The Newsletter
The United Methodist Churches
of
Laurens & Varina, Iowa

For the week of September 20, 2026 **Volume 38** **Issue 6**

Usher Schedule:

September 27: Angie Sobotka, Julie Potter, and Jean Murray
October 4: Jr. & Sr. High Youth
October 11: Bryana & John Gustafson, and Pat Sullivan
October 18: Clayton Rubel, Monty Potter, and Jerry Sobotka
October 25: Frank Bringleson, Doc Van Genderen, and Terry Spanier

Liturgist Schedule:

September 20 & 27: Angie Christenson
October 4 & 11: Monty Potter
October 18 & 25: Pat Sullivan

Acolyte Schedule:

September 27: Gage Gustafson and Jacob Sobotka
October 4: Feinox Wiley and McKenna Egertsen
October 11: Reagan Hertz and Gage Gustafson
October 18: Samantha Zylstra and Matt Rubel
October 25: Reagan Hertz and Jacob Sobotka

If you are unable to work on your date, please find a replacement and let the office know at 712-841-4476.

Luke 24: 44-53 **Jesus said to his disciples, "This is what I told you while I was still with you."** Jesus explains that everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must come true.

Varina Announcements . . .

Community Coffee Dates for the Month of September:

Wednesday: September 23, and 30
Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Everyone is welcome to attend.

Varina UMC
Sunday School
Starts October 4, 2026

Ingathering Donations
are due at the Varina UMC
by November 1.

Laurens Announcements . . .

Worship Meeting
Date: September 27
Immediately following worship service

October 1: UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 6:00 PM.
Soup will be provided by Kaye and Sarah. Amanda Martz is the guest speaker beginning at 6:30 PM. Amanda is on the Laurens-Marathon School Board.

October 3: UMM Meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 8:00 AM. Don will provide breakfast with Monty leading the lesson.

October 4: World Communion Sunday Special Offering during worship service. There will be **NO** Potluck due to the Laurens Firemen's annual breakfast.

October 18: 3rd Grade Bibles will be given at worship service.
Administrative Council Meeting in Laurens at 11:30 AM. All are welcome to attend.

October 19: Charge Conference in Emmetsburg at the Methodist Church @ 6:00 PM.

October 21: Administrative Council Meeting in Varina at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Administrative Council - Sunday, September 20, 2026
MINUTES

Present: Kelly Tate, Angie Christenson, Connie Dallenbach, Deb Spanier, Terry Spanier, Doc VanGenderen, Kaye VanGenderen, Brad Rubel, Michelle Rubel, Pastor Jim Davis

Approve previous Minutes: Motion: Brad, 2nd: Connie

Trustees: Brad reported that there were no updates

Staff Parish: Michelle presented that SPRC had voted via email to continue with the salary for Pastor Jim as listed on Form I (signed back in April). Michelle made a motion for Ad council to approve this salary. 2nd: Doc - all approved

Missions: none

Worship: Connie Dallenbach reported that they will meet on 9/27 after church to go over Pastor Jim's survey results and other worship service topics.

Christian Education: Michelle Rubel reported that Sunday school began last week (9/13) with a "light-themed" kickoff. 3rd Grade Bibles will be presented on 10/18. Also, that day, the youth (cherubs - 3rd) will sing in church that day.

Youth Group: Angie Christenson reported that she plans to start a younger youth group for ages 3rd grade - 6th grade. She plans to start on October 7th. Will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month. 5:30 - 7 pm. Will begin each week with a meal & then followed by lesson and games. Connie Dallenbach has volunteered to help with the first meal and others when she is available. Angie may need help with some meals in the future. She plans to have all meetings at the Methodist Church. The youth group board will meet 9/30. Motion was made to allow Angie to use our church for youth group meetings. Motion: Doc, 2nd: Brad - all approved. Angie also reported that she plans to have the youth group host "Trunk-or-Treat" and Touch a Truck at the fire station on 10/31. Will serve water and hot dogs (same as in the past).

Memorials: no new memorials received

UMW: Kaye VanGenderen reported that the women have started this year and will meet again on 10/1 @ 6 pm & soup will be served. Amanda Martz will be the program for this meeting.

UMM: Brad Rubel reported that their next meeting is on October 3rd at 8 AM with Don Hertz in charge of breakfast and Monty Potter in charge of the lesson.

Endowment: As of 8/31: Siddall Ameriprise account: $242,990.70 and the checking account bank balance as of 8/24 was $499.79; however, $312.43 was paid recently from checking account to pay for the copyright music permit (so current amount in account is: $187.36).

Communications: We need to work on the Missions & Ministry Report for Charge Conference. Pastor Jim plans to look at it more closely and email out his thoughts on this.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Jim recently met with the Circuit group (pastors in the area - Graettinger, Emmetsburg, Algona etc). They discussed some joint ministry ideas, but it is difficult due to the distance between locations. Additional things discussed: possible pulpit exchange during lent and mission opportunities - helping neighboring churches with fundraisers and meals etc. . . .
- Pastor Jim's survey: He will put out a summary of the survey results so that we know what people are thinking.
- Bible Study - Pastor Jim plans to start 3 different Bible studies after the first of the year.
    - 1 in Varina
    - 2 in Laurens: 1 will pick a book and have discussions from the text, 2nd group will be picking a book of the Bible and study that way

Old Business: none
New Business: we need a recording secretary for Ad Council

Treasurer/Finance Report:

- Kelly reported that Kennedy found cheaper checks through Sam's Club and would like permission to order them. Motion: Kaye V, 2nd: Deb S - - all approved
- Finance meeting will be held in October

Adjourn: Motion: Doc, 2nd: Michelle

Michelle Rubel
Acting Secretary

Please check your trays for mail in the church library.

Noisy Offering for the month of September is donated to Caring Lunches for Kindergarten snacks.

IOWA CONFERENCE *of the* UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Ingathering

Mission Kit Collected During September

TORNADO KIT

- 2 Pairs work gloves
- 24 One-gallon resealable plastic bags
- 2 Permanent markers
- 1 Roll colored duct tape – 15-20 yd
- 2 Dust masks – no surgical masks
- 24 Heavy-duty trash bags – 33-45 gal

$20 donation for two 18-gallon totes.
Kit will be assembled at Midwest Mission.

201 W. Main, Laurens, Iowa 50554

Laurens UMC
Stewardship, Prayer Requests & Worship Schedule

Stewardship for September 2026:

	Weekly	Year-to-date	Special
Total Receipts for 2026		$ 86,859.73	$ 4,003.57
Total Receipts received for September 6:	$ 2,760.00	$ 89,619.73	$ 290.83 Aug Qtrs.
Total Receipts received for September 13:	$ 1,510.00	$ 91,129.73	$
Total Receipts received for September 20:	$ 3,343.41	$ 94,473.14	$
Total Receipts received for September 27:	$	$	$
Projected Budget Needs 2026:	$ 3,979.66	$ 210,922.00	

Attendance for September 6: Worship Service: 36
Attendance for September 13: Worship Service: 48 Sunday School: 22
Attendance for September 20: Worship Service: 49 Sunday School: 28
Attendance for September 27: Worship Service: Sunday School:

Sam Paton, Deb Spanier, Deborah Wingler, Thaine Hopkins, Robyn Cornell, Mandy Reese, April Dalby, Pat Boughey, Amy Gustafson, Karen Johnson, Terry Spanier, Edward Schmidt, Kay Schrecengost, Methodist Church, nursing home residents, our church, victims of all natural disasters, those battling illness, our men & women of the armed forces, our world, and people in Ukraine, and people of Israel.

LAURENS UMC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 27, 2026:
Youth Sunday School 9:15-10:10 AM
Adult Sunday School 9:30-10:00 AM
Fellowship Coffee 10:00 AM
Worship @ 10:30 AM

321 Main, Varina, Iowa 50593

Varina UMC
Stewardship, Prayer Requests & Worship Schedule

Stewardship for September 2026:

	Weekly	Monthly	Special
Total Receipts for 2026:			
Total Receipts received for September 6:	$ 1,047.00	$ 1,047.00	$
Total Receipts received for September 13:	$ 307.00	$ 1,354.00	$
Total Receipts received for September 20:	$ 325.00	$ 1,679.00	$
Total Receipts received for September 27:	$	$	$

Projected Budget Needs for 2026: $ 633.15

Attendance for September 6: Worship Service: 32
Attendance for September 13: Worship Service: 17
Attendance for September 20: Worship Service: 21
Attendance for September 27: Worship Service:

The Family of Gary Siepker, The Family of Dorothy Mernin, Mike Conlon, Gloria Mobley, Bruce Erie, Mandy Reese, Marie Breon, Denise Tegels, Paul Kraft, Milton Voss, Carol Siepker, Walt Collins, Julia Collins, The United Methodist Church, our nation, victims of all natural disasters, victims of violence, our men & women of the armed forces, our world, people of Israel, and people in Ukraine.

VARINA UMC WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Worship Service at 9:00 a.m.

If you are unable to join us for in-person worship, please worship with us online as our worship services are live-streamed on the Laurens United Methodist Church Facebook page @ 10:30 a.m. every Sunday. Worship services are also available on our website at www.laurensumc.org. Just click on "Sermons/Devotions."

If you or a loved one is ready to be removed from or need added to our prayer list, please call the church office @ (712) 841-4476.

Any items for our Sunday bulletin need to be submitted to the church office @ (712) 841-4476 or methodist@laurensumc.org by 9 A.M. Friday morning. Any items for our weekly church *newsletter* need to be submitted by 9 a.m. on Monday mornings. Thank you for your cooperation.

Contact information:

Rev. Jim Davis: Pastor's Cell phone: 319-321-1705

Pastor's Email: eyeowaypastor@gmail.com

Sue Jarvis, Administrative Assistant: Office (712) 841-4476

Email: methodist@laurensumc.org

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