



the church mouse



Minister

Rev. Leslie Dalstra

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Office Administrator

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Address

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

*Deadline for submission for the
next newsletter is*

3.16.26

Sunday Morning

Adult Education begins at 9 a.m.

Fellowship begins at 9:30 a.m.

In-person worship begins at 10 a.m.

Online worship begins at 10:15 on our
FB page.

Sunday school begins at 10:20 a.m.



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TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD:
**GROUNDING OURSELVES IN
THE GOOD NEWS THIS LENT:**

by Pastor Leslie

Often we approach the Lenten season as one of being solemn and by denying ourselves the good things in life. What if we decided to approach Lent a little differently this year? What if we centered ourselves in the good news of the gospel? The Good News of the gospel does include moderation, in terms of denying ourselves the things that might center us in our Ego, or might come from a place of fear or scarcity (think overindulging or hoarding). Maybe the Good News can encourage us to break a habit that leaves us feeling empty or draws us away from community or the presence of God.

In our abstinence from harmful practices we may lose sight of the joy and abundance of the gospel, how it is indeed good news!

This Lent we will remember that the gospel is joyful, much like enough wine to keep a celebration going, surprising us with the best saved for last. The good news is like a mustard seed that grows beyond comprehension and provides lodging for birds and its fragrance fills a room when it is poured out of an alabaster jar. The good news fills empty bellies with enough bread and fish to feed a very large hungry crowd. The good news feels joyful, sounds like laughter, and embraces us with mercy.

Maybe, just maybe we need to be on the lookout for the good news this Lent, so that we are ready for the really good news of Easter.

Let's face it, we are bombarded with bad news all the time and yet there is good news to share. This Lenten season, share your good news with others. May it inspire you when you hear others share their own. May it open your eyes, your heart, and your souls to seek it out.

Why Giving Matters

We have had a financial bumpy start to 2026, I am hopeful that we will get back on track in February. I know for my own household we missed two Sundays for giving that the church depends on. One because of the storm when we canceled and the other because we were out of checks. We have caught up on our pledge. I never want to get off balance so early in the year. At the end of the month our giving should have reached 7.69%, as a congregation, instead it was at 4.23%.

We need to begin a process of discernment to create a path forward that is sustainable. We do not want anyone in our congregation to have to choose between putting food on the table or in the offering plate. Together, with the help of God we can find a way forward so that we continue to be a beacon of light and hope in our beautiful city.

In the months to come, we will be putting together a task force to begin the process of discernment. In my experience it is better to be forward thinking than to wait until our options are limited. While we are not likely to find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, instead let's be in prayer together.

January 2026 Budget

\$14,044.00 Monthly Budget Needs

\$4,010.00 Offerings received from January

\$5,177.00 Monthly income from investments & renters

-\$4,857.00 Deficit

Lenten Lunches

February 25th - First Christian Host/
Rev John Allen Bankson - speaker

March 4th - St. Luke's Episcopal Host/
Chaplain Jim Luder - speaker

March 11th - Union Presbyterian Host/
Rev. Leslie Dalstra - speaker

March 18th - Fort Madison UMC Host/
Rev. Kelly Shields - speaker

March 25th - St John UCC Host/
Pastor Nancy St. Clair - speaker

Sponsored by
the Parish
Parnters

A season of prayer, fasting,
and almsgiving.

Begins at 11:45 a.m.
Union Presbyterian
719 Ave. F

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB
19

Thursday

Girl Scout meeting @ 6 p.m.

FEB
22

Sunday

Adult Education @ 9 a.m.

Worship @ 10 a.m.

Youth Education @10:20 a.m.

FEB
25

Wednesday

Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:30 a.m. at the Fort Colony

Lenten Lunch at Union Presbyterian @ 11:45 a.m.

Roxy's Pantry 4 p.m.

FEB
26

Thursday

Girl Scout meeting @ 6 p.m.

MAR
1

Sunday

Adult Education @ 9 a.m.

Worship @ 10 a.m.

Youth Education @10:20 a.m.

Elders Meeting @ 11:15 a.m.

MAR
4

Wednesday

Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:30 a.m. at Carlito's Place

Lenten Lunch at Union Presbyterian @ 11:45 a.m.

MAR
5

Thursday

Girl Scout meeting @ 6 p.m.

MAR
8

Sunday

Adult Education @ 9 a.m.

Worship @ 10 a.m.

Youth Education @10:20 a.m.



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAR
11

Wednesday

Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:30 a.m. at the Cottage Cafe
Lenten Lunch at Union Presbyterian @ 11:45 a.m.

MAR
12

Thursday

Girl Scout meeting @ 6 p.m.

MAR
15

Sunday

Adult Education @ 9 a.m.
Worship @ 10 a.m.
Youth Education @ 10:20 a.m.
Sunday Fun Day @ 2 p.m.



MAR
18

Wednesday

Breakfast Fellowship @ 8:30 a.m. at the Fort Colony
Lenten Lunch at Union Presbyterian @ 11:45 a.m.

*Happy
Birthday*



3-2 Sharon Strunk
3-2 Leslie Dalstra
3-10 Jan Richers
3-11 Linda Smith

3-13 Diana Willson
3-14 Paul Hedgepeth
3-15 Phyllis Anderson
3-20 Jana Hubbs
3-22 Caleb Bishop

Sunday Scriptures

First Sunday in Lent- February 22

Matthew 13:31-32

John 2:1-11

Liturgist-Ken Steeples

Elder-Ken Steeples

Deacon- Amy Hayes

Organist-Bonnie Neyens

Greeter -

Third Sunday in Lent- March 8

Mark 6:32-44

Ephesians 3:20-21

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Pam Reuther

Organist-Bonnie Neyens

Greeter -

Second Sunday in Lent- March 1

Luke 7:36-50

Matthew 25:35-40

Liturgist-Jana Hubbs

Elder-Jana Hubbs

Deacon-Gerry Pohlpetter

Organist-Virginia Watson

Greeter -

Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 15

Matthew 19:13-15

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Liturgist-

Elder-Sue Bowman

Deacon-Mike Hayes

Organist-Virginia Watson

Greeter -





*Sunday
Fun Day
March 15th
2-4 p.m.*

BRING A FAVORITE BOARD OR CARD GAME AND/OR A
SNACK TO SHARE. ALL ARE WELCOME!

Prayer Concerns

Current Concerns

Kim Babington
F & F of Melba Crago
F & F of Joe Davis
Sherri Enke
F & F of Lucille Galey
Justin Kirchner
Rev. Dan Masden
Linda Merschman
F & F of Shawna Rainbolt
Darrell Richers
F & F of Chad Smith
Connie Stigall
F & F of Renee Good
F & F of Alex Pretti

Names in Current Concerns will be removed after a month and **names in Long Term Concerns will be removed after a year** unless the office is notified and asked to keep the individual on for a longer period of time.

Long Term Concerns

Juanita Anderson
Jan Bindewald
Mark Bowman
John Chamness
Tracy Chamness
Barb Cobb
Camdyn Cresswell
Tony Dixon
Daniel Drago
Aleen & Marie Egbert
Toni Gaylord
Joy Kuper
Carolyn MacLearn
Carol Ann Mercer
Randy Nielson
Olivia Nord
Beverly Oge
Cody Raines
Benita Roberts
Earnest Rouse
Bill Seyb
Trisha Scott
Sharon Strunk
Gale Swan
Jared Watson
Shawna Williamson
Marie Wilson

**Members of the Military
Those facing food insecurity**

