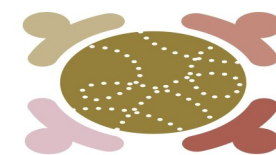


TABLE TALK

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, May 14 at 10 a.m. at First UCC.



GRADUATE SUNDAY

We will celebrate and recognize those Class of 2026 graduates this year on Sunday, May 17 during worship. If you know of someone who will be graduating this year from a high school, college, trade school, or wherever one may be graduating from, please let the office know by May 10 to be included in the service. The Endowment Committee will also be distributing the First UCC scholarships during worship.

WELCOME
New Members

BRAD AND BECKY KORANDA



What is the high point of your life so far?

God has blessed us numerous times so it is hard to choose just one high point in our life. After some discussion we have decided that meeting in high school and having so many years of a loving and supporting relationship is definitely among the top.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

We decided to join First United Church of Christ because we were new to town and looking to plug into a new church. Wendy Petersen (Brad's cousin) mentioned that she attended First UCC and thought we might like it so we gave it a try and found Pastor Kerri and the congregation very welcoming and we especially liked the youthful energy and large church attendance.

What does the Church mean to you?

The church means to us having a community in faith where we can continually learn and grow (apprentice) in our Christian faith.

What does a relationship with Jesus Christ mean to you? A relationship with Jesus Christ means always having a Heavenly Father to listen and guide us through the highs and lows of life.

STEVE URMIE

What is the high point of your life so far?

Getting married and raising a family. Getting to enjoy grandkids.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

I want a church family. I think it's important that we get to know people with the same values.

What does the Church mean to you?

It is a place and people where you can learn more about God and how we should live.

PRAYER CORNER

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for May!
As I step into this new month,
I invite Your presence to go with me.
Fill my heart with hope, my mind with
peace,
and my spirit with strength.
As May brings new life to the world,
may it bring new life to my spiritual
journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

What does the Church mean to you?

This is a place of people who truly care about each other and the community. I am grateful that I can come here to learn and grow in my relationship with the Lord and share that with others.

What does a relationship with Jesus mean to you?

Knowing and loving Jesus means I have been forgiven; I don't have to dwell on my mistakes. I am able to **look** forward and **move** forward knowing that I am loved and that I have an eternal home in heaven to look forward to. Trusting in Jesus has changed who I am.



BETTY URMIE

What does a relationship with Jesus mean to you?

It means I can live eternally in heaven.

What is the high point of your life so far?

I was thinking how wonderful it was to get married and have children, but the high point so far is where my walk with Jesus has taken me.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

Honestly, I was looking for an active church that made mission work important. I felt welcome and comfortable from my first visit. I feel good about recommending this church to family and friends and I look forward to my grandchildren spending time here.

WELCOME
New Members

WENDY PETERSEN

What is the high point of your life so far?

Like most people, I would say the high point of my life so far has been my marriage to my high school sweetheart and the birth of my three kids. Watching my older two girls mature and go off into the world and successfully create a life of their own is also a high point. Most recently a high point was going on the Mission Trip with the youth in 2025. Seeing the youth so willing to serve and having my eyes opened to the struggles of so many less fortunate than I, and yet still have a strong faith was eye opening.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

We came to First UCC when our youngest daughter was ready for confirmation, as our church in Bennett was in transition of pastors and did not have a confirmation class established. First UCC has been so welcoming since the day we stepped inside the doors. Everyone is so friendly and I truly feel surrounded by God's love. First UCC has so many different opportunities for people of all ages. It definitely is not just a place to only come worship for one hour on Sunday. Feeling a sense of connection at First UCC has helped strengthen my relationship with God.

What does the church mean to you?

The church means not only a place to worship, but a community that supports each other, grows in faith, and serves others. To me it is important to not just attend a church service on Sunday, but to have a support system that you can turn to in good times and bad.

What does a relationship with Jesus Christ mean to you?

A relationship with Jesus means that I know I have someone to "talk" to when I am stressed, overwhelmed, or unsure of myself. It's reassuring to know that I am not alone in this world and that Jesus Christ is always watching over me. Through my relationship with Jesus Christ I know that he is guiding my life. I just need to stop, listen, and trust in his plan, being mindful that sometimes things might not make sense at the time, but God's plan always has the best timing.



CHAD PETERSEN

What is the high point of your life so far?

The biggest is definitely my family. I enjoy watching my wife and my three daughters every day. They are definitely my foundation in life. I also would have to say that being the Fire Chief of New Liberty for the past 23 years has to be another high point. I just enjoy helping people out and this has been a great way to do so.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

My wife and daughter started going there and have settled in pretty nice. The church is progressive and I definitely like that aspect of it. I especially like the youth focus of this church. Pastor Kerri is definitely down to earth and very easy to talk to.

What does the church mean to you?

I have always had a different look on what a church actually means. The church is a place for all to gather and enjoy each other. It's a backbone to many communities. I also view it as such, however, I am a firm believer that a person does not have to attend on a regular basis to be close to God. I feel I show this through my community involvement and the help I consistently bring to others outside of the church.

MARILEE OLDORF



What is the high point of your life so far?

The high point of my life so far is the feeling of accomplishment from raising three successful children while juggling teaching, coaching and farming. Of course, I couldn't have done this without wonderful friends and family and the Lord.

Why did you decide to join First UCC?

Roger and I decided to compromise on religious backgrounds and choose the UCC in Clarence. Now, I choose Tipton because I love the sincere caring feeling I receive from Kerri and members. As Kerri says, the Church is the members and I love that the people are inclusive.

What does the Church mean to you?

I wandered for a while during my life letting the business of life distract me. Now I look forward to Sunday to hear and see what asking for guidance and unconditional love can do for the soul!