



## Route 55 Newsletter | January 2025

Orchard Friends,

Happy New Year! How long will it take me to stop saying and writing 2024 and change to 2025? Probably around October! We are looking forward to discovering new ways to serve God and grow deeper in our faith, together with you.

Before we move on to 2025, I want to thank our outstanding Route 55 Planning Team. They gather every other month to help plan activities and events for YOU. They also help host these events. **Pam and Chuck Frost** serve on this committee *and* cook for many OHC funerals and gatherings. **Lois and Larry Nanke, Marilyn Jasper, Keith Van Hauen, Janet Fischer, Gene Richardson** and **Kathy Dawson** are also regular, valuable contributors. Thank you. We want to thank **Donna Pohl** for making copious amounts of Cherry Stuffed French Toast, and **Stewart Fluent** and **Ken Foss** for jumping in to help wash dishes during our recent Christmas Celebration. **Sheila De Vries** helped serve our meal, and **Kathrine** and **Elizabeth Krukow** and **Sarah Hess** were a big help, serving wherever they were needed. **Ann Barry** was everywhere in December, decorating for the Christmas Celebration and helping **Sarah Hess** plan a very successful Carol Sing. Thank you to **Sarah Rueber** for helping with the planning too, and **Karen Dowel** for baking, singing and playing the piano. Wow! It takes a village, doesn't it? And we have one! What a blessing!

One final thing, mark your calendars for our third annual Comedy Club event at 4pm on Saturday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We are still previewing various standup comedy routines for this event. If you have ideas, please don't hesitate to share!

Grace and Peace,

*Kim Manning*



Mom's Morning Out and Route 55 partnered to Carol at Western Home Communities to the delight of all involved. Thank you, Sarah Hess, for planning this fun outing.



After singing a few songs, Slater Winkey gives Santa a big Christmas hug!

## RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



The Cedar River Readers perform several holiday stories during the Route 55 Christmas Celebration.



Santa Claus and Elizabeth and Kathrine Krukow arrive to the party in a Boogie Woogie Choo Choo Train!



Our Christmas Celebration included good company, good food, fun entertainment, and even a few games.



Santa wrapped up the party spreading cheer throughout the room.



Marvin Eiklenborg, Wayne Graves, Gene Richardson and Bob Manning enjoy a Monthly Lunch at Pattons.



Esther Eiklenborg, Janet Fischer, Connie Collingwood, Sheila DeVries, Marilyn Graves and Sarah Hess round out the ladies' table.



Thank you to Ann Barry (left), Karen Dowel (center), and Juliette and Jonah Crouch (right) for sharing your gifts of musicianship during the social time of our Carol Sing. Aleesa Smith and Ana Aguilar (not pictured) also performed.



Thank you to Sarah Hess and all involved in putting a lovely and meaningful service together, celebrating Christmas with Carols, Scripture, Communion and fellowship.

## FEATURED EVENTS



### Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, January 8, 11:30am

Highway 63 Diner, 3030 Marnie Ave., Waterloo

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.



## Second Sunday Senior Socials

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**Sunday, January 12, 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.



### Comedy Club at the Commons

**Saturday, January 25, 4pm**

OCH Commons

Everyone needs a chuckle in January, so join us for this fun event! Our comedian is yet to be determined (it will be a video) so watch our weekly emails for additional details. We are open to ideas, so please share some if you have them! *Additional fun and frivolity are planned* so come and spend an hour and a half or two with us. Light snacks and soda will be provided. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP by contacting Kim Manning at 319-231-1619 or [kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org). All are welcome as we focus on building community, consider bringing the neighbors!

## OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

### Starting Point

**Weekly for 8 weeks, beginning Sunday, January 12, 6pm to 7:30pm**

*Cedar Falls Campus*

Starting Point is a place where no question or discussion is off limits. This is an opportunity to explore faith freely with a group of adults whose questions about God turn into a conversation about faith. Everybody's faith has a different starting point. Regardless of where you are in your journey, this group is for you. Join the group or contact hosts Steve and Linda Johnson clicking on [OrchardHillChurch.org/Groups](http://OrchardHillChurch.org/Groups).

### Leadership Huddle

**Saturday, January 18, 8am**

*OHC Community Center*

All Campuses are invited to join us for worship, prayer and spiritual focus; for connection with other Orchard leaders and team members; and to encourage and inspire one another as we celebrate stories of God at work. A continental breakfast begins at 8am and the huddle will take place from 8:30am until noon.

### Get to Know: Orchard Hill Church

**Weekly for 2 weeks, beginning Tuesday, January 21, 6pm to 7:30pm**

*Cedar Falls Campus*

Whether you're new to Orchard Hill, have been with us for a while, or simply have questions about who we are, we invite you to join this class. Details can be found at [OrchardHillChurch.org/events](http://OrchardHillChurch.org/events).

## **Grundy County Route 55 Breakfast at Mean Jean's**

**Wednesday, January 22, 9:30am**

*2201 Commerce Dr., Grundy Center*

## **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**

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

**Wednesday, January 8, 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, January 8, 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.

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

**Tuesday, January 14, 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 Mobile Food Pantry**

**Tuesday, January 21, 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, January 24, 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).

### **Habitat for Humanity Build**

**Saturday, January 25, 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 Men's Breakfast**

**Friday, January 31, 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).

See [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://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!