



## Route 55 Newsletter | March 2025

Orchard Friends,

Spring is in the air – well, it's BLOWING in the air! Is this considered coming in as a lion? Let's hope it goes out like a lamb!

With Spring comes LENTEN LUNCHEs and we've got an excellent line up of speakers including several guests from partner churches. Our line-up and other details are located on page 3 of this newsletter. While the Route 55 team serves as hosts, these events are community-wide and folks of all ages and denominations are welcome. In fact, we encourage you to invite your friends and neighbors for a nice lunch, some Christian fellowship, and an inspiring message to help prepare our hearts for Easter.

I am SO ENCOURAGED by the number of friends who have stepped up to make soups, provide desserts and to help with set-up, greeting, serving and clean-up. This is a rather labor-intensive endeavor and we are so very grateful for everyone's participation. There are still spots available, so please contact me if you would like to help - even if it's just for one week. Thank you!

Orchard Hill ladies are organizing a monthly breakfast like the men have done for some time now. Women's Breakfast will be the *first* Friday of the month and our inaugural event is at 6:30am THIS FRIDAY, March 7. Join us! Contact Hailey Fienup with questions or if you would like to get involved.

Finally, our friend, Jean Gedlinske has played a huge role in the Route 55 Ministry and continues to mentor and remain an active participant. We thought you would appreciate knowing SHE'S A GRANDMA! And an extremely proud and happy one! Her son Gabe and his wife Hannah welcomed Benjamin Mark Gedlinske to the world on February 21. He is perfect in every way. Congratulations Jean, Brian and the entire family!

Grace and Peace,

*Kim Manning*



## RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Our Annual Comedy Club in the Commons event attracted a good crowd.



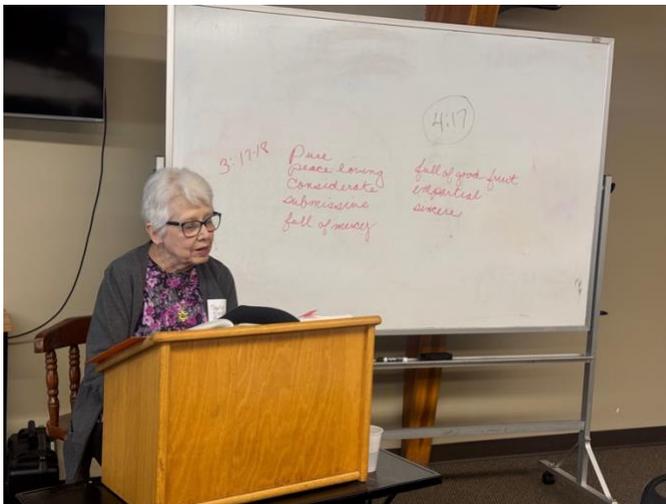
Attendees were treated to light refreshments and silly dad jokes.



A Dry Bar comedy show featuring Jeff Allen was streamed for the enjoyment of all. It was a fun time with lots of laughter!



Wes Poley, Jack Ackerman, Wayne Graves and Roger Gast participate in Ed Baker's study of Genesis: The Story of Abraham and Isaac.



Sally shares insights during her study of James, entitled Real Faith in Real Time.



Route 55 ladies gathered weekly for Bible study. Both Ed and Sally will offer one more session on March 6. Join us!

## FEATURED EVENTS



Orchard Hill  
**JOIN US FOR**  
**Lenten Lunch**

### Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays for six weeks, beginning March 5

11:30am-12:20pm meal - \$5 suggested donation

OHC Commons

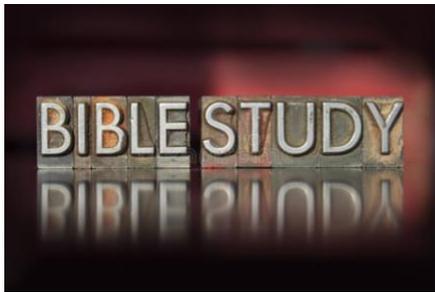
12:20pm-1pm Devotion

OHC Sanctuary

No need to sign up for the meal. Simply join us for soup, bread and dessert followed by a special Lenten devotion provided by a variety of guest speakers. The schedule is as follows:

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| March 5  | Rendi Scholten will speak about the significance of Ash Wednesday and distribute ashes in honor of the day. |
| March 12 | Pastor Susan Ney, Grief Support Coordinator, First United Methodist Church                                  |
| March 19 | Pastor Nathan Huisman, Hope Reformed Church, Parkersburg  |
| March 26 | Chris Henely  |
| April 2  | Pastor Enrique Ochoa, Western Home Communities  |
| April 9  | Pastor Tim Boettger, Nazareth Lutheran Church   |

Enrich the experience by joining in to help make soup or desserts and/or helping with hospitality and clean-up. If you can volunteer, please sign-up in the Route 55 binder or contact Kim at 319-231-1619, [kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org). Thank you!



### Route 55 Bible Study

Thursday, March 6, 1pm

OHC Commons

Pastor Ed and Sally Baker will each lead us through a special Bible Study.

Sally's topic, entitled **Real Faith in Real Time** will explore how the book of James offers a powerful and practical picture of what it means to live out our Christian faith and how knowing Jesus can enable us to live our lives to the full in a broken world.

Pastor Ed will discuss **Genesis: The Story of Abraham and Isaac**.

Please note we will gather together in the Commons for fellowship and refreshments from 1pm to 1:15pm and then break into study groups from 1:15pm to approximately 2pm.



### Second Sunday Senior Socials

Sunday, March 9, between worship services

OHC Commons

Join us for coffee, conversation and pastries every 'Second Sunday'. In addition to providing important fellowship, we hope to create awareness of Route 55 and Connect & Care opportunities to members of the church who have not yet participated. We will appreciate your help spreading the word by inviting friends. No reservations are necessary, although we are seeking volunteers to bring fruit or pastries.



**Route 55 Monthly Lunches are suspended during Lent and will resume in May.**

**Wednesday, May 14, 11:30am**

**Restaurant to be determined**

Join us for lunch at a local restaurant on the second Wednesday of each month. Ladies *and* gentlemen are welcome. Please reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email [kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org), or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare for us.

## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES**

### **WEEKLY**

#### **Wednesday Walks**

**Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30pm**

*Pfeiffer Park*

Get outside with friends and walk the trails. This friendly group makes an hour of exercise go by almost without notice! All abilities are welcome and no one is ever left behind. To learn more including weather-related announcements, contact Jean Gedlinske, [gedlinskejean@gmail.com](mailto:gedlinskejean@gmail.com), 319-486-1340.

#### **Quilting Ministry**

**Weekly on Thursdays, 9am-11am**

*Orchard Hill Church Room 111*

Contact Kim Manning at [kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org) or 319-231-1619.

#### **Zoom Social Hour**

**Weekly on Thursdays, 11am-Noon**

*Virtual*

Contact Sarah Hess for a link at [shess@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:shess@orchardhillchurch.org), 319-596-6223.

### **MONTHLY**

#### **Women's Breakfast**

**Friday, March 7, 6:30am**

*OHC Commons*

NEW! Women's Monthly Breakfast creates a space for women to connect with God, Scripture, and one another no matter their season of life. Additional information is at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org) or Hailey Fienup at [hfienu@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:hfienu@orchardhillchurch.org).

#### **Waverly Mobile Food Pantry**

**Tuesday, March 11, 4:30pm**

*Waverly Civic Center, 200 1<sup>st</sup> St. NE, Waverly*

Volunteers from area churches help the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by unloading the truck, arranging the food, assisting with distribution, carrying bags and boxes to vehicles and cleaning up. Additional details at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org).

### **Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew**

**Wednesday, March 12 and 26, 9:30am**

*Grundy County Campus Lobby*

All women are invited for coffee and conversation. Bring your own snack and drink and enjoy a casual time of belonging in community and friendship that generally lasts for 1 ½ hours. Come when you can and leave when you must.

### **Community Meal**

**Wednesday, March 12, 5:30pm**

*OHC Commons*

Join us the second Wednesday of the month anytime between 5:30pm and 6:30pm for a free meal and belonging in community. Volunteers are needed. Please see [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org) for additional information and to make your reservation.

### **Habitat for Humanity Build**

**Saturday, March 15, 8:30am-3:30pm,**

*Waterloo*

OHC hosts a Habitat build every third Saturday. Volunteers work alongside a Habitat employee and need absolutely no previous experience. Additional information is at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org). Half-day shifts are also available.

### **Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry**

**Tuesday, March 18, 4:15pm**

*Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center*

Volunteers from area churches help the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by unloading the truck, arranging the food, assisting with distribution, carrying bags and boxes to vehicles and cleaning up. Additional details at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org).

### **Men's Breakfast**

**Friday, March 28, 6:30am**

*OHC Commons*

Men's Monthly Breakfast is a great opportunity to connect with other guys and have an awesome breakfast. Additional information is at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org) or contact Jeff Burris at [jsb800m@gmail.com](mailto:jsb800m@gmail.com).

### **Grundy Men's Breakfast**

**Friday, March 28, 6:30am**

*Grundy County Lobby & Coffee House*

Men's Monthly Breakfast is a great opportunity to connect with other guys and have an awesome breakfast. Additional information is at [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://OrchardHillChurch.org).

## **SHORT TERM GROUPS**

### **Engage the Bible: Parables (CF)**

**Sundays, March 2 to April 6, 10:30am**

*OHC CF location to be determined*

This short-term small group will focus on the parables from Sunday morning teachings. See [OrchardHillChurch.org/groups](http://OrchardHillChurch.org/groups) or contact Jess or Dave Hansen for additional information.

## **Immerse Class**

**Tuesdays, March 3 to April 29, 11:30am**

*Try Pie Classroom, downtown Waterloo, 522 Mulberry*

This class is a collaboration of Habitat for Humanity and CCCDA and it provides insights for how we do missions at Orchard. All are welcome. See [OrchardHillChurch.org/groups](https://OrchardHillChurch.org/groups) or contact Molly Juza at [mjuza@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:mjuza@orchardhillchurch.org) to join or for additional information.

See [OrchardHillChurch.org](https://OrchardHillChurch.org) for additional news and events. You may also want to check out the Community Groups section as there are lots of fun offerings!

## **OTHER NEWS**

If you missed last month's announcement about our **Puzzle Exchange**, here it is again. Check out the top shelves of the OHC library in Room 111. A variety of gently used puzzles are on display and available to exchange or borrow. There are no forms to fill out and no deadlines for returning them. Simply bring in a puzzle to exchange or borrow one and return it when you are finished.

**Proud Image Chorus** will present their Spring Show on Saturday, April 12th at 3pm at Waterloo West High School. The theme is "America and Harmony" More details will be forthcoming soon.