



The Voyager



June 2023

The Newsletter of the Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church

Pastor Lana Williams
Secretary Terry Luiken
Custodian John Strohm

Church Office (712) 852-2154
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Pastor's Ponderings:

Brothers and Sisters in Christ this is my last pastor letter to the good people of Emmetsburg First UMC. I want to thank all of you for the MANY ways you have supported myself and my family! I am so grateful you allowed me to be your pastor for two years and the first female pastor here. It is very rare in the UMC that a pastor ever serves their home and sending church, yet I had the privilege and I'm beyond blessed! As the years go by I will always look back fondly on our time together. In the past two years, babies have been born, children have grown up, and people have been hurt or sick. We've had baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and too many funerals. Together we've celebrated, cried, prayed, worshipped, and tried new things. We have learned a lot, our lives have changed, and we have persevered.

As I think about moving I remember Iowa is not that large and I know our paths will cross again. Additionally, because of the ease of technology we can remain friends but I will no longer be your pastor. I love you and social media is great for keeping up with each others lives. I'll rejoice with you as your friend, no longer your pastor, because you'll have a new pastor and that's their role. I know you were a church before I got here and you'll be a church long after I'm gone. I also recognize God has been here since the beginning of this

church and will remain here for all time. If through the power of the Holy Spirit you allow Jesus to be your guide, the Emmetsburg First UMC will always have a mission. It may look different than it did in the past. It may look different than it does right now but a passion for our Lord and Savior will see you through all your future trials. This passion guided the earlier congregations, allowing them to navigate their own trials. They managed and flourished, and so will you when partnered with God.

I pray for a wonderful future for you good people! I've been praying for the new pastor to be appointed, whom at the time of writing this has not been appointed yet. I've been praying they will connect with the community and all of you! I've been praying you will warmly receive them, welcome them into the fold

and into their new leadership position with you.

Finally, I want to share with you a prayer for the church:

Most Merciful God, send your heavenly blessings upon your church, that all its members may dwell together in unity and love. Keep far from them all self-will and discord. Endue your pastors with righteousness, and enable them faithfully to fulfill their ministry, to bring again the outcasts, and to seek the lost. And grant to us so to receive their ministrations, and to use your means of grace, that in all our words and deeds we may seek your glory and the advancement of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (prayer in the UMC Book of Worship #502)

Blessings,

Pastor Lana Williams

lanawill@hotmail.com

God
Bless You



Save the date!

Please join us for Sunday Brunch, to celebrate the Ordination of Pastor Lana, as well as to say goodbye and wish her well.

When: 6/11

Time: 11am

Place: Family Life Center



"Those whom the Church ordains shall be conscious of God's call to ordained ministry, and their call shall be acknowledged and authenticated by the Church."

-Book of Discipline: ¶ 304

Emmetsburg First UMC's Discipleship Pathway creates space for disciples to choose their individual spiritual growth path.

Gather → **Grow** → **Go**

love God. love others.



GATHER



GROW



GO!

Emmetsburg UMC is in Need of Sunday helpers!

1. Greeters (Handing out the morning bulletin, great for all ages)
2. Ushers (Preferably 13yrs and up)
3. Swallowship (Post Service Fellowship Host/Hostess (Snack, Coffee, etc)

Email Terry: EmmetsburgUMCsecretary@gmail.com

Empowering EFUMC Ministry (April 21 – May 23, 2023)

General Fund	\$ 9,668.97
-Fellowship Hall Fund	\$ 600.00
-Wednesday Worship	\$ 260.00
-Designated Memorial	\$ 510.00
- Rent Income	\$ 550.00
- VBS	\$ 50.00
-Hospitality	\$ 580.00
Total	\$ 12,218.97

*Thank you
for your
faithful support
of the
church!*

Emmetsburg First UMC has created multiple ways for you to give:

Online via vancopayments.com or emmetsburgumc.com

Mobile phone giving:

Vanco App

Venmo App - @Eburg-UMC
Code 2508

Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- Contact Terry

Thank you for your faithful support
of the church!



Lana's Ordination question (last one I'm leaving with you):

How has the practice of ministry informed your understanding of the Nature and Mission of the Church? What are its primary challenges today?

I believe the nature and the mission of the church is to reflect the communal love of God. In my seven years of pastoral ministry, I have been blessed with beautiful examples of the church loving as God loves. When my husband was diagnosed with stage four colon cancer the body of Christ supported us in prayer, hosted a benefit to help financially, and offered unconditional love. When our daughter was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma the next year and our son died in a car accident a few days later the body of Christ again gathered around us, holding us in prayer and helping us along the way. As a pastor, I've been blessed to sit with those dying and their families, sharing Christ's love. During a worship service, I was blessed to lead prayer and the laying of hands upon a young family whose father had died three years earlier from a tragic accident and whose mother was actively dying of cancer. On another occasion, we laid hands upon a 15-year-old girl who was facing a major spinal surgery. Each of these, and so many more, are opportunities to love as God loves. To walk alongside one another in the realities of life. As the church, we are to share one another's hardships and rejoice in one another's celebrations. We are family, brothers and sisters in Christ, called-out to love in communal and relational ways.

With this understanding, I believe one of the greatest challenges of the American church is our individualist culture. As I've mentioned several times, God is communal and to be God's image bearer is to live in and for community, the exact opposite of our culture. Another challenge for the church today is the belief that the church is the building rather than the body of Christ. We misunderstand the meaning of church and focus on the building rather than the people. I've heard this struggle consistently as leadership often asks how we can get more people in church, rather than seeing themselves as the church. Another challenge is the role placed upon the church to be the moral character police and the hypocrisy this creates. In many ways the church has become focused on religion and following rules, becoming Pharisees rather than disciples. Too often I've heard people say they need to clean up before coming to church, instead of recognizing we are a hospital for the sick not a museum of saints. I recently had a long conversation with Paul*, who has been deeply hurt from the church. He loves Jesus but the challenges I listed above are issues he and I talked about in depth. These challenges are impacting the church and impacting the way we need to be the church.

*Name changed for privacy



Sunday Worship Schedule:

June 4: Sarah Strohman preaching

June 11: Pastor Lana's Last Sunday

June 18: Ted Ellis preaching

June 25: Cory Weir preaching

July 2: VBS Sunday



*June 26-30, 2023, Emmetsburg United Methodist
Scan QR to register online!*

JUNE 26-30, 2023, AT 9 AM – 12 PM

2023 Vacation Bible School - Ready, Set, Move!

Emmetsburg First United Methodist Church

Register today for the best week of summer! Join us for games, music, snacks and adventure! We will meet each day from 9A-12P. Ages: 4 and up.

HELPERS are needed! It can be an hour each day, the entire week, or whatever fits your schedule.

Email EmmetsburgUMCsecretary@gmail.com for more information.



Wednesday Worship Schedule:

Wednesday Worship is on summer break. However, we will gather once a month during the summer for fun, dinner, and worship. Summer dates are:

June 7

July 12

Aug 9

First United Methodist Church
Regular Monthly Administrative Church Council Minutes

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, at 8:00 P.M.

Attendance: Ted Ellis; Sarah Frederick; Rosemary Matthews; Michelle Kogel; Shayne Kogel; Terry Luiken; Marje Merrill; Lois Stanley; Brian Garrels; Dilene Larsen; Lana Williams

Call to Order: at 7:59pm

Devotions: Pastor Lana

Secretary's Report: Minutes from April 12, 2023. Moved to approve by Michelle Kogel Seconded by Lois Stanley.

Treasurer's report for end of February: Balance of \$58,770.92. Moved to approve by Brian Garrels and seconded Marje Merrill, approved.

Committee reports:

Nurturing Ministries: Janelle Stokes: Vacation Bible School planned for June 26 – 30. No weekly Wednesday Worship, but will meet June 7th, July 12th, & August 9th. 5:30pm-7:30pm

Outreach Ministries: ELF Garage/Bake Sale May 12-13.

Administrative Committees

Chair of Trustees: Dave Fog/Dan Stokes: **No Report**

Chair of SPRC: Michelle Kogel/Jodi Ward: Planning a Farewell/Ordination Brunch for Pastor Lana. Met with Dr. Michel Lun-dula, District Superintendent to start the process of hiring a Pastor. May 9th, Jodi, Sarah S, and Terry Luiken me to start the process of the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)

Chair of Finance: Shayne Kogel: discussed the bus sale, value? Lois stated that any budget changes are needed by the next meeting.

Chair of Endowment: Brian Garrels: The Endowment Task Force will meet and discuss the requests for non-budget projects - 5/14 at 9:15am. Scholarships were handed out May 9th to the High School students - 11 seniors, \$122,000 in Scholarships. May 21st, Emmetsburg FUMC will celebrate Graduates and Scholarship winners. All scholarship recipients must sign a release form.

Chair of Nominations: Bonnie Whitney – **NO REPORT**

Chair of Witnessing/Mission Trip: Sarah Frederick: Sign up for Siouxland Soup Kitchen, must be 16 years old and up. Collecting non-perishable items to take with

Chair of History: Rosemary Matthews – Will celebrate 150th on September 10, 2023, at the FLC - Brunch. The History committee would like to create a 48-page color booklet to commemorate the 150th milestone, \$8 a copy, wanting to make 100 copies and making a total of \$800. A motion was made by Brian Garrels to approve funding for the books out of the Memorial Fund, Seconded by Sarah Frederick. Also, wanting to include historical facts/tidbits in the weekly bulletin.

Pastor's Report: Lana Williams: Special Session May 23, at 6:30pm, to discuss the churches disaffiliating. All are welcome to attend in the Narthex. Sarah Strohman is covering June 4th, but we are in need of others to preach on June 18th and 25th. Middle school youth, that earned the waterpark trip, will go on June 7th. Lana's last day will be June 11, 2023.

Pastor Lana will be ordained June 4 at the Annual Conference. The General Conference is still without a date/year.

Old Business:

Greeters are needed for services and volunteers to help with Swallowship.

New Business:

Discussion on ideas for community involvement and 2024 General Conference.

Next meeting: July 12, 2023

Closing: Ted Ellis closed with prayer

Meeting adjourned: 8:50 P.M.

PLANNING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER!

We are inviting you to complete the Church Assessment Tool (CAT), an on-line instrument that will help leaders gauge the strength, vitality, and trends in our church. The information gained from this assessment will be valuable in helping the leaders of the Emmetsburg United Methodist Church as they make decisions about the future.

We are asking you to go online by clicking on the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EMMETSBURGFUMC> and tell us about your experiences in and priorities for our church. Please do not discuss the survey or your answers with others as this may influence their answers.

If you need a paper copy or need help bringing it up on your computer/phone, please come to the office, and we will assist you.

All answers are strictly anonymous. We have no way of matching any assessment to a particular person, so please feel free to candidly share your perceptions, opinions and experiences. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers.

If you have questions, please contact us at 712-852-2154.

Many thanks,

Jodi Ward, Sarah Strohman, and Terry Luiken



Open your phone camera to Scan
<<———— QR Code, touch link and it will open the survey.
Please allow 20 – 30 Minutes to complete.

Ministering to our seniors



*Below are the addresses of our members, who are in area
nursing homes or assisted living facilities.
Please send a card to brighten their day.
They would love to hear from you.*

Emmetsburg Care Center

2405 21st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4266

Jackie Donovan

Emerald Oaks

Assisted Living

2603 17th Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-8408

Darlene Harris

St. Luke's (Spencer)

1301 St. Luke's Dr,
Spencer, IA 50501

Marjorie(Marj) Solberg
Room D9

Lakeside Senior Care

301 N Lawler St
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-4060

Virginia Place

PARC Hall

3201 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5520

Joyce Muller

Helen Merrill #203

Willow Ridge

3203 1st Street,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536
712-852-5480

Pat Anderson #103

Jan Bare #206

Anne Carney #216

If you are or know of someone who is home bound, in a nursing home, or feeling alone and would like a visit; please let Pastor Lana know, contact the church office at 852-2154 or email at umcsecretary@iowatelecom.net



*If you or a loved one is hospitalized,
please call the church to inform us.
The hospital does not and will not call us.*

Prayer Requests:

Pastor Lana & EUMC

Emily Neet

Josh Hobart

Samantha Graham

Julie Jorgenson

Mary Ellen Benz

Lincoln Coakley

-(grandson of Joann Coakley)

*Those who have been hospitalized
or are in long term care facilities.

*Hospital & nursing/assisted care

facility staff, essential workers, &
our military members.

*Students of all ages and staff at
schools and colleges. Students
away at college as well as those at
home.

*Families who have lost loved ones
and are grieving.

*People in countries at war around
the world

*All individual prayer requests will
be listed for 6 weeks. At which time
they will be removed from the list.

If you wish for a name to remain, be
removed, or to be put back on the
list, please contact the church office
at 712-852-2154.

Thank You!





Bob Hill a.k.a. Bill Terry

Worship Service Volunteers

June/July Acolytes

6/04

Kysen Kogel & Calen Manz

6/11

Sophia & Cammi Manz

6/18

Beckham & Mason Shirk

6/25

Kysen Kogel & Axton Curry

7/02

*Steven Horsman & Hunter
Strohman*

7/09

Maddi & Kenna Burns

7/16

Jameson Fehr & Hank Rouse

7/23

Kysen Kogel & Calen Manz

7/30

*Savannah Strohman &
Staussi Luiken*

June/July Computer Worship Helpers

6/04

Duhn Family

6/11

Ditch Family

6/18

Kogel Family

6/25

Hudson Family

7/2

Anderson Family

7/9

Duhn Family

7/16

Ditch Family

Communion Stewards

June 11th

Amy VerMulm

Ana Shirk

Sarah Strohman

July 2nd

Danielle Ditch

Kari Anderson

Video & Livestreaming

Keaton Duhn

June Liturgists

6/04

Michelle Kogel

6/11

Danielle Ditch

6/18

Sarah Strohman

6/25

Sarah Frederick

Sunday Offering Counters

6/04

*Karen Sargent
Shayne Kogel*

6/11

*Tony Salas
Todd Ditch*

6/18

*Cal Christensen
Greg Hoyman*

6/25

*Jim Hobart
Brian Garrels*

7/2

*Karen Sargent
Shayne Kogel*

7/9

*Troy Hall
Jodi Ward*

7/16

*Tony Salas
Todd Ditch*

7/23

*John Strohman
Dean Ver Mulm*

7/30

*Brian Garrels
Jim Hobart*



Chapters in Our Life Together

2 Vicki Ellis	12 Tara Hoch	19 Jim Hoch
3 Ken Kassel	13 Staussi Luiken	26 Brielle Luiken
5 Jennifer Meyer	Shirley Schmidt	Isaac Strohman
6 Ben Morey	14 Hannah Adams	Brenda Dow
Lois Stanley	16 Jeff Naig	28 Megan Hall
7 Hannah Noethe	Jeremy Zeigler	30 Alan Mattice
Linda Jones	17 Betty Zeigler	Robert Strohman
8 Stephanie Hudson	18 Lex Kassel	



4 Jim & Jane Stevens	17 Greg & Diane Hoyman
8 Roger & Karen Chism	19 Jeff & Lori Morey
Wade & Deb Lundgren	Chris & Kristine Soenen
10 William & Marcie Frevert	22 Dean & Amy Ver Mulm
14 Jeremy & Ann Zeigler	26 Todd & Danielle Ditch
Dave & Deb Weisbrod	27 Kyle & Jodi Shirk

Attendance May 1-21

Sunday 5/7/23 ~ 113
 Wednesday 5/10/23~ 55
 Sunday 5/14/23 ~ 86

Sunday 5/21/23 ~ 133
 Sunday 5/28/23~after
 publishing date

Thursday, June 1

1:00PM Horizon's (FLC)
7:30PM AA Meeting (FLC)

Friday, June 2

**Iowa Annual Conference in DSM*

Saturday, June 3

**Iowa Annual Conference in DSM*

Sunday, June 4

9:00AM Pastor Lana's Ordination
10:00AM Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00PM Boy Scouts (Church Basement)

**Iowa Annual Conference in DSM*

Monday, June 5

12:00PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:00PM Horizons (FLC Hall)
3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)

Tuesday, June 6

12PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:30PM Bible Study (FLC)
3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)

Wednesday, June 7

3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)
5:30PM Wednesday Worship

Thursday, June 8

1:00PM Horizon's (FLC)
3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)
7:30PM AA Meeting (FLC)

Sunday, June 11

10:00AM Worship (Sanctuary)

11:00AM Congrats/Farewell Party for Pastor Lana
6:00PM Boy Scouts (Church Basement)

Monday, June 12

12:00PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:00PM Horizons (FLC Hall)

Tuesday, June 13

12:00PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:30PM Bible Study (FLC)



Wednesday, June 14

3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)
6:30PM Finance Meeting Narthex)
7:30PM Admin Council (Narthex)

Thursday, June 15

11:30AM Trinity/PALS at Kirby's
7:30PM AA Meeting (FLC)

Sunday, June 18

10:00AM Worship (Sanctuary)

6:00PM Boy Scouts (Church Basement)

Monday, June 19

12:00PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:00PM Horizons (FLC Hall)

**Newsletter deadline*

Tuesday, June 20

12PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:30PM Bible Study (FLC)

Wednesday, June 21

3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)

Thursday, June 22

1:00PM Horizon's (FLC) 7:30PM AA Meeting (FLC)

Sunday, June 25

10:00AM Worship (Sanctuary)
6:00PM Boy Scouts (Church Basement)

Monday, June 26

9:00AM-12PM VBS Starts

1:00PM Horizons (FLC Hall)

Tuesday, June 28

9:00AM-12PM VBS
12PM Card Club (FLC-East Classrooms)
1:30PM Bible Study (FLC)

Wednesday, June 29

9:00AM-12PM VBS
3:00PM Coffee Time (Narthex)

Thursday, June 30

9:00AM-12PM VBS
1:00PM Horizon's (FLC)
7:30PM AA Meeting (FLC)

*Please contact the church office to reserve space or with questions about the schedule.
712-852-2154

2023



FIRST

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
EMMETSBURG

801 Broadway St, PO Box 99,
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

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