



Route 55 Newsletter August 2026

Orchard Friends,

Our annual Route 55 Birthday Bash is just around the corner, happening at 5pm on Thursday, August 13! It promises to be great time with fun food, fellowship, a few games, and maybe a surprise or two. We hope you will join us! Feel free to bring some neighborhood friends as well!

As you know, the Women's Advent Event was reconvened after about a seven-year break. It was renamed the Women's Connection Dinner and held in the Commons. Women of all ages gathered around beautifully decorated tables to share our love for God, with one another, and to grow deeper in faith and community.

We are tentatively considering gathering again on Monday, November 9, 2026, this time in the Community Center. **Before we can move forward, we need a few more women to join our planning team and a few more to help decorate the space the evening before.** We will also work to separately recruit additional event-day volunteers so you can host a table and enjoy the evening if you wish.

Our vision is to convene the planning team for three, maybe four meetings before the event and one afterwards for a post-event evaluation. The decorating team would meet on the evening preceding the event. There will likely be some after-meeting follow-up leading up to the event, of course, but the commitment is really rather minimal and the rewards are great.

You may recall being invited to open yourselves to next steps in your faith journey. Becoming a part of this team could be your next step! **We hope you will give this invitation some prayerful consideration and respond to us by August 14.** You can simply respond to this message for additional information or to volunteer. We will meet shortly after August 14th to consider responses and determine the feasibility of moving forward.

Grace and Peace,

Kim Manning



Monthly Lunch took place at Big Foot Betty's

RECENT EVENTS



27 55er's await boarding the Scenic City Empress for a lunch cruise!



The view from the top of the boat was outstanding!



Esther and Marvin Eiklenborg, Bob and Kim Manning | Mike and Nora Janssen and Friends | Beth Schmidt, Patty Scott, Dede Schons, and Kay Clements enjoy a delicious lunch while cruising the Iowa River.



Keith Van Hauen, Marilyn Jasper, Pat and Bruce Adkins | Pam Ohrt, Laurie Watje, Sarah Hess and Lori Maifeld | Rhonda Wolthoff and Marilyn and Wayne Graves enjoyed the lunch as well!

It appears that Kevin and Kim Zabel and Ron and Barb Dennler did not, but I assure you they did! Sincere apologies for neglecting to get their glamour shot. I'm so sorry I missed you!

FEATURED EVENTS



Route 55 Birthday Bash IN THE JUNGLE!

Thursday, August 13, 2026, 5pm

OHC Commons

We'll celebrate ALL Route 55 birthdays with a party in the JUNGLE! Well, sort of in the jungle. You'll go ape over the fun music, food, fellowship, and games we have planned! So, practice your vine swinging and invite some friends. Please let us know you are coming by signing up in the binder or contacting Kim.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, August 19, 11:30am

Highway 63 Diner

3030 Marnie Rd., Waterloo

We gather at a restaurant for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All are welcome. **Please be sure to let us know you are**

coming so our hosts can prepare for a good experience for us. Reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. Thank you!

LOOKING AHEAD



Route 55 Hiking Club

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 8am

Palisades Trout Run

Hwy 9, Decorah (1.5 hours)

Does spending time in nature bring you closer to God? Join us for a hike! We'll meet at the church parking lot and hop in the van or car pool to the park. The plan is to hike for an hour or so, break for a sack lunch, hike a bit more, then head for home, stopping for a well-deserved ice cream treat.

Everyone is welcome. Plan to bring sunscreen, a hat, water bottle, and a sack lunch. You will also want to bring money for ice cream and if we use the church van, we will appreciate \$5 to help with gas. Let us know you are coming by contacting Kim Manning at kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org or 319-231-1619.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

Weekly Wednesday Walks

Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:30am

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 Kim Manning, kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, 319-231-1619.

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

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, August 12 & 26, 2026, 9:30am

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. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, August 15, 2026, 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.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, August 18, 2026, 4:15pm

Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center

Volunteers from area churches help the Northeast Iowa Food Bank unload the truck, arrange food, assist with distribution, carry bags and boxes to vehicles and clean up. Additional details at OrchardHillChurch.org.

These events were selected for promotion to our Route 55 audience. There's a lot more happening, so see OrchardHillChurch.org for additional news and events. You may also want to check out the [Community Groups](#) section and/or the [Serve the Community](#) section of our website.