Monthly Newsletter
October 2026

Tidings

St. John's United Methodist Church
Davenport, Iowa

Thoughts from the Pastor

October is the month of our giving campaign. This is a special month in which I invite the congregation to consider their giving commitments for 2027.

Fall Giving Campaign for October

"The Good Shepherd leads us to a Good Life"

10/4—The Good Shepherd

10/11—Good Peace

10/18—Good Presence

10/25—The Good Life

We want all donors to be aware of the online giving option and the estimate of giving portal on the church website. You can complete an estimate of giving card here as well as donate to St. John's from wherever you are.

Commitment Sunday will be the weekend of October 24-25, 2026
As we lead up to the final weekend of October, please consider your "estimate of giving" for 2027 to St. John's and The Center. We will be mailing a card to each household in preparation for this day together.

Annual Charge Conference date: Sunday, October 11 @ 3:00pm
Location: St. John's United Methodist Church
Charge Conference, the annual business meeting of our church, is scheduled on this day together with the other churches in our "circuit." Our District Supt. Rev. Brian Oliver will be presiding. This meeting is open to anyone from the church who wants to attend. Church Council members are asked to participate and are the only voting members for this process.

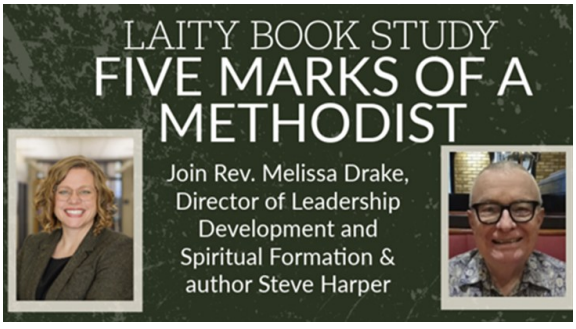
Business to be covered includes: 2027 salary for clergy, election of new church leaders, the reception of annual reports from lay leaders, lay servants, and Trustees, and setting church goals for the coming year. Our time together will end with Holy Communion.

Annual Conference zoom study with Melissa Drake & Steve Harper

Join Rev. Melissa Drake, Director of Leadership Development and Spiritual Formation, for a Laity Study on the Five Marks of a Methodist with special guest Steve Harper, author of the study!

We will be learning about and practicing the "distinguishing marks" of a Methodist. What John Wesley understood to be the foundation of discipleship that puts us on the right foot to sustain us for a lifetime of relationship with God and one another.

We will use the book *Five Marks of a Methodist* by Steve Harper, as well as the *Five Marks of a Methodist Participant Guide*. We will practice embodying these marks as our way of living in the Methodist Movement, reclaiming our joy and passion of being disciples of Jesus Christ in the world today.



When: Monday nights, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm, starting Oct. 12 - Nov. 16th

Where: Zoom link, join from anywhere you are!

Special Guest: Author Steve Harper will be joining us on Oct. 12th and Nov. 16th.

RSVP: Reach out to Pastor Jeff for the zoom link.

SPARK

Be the change and pass it on!

St. John's Christian Education and Youth Programs **October 2026**

Thanksgiving & Christmas are coming…

Here are the special activities for our Children and Youth.

November 29…
No Sunday School (Happy Thanksgiving)

December 5th…
Children and Family Christmas Bazaar @ 10am-2pm

December 6th…
Christmas Cantata @ 4pm

December 9th…
Family Caroling @ 5:30pm

December 13th...
Kid's Nativity Musical Narrative @ 9am Worship
(with distribution of nativity pieces)

December 16th…
Family Christmas Dinner@ 5:30pm

December 24th...
Join us for Christmas Eve Worship @ 1pm, 7pm, & 11pm

December 27th…
No Sunday School (Merry Christmas)

December 23rd—January 6th…
Children and Youth Programs on Break

Trunks and Treats are also needed for this event to take place. Please consider participating in this community event. Be the light!

For questions about details or ways you can get involved in our Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Contact Megan Keller

megank@stjohnsumcdav.org

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month) 5:45pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	**2** SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month)	**3** Communion World Communion Sunday 9:00am Funeral Lunch - private event 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship
4 COMMUNION World Communion Sunday 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship 2:00pm CROP WALK	**5**	**6** 1:00pm Club of '89	**7** 9:00am Bob's Bible Study 5:30pm Kids Club & Youth Group 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	**8** 5:45pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	**9** SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month)	**10** 4:30pm Girl Scout Meetings 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship
11 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship 2:00pm Cafe on Vine Prep 3:00pm Charge Conference	**12** 12:30pm Rental - Carolee Stanley 6:00pm Missions Meeting 7:00pm SPPRC	**13** 6:30am Davenport Horticulture Board 10:45am History Committee	**14** 9:00am Bob's Bible Study 11:00am UWF Luncheon in Fellowship Hall 5:30pm Kids Club & Youth Group 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	**15** 5:45pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	**16** SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month) Tidings Deadline	**17** 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship
18 Food Pantry 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship	**19** 5:00pm Trustee Meeting 6:30pm Steering Committee 7:30pm Church Council Meeting	**20** 1:30pm Deborah Circle 6:30pm Dorcas Circle	**21** 9:00am Bob's Bible Study 12:00pm Priscilla Circle 5:30pm Kids Club & Youth Group 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	**22** 8:30am Tidings Mailed 5:45pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	**23** SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month)	**24** 4:30pm Girl Scout Meetings 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship
25 9:00am Classic Worship 10:00am Learning Hour 11:00am Contemporary Worship	**26**	**27** 2:00pm Joanna Circle	**28** 9:00am Bob's Bible Study 5:30pm Kids Club & Youth Group 6:30pm Jane Lange Bible Study	**29** 5:45pm Bell choir rehearsal 7:00pm Chancel choir rehearsal	**30** SOCK-Tober Collection for The Center (all month) 8:00am Hand - in - Hand Halloween Party	**31** Reverse Offering for Thanksgiving items 4:30pm Trunk or Treat @ St. John's 5:30pm Jesus Country Worship

Mission Report –September 2026

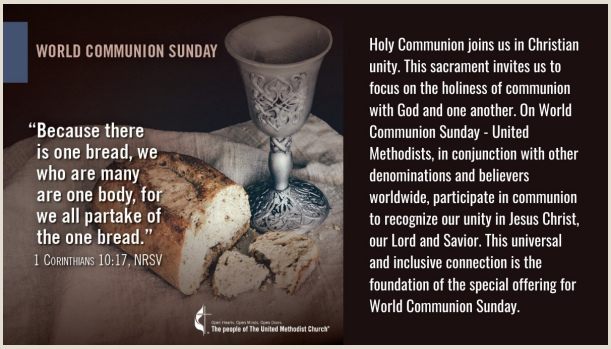
Mission Offering Report

Pastor's Fund: $1,185

St. John's Scholarship fund: $570

CROP walk donations: $360

Thank you for your generous giving!



Upcoming Mission Offerings

World Communion Sunday October 3-4

This Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for students.

September 26-27 and October 3-4: CROP WALK

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of Church World Service. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised are returned to the host community (Quad Cities) to support local hunger fighting efforts.

St. John's goal is for $2,000. You can give on Sunday mornings in the lobby at the table two weeks prior to the walk or take the online option on our church website.

Come walk with St. John's! We already have a team. See more local updates on the CROP Facebook page, **CROP Hunger Walk in the Quad Cities.**

Join our team at: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-johns-united-methodist-church-2
Contact Patrick Mahoney for questions at: Scimitar12@yahoo.com
Or Jenny Eckhardt at: officemanager@stjohnsumcdav.org

Mission Highlights

Café On Vine: St. John's volunteers prepare this meal each month on the 2nd Sunday afternoon from 2:00-3:30pm. If you wish to volunteer, you can tell us you're coming by using the link on our church website under the missions/café on vine tab.. (September volunteers pictured right)

Socktober The churches of P.U.N.C.H. are working together in support of The Center this month and invite you to bring socks of any size or color for this project. Let us seek to outdo one another in deeds of charity on behalf of those who have need in this community. Donations will be collected in the drawer marked in the Welcome Center.

Music Ministry

The Chancel Bells and Chancel Choir are beginning to prepare for the Advent/Christmas season, as well as prepare weekly musical offerings as we focus on upcoming worship themes and church-wide goals. Please feel free to join us anytime as we work to grow musically and spiritually in our time together.

The Advent/Christmas cantata is scheduled for December 6 @ 4:00pm, which will be Tapestry of Light (A Celtic Christmas Celebration) by Joseph Martin.

Beginning Sept 26th, we will have three Saturday morning rehearsals. Watch for notices about future Saturday times. This year, it will be our Hilltop Community outreach, as we have invited the First Baptist Choir to come sing with us. We hope you will too.

Remember: If you have a favorite hymn or two, please share with me, or the church office, so we can make sure we put that in worship.

- Mitzi Harrs

mitzijoh5674@gmail.com

News @ The Center

Volunteers needed to donate the following:

- **Socks**
- **Women's undergarments**
- **Singel serve Gatorade mixes**
- **Sunscreen**
- **Skin wipes**
- **Money for the lunch fund**

Or donate your time!

Volunteers are needed to help cook, clean and serve our daily lunches.

Reach The Center at (563) 323-5295.

Church Updates

Friendly Thrift News

The change of the season is here! If you are cleaning out your closet keep an eye out for these items. The Thrift currently needs: backpacks, watches, jewelry, men's clothing, especially workman's gloves and outer clothing appropriate for cooler weather.—Mission Committee

UWF (United Women in Faith)

Time to make your reservation for the **United Women in Faith Luncheon October 14 at 11:30 am.** You will not want to miss it. Make your reservation with your circle leader or by calling President, Catherine Litwinow at 563-332-8588. Reservation deadline: Monday, October 12!

In addition to visiting with other circle members, there will be a presentation by Missey Heinrichs from Empower House. She will provide information they have developed regarding brain injuries and how to cope during recovery. Organized as a "brain injury clubhouse", they deliver connections, purpose, and support for brain injury survivors so they can live fuller, more independent lives. This can be helpful to someone you know who has had a brain injury.

Reserve your place for a delicious lunch for only $5. Everyone is welcome to attend. Bring a friend, neighbor, church member, spouse, everyone. We hope to see you there! -Marilyn Lihs

Food Pantry

We went from hot to cold and rain. Mother Nature can shut the faucet off. Food collected for September was 261 items. Thanks for the snack items. Items requested from the pantry are canned pasta, macaroni and cheese, cake mixes, dry spaghetti pasta, ramen noodles and snack items. Monetary donations for August were $420 with year to date at $3,535. I know times are tough and prices have gone up, but the food pantry will take what you can give. Thank you and God Bless- Sharon Imming

Child & Family Christmas Bazaar * Rescheduled Meeting September 30th at 6pm*

As you do your fall cleanup, we need items for teens, men and boys. Our youth have suggested sports equipment. We often have electronics donated but need batteries. All ages are carrying around "stuffies" stuffed animals for us of a certain age. I see teens all the time with novelty blankets. Apparently they are better than coats?!?!? Planning is continuing. We will be exploring ways to get items we've been told are needed and ways to implement the ideas expressed at our last meeting. Stay tuned for our next meeting date in October. In order to be functional we will need volunteers prior to the Family and Children's Christmas Bazaar Dec. 5th and earlier to set up the event. Please keep those days in mind to help. For any kind of questions call Jamie at (563) 349- 4067. If I don't know the answer I will get on it.—Jamie Krueger

Misc. Info from the office

Reminder– If you would like to receive the Thursday Pastor text with upcoming weekend information please sign up on the church website toward the middle of the home page. www.stjohnsumcdav.org

ST. JOHN'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church office hours:
9AM-2PM, M-F
(563) 324-5278

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Megan Keller
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Jenny Eckhardt
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Gail McRill
Accompanist, Classic Worship Service

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On the web: www.stjohnsumcdav.org
Facebook: facebook.com/stjohnsdavenport
Instagram: instagram.com/stjohnsumcdav
YouTube: youtube.com/StJohnsUMCDav

Worship Schedule
Saturday at 5:30pm , Sundays at 9am and 11am, Sundays at 9:00 on WOC 1420am

St. John's Financial Update

The following is a summary of the church's General Fund financial position as of August 31, 2026. The year-to-date cash receipts and disbursements compared to the budget are as follows:

	Actual Year-To-Date	**Budget** Year-To-Date
Cash Receipts	597,785	575,056
Cash Disbursements	536,308	551,471
Receipts in Excess of (Less Than) Disbursements	61,477	23,585

The results have improved since last month due to a major donation received in August.

Karen Weimer, Treasurer