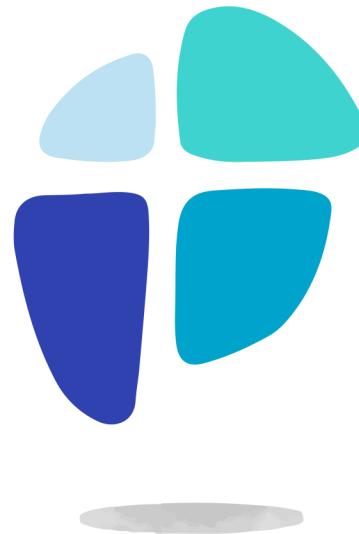


waukee

United Methodist



MARKING THE FOUNDATION

CLAIMING OUR NEW MINISTRY CENTER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

We invite you to join us for a very special event on Sunday, February 12 as we go into our new church facility and mark the foundation for God's kingdom. From about 10:30-11:30 AM, following in-person worship at South Middle School, we'll travel over to our new ministry center and write on the unfinished cement floor in the central Fellowship Hall as well as in the Sanctuary multipurpose room.

You're welcome to write a scripture, prayer, or blessing for our congregation and sign your name or even write the names of former members who have been part of our journey. Before the unfinished floor is covered by the new carpeting and the athletic floor (it will look like a gray wood floor), we have this opportunity to weave prayers and scriptures into the fabric of the new ministry center.

For instance, you could write the blessing intended for God's people found in Numbers 6: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace." Or, you could write Jesus' great commandment to love God and neighbor (Matthew 22:37-39) or Jesus' great commission to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Scriptures verses would be very appropriate, but you may choose to offer, in your own words, a prayer or blessing for our congregation.

Please take some time to prepare. How would you bless the church? How would you pray for the church? What encouragement or commission would you give to the church? It will be wonderful to spend time looking at what everyone has written. We're planting the flag of God's kingdom and claiming our new ministry center in the name of Jesus as a mission outpost or embassy.

Markers will be provided to write on the floor, however, you are welcome to bring your own if you don't want to wait while we share them. Please note: we will only write on the floor of the fellowship hall (entrance narthex) and the multipurpose room where we will gather for worship. We won't be able to write anywhere else and especially, of course, not on any walls.

This will also be an opportunity to see how close we are to the completion of construction. We're hoping to move in during March and to have a grand opening at Easter time.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Join us Sunday, February 12 after worship to mark the foundations of our building
- Ash Wednesday Service s February 22 at 7:30 PM
- Disciple Fast Track will be starting soon
- We continue the Daniel worship series in February



STATE OF THE CHURCH

This past year was an important part of our journey. We continued worshiping in interim space at South Middle School and utilizing the Waukee Community Center during the week for youth and children's ministries.

We broke ground March 27 at new location, 2075 SE LA Grant Parkway in Waukee. After much infrastructure work, the building took shape vertically in the summer. Greg Ruble has provided amazing pictures and summaries on Facebook for us all to see progress.

In September Drew Klein joined our excellent staff team as our Discipleship Director, overseeing the opportunities for children, youth, families, and adults to grow in their faith and become more like Jesus.

On October 23 we held a Celebration Sunday Worship and Dinner at Country Lane Lodge for our Life Together Stewardship Appeal and 150th Celebration. The next day our Cinema Ad began showing three times before every showtime of every movie at The Palms Theatres.

Our giving grew 10% this past year, thanks to the faithful generosity of the congregation. We were thrilled to receive a \$500,000 grant from the W.T. and Edna M. Dahl Trust for our new ministry center. And we ended the year with a gain of \$17,000, giving us a good start on cash for 2023. That's important as we approved a "leap of faith" budget expansion of almost 25% this next year.

Where we've been and where we're headed

This past year 4 members died, 1 transferred to another church, and we received 15 new members, including 7 confirmation students. Of these 15 new members, 9 were by profession of faith. We also celebrated 2 baptisms. Baptisms and professions of faith are key indicators, showing us how many new Christians we are reaching and connecting to the church.

Our worship attendance in-person at South Middle School averaged 111. When we include the online views the number jumps to 218.

The Outreach Team held some wonderful events. We had a food truck in May and renewed the Fall Festival in September as well as the Gingerbread House event in December.

Our mission projects include providing the Trinity meal, reading with students to Change a Child's Story, and partnering with the Waukee Area Christian Services.

We have much happening quickly now. On February 12 we will go over to our new site after worship and write on the unfinished cement before the final flooring is installed. We'll mark the foundation with scriptures, prayers, and blessings.

We hope to move into the new building during Spring Break week, March 12-19 and celebrate our first worship gathering in the new space on Sunday, March 19. That's not finalized yet and might not happen until March 26. We're calling this a "soft launch." That means we'll move in and begin using the new facility, making sure everything is working well and ready for new guests. We're planning on a grand opening on Easter Sunday, April 9. We're working on a large outreach campaign, including a direct mail piece to 5000 homes, prayer walking through neighborhoods, door hangers, personal invitations, a new cinema ad in the movie theatres, a social media campaign, and a news release to community outlets.

What an adventure; God is on the move. Hang on!

Grace and peace to you,

John Louk



FEBRUARY CALENDAR

1	W	6:00 PM	Kids of God
		6:45 PM	Children and Youth Meal
		7:15 PM	Youth Group
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
2	Th	7:00 PM	Thursday Evening Women's Group
5	Su	8:30 AM	Sunday School
		9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
			Communion Sunday
7	Tu	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
8	W	9:00 AM	United Women of Faith
		6:00 PM	KoG
		6:45 PM	Children and Youth Meal
		7:15 PM	Youth Group
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
9	Th	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
12	Su	8:30 AM	Sunday School
		9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
		10:30 AM	Sign the Floors Event
13	M	10:00 AM	Prayer Shawl
15	W	6:00 PM	KoG
		6:45 PM	Children and Youth Meal
		7:15 PM	Youth Group
		7:15 PM	Choir Rehearsal
16	Th	11:30 AM	Lunch Bunch
		6:30 PM	Ad Board
		7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal
19	Su	8:30 AM	Sunday School
		9:30 AM	Sunday Worship
20	M	5:30 PM	Finance
		7:00 PM	Trustees
21	Tu	11:00 AM	Staff Meeting
		6:30 PM	SPRT
22	W	6:15 PM	Children and Youth Meal
		7:30 PM	Ash Wednesday Service
23	Th	7:30 PM	Band Rehearsal

BUILDING UPDATE

It's hard to believe that in another month we will be getting ready to move into our new church home. During January, a lot of finish work was accomplished. All of the cabinets were installed, counter tops in the classroom area were placed, all the carpeting in the classrooms and offices was laid, the garage was erected, acoustical spray on the ceiling of the sanctuary was completed, and restrooms are being finished.

There is a lot to do during February - counter tops in the kitchen and narthex, clouds in the narthex and sanctuary, movable partitions in the classroom area, installation of double doors at our south and west entries, the doors leading into the sanctuary from the narthex, carpeting in the narthex and sanctuary, all of the AV equipment, the stage needs to be built, and the list goes on and on. It is going to be an amazing month.



Classroom area



26 Su 8:30 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Sunday Worship

27 M 10:00 AM Prayer Shawl

FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS

Dixie Indra	5
Weston Schrodt	6
Fletcher Kemp	8
Todd Holland	8
Jayne Venard	9
John Louk	9
Madison Gross	10
Maddie Allen	11
Theresa Swaim	11
Trey Corrigan	11
Larry McDowell	12
Lucy Hovda	17
Mason Gross	19
Madeline Chilton	20
Grayson Holland	21
Mark & Cyndi Craigmile	22
Roger Kerndt	22
Randy & Kim Olson	23
Kibby Sparks	23
Brenda Brock	25
Jennifer Senne	25
Donna Embree	25
Scott Baumeister	27
Amy Schrodt	28

BOOK TALK

Our winter Book Talk group will be discussing The Girl Who Wrote in Silk, written by Kelli Estes, at 2:00 PM on Monday, February 20, at Ann and Greg Ruble's home. This bestseller, based on true events, is described as a dual time period novel that tells how one delicate piece of silk can connect the past with the present, reminding us that what we do today influences both the present, as well as the future. Read the book, join in the discussion and stay for dessert!

LUNCH BUNCH

The Third Thursday Lunch Bunch will meet in the north party room at the Pizza Ranch February 16 at 11:30. The food will make your tummy happy and the fellowship will make your heart happy. Not a bad deal!



UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH

The next meeting for UWF will be Wednesday, February 8th at 9:00 AM at the parsonage. The hostesses are Michal Bylund and Dixie Indra. Ann Ruble will lead the devotions. Lauren Kratz will do a presentation on Trinity.



DISCIPLE FAST TRACK

Disciple Fast Track is a 24-week Bible study which explores the developing understanding of the nature of God as revealed in the Old and New Testaments. The study group will examine the Old Testament at twelve weekly meetings from February into May and the New Testament from September into December. The class meets at the parsonage on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm, beginning February 16. Rev. Bob Ward is facilitating. If you are interested in participating, contact Drew Klein at drew@waukeechurch.org (319-429-5062). Sign ups will end February 8th.



Small groups are important to our spiritual health.

GET ON BOARD WITH ROOSEVELT ANDRE CREDIT

Roosevelt André Credit will be in concert and leading worship at First United Methodist Church in Des Moines February 11-12. The concert is on Saturday, February 11 at 4:00 PM and worship will be Sunday, February 12 at 10:30 AM. Roo is an actor and musician known for his work in Porgy and Bess on Broadway and with the Metropolitan Opera. He also sang on the soundtrack for Twelve Years a Slave. Find more information at First UMC's website dmfirstchurch.org



WE ARE BUILDING!

Until our new Worship Center is complete on LA Grant Parkway in Waukee, we invite you to worship with us in person on **Sundays at 9:30 AM** at our temporary location at **South Middle School**.

You can also find our worship service at **waukeechurch.life, Facebook, or YouTube**.

DANIEL: A COURT TALE

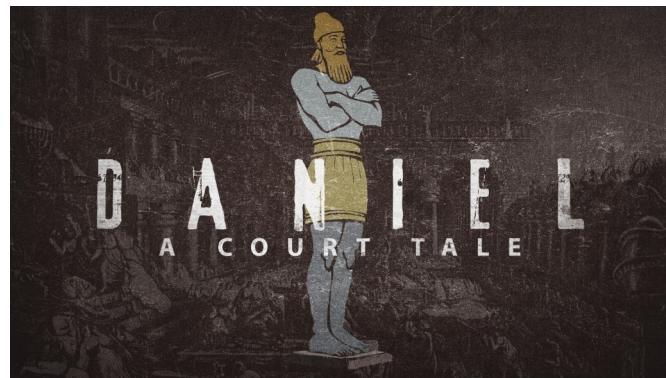
In February, we continue in ordinary time and conclude our worship series, Daniel.

Feb 5 Daniel 5:1-7 — Handwriting on the wall

Feb 12 Daniel 6:1-9 — Daniel in the lions' den

Feb 19 Daniel 7:1-14 — Daniel's dream (by the power and justice of God, the last and lasting word is life)

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We'll gather to receive the Imposition of Ashes at 7:30 PM at the Community Center. February 26 is the First Sunday in Lent, and we'll begin a new worship series on encounters with Jesus.



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