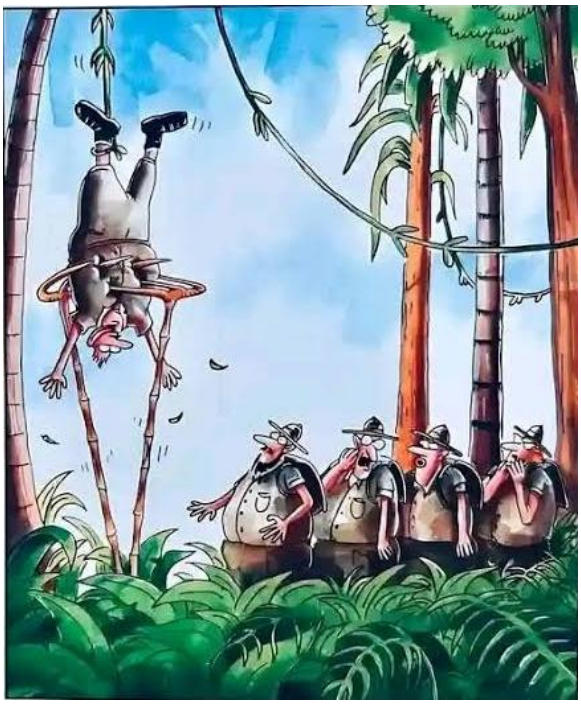
# The Newsletter
# The United Methodist Churches
# of
# Laurens & Varina, Iowa

**For the week of October 4, 2026** **Volume 40** **Issue 6**



This is one of my favorite Farside cartoons. And no, it's not because Steve is the unlucky guy who unwittingly steps in it. It's because of Bob who turns to Joe and utters the words pregnant with meaning: "That's why I never walk up front."

I've used this cartoon more times than I can count in and around Charge Conference time when we need to invite and encourage folks to take up the call to be part of the leadership of our church and ministries.

Encouragement you say? Yes, encouragement. Because what this cartoon represents for me is the unspoken fear that many people have when it comes to answering an invitation to serve. The truth is, Steve more often than not represents the pastor more so than any member (and no, I'm not whining - I've just stepped in my fair share of relational landmines).

There's a saying that I like to use that addresses another fear, "God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called." If you don't believe you have what it takes don't worry! Part of the good news here is that you will not be in this alone. You have brothers and sisters in Christ - friends - to help you. No one wants to see you struggle - we want to see you succeed. Because when we succeed our ministries succeed.

Now, with as close as we are to Charge Conference, the likelihood that all of our open opportunities to serve will not be filled in time. That's okay too. Our life together in the church is always a work in progress. And for information purposes here are the opportunities in the Laurens church that will be spread out over a three-year period or class: Pastor Parish Relation Team - 2 positions. Trustees - 4 positions, Nominations/Leadership Development Team - 3 positions. Varina folks, we'll work on the same stuff as needed.

So, please prayerfully consider how you might be able to serve as part of our shared ministry to make disciples of Jesus. Just let me know. And I promise… there will be no pungi stakes in your future.

Blessings in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Jim

## Usher Schedule:

**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
**November 1:** Virginia & Richard Garner, and Jason Gustafson
**November 8:** Greg Hertz, Brad Rubel, and John Sobotka

## Liturgist Schedule:

**October 11:** Jean Murray
**October 18 & 25:** Pat Sullivan
**November 1 & 8:** Kelly Tate

## Acolyte Schedule:

**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.**

October 18: 3rd Grade Bibles will be given at worship service.
Sunday School Kids age cherub - 3rd grade will be singing in church
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 and Touch a Truck at the Fire Station 5:00-6:30 PM

**Ingathering Donations are due at the:**

- **Varina UMC by November 1.**
- **Laurens UMC by October 11.**

# Varina Announcements . . .

**<u>Community Coffee Dates for the Month of October:</u>**
**Wednesdays: 7, 14, 21, and 28**
**Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
**Everyone is welcome to attend.**

**Varina Mary Circle Meeting**
**Date:** October 14, 2026
**Time:** 1:00 PM
**Location:** Fort Dodge Apple Orchard for lunch
**NO Program-Fellowship Time**

**Donations Dues to the Varina UMC by November 1.**
**Needed-**personal hygiene products for men and good used clothing for men

**Hats, mittens, and socks due at the church by November 29.**

**Reminder:**

**The Varina and the Laurens UM Churches are collecting grocery bags for make plastic matts (plarn) for Missions.**

# Laurens Announcements . . .

**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.**

## Holiday bazaar

The Laurens United Methodist Women will be holding their annual bazaar on Saturday, November 21, 2026! We are starting a little earlier this year at 9:30 a.m. We will be serving lasagna for a noon lunch starting at 11:00 a.m.

There are many ways for everyone to participate in helping to make this bazaar a success! We have sign-up sheets available in the church narthex for making Christmas cookies; baked goods for breads and cinnamon rolls, pies, muffins, sweet breads; casseroles; treat of month items; good as new items; wood signs; knitting and embroidery items; and for workers the day of the bazaar!

Proceeds from this bazaar are used to help support several local groups: Laurens Congregate Meals, Laurens Care Center, Laurens Food Pantry, Caring lunches, Shaya Bee, the Laurens minister discretionary fund, and our church budget.

Mark your calendars to join us on Saturday, November 21, 2026!

### Jumpy Monkey Coffee

We are going to be selling Jumpy Monkey Coffee at the Laurens Methodist Church Bazaar on November 21, 2026. We are taking advance orders for this coffee and there will also be some coffee packages available during the bazaar. We need your pre- order by October 25. The pre-order forms are in the church narthex. Your coffee will be available for pick up the day of the bazaar, and that is the time you will pay for the coffee. All packages are 12 ounces and will be sold at $13.00 a package.

Jumpy Monkey Coffee is packaged by individuals with disabilities supported by New Perspectives, Inc. in Sioux City, Iowa. This is a not-for-profit corporation that provides rehabilitative and vocational services for individuals.

# 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!

201 W. Main, Laurens, Iowa 50554

# Laurens UMC Stewardship, Prayer Requests & Worship Schedule

## Stewardship for October 2026:

| | Weekly | Year-to-date | Special |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Receipts for 2026 | | $ 95,553.14 | $ 4,294.40 |
| Total Receipts received for October 4: | $ 3,047.00 | $ 98,600.14 | $ 243.19 Sept. Qtrs. Ingathering Missions |
| Total Receipts received for October 11: | $ | $ | $ |
| Total Receipts received for October 18: | $ | $ | $ |
| Total Receipts received for October 25: | $ | $ | $ |
| Projected Budget Needs 2026: | $ 3,979.66 | $ 210,922.00 | |

Attendance for October 4: Worship Service: 63 Sunday School: 28
Attendance for October 11: Worship Service: Sunday School:
Attendance for October 18: Worship Service: Sunday School:
Attendance for October 25: Worship Service: Sunday School:

The Farmers, 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 11, 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 October 2026:

| | Weekly | Monthly | Special |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Receipts for 2026: | | | |
| Total Receipts received for October 4: | $ 1,398.00 | $ 1,398.00 | $ 50.00 |
| Total Receipts received for October 11: | $ | $ | $ |
| Total Receipts received for October 18: | $ | $ | $ |
| Total Receipts received for October 25: | $ | $ | $ |

Projected Budget Needs for 2026: $ 633.15

Attendance for October 4: Worship Service: 32
Attendance for October 11: Worship Service:
Attendance for October 18: Worship Service:
Attendance for October 25: Worship Service:

Little Evelyn, The Farmers, Barb Davis, 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 11, 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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