



# First United Methodist Church

607 Lynn Street Tipton, IA 52772

563.886.2331

[www.tiptonumc.org](http://www.tiptonumc.org)

[office@tiptonumc.org](mailto:office@tiptonumc.org)

Steve Pudinski, Pastor

[stephen.pudinski@iaumc.net](mailto:stephen.pudinski@iaumc.net)

## Church Staff

Pastor - Steve Pudinski

Administrative Ministries

Coordinator - Greg Brown

Custodian - Don Griffith

Chancel Choir

Director - Luke Johnston

Piano/Organ - Jo Brown & Dee Wallace

Little Friends Preschool

Director and Teacher - Amber Brown

Xn Chaos Director - Greg Brown

Bishop of the Iowa Annual

Conference - Laurie Haller

East Central District

Superintendent - Kiboko Kiboko

Ministers of Jesus Christ

in the World - All the People of God!

# United Methodist News

June 2020

## What is Your Opinion?

Grace and peace to you all this day. Your Leadership Council is going to begin the task of planning for us to re-enter our sanctuary for worship possibly in July. There are a number of things they will be considering. However, we want your opinion as well. How do you feel about resuming worship in our sanctuary with limitations or modifications to our past practices? How do you feel about gathering in person for worship? Are you one of those who might be considered in the at-risk category for catching Covid-19? Will you still want to worship at home via live stream?

The Leadership Council would like to hear from you. Please let us know. You can reach out to Berrie Glick, Joyce Slach, Mindy Williams, Gail Fleming, Dusty Johnson, Mary Jo Heil, Laura Hembry, Sue Thumma, Lois Salmonson, Greg in the church office or Pastor Steve. All of us except Sue Thumma are listed in the church directory. Sue's phone number is 563-942-3364. Your thoughts and opinions will be considered as we plan for our near term and the months ahead. Let us know what you think. Thank you. Blessings.

*If you are interested in helping deep clean the church, please contact the office or anyone on the Leadership Council.*



Visit our Website.

Weekly sermons are available at [tiptonumc.org](http://tiptonumc.org).

## Monthly Giving

During the coronavirus pandemic and with the precautions we are taking to keep us all safe, we have seen a decline in our weekly contribution income. Unfortunately, the bills haven't slowed down any! We are asking that you prayerfully consider either mailing in your usual tithe for the month of June or go online and donate by following the "Donate Now" option at the top of our website. Thank you for your faithfulness.

*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

# Between Sundays

Grace and peace to all of you in the name God the Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit of God. As we continue to live in a world turned upside down by the Covid-19 virus, we can trust in the relationship we call the Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit, for strength, peace, calm, and guidance.

This is a trying time for the church as well. We have learned to adjust to not being present in our worship space, yet still gathering to worship on Sunday mornings. Many pastors have had to learn “new tricks,” how to do church via Zoom, Skype, Microsoft Teams, or several other apps made for such a thing. I have heard that some of you have been able to view our worship service online, have received the sermons via snail mail, or watch other worship services on the various television channels. We are still participating in worship and that is good. **TBTG!**

However, we have had to take a hard look at what this church is going to look like in the future. I participated in a call this week with over 300 other clergy and members of the cabinet as we talked about that question. It isn’t just a matter of opening the doors and announcing to the world, “We’re back!”

Many who attend our church are in the high risk category – over sixty (yes, I am one of them), underlying medical conditions (there I am again) or other vulnerabilities. Some of our congregation might even be Covid-19 positive without even knowing it, not showing any symptoms of the virus. How do we protect all of our folks?

We know the church is not a building; we know it is the people. However, if the church (the people) are going to gather, we all need to be safe. Your Church Council and the Board of Trustees have begun talking about how to protect the church (the people) when they gather back in the building we call First United Methodist Church. I am not going to go into the details of what we are discussing but please be reassured they are watching out for everyone.

All this planning is starting to take place before the Bishop makes her decision just before May 31 if she is going to allow churches in the Iowa Annual Conference to gather soon. She may say not right now. However, we must be prepared, have a plan, and be able to implement that plan when she says we can start transitioning back.

Yet during all of this, I also am looking at a new phase of my life starting July 1. I think we call it retirement. This is a time of mixed emotions for Kelley and me. When we came to Iowa two years ago, to Tipton First United Methodist Church, my plan (notice whose plan I said) was to stay until I reached maximum retirement age for a pastor. That all changed a year ago when I had to have open heart surgery. That event was a second wake-up call. I had a similar, yet not so invasive event a couple years prior.

Now it is time to listen and to say enough, not that I wanted to do so. This was a difficult decision to make but one that had to be made. This has been an exceptionally good appointment. I am glad I was called to Tipton. This is a wonderful community filled with many great people. We will miss you all. May God pour out his blessings on each one of you.

And there is going to be some excitement, too. Pastor Jay Amundson is coming July 1. Hopefully, he was able to get a short introductory piece to Greg to be included in this newsletter.

(NOTE: This afternoon President Trump stated he wanted churches open for worship this weekend, Memorial Weekend. This evening, as I was finishing my article, Bishop Laurie reiterated her words for congregations to refrain from in-house worship through May 31. We will wait and see when the Bishop will allow us to start working through the conference plan to resume in-house worship).

(Continued on page 3.)

## Between Sundays continued

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In William Shakespeare's play, Romeo and Juliet, Juliet speaks those famous words, "parting is such sweet sorrow," as Romeo leaves for the evening. Now I don't know if I would call our departure a "sweet sorrow," but leaving you all without some sort of closure or means of saying good-bye would be exceedingly difficult. Remember, I must stay away from Tipton First for at least a year.

Over the next few weeks, we are going to be discussing with SPRC how we can say good-bye to each other yet keep everyone safe. We don't know if we will be in our building by then. We might do something outside on the church lawn. It might be a "drive by good-bye," like some school graduations have been. We (the church leadership) will keep the congregation informed. However, we are looking at the last Sunday in June, my last Sunday as your Pastor, June 28. More to come on this.

Shalom.

**Pastor Steve**

## Check This Out

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We had a very generous donation about three years ago to replace the acoustical cloth behind the cross in the sanctuary. The center section was replaced in May of 2019, but the stage right section could not get replaced because there were hidden ceilings behind the organ pipes preventing access to the cloth. After much deliberation and consideration of cost and aesthetics, the trustees committee decided to cover the wood frame behind the organ pipes on both sides of the cross. There are five panels of walls in the altar area, but only two of them had the acoustical fabric. We decided to cover the three middle walls with the white fabric to have a symmetrical background behind the organ pipes and cross. Installation took 3 days.

Fabry Inc. of Illinois tunes our organ and installed all three panels of acoustical fabric. They had to remove pipes to hang the fabric, then they reinstalled them and retuned the organ. They covered the staples used to hang the fabric with white PVC trim, which also beautifully framed the organ space. PVC is resistant to fading and doesn't expand or contract with humidity like wood does. One issue we found out during installation of the trim is that the ceiling is not level or square with the wood frame behind the organ.

This was a long process - there aren't many companies in the area that can tune an organ and install acoustical fabric, so we had to wait for an open period in their tuning schedule. I can't believe how stunning the front of the church looks now - the altar area is brighter and the cross and pipes now stand out prominently.

Acoustical fabric is fire-retardant and prevents dust from entering the organ mechanism. Speakers are made from the same material.

Here are the sermon titles and scripture reference for the month of June (subject to change):

- June 7 – Trinity Is An Action Word  
Matthew 28:16–20
- June 14 – Nomadic Harvesters  
Matthew 9:35–10:8
- June 21 – Definitely Not Right Side Up  
Matthew 10:24–39
- June 28 – Who Do We Welcome  
Matthew 10:40–42

## Presence & Gifts

### May Giving:

General Fund	\$11,135.00
Upper Room	\$2.00
Missions	\$75.00
Garage Rent	\$40.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$11,252.00</b>

### April Giving

General Fund	\$15,360.17
Caring Ministries	\$1,000.00
GIG Books	15.00
LF Preschool Teacher Salary	1,309.02
Missions	75.00
Easter Pool	670.00
Trustees - Income Garage Rent	80.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$18,469.19</b>

### Total Giving:

Year-to-Date 2020 \$82,427  
Year-to-Date 2019 \$111,489

### General Fund Giving:

Year-to-Date 2020: \$69,317  
Year-to-Date 2019: \$86,298

When you feel overwhelmed and weak,  
repeat these words,

**“God’s abundance and power are  
within me.  
I lack for nothing!”**

**Hospitalized/Procedures:** Sylvia Gould, Betty Orr (Greg Brown's Aunt), Norma Snyder (Mary Vang's sister-in-law)

**Healing:** Jo Ann Beers, Les Boots, Nick Brown, Denise Cartwright, Glenn Eaton, Jerry Ferguson, Bob Gould, Erma Lyle, Lynn McIntosh, half-brother, and nephew of Deb Lowry, Deb McKay, Chris McKinney, Jeff McKinney, Randy Nau, Mavis O'Morrow, Kelley Pudinski, Jim Theile (Lois Salmonson's brother), Barb Valenti (Lois Salmonson's sister), Rhonda Waugh

**Prayers for those in Life Transitions:** Pastor Jay & Rev. Terra Amundson, Alice Ann & Lisa Gallagher, Sylvia & Ken Gould, Pastor Steve & Kelley Pudinski, Ryan & Melinda Stonebraker & family

**Individuals & Families experiencing loss:**  
Cheryl Person and family,  
Allen Paustian and family  
Bonnie Swick and family

**In Treatment:** Kandi Allison, Ron Burroughs, Clara Italiano, Karen (Gail Fleming's sister), Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey's granddaughter), Christine Quinlan (Berrie Glick's sister), Dorothy Theile (Lois Salmonson's sister), Chris Ward.

**Hospice/Palliative Care:** Bill Brown (Greg's father), Joe Cheshaeck (Gail Fleming's brother-in-law), Dennis O'Morrow.

**Armed Services:** Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-in-law), Steve Eiler, Kyle Marchik, Kaitlyn McKinney, Corey & Alexa Ormsby, Mike Ploeger & Daniel Larson (McKinney's nephews)



# Missions

## Mobile Pantry Distribution Changes

The Mobile Food Pantry is scheduled to be at First UMC Tipton on Friday, June 5, at 3:30 pm. If you can spare an hour or so, would you please come on down to the church and help us help those who are less fortunate or are having difficulties making ends meet. Remember, there are new procedures in place because of the COVID-19 virus. It reads in part:

**For the foreseeable future, we are making changes to our mobile pantry distribution to protect your health and the health of the clients.**

- We will be distributing pre-boxed food rather than setting up tables for clients to “shop” from. HACAP will have pallets of boxes and bags ready to add the perishable items like produce, bakery and meat too. We will distribute directly from the truck, to reduce contact with clients. They will not be able to select what they want. This will strictly be a bag and go hand off.
- Clients will be asked to wait in their vehicles and just drive thru for pick up. If clients do not have cars, we are asking that you help to keep them from forming a line and spreading out as much as possible. Calling one person at a time up to receive their pre-boxed and bagged items.
- Check in should be done by one person, if they are new and need to sign a TEFAP form, please keep contact minimal. Gloves are available from HACAP to wear.

We know these changes are not how we would like to distribute food to our neighbors, but for now these measures allow us to keep getting them food while protecting everyone's health.

For now, out of an abundance of caution, when you arrive for a volunteer shift you will be asked to sign a waiver that you have not traveled to a high-risk area and are not experiencing any signs of illness.

A few small actions can help us all stay healthy now and in the future. If you want more information, here are the resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html>

Thank you for your continued commitment to serving our community with dignity and respect. We'll continue to monitor and adjust strategies to keep us all safe and healthy moving forward.

## Need a Little More Assistance?

With the ongoing pandemic we have noticed a continued need for food assistance. The missions group will be helping by providing food boxes to anyone or any family that could use one. Our first distribution will take place May 30. The thought is to do this at the end of the month as needed. We have 7 families on our list. If you could use a box or know of anyone that could, please call the church office.



**Changing our Community  
with Compassion**

Shared Blessing meals  
are canceled until  
further notice.

Life becomes harder  
for us when we  
live for others,  
but it also becomes  
richer and happier.

-Albert Schweitzer



HACAP Mobile Food Truck

Friday, June 5

3:30 – 4:30 pm

Tipton United Methodist Church

Questions?

Call the HACAP Food Reservoir  
(319) 393-7811 or  
Church office (563) 886-2331

Income Eligibility  
Guidelines Apply  
[www.hacap.org](http://www.hacap.org)

# A Note from Pastor Jay

Dear Friends,

So how are your emotions? There is a lot going on in your lives these days; Covid-19, saying goodbye to your pastor, preparing to meet and greet your new pastor. It's hard isn't it? I know, because I am going through the same feelings; being tired of quarantine, grieving saying goodbye to my current congregations (especially during a pandemic), and excited and a little scared to meet my new congregation. So in order to help all of us a little, let me tell you a little bit about myself.

I am a Minnesota boy. I grew up in the Twin Cities as the middle child of five. I have two sisters that are older and two sisters that are younger. The good part of that is that I didn't have to fight a brother for my dad's attention and I didn't have to share a bedroom. The truth is that my childhood was quite good. As a family we attended Richfield United Methodist church and for the most part I have not left the denomination. I am United Methodist on purpose and believe in it even in the midst of our current troubles.

I came to Iowa to go to college, where I met my wonderful wife, Terra. We married in August of 1978 and so will have been married 42 years this August. We will be living in Mount Vernon as my wife will be the pastor at the Mount Vernon United Methodist Church. Our son Aaron, and his wife Laura, and grandkids Abigail and Elliot live in Cedar Rapids which is an added bonus for us. We look forward to being able to spend more time with all of them. Aaron runs the Groundswell Café which is part of the United Methodist ministry Matthew 25 in Cedar Rapids. I am hoping as a church we can find ways to partner with that ministry. Laura is an American Sign Language interpreter.

I have experienced some grief in the last couple of years. Two years ago my sister Wendy, who was the sister just older than me, died of ovarian cancer. It was a hard time but we were able to say goodbye well and many people said that it was the best funeral they had ever been to. Just a month ago my mother died from a stroke at the age of 91. I wish you could have met my mom as she was incredible. My dad is still alive, is also 91, and is suffering from Alzheimer's. Grief comes to all of us and is one of the reasons that our church family is so important. What a blessing to have those you love and who love you there to offer support and blessing.

Continued.....



***I can do all things through him who strengthens me.  
Philippians 4:13***

Terra and I have been in pastoral ministry for 21 years now. We are both second career pastors and feel blessed to do this ministry together. So now you know a little about me and we have the coming years available to us to learn much more about each other. Please know that I have been praying for you and Pastor Steve and Kelley. I pray that you are able to say goodbye well and say hello well also. I am looking forward to being with all of you soon.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jay

## June Calendar

(Dates and times are subject to change.  
Go to our website for current information)  
**Worship on Sundays at 10:00am will be posted  
on our website: [www.tiptonumc.org](http://www.tiptonumc.org)**

**Monday, June 1**

6:45 pm Missions Meeting

**Wednesday, June 3**

6:30 pm SPRC Meeting

**Friday, June 5**

3:30 pm–4:30 pm Mobile Food Pantry

**Thursday, June 11**

6:30 pm Trustees

**Tuesday, June 16**

6:45 pm Leadership Council Meeting

**Wednesday, June 17**

Newsletter Deadline

**Saturday, June 27**

11:00 am Shared Blessings Delivery Only

**GOD is Good,  
all the time.**

## Misc. Items

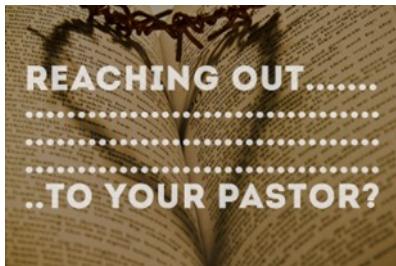


Providing Quality Education

It's never too early to start thinking about the start of Preschool next fall. We will be back! Contact the church office for more information at 563.886.2331.

*The LORD is my light  
and my salvation;  
Whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the strength  
of my life;  
Of whom shall I be afraid?*

— Psalm 27:1



In preparation for moving, the landline at the parsonage has been disconnected. If you need to reach Pastor Steve in June, please call him on his mobile phone, 707-845-7556, or call the church and leave a message. He can also be reached by email at spudinski@sbcglobal.net.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 1 – Jenae Walter
- 2 – Barbara Smith, Tom & Mary Ehresman
- 4 – Kyle McKinney, Iris Shaull
- 5 – Steve Emrich, Jan & Gordon Esbeck
- 6 – Heather Strefling
- 7 – Landan Hill, Bob Rickard
- 8 – Donna Gault, Ron & Lois Salmonson
- 9 – Kandi Allison, Matthew Cartwright, Josh Eiler, Kimberly Regennitter, Merlyn & June Beckler
- 10 – Brennan Esbeck, Frederick Smith, Roger & Jany Dewulf, Garry & Michelle O'Leary
- 11 – Teresa Esbeck, Lois Gardner, Ted Licht, Ronald & Dixie Martin
- 12 – Darick Albaugh, Kenadi Krenz, Deb McKay, Gage Schilling, Cheryl Stark, Bob & Bonnie Butler
- 13 – Amy Calonder, Alec Heil
- 14 – Amy & Adam Calonder, Alexandria Hubler, Bob & Glenda Holets
- 15 – Kiaya Rickard-Urban, Scott & Karen Anderson
- 16 – Ken Weaver
- 17 – Chad & Christy Schilling
- 18 – Michelle Ford, Ken Schmidt
- 19 – June Beckler, Chris Keller
- 20 – Hanna Schmidt
- 21 – Timothy Chambliss
- 23 – Caroline Smith, Jan Wehde
- 24 – Sandy Brown, Lois Salmonson, Marlin Wiskus, Sean & Angela Driscoll
- 25 – Angie Keller, Benji Thomas
- 26 – Tiger Emrich, McKenna Gade, Trina Hill, Rick & Heidi Shumaker
- 27 – Drew Butler, Diane Eaton, Betty Kline, Amanda Schmidt
- 28 – Steve & Vicki Daniel, Brandon & Michelle Ford
- 29 – Mona Johnson, Emmett Steinman
- 30 – Nate Shaull

(Please contact the church office for additions and/or corrections.)

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
607 LYNN  
TIPTON, IOWA 52772

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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Tipton, Iowa 52772  
Permit No. 36

June

## June Events

June 5 — HACAP Mobile Food Pantry  
June 17 — Newsletter Deadline

Have Faith

**Mission Statement:**  
Tipton First United Methodist Church

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”