

April 2026

1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—Aurelia, IA



GIVING



GROWING



LOVING

Spring Blessings

By: Pastor Paul

On the farm this time of year was my least favorite. The cattle yards were in a state of constant, heavy, thick mud; it wasn't warm enough to go without a coat while working outside yet; and winter just never seemed to want to give up its hold. In the past week we have gone from seventy degree weather with sunshine and bare ground to sub-zero wind-chills and a blizzard complete with snow and ice. I remember one spring we had the oats planted the last week of March (WOW!) only to have three inches of snow on the ground the first week of April. Our first year in Garner, we had wonderful weather through the month of April only to have twelve inches of the wettest, heaviest snow on the fifth of May. It just seems like winter just won't give it up so we can once again enjoy the warm and beauty of new spring. And yet, spring does make its appearance. The grass still turns green, the flowers still bud and bloom, and the fields still get planted. It just seems like it takes a long time to get here sometimes.

I see something similar to this in our church life as well. If everything that is happening today, we can begin to wonder if there will ever be a time we can laugh and dance again. The mounting news we hear out of the Middle East, the rising tensions here at home, the divisions that seem to be growing worse among us today just don't seem to let us. The storms of discontent continue to raise their ugly heads despite times when we seem to be sailing out of them. We wonder if we will ever experience the wonder and glory of God's presence again.

But Easter still comes in the middle of all this chaos to remind us that even in times like these we are still blessed by a God who has the victory in his hands. Throughout his lifetime the powers of the world tried all they could do to shut Jesus down. That accused him; they slandered him; they arrested him; they condemned him; and they even killed him. I think the disciples must have had quite a time wondering if he was ever going to complete the job as their questions about him just wouldn't fade away. Even Peter, who was able to proclaim Jesus as the 'Messiah, the Son of the Living God' was still stymied when he tried to tell Jesus he could not possibly be serious about going to Jerusalem to be handed over and killed. Jesus' rebuke of 'get behind me Satan' might still be said to us today when we get so overwhelmed by current events we begin to wonder why Jesus doesn't solve all our problems. How often do we get so overburdened by the world today that we might deny we even know of Jesus for fear of the reprisal we will face from those who want to keep the gospel silent.

But God will not be silenced! In their defeat and despair, the disciples are witness to the most wondrous event in history. This man of God, who had been rejected by the world, shows us that the worldly powers do not have the last say in life. After the world did all it could to silence the good news, God intervenes in an explosive event that shatters the yoke of the world's power and opens our hearts and souls to embrace the promise of God's grace in the midst of it.

Through out history we have had times when we wondered if we could ever experience God's love again. We need to remember Jacob's battle on the banks of the Jabbok: the cries of the Israelites in Egypt under the oppressive yoke of slavery; the cries of the people for food and water in the wilderness as they made their way to the promised land; David on the run from Saul or Absalom; the people taken from the promised land during the Babylonian Exile; and the disciples hiding in the upper room in fear until the resurrected Jesus appeared to them. We remember the power of the Holy Spirit that fell upon them like tongues of fire at Pentecost and gave them the courage and power to proclaim God's mighty acts in Jesus. We need to remember the times of upheaval, economic depressions, wars and social unrest that we have lived through and welcomed the power of God's hand to walk us through them all to a better understanding and appreciation of love and its calling. It is with the confidence in God that I can say spring will get here eventually and God's love will carry us through even these times and we will once again experience the joy of our redeeming Lord.

Confirmation is on Sunday, March 29th

The following students will be Confirmed...

- * Sadie Bengtson
- * Allie Fordyce
- * Aubree Noble
- * Brody Pressley
- * Brantley Sargent

"Experiencing the Heart of Jesus"

This is the title of the Bible study by Max Lucado that we are studying on Wednesday evenings from 6:30—7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend

Maundy Thursday
Worship Service April 2nd
at 7:00 pm.



Fundraiser Meal

On April 26th, the Trustees, along with help from the Youth Group, are hosting this Fundraiser meal to raise money to purchase a new lawn mower. Please show your support!

Ladies Hour

The ladies will meet on Thursday, April 16th at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to come!

Prayer Focus

This month, please pray for safety for all the farmers who will be getting their equipment ready and heading out to the fields for spring planting.



Noisy Offering
for April
AFUMC Missions

Aurelia First United Methodist Church FUNDRAISER MEAL

Pulled Pork
Cheesy Potatoes
Green Beans
Dessert

FREEWILL
DONATION

APRIL 26TH, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

All proceeds support the
purchase of a new lawn mower

An **Easter Breakfast** will be served from 8:30 am to 9:30 am on Easter Sunday, April 5th. For a free will donation, you can eat biscuits & gravy, cinnamon rolls, coffee, & juice. Proceeds will go to the Youth.

April 2026

Aurelia First United Methodist Church - Aurelia, IA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 5:30 – 7:00 pm Youth 6:30 pm Bible Study	2 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service	3	4
5 Easter Sunday 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	6	7	8 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Bible Study	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	13	14	15 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Bible Study	16 1:00 pm Ladies Hour	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	20	21	22 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship Sunday School 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Fundraiser Meal for Lawnmower	27	28	29 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Bible Study	30		

Church family,

As I slowly drive by our Church from the blacktop as I move farm equipment in preparation for spring, I often marvel at the design and construction of our Church building. The masonry, stained glass windows, and steeply rising roof highlight church architecture and make a great place for our church family to gather and worship.

Thank you to those in our congregation who supported this Church at its construction and those who continue to support the maintenance and upkeep of this structure through your ongoing generosity.

As our Church building ages and endures our unique weather events, we continue to see opportunities to care for this building for the benefit of our future church family. From masonry repairs, storm window upgrades and gutter replacement, to furnace and air conditioner repairs and upgrades, we have several projects that will require our collective support and attention.

I recognize that everyone's circumstances are different and the financial capacity to give varies greatly. Please prayerfully consider a special donation above your regular giving to our church building fund.

You can support this work by:

Designating "building fund" on a check or envelope placed in the offering.

Continuing to pray for our church family, our Pastor, and church leadership.

Supporting our fundraiser in conjunction with our church clean-up day on Sunday, April 26th.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your ongoing support of our congregation and its future.

In Christ,

Nathan Anderson

Chair- Board of Trustees

Matthew 5:14- "You are the light of the world. A city built in a hill cannot be hidden"



Contact Information

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