



Route 55 Newsletter | May 2025

Orchard Friends,

SPRING has SPRUNG! We made it through another Iowa winter! This one was rather mild, except Wednesdays – we did do some postponing of several Wednesday activities! Here’s hoping your Easter was joyful and meaningful. Our collective journey through Lent was *inspirational*. With the help of over 57 volunteers, we served 550 people and the Connect & Care Team delivered 64 meals to our homebound friends. Thank you to everyone who helped shower the love of Jesus on all who participated in these events.

Our Spring/Summer calendar is beginning to fill out with lots of opportunities for walking, hiking, learning and fellowship. Read through the rest of this newsletter to learn more!

Grace and Peace,

Kim Manning

RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Jeff Mickey hosts a Lenten Lunch, offering words of welcome, prayer and a hilarious introduction for a special guest speaker... Pastor Enrique Ochoa aka “Q, who offered a thoughtful and encouraging message.



Hope Chestnut leads us as we sing our praises to God before a Lenten devotion begins.



Kristin Sauerbrei takes a turn at hosting also, offering prayer and introducing our special friend... Pastor Tim Boettger, who joined us to deliver a timeless and deeply moving Lenten devotion.



Lenten Lunch host, Kathrine Krukow introduces Pastor Susan Ney before her devotion reminding us to create sacred spaces to commune with God.

FEATURED EVENTS



HYMN SING

Sunday, May 4, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary

Sing some classic hymns with us, hear 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!



Second Sunday Senior Socials

Second Sunday Senior Socials – LAST ONE UNTIL SCHOOL STARTS

Sunday, May 11, between worship services

OHC Commons

Join us for coffee, conversation and pastries one last 'Second Sunday' before we break for the summer. No reservations are necessary, although we are seeking volunteers to bring fruit or pastries.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch is back!

Wednesday, May 14, 11:30am

Village Inn Restaurant - for free pie Wednesday!

6308 University Ave, Cedar Falls

After taking a break during the Lenten Lunch series, monthly Route 55 lunches are back! Join us 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, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare.

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. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THESE WALKS WILL MOVE TO 10AM ON WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING JUNE 4.

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, May 2, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Women's Monthly Breakfast creates a space for women to connect with God, Scripture, and one another no matter their season of life. Additional information is at OrchardHillChurch.org or Hailey Fienup at hfienu@orchardhillchurch.org.

Waverly Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, May 13, 4:30pm

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.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, May 14, 9:00am

Karen Freed's home, 23849 R Avenue, Grundy Center

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.

Community Meal

Wednesday, May 14, 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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, May 17, 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, May 20, 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.

Men's Breakfast Cedar Falls

Friday, May 30, 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 or contact Jeff Burris at jsb800m@gmail.com.

COMING IN JUNE

We're working on a Fellowship, Food and Fascinations session designed to help you beef up your cyber security and protect yourself from scammers.

We also hope to offer a Bible Study series in June. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter and in weekly email messages.

LOOKING AHEAD

Global Leadership Summit

August 7 and 8, 8:30am

OHC Community Center

Join us for this annual event designed to stretch and challenge you with world-class speakers, interactive dialogue, and practical training. No matter where you lead, The Global Leadership Summit is a world-class experience designed to help you get better and embrace your grander vision: The reason God called you to lead. See OrchardHillChurch.org for pricing and additional details.

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!

2025 ROUTE 55 HIKING CLUB SCHEDULE



Does spending time in nature bring you closer to God? Join us for a hike! We've scheduled monthly outings throughout the summer. Some are in town exploring our outstanding trail system and some are up to an hour away, traversing state parks. All of our outings end with fellowship and ICE CREAM! ;-)

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a mountain-climber or Olympian to participate. If we encounter hills or uneven terrain, we often split into "flat-lander" and "billy goat" groups so everyone is comfortable. 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 if we use the church van, we appreciate \$5 to help with gas. If we leave town, we are generally back by 4pm.

Contact Deb Mc Calley at 515-707-5939 or dmccalley58@gmail.com to let us know you are coming, or if you'd like to be added to her monthly email list, or have questions. We really do have a great time together and are anxious to welcome newcomers to our group!

Katoski Greenbelt

West Ridgeway Avenue between Cedar Heights Drive/Deere Road and Greyhound Drive, Waterloo
Please park on the south side of Ridgeway.

Wednesday, April 30, 1:30pm

We'll join the Wednesday Walkers this month for a hike through the Katoski Greenbelt to see the bluebells! We'll hike for an hour or so and then enjoy ice cream at Culvers on Viking Road.

Pine Lake State Park

22620 Co Hwy S56, Eldora (45 minutes from OHC)

Wednesday, June 4, 9am

Meet at OHC to ride in the church van or car pool to the park. Bring a sack lunch. We'll hike a few hours, break for lunch, and then maybe hike a little more before loading up in the van for an ice cream stop on the way home. If you are riding in the van, please plan to bring \$5 to help with the gas.

Zabel Land

6642 W Bennington Road, Cedar Falls

Wednesday, July 2 or 9, 10am – this date is tentative, depending on when the flowers are in bloom

Kevin and Kim Zabel have graciously invited us to their place to hike and enjoy the myriad of prairie flowers that grace their land. Our date may shift so we can view the blossoms at their peak. Meet at OHC to car pool or drive directly to the Zabel's and meet us there. Wear sunscreen and bring a sack lunch. We'll hike a while, break for lunch, and then hike a little more.

Greenbelt Lake Trail

900 Martin Road (off Highway 63), Waterloo

Wednesday, August 6, 10am

Meet at OHC to car pool or meet us at the trail head. Bring a sack lunch, money for ice cream.

Hickory Hills

3338 Hickory Hills Road, La Porte City

Wednesday, September 3, 9am

We've reserved a van for this one, so meet at OHC to ride with us or car pool. Bring a sack lunch, \$5 for gas if you're riding in the van, and some money for ice cream.

Backbone State Park

1347 129th Street, Dundee (1 hour)

Wednesday, October 8 or 15, 9am – this date is tentative, depending on when the leaves are in full color

Meet at OHC to ride in the van or car pool. Bring a sack lunch, \$5 for gas if you're riding in the van, and some money for ice cream. We hope to enjoy the colors of autumn, so depending on when peak leaf-looking time unfolds, this date may change.