



Route 55 Newsletter February 2026

Orchard Friends,

The days are getting longer! Now we just need a little bit of heat!

One way to warm up AND to prepare your heart and mind for Easter is to attend a Lenten Lunch. You'll have six opportunities beginning on Wednesday, February 18. We've got a great line-up of speakers who will provide inspiration as we ponder the incredible gift of salvation provided to us through the resurrection. Come learn and grow with us. Additional details can be found on page 3.

We've got an amazing crew of volunteers lined up to help host these events. We are so grateful to those of you who have already committed to cook, bake and/or clean-up. We are in good shape thanks to your quick responses. We could still use more help, though. If you haven't done so already, please consider joining our merry crew for a week or two – or maybe more! It really is amazing how we all come together to create these holy moments for our guests and for ourselves. Give me a call if you can help, or sign up in the Route 55 binder located at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings.

February 8 is coming up fast so we want you to be aware that we'll be getting together TWICE that day – for Second Sunday Social and again later for a movie! See pages 2 and 3 for details.

There will be a weekly Bible study in March. Pat Oehler has agreed to lead these discussions. We are so grateful that he has chosen to continue to serve – even as he steps into a well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Pat! Watch for additional information soon!

Grace and Peace,



RECENT EVENTS



Upper Left and Right

Route 55ers meet for lunch at various area restaurants. In January we dined at Landmark Commons and were treated to a tour of the building afterwards. Very informative!

Left

The Wednesday Walking group made a new friend on the trails, discovering one of the Cedar Falls Public Art Committee's latest installations in Pfeiffer Park!

Both of these groups meet on Wednesdays – walkers, every week and eaters, on the second Wednesday of the month. Since both activities occur on Wednesdays, we are taking a break to allow us to host Lenten Lunches.

Walks will resume in March when Jean Gedlinske is available to lead them again and Lunches will resume after Easter.



FEATURED EVENTS



Second Sunday Senior Social

Sunday, February 8, 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.



Movie Time in the Sanctuary

Sunday, February 8, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary

Meet us in the Sanctuary to view ***His Only Son***. This is an Angel Studios production telling the story of Abraham as he is commanded by God to sacrifice his son, and finds his faith tested during the three-day journey to the mountain of Moriah. Soda and popcorn will be provided. Bring some candy to share. The movie will last 1 hour and 45 minutes, leaving plenty of time to get home to watch the Super Bowl, if that's your jam.



Orchard Hill

JOIN US FOR
**Lenten
Lunch**

Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays for six weeks, beginning February 18

11:30am-12:20pm meal - \$5 suggested donation

OHC Commons

12:20pm-1pm Devotion

OHC Sanctuary

No need to sign up for the meal. Simply join us for soup, bread and dessert followed by a special Lenten devotion provided by a variety of guest speakers. The schedule is as follows:

February 18	Justin Dahlager will speak about the significance of Ash Wednesday and distribute ashes in honor of the day.
February 25	Matt Reisetter, Cedar Falls Bible Conference Director
March 4	Reverend Karen Nelson
March 11	Laura Sohl-Cryer, author, <i>Sonnet In My Soul</i>
March 18	Pat Oehler
March 25	Pastor Judy Marshall, Harvest Vineyard Church

Enrich the experience by joining in to help make desserts and/or helping with hospitality and clean-up. If you can volunteer, please sign-up in the Route 55 binder or contact Kim at 319-231-1619, kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org. Thank you!



Route 55 Monthly Lunches are suspended during Lent and will resume in April.

Wednesday, April 8, 11:30am

Restaurant to be determined

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES WEEKLY

Wednesday Walks are Suspended during the month of February

Weekly walks that are generally held on Wednesday afternoons will be suspended this month due to Lenten Lunches and other commitments. Watch for these walks to resume in March.

In the meantime, if you are seeking an organized walk, you might consider the Agape Performance facility. Owner Deb Iehl is offering "Walk and Talk with Deb" at their building located at 918 Viking Road, (between KJ and Kompany and Sidecar Coffee), on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, between 11:30am and 12:15pm.

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

Women's Breakfast

Friday, February 6, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Breakfast is a space for women to connect with God, scripture, and one another no matter their season of life. A light breakfast will be served followed by a brief message and table discussion. A \$3 donation is encouraged, but not required. Text MORNING to 319-553-6690 to register or to receive monthly reminders.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, February 11 and 25, 2026, 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.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 4:15pm

Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center

Volunteers from area churches help the Northeast Iowa Food Bank unload the truck, arrange food, assist with distribution, carry bags and boxes to vehicles and clean up. Additional details at OrchardHillChurch.org.

Community Meal AND Community Worship Night

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, dinner 5:30pm to 6:15pm followed by Worship at 6:15pm

OHC Commons

Bring your family, friends and neighbors for a great meal. Free will donations will be accepted. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ben Fienup at bfienup@orchardhillchurch.org, or Bradley Rees, brees@orchardhillchurch.org.

Cedar Falls Men's Breakfast

Friday, February 27, 2026, 6:30am

OHC Commons, Cedar Falls

~and~

Lobby and Coffee House, Grundy County

Most of us lead busy lives and it's tough to find time for anything outside of work and family obligations. Men's Breakfast is the perfect opportunity to break away for good food and connection with other guys. A brief message will be provided followed by discussion at the tables aimed at getting to know one another better. A donation of \$3 is encouraged to cover the cost of food. Want monthly reminders? Text 319-553-6690.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Grundy Fill the Freezer

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 9am

Grundy County Church Kitchen

One great way to show love and hospitality is through food! Help prepare freezer meals that will be used to bless families who are going through life celebrations, transitions and challenges. See OrchardHillChurch.org/events for additional details.

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These events were selected for promotion to our Route 55 audience. There's a lot more happening, so see OrchardHillChurch.org for additional news and events. You may also want to check out the [Community Groups](#) section!



*Dresses made from
pillowcases*

KAY'S RECLAMATION MINISTRY

As you wrap up your winter organizing or contemplate spring cleaning, we remind you that many items can be reclaimed and used again. Kay Clements has a passion for this and gathers used items for various charities. She sorts and redistributes items to House of Hope, Orphan Grain Train, Alliance Stamp Ministry, Resourcing NOW and others. A listing of items and their uses is listed below.

You can drop donations in the boxes labeled "Kay's Reclamation Ministry", located outside the Route 55/Connect & Care office. Contact Kay at karonkay46@gmail.com about perishable items or if you have questions.

ITEMS NEEDED and HOW THEY WILL BE USED

Bibles, tracts, devotional literature, Sunday School materials will be sent to pastors and individuals for use in South American countries.

T-shirts in any size or color will be transformed into diapers and sanitary kits.

Pillowcases will be made into dresses and sent to Africa.

Soap, shampoo, conditioners, lotions (partial bottles welcomed) will be given to House of Hope.

Paper towels, baby wipes, baby books, soap, sleepers, gift cards will be taken to Alternatives Pregnancy Center.

Cancelled stamps - simply tear off the upper right corner of the envelope and volunteers at Alliance Stamp Ministry will trim and distribute.

Old towels, rugs, bedspreads, pet beds, old pillows will be taken to the Cedar Bend Humane Society.

Dog and cat food (even if expired), freezer-burned meats, AND empty buckets will be given to Black Hawk Wildlife Rehabilitation.

New and used sheets, yarn, thread will be given to OHC Quilting Ministry.

New stuffed animals, Beanie Babies will be provided to Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry.