

June-July, 2026



Parish Messenger

Christ Community United Methodist Parish

A Note from Pastor Jess



Jesus walked a lot...The four gospels are peppered with accounts of him walking into the countryside, walking by the Sea of Galilee, walking in the Temple, and even walking on water. Surely someone could have loaned him a fast horse. Instead, he walked everywhere he went, except for a short stint on a donkey at the end. This gave him time to see things, like the milky eyes of the beggar sitting by the side of the road, or the round black eyes of sparrows sitting in their cages at the market. If he had been moving more quickly—even to reach more people—these things might have become a blur to him. Because he was moving slowly, they came into focus for him, just as he came into focus for them.

From “An Altar in the World” by Barbara Brown Taylor

A friend who is older than I, told me that decades ago, there used to be a summer lull. Summer was a time to slow down, to enjoy nature, to be with family, to practice Sabbath rest. I do not know if it is true that people universally experienced summer as a time to slow down but I know it is not true for many of us now. Our activities change in the summer months, and many do not hold the same routine for these months, but they are no less full than the other months of the year.

On my refrigerator the word REMEMBER hangs, typed on a blue slip of paper with a star. It is my Star Word for the year, and though it was half a year ago that we took these slips of papers for ourselves without seeing them first, I still look at my word every day. Whenever I see it my mind tries to make a sentence out of it, “Remember who you are,” “Remember to whom you belong,” “Remember your baptism.” Somedays it feels like the start of my to-do list, “Remember to...” and then my mind runs through all the upcoming activities. The to-do list probably misses the point of the word.

In scripture we are told to “Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy.” But I feel that there is something else in the word. Scripture doesn’t just talk about human being remembering things, it speaks about God remembering. “God remembered Noah,” “God remembered Rachel,” “God remembered his covenant.” It was in these moments when God remembered that it seems that God is looking not only at the big picture but also at the individual. When God remembered, God was noticing a need or a yearning. God could notice, because God was present.

It is difficult to notice when our minds are already thinking about the next thing we need to do during these busy summer months. It is hard to remember to be fully present in the moment, but Jesus was able to do it even as he journeyed to the cross. He walked, he noticed, he remembered...and he called us to do the same. As Jesus prepared his disciples for his ascension he gave them instructions that ended with “And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Remember to be present as Jesus is present, always, to the end of the age.

Peace and blessings, -Pastor Jess

June Birthdays

- 1—Brent Werts
- 3—Pat Swartzlander
- 5—Mike Abel, Russ Danielsen, Casey Sindelar
- 6—Jan Winslow
- 7—Ruth Storm
- 9—Mary Ann Little
- 10—Jaxson May, Tim Runyon, Haley Wood
- 13—Sandy Trower
- 17—Bethany Lange
- 19—Peggy Johnson
- 24—Donna Donald
- 25—Karen Brumley, Amanda Wood
- 26—Tammy Ingram
- 29—Brett Fetters
- 30—Logan Wallace



June Anniversaries

- 3—Trevor and Brenda Thomas
- 4—D & Amanda Condra, Tom & Janice Rockhold
- 6—Rod & Patty McMillen
- 9—Josh & Julie Fry, Gary & Georgia Runyon
- 12—Mike & Sheila Mattly
- 15—Dean & Reva Lain
- 20—Brent & Krista Snow
- 21—Clell & Linda Bryan
- 23—Bob & Ginny Dunlap
- 25—Marvin & Twylia Rockhold

July Birthdays

- 1—Karla Nickell, Georgia Runyon
- 2—Shirley Alshouse
- 3—Bob Fuller
- 10—Ron Gibbs
- 12—Karla Ewing
- 14—Ashlee Dithrow, Naja Jones
- 17—Judy Annis, Bethany Lange
- 18—Dan May
- 25—Brittany Snow
- 26—Gayla Alley, Ida Fetters
- 27—Thomas Boggs, Mike Jennings. Sammi Wallace, Anne Winslow
- 28—Reva Lain
- 29—Chloe Condra
- 31—Tanner Lange

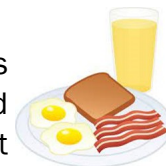
July Anniversaries

- 12—Wayne & Marilyn Jackson
- 14—Ron & Connie Argo
- 25—Ralph & Shirley Alshouse
- 29—Brad & Becky Fetters



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.

Tissues & Wipes for School

The parish will begin collecting tissues and wipes for Wayne Community School now in order to have them all by the teacher breakfast on August 17. Bring your tissues and wipes to the Parish Office now.



2nd Sunday at Corydon UMC

There will be our 2nd Sunday Potluck following Worship on June 4th and July 12th. Hope you can join us. Drinks and table service will be provided.

ATTENDANCE

May	3	10	17	24
Allerton	12	14	12	11
Corydon	26	24	35	23
Lineville	16	24	22	12
Millerton	13	15	20	17
New Zion	25	25	34	28
Total	92	102	123	91

Average parish attendance for May was 102.

What is Emily Up To?

Steve and I have enjoyed being back in this part of the state. After pastoring 25 years, the past 4 years I have been self employed as a spiritual director, dream worker and Boundless Compassion Facilitator. You may be wondering what all these words mean. In short, I meet with people individually or in small groups to walk with them as they grow in their relationship with God. Individually, people share anything they want about a situation in their lives. They may be struggling with something that has happened, trying to navigate a relationship, discerning what path to take in life, what decision to make around a situation or anything else that is on their heart or mind. My role is to listen deeply to them, hear a thread through the story and then ask questions that help them go deeper to see where God is at work or what guidance the Spirit has for them in this particular situation. This is what I do as a spiritual director.

As a dream worker, I meet with people both individually and as a group. Individuals meet with me to explore a dream they had. We look at the dream together asking questions like “what is God’s message to me through this dream?” Those who come for spiritual direction may also bring their dreams. In a dream group, one person shares their dream and the rest of the group borrows the dream and wonders what it might mean if it were their dream. We do not tell the dreamer what it means but the dreamer may glean insights from others sharing what it might mean if it were theirs. Participants have told me they are amazed at how another person’s dream touches their own life and gives them an opportunity to wonder how God is working in their life.

I was trained as a Boundless Compassion Facilitator by Joyce Rupp. This role can range from trying to live a compassionate life in a variety of ways personally to teaching and helping others live more compassionately. I have led 6 week book studies using the book Joyce wrote called “Boundless Compassion.”

Shortly after leaving pastoral ministry, I started being invited to lead retreats. I have facilitated and co-facilitated retreats of a variety of lengths focused on compassion, dreams and other spiritual topics. Through all these different types of retreats I have incorporated different ways to pray and deepen our relationship with God.

With each of the “hats” I wear, I have support from other spiritual directors, dream workers and Boundless Compassion Facilitators. I meet regularly with my own spiritual director, dream worker and Boundless Compassion Facilitator so that I can be healthy and ethical as I accompany others on their journey as well as growing spiritually myself. I am also part of small groups and attend classes in each of these areas where I continue to learn how to grow and be a better person for whoever I interact with in this world.

I loved pastoring and I love the work God has called me to now. It is a privilege to journey with people in both the joys and challenges of life as they grow spiritually. This has been my call all along, it just looks different now than when I was pastoring. If you have questions or want to know more about what I do, I’m happy to visit or meet with you. Call, text or email me, Emily Peasley. 515-313-7212 OR emilypeasley23@gmail.com



Pool Party at Prairie Trails Aquatic Center Hosted by New Zion UMC on July 12th

The New Zion UMC invites the parish to their annual pool party Sunday evening, July 12 from 7:00 to 9:00. Even if you do not want to swim, it is still a wonderful time of fellowship!

All are welcome to attend.





United Methodist Camps in Iowa

Last year our two Iowa United Methodist camps helped 1,153 campers experience a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered camp where faith, community, and leadership are nurtured! That is an increase from the previous year.

We hope you consider sending your kids and youth to Wesley Woods Camp & Retreat Center this summer. The parish has funds to help our young Christians grow in faith through summer camp. Please speak with Pastor Jess or Tim for more information.

Lineville Community Vacation Bible School June 22-25 at the Assembly of God Church

“The Great Jungle Journey”

Churches from four denominations come together each year to offer a fun and meaningful Vacation Bible School for the kids in the area. This summer the kids will be equipped to answer questions about who God is and what the Bible says about salvation as they listen to the Bible Story, sing, play games, and make crafts.



United Women in Faith

In April, the United Women in Faith celebrated birthdays at the Corydon Specialty Care by handing out ice cream sandwiches and fruit bars. While we were taking things around, Juanita (the activity director) shared some of the wonderful things being done to bring quality of life and meaning to the residents. She mentioned that they had a therapy doll that is used for dementia patients. It is weighted, cuddly, and has a heartbeat. It has a calming effect on people and has been used to help a restless resident sleep. They only had one of these dolls and could use more.

The United Women in Faith put out cans at each of the five parish churches to collect funds in the hopes of purchasing two dolls. After the first Sunday, it was clear we would quickly reach our goal! The two therapy dolls were ordered. On May 26th, we invited the activity director to share about the therapy doll at our meeting and we surprised her with the two dolls to take back to the care center. A picture of Juanita and a doll are on page 6.

Thank you to everyone in the Christ Community United Methodist Parish for supporting the Therapy Doll Project!

UWF will meet June 23 at Millerton UMC and July 14 at Corydon UMC.

New Parish Website

Our parish website, <https://christcommumparish.com/>, has changed hosts. The site is easy to navigate and full of up-to-date information. The News page has both the weekly announcements and the monthly newsletter. The Events page lists special upcoming events which are updated regularly. Just for fun take a look around the website paying attention to the pictures: see if you can find a picture of Allerton’s altar Bible and cross, New Zion’s Pool Party for the Parish, VBS at Lineville, Corydon’s Handbell Choir, and Millerton’s church sign at sunrise.



No one wants to see generic pictures when they go to a church/parish website. They want to see real pictures of God’s people and active ministries!

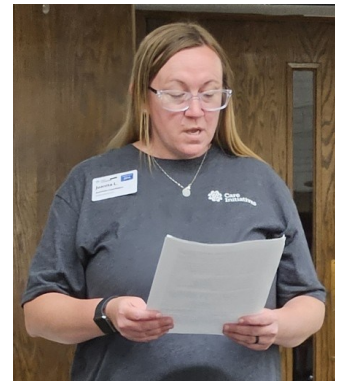


Row 1 Left: Prayer Shawls
 Row 1 Right & Row 2: Candle lighters
 Row 3 Middle & 4 Left: Lineville UMC campout weekend
 Row 3 Left: Leroy Perkins speaking for Pastor Jess
 Row 4 Right: Becky and Brad on vacation





Row 1 Left: Senior recognition Sunday at New Zion UMC
 Row 1 Right: Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care
 Row 2: : Juanita Lund giving a talk at UWF about the Sensory Companion (pictured below row 3 middle) at Corydon Specialty Care
 Row 3 Left: Wayne Community School Baccalaureate at Corydon UMC
 Row 3 Right: Allerton UMC putting out flags at cemetery
 Row 4: New Zion UMC clean up day.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Bell Practice 5:15</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am Joanna Circle 1:30</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Corydon Ad Council 9:30 VBS Planning Meeting 6:00</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Allerton UMC Deliver Mobile Meals</p>	<p>6</p> <p>St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion & A & A Lineville UMC Dinner Worship 5:30 J-C & M T-AL & N</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Prayer Shawl 9:30</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
Iowa Annual Conference—July 11-14						
<p>14</p> <p>Greyson-C & M Leroy-AL& N</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Food Truck at Allerton 2:00</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care 11:00</p>	<p>20</p> <p>St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
<p>21</p>  <p>-C & M J-AL& N</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>23</p> <p>United Women in Faith Millerton UMC 1:30</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Last Week Supper & Planning Meeting 5:00 to 6:00</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Quilting at Lineville 2:00</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Lineville UMC in Bordertown Parade at Noon St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
Lineville Community VBS July 22-25						
<p>28</p> <p>Food Pantry T-C & M J-AL& N</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>30</p>				

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<p>5</p> <p>Communion & A & A</p> <p>J-C & M T-AL & N</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Blood Drive at Corydon UMC 1:30 to 5:30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Quilting at Lineville 2:00</p>	<p>11</p> <p>St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
<p>12</p> <p>J-C & M T-AL & N</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Prayer Shawl 9:30 at Corydon UMC</p> <p>United Women in Faith Corydon UMC 1:30</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Food Truck at Allerton 2:00</p> <p>Parish Council Millerton UMC 5:30</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care 11:00</p>	<p>18</p> <p>St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm</p>
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<p>26</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>T-C & M J-AL & N</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	
<p>Wayne County Fair—July 29 to August 3</p>						

The schedule is subject to change


Tim's Thoughts



It occurs to me that I seem to begin most of my newsletter articles mentioning what a busy month/time of year it is, and summer is no exception! Pastor Jess's article hits close to home. So, I will definitely make an effort to slow down and enjoy my journey in the coming months. With that, I thought it might be a good time to update you all on my journey. I have made some significant progress, especially in my discernment; at this time, I believe that God is calling me to be ordained as a Deacon. The path of a Deacon is a little different from an Ordained Elder. While both are called to the ministries of Word, Service, and Sacrament, Elders are also called to Order the life of the church, while Deacons are called to Justice and Compassion. How this plays out is that Elders take a vow of itineracy, moving to the parish appointment the Conference gives them to lead the church there. Deacons, on the other hand, must find their own work; they do not have to move at the will of the conference, but are also not guaranteed an appointment as Elders are. Deacons generally focus their ministry on a particular issue, and work with local churches and non-profits to address the need they see. I'm sure it is no surprise, given my background, that the area I feel called to is addressing food insecurity in poor rural communities. The exact details of how the calling will play out in my life are still rather up in the air, but be assured that Deacons often still serve as pastors in the local churches they are connected to, and I have a long way to go in the ordination process, so I am not planning on leaving the parish anytime soon.

In addition to my discernment progress, I have made several practical steps on the path as well. In April, I was interviewed by the District Committee on Ministry, and they have voted to approve me both as a candidate for ordination and for licensing as a local pastor while I go through the process. Both of those are dependent on my completing a psychological assessment, and the licensing depends upon the completion of Licensing School. I have already gone through the first part of the psychological and will be completing the rest in the last week of May. I have enrolled in licensing school, and have already completed some of the assignments, but I still have much more work to do before the end of May; then the schooling takes place immediately after Annual Conference, June 15-24. If all goes well with both of those, I will be a Licensed Local Pastor beginning on July 1. That would mean that I would officially have the title of Pastor, and I would be able to preside over Communion myself, rather than having to use elements that Pastor Jess has already blessed.

So while the month of June is going to be a very busy one for me, I would like to take the time to thank you for all of the prayers, support, and encouragement I have received, and I would ask for your continued prayers as I progress down the path God has placed before me. May the Lord bless all that you do, Tim Gaul

 United Methodist Church
213 W. Jackson
Corydon, IA 50060

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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 Fetters—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