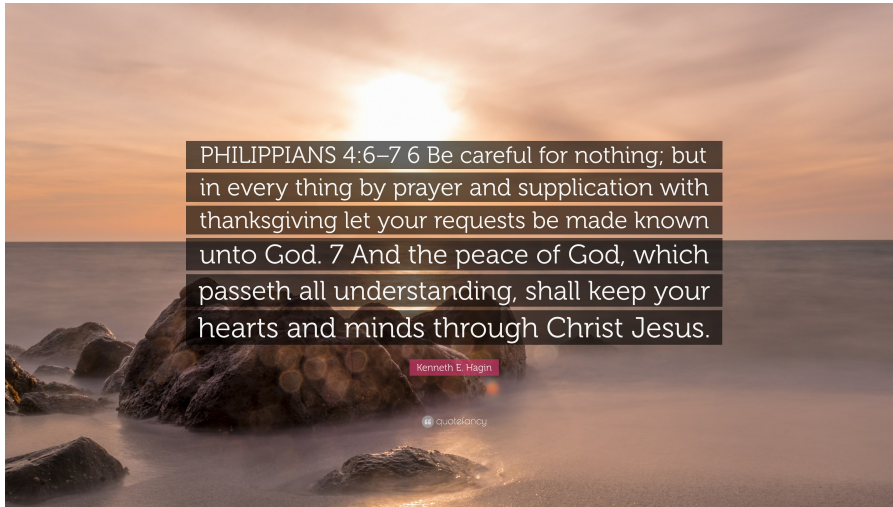


MAY 2026

THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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BIRTHDAYS

3 - Ken Phillips
3- James Stout
8 - Leila Mayhew
9 - Molly Haub
10 - Tom Miller
11 - Annie Reynolds
13 - Sheryl Bergmann
13 - Jackie Callahan
13 - Joel Carver
15 - Tori Vikel
16 - Ray Hartz
17 - Teagyn Hartz
18 - Jenna Maxson
21 - Hanna Haub
21 - Shelby Hauub
22 - Brady Edge
22 - Dalton Vikel
24 - Evan Farmer
25 - Eric Fletcher
27 - Pattie Edge
31 - Rob Bergmann
31 - Renee Lindberg
31 - Sophia Martin

ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Josh & Katie Sabourin (21)
25 - Phil & Rebecca Carver (41)
28 - Troy & Jennifer Shanker (4)
31 - James & Deb Schoenfelder (29)

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

What a glorious Palm Sunday we had here at Springdale. With our guide, Eeyore the donkey, leading us, we walked the street in front of the church with our palm branches. Worship was a great joy with lots of special music and special guests. What a joy to see Rhoda and to hear the organ and piano played together! Thanks to everyone for a great morning, especially Tracey and family (and Eeyore). Easter Sunday, too, was a great day with a wonderful sunrise service and breakfast. It was a great way to start our Easter Season.

The Christian year is filled with seasons, beginning with Advent and continuing through Kingdomtide/Ordinary Time. While we think of seasons like Christmas and Easter as single days, both have seasons lasting for multiple weeks. Here then, is a short synopsis of the Christian year and the colors that are associated with each.

Advent begins our year. It is the four Sundays prior to Christmas Eve, often beginning the last Sunday of November or first Sunday in December. The color of Advent is either purple or blue. The advent candles are often three purple and one pink, signifying on the third Sunday, the joy of the season.

Christmas Eve and the Christmas season are the color white. The Christmas season is typically one or two Sundays, depending on when Epiphany is celebrated.

Epiphany, the arrival of the Magi, is celebrated on January 6th or the Sunday closest to that date. The color of Epiphany is white, the season that follows is green. The Epiphany season is the Sundays between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

The Lenten season is a time of penitence and reflection. Its color is purple and the season is five weeks long or 40 days plus 5 Sundays. At the end of Lent is Palm Sunday and Holy Week. While the color for Maundy Thursday is purple, the color for Good Friday traditionally is black. It is our reminder of Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross.

Easter arrives with the color white. The Easter season continues from Easter Sunday to Pentecost, a period of about 5 weeks. On Pentecost, the color shifts to red, as we celebrate the birthday of the church. This year, Pentecost is on May 24th and all are invited to wear red to celebrate.

The Pentecost season is short, only a few Sundays and churches can decide when to change colors. For the rest of the year until Advent, the color is green. I personally like to keep the color red into July just for some variety.

There are many other nuances throughout the year like Transfiguration and Christ the King. Each has a special significance in the life of the church and in the story of our savior, Jesus Christ. During each season, we learn of the life, ministry, death, resurrection, birth, and growth of the church as we read through the scriptures related to each.

May we continue to learn together as we experience each season of the year.

Rebecca

A NOTE FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

We want to begin by saying thank you—to those who read our newsletter, stay informed, and take the time to share their thoughts with us. It means a great deal to know that people are engaged in the life of the church and care deeply about its direction. Your voices matter, and we truly appreciate your input.

Recently, there has been some conversation about the possibility of locking the church building. We want to offer reassurance and clarity: **there are no plans to lock the church.** We understand how meaningful it is to have a place that feels open, peaceful, and welcoming, and we remain committed to preserving that spirit.

At the same time, we are working to be good stewards of the building we share. We have experienced ongoing concerns such as lights being left on and doors not being fully closed or secured, which impacts both safety and utility costs. In response, we are taking some practical steps, including the installation of cameras, to help us better care for the church while still keeping it accessible.

As part of this effort, security cameras will be installed at each entry point and in other locations as deemed necessary for safety and building stewardship. We want to be clear that this decision has not been made lightly. Like many churches and organizations, we have had to thoughtfully adjust our practices over time in response to ongoing concerns and the realities of caring for a shared space. The addition of cameras is not intended to be punitive or reactive, but rather a measured and responsible step toward maintaining a safe, welcoming, and well-cared-for environment for all who use the building. **These cameras will not record audio, and there will not be someone monitoring them at all times.** Instead, video will be securely stored and reviewed if an incident occurs that requires our attention. The purpose of this step is not to intrude, but to help ensure the building is used safely and responsibly for everyone.

Lastly, we want to encourage open and thoughtful communication. When questions or concerns arise, we genuinely want to engage in meaningful conversation—not just quick exchanges. Reaching out to a board member directly, scheduling time to talk, or contacting the church office allows us to listen carefully, gather any needed information, and respond in a way that is clear and respectful. We know that concerns often come from a place of care and investment in the church, and those conversations deserve time and attention. Brief interactions just before worship or during the service can make it difficult to fully hear one another or provide thoughtful responses, and we want to honor both the importance of worship and the importance of your voice by making space for both.

These conversations are not about changing who we are—they are about sustaining the ministry we've been entrusted with. We continue to strive to be a church with open hearts, open doors, and a place where all feel welcome.

We are grateful for a congregation and community that cares enough to ask questions, share concerns, and remain involved. If you ever have thoughts or would like to talk further, we encourage you to reach out.

Thank you for being part of this church family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 3 - Game Night @ WBUMC, 6:30 p.m. (bring a game and snack to share)
- May 10 - Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Mother's Day; Fellowship
- May 11 - Family Faith Night @ SUMC, 6 p.m.
- May 13 - UMW Salad Supper, 6:30 p.m.
- May 17 - Adult Sunday School 9 a.m.; Birthday Sunday; Baccalaureate @ WBUMC, 7 p.m.
- May 18 - UMW Bingo @ Crestview, 2:30 p.m.
- May 24 - Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Pentecost Sunday (wear red)
- May 26 - Ad Board, 6 p.m.
- May 30 - Plant Swap @ SUMC, 9 a.m. - Noon
- May 31 - Last Adult Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship in the Upper Room

MAY WORSHIP

Theme for the Month: Children of God

May 3

5th Sunday of Easter, Communion, Steven preaching
Scripture: Luke 24:13-35
Sermon: "Taken for Granted"

May 10

Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother's Day, Fellowship
Scripture: Acts 17:22-31
Sermon: "Beloved Offspring"

May 17

Seventh Sunday of Easter, Birthday Sunday, Diane gone
Scripture: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
Sermon: Humble

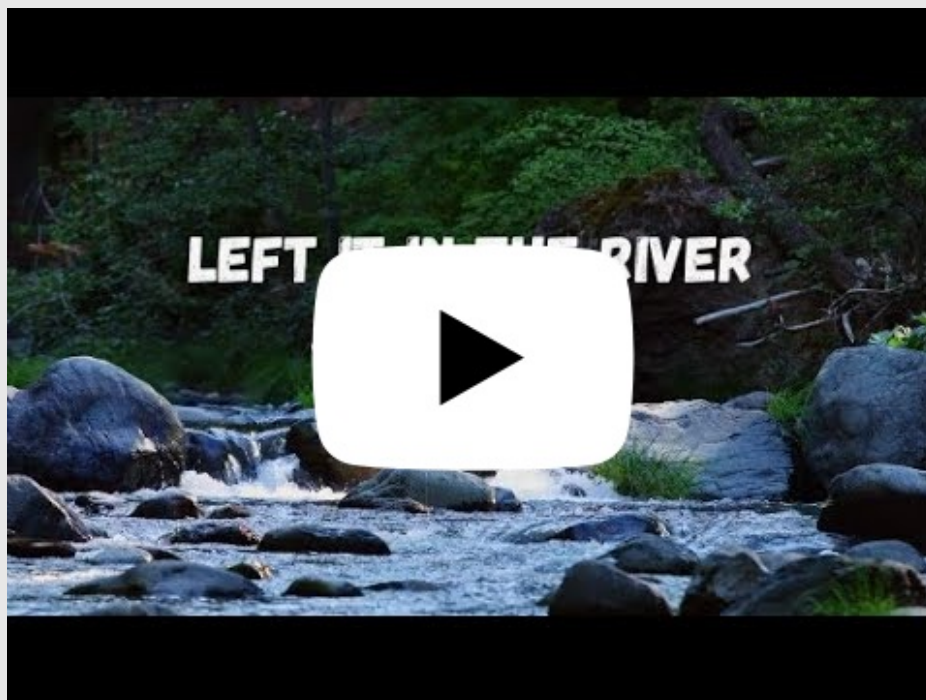
May 24

Pentecost Sunday, Memorial Day Weekend, Heritage Sunday
Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; John 7:37-39
Sermon: Believer's Heart

May 31

Trinity Sunday, 5th Sunday Hymn Sing
Scripture: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20
Sermon: Greetings

SONG OF THE MONTH



MAY INVITES US TO KEEP GOING

After the celebration of Easter and the intentional follow-up of April, May is where faith becomes steady, rooted, and visible in everyday life. The excitement of big moments begins to settle — and what remains is something just as important: consistency.

As United Methodists, we understand that discipleship is not built in a single season. It is formed over time through relationships, habits, and a shared commitment to walk alongside one another.

Easter may be the spark — but May is where the flame is tended.

From Connection to Community

In April, we focused on reconnecting and building relationships. In May, we deepen them.

This is the month to move from *knowing names* to *knowing stories*.

We are invited to ask:

- Who is beginning to feel at home here?
- How can we create spaces where people feel known and valued?
- What would help someone take a next step in their faith journey?

Community doesn't happen by accident. It grows when people are intentionally seen, included, and invited into something deeper.

Creating Spaces to Belong

As a congregation committed to Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism, May is a time to cultivate belonging:

- **Invite participation** – Encourage others to join in, not just attend
- **Share your story** – Faith becomes real when we talk about it
- **Notice who's missing** – A simple check-in can mean everything
- **Be consistent** – Familiar faces and steady presence build trust

Sometimes the most powerful form of evangelism is simply helping someone feel like they belong.

Faith That Grows Over Time

Growth in faith often looks quiet and gradual.

It's showing up to worship even on ordinary Sundays.

It's continuing conversations started weeks ago.

It's building trust, one interaction at a time.

This is the work of "social holiness" — growing in Christ together, not alone.

When we commit to steady presence, we create a church where people don't just visit... they stay.

Family Focus: Growing Faith in Everyday Moments

May is a natural time for families to lean into rhythms that nurture faith as the school year winds down and summer approaches.

Try these simple practices:

- **Create a weekly rhythm** – A simple prayer time, even just once a week
- **Talk about belonging** – Ask: "Where did you feel included this week?"
- **Keep inviting** – Encourage kids to bring a friend to church or events
- **Celebrate growth** – Notice how faith is changing and deepening

Children learn that faith is not just about special days — it's something that grows with them.

A Season to Stay Rooted

May reminds us that meaningful ministry is not only about new beginnings — it's about staying present.

When we continue to welcome, connect, and include, we reflect the steady love of Christ.

Our community is not just looking for a place to visit.

They are looking for a place to belong.

And through small, faithful steps, we are becoming that place.

As we move through May, may we remain rooted in Christ, committed to one another, and open to the ways God continues to grow something beautiful among us.

Paula Rogers
COME Chair

WB FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHES CLOSET DONATIONS

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)



*SUMC has donated 77.8 pounds of food to the pantry through the end of March.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25:35

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

Thank you to everyone who helped make Wednesday Night Discipleship possible this year. From teaching classes to serving meals, your contributions made a meaningful difference. WBUMC will be recognizing all of the WND teachers and volunteers during their worship on May 17th.

FAMILY FAITH NIGHT



May 11 @ 6:00 PM

Theme: God Cares for Us

Activity: Prayer Jars

Dinner: Lasagne



www.springdale.church



Springdale & West Branch Vacation Bible School

July 12th -16th

Registration opens April 1st!

Come journey and explore
with us this summer!



Springdale UMC
554 290th St, Springdale



Scan me

WE NEED YOU! During the month of May, we'll be taking donations for Vacation Bible School. Opportunities include monetary donations and a sign up to bring items for snacks. Please keep your eyes peeled for signs of the rain forest for more information on how to give and how to volunteer.



Faith & Family
NIGHT

 vs 

JULY 11TH
5:30PM

\$15
GA TICKET WITH A
HOT DOG, CHIP AND
SODA VOUCHER

SIGN UP NOW

POST-GAME PROGRAM
FEATURING ORION NATIVE
AND PROFESSIONAL
FOOTBALL PLAYER LOGAN
LEE AND OTHER SPECIAL
GUESTS

Presented by
Chick-fil-A



CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS

Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will be held June 11-14 in West Des Moines. Steven Grace and Rev. Rebecca will be attending from our congregation. Our worship team is working to fill the pulpit on June 14th.



Rylee Grace has been selected to attend the 2026 Simpson Youth Leadership Academy, June 20-28. She is one of 25 students from congregations throughout the Midwest who will be attending this Academy. Please keep Rylee, her parents, Steven and Jessica, and all the instructors and attendees in your prayers. We will have a special sending off blessing during worship on June 7. Congratulations, Rylee, for being selected for this honor - we know you will represent Springdale UMC well and bring back lots of great skills to share with the congregation!

Iowa UMC Camp Registration is Now Open!



Scan to
Register
or [Click Here](#)

Financial
assistance is
available.

Click to view the [2026 camp catalog!](#)

DVD DONATIONS. This summer, pastor Alyssa Nantt from the Washington United Methodist Church, will be traveling out West to visit her friend and former colleague, Pastor Gail Hoyt, of the the BUMP mission in north central Montana. Pastor Hoyt started three sober living groups at the mission and her groups gather to encourage one another and to make Native American craft items. While they craft, they enjoy watching DVDs of Christian programs and movies.

Washington UMC is donating a DVD set of The Chosen and Women of the Bible to the mission but they are also looking to collect additional DVDs (no BluRay or 4k) to gift to them.

If you have DVDs you would like to donate to this mission, please bring them to the church no later than **June 7**.



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

Full Leadership Board: 6 p.m.

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

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer
2. March 23, 2026 Minutes
 1. Steven moved to approve the minutes. Julie seconded. Motion carried.
4. Trustees
 1. Security
 1. Cameras
 1. \$305-340
 2. 8 cameras (3 doors, 1 in sanctuary, 1 in basement) or 4 cameras
 1. What do we want to accomplish with the cameras? Do we want to know who is coming in and out or do we also want to know what they are doing?
 4. Larger storage capacity
 5. What is the legality surrounding having cameras?
 1. Video recording is acceptable in public spaces except for restrooms and counseling rooms.
 2. Audio should be disabled.
 7. Julie moved to order 8 cameras. Steven seconded. Motion carried.
 3. NOT locking doors
 3. Storm damage—Travis Dimmer looked
 1. Adjuster report; next steps
 1. SUMC has an exclusion on the policy that they do not cover cosmetic damage to metal roofs. There is a question as to whether our damage is cosmetic or not. Engineer coming on Monday to do further inspection.
 2. \$16,566.01 total loss of damages to siding and window (does not include roof at this point)
 3. Deductible \$8,090.00 (1% of blanket cost)
 3. Travis has not yet provided a bid for the work
 4. We've received a check from the insurance company already. Discussion was had about what to do with the check at this point as we continue to figure out how to move forward.
 1. Paula moved to have the check deposited into a 91 day cd. Steven seconded. Motion carried.
6. SPRC
 1. SPRC Evaluation
 1. Board completed the form and submitted to conference. Rebecca submitted hers as well.
 3. Nominations (Lay Leadership Development)
 1. No update
 5. Annual Conference Sunday - June 14
 1. Jessica will talk with Katie @ West Branch about a joint service
8. Stewardship
 1. Treasurer's Report—through March, 2026
 1. Paula moved to approve the March 2026 report. Julie seconded. Motion carried.
 3. Empower data input (attendance, pledges, donations, etc.)
 4. Stewardship campaign ideas for the Fall
10. COME
 1. Family Faith Night—May
 1. Invite family/friends to attend
 3. Matthew 25
 1. Jessica will call about being able to do something other than a work week.
 5. Plant Swap May 30
12. Other
 1. Worship Committee
 1. Jessica, Amanda B., Rylee—when meet? Topics?
 3. Joint Circuit Meeting in June hosted SUMC
 4. Drums are ready to go to their new home
14. Next Meeting:
 1. May 26 (Tuesday), 6 p.m. (change due to Memorial Day)
16. Closing Prayer

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