



## Route 55 Newsletter | August 2025

Orchard Friends,

As we near the end of summer (already?!) we've got several opportunities to gather with established Route 55 friends and to make some new ones! Out-of-town outings are planned to visit Pine Lake, Hickory Hills and Kalona. In-town fun includes a monthly lunch at a new restaurant and a return visit to the Waterloo Community Playhouse to enjoy another performance and support Orchard Hill friends.

The OHC Commons will be transformed into a "campground" (of sorts) for our Annual Route 55 Birthday Bash and we'll enjoy a fun meal and nostalgic games, and other "outdoor" adventures. This is one of our larger gatherings of the year and you won't want to miss it!

Finally, a church-wide golf outing is being planned for September with lots of help from our friend and golf aficionado, Ken Foss.

You're not going to want to miss any of this fun, so get your calendars and read through the following pages for all the details. We hope you will join us for all or some of these offerings.

Grace and Peace,

*Kim Manning*

### RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Route 55er's bid farewell to Debbie Flannery as she prepares to move to the Minneapolis area to be closer to family.





Thank you to Kevin and Kim Zabel, who invited the Hiking Club to enjoy their prairie flowers and treated us to a tour of their beautifully renovated home.



A fun feature of our visit to the Zabel's was a special scavenger hunt Kevin created for the group. It was great fun seeking out features described by his wacky and clever clues.



Sally Baker developed and led a six-session Bible Study teaching us Biblical basics including important people and places, the flow of historical events, God's plan for a relationship with him, and a look at Jesus as a man, his message, and his role as the Messiah. Time well spent. Thank you, Sally!



55er's had a delightful evening together, dining at Single Speed and walking over to the Arts Center to enjoy the Waterloo Community Playhouse production of Cinderella.

## FEATURED EVENTS



### Route 55 Hiking Club

Does spending time in nature bring you closer to God? Join us for a hike! We've scheduled monthly outings throughout the summer.

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](mailto: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!

Here is what we have planned for the rest of the summer:

**Wednesday, August 6, 9am**

#### Pine Lake State Park

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

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.

**Wednesday, September 3, 9am**

#### Hickory Hills Park

3338 Hickory Hills Road, La Porte City

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.

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

#### Backbone State Park

1347 129<sup>th</sup> Street, Dundee (1 hour from OHC)

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.



### Route 55 Monthly Lunch

~~Wednesday, August 13, 11:30am~~

~~Troy's Sandwiches~~

~~3146 Kimball, Waterloo~~

**Whiskey Road**

402 Main Street, Cedar Falls

We gather for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All are welcome. Please reserve your place by signing up in the Route

55 binder, or email [kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org), or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare.





### Route 55 Birthday Bash!

**Thursday, August 21, 5pm**

OHC Commons

Come and enjoy some “outdoor adventures” as we celebrate ALL Route 55 birthdays! Well, we won’t really be outside, but it will feel like it as we transform the Commons into a campground! This annual event will include music, fun food, fellowship, games, and who knows what else! Consider inviting some friends. Please let us know you are coming by signing up in the binder or contacting Kim.



### Experience Kalona!

**Tuesday, September 9, 8:30am to approximately 6pm**

Learn the customs and lifestyles of the various Amish and Mennonite groups in the Kalona area, enjoy a home-cooked meal, tour the Kalona Historic Village, and shop a bit.

**All of this for only \$45. Reservations are due August 21.**

The itinerary is as follows:

- 8:30am Depart from Orchard Hill Church. We anticipate caravanning/carpooling with a mixture of personal vehicles and the OHC van. Van passengers may reserve seats on a first-come, first-served basis and will be asked to provide \$5 to help with gas.
- 11am Arrive at the Historical Village Visitors Center at 715 D Ave, for a welcome and introduction to the area, followed by a drive through the countryside to a Mennonite home where we will enjoy lunch.  
  
Lunch will be served family style and consist of roast beef, noodles, fried potatoes, green beans, lettuce salad, tapioca salad and home baked bread. Homemade pie will be served for dessert.  
  
After lunch we will return to the Historic Village for a self-guided tour and some shopping.
- 4pm Head for home.



### The Wizard of Oz and El Patron

**Sunday, September 14, play at 2pm, dinner at 4pm**

Theatrical performance at Waterloo Center for the Arts

Dinner at El Patron, 301 E 4<sup>th</sup> St., Waterloo

We are planning a return to the Waterloo Playhouse as our own Selah Hess will be performing the part of Dorothy and her mother, Sarah, will be the Wicked Witch. What fun! This will be a special one-hour adaptation of L. Frank Baum’s beloved story. Tickets are \$13.50.

After the performance, you will have the option of staying for a second 1 ½ hour performance of the Royal Historian of Oz, which is a mostly one-man show about the life and times of L. Frank Baum. Selah Hess will appear in this show as well. Tickets are an additional \$10 ~OR~ you can join us for dinner at El Patron in downtown Waterloo.

**Reservations close August 29.** Please sign up in the Route 55 binder or email

[kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org) or call 319-231-1619 to indicate your interest and we’ll work together to arrange for tickets.

## ORCHARD HILL CHURCH GOLF OUTING

Sunday, September 28, 1pm  
PHEASANT RIDGE GOLF COURSE



This will be a church-wide event – open to men, women, and children of all ages. Bring your friends and family for a fun afternoon on the course. We're planning straight up golf – not best shot, no prizes or meal – just some fun and fellowship. Save the date and watch for details.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES WEEKLY

### Wednesday Walks

**Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:30am**

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:shess@orchardhillchurch.org), 319-596-6223.

## MONTHLY

### Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

**Wednesday, August 13, 9:30am**

*Joyful Java, 568 Main St., Dike*

**Wednesday, August 27, 9am**

*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.

### Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

**Tuesday, August 19, 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](http://OrchardHillChurch.org).

## **Habitat for Humanity Build**

**Saturday, August 16, 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](http://OrchardHillChurch.org). Half-day shifts are also available.

## **OTHER OFFERINGS OF INTEREST**

### **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](http://OrchardHillChurch.org) for pricing and additional details.

### **Indoor Mini-Golf**

**Sunday, August 17, 2pm**

*Waverly Campus Building*

Come wrap up the summer with an awesome event where the Waverly Campus is being transformed into an indoor mini-golf course! Come putt around! Contact Ken DeCook with questions.

### **GriefShare Class**

Mondays for 11-13 weeks, beginning September 8, 4pm – 5:30pm

*Nazareth Lutheran Church, Room 160*

Losing a loved one is inevitable. Profound grief is a result. Without love, there is no grief. To heal, we must work through the reality of it. Our friends at Nazareth Lutheran will be hosting a class where you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead – what's normal, stages of grief, and coping skills. You will receive loving support each step of the way. **Deadline for registration is August 31 so materials can be ordered.** There is a fee of \$20 for the materials. Scholarships are available, so don't let the cost stop you. Contact Meg Husted at 319-26-7589 to register.

See [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://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!