



Route 55 Newsletter | September 2025

Orchard Friends,

Thank you to all who helped plan and host our Annual Birthday Bash last week. Thank you to all who attended as well! It was great fun to celebrate ALL Route 55 birthdays. We especially want to thank Pam and Chuck Frost and their granddaughter, Charlie, who worked all day Thursday to prepare a creative and delicious dinner befitting the occasion. Many of you jumped in to help with clean-up as well. Thank you!!

It is a well-known fact that the more one puts into something, the more one gets out of it. If you've been thinking of getting more involved with the church and would like to help with an event or Bible Study or even a brain storming session to generate future programming, please let us know. Your time will not be wasted and you'll have a great time – I guarantee it!

Grace and Peace,



Kim Manning

SPECIAL HYMN SING INVITATION

Dear friends,

My name is Sarah Hess. If we haven't met yet, please introduce yourself if you see me around. My position is co-coordinator of our Connect & Care ministry. Besides getting the joy of spending time with our shut-ins and volunteers, I also occasionally serve on our Sunday morning worship team.

Music has been a part of my life since I was young, and I started singing in our small church's choir when I was in junior high. Our church had a traditional service and one with a worship band. Hymns were part of my growing up years, and their poetry has always spoken to me. When I came on staff at Orchard, I began dreaming about a gathering to sing the songs that had been the foundation of Orchard Hill Church's worship. That started with the first Carol Sing two years ago, which led to Hymn/Carol Sings three times a year.

For me as I've gotten to know many of you - my heart has grown to appreciate the commitment to Orchard Hill Church many of you have shown. The church has grown and changed so much since it was founded in 1962. Thank you for being the backbone and support that keeps Orchard on mission to "help next generations encounter and follow Jesus to bless a broken world." You are my heroes. The Carol/Hymn Sings are my thank you to all of you. Hymns, liturgy and communion in an intimate setting in the sanctuary offers a time to lift our voices and remember our roots. Consider this your invitation to join us **Sunday, October 5th at 2pm** for our next Hymn Sing with communion.

RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Route 55 friends gather around the tables to enjoy food, fellowship and frivolity!



Most all of the meal was served on sticks and lovingly prepared and served by Team Frost.



Kathrine Krukow and Marilyn Jasper share a quick hug as they prepare to greet arriving guests.



The Route 55 Hiking Club enjoyed a fun day at Pine Lake.

FEATURED EVENTS

Route 55 Hiking Club



Everyone is welcome. Bring sunscreen, a hat, water bottle, and a sack lunch unless otherwise noted below. You will also want to bring money for ice cream and \$5 to help with gas.

Contact Deb Mc Calley at 515-707-5939 or dmccalley58@gmail.com to let us know you are coming.

Here are the hikes we have planned for the rest of the season:

Wednesday, September 3, 9am
Hickory Hills Park
3338 Hickory Hills Road, La Porte City

Wednesday, October 8 or 15, 9am
Backbone State Park
1347 129th Street, Dundee (1 hour from OHC)
The date will depend on when the leaves are turned.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, September 10, 11:30am

Bigfoot Betty's

419 Main Street, Cedar Falls

We gather for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All 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.



Second Sunday Senior Socials

Second Sunday Senior Socials

Sunday, September 14, between worship services

OHC Commons

Second Sundays are back! 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.



The Wizard of Oz and El Patron

Sunday, September 14, play at 2pm, dinner at 4pm

Theatrical performance at Waterloo Center for the Arts
Dinner at El Patron, 301 E 4th St., Waterloo



We are planning a return to the Waterloo Playhouse as our own Selah Hess will be performing the part of Dorothy and her mother, Sarah, will be the Wicked Witch. What fun! This will be a special one-hour adaptation of L. Frank Baum's beloved story. Tickets are \$13.50.

After the performance, we'll head over to El Patron for an early dinner.

Reservations for group tickets closed on August 29, but you can still get regular-priced tickets on your own through the Waterloo Community Playhouse box office.



ORCHARD HILL CHURCH GOLF OUTING

Sunday, September 28, 1pm

PHEASANT RIDGE GOLF COURSE

Join us for a casual round of straight-up golf – 9 holes – not best shot. Event is open to men, women, and families with children of all ages. No prizes or meal this year – just fun and fellowship!

Cost: \$20 for age 25-64; \$18 for age 65+; \$18 for age 18-24; \$10 for age 17 and under. Cart rental is \$11. Pay directly at Pheasant Ridge on the day of the event. **We'll need your reservation by September 22 so we can organize foursomes.** Questions? Contact Ken Foss at 319-230-0604.



HYMN SING

Sunday, October 5, 2pm

OHC Commons

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

LOOKING AHEAD

Welcome to the Table – the table is set, the King is near!

Tuesday, November 11, evening

OHC Commons

SAVE THE DATE! Plans are under way to bring back this fondly-remembered Ladies' Advent event. Watch for details on the OHC website, future newsletters, and other OHC promotions. You are invited to decorate and/or host a table, to help with planning, cooking, or serving, or to simply attend and be pampered, valued and inspired. Additional information is coming soon!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

Wednesday Walks

Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30pm – please note the time change for the school year

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, September 5, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Breakfast is a space for women to connect with God, scripture, and one another no matter their season of life. Attendees will reflect on our identity in Christ and our roles within our relationships, careers, and challenges, and engage with Scripture and meaningful conversations. A light breakfast will be served followed by a brief message and table discussion. A \$3 donation is encouraged, but not required. Text MORNING to 319-553-6690 to register or to receive monthly reminders.

Kindly consider volunteering to help with the cook team. You'll have made a lasting impact – and – then you can be on your way to a productive Friday! Contact hfienup@orchardhillchurch.org.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, September 10 and 24, 9:am

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.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, September 16, 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.

Community Meal

Thursday, September 18, 5:30pm to 6:15pm

OHC Commons

Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a great meal. Free will donations will be accepted. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ben Fienup at bfienup@orchardhillchurch.org.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, September 20, 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.

Cedar Falls Men's Breakfast

Friday, September 26, 6:30am

OHC Commons

~ AND ~

Grundy Men's Breakfast

Also Friday, September 26, 6:30am

Grundy County Lobby & Coffee House

Most of us lead busy lives and it's tough to find time for anything outside of work and family obligations. Our monthly Men's Breakfast is the perfect opportunity to break away from our daily schedules for good food and connection with other guys. A brief message will be provided followed by discussion at the tables aimed at getting to know one another better. A donation of \$3 is encouraged to cover the cost of food. Want monthly reminders? Text 319-553-6690.

OTHER OFFERINGS OF INTEREST

Outdoor Church

Sunday, September 7, 10:30am

Parking Lot of Cedar Falls Campus

Bring a lawn chair, sunscreen and sunglasses and join us for a special Outdoor Worship Service! A free lunch will be served immediately after the service. The parking lot opens at 9:15am. Enter from Orchard Hill Drive or Knoll Ridge Dr. Need accessible parking? Turn on hazard lights when entering. Live stream to be determined.

Waverly Campus Block Party

Sunday, September 7, 3pm

Waverly Campus Parking Lot

Everyone is invited to gather for food, fun and fellowship at a Tailgate BBQ Block Party. A variety of smoked meats will be served and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side, dessert or your favorite tailgate snack to share. Lawn chairs are optional. NFL football games will be on and outdoor games will be available for kids and adults.

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!