



Route 55 Newsletter | February 2025

Orchard Friends,

Here we are into February already! Spring will be here before you know it - and that brings Lenten Lunches! Everything begins a bit later this year with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 5 and Easter on Sunday, April 20. Planning is underway and details will be shared as soon as they are finalized.

In the meantime, Pastor Ed and Sally Baker will each be providing an interesting and inspiring four-week Bible Study Series on Thursdays in February. They each have a way of bringing the scriptures to life so you won't want to miss these discussions. You can read all about them on the following pages.

We hope you will join us for these and other activities.

Grace and Peace,



PUZZLE EXCHANGE!



Does putting a puzzle together give you a fun sense of satisfaction? Once it's completed, do you think to yourself, what's next?! It was suggested to us that we create a "Puzzle Exchange" whereby you can bring in puzzles you have completed and exchange them for "new to you" puzzles from someone else. We're going to give this a try!

We'll keep it simple, using the top shelves of the OHC library in Room 111. There are no forms to fill out, and no deadlines for returning them - simply bring your gently used puzzles to the library and exchange them. If you do not have a used puzzle to contribute and want to borrow one, feel free. Please just return it when you are finished.

This exchange program is being offered as an experiment until Easter. At that time, we will reassess. Happy puzzling!

RECENT ROUTE 55 EVENTS



Jack Ackerman, Marvin Eiklenborg, Larry Nanke, Chris Lehl and Gene Richardson enjoy a monthly lunch outing at Highway 63 Diner.



Helen Ackerman, Lois Nanke, Donna Pohl, Kathrine Krukow, Sheila De Vries, Diane Lehl, Esther Eiklenborg and Connie Collingwood round out the ladies' table.



The Wednesday Walking Club enjoy a chilly, sunny day with friends on the trails.



Second Sunday participants serenade Gene Richardson for a recent milestone birthday!

FEATURED EVENTS



Bible Study Series

Thursdays, February 6, 13, 20, 27, 1pm

OHC Commons

Pastor Ed and Sally Baker will each lead us through a four-week Bible Study Series.

Sally's topic, entitled **Real Faith in Real Time** will explore how the book of James offers a powerful and practical picture of what it means to live out our Christian faith and how knowing Jesus can enable us to live our lives to the full in a broken world.

Pastor Ed will discuss **Genesis: The Story of Abraham and Isaac**.

Please note we will gather together in the Commons for fellowship and refreshments from 1pm to 1:15pm and then break into study groups from 1:15pm to approximately 2pm.



Second Sunday Senior Socials

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Sunday, February 9, between worship services

OHC Commons

Join us for coffee, conversation and pastries every 'Second Sunday'. In addition to providing important fellowship, we hope to create awareness of Route 55 and Connect & Care opportunities to members of the church who have not yet participated. We will appreciate your help spreading the word by inviting friends. No reservations are necessary, although we are seeking volunteers to bring fruit or pastries.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, February 12, 11:30am

Cedar Falls Family Restaurant

2627 Center Street, Cedar Falls

Join us for lunch 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 for us.

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.

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

Waverly Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, February 11, 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, February 12 and February 26, 9:30am

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.

Community Meal

Wednesday, February 12, 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.

Community Worship Night

Wednesday, February 12, 6:15pm

Community Center

You are invited to join us after the Community Meal for Community Worship Night. This will be a space set apart for us to encounter God's love, power, and presence together through musical worship.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, February 15, 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, February 18, 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

Friday, February 21, 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.

Grundy Men's Breakfast

Friday, February 28, 6:30am

Grundy County Lobby & Coffee House

Men's Monthly Breakfast is a great opportunity to connect with other guys and have an awesome breakfast. Additional information is at OrchardHillChurch.org.

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!