



October 2020

Volume 67, Issue 10

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Worship Sundays at 10:30 AM Mabaan at 12:30 PM

AMOS Keeps Justice in the Forefront -- Like its namesake scripture:

But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!
(Amos 5:24 NIV)

Hopefully, you have been reading the regular communications about the actions of our Mid-Iowa AMOS clusters here in the Light and also in weekly Cross Notes.

This month's issue describes two upcoming events EVERYONE is encouraged to attend.

1. **Congressional Forum via Zoom** --Since EVERY VOTER has a stake in the information, we hope you will register in advance to attend. You will not likely be able speak, although you may be able to submit questions for the candidates. If you don't have access to a computer, one of your AMOS representatives will be happy to assist with your registration and then you will be able to dial in from your phone to hear the presentations. *This is your chance to be a knowledgeable voter in the upcoming election, no matter which candidates you favor.* Please see the details below.

Your AMOS representatives are:
Jacque Coulson 279-2473
Eloise Cranke 262-5974
Cyndi Grosing 480-6207
Wanda Wendt 277-6001

Citizenship in Action with Congressional and Senate Candidates

Sunday, Oct. 4th 3:00-4:30pm

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscu-hqDopGdJnr-dTkEYzVbbWTn6C5QPn>

A common action of AMOS is an accountability session. In these sessions AMOS leaders extract commitments from politicians who stand at the front of the room (or in this case on a zoom call) and face their constituents. We tell them what our citizens want.

In past accountability sessions hundreds of people witnessed commitments made and we worked to be sure the commitments were kept. AMOS has more than 20 years of success working with public community leaders to make systemic changes to inequitable systems.

We have seen the impact that large turnouts have on public community leaders. All of us on are potential leaders. We urge you to invite friends, family, neighbors, to join us on October 4. (We recognize the way most people get involved in an action is when a friend or family member asks them to take part.)

Our accountability session on October 4, gives all of us the opportunity to participate in a **non-partisan action with Federal candidates and to hear public pledges that if elected they will work with AMOS on changing systems impacting Iowans.**

2. Delicious Brunch Fundraiser – Since FUMC is a member of the AMOS organization, we help raise funds to keep its excellent work proceeding. Here is your chance to get a yummy Sunday brunch and help the cause too!

Fundraiser Event: Grab and Go Brunch
Date and time: Sunday, October 18; following worship
Freewill donation - our goal is to raise \$400.

Menu:

Bacon, Egg and Cheese Strata

Coffee Cake or Oatmeal Breakfast Bar (Choose one)

Mixed Fruit Cup

Reservations required.

Make your reservation by calling the church office (224-6209) no later than noon on Thursday, October 15, 2020. Be sure to state your choice of coffee cake or breakfast bar.

Cash and checks accepted. Checks should be made payable to First UMC with AMOS written in the memo line.

Masked and gloved AMOS team members will prepare the food and serve it ready-to-eat in biodegradable containers but you must provide your own eating utensils. Your order will be available to pick up in Kenyon Hall following worship. If you are not attending worship, you may still drive by and pick up your order. When you make your reservation please let us know if you want your order to be available for drive by pick up. If infection rates increase and we are no longer having in-person worship, the event will be cancelled. Watch for future fundraisers.

We look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces on Sunday, October 18th!

Please Join Us!

CITIZENSHIP IN ACTION

AMOS Action with Congressional and Senate Candidates

**HEAR REAL STORIES FROM
CENTRAL IOWANS**

**BUILD RELATIONSHIPS AND GAIN
NEW CONNECTIONS**

MOVE INTO ACTION TOGETHER

October 4th, 2020 Via Zoom | 3:00 - 4:30 PM

Please Register in Advance at:

<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscu-hqDopGdJnr-dTkEYzVbbWTn6C5QPn>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you have any questions or did not receive the registration email, please email amosiowa@gmail.com



NEW REFRIGERATOR

Every month First Church prepares and serves two meals a month for those in our community who are hungry. We are fortunate to have a kitchen that is well designed and equipped for this type of ministry. However, several weeks ago Shirley Christoffersen reported that the two-door refrigerator was running at over 90 degrees! A service call was made and the compressor is no longer working. It would cost almost as much to repair the old unit as to purchase a new one.

As you know, without worshipers in the building, funds are extremely limited. We know however that to keep this ministry going, we needed to replace the unit. I went in search of a new refrigerator and was told the supply chain is currently so disrupted that it could be several months before a new unit could be obtained. Soon after she received a call from a local supply company saying they would be receiving in stock the refrigerator she had inquired about and if the church wanted to purchase it they would not put it on the sales floor.

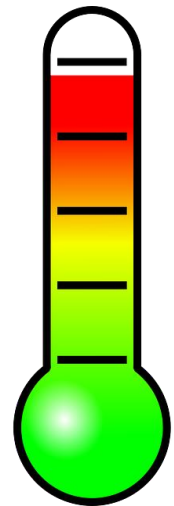
Now the question became...how do we pay for it? After consulting with the Pacesetters class, it was agreed that they would pay for the refrigerator upfront and we would solicit funds from the congregation to replace their account. This is a very generous offer and we thank them.

So now it is up to members to help us repay them. If you are able, please send a donation to the church and label it refrigerator. The total cost for the new unit, delivery and set up and removal of the old unit is \$3,728.07.

As you know, our kitchen gets a great deal of use not only for homeless meals but also for various church functions. Your gift will ensure our continued ability to provide food that is not only tasty but safe!

Thank you.

Christine





Annual Hunger Hike, with a Difference!

The more things change, the more they stay the same. In a year when so much has changed, and continues to change, there is one thing that remains the same: the need to combat hunger both locally and globally. In fact, due to COVID 19 the need is even greater. We see it as schools desperately try to provide meals for students across the city, and as food pantries struggle to keep up with the demand. Fortunately, there is another thing that doesn't change: the Annual Hunger Hike, which seeks year after year to help alleviate hunger, and First Church's commitment to be part of it.

On Sunday, October 11th, you are invited to meet in the First Church parking lot, fully masked and practicing social distancing. The group will walk down to the Peace Garden in Cowles Commons, and back as a way to be part of the Hunger Hike. (Or some may arrange for a friend or family member to pick them up at the Peace Garden.) Pledges and donations to support them can be made by sending a check to the church with Hunger Hike in the memo line or by giving on the church website. Please join us and be generous as we do our part to help end hunger and food insecurity, both here in Iowa and around the world.

Online Worship

You can watch the service live on facebook

at 10:30 AM

Facebook/DSMFirstChurch/

If you subscribe to our YouTube channel you will receive a notification when anything new is posted.

Worship
with us
from
HOME



Organ Concert Postponed

As part of our 175th anniversary celebration First Church was scheduled to have an organ concert featuring Kent Tritle. What was to happen in the spring and then in October has been moved to 2021.

The planning committee in consultation with Kent has decided to wait until Covid19 is under control. He has assured us that he will find time in his schedule to make the trip home to Iowa.

We look forward to welcoming Kent sometime next year.

Fall Planters Completed

Due to Covid 19 only the doors on the north side of the building are being used. Therefore it was decided that only the two planters on that side would be prepared for the fall planting. Thanks to Angie Sadler and Christine Anders they are planted and ready for people to enjoy.



The Words of the Prophet Come Alive!

One of my favorite verses of scripture is from the prophet Micah, Chapter 6: 8, "...and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" It's not surprising then, that one of my favorite hymns is

"We Are Called." In this hymn author and composer David Haas brings Micah's message to life. With this lively folk song style hymn Haas builds on the folk songs that grew out of the 1960s and 70s, and calls us to action. The actions Micah wants us to take are to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. The refrain of this hymn is almost a paraphrase of Micah: "We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly, we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God." And so, the words of the prophet come alive and challenge us once again to work for the day when "all hatred and blindness will be no more...and we will all be "sisters and brothers united in love." May it be so!

Article submitted by Eloise Cranke, Music Ministry Member

History Tidbits



In honor of our 175th anniversary, here are a few more history tidbits. Enjoy!

- Churches are not without humor. Minutes of the January 3, 1921 meeting of the church board says the Fire Extinguisher Committee was asked for a report. They said they had not been able to get together because there was "nothing doing." Someone moved that the committee be "extinguished but there was no second, so the motion was "extinguished instead." Several months later there was a problem with the ventilation of the building. A committee of three was appointed to take care of it. They were dubbed the "hot air committee."
- In June of 1921, the Board voted to have the church's coal weighed on the hospital's scales. It appears that someone was shorting the order.
- Technology was changing so in 1919, it was recommended that the church purchase a typewriter rather than continuing to rent one. In 1920 a mimeograph machine was purchased. In 1922, the church staff asked for a typewriting desk and in 1924 they purchased an adding machine. In 1926 they purchased a "lantern" for projecting pictures.
- In 1924, 25 cent dinners were made available on Wednesday nights. Dinner was accompanied with a program. The average attendance was 259. With the proceeds they were able to purchase new kitchen equipment including a large oven (\$100), dish washer (\$75) and a wheel dish cart (\$35). The next item they wanted to purchase was a potato masher.
- In 1924 automobiles were becoming more popular. The area behind the church was leveled to be used as a parking lot. The hospital hauled their ashes to the lot and church members arranged to spread them. This made a much better surface for parking cars.
- Raising funds has always been a necessary part of church life. If it wasn't for operating expenses, it was for growth and improvement projects. At one time, things were so tough that a long-time member of the Finance Committee suggested publishing a list of members and the amount pledged by each. The pastor preferred an "Honor Roll" with names of all those who pledged and paid. The pastor's suggestion was followed.



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DMFirstChurch.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE FOR FUTURE LIGHT ISSUES IS THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH



Did you know that you can now give online? Go to the church website www.dfirstchurch.org. On the left hand side of the page you will see online giving. Click there and you will be directed to the giving page. If you would rather, please feel free to mail your weekly check to the church. The address is 1001 Pleasant St. Des Moines, IA 50309. Thank you!