

May 2026

1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—Aurelia, IA



GIVING



GROWING



LOVING

In the last few weeks I have enjoyed the drive between home and the church in Aurelia. It has been interesting watching the field work being done as the farmers are out preparing the ground for the new planting and expectation for a harvest in the fall. It reminds me the story of two farmers who prayed for the rains to water the fields. One farmer waited to see if God would send the rain. The other went out to prepare for the rain to come. As I watched the farmers preparing the fields and planting in high hopes that there will be sufficient rain to produce the fall crop, I am reminded of that story. Farming is not always a secure occupation when you depend on so many different variables to fall in place to assure the harvest in the fall. We plant the crop in the hope that there will be a good enough harvest next fall that we will be able to keep up on all responsibilities again and prepare for next seasons planting season.

Every spring the farmer prepares for rain and plants the crop with the expectation that the rain will come to give the expected harvest. If one year has a bumper crop, we celebrate and give thanks. If the next season isn't quite what we hoped, we settle down and look forward to the next year with hopes it will be better. Each new season brings it new hopes and as we live till harvest time, we continue to do what is necessary to prepare for the rains and the harvest to come.

Aurelia First United Methodist Church is in somewhat the same situation as we look forward to new pastoral leadership to walk with us in the days to come. I imagine there will be some who might want to sit back and take a wait and see posture. I can understand that a bit. I have to admit that with every new appointment I received there was a desire to hold back and wait to make sure it was what I was hoping for. However, what if we not allow that attitude take root in our prep time right now? What would it look like for us to 'prepare for the rain'? The Staff/Parish Relations Committee have been in conversation with the district superintendent about the needs and strengths of our church to guide the cabinet in it deliberation on the new appointment. Trustees have been looking ahead to decide what needs the parsonage may need to be addressed. But what about the rest? Have you really been preparing yourselves for the new opportunities that a new appointment can bring to the church?

First, let's pray for God's presence in our congregation as we worship and serve together. In my thirty-eight years of ministry I have seen amazing things come out of the prayers of the congregations. New ministries, new missions, new life can be generated when we lift our hopes, expectations, and our worries to God in prayer. We can pray for the cabinet as they seek to find an appointment that will enhance both our ministry and the ministry of the person they send. This is not an easy task and I have known many superintendents who dreaded this time of year as they try to fulfill the needs of the churches with an appropriate placement. And mostly, pray for the person who is appointed. I will tell you that changing locations and uprooting life, family, careers, and everything else to follow the call of ministry wherever it leads is always a stressful time.

Pastor's article continues on page 2.

Second, give thanks for what God has helped you accomplish in the past. Aurelia has a long history of faithful service and discipleship that still needs our commitment and backing. As you look over the history of your church recognize those times that the church has met the challenges and setbacks with grace and hope to continue even today. Yes, I am sure there were times when the going was overwhelming. There are times in life when we can't imagine how things could get any worse, and then sometimes still do. And yet we walked through them. We may have some scars and may be more weather beaten than we were, but yet we are able to stand in witness to God's presence and strength and say, "We're still here, and we are not finished yet!"

Third, let's look to the future with hope and not with trepidation. Aurelia First United Methodist Church may be small in comparison with other churches, but it is mighty and committed. Walk into the future with joy for the Lord is with you and will guide you in all things. Whether the future is fill with a bumper crop or perhaps something not quite to bountiful. God will not abandon you and is always present to guide, push and celebrate with along the journey of faith—wherever it takes us.

Pastor Paul



*Mother's Day is coming soon!
Make plans to take mom to the
Aurelia Golf Club that day for
brunch.*



"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 the Bible study. Our last weekly meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13th. We will meet once in June and July (dates to be determined). Then, we will take a break until September.

Ladies Hour

The ladies will meet on Thursday, May 21st at 1:00 pm. All are welcome to come!

Prayer Focus

This month, please pray for graduates as they leave the familiar halls of the schools they attended and venture into the job force or continue with their schooling.



**Congratulations,
Taylor
Sherwood**

Please join us on Sunday May 10th for a graduation party honoring Taylor Sherwood. Taylor's party will take place from 3:00 to 7:00 pm at Matriarchs, 120 Main Street in Aurelia. She will also be celebrated during the worship service on Sunday, May 17th.



**Noisy Offering
for May
Kids who plan to
attend Camp.**



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!

**May 3rd is the last day of
Sunday School. Enjoy
your summer break!**

While I'm typing this newsletter, I can't help but think—April showers bring May flowers! It's sure raining now!

Thank you!

As the school year comes to a close, we would like to say thank you to all those who work directly with the youth in our church for Sunday School, Confirmation, and youth group! We appreciate your dedication and commitment to all of our youth as you guide and lead them.

Thank you to Pastor Paul, Sarah, Bryanna, Steph, Liz, Courtney, Barbie, Brooke, Nancy, and Gayle (hopefully, we did not forget anyone)!

May 2026

Aurelia First United Methodist Church - Aurelia, IA

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 am Worship Last Day of Sunday School 11:00 am – 1:00 pm Fundraiser Meal	4	5	6 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 – 7:00 Youth 6:30 pm Bible Study	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Worship Trustees Meeting	11	12	13 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Bible Study	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Worship & Celebration of Our Graduate Ad Council Mtg	18	19	20 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	21 1:00 pm Ladies Hour	22	23
24 9:30 am Worship	25 Memorial Day	26	27 1:00 – 8:00 pm Pastor's Office Hours	28	29	30
31 9:30 am Worship						

MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 2 Lisa Grasshoff
 May 4 Dave Patton
 May 5 Seth Bruce
 May 9 Shelly Flaherty
 May 15 Lucas Baker
 May 17 Brielle Kolpin
 May 18 Ted Galvin
 May 19 Lynn Evans
 May 21 Dan Bringle
 May 22 Bob Carmichael
 May 29 Lois Sorenson
 May 29 Sarah Anderson
 May 30 Aubree Noble

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 11 Bob & Rosie Carmichael
 May 15 Eric & Janet Radke
 May 21 Glen & Sue McCannon
 May 27 Mark & Sue Sangwin



APRIL
 BLOSSOM
 BREEZE
 BUD
 BULBS
 BUNNY
 BUTTERFLY
 CHICK
 DAFFODIL
 EASTER
 EGGS
 GRASS
 GREEN
 HATCH
 JUNE
 MARCH
 MAY
 NEST
 PUDDLE
 RAINBOW
 ROBIN
 SEASON
 SHOWERS
 SUNSHINE
 THAW
 TULIP
 UMBRELLA



DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

F	T	L	Y	T	O	I	B	R	J	K	V	S	B	G	M	U	M	M
A	A	E	J	F	D	L	O	F	U	M	S	O	T	A	F	V	Z	H
U	L	H	P	U	D	D	L	E	P	A	E	E	Y	S	D	T	B	E
S	B	L	U	B	Q	L	F	R	R	Z	T	G	Y	T	H	A	W	U
L	X	Z	B	U	N	N	Y	G	K	Q	B	W	G	F	R	Q	X	M
W	M	S	H	O	W	E	R	S	G	B	L	O	S	S	O	M	C	B
P	W	U	M	P	N	V	A	R	Q	T	G	E	F	G	D	X	Z	R
F	T	N	K	A	K	H	V	H	E	K	P	B	R	E	T	S	A	E
G	E	S	W	O	R	O	B	I	N	C	O	F	R	J	M	P	J	L
M	Y	H	M	L	Y	C	L	L	J	I	Z	B	H	E	D	U	Z	L
N	N	I	Q	Q	I	U	H	I	T	H	R	U	T	Z	E	T	W	A
L	E	N	U	H	S	X	Z	D	U	C	Z	T	P	S	N	Z	Q	A
R	Y	E	Y	Y	N	N	M	O	L	H	N	T	Z	B	E	X	E	F
O	A	U	R	I	U	O	D	F	I	G	E	E	H	G	A	N	Q	T
W	P	I	J	G	G	K	S	F	P	P	J	R	J	I	A	S	A	M
K	R	J	N	Z	B	E	X	A	Y	B	C	F	J	H	A	T	C	H
B	I	S	U	B	U	X	M	D	E	B	F	L	Y	W	M	B	B	H
X	L	M	B	N	O	A	C	T	J	S	U	Y	H	B	H	G	Y	F
X	X	I	J	W	E	W	R	D	V	E	D	D	K	A	A	W	H	M



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