

October,
2026



Parish Messenger

Christ Community United Methodist Parish

A Note from Pastor Jess



Having so decisively met God in the thoroughly human Jesus, we learn not to despise the human and to expect God to show up in thoroughly human ways. The Bible is the conjunction of the divine and the human. Scripture is the word of God and the words of people. The Bible didn't fall directly from heaven, anymore than our Lord did...The conjunction of the divine and the human is difficult to define, in the Bible or in Jesus. Christians may have some fierce arguments over just what is divine and what is human in Scripture. However each of us knows the delicious mystery of simply reading or hearing Scripture, just following the ordinary human words only to have Scripture reach out to us, take our hand, touch our hearts, and engage us in more than words can say. Let us savor this mystery rather than attempt to define it.

-Retired UM Bishop William Willimon in "Incarnation: The Surprising Overlap of Heaven & Earth"

Approaching the Bible as a history book might be missing the point. A person can read a history book without being changed by the words it contains. Approaching the Bible as a way to prove God's existence is placing a task upon the Bible for which it was not intended. The Bible does not seek to prove God's existence any more than a sunset does, though we see the hand of God in both. Approaching the Bible as an instruction manual might lead to changed behaviors but it likely will not lead to a sense of awe and wonder at the God who seeks to be in relationship with us.

The psalmists marveled at the care God has given to the people and delighted in the law of the Lord. *Open my eyes, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.* (It should be noted that the law refers to not a list of rules but the first five books of the Bible which was the only recognized scripture during the time the psalm was written.) Perhaps uttering similar words would be a good way to approach our sacred text. *Open my heart and my mind, so that I may behold wondrous things out of your word.* Maybe then we would delight in the word of God instead of trying to rationalize it or rigidly follow it. Maybe then we would savor the mystery instead of trying to define the holy and the human in the text.

May the reading of scripture fill you with wonder as you encounter the God who made all things. May the reading of the sacred text deepen your faith and help you to faithfully follow Jesus.

Peace and blessings, Pastor Jess

Charge Conference

Each year, United Methodist Churches in our area gather to celebrate ministries, confirm their mission and ministry plans for the next year, approve people for ministry, and enjoy fellowship with one another. The pastors will be talking to church leadership about the goals/priorities for the next year. They will also ask the churches where they have seen God at work in the congregation. While the paperwork may feel like just one more thing to do, it can be so much more as it can help us intentionally seek God's guidance and encourage us to make plans to live into God's hope-filled future.

Charge Conference will be Thursday November 5th from 6-8 p.m. at the Osceola United Methodist Church.

October Birthdays

1—Max Mason, Piper Mason
 2—Ron Argo
 3—Jocelyn Wells, Cindy Shelley
 6—Molly Arnold
 7—Janice Rockhold
 10—Russell Dithrow
 12—Leroy Perkins
 14—Seth Sheriff
 16—John Ambelang, Nolan Lange, Al Pyner
 19—Sherrel Prosser
 22—Dennis Thomas
 24—Andie Ewing
 27—Marj Pyner
 30—Marilyn Burley, Tim Gaul, Maggie Lange, Tucker Welch



October Anniversaries

6—Floyd Gibbs & Marilyn Burley

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.

Free Ice Cream Floats



Corydon UMC will be serving free ice cream floats after the Homecoming Parade on October 2nd outside the church. Volunteers would be appreciated.

World Communion Sunday: October 4

The World Communion Sunday offering funds graduate racial-ethnic World Communion Scholarships, with at least half of the annual amount reserved for ministries beyond the United States. Donations also provide for undergraduate U.S. Ethnic Scholarship and Ethnic In-Service Training programs.



Wayne Community School Homecoming weekend is October 1st-3rd.

ATTENDANCE

	September 6	13	20
Allerton	12	13	16
Corydon	38	43	35
Lineville	11	21	19
Millerton	17	24	11
New Zion	33	25	28
Total	111	118	117

Average parish attendance for September was 115.

The attendance at the August 30th joint service was 124.

Your Pastors in the Community, in the Office, and Visiting

In 2021, the SPRC met to discern what leadership skills the parish needed in a pastor so the bishop and appointive cabinet could match a pastor to the parish. One request was for a pastor who was a unifier, able to bring the people/churches together. Another request was for the pastor to be involved in the community. Pastor Jess changed her office hours to be present in each community every week and this change has resulted in more people stopping by to chat. Pastor Tim serves on the Wayne County Conservation Board which has helped him get to know more people and familiarize himself with places in the county. Both pastors do their best to participate in or attend community events in each of the towns in the parish.

Both pastors also want to be sure that the congregations are feeling cared for. If you would like to have a conversation with one of the pastors or have them pray with you, please let them know. You can call, text, or email them.

The Festival of Trees

For the last few years, Christ Community United Methodist Parish has decorated trees around a theme. People have noticed this and make a point of looking at our trees to see our focus. It might seem silly to decorate a tree each year and coordinate all five parish trees around a song or scripture, but the trees tell a story about our Savior and about our unity as a parish. This year our focus will be upon sharing the message and our role as messengers of God. In our Bible the word angel means messenger...with that in mind let us decorate the trees with the angelic messages found in the nativity story. Let us decorate the trees with picture ornaments of people from the congregation (they can be as simple as the ones kids made in the late 80s and early 90s). Let us have angel ornaments with each one bearing the name of a congregant that has gone onto glory. Let us have the messages of the angels (and also a verse from the Gospel of John) displayed.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. His kingdom will never end." "I bring you good news of great joy, today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those whom he favors." "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Fall Laity Day: October 10th

You are warmly invited to join Bishop Kennetha and laity from across the Iowa Conference for the Fall Laity Day at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

This will be a meaningful day of connection, learning, and encouragement as we gather around the Iowa Annual Conference's priorities, discipleship, leadership development, and the ways God is calling laity to lead in this season.

Scheduled speakers include Rev. Dr. Edgar Soliz, Deaconess Irene DeMaris, Rev. Ryan Christenson, Rev. Melissa Drake, and Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai. Together, they will help us reflect on developing and sustaining leaders, the Laity Culture of Call, the Greenhouse Cohort, and being a Deaconess & Home Missioner.

Lunch will be provided, and a free-will offering is welcome. Please RSVP by October 7.



**United
Women
in Faith**

United Women in Faith meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month, unless otherwise published. All denominations and genders are welcome!

We wish to thank all the Parish members who have assisted with projects for the local area; such as the Wayne Community School breakfast, and the Therapy Doll project for the Care Center.

Shari has obtained a limited supply of Kerusso T-Shirts, and will be offering them for sale. The profits will help fund the pledge to Iowa and National Mission Projects, such as Families Forward (formerly Bidwell-Riverside & Hawthorne Hill). Displayed shirts are in the lounge at the Corydon Church.

Checks can be written to Shari Sindelar or VENMO can be sent to Casey Sindelar.

A flyer will be sent to all the Parish Churches in October. Thank you!

Last Week Supper on September 30th



The Last Week Supper group continues to work and give meals to roughly 180 people each month. We have a good time cooking each meal, it is fun to get together with people from the other churches and catch up once a month. This month we will serve chicken pot pie with a biscuit, which is always a favorite. We want to thank all of you who so faithfully continue to provide the bars and cookies. Having the bars and cookies in baggies has been very helpful. If anyone would like to stop in and help any last Wednesday of the month, we would love to have you. Some of us have been doing this since we started. New help is always appreciated.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP!

-Georgia Runyon



47th Annual Mission Ingathering will be held on Saturday November 7, 2026

The Purpose of Mission Ingathering is to show the love of Christ to the world's people by ministering to their needs.

Since its launch in 1980, Ingathering has united Iowa churches to fight hunger and poverty through hands-on mission. Each year, churches collect thousands of requested relief kits and other in-kind items and raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for ministries that bring hope locally and globally.

Congregations also bring designated mission offerings and forward them to trusted partners such as Church World Service (CWS), Heifer International, Self-Help International, Midwest Mission, and Mobility Worldwide. These organizations use the gifts to provide food security, clean water, sustainable agriculture, mobility devices, disaster response, and more. Ingathering day itself is more than a day to bring gifts. It is also time to gather ourselves in together for fellowship, learning through videos and persons present to answer questions, and doing hands-on mission projects. Each site's morning schedule may vary, but will include a time of worship, thanksgiving and prayer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 October					2 Allerton UMC Deliver Mobile Meals Homecoming Corydon UMC serve Ice Cream after parade	3 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
4 World Communion Sunday & A&A J-C & M T-AL & N	5 Community Breakfast at Millerton 7:30	6	7 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am Martha Circle 9:30 Joanna Circle 1:30	8	9 Quilting at Lineville UMC 2:00	10 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
11 J-C & M T-AL& N	12 Community Breakfast at Millerton 7:30	13 Prayer Shawl 9:30 at Corydon UMC	14 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am	15 Food Truck at Allerton 2:00	16 Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care 11:00	17 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
18 Communion J-C & M T-AL& N	19 Community Breakfast at Millerton 7:30	20	21	22	23 Quilting at Lineville UMC 2:00	24 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
25 Food Pantry T-C & M J-AL& N	26 Community Breakfast at Millerton 7:30	27 United Women in Faith Corydon UMC 1:30	28 Last Week Supper & Planning Meeting 5:00 to 6:00	29	30	31  St. Francis 6:30 pm



Row 1 and 2: Vacation Bible School held by the Parish at Corydon Specialty Care

Row 3: United Women in Faith hosting the Wayne School employees breakfast

Row 4: Joint service at Corydon UMC





Row 1: Lineville Quilting Group

Row 2: Disciple Bible Study Class during Corydon Sunday School

Row 3, Left: Joint Worship Service Communion at Corydon UMC

Row 3, Right: Lineville UMC Campout Worship Service

Row 4, Left: Corydon UMC Worship Brunch

Row 4, Right: Virginia Ireland celebrates 101st Birthday at Corydon UMC Joint Worship Service





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Corydon, Iowa

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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319-541-3393

Parish Secretary—Coryumc@grm.net

**Becky Fetters, Shelby Hickman, & Shari
Sindelar**

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