

July 2026

1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—Aurelia, IA



GIVING



GROWING



LOVING

Several years ago I was talking with a farmer in the church I was then serving who was participating in a Bible study at the church. It was the spring of the year and I asked him how he was doing keeping up with the reading for the study with all the field work that had to be done at that time of year. He told me that it wasn't that hard and that he did a lot of the reading while he was planting the corn. In response to my shocked expression he told me that once he had the tractor and planter on the mark, he turned the tractor over to his GPS and it drove the tractor while he read. When he came to the end of the row, an alarm would sound and he would take over turning the tractor and planter around to the next mark and repeat the process.

Now, I know that at that point I hadn't been on the farm for over 20 years, but it still sounded impossible that he would be able to do this. At least not in the way I remember planting corn when I was on the farm. The times are always a-changing and what was the norm for me several years ago was no longer the standard farming practices today. It is the same for our church life as well. We are living under different situations and different practices even in the church and we need to be able to adapt to the changes of how we live as a church community under the call of Christ to proclaim the gospel to the world.

I had one older minister state one time that we have far too many churches who continue to base their understanding of ministry on life as we lived it in 1959 so that if that day ever comes around again they'll be ready. Of course, the past is the past and we can not base our future on demographics and assumptions that no longer exist today. We need to seek out new and innovative ways that God is calling us to action and service. The rural population and small town structures of the past just don't exist today. Now, we can either bemoan the changing times and how life just isn't like it use to be, or we can take the situations we have today and look for the ways we can still be the disciples of Christ we desire to maintain.

Yes, there will be challenges in doing things in a new way. We will have to rethink what ministry will look like as we continue with the message of hope and salvation we still have to share in today's demographics. But one thing we can count on in all things; the one thing that has been constant throughout the history of the church; the one thing that will keeps us centered in chaotic times is the firm faithfulness of God to never abandon us. God is still God and the God who guided us through cultural upheavals of the past will still guide us through those of the present day. The God who comforted us in the pitfalls of the past still cares and loves us through the challenges of today. The God who walked us through the opportunities of the past is the same God who walks with us today. So as we work our way through the challenges ahead of us, we can be assured that with our eyes fully on God's love and presence we will make it work.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Paul

Appointment Announcement

To the members and friends of Aurelia First United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the Staff-Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC), I share an official announcement from Bishop Kennetha and the Appointive Cabinet of the Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Following a prayerful discernment, Bishop Kennetha and her Cabinet have appointed Pastor Mishael Kunya to serve the Cooperative Parish of Odebolt, Aurelia First, and Schaller United Methodist Churches, effective August 1, 2026, in accordance with the Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church. Pastor Mishael brings significant experience, dedication, and a passion for pastoral care to support our shared mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. He is married to Pastor Sarah Namukose, who currently serves at Asbury UMC in Webster City, Iowa. They have four children: three daughters, and one son.

As we prepare for the transition beginning August 1, 2026, we express our sincere gratitude to all pastors who have supported us with their gifts, care, and dedication.

We look forward to welcoming Pastor Mishael Kunya and his family, and to sharing our faith journey with members of all three congregations.

Given that Pastor Mishael will serve three congregations, the Bishop and the Appointive Cabinet have established a special arrangement for this Cooperative Parish. Pastor Mishael will lead with the support of additional preachers, who will be compensated by the Iowa Conference.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers during this period of leadership transition within our congregations.

May God bless you.

The Staff-Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC)

Noisy Offering

for July

will go to Midwest
Christian Services



Prayer Focus

This month, please pray for
our nation as it celebrates
its 250th birthday!

Ladies Hour

The ladies will meet on Thursday, July 16th
at 1:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

VBS

August 3rd–6th

5:30 pm–7:30 pm

More details will be coming!

Sunday Morning Coffee



We need one or two friendly faces to make coffee and bring treats for Sunday mornings. Treats may be store bought (no big deal).

If you would rather not serve, but only bring treats, that is absolutely fine, too! Please sign up on a Sunday that works for you. Designate if you would like to only bring treats. Much appreciated. Thank you!

July 2026**Aurelia First United Methodist Church - Aurelia, IA**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 – 4:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	2	3	4 America's 250 th Birthday!
5 9:30 am Worship	6	7	8 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Worship with Holy Communion Trustees Meeting	13	14	15 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	16 1:00 pm Ladies Hour	17	18
19 9:30 am Worship Ad Council Mtg	20	21	22 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Worship	27	28	29 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	30	31	

JULY BIRTHDAYS

July 1 Tiernan Damewood
 July 1 Trevor Sangwin
 July 3 Kate Westphal
 July 3 Maggie Pearson
 July 6 Lexie Powell
 July 9 Remi Redig
 July 12 Avery Westphal
 July 17 Ron Jones
 July 20 Brooke Noble
 July 21 Janet Kai
 July 21 Rebecca Wright
 July 22 Midge Evans
 July 23 Sara Sundene
 July 25 Rosie Carmichael
 July 27 Wrenley Sargent
 July 28 Alyn Sargent

**JULY ANNIVERSARIES**

July 14 Dean & Vicki Regenniter
 July 30 Brian & Keisha Lockin



Celebrating 250 Years of Freedom!

Match the state to the information about it.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Alabama | 14. Indiana | 27. Nebraska | 40. South Carolina |
| 2. Alaska | 15. Iowa | 28. Nevada | 41. South Dakota |
| 3. Arizona | 16. Kansas | 29. New Hampshire | 42. Tennessee |
| 4. Arkansas | 17. Kentucky | 30. New Jersey | 43. Texas |
| 5. California | 18. Louisiana | 31. New Mexico | 44. Utah |
| 6. Colorado | 19. Maine | 32. New York | 45. Vermont |
| 7. Connecticut | 20. Maryland | 33. North Carolina | 46. Virginia |
| 8. Delaware | 21. Massachusetts | 34. North Dakota | 47. Washington |
| 9. Florida | 22. Michigan | 35. Ohio | 48. West Virginia |
| 10. Georgia | 23. Minnesota | 36. Oklahoma | 49. Wisconsin |
| 11. Hawaii | 24. Mississippi | 37. Oregon | 50. Wyoming |
| 12. Idaho | 25. Missouri | 38. Pennsylvania | |
| 13. Illinois | 26. Montana | 39. Rhode Island | |

___ Death Valley holds the record for the hottest recorded air temperature on Earth.

___ The Roe River is the shortest river in the world and located here.

___ The sole U.S. state that natively cultivates tea.

___ The highest peak in North America.

___ The only royal palace in the U.S.

___ The Naval Academy is located here.

___ Produces more apples than any other state in the country.

___ Home to the tallest national monument in the U.S.

___ Contains the deepest river gorge in North America.

___ Milk is the official state beverage.

___ Contains the geographic center of the contiguous United States.

___ Is the only state in the country that has a name with just one syllable and the only state that borders exactly one other state.

___ Boasts the longest freshwater coastline in the U.S. and has more lighthouses than any other state.

___ The only active diamond mine in the U.S.

___ Became the first state to grant women the right to vote in 1869.

___ The state that kicks off the U.S. Presidential election cycle every four years.

___ The first English child born in America was born in this state.

___ It has so many pecan trees that the official state dessert is the pecan pie.

___ Has the deepest lake in the U.S.

___ Features one of the longest continuous bridges over water in the world.

___ Nicknamed "The First State."

___ Holds the title for the birthplace of the most U.S. presidents, with eight.

___ The first paid parking meter was installed here.

___ The biggest shopping center in the U.S. is located here.

___ The world's largest silver nugget was found here.

___ The world's first drive-in movie theater.

___ The geographic center of North America.

___ This state has the only U.S. city to have 3 sports teams that all wear the same colors.

___ The typewriter was invented here.

___ Has one of the oldest Universities in the U.S.

- ___ The only U.S. state that lies entirely within a mountain range.
- ___ The world's largest natural, indoor warm-water pool.
- ___ The first state to join the Union after the original 13 colonies, and the first to explicitly abolish slavery.
- ___ Contains Walt Disney World.
- ___ Has the shortest and steepest railroad in the U.S.
- ___ First location where Coca-Cola was bottled.
- ___ Only state that is triple land locked.
- ___ First presidential inauguration.
- ___ Has one of the largest natural stone bridges in the world.
- ___ Home to a store that exclusively sells unclaimed airline baggage.
- ___ Grows and processes the vast majority of the world's canned pumpkin.
- ___ The oldest annual marathon.
- ___ Features an interconnected system of more than 119 caves.
- ___ Produces the most gold in the U.S.
- ___ World's first electric traffic signal.
- ___ The first colony to officially establish the separation of church and state.
- ___ Has one of the world's seven natural wonders.
- ___ The largest underground cave in the world.
- ___ The Girl Scouts were founded here.
- ___ Home of the biggest children's museum in the world.

Source: Google

Declaration of Independence

It was primarily written by Thomas Jefferson. The other men who helped edit and present the draft were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Robert R. Livingston, and Roger Sherman. While the document was officially adopted on July 4, 1776, most of the 56 delegates to the Second Continental Congress did not sign it until August 2, 1776, with the last delegate adding his name in early 1777. The first person to sign it also had the most famous signature. John Hancock wrote his name so large to ensure the King could read it without his glasses.

How do you think you did? Could you answer all of them without Googling? Turn this page over and check your answers.

Answers to Column 1	Answers to Column 2	Answers to Column 3
4	7	71
22	67	01
61	83	71
16	34	3
47	30	63
12	6	35
25	23	82
47	36	31
20	46	21
11	8	13
2	18	1
40	37	44
26	43	32
5	33	27
Column 1	29	24
Answers to	50	15
	Column 2	9
	Answers to	45
		41
		48
		Column 3
		Answers to



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY,
AMERICA!**



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