

# Tipton First United Methodist Church

607 Lynn Street Tipton, IA 52772

563.886.2331

www.tiptonumc.org  
office@tiptonumc.org

Melody Williams, Pastor  
815.656.0565



September 2023

## Church Staff

Pastor – **Melody Williams**

Administrative Ministries

Coordinator – **Mary Jo Heil**

Custodian – **Meredith Coppess**

Chancel Singers

Director – **Position Open**

Piano/Organ – **Jo Brown,  
Dee Wallace**

Little Friends Preschool

Director and Teacher –

**Daisy Little**

Xn Chaos Director –

**Greg Brown**

Bishop of the Iowa Annual  
Conference –

**Kennetha Bigham-Tsai**

Northeast District

Superintendent –

**Rev. Dr. Moody Colorado**

Ministers of Jesus Christ in the  
World – **All the People of God!**

Dear fellow United Methodist member,

1 Timothy 4:12 states, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and purity.”

When the youth read this today, they are empowered to be an example for believers, young and old. God’s call fuels our desire to lead the future of our position within the church and as followers of Christ. What can you do to help us, the young congregants of the United Methodist Church, fulfill this scripture?

We, the members of The Next Congregation Youth Group, are contacting you to ask for a pledge to help us reach our goal. Your contribution today will allow us to hire a Youth Pastor for the United Methodist Church. With your gift, you will support our church’s youth members to grow as Christians. *Making a Smart Investment for The Next Congregation* is taking a step forward for our youth and the church’s future.

You will find a pledge sheet in this newsletter. You can also pick one up at church. There are several options to fulfill your pledge. If you don’t want to pledge, you can still give! You can write a check, have your bank send one, or use Venmo. For all giving, please indicate it is for The Next Congregation. Our Venmo account is specifically for The Next Congregation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

The Next Congregation



**venmo**



Making a Smart Investment for the  
Next Congregation

Total money raised as of August 20 – \$9,616.80

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

## A Word From Pastor Melody

Dear Community of Faith,

How is your prayer life? How do you choose what and whom to pray for? I have been thinking about these questions lately and much more about prayer and quiet time with God. Prayer has been on my mind partly because I will be beginning a series on prayer starting this month. True confession here: It is also because I need to strengthen my own prayer life. I remember when I would spend hours simply listening to and adoring God—there were not many petitions at this time; it was a time of worship. As life became more complicated and I was dealing with two teen girls' schedules and life events coupled with seminary and work, it became harder to have that time. As I became a pastor, the demands of the life of service to the church infringed on the time that I would have for those unseen things. Those things you can see scream, "Look at me, pay attention to me." If we are not careful, that is what we will do. And we will pay attention to that situation while neglecting the one who will help care for those situations that are screaming for attention. How to maintain that balance is a seemingly never-ending question. While the answer may seem simple, it never is because it means not doing some of the things I want to do or disappointing people who think I should be doing something else.

Although my calling is to the life of the church, I know this struggle is not confined to my call and my life. As I have gotten to know you, I see the stress and strain you are under. I see the hours you put into caring for your families, your jobs, one another, your church, your commitments to the community... Where is your time to take care of yourself and your soul? How do you do that? How do you make sure you have time for the one that cares more deeply about all of those around you than you do? As you read this newsletter and all that is going on at the church and think about all that you are committed to, I hope you can sit this newsletter down for a moment and ask God to help you have time with him.

As you take that time with God, I hope you will have it be a time to allow God to minister to your soul and ask God to reveal God's self to you. Take time to listen and ask God to show you who he created you to be. Open the Bible and read through Jesus' prayer in John 17, where Jesus prays for himself, his disciples, and you. Take some time, and write down what he prays for you. Then, turn to Ephesians 1. Listen with your spirit to the words written that say what God has given to you. Take some time. Write them down, meditate on them, and journal about each word or phrase that jumps out at you. Then, take the bold move of praying for yourself for these things. Those other prayers, the ones about jobs, friends, co-workers, and how to handle the realities of life on this earth, are essential. But, by taking this time, adoring the God who created you, asking him to give you those things he has promised, God will provide you with a better perspective on those other things--and through your prayers, who knows what will happen? He also saw you worrying about them.

As for me, I am committed to scheduling my time with God better. If you don't see me in the office, I may be in a much more critical "office" – my prayer room, spending time with the one who knows all of our concerns.

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### **Worship on September 3 will be a "Healing Service".**

No matter the type of healing you or your loved ones might need:

Physical, Emotional, Financial...

Join us at 10 am.

## Missions

IOWA CONFERENCE of the UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Since it's back to school time and you are in the swing of rounding up school supplies why not put together a school kit?

Below is a list of supplies needed. Items may be placed in a plastic grocery bag (not a Ziploc) or a cloth bag. If you would like to make the cloth bag(s), please contact the church office for the pattern or go to [midwestmission.org/patterns](http://midwestmission.org/patterns). There is also a printed copy of the instructions at the back of the sanctuary.

Some of the items in the school kit come in multiples, such as the eraser and the pencils. If you have extra items left over you may donate those and we will put together additional kits or we can donate the extra items to Ingathering.

### School Kit

3 Notebooks – 1 subject spiral 8" x 10 1/2"

1 Ruler – 12" long with metric

6 Pencils – unsharpened

1 Pencil Sharpener

1 Eraser – 2" or larger

1 Box 12 Colored Pencils

1 Box 24 Crayons

1 Pair of Student Scissors

1 One-Handled Cloth Bag\*

Place all items in the cloth bag or a plastic grocery bag



**CWS**  
Church World Service

**We have one goal: building a world where there is enough for all!**

Our vision is a world where everyone has food, voice and a safe place to call home. We've been working to make this a reality for more than 75 years, and we know it's possible. We've welcomed thousands of refugees and other new neighbors into our communities, helped countless families put food on the table and lifted the voices of people who have been left out.

We know that we can always do more together than we can alone. That's why our work is for everyone. The CWS family stretches around the world and across the lines that divide us as a single force for good.

During the month of September the Copper Kettle offering will go to CWS.



**Changing our Community  
with Compassion**

Saturday, Sept. 9  
Saturday, Sept. 23  
11:00-11:45 am

### Sleep In Heavenly Peace

SHP will be having a bed build on Sept. 16 in the 4-H Pavilion at the Cedar County Fairgrounds. There will be two shifts: 1–2:30 pm and 2:30–4 pm. If you would like to sign up, go to <http://bit.ly/shpevent> or just show up.

The goal is to make 40 beds that day. No carpenter skills are required.

For more information contact Laurie Brandenburg at 563.508.5331 or email her at [nnaid84@hotmail.com](mailto:nnaid84@hotmail.com)

### HACAP Mobile Food Truck

Tipton FUMC

Friday, Sept. 1

West Branch Fire Station

Tuesday, Sept. 19

Questions?

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

Income Eligibility Guidelines Apply

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



**Coffee Fellowship  
is back!**  
**Join us after worship  
on Sept. 3 in the  
Gathering Place!**

### **More GIGs, More Small Groups, a Men's Group**

Whether it be for spiritual growth or just fellowship, being part of a small group is a great way to connect. Interested? There is a sign-up sheet in the breezeway and at the back of the sanctuary. Let us know a time and day that works best for you and any ideas you might have for the group. Your group doesn't have to meet at the church! Why not someone's home or one of the restaurants downtown. The park is always a nice place in the fall!



We are just a few short weeks away from the start of Sunday school! This year we will be combining with the Lutheran Church to offer Sunday school for pre-school, starting at age 3, and going through high school.

A new thing the Lutheran church will be providing to all students is a monthly take home lesson. There will be a lesson, a Bible story/verse, as well as a craft. Please call the church office, 563.886.2331, if that is something you would like to receive; it will be mailed out monthly.

The first day of Sunday school is September 10 starting at 9 am! Everyone is welcome for a pancake breakfast, crafts, as well as meeting the teachers and some of the other students.

We are so excited for the upcoming Sunday school year. Please reach out to your friends and family and tell them about the exciting things that are happening in our church!

If you want to help with Sunday school, please see Kellie Rouse. We can always use more teachers!

### **Next Congregation**

The Next Congregation is the name that our youth came up with for our drive for youth ministries. We have a fantastic opportunity to receive \$70,000 of matching funds, if we can match that amount in contributions. This is a real challenge for our church and its future.

In the past we have said that pledges and contributions would be returned if we did not come up with the \$70,000. However, as I thought about this, I started to question the reasoning for this drive. **Is it only about the money** or is it for the **future of our church**? If our only reason for this drive is to obtain the additional \$70,000, then we have the wrong motivation. I believe **it is for our future** and the individual that is willing to commit \$70,000 is the stimulus to motivate us to move forward. Let's certainly set our goal at \$70,000 or more, however if we come up short, I suggest that instead of returning all pledges and contributions, we move forward. We use our funds to hire a youth coordinator, youth pastor or what is necessary for our future. Our youth and congregation deserve this.

A huge **THANK YOU** to the individual or individuals that committed the matching funds of \$70,000. This is really the spark that will ignite us into the future!

Bob Cummins



### The Next Congregation

The Youth members of our church have come together to create a unique group. Last month, 10 young and bright minds came together to create a youth group called The Next Congregation. They wanted to be able to represent their generation of Christians and the future of our congregation. In just a month, this youth group has grown and added 6 new members. They have met as a group twice and set dates for events. They are also creating fundraisers to support their group and goal of getting a Youth Pastor for our church. The youth members are working hard to create crafts to sell and coming up with new ideas that can support their cause. A big fundraiser for this group will be The Blessings of John. This is a FUNdraiser where the group will fulfill the wishes to put a toilet in the yard of the highest bidder's "victim". That person will then be offered different levels of insurance to have the toilet removed from their yard. Lifetime insurance is available for \$250. This secures your safety from ever getting a blessing in your yard. Start preparing to see a blessing within the month of September.

On September 9th from 6–9 pm, the youth group will be coming together for a campfire, smores, prayer, and praise. The following day, September 10th, will be their first time hosting an event at the church. They will be kicking off the Sunday School round-up by serving a delicious breakfast. There will be a free-will donation at this event. Please keep an eye out for growing activities and young faces in our church.

For any questions about The Next Congregation, their events, and their fundraisers, please contact the church or visit their booth located in the Gathering Space after church.

### College AND Workforce Connections

College Connections not only needs your college kids address, we want to reach out to all young people including those that have opted to enter the workforce.

Please send those addresses to [office@tiptonumc.org](mailto:office@tiptonumc.org) and I will pass them on to our new College Connections leader, Erica Shumaker.

### Did you know, John Wesley coined the term "Agree to Disagree."

Over the years, Wesley had serious theological differences with another popular pastor named George Whitefield. Though they both argued passionately, Wesley reflected on these differences in a memorial sermon for Whitefield by saying: "There are many doctrines of a less essential nature. ... In these, we may think and let think; we may '[agree to disagree](#).' But, meantime, let us hold fast the essentials. ..." This appears to be the first recorded use of the term. It was a hallmark of Wesley's way of holding to his convictions while remaining in connection with those with whom he disagreed.

## Youth Group News

This is the other youth group. (How awesome is that?! We now have 2 Youth Groups!!)

The youth group making music will get back together starting on September 10 from 6:30–7:45 pm.

They will once again be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month in the large Sunday school room.



**Join the Choir...**  
**You'll Be Glad  
You Did!**

**I believe in  
Christianity  
as I believe that  
the sun has risen:  
not only because  
I see it,  
but because  
by it I see  
everything else.**

–C.S. Lewis, author

## Pictured Rocks District BASIC Lay Servant Training

Friday, September 29  
5–8 pm

Saturday, September 30  
9 am–4 pm

Independence First UMC

Lay Servant Ministries –  
Basic Course: This class is  
the beginning foundation  
for all courses in Lay  
Servant Ministries.  
Participants are  
encouraged to discover and  
employ personal spiritual  
gifts as God intended and  
to consider the importance  
of exercising servant  
leadership, developing  
future leaders, remaining  
rooted in consistent  
spiritual practices, and  
being part of a group that  
holds members accountable  
in their discipleship.

Call the church office for  
more information or to  
register.



## Church Family Hoopla

Have you ever had a plan and when the time comes to execute everything changes. On July 30<sup>th</sup> it happened. Our service that Sunday morning included our guests from the Lutheran Church. The church was practically full and the singing was fantastic. Afterwards we went downstairs for a delicious indoor picnic. Each table had a Bible verse for each month of the year, you were to sit at the table that was your birth month. Everyone was having such a good time visiting with each other, games fell by the wayside. Don't worry, they will pop up again at some point.



## Dear Women of Faith,

Greetings from the West Branch United Women in Faith! We hope the summer of '23 has held many good moments for you, and that you find blessings daily to remind you of God's love.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our September Guest Night Salad Supper. This year it will be Monday, Sept. 11. Our speaker will be Taylor Foster. Taylor has Achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism. His abilities are often judged based on his size, because many people have stereotypical beliefs about people with dwarfism. Along with his wife, Mady, the Fosters set out to show that regardless of what one may think, everyone has the ability to make a difference. Let's open our minds and hearts to grow in knowledge and grace as we hear Taylor's story.

We will begin serving the salad supper at 6:30 pm, and our speaker will commence at 7:30 pm. Please RSVP by Sept. 4 to the church's email: [westbranchumc@gmail.com](mailto:westbranchumc@gmail.com) or by calling 319.643.5489. When calling, leave a message, because our office administrator has limited office hours.

We hope that you will bring friends with you, and spread the invitation throughout your congregation and community.

God's blessings to you,  
Katie Sabourin, West Branch UWF President



<b>July 1 Balance</b>	<b>\$27,127.60</b>
<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	\$11,515.60
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salaries/Pension/Taxes	\$9,878.38
Utilities – Church/Parsonage	\$705.67
Phone/Internet	\$152.88
Copier Lease	\$110.38
Janitorial Supplies	\$21.81
Study Books/Upper Room	\$129.00
Payroll Processing	\$182.00
Postage	\$43.06
Lawn Care	\$128.15
Comprehensive Ins.	\$2,745.75
Organ Tuning	\$435.00
Apportionments	\$4,000.00
Office Supplies	\$93.06
<b>August 1 Balance</b>	<b>\$20,018.06</b>
<b>Apportionments</b>	
Total for 2023	\$25,396.00
Paid to Date	\$11,500.00
Yet to Be Paid	\$13,896.00

**Worship Attendance**

July 2 – 68, July 9 – 70, July 16 – 71,  
July 23 – 64, July 30 – 102

**Parsonage update**

In March after the Browns moved out the parsonage remodel started. All the old cabinets in the kitchen and dinning room were removed and replaced with new ones, along with a new microwave, washer and dryer. We also replaced the windows in the kitchen, a new sliding door in the dinning room as well as new flooring and trim work throughout the main living area. We had damage to the roof and fence from the spring storm so both of those were replaced along with the gutters on the house. We are going to replace two more windows in the living room; just waiting for them to come in. The tree in the backyard needs to be removed and that should happen sometime this fall. With all the work done we are very happy with how things turned out and hope Melody is enjoying the home.

The Trustees



**Little Friends Preschool**

We are so excited to be starting school on Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>! There are 13 students enrolled this fall and we look forward to another great year!

There is still a need for additional board members. If interested please call the church office at 563.886.2331.



**New Legacy Project**

On Wednesday, August 16, our church hosted a group from Nashville – New Legacy Project. It was a great night of fun, entertainment and really great music!

- 1 – Rosalyn Hill, Kim Kreinbring, Al & Teri Baird
- 4 – Rick & Pat Christensen, Ryan & Melinda Stonebraker
- 5 – Bonnie Butler, Keaton DeWulf
- 6 – Phil & Patti Seydel
- 8 – Lilly Errthum, Lori Seebers, Stuart & Sharon Clark
- 9 – Izabelle Errthum, Ethan Houstman
- 11 – Nigel Crock, Bruce Graff, Mary Jo Heil, Russell Hoffman, James & Elisabeth Gardner
- 12 – Sandy Childs, Bob Holets, Nick & Steph Behne
- 13 – Alek Comstock, Jany DeWulf, Ruby Harper, Thomas Hembry
- 14 – Becky Fetterman, Deb Lowry, Nick Ohrt, Jason Walter
- 15 – Karen Anderson, Merlyn Beckler
- 16 – Denise Cartwright
- 17 – David Beers, Dawn Davis, Pam Spear Austen Gardner, Kent Hoffman,
- 18 – Penelope Nissen
- 19 – Justin Marchik, Jason Paustian, Alex & Bailey Anderson, Glenn & Diane Eaton
- 20 – Doug Boldt, Will & Julie Williams
- 21 – Brian & Mary Jo Heil
- 22 – Nick Behne
- 23 – Carrie Glick, Leslie & Jerod Timmerman
- 24 – Amelia Bormann, Diane Chambliss
- 25 – Garrett Nau, Tatum Trueblood, Jack & Denise Cartwright
- 27 – Joel Miller, Adrianna Paul, Kevin & Janet Anderson
- 29 – Michael Puffer, Carolyn Wood
- 30 – Haley Miller, Vivian Shontz, Everley Trenkamp, Maggie Trueblood

**Healing:** Ken McKay, Jim Thiele, Gary Thiele (Lois Salmonson's brothers), Chris Edwards (Pastor Melody's brother), Alberta Wagaman, Bob Rickard, Betty Orr (Greg Brown's aunt), Deb Lowry, Carolyn Wood, Irene Wood, Glenn Fear, Jo Ann Beers, Nick Brown, Glenn Eaton, Bob Gould, half-brother and nephew of Deb Lowry, Randy Nau

**Individuals and Families Experiencing Loss:** The family of Merlyn Timm who died on August 14

**Prayers for Those in Life Transitions:** Carolyn Wood, Ken Gould, Rhonda Waugh, Denise Cartwright, Lynn McIntosh

**In Treatment:** Jeff McKinney, Myrna Baird (Lorna Muller's sister), Norma Snyder (Mary Vang's sister-in-law), Leroy Clark (Lisa Davies' dad), Ron Burroughs, Tom Ehresman, Clara Italiano, Taylor Miller (Sherry Willey's granddaughter), Chris Ward

**Armed Services:** Dustin Kushnereit (Lisa Davies' son-in-law), Joseph Battey, Nolan Ohrt, Thomas Brown (Seydel's son-in-law), Kyle Marchik, Corey & Alexa Ormsby, Mike Ploeger & Daniel Larson (McKinney's nephews), Kaitlyn (McKinney) & Nick Brisbin, Jacob Ketelsen



The Upper Room Devotionals for September/October are here. You can pick one up at the back of the church, in the Gathering Place, or in the breezeway.



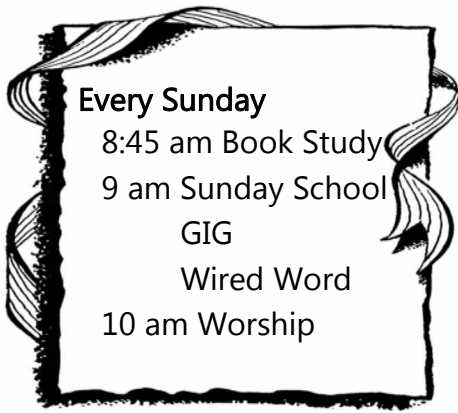
## First Friday Donut and Devotions Is Back!

On the first Friday of each month during the school year the Ecumenical Group meets at the UCC parking lot and distributes a donut and a devotion to all high school students that would like one.

If you could help, please meet in the parking lot at UCC at 8 am Friday, September 1.



# September Calendar



Dates and times are subject to change. Go to our website for current information.

## Friday, Sept. 1

8 am First Friday Donuts  
3:30–4:30 pm HACAP Food Truck

## Tuesday, Sept. 5

9 am First Day of Preschool  
6:30 pm Creative Worship

## Wednesday, Sept. 6

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Trustees

## Thursday, Sept. 7

10 am GIG  
6:30 pm GIG  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, Sept. 9

11–1:45 am Shared Blessings

## Sunday, Sept. 10

9 am Youth Group Breakfast  
First Day of Sunday School,  
Wired Word, and  
Sunday Morning GIG

## Monday, Sept. 11

5:30 pm SPRC

## Tuesday, Sept. 12

6:30 pm Missions

## Wednesday, Sept. 13

6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal  
6:30 pm Trustees

## Thursday, Sept. 14

10 am GIG  
6:30 pm GIG  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Tuesday, Sept. 19

2 pm Worship @ Prairie Hills  
6:30 pm Leadership Council

## Wednesday, Sept. 20

Newsletter Articles Due  
6:30 pm Little Friends  
Preschool Board  
6:30 pm Xn Chaos

## Thursday, Sept. 21

10 am GIG  
6:30 pm GIG  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

## Saturday, Sept. 23

10 am GIG

## Wednesday, Sept. 27

8:30 am Holy Folders  
6:30 pm Xn Chaos Rehearsal

## Thursday, Sept. 28

10 am GIG  
6:30 pm GIG  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

[www.facebook.com/TiptonUMC/](http://www.facebook.com/TiptonUMC/)



To watch live on Sunday morning (10:00am), or the most recent service (available until the following Saturday), visit the church website at [tiptonumc.org](http://tiptonumc.org) and click on the 'Join Us Via Livestream' link on the left side under the logo (or under the logo on your mobile phone). You can also click the WorshipLIVE icon on the front page.

To view archived services, click the Worship menu and select 'Worship Videos'. Or use this link: <https://tiptonumc.org/worship-videos/>



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 1 — HACAP Mobile Food  
Pantry

Sept. 9 — Shared Blessings

Sept. 10 — First Day of Sunday  
School!

Youth Group Breakfast

Sept. 19 — Worship @ Prairie Hills

Sept. 20 — Newsletter Deadline

Sept. 23 — Shared Blessings

Sept. 24 — Worship @ Cedar Manor

Sept. 27 — Holy Folders

### Mission Statement:

**Tipton First United Methodist Church**

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