

February, 2026



Parish Messenger

Christ Community United Methodist Parish



A Note from Pastor Jess

At the beginning of January, people who were in worship at the five parish churches took a slip of paper from myself or Tim without looking at what was written on the paper. Those who were not in worship with us and still wanted to participate had a slip of paper picked for them. Each slip of paper had a word that Tim and I had prayerfully discussed before typing them on the page and cutting out the slips. These words are meant to give an individual a focus for the year.

A mess up in the cutting process led to Tim receive the word DISCERNMENT. From the moment we realized what word he had cut, we knew it was the perfect word for him. After everyone received their word by picking it themselves or by me picking it from a bag for them and mailing/emailing it to them, I received my word last. There were only a few slips of paper left, and I wondered which of the 135 words were still left in the red velvet bag I had used for them. I went through the list in my head: Grace, Joy, Share, Sabbath, Empathy. I picked a slip of paper from the bag and turned it around to look at it. I received the word REMEMBER. My first thought was "Remember your baptism," then "Remember who you are," and then "Remember your calling."

Throughout scripture, God's people are called to remember who they are and to whom they belong. I do not struggle with remembering these things. I know I am baptized. I know I am a beloved child of God. I know God has called me to the work of ministry as a pastor in The United Methodist Church. And maybe these are the things God wants me to remember, even though they are things I cannot forget. Or perhaps God wants me to remember something else. Every once in a while I catch a glimpse of God's bigger picture. It gets obscured in the day to day struggles of living in a fallen world. Our day to day struggles are not unimportant but they can become all consuming which means our focus shifts down into a very small picture that only includes the interests of one person...oneself. Such a small picture misses out on the struggles of our neighbors. Such a small picture misses out on the larger kingdom of God.

Perhaps God wants me to remember something that we can glimpse, a bigger picture that is there but not quite complete. Remember the kingdom is coming and we have a role in building up God's kingdom here and now.

Of course, it may be that God is leading me somewhere else entirely through my Star Word of the year. I look forward to learning more and leaning into that simple word printed on a slip of paper drawn out of a bag. I hope your Star Word is just as meaningful to you.

Peace & blessings, Pastor Jess



February Birthdays

3—Bonita Wells
 8—Sondra Moore, Shirley Nickel, Marvin Rockhold
 9—Rod VanDyne
 10—Jim Jones, Grace Ann Roe
 14—Marlene Carlyle, Deborah Pyner
 15—Marquetta Rhoades
 17—Patty McMullen, Gary Muilenburg, Trevor Thomas
 21—Jeri Robinson
 22—Jeanne Winslow
 24—Matt Clayton
 25—Payton Runyon
 27—Virginia Fuller, Bob Little
 28—Logan Ewing



February Anniversaries

10—Randy & Grace Ann Roe
 14—Darla & Ron Main

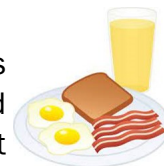
ATTENDANCE

<u>December</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>28</u>
Allerton	12	0	9	12
Corydon	35	32	22	23
Lineville	26	11	17	16
Millerton	18	17	26	6
New Zion	56	14	33	33
Total	147	74	114	90
<u>January</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>25</u>
Allerton	13	13	11	9
Corydon	31	28	25	14
Lineville	25	19	24	20
Millerton	17	21	23	18
New Zion	35	32	30	28
Total	121	113	113	109

Average parish attendance for December was 106 and January was 109. (December 14 was joint Christmas Pageant and December 7 was children's program at New Zion.)

Men's Breakfast

Men's Breakfast Group meets at Corydon UMC on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 am for breakfast and Christian fellowship.



Millerton UMC Weekly Community Breakfast



Every Monday morning at 7:30 people gather at Millerton UMC for coffee and breakfast. All are welcome.

Bell Choir Practice

Corydon Handbell Choir practice will be on most Tuesdays. Bell ringers are always needed, both full time and substitutes. Everyone who has a heart for music is welcome. Contact Wayne Jackson at 641-872-2140 if you have any questions.



Corydon Chancel Choir

All who enjoy singing are welcome. Since we do not practice every week, an email is sent out before practice as a reminder. If you are not getting the email or you need to receive a text or call, please let either Anita, Wayne or Pastor Jess know.



Supplemental Secretary Position

The parish is looking for a supplemental secretary. This is a 16-hour-a-week position that aids the primary secretary in completing weekly, monthly, and annual tasks. Beginning pay is \$14 per hour. There is some flexibility with days and times which can be discussed.

Tasks will include answering the phone, helping people who come in for Aid & Assistance and keeping track of who has received help from this fund, assisting people who come in to use the copy machine, putting together the weekly worship slides for the churches, updating the website, and assisting the primary secretary in getting the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters out.

Applicants must be good with technology, communicate well, work well with others, keep things confidential, and be detail oriented. Experience with Word, Publisher, Excel, and PowerPoint is preferred.



United Women in Faith

2025 was a good year of activity and mission giving. We hope to continue our mission projects into 2026! This newsletter will arrive just after our first meeting of 2026 on January 27, 2026. At the first meeting, a date to go to the Specialty Care Center to celebrate April birthdays will be determined and ideas will be gathered for activities and fundraising. We hope to see

all at future meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month!

Since I am mentioning HOPE, below is a UWF book summary to inspire reading.

The Book of Hope: A Survival Guide for Trying Times by Dr. Jane Goodall and Douglas Abrams with Gail Hudson. This book sought to instill hope and perseverance while shedding light on what hope means to Dr. Goodall in a world filled with violence, economic disarray, and a worsening climate crisis.

In the book, Jane Goodall talks about many types of opportunities to improve the crisis we are facing. One of her projects started over 30 years ago. It is called Roots & Shoots for the youth. "Its main message: every single individual matters, has a role to play, and makes an impact on the planet - every single day. And we have a choice as to what sort of impact we will make."

God Bless, United Women in Faith, Shari Sindelar, Chair

Thank You to the Christmas Pageant Participants

The No-Rehearsal Christmas Pageant went so well. We had eleven kids from the parish churches participate as the holy family, shepherds, magi, and angels. The four kids with speaking parts did a great job!

2nd Sunday Meal at Corydon UMC

February 8 after worship there will be a soup potluck lunch. A sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Hall. (Remember chili will be available at the Super Bowl Party.)



Super Bowl Party

A Super Bowl party will be held at the Corydon United Methodist Church on February 8, 2026, beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to the Corydon United Methodist Church to watch the football game and/or enjoy fellowship. There will be chili, sandwiches, and popcorn provided. Those attending will need to bring a non-alcoholic drink for themselves. Bottled water will be provided. For those not interested in watching the game, there will be puzzles and coloring pages available.

This is open to the parish and the wider community! We hope you join us.

Lent Begins February 18th

Let us observe a Holy Lent this year. Let us be intentional about our daily practices and explore how we can deepen our faith. During our six-week journey toward the crucifixion of our Savior and ultimately to his resurrection, we will fix our eyes upon the cross. Utilizing Adam Hamilton's book, we will explore the question, "Why did Jesus have to die?" We will consider the words of scripture that inspired multiple atonement theories. Atonement theories are a churchy way of talking about various understandings of how we are reconciled to God through Jesus Christ.



Tim's Thoughts

As we head into February, there seems to be a lot of uncertainty and fear in our world. This past Sunday Jess and I both spoke about fear as being the opposite to faith, and the fact that while fear is very hard to overcome, it can be transformed into love through faith. Faith is also the best answer to uncertainty. While we never know what the world has in store for us, a strong faith in God can help us face that unknown without fear, but with anticipation for the new challenges God has laid before us and even greater anticipation of the ultimate reward for our faith.

Still, keeping the faith in such times can be very difficult. Even John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist church, struggled with faith at times. When he returned to London after a failed missionary trip Georgia, he confided to a friend that he was considering giving up preaching because he had no faith. The friend, Peter Bohler, responded by telling him to "preach faith until you have it; then you will preach faith because you have it!"

This can work for how we live our lives as well. Living a life of faith means always showing love to all those around us. The letter of James, one of my personal favorite books in the Bible, emphasizes the importance of acting on our faith. James 2:18 says: "But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." So, I invite you all to go out and show the world your faith in these uncertain times. Let all of your actions show the love of God to a world desperately in need of more love and kindness; even if you are struggling with your own faith. Live the faith until you have it; then you will live it because you have it!

Thank you and God Bless, Tim



How to Support Missions & Ministries

There are a number of ways for you to be involved in the life of the church and parish. Your time, talent, and financial gifts make all our ministries possible. So here are a few ways to get involved:

- Show up for Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care on the 3rd Friday of every month at 11:00 a.m. Your presence there means a lot to the residents as we sing praise to God.
- Make cookies and bars as requested for the Last Week Supper which is on the last Wednesday of the month. Make sure you sign up if you plan to bake so we don't double up on things.
- Quilt blankets with the group at Lineville UMC. The blanket tops are getting sewn together but the quilting part is slowing us down. We could use a couple of people who are able to quilt on their machines.
- Come to breakfast at Millerton UMC on Monday mornings at 7:30 a.m. This breakfast is open to everyone.
- Participate in our Men's Breakfast Group which meets on the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays at 7 a.m. or United Women in Faith which meets on the 4th Tuesday at 1:30 p.m.

Who Can Do Parish Funerals?

Some questions have come up about who can officiate funerals in the parish. I will first tell you the official code of conduct for Iowa United Methodist clergy and then tell you how it is being handled at Christ Community United Methodist Parish.

It is our pastoral responsibility to: *respect the parish of another pastor. Upon leaving the appointment, including retirement, sever pastoral relationships with the parish, recognizing that all future weddings, baptisms, communions, counseling, visitation, and funerals shall be performed by the current pastor, unless in an unusual circumstance, and then only by the initiation of the current pastor.*

My personal practice is to respect the conference standards when it comes to funerals at my previous appointments and to respect the wishes of families at my current appointment. This means I do not officiate funerals for people I know from previous churches, and I am in communication with both Leroy Perkins and Diane Olson Schroeder when it comes to people within the parish requesting one of them to officiate at a funeral. I have also spoken with the Staff Parish Relations Committee for the parish so there is no confusion. If you would like Leroy or Diane to officiate at a family funeral, I will respect your wishes.

Please know that this is my personal practice, it does not fully align with the conference standard and while I hope to be here for a while, you will eventually receive another senior pastor who may approach things differently.



Row 1 Left: New Zion UMC Children's Program
Row 1 Right: Pastor Jess at Allerton Community Christmas Program.

Row 2: Corydon UMC Ugly Christmas Sweater contest

Row 3 Left: Children's service

Row 3 Right: Lineville UMC making noodles for Fireman's Supper

Row 4: Parish Christmas Pageant





Row 1 Left: God's beautiful sunrise
Row 1 Right: Christmas candle light service at Corydon Specialty Care



Row 2: Community Christmas party at Lineville
Row 3 Left: New Zion UMC cookie making
Row 3 Right: Lineville UMC current quilt



Row 4:
Christmas
Eve
Candle-
light
service at
Corydon
UMC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
1 Communion & A & A J-C & M T-AL& N	2 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	3 Martha Circle 9:30	4 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am Joanna Circle 1:30	5	6 Allerton UMC Deliver Mobile Meals	7  St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
8 Women @ Well at A L N 2nd Sunday Lunch at C Super Bowl Party 5:00 –C	9 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	10 Prayer Shawl 9:30 at Corydon UMC	11	12 Pastors Clergy Ethics Workshop Corydon Ad Council 9:30	13 Quilt at Lineville UMC 2:00	14 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
15 Communion Women @ Well C & M J-AL& N	16 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	17	18 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am Ash Wednesday Service: 12:00 at Corydon 6:00 at Allerton	19 Food Truck at Allerton 2:00 Parish Council at New Zion 5:30	20 Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care 11:00	21 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm .
22 Food Pantry T-C & M J-AL& N	23 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	24 United Women in Faith at Corydon UMC 1:30	25 Last Week Supper 5:00 to 6:00	26	27 Quilt at Lineville UMC 2:00	28 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm

The schedule is subject to change



United Methodist Church
213 W. Jackson
Corydon, IA 50060

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Corydon, Iowa

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Parish Office

Hours: 8-2 Tuesday—Thursday

Telephone: 641-872-1569

Web: www.christcommumparish.com

Facebook: Christ Community United
Methodist Parish Corydon, Iowa

Senior Pastor

Jessica Rockhold Gaul

jessrockhold@gmail.com

Cell: 515-480-4611

Associate

Timothy Gaul

timothygaul@gmail.com

319-541-3393

Parish Secretary

Becky Fethers—coryumc@grm.net

Parish Prayer Chain

Call one of the pastors



Worship Times

Allerton

Worship 8:30

Corydon

Adult Sunday School 9:30 ~ Worship 10:45

Lineville

Worship 9:45 ~ Children's Sunday School 10:45

Millerton

Worship 9:00

New Zion

Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship 11:00