



Route 55 Newsletter | April 2025

Orchard Friends,

We're half way through the Lenten season and it has been an honor and a privilege to work with so many great volunteers to host **Lenten Lunches**. If you haven't yet attended or volunteered to greet, serve, clean-up or bring a dessert, I highly recommend it. Working together to provide experiences for our friends and ourselves that bring deeper meaning and connection as we journey through the Lenten season is something you will appreciate being a part of. Three more opportunities are ahead, so join us! Please be aware that, due to an early March snow storm, we will extend into Holy Week, hosting our final lunch on Wednesday, April 16. You may also be interested to know we'll be serving PIE!

Coming up very quickly after Easter is our **Spring Hymn Sing**, scheduled for Sunday, May 4, in the Sanctuary at 2pm. Sarah Hess is gathering ideas for special hymns and Scripture readings, so if you have an idea or a special request, please direct them her way. We can also use help in leading the songs, serving Communion, and preparing desserts to be served afterwards. Sarah can be reached at shess@orchardhillchurch.org or 319-266-6355.

We'll be planning the summer's **monthly hiking schedule** and destinations soon. New ideas are welcome so please reach out if you'd like to make a suggestion or join the planning team.

Grace and Peace,

Kim Manning

RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Helen Ackerman and Kay Clements bring Alda Frey's 22-pound cat by for a visit and the biggest challenge of the day was to keep her from hiding under the bed! Oh, and Kay could use some wheels on her cat carrier! What a load! A fun time with good friends, to be sure!



Our March Second Sunday gathering was especially fun with approximately 50 friends in attendance! Join us for the next one on Sunday, April 13th.



Kevin Zabel and Rhonda Knudsen discuss pan-drying techniques during clean-up at a recent Lenten Lunch.



Chris Iehl is introduced to Wes Poly's trusty dish brush, a staple among the tools required to host a proper Lenten Lunch.



Wayne and Marilyn Graves and Janet Fischer are ready to serve up some soup!



New friends from First United Methodist Church join us for most lunches.



From left to right: Tim Walsten begins our time of worship with a few songs that are enjoyed by participants of all ages. Then Rendi Scholten (week one), Nathan Huisman (week two), and Chris Henely (week three), provide inspirational devotions to help prepare us for Easter.

FEATURED EVENTS



Showing of *The Chosen* – Season 5

Mondays, time varies – see below

Crossroads Cinema, 2450 Crossroads Blvd., Waterloo

Meet Route 55 friends in the lobby at the theater to view the latest season of this compelling series. We'll gather on Monday's for three weeks to view all three parts of Season 5.

March 31	3:30pm	Season 5, The Last Supper, Part 1
April 7	3:50pm	Season 5, The Last Supper, Part 2
April 14	4:10pm	Season 5, The Last Supper, Part 3



Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays

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:

April 2	Pastor Enrique Ochoa, Western Home Communities
April 9	Pastor Tim Boettger, Nazareth Lutheran Church
April 16	Pastor Susan Ney, Grief Coordinator, First United Methodist 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. Thank you!



Second Sunday Senior Socials

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Sunday, April 13, 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.

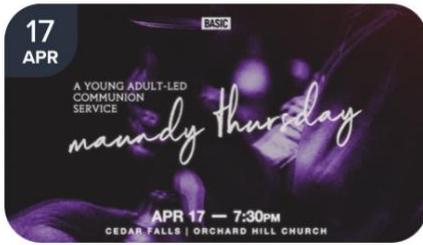


Holy Wednesday

Wednesday, April 16, 6:30pm and 8pm

Grundy County Worship Center

This student-led service will feature personal stories and reflections shared by high school students.



Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 17, 7:30pm

Cedar Falls Sanctuary, enter Door 2 by the Main Offices.

All ages are invited to join our college and young adult ministry, for a special gathering with a teaching and reflection about the night before Jesus' crucifixion. This time of worship and will include special musical worship and sharing communion.



Good Friday

Friday, April 18, 7pm and 9pm

Nazareth Lutheran Church, 7401 University Ave.

This community-wide, student-led service will include musical worship and the sharing of personal stories reflecting on Jesus' last words.



Easter Services

Cedar Falls

Saturday, April 19, 5pm

Sunday, April 20, 9am and 10:30am

Grundy County

Sunday, April 20, 9am and 10:30am

Waverly

Sunday, April 20, 9am and 10:30am



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, or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare for us.



HYMN SING

Sunday, May 2, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary

friends and neighbors!

Sing some classic hymns with us, hear a few specially selected Scripture readings, and celebrate Communion. We'll end our time together with fellowship and desserts. All are welcome! Invite your

Please contact Sarah Hess, shess@orchardhillchurch.org if you have an idea for a hymn to sing or would like to help lead in the choir, read Scripture, serve communion or bring a dessert.

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, 319-486-1340.

Quilting Ministry

Weekly on Thursdays, 9am-11am

Orchard Hill Church Room 111

Contact Kim Manning at 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, 319-596-6223.

MONTHLY

Women's Breakfast

Friday, April 4, 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 or Hailey Fienup at hfienu@orchardhillchurch.org.

Waverly Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, April 8, 4:30pm

Waverly Civic Center, 200 1st 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.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, April 9 and 23, 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, April 9, 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 for additional information and to make your reservation.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, April 15, 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.

Men's Breakfast

Friday, April 25, 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 or contact Jeff Burris at jsb800m@gmail.com.

Grundy Men's Breakfast

Friday, April 25, 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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, April 26, 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. Half-day shifts are also available.

See 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!