

September, 2025



Parish Messenger

Christ Community United Methodist Parish



A Note from Pastor Jess

People live out their faith in different ways. One person's walk with Jesus may look completely different from another person's journey with the same Jesus. How can that happen if we are all following Jesus? Shouldn't our journeys look the same once we commit to following Jesus? Not at all!

If you came to Vacation Bible School, you may remember that we discussed that everyone is called by God but not everyone is called to the same task. This means that our discipleship, the way we live out our faith, is not going to look identical to anyone else's discipleship. But there may be similarities.

For the Gospel Discipleship Series, everyone will be answering questions to figure out which model of discipleship describes them best and we are using the gospels to identify/define the models. Within our holy scripture, we have four Gospels that each tell the story of Jesus a little differently. While they agree on many things, they also diverge from each other on a few things. Each gospel has its own emphasis and way of communicating the life and teachings of Jesus. One gospel likes to leave things to mystery and focus very little on the teachings of Jesus. One gospel includes parables not found in the other three. One gospel connects Jesus to Old Testament scripture frequently. One gospel offers more commentary or explanation of events.

We will spend some time exploring the emphases of each gospel and how those emphases correspond to different types of disciples. You may be surprised to find which discipleship path speaks the most to you or maybe you will confirm what you already knew about your walk with Jesus. Hopefully this sermon series will help you not only grow in your walk but also help you better understand those who are following the same Savior in a different way.

In order to do this in an authentic way, your pastors and two others from our clergy circuit will be speaking on the gospel discipleship with which they align (it may be their primary or secondary type as some closely aligned with two). During the series those who gather for worship will hear from Kasey Vogel from the Lamoni-Davis City UMCs speak on Markan Discipleship, me speak on Matthean Discipleship, Tim on Lukan Discipleship, and Linda Hoover from the Redding-Middle Fork- Mt Ayr UMCs on Johannine Discipleship.

Please be in prayer for the churches involved and for the four pastors who will find themselves in ten different churches during the series!

Peace and blessings, Pastor Jess

September Birthdays

2—Sawyer Dithrow, Pat Perkins
 5—Kinser Wallace
 9—Christian Rockhold, Jill Runyon
 14—Krista Snow
 18—Julie Fry
 19—Judy Shields
 20—Jane Pershy, Gary Runyon
 21—Susan Henderson
 23—Linda McCarty, Brenda Thomas
 26—Mike Boggs, Doris Pollock, Kristy Sheriff
 28—Lenora Couchman
 29—Troy Arnold
 30—Lillian & Dean Ellis



September Anniversaries

3—Clarence & Missy Petty
 4—Jim & Judy Shields
 14—Dennis & Linda Thomas, Brent & Judy Werts
 21—Charles & Tasha Bailey
 28—Mike & Tanya Boggs

New Zion UMC Bread of Life Retreat

September 13, 2025, Beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Come, hear of the Bread of Life, Jesus Christ as we reflect upon scripture.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good. The Women of the New Zion United Methodist Church invite the parish to join them on September 13th at 9:00 a.m. to participate in a retreat. The theme for the day will be "Bread of Life."

The day will begin with preparing bread for the oven, while it is proofing we will hear speakers, sing songs, and enjoy fellowship. We will conclude with a salad luncheon and of course fresh bread! (There will be a gluten free option.)

Please join us as we are nourished by the Bread of Life, you are welcome to bring friends and family.

Free Ice Cream Floats

Corydon UMC will be serving ice cream floats in front of the church Friday afternoon September 26 for Wayne Homecoming. Watch announcements for time for helpers to appear.

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.

Lineville UMC Campout, Free Breakfast & Outdoor Worship

September 13—gather around the campfire as the sunsets. Pastor Jess & Tim will have their 9 square in the air game set up

September 14—Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at the shelter house; Worship at 9:45 a.m.

Our campout, breakfast, and worship services have provided an opportunity for us to connect with one another and with people we might not find inside the church on Sunday morning. Jesus met people where they were, so we try to do likewise.



ATTENDANCE

<u>August</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>24</u>
Allerton	13	20	11	18
Corydon	37	30	~	37
Lineville	17	14	14	15
Millerton	13	19	13	11
New Zion	25	25	23	22
Total	105	108	61	103

Average parish attendance for August was 94. (Note: Corydon UMC did not have service on August 17 in order to attend the community service for Old Settlers.)



Row 1: Millerton Breakfast—Pastor Jess office hours at Allerton UMC
Row 2 Prayer Shawls— Candle lighters at Lineville UMC
Row 3 Left and Row 4: UWF served Wayne School Breakfast
Row 3 Right: Candle lighters at Allerton UMC





VBS
Lessons,
Food,
Fun &
Games



Tim's Thoughts

As I look back over the past month, and look ahead to the month to come, I find myself thinking about the theme for our parish Vacation Bible School, "God Calls You." It is a little hard to believe, but VBS did take place less than a month ago. It was loads of fun for everyone, and I enjoyed bringing the Bible stories to life for the kids and adults. The first night we did the story of Sarah and Abraham being called to be the parents of a great nation, and we discussed how you can never be too old or too young for God to call you. The second night was Moses being called by God from the burning bush. Moses gave excuse after excuse as to why it shouldn't be him, but God called him anyhow and promised to have his brother help speak for him when he stammered. This showed us that when God calls us to do something, God will provide help if we need it and ensure that we can overcome every obstacle to do what God is calling us to do. On the final night, we heard Jesus call the fisherman Simon Peter and then Levi the tax collector. We discussed how no one wanted to spend time with fishermen in those days, because they smelled so bad, and how all people really hated tax collectors as well. But this goes to show us that God can and will call anyone. No matter what we do, God can still call us; and no matter what anyone else does, we should not judge because God may be calling them as well. While I was a little sad I didn't get to play any of the games or do any crafts, it was great to see everyone considering all of the ways God can call us.



As we head into September and back to school, I am thinking about all of the possible paths ahead of us this school year, and wondering what God is calling each of us to. The young kids still trying to find their own identities, the young adults planning to graduate soon and considering what future careers they may be called to, and all of the adults helping the kids along while still trying to navigate all the complexities of their own paths. Because no matter how young or old we may be, our paths are not set. God is still calling to each of us, encouraging us to push ourselves and try something new. As we enter this time of seasonal change and the rhythms and busyness of our lives shift, be sure you are taking the time to slow down and listen for God's call. You may be surprised where God leads you, but when you look back it will be clear it is where you were always meant to be.

Blessings, Tim

Thank You!

I thank God for all the churches and people who helped make Vacation Bible School a blessing for all who participated. It takes a lot to pull this wonderful ministry together.

This year VBS took place at the Lineville UMC. We had our five parish churches as well as three churches from Lineville involved. The Lineville Fire Department was kind enough to let us borrow their bounce house on our final evening. Over the course of the three days, there were 29 helpers and 44 attendees of all ages! The offering collected at VBS (and a little came in later) was \$357.32 and will go toward unpaid lunch bills at four schools: Mercer, Mormon Trail, Seymour, and Wayne.

We are rotating Vacation Bible School between the parish churches that would like to host it on their property. The plan is to have it at the Millerton UMC next year as they will be celebrating 35 years at their current location! I hope you continue to support this amazing parish ministry no matter where it is held!

Again, thank you for making VBS such a blessing! - Pastor Jess



Corydon UMC Brunch Worship

September 7, 2025, during our 10:45 a.m. worship time we will have a pot luck brunch. Our first brunch worship went so well that we had requests to do it again. Jesus spent time in worship, in prayer, and around the table, so it is a faithful way to spend our time together.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 	2 Pastor's Circuit Meeting	3 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am Martha Circle 9:30 Joanna Circle 1:00	4 Holy Holiness Yoga 3:30	5 Allerton UMC deliver Mobile Meals	6 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
7 Communion & Aid & Assist. Corydon UMC Brunch J-C & M T-AL& N	8 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	9 Prayer Shawl 9:30 at Corydon UMC	10	11 Blood Drive 12:20 to 5:00 Corydon Ad Council 1:30 Holy Holiness Yoga 3:30	12 Quilt at Lineville UMC 2:00	13 Retreat at New Zion 9:00 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
					Lineville Camp Out Sept. 12 & 13	
14 Lineville Camp Out Breakfast at Moore Gosch Park Kasey -C & M T-AL& N	15 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	16 Pastor Jess & Tim Professional Interviews	17 Men's Breakfast at Corydon UMC 7:00 am	18 Food Truck at Allerton 2:00 Holy Holiness Yoga 3:30 Parish Council at Lineville 5:30	19 Chapel at Corydon Specialty Care 11:00	20 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
21 Communion Allerton World Fair Worship 6:00 Lorinda-C & M J-AL& N	22 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	23 UWF at Corydon at 1:30	24 Last Week Supper 5:00 to 6:00 & Planning Meeting	25 Holy Holiness Yoga 3:30	26 Quilt at Lineville UMC 2:00 Homecoming at Wayne Corydon UMC serve floats after parade	27 St. Francis Mass 6:30 pm
28 Food Pantry J-C & M Kasey-AL& N	29 Community Coffee at Millerton 7:30	30				

The schedule is subject to change



United Methodist Church
213 W. Jackson
Corydon, IA 50060

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Corydon, Iowa

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Parish Office

Hours: 8-2 Tuesday—Thursday

Telephone: 641-872-1569

Web: www.christcommumparish.com

Facebook: Christ Community United

Methodist Parish Corydon, Iowa

Senior Pastor

Jessica Rockhold Gaul

jessrockhold@gmail.com

Cell: 515-480-4611

Associate

Timothy Gaul

timothygaul@gmail.com

319-541-3393

Supportive Care Pastor

Diane Olson Schroeder

schroed@iowatelecom.net

Home: 641-877-8851 Cell: 641-203-6060

Parish Secretary

Becky Feters—coryumc@grm.net

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

Millerton

Worship 9:00

New Zion

Sunday School 9:45 ~ Worship 11:00