



Route 55 Newsletter | December 2024



Orchard Friends,

We hope you all had a happy Thanksgiving, and that you continue to celebrate life with a grateful heart. What a wonderful way to prepare for Christmas, which is already upon us! **Our annual Route 55 Christmas Celebration takes place NEXT WEEK – 5pm, Tuesday, December 3!** If you haven't given us your reservation, please do so asap so we are sure to have enough Cherry Stuffed French Toast on hand. We've got lots of fun planned including **special entertainment provided by The Cedar River Readers**, games, and perhaps an encore appearance of the big man in red! Don't miss it!

Additional upcoming activities include a couple opportunities to sing and enjoy Christmas carols. Read all about them in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter.

Finally, please consider this special opportunity penned by Andrea DeCook, our Director of College & Young Adult Ministry, to assist youth as they work to help others and deepen relationships with God and others. Gifts of any amount will make a big difference...

BASIC, our college and young adult ministry, is going on a mission trip from March 14 - 22 to Knockpatrick, Jamaica. We will be staying and working with our friends at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf.

We will be doing a variety of ministries throughout the week including: construction and labor projects for the schools and building relationships with the students and staff at CCCD. We will have time together to sing, experience small groups, and share young adult stories each night as well. We enter this trip as learners as we seek to learn about what God is already doing in this place!

The focus of this trip is RELATIONSHIPS -- which is why we often call this trip a "RELATIONtrip" instead of a "MISSION trip." We will focus on our relationship with God, each other and the community we will be immersed in.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support the team, you can do so by writing a check to Orchard Hill Church with "BASIC Jamaica" in the memo. Thank you!

Grace and Peace,

Kim Manning

RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Jack Ackerman, Larry Nanke, Gene Richardson and Marvin Eiklenborg enjoy lunch at Freddy's before attending the movie at Marcus Theatres near Crossroads.



Esther Eiklenborg, Kathrine Krukow, DeAlda Kramer, Helen Ackerman and Patty Scott make up one of the ladies tables for our Monthly Lunch outing.



Jennifer Van Gent, Lois Nanke and Greta Magee also attended lunch and the showing of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" movie at Crossroads Theatres.



Alex Frerking, an OHC IT and Technology Specialist, assists Greta Magee during a recent workshop to transition from CFU email accounts.



Kristi Anholt works with Jane Eilderts to make the transfer from CFU email to gmail.



Alex Frerking, Scott Behrends, and representatives from Cedar Falls Utilities, and the Cedar Falls Public Library helped Route 55ers transition from CFU email accounts to Gmail during a recent workshop. **If you missed this opportunity and need assistance, call the Reference Desk at the Cedar Falls Public Library at 319-268-5543 for an appointment. They're great! And don't forget to share your new email address with us!**



Route 55ers enjoyed dinner and a showing of Sight & Sound's production of "Jesus" in the Sanctuary. No need to share names here since you can't see them anyway! ;-) ha ha!



Happy 102nd Birthday to our dear friend, Ida Frey! And thank you to all who sent her birthday greetings. Ida has been an faithful friend and mentor to many in our church family over the years. Ida is pictured with Sarah Hess and Kathy Dawson during a monthly home visit organized by the Connect & Care team. If you missed sending her a card, you can still send one to 1807 Linden Avenue, Cedar Falls, 50613.



Rhonda Wolthoff and Kim Manning get into the Christmas Spirit by strolling through the trees, wreaths and table settings at MercyOne's Festival of Trees.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES...

There is a lot of good work happening at our church. Please consider giving an hour or two of your time to show God's love and celebrate the birth of Jesus by helping out.

Love Inc's Call Center Serve for Christmas in Walnut December 3 and 5, 6-8pm

Hundreds of families are waiting for a call to confirm their shopping date/time for Christmas in Walnut (as well as Love Inc's three other Christmas Stores). We are seeking volunteers to help reach out to these families via phone. Contact Molly Shymansky at mshymansky@orchardhillchurch.org to help.

Try Pie Holiday Volunteers Needed

The holiday season is here and Try Pie is in urgent need of volunteers. Help make a difference by pitching in with pie-making folding boxes or providing meals. Contact Sarah at 563-506-5851 or visit [Calendly.com](https://www.calendly.com) to volunteer.

FEATURED EVENTS



Route 55 Christmas Celebration Tuesday, December 3, 5pm OHC Commons

Enjoy our traditional menu of Cherry Stuffed French Toast, assorted egg casseroles, and jazzed up oatmeal along with fellowship with Route 55 friends. The Cedar River Readers will be on hand to entertain and we may slip in a few reindeer games! Join us for a fun evening!



Second Sunday Senior Socials

Second Sunday Senior Socials

Sunday, December 8, between worship services

OHC Commons

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.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, December 11, 11:30am

Patton Diner, 317 Main Street, Cedar Falls

Join us for lunch at a local restaurant on the second Wednesday of each month. Ladies and gentlemen are welcome. Please reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, email

kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare for us.



Carol Sing

Sunday, December 15, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary

Sing some classic Christmas hymns with us, hear specially selected Scripture, and celebrate an extended time of Communion. Piano students (young and young at heart) will perform shortly before and

after the service and we'll end our time together with fellowship and desserts. All are welcome! Invite your friends and neighbors!

Please contact Kim Manning, kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, if you would like to help sing parts to lead those who like to harmonize, read Scripture, serve Communion, play a few songs on the piano, or bring a dessert. Thank you!

Caroling at Western Home with Mom's Morning Out

Wednesday, December 18, 10:45am

Join us as we partner with Moms and children from Mom's Morning Out to sing Christmas Carols for Western Home residents. We'll meet in front of the store near Gilmore's Pub at 10:45am and serenade residents at Prairie Wind and Deery Suites.

OTHER SPECIAL EVENTS

Grundy County Men's Retreat

Friday and Saturday, December 6 and 7, beginning Friday at 6:30pm

Camp Quaker Heights, Eldora, IA

This special two-day event is hosted by the Grundy Center campus. Contact Mark Kuiper for details at mkuiper@iowatelecom.net, or see orchardhillchurch.org/events to register.

Holiday Shoppe

Monday, December 9 and Tuesday, December 10, 8am

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Waverly

Contact Megan Lorenzen at mlorenzen@orchardhillchurch.org or see orchardhillchurch.org/events.

Fill the Freezer

Wednesday, December 11, 9:30am

Grundy County Church Kitchen

Gather to cook freezer meals to stock the freezer for use to bless families who are going through life celebrations, transitions and challenges. Contact Diane Adair at diane.jean51@gmail.com or see orchardhillchurch.org/events for details.

Christmas in Grundy County

Friday, December 13, 5:30pm

Grundy Campus Lobby

Contact Carrie DeBerg at carriedeberg@gmail.com or see orchardhillchurch.org/events for details.

Christmas in Walnut

Saturday, December 14, 8:30am

Cedar Falls Campus

Christmas in Walnut is partnering with Love INC, for our 16th annual Christmas Store. Contact Molly Juza at mjuza@orchardhillchurch.org or see orchardhillchurch.org/events to participate.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

Wednesday Walks

Weekly on Wednesdays, 1:30pm

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.

SEMIMONTHLY

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, December 11

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 that generally lasts for 1 ½ hours. Come when you can and leave when you must.

MONTHLY

Men's Breakfast

Friday, December 6, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Men's Monthly Breakfast is a great opportunity to connect with other guys and have an awesome breakfast. Additional information is at OrchardHillChurch.org.

Community Meal

Wednesday, December 11, 5:30pm

OHC Commons

Join us the second Wednesday of the month anytime between 5:30pm and 6:30pm for a free meal and belonging in community. Volunteers are needed. Please see OrchardHillChurch.org for additional information and to make your reservation.

Waverly Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, December 17, 4:15pm

Waverly Civic Center, 200 1st St. NE, Waverly

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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, December 21, 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, December 17, 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.

Grundy Men's Breakfast

Friday, December 20, 6:30am

Grundy County Lobby & Coffee House

Men's Monthly Breakfast is a great opportunity to connect with other guys and have an awesome breakfast. Additional information is at OrchardHillChurch.org.

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 new offerings!

From our friends with The Proud Image Chorus...

The Proud Image Chorus and River City Chorus present The Secrets of Christmas

Saturday, December 14, 1pm

Cedar Valley Church, 3520 Ansborough Ave., Waterloo

Tickets: Adults \$10, Children (under age 10) \$5. All proceeds will benefit the House of Hope. There will also be a free will offering. Order tickets by calling 515-979-9054 or email pichorus@gmail.com.