

# THE TOWER

## SEPTEMBER 2025

DECORAH FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 302 W.

BROADWAY, PO BOX 221, DECORAH, IA 52101

[DECORAH-FIRST-UMC@IAUMC.NET](mailto:DECORAH-FIRST-UMC@IAUMC.NET) 563-382-3835

**Decorah Community Food Pantry: 110 Railroad St.**

Thanks for your generosity toward our Congregational Campaign Summer Drive. You are amazing! As of August 26, we have collected 686 pounds of donated goods and gave \$1,535 towards the Farmers Market Coupons.

Our annual Food Walk is being planned for Sunday, October 19 th . Watch for more details in next month's Tower.



**Decorah  
Community  
Food Pantry**

### Keeping Landan Folkedahl in Our Prayers



These are a couple of photos from our Blessing Service before Landan was deployed for his service in the National Guard. We pray that he stays safe as he continues serving our country with his strength and kind and loving spirit. We long for the day when he can join us back in our sanctuary. This is his current address:

Landan Folkedahl  
TASK FORCE WOLVERINE – NLZ  
CMR 1786, A CO

**September Birthdays** 4<sup>th</sup>: Pamela Ransom discussing at Linda Waton's home: 817 Ravine St.  
Diane will be co-hosting.

4<sup>th</sup>: Kath Zierath

9<sup>th</sup>: Joshua Vsetecka

16<sup>th</sup>: Herb Hageman

18<sup>th</sup>: Ellie Van Fleet

20<sup>th</sup>: Karen Gipp

20<sup>th</sup>: Jim Thompson

21<sup>st</sup>: Jane Vande Berg

22<sup>nd</sup>: Wayne Wasta

24<sup>th</sup>: Brenda Headington

29<sup>th</sup>: Deb Tekippe



**September Altar Flowers will be provided**

**Thanks to all who helped with the All Church by Deb Tekippe.  
Clean-Up!**



## **September Book Club**

Our August book group will be discussing *Poverty, by America* by Mathew Desmond. We will be

## **Choir season resumes in September**

Greetings from Asia! Although I am still traveling abroad, but certainly look forward to return to



Decorah at the end of August in time for new school year at Luther College. And, choir season resumes the first week of September at the church. If you ever wonder if it is a good time to join church choir, it is a great time now to join us for the new season. Choir practices on Wednesday 7:30pm for a hour, and has a warm-up rehearsal Sundays at 8:30am. I look forward to see you all in September.

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### Some photos from Phyllis & Wayne's Anniversary Celebration ❖❖



## September Worship Leaders

### Coffee Servers: Liturgist:

**September 7** Emily Joung-Johnson & Sweet Young Mark Landas **September 14**

Cheryl & Drew Pellett Ann Duder **September 21** Connie & Bill Bergstrom

Kathy Johnson **September 28** Syd Stephenson & Nancy Ruen Deb Bishop

## United Women of Faith Corner

### Wednesday, Sept 3

Mat Weaving 10:00

Executive Meeting at noon Program by Barb Dale General Meeting at 1:00

Hostesses Nancy Ruen & Syd S

### Quilters will meet each Tuesday morning 9:00 – 11:00

Anyone is welcome to join the projects, no quilting experience necessary!

**Mat Weaving** 10:00 – Noon on Wednesdays 9/3 and 9/17

**Bingo** We will be hosting Bingo at Aase Haugen on Tuesday, Sept 30.

### Saturday, September 27

We will host the UWFaith Pictured Rocks District Meeting.

Sign up sheets for helping to prepare for the luncheon and for hosting shifts will be at our meeting Sept 3.

## Ellie's New Address!

I am very excited for my next phase of life, but will always hold this congregation in my heart .

My new address will be 608 Grand Ave. Apt 207. St. Paul, MN, 55105 and my email is [ellievanfleet@gmail.com](mailto:ellievanfleet@gmail.com). Please don't hesitate to reach out!

Best wishes,

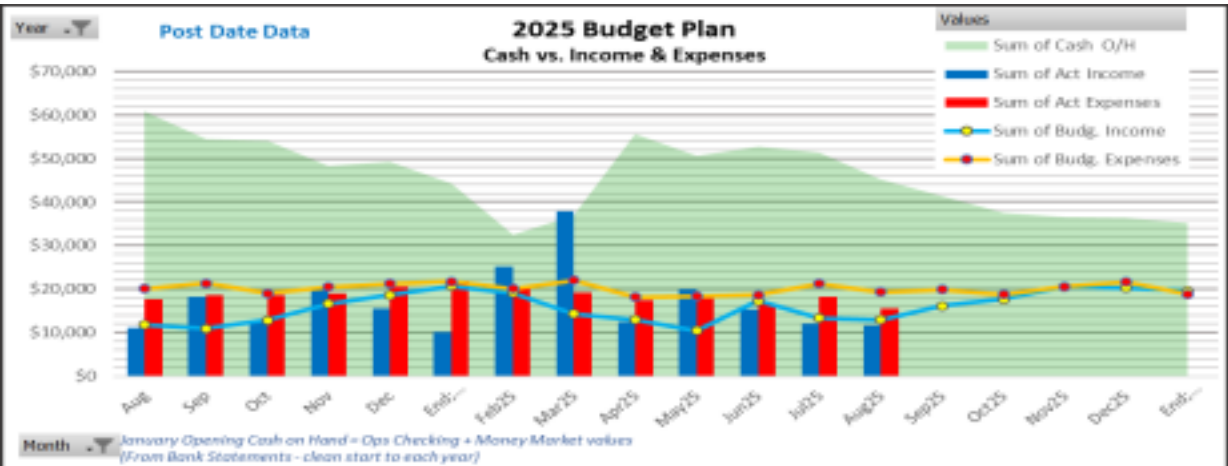
Ellie

### Treasurer's Corner

For the September Tower we will once again be showing "directionally correct" numbers. The income is virtually locked in

because our 8/31 monies won't be deposited until September. The August expenses s/b close with only some of the salaries not landing until the 31st.

- Income is currently at \$12K out of a plan of \$13K (ironically, the same as last month)...just a bit soft, common for this time of the year.
- Expenses are currently at \$16K out of a plan of 19K. But remember, with several outstanding salaries this picture might change if they are all turned in by the 31st...if not, they will carryover into September.
- The year-end operational cash position is still projected above the \$30K level (easily seen in the chart below).



We were able to avoid having to tap into the Trustees' "stop-gap" apportionment funding for August, and we have completed the Conference Ministries section. No Money Market transfers were required in August...aided by softer than planned expenses and income coming in relatively close to plan.

**For the Capital Campaign:**

- Since the construction loan is paid off, no further updates will be supplied unless the Trustees wish to highlight something.

**Year-to-date Benevolent Giving:**

- This might be a bit of an eyechart, but I did want to share what our YTD benevolent giving has amounted to:

Year	2025									
COA Code	(All)									
Giving Summary (Issue date)	Month of Giving	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Grand Total
Benevolent Recipient										
Expenses										
Advance Special										
Global Refugee Response		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00						\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
International Disaster Response and Recovery #982450		\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00						\$ 100.00	\$ 300.00
UNICOR - Disaster Response & Recovery #901670		\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 600.00
UNICOR - General #909895					\$ 50.00					\$ 50.00
Women at the Well					\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00				\$ 200.00
Special Offerings										
Human Relations Day		\$ 50.00								\$ 50.00
Peace with Justice Sunday							\$ 50.00			\$ 50.00
Voucher Credit										
Aase Haugen Senior Services		\$ 750.00								\$ 750.00
Decorah Food Pantry		\$ 2,215.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 515.00		\$ 580.00				\$ 3,775.00
Decorah Food Pantry Coupon Pgm							\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 465.00	\$ 1,395.00
Decorah Public Library		\$ 1,000.00								\$ 1,000.00
Helping Services for Youth and Families (Decorah)		\$ 2,000.00								\$ 2,000.00
Northeast Iowa RSVP Volunteer Program		\$ 750.00								\$ 750.00
Oneota Film Festival		\$ 100.00								\$ 100.00
Other/Unclassified							\$ 200.00			\$ 200.00
Reconciling Ministries Network				\$ 500.00						\$ 500.00
Senior Citizens Hospitality Center (SCHC)		\$ 500.00								\$ 500.00
Sister Parish		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 8,833.00	\$ 6,277.50	\$ 600.00				\$ 16,710.50
Sunflower Childcare		\$ 500.00								\$ 500.00
The Spectrum Network		\$ 1,000.00								\$ 1,000.00
Winnebago County Habitat for Humanity		\$ 1,250.00								\$ 1,250.00
Grand Total		\$ 11,515.00	\$ 785.00	\$ 9,848.00	\$ 6,427.50	\$ 1,380.00	\$ 715.00	\$ 885.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 32,120.50

The total for 2025 thus far is roughly \$2K more than for the full year of 2024!! Outstanding! There is one giving opportunity that we have yet to fulfill for 2025, that is our \$4K pledge to the Aase Haugen Chapel fund; we pledged \$12K over 3 years and have met our 2024 obligation. The Ad Council and Trustees are looking at ways we can fund the 2025 amount. If you are inclined to give to this project, please make your payment to our church with Aase Haugen Chapel Fund listed on the memo line.

As always, thanks to each of you for your dedication and support of Decorah First UMC!

## Announcements:

\*\* The Free Clinic is no longer accepting medicine bottles! Thank you to those who donated.

\*\* Grieving for Gaza: Vigil and singing each Saturday 11-12 at Water St. Plaza. All are welcome!

\*\* Burr Oak Lutheran Church WELCA Bazaar & Raffle - Wednesday, September 10th at 7pm. Fellowship, baked goods, quilts & gifts. Raffle tickets \$1 each.

\*\* Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-4pm, join us at Giard UMC (25964 Giard Rd, McGregor, IA). Good old Wesleyan hymn singing, snacking, and fellowship around the theme of “Celebrating our Methodist Heritage. Bring a snack to share and we’ll provide beverages. Each congregation is asked to share a historical highlight from their congregational heritage!

\*\* DECORAH SENIOR CENTER RUMMAGE SALE. 806 RIVER STREET, September 25-27 Thursday & Friday, 7:30 AM – 6:00 PM. Saturday - 7:30 AM – Noon (New items added daily) All items are available for a free-will donation, with proceeds going toward paving and improving the Senior Center parking lot. Starting on Monday, September 8th , the Senior Center will welcome your donated items, including clothing (adult and children), shoes, jewelry, toys, bedding, plants, artificial flowers, and small appliances.

\*\* African Lutheran Bishops Visit Decorah October 6-7. Four Lutheran bishops from Namibia and Angola will visit Decorah October 6-7 as part of their northeast Iowa tour. They're coming to learn about young adult ministries, outdoor ministries, and lay leadership development. The bishops will visit Luther College, Wartburg College, Wartburg Seminary, and Camp EWALU, where two previously served as counselors. The Winneshiek-area Lutherans are planning a public celebration Monday evening, October 6. Everyone is invited, so please save the date. We want to welcome these distinguished global church leaders and learn from their experiences in justice work, community building, and faith leadership in southern Africa. This is a wonderful opportunity for our broader Decorah faith community to engage in meaningful dialogue and hospitality.

\*\* Canoe Ridge Lutheran Church Harvest Supper: Wednesday, October 15 serving 4-7pm. Serving Mike Reick’s Chicken, mashed potatoes, dressing, corn, cranberry salad, lefse, and cookies/bars. Tickets are \$17 each. Drive thru/take out only. Advance purchase appreciated. For tickets please call Roger / Janine Nelson 563-419-2370.