

# THE CROWS NEST

## SPRINGDALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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**Congratulations to Steven Grace for earning the Outstanding Lay Award at Annual Conference this year. Thank you for everything you do for our Church.**

### 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

## BIRTHDAYS

1 - Pam Wilkerson  
2 - Zach Maxson  
6 - Michael Lindberg  
8 - Stacey Schropp  
9 - Sharon Vincent  
10 - Lynn Patrick  
10 - Sherry Wolf  
13 - Brittany Hamer  
13 - Julie Mather  
13 - Diane Phillips  
13 - Dylan Wolf  
13 - Brandon Wolf  
14 - Nancy Barnhart  
15 - Xander Bowers  
17 - Connie Pace  
18 - Alex Miller  
20 - Bill Manning  
23 - Josh Boyce  
23 - Denise Laing  
24 - Shae Farmer  
24 - Jessica Grace  
26 - Casey Hesseltine  
28 - Ben Tisinger  
30 - Jason Grandt  
30 - Jo Leighty  
30 - Bryan Regenitter  
30 - Dean Wilkerson

## ANNIVERSARIES

3 - Jerry & Trish Irely (28)  
7 - Taylor & Kristen Westpheling (8)  
9 - Troy & Leanna Vincent (21)  
18 - Gordon & Jessica LeDoux (6)  
20 - Josh & Tracey Hartz (24)  
28 - Jamie & Margi Boles (8)

July has arrived- again. I am doing all of my “new year” activities, creating new files on my computer as we enter our fourth year together here at Springdale. When I decided to retire in 2022, I never imagined that God would call me back into active ministry, let alone that I would still be serving in retirement five years later. Every year has had its surprises, its special events. I continue to enjoy being here and I hope that we can find new things to do in this next year.

We have a busy month ahead here at Springdale—Cedar County Fair Church Day; VBS; potlucks; worship at Cedar Valley County Park. Let’s have a great, faith-filled month with lots of times for growth and fun!!

Rebecca

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 5** - Outdoor Worship at Cedar Valley, Shelter 1, 10 a.m. followed by a potluck  
**July 8** - UMW, 6:30 p.m.  
**July 9** - Church Day @ the Cedar County Fair  
**July 11** - Faith Night @ the Ball Park  
**July 12 - 16** - Vacation Bible School  
**July 19** - VBS Joint Worship, 10 a.m.  
**July 27** - UMW Bingo @ Crestview, 2:30 p.m.; Ad Council, 6 p.m.  
**August 1** - UWF Brunch, North Liberty UMC, 9:30 a.m. **August 8** - Hoover's Hometown Days Parade  
**August 10** - Family Faith Night, 6:00 p.m.

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## JULY WORSHIP

**Theme for the Month: Perseverance**

### July 5

6th Sunday of Pentecost, Communion Sunday, Cedar Valley County Park  
Scripture: Matthew 11:25-30  
Sermon: Interdependence

### July 12

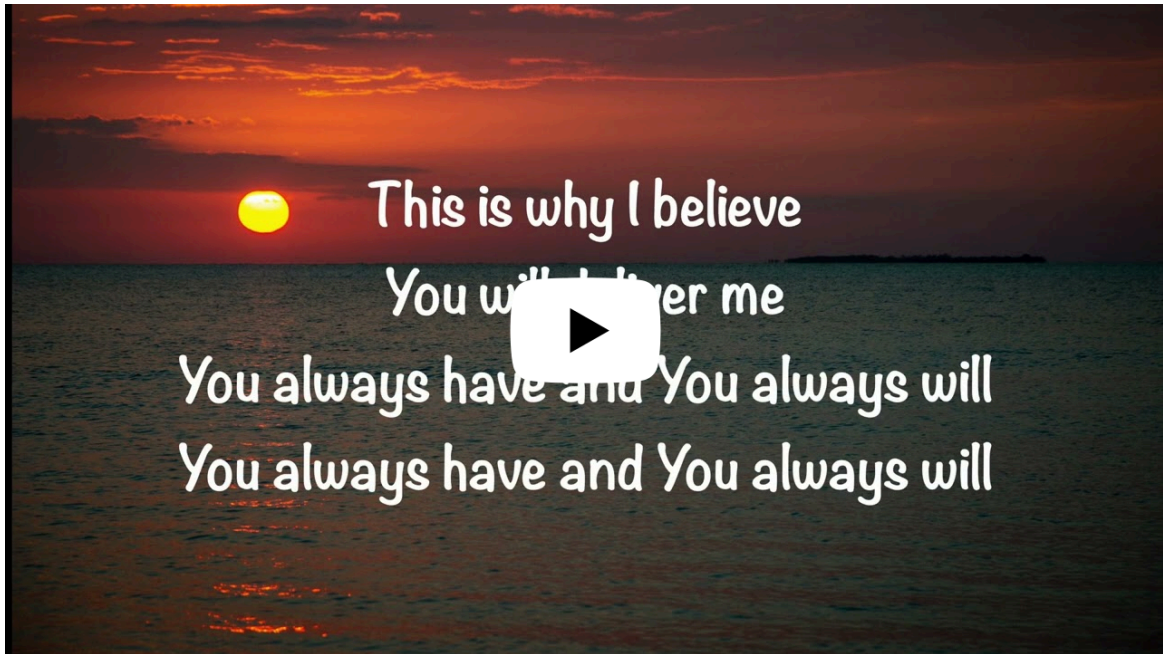
7th Sunday of Pentecost, VBS Begins  
Scripture: Genesis 25:19-34  
Sermon: Squandered

### July 19

8th Sunday of Pentecost, VBS Sunday Worship and Fellowship

### July 26

9th Sunday After Pentecost, Birthday Sunday, Diane away  
Scripture: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52  
Sermon: Casting Seeds and Nuts



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## FREEDOM TO LOVE, FREEDOM TO SERVE

July is often associated with celebrations of freedom. We gather with family and friends, watch fireworks light the sky, and give thanks for the blessings we enjoy as a nation.

As Christians, however, we are reminded that there is another freedom worth celebrating every day—the freedom we have in Christ.

Through God's grace, we are freed from fear, freed from trying to earn God's love, and freed *for* something greater: loving God and loving our neighbors.

John Wesley believed that God's grace continually transforms us, not only for our own benefit but so that we might become instruments of God's love in the world. Our freedom in Christ calls us beyond ourselves and into lives of compassion, generosity, and service.

### **Freedom That Builds Community**

Freedom is not simply the absence of obligation; it is the opportunity to choose love.

As a congregation committed to Congregational Outreach, Mission, and Evangelism, we are invited to ask:

- How can I use my gifts to bless someone else?
- Who in our community might need encouragement this month?
- Where is God inviting me to be the hands and feet of Christ?

The simple choices we make—to smile, to listen, to invite, to serve—can become powerful expressions of God's grace.

### **Living Generously**

This month, consider a few simple ways to share Christ's love:

- **Offer hospitality.** Invite someone to worship, Vacation Bible School, or simply share a meal.
- **Serve joyfully.** Volunteer where help is needed, whether at church or in the community.

- **Speak words of encouragement.** A kind note or thoughtful conversation can brighten someone's day.
- **Pray intentionally.** Lift up your neighbors, church family, and those who may be searching for hope.

Outreach is not always about large events. Often it begins with ordinary people faithfully loving those God places in their path.

### **Family Focus: Freedom to Choose Kindness**

Summer provides countless opportunities for families to practice faith together.

Try these simple ideas:

- Ask each family member, "How can we show God's love to someone today?"
- Write thank-you notes to teachers, first responders, grandparents, or community helpers.
- Choose one family service project this month, such as collecting food for a pantry or helping a neighbor with yard work.
- Before fireworks or holiday celebrations, pause to thank God for the freedoms we enjoy and pray for peace throughout the world.

These small moments help children understand that following Jesus means using our freedom to love and serve others.

### **A Church That Reflects Christ**

Our community isn't simply looking for another place to attend.

People are searching for hope.

For friendship.

For purpose.

For a place where they are welcomed just as they are.

When we extend Christ's love beyond our church walls, we become the kind of church our community longs for—a church where everyone is invited, everyone is valued, and everyone has the opportunity to grow in God's grace.

May this July remind us that true freedom is found not only in what we are free from, but in what we are free to do: love generously, serve faithfully, and share the good news of Jesus Christ with all.

Paula Rogers

COME Chair

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## **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.

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## WB FOOD PANTRY AND CLOTHES CLOSET DONATIONS

### 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.

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## 10 FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT JOHN WESLEY

History is more than facts and figures. It is full of real people with real stories. Connecting with those people and stories helps us understand our lives and discern God's direction for our future. That is why it is important constantly to connect our teaching back to the important people in our church history. To help you do that, we have gathered some interesting, and maybe even surprising, facts about John Wesley to help you connect United Methodist history to your next lesson.

### 1. JOHN WESLEY WROTE ONE OF THE ALL-TIME BESTSELLING MEDICAL TEXTS.

Wesley was deeply convicted that God is concerned about our earthly life as well as our heavenly one. To that end, he wrote a medical text for the everyday person titled "[Primitive Physic](#)." The book detailed the current knowledge about home remedies and went through 32 editions, making it one of the most widely read books in England.

Many of [Wesley's cures and tips on healthy living](#) remain widely accepted. While some of his advice was wishful thinking, the most important part of his philosophy was his insistence on continual observation to support hypotheses. Wesley boldly questioned modern doctors — how they sometimes treated humans like machines; that much of their “medicine” lacked merit and they lacked evidence to support its efficacy. By the same token, some of Wesley's beliefs certainly needed more supportive evidence. For instance, Wesley recommended holding a puppy against the stomach to cure stomach pain. He offered dried and powdered toad pills for asthma. He also enjoyed regular dips in cold bathwater, thought to be a near panacea. It sounds strange to us, but many leading minds during Wesley's time, espoused these sorts of folk remedies. And honestly, who doesn't feel better after holding a puppy? The

point is, like David — who had the heart of God and still fell short — even the greatest leaders with the biggest hearts are fallible.

## 2. JOHN WESLEY COINED THE TERM “AGREE TO DISAGREE.”

Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: “There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may '[agree to disagree](#).' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials. ...” This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley’s way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

## 3. JOHN WESLEY RODE FAR ENOUGH ON HORSEBACK TO CIRCLE THE EARTH 10 TIMES.

Wesley rode 250,000 miles! He was convinced that it was important for him personally to spread the gospel through relationships and continue to grow closer to God in those relationships. Asked if he would consider walking instead of riding, he replied, “Nay.”

## 4. WESLEY HAD SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT HIS FAITH.

Questioning one’s faith should not be disparaged. Doubts are essential to making any belief system one’s own. They do not mean that one will let it go. In fact, even as [Wesley struggled with deep doubts about faith](#), he followed the wise instruction of a mentor who told him to “preach faith till you have it; and then, because you have it, you will preach faith.” Even as we struggle, we can maintain our hold on the truths we question until we can settle all of our doubts.

## 5. “METHODIST” WAS ORIGINALLY A DEROGATORY TERM.

Though the [origins of the term “Methodist”](#) are in dispute, it is clear that it was originally used by outsiders to [mock John Wesley](#) and his early societies because of their dedication to following a method for growing closer to God. They ended up accepting the term, considering it a positive descriptor of their movement. Way to own it, Methodists!

## 6. WESLEY COUNSELED PEOPLE TO “EAT A LITTLE LESS THAN YOU DESIRE.”

Staying slim was far from Wesley’s goal (1), though he did weigh in around 128 pounds. This was not the result of dieting, but rather of a practice to ensure that people were not ruled by their natural desires, but exercising control over them.

## 7. WESLEY NEVER INTENDED TO SPLIT FROM THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

However, when the revolution happened in the American colonies, most of the Anglican priests returned home. Faced with the fact that none of the Methodists in the colonies could receive the sacraments, Wesley ordained ministers whom he sent to do the same in America (he was practical even when it caused problems). That act was the beginning of the separation that formed the Methodist Church (2) in America. The Methodist Church in England did not officially form until after Wesley’s death.

## 8. WESLEY NEVER SAID THIS FAMOUS QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO HIM.

It has been on the back of more than one United Methodist youth camp T-shirt: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, as long as ever you can.” Though the quote is often attributed to John

Wesley and is [consistent with his perspective](#) on life, many [historians have confirmed](#) there is no record of Wesley ever saying that.

#### 9. WESLEY BELIEVED YOU COULD NOT BE A CHRISTIAN ON YOUR OWN.

He said that we needed to be involved in “social holiness.” Though some often think this term is synonymous with “social justice,” its meaning is quite different. Wesley believed we could only grow as [Christians in community](#). In his preface to the 1739 hymnal, he was adamant that “the gospel of Christ knows of no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness.”

#### 10. METHODISM GREW FROM FOUR TO 132,000 MEMBERS IN WESLEY’S LIFETIME.

The beginning of Methodism (3) was a group of four who called themselves the “holy club” at Oxford. When Wesley died in 1791, [he left behind a movement](#) with 72,000 members in the British Isles and 60,000 in America.

United Methodist Communications and the General Commission on Archives and History teamed to test your knowledge of [more than 200 years](#) of our church’s past. So after you study up, take the [United Methodist Church History Quiz](#) and share it with your friends and family!

#### WANT TO KNOW THE NAME OF JOHN WESLEY’S HORSE?

Actually, we don't know that one. But if you need help clarifying the denomination's position on baptism or if you're looking for mission opportunities, contact [Ask The UMC](#), a ministry of United Methodist Communications and the official information service of The United Methodist Church.

These facts will equip you with lots of great discussion starters you can use at your next dinner party or church gathering. Let’s have some fun with history!

#### References:

1. Guerrant, William C. [Organic Wesley](#). Franklin: Seedbed, 2015. Page 47.
2. Heitzenrater, Richard P. [Wesley and the People Called Methodist](#). Nashville: Abingdon, 2013. Page 320.
3. *ibid.* Page 46.

Jeremy Steele is a freelance writer and United Methodist pastor. He is the author of several books and resources that you can find at [jeremy-steele.com](#).

This article was updated on June 16, 2021.



**FAMILY FAITH NIGHT**

August 10 @ 6 p.m.  
Theme: Growing in Faith  
Activity: Backpack Blessing Tags

**Backpack Blessings**  
Bless this backpack & all it carries.  
May it hold tools for learning &  
hearts full of courage.  
Keep the one who wears it safe,  
curious, & kind.  
Amen.

www.springdale.church



**RAINFORST 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  
554 290<sup>th</sup> St, Springdale

Scan me

# 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**



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

## CONFERENCE, DISTRICT AND CIRCUIT NEWS

Sharon Center United Methodist Church invites you to celebrate the 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church with an:

- Ice Cream Social
- History Showcase
- Cemetery Walk

July 12, 2026  
2-4 pm  
Free Will Offering

2804 520<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Kalona, Iowa



United Women in Faith

We connect spiritual women to act boldly for justice and transform communities.

**faith**

At our heart and in our soul, we are a faith-driven organization. Our beliefs bring us together. And our spirituality pushes us to do more.

Join us to boldly live your faith and connect to something bigger.

**action**

Our actions have always spoken as loud as our words. Acts of love. Acts of Faith. Acts of Change. For much more than 100 years, our members have been showing up and getting things done. Together, we're making the world a better place, locally, globally, fearlessly.

**sisterhood**

Welcome to our sisterhood. Connecting together as community leaders, justice champions, and brave change-makers, we are women with more than a cause. We are on a mission to boldly act and transform communities, and we hope you'll join us.

(Formerly United Methodist Women, UMW)  
"Not your grandmother's funeral potatoes!"

Join us for brunch and learn more about United Women in Faith.

**SATURDAY**

August First | 9:30-11:00am

All women from the Iowa City area are invited – whether their churches have a UWF chapter or not. Non-United Methodists are also welcome.

Organizers: Margaret Adams, Deaconess Candidate NL First

Lynn Calvert, Spiritual Growth Coordinator  
RSVP to Lynn at 319-541-8367 by 7/15/26.

North Liberty First UMC:  
Ministry Outreach Center  
85 North Jones Boulevard, North Liberty

# Iowa UMC Camp Registration is Now Open!



Scan to  
Register  
or [Click Here](#)

Financial  
assistance is  
available.

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

**For More Visit:**

[Iowa Conference](#)  
[Southeast District](#)  
[United Women in Faith](#)

**District Superintendent**

Rev. Brian Oliver

Email: [brian.oliver@iaumc.org](mailto:brian.oliver@iaumc.org)

Phone: (319) 382-0436



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## AD BOARD MINUTES

Springdale UMC Leadership Board meeting—June 22, 2026

### **Full Leadership Board: 6 p.m.**

Attendance: Julie Hime, Jo Leighty, Rebecca Carver, Lynda Ambrose, Paula Rogers, Steven Grace, Jessica Grace

1. Opening Devotion and Prayer
2. April 27, 2026 Minutes
  1. Jo moved to approve the minutes. Julie seconded. Motion carried.
4. Trustees
  1. Storm damage—Travis Dimmer looked
    1. Adjuster report (in Google Drive)
    2. Insurance will not cover the roof - adjuster believes it's cosmetic only
      1. Travis recommended that if in the future we begin to have issues with water damage, that we remember it was a result of the initial hail claim that the insurance deemed as cosmetic only
    4. Travis thinks his estimate would be pretty close to what the insurance claim indicates
    5. The board gave Travis approval to move forward
3. Security
  1. Cameras arrived, need installed
  2. Jo has been keeping an eye on the doors and the lights this summer while out for walks
  3. Josh has offered to help get things set up

4. Steven mentioned locking the door to the Crow's Nest
  1. Board agreed; Steven will install the lock from the old technology cabinet
5. AED Purchase
  1. We would be a logical location for the community
  2. Lynda made some contacts and has someone who offered us the training
  3. Lynda will also contact Greg Hummrichouse because it sounds like he may be able to help us get one
  4. Paula questioned the location of a First Aid Kit and, if there is one, does it need to be restocked
    1. Lynda will also talk to Greg about getting some of those as well. In the meantime, we will inventory the "tacklebox" downstairs and get whatever we need in the interim.
6. SPRC
  1. Vacation Aug. 30-Sept. 13 (3 Sundays)
    1. Steven may or may not be up to filling in
      1. Talk with Circuit on Thursday night to see if anyone would be willing to fill in
      2. Would Manda Brown be willing to come out and preach?
  3. July 5th worship at Cedar Valley
    1. Music
      1. Electronic
    3. Communion
    4. Old Fashion' Potluck
      1. Bring a dish to share, your own drinks, tableware, and chairs/blanket
    6. Scout shelter (up on the hill, furthest from the entrance)
  5. Circuit Meeting this Thursday
    1. Lynda/Kathy have most of snacks provide; Steven to get juice/coffee
    2. Paula will set up the tables downstairs after work on Thursday
8. Stewardship
  1. Treasurer's Report--through May, 2026
    1. Paula moved to approve the May report. Julie seconded. Motion carried.
  3. Stewardship campaign (John Wesley?)
    1. Steven to do some research to see what might be available
10. COME
  1. Family Faith night
    1. Invite family/friends to attend
    2. 50 blessing bags dropped off to the Wbfd
      1. Water, snacks, cooling towels
    4. July during Bible School - will resume in August
  3. Faith & Family Night
    1. RSVP by June 30
  5. Church Day at the Fair
    1. July 9 - Floral Hall
    2. Handout ideas
      1. Church postcard with worship information
      2. VBS?
      3. Painted Rocks
      4. Candy
    4. \$150-200 budget
12. Other
  1. Worship Committee
    1. Jessica, Amanda B., Rylee--when meet? Topics?
    2. Need some back-ups for Sound booth, especially while Steven is down

1. Paula will cover June 28

14. Next Meeting:

1. July 27 @ 6 p.m.

16. Closing Prayer

## **SUMC 2026 AND BEYOND MINISTRY GOALS AND PLANNING**

<b><u>Goal</u></b>	<b><u>Key Action Steps</u></b>	<b><u>Timeline</u></b>	<b><u>Resources Needed</u></b>
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