

JUNE 2026

THE CROWS NEST

SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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BIRTHDAYS

2 - Brycen Vikel
2 - Alyvia Vikel
4 - Matthew Bowels
4 - Preston Mayhew
6 - Alden Siddell
7 - Christian Laing
8 - Matthew Blayer
9 - Chelle Mayhew
9 - Laressa Stout
10 - Evelyn Buol
12 - John Fletcher
13 - Jodi Bamhart
16 - Becca Fulton
16 - Peggy McElderry
16 - Anna Whitlatch
22 - Madelyn Hartz
22 - Tanner Irely
23 - Savannah Nelson
24 - Kaleb Martin
25 - Bobby Knoop
26 - Elleana Irely
28 - Matt Tisinger
29 - Luke Mayhew
30 - Kara Heick
30 - Quin McConnaha

ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Ronnie & Jessica Nelson (16)
- 11 - Chauncy & Amanda Farmer (21)
- 11 - Todd & Paula Rogers (10)
- 14 - Cole & Shelby Lacina (7)
- 20 - Pete & Natalie Miller (28)
- 21 - Luke & Chelle Mayhew (23)
- 23 - Alden & Jordan Siddell (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.



Our June Family Faith Night will focus on serving others by creating **40 First Responder Blessing Bags** for the people in our community who serve and protect us every day.

We would love help collecting a few simple items to include in the bags, such as:

Bottled water
Individually wrapped snacks
Granola bars
Gum or mints
Small packs of crackers or trail mix
Card making supplies

Donations can be dropped off at the church anytime before June 5.

This is a wonderful way for kids and families to learn that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Thank you for helping us show appreciation to our local first responders and remind them they are seen, valued, and prayed for.

Monetary donations are welcome as well and will be used to purchase remaining supplies. Venmo @pamperpaula

REBECCA'S REFLECTIONS

I don't know about you, but the end of May has really confused me. Memorial Day has already happened, yet there is one more weekend in the month. Pentecost Sunday has come and gone which means the season between Pentecost and Advent will be exceptionally long this year. School is ending this week in West Branch, while in Iowa City, we have one more week. It all gets mixed up and I know I can't seem to keep track of what week it is.

But that is how it often is in our ordinary lives. One week flows into the next with many of the same activities, the same schedules, the same day to day tasks. In the church, we are also entering Ordinary Time, that season between Pentecost and Advent that can seem monotonous and long, but also can be a time to experience Biblical stories that aren't read at other times of the year. In our ordinary times, we can also find the extraordinary.

Diana Butler Bass, one of my favorite authors, in her book, "A Beautiful Year" states that, "The months after Pentecost invite both believers and seekers to follow God through the everyday landscapes of life. But it isn't a call to the spiritually humdrum. Instead, following in the midst of the ordinary awakens journeyers to the extraordinariness that surrounds us."

May you discover the extraordinariness of God's creation this summer.

Rebecca

Diana Butler Bass, A Beautiful Year: 52 Meditations on Faith, Wisdom and Perseverance, copyright 2025, St. Martin's Press, page 224.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **June 1** - VBS Meeting @ SUMC, 6:30 p.m. (for anyone who would like to help plan, organize, or keep up to date with VBS news and info. All volunteers are welcome!
- **June 7** - Worship, Communion, Blessing of Rylee Grace
- **June 8** - Family Faith Night, 6 p.m.
- **June 10** - UMW, 6:30 p.m.
- **June 11-14** - Annual Conference
- **June 14** - Combined Worship with West Branch UMC
- **June 21** - Father's Day, Birthday Sunday, Fellowship after church
- **June 22** - UMW Bingo @ Crestview, 2:30 p.m.
- **June 24** - VBS Training @ SUMC, 6:00 p.m. (For all HS and adult volunteers. If you are unable to attend, please let Jessica Grace know.)
- **June 25** - IC Laity/Clergy Circuit Meeting @ SUMC, 6 p.m.
- **July 5** - Outdoor Worship at Cedar Valley Shelter 1
- **July 11** - Faith Night @ the Ball Park

JUNE WORSHIP

Theme for the Month: Abraham

June 7

2nd Sunday of Pentecost, Communion Sunday, Blessing of Rylee
Scripture: Genesis 12:1-9
Sermon: "Journey"

June 14

3rd Sunday of Pentecost, Annual Conference Sunday - Worship with WBUMC

June 21

4th Sunday of Pentecost, Birthday Sunday, Father's Day, Fellowship
Scripture: Genesis 21:8-21
Sermon: A Father's Grief

June 28

5th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14
Sermon: Dilemma

SONG OF THE MONTH



JUNE BRINGS A SEASON OF MOVEMENT

School years end, vacations begin, schedules shift, and summer activities fill our calendars. Life feels a little less structured — and often a little busier in different ways. Yet even in changing routines, the call of the church remains the same: to stay connected to God and to one another.

As United Methodists, we believe faith is not confined to a building or a season. Faith travels with us into everyday life — into camps and cookouts, road trips and community events, conversations and acts of service.

Summer is not a pause from discipleship. It is another opportunity to live it out.

Faith Beyond the Walls

June reminds us that ministry often happens outside the sanctuary walls.

Some of the most meaningful moments of outreach and evangelism happen in ordinary places:

at the park,
at summer activities,
around neighborhood tables,
or while serving side-by-side in the community.

This month, we are invited to ask:

- **How can we remain connected as routines change?**
- **Where is God creating opportunities for conversation and invitation?**

- **How can we carry the spirit of welcome into our community this summer?**

Outreach is not limited to organized programs. Sometimes it begins with simple presence, kindness, and genuine connection.

Staying Connected During Summer

As a congregation committed to Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism, summer offers meaningful ways to continue building relationships:

- **Stay intentional** – Reach out even when schedules become busy
- **Invite casually** – Summer events often feel approachable for new families
- **Be visible in the community** – Represent Christ through kindness and service
- **Continue showing up** – Consistency helps people feel remembered and valued

Small moments matter. A conversation at a ballgame or an invitation to a church event may become the beginning of a deeper faith journey for someone else.

Growing Through Service

Summer also creates opportunities for hands-on mission and service.

John Wesley reminded us that faith and action belong together. When we serve others, we participate in God's work of grace in the world.

Whether through church projects, helping neighbors, supporting local families, or simply noticing someone in need, every act of compassion reflects Christ's love.

The church shines brightest when faith becomes visible through service.

Family Focus: Faith in the Midst of Summer

Summer routines may look different, but faith can remain woven into everyday family life.

Try these simple practices:

- **Pray on the go** – In the car, before activities, or during walks
- **Practice gratitude** – Share one thing each family member is thankful for each day
- **Serve together** – Find small ways to help neighbors or participate in mission opportunities
- **Stay connected to church life** – Worship, events, and fellowship help keep faith rooted during busy seasons

Children learn that faith is not just something we practice at church — it is something we carry with us wherever we go.

Carrying Christ Into the Community

June invites us to live our faith openly and joyfully in the world around us.

As schedules shift and summer begins, may we continue to be people who welcome, invite, serve, and connect. The relationships we nurture now may become the foundation for lasting community and growing faith.

Wherever this summer takes us, we carry the love of Christ with us.

Paula Rogers
COME Chair

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

West Branch UMC's Wednesday Night Discipleship will be starting back up before we know it and they need our help to share God's love to our youngest members. They are looking for teachers, second adults, substitutes, kitchen volunteers, worship helpers, and welcome table greets. Please prayerfully consider how YOU might be willing to help on Wednesdays this Fall. Please contact Katie Sabourin if you are being called to volunteer in some fashion.

Registration opens August 26th with the first evening of WND on September 2.

WB FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHES CLOSET DONATIONS

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

SIMPSON YOUTH ACADEMY

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 7th.

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!



Support Rylee and Other Young Leaders by attending the Youth Academy Worship.

When: 7 p.m. any night June 22-26

Where: Simpson College

How: RSVP to eric.rucker@simpson.edu

FAMILY FAITH NIGHT



June 8 @ 6:00 PM
 Theme: Serving Together
 Activity: EMS Care Kits
 Dinner: TBD



www.springdate.church

Faith & Family NIGHT

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




RAINFOREST FALLS
 Exploring the Nature of God

**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

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"
 Matthew 18:20



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.

Worship on the 14th will be a joint service with West Branch United Methodist Church at 10:00 a.m.

**Iowa UMC Camp
Registration is Now Open!**

LAKE OKOBOJI & WESLEY WOODS

2026 IOWA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CAMP CATALOG

Scan to Register or [Click Here](#)

Financial assistance is available.

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

The complex block is a promotional graphic for the 2026 Iowa UMC Camp. It features a central image of a camp catalog cover for Lake Okoboji & Wesley Woods, which includes photos of people kayaking, ziplining, and horseback riding. To the right of the catalog is a QR code and the text "Scan to Register or Click Here". Below the QR code is a blue circle containing the text "Financial assistance is available." At the bottom of the graphic is a link: "Click to view the 2026 camp catalog!".



**Sharon Center
Bluegrass Festival**
Sun, June 28, 2026, 12:15
Sharon Center United Methodist Church
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
2804 520th St. SW, rural Kalona, Iowa
between Iowa City and Kalona, south and east of Sharon Center



**Sharin' Praise
Unplugged**
Sharon Center



Mission Bluegrass
North Liberty



**The Great
Bluegrass Herons**
Sharon Center



Pennies On The Rail
Iowa City



WANTED GAL
Donna Kirby
Fairfield

RAIN or SHINE
Directions: www.sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com
NO ADMISSION FEE / Freewill Offering
Bring a chair...bring a friend...bring an instrument...bring a voice!
[Food available! Lunch starts at 11:30]
www.sharoncenterumc.wordpress.com
319-683-2564

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—May 26, 2026

No Meeting

Next Meeting: June 22, 2026 @ 6 p.m.

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