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

For the week of September 27, 2026 Volume 39 Issue 6

Greetings Church!

One of the results from the ministry survey you completed showed that some of you have an interest in Bible study involving a video format. Given the fact that we are quickly approaching Thanksgiving and Christmas I initially was planning on beginning those after the first of the year. However. In looking into different book/video series I discovered one on the book of Acts that I believe would be a good companion study for our current sermon series: Moving Forward: Power, Purpose, and Direction. It uses the video portion as a supplement to six (6) days of individual reading and reflection.

Here is the possible catch for some - the video portion of the study is streamed over our computers or phones with an access code that each person receives when they purchase the book (about $16 - an e-book is also available for about $11).

One way to accommodate everyone would be to stream the video portion here at the church in Laurens (if necessary). I would recommend that we meet on Monday or Tuesday## evenings - initially to watch the first video to help us prepare for doing the following 6 days of individual reading and reflection (Tuesday through Sunday - or - Wednesday through Monday). Then the following week we can share our thoughts and finish our time by watching the video for the coming week.

I would like to begin this study by October 12th/13th (viewing of first video) so please let me know if you are interested by Wednesday September 30th so that we can get books ordered.

Thank you and God's continued blessings
Pastor Jim

Tuesdays might be preferable due to the fact that this year's charge conference is Monday October 19th.

Usher Schedule:

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
October 4: Jr. & Sr. High Youth

Liturgist Schedule:

October 4 & 11: Monty Potter
October 18 & 25: Pat Sullivan
November 1: Virginia & Richard Garner, and Jason Gustafson

Acolyte Schedule:

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

Communion Servers:

October 4: Jennifer Valentine, Kelly Tate, Deb Hertz, and Monty Potter

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

Acts 1: 1-8 You cannot live a godly life using only your own strength. Pray each morning for the Holy Spirit to guide and empower you. Rely on the Holy Spirit for daily strength and sharing the good news of Jesus with people around you and across the world.

Varina Announcements . . .

Community Coffee Dates for the Month of September:

Wednesday: September 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.

Reminder that the Varina and Laurens UM Churches are collecting plastic bags. Please drop off at the church in Varina and in Laurens, at the church office.

Laurens Announcements . . .

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.

October 31: Trunk or Treat at the Fire Station 5:00-6:30 PM

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.

Please check your trays for mail in the church library.

Noisy Offering for the month of October is donated to Upper Des Moines toy collection.

United Methodist Churches
Varina and Laurens

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
If your birthday was missed on the calendar, please notify the church office @ 841-4476				1 **UMW Meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 6:00 PM**	2	3 **UMM Meeting in Fellowship Hall @ 8:00 AM**
4 *Devon Bringleson* Sunday School @ 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee-10:00 AM Worship- 10:30AM World Communion Sunday **NO** Potluck	5 *Deb Spanier* **Town & Country Quilters Club Meeting @ 2:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**	6	7 *Jason Gustafson*	8 *Verlae Nicol* *Darrell Nicol*	9	10
11 *Paul Evans* *Grace Sobotka* Youth Sunday school @ 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee-10:00 AM Worship-10:30 AM	12 **Columbus Day**	13	14 **Varina Mary Circle in Fort Dodge at the Apple Orchard @ 1:00 PM**	15	16 *Nathan Bennigsdorf*	17
18 Youth Sunday School @ 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee-10:00 AM Worship-10:30 AM 3rd Grade Bibles presented **Adm Council Meeting at 11:30 AM**	19 **NW District Charge Conference Meeting at the Emmetsburg UMC @ 6:00 PM**	20	21 *Adeline Hertz* **Varina Admin Council Meeting @ 7:00 PM**	22 Jason Dubbert	23	24
25 Youth Sunday School @ 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School @ 9:30 AM Fellowship Coffee-10:00 AM Worship-10:30 AM	26 Bryana Gustafson	27 *Sarah Hertz* *Josh Bringleson*	28	29	30 Art Umbrell	31 *Melissa Davis* ***Trunk or Treat at the Fire Station 5:00-6:30 PM*** **Halloween**

Beginning October 7

Holiday bazaar

Good as New:

We will be having tables with good as new items as part of our bazaar! There is a table in the fellowship hall that you can drop things off on. We do not want any clothing. Just gently used items! Remember that all items are sold by donation only, nothing is marked. At the end of the bazaar, all items will be taken to Goodwill or Fresh Start Market in Spencer. The last day to bring items will be November 18, 2026. Thank you for your contributions!

Laurens Community Food Pantry

OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 4-6 PM	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 4-6 PM	9	10
11	12	13	14	15 4-6 PM	16	17
18	19	20	21	22 4-6 PM	23	24
25	26 11 AM – 1 PM	27	28	29 4-6 PM	30	31

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:	$ 1,080.00	$ 95,553.14	$
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: 52 Sunday School: 26

Barb Davis, 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, October 4, 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:	$ 704.00	$ 2,383.00	$

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: 27

Barb Davis, 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, October 4, 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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