



Route 55 Newsletter November 2026

Orchard Friends,

Registration for the Women's Connection Dinner will close November 2, so don't miss out! **Join us in the Community Center on Monday, November 9th, at 6pm** for a very special evening spent with Orchard Hill women of all ages. Kathrine Krukow will share an inspirational message and we'll enjoy a variety of soups, salad, bread and desserts in a beautifully decorated environment. Registration and other details can be found at OrchardHillChurch.org/featuredevents.

A special three-week **Bible Study Series exploring the Parables of Jesus begins THIS THURSDAY, November 5**. You can read all about it on page 2. It's coming up fast, so I thought I'd make mention of it here so you can get it on your calendars. We'll discuss a different parable each week, so if you are unable to attend all three sessions, feel free to come when you can.

Our upcoming **Christmas Celebration takes place on December 1** so we want to make sure you are aware of it now and will save the date. We'll be changing up the menu this year to a potluck. Yum! We'll provide the meat – pork roast and fried chicken – and we ask that you bring a side or dessert to share.

As we make our way to the Thanksgiving holiday, remembering our many blessings, we invite you to consider giving back by participating in a service project. Information about many such opportunities including [Try Pie](#), [Christmas in Walnut](#), and several others can be found on the Serve page located in the Next Steps tab of our website at OrchardHillChurch.org/team.

Finally, I need to share with you that I will be retiring from my role as leader of the Route 55 Ministry at the end of the year. I will continue to be an active member of the church and hope to continue participating/helping as a volunteer with many of the activities I have come to enjoy. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our church family over these past four years and I treasure the many wonderful new friends I have made along the way. Thank you for the difference so many of you have made in my life. It's been a joy!

Grace and Peace,



RECENT EVENTS



We had a great turn out for our Second Sunday Social in October!
Consider joining us in the Commons between services for the next one on November 8!

*I forgot to get photos of our Monthly Lunch at the Cedar Falls Family Restaurant last month. So sorry!
It was fun and DELICIOUS! We'll be at the Olive Garden on November 11th.*

FEATURED EVENTS



Bible Study – The Parables of Jesus

Thursdays, November 5, November 13, November 19, 1pm
Room 141 (aka The Prayer Room)

Join us as we explore the Parables of Jesus. Kim Manning will facilitate this three-week series, using the Discovery Bible Study method. We are seeking a few volunteers to bring bars or cookies to share each week. Please let Kim know if you are willing.



Getting Through the Holidays

Getting Through the Holidays Grief Discussion

Friday, November 6, 2026, 6:30-8:30pm

Riverview Conference Center, 439 N Division Street

You're invited to join Sarah Hess in attending this grief event. Feel free to reach out to her at shess@orchardhillchurch.org or 319-596-6223. For more information on the event: riverviewministries.com/grief-event



Second Sunday Senior Social

Sunday, November 8, 2026, between worship services

OHC Commons

Join us in the Commons between services. 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.



Cinema in the Sanctuary

Sunday, November 8, 4pm

Early Access Event – The Chosen, Season 6, Episode 1

OHC Sanctuary (show is approximately 1 hour)

Be among the first to see Episode 1 from the long-awaited Season 6 of The Chosen during this special showing. Fear and confusion reign as the disciples struggle to make sense of Jesus' arrest and Judas' betrayal. While they fight to stay together, Nicodemus stands alone against the High Priest in a heated showdown that throws the council into disorder.

The rest of the season will be released as follows:

Release Schedule and Platforms

- **Streaming Platform:** Prime Video is the primary streaming home for Season 6.
- **Premiere Date:** November 15, 2026, with the first three episodes dropping at once.
- **Weekly Episodes:** Subsequent single episodes release weekly through December 6, 2026.
- **Theatrical Finale:** The season finale will be released as a standalone global theatrical film in Spring 2027.



Women's Connection Dinner –

BE STILL. BE LOVED. BE GRATEFUL. SIMPLY REMAIN.

Monday, November 9, 6pm

OHC Community Center

REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE NOVEMBER 2! Don't miss out! Women of all ages will gather for a time of friendship, connection, devotion, and a little pampering. Tables will be uniquely and elegantly decorated by

individual volunteers and a delicious variety of soups, salad, bread and desserts will be served buffet-style. Kathrine Krukow will share a meaningful devotion. Tickets are \$10 each. We are still seeking volunteers to decorate a table, host a table, help decorate the event space, or help with the kitchen crew or clean-up team. See OrchardHillChurch.org/events for additional details and to register as an attendee and/or as a volunteer.



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, November 11, 11:30am

OLIVE GARDEN FAMILY RESTAURANT

1315 E. San Marnan Dr., Waterloo

We gather for lunch at a local restaurant on the second Wednesday of each month. **Please be sure to let us know you are coming** so our hosts can

prepare for a good experience. Reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmaning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. Thank you!



Festival of Trees

Friday, November 20

12:00pm Lunch at Village Inn, 6319 University Avenue

1:30pm Festival of Trees, Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center

Join us for lunch at Village Inn Restaurant followed by a stroll through the Festival of Trees at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Invite your friends and neighbors!

LOOKING AHEAD



Route 55 Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, December 1, 5pm

OHC Commons

The meal for this year's celebration will be a POTLUCK! Yum! We'll provide pork roast and fried chicken. We ask you to bring a side or dessert to share. We'll enjoy a delicious meal, fellowship among Route 55 friends, a few games, and some Christmas Carols! All are welcome so consider inviting a friend!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

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 Kim Manning, kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, 319-231-1619.

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, November 6, 2026, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Come and connect with God, scripture, and one another no matter their season of life. Enjoy a light breakfast and Engage the Bible at table groups with women from all generations. A \$3 donation is encouraged, but not required. Text MORNING to 319-553-6690 to register or to receive reminders.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, November 11 & 26, 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. Come when you can and leave when you must.

Community Meal

Wednesday, November 11, 2026, 5:30pm to 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.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, November 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.

Men's Breakfast

Friday, November 20, 2026, 6:30am

OHC Commons, Cedar Falls

Men's Breakfast provides an opportunity for good food and connection with other guys. A brief message will be provided followed by discussion at the tables. A donation of \$3 is encouraged to cover the cost of food. Want monthly reminders? Text 319-553-6690.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, November 24, 2026, 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.

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 and/or the [Serve the Community](#) section of our website.



How Do I Face the **Holidays** While I'm Grieving?

TWO **FREE** HOLIDAY GRIEF WORKSHOPS
AT LOCKE FUNERAL SERVICES

NOVEMBER 5

How Do I Prepare for the Holidays While I'm Grieving?

We'll talk about traditions, family conversations, memories, and making a plan that honors both your grief and what matters most to you.

 **1:00 – 2:30 PM**
Locke Funeral Services
1519 4th Street, Waterloo

 **5:00 – 6:30 PM**
Locke at Tower Park
4140 Kimball Avenue, Waterloo

NOVEMBER 12

What Do I Do When the Holidays Actually Hurt?

We'll talk about gatherings, difficult moments, boundaries, what to say when you don't know what to say—and giving yourself permission to change your plans.

 **1:00 – 2:30 PM**
Locke Funeral Services
1519 4th Street, Waterloo

 **5:00 – 6:30 PM**
Locke at Tower Park
4140 Kimball Avenue, Waterloo

Come to either workshop or both.
FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY.



Coming in 2027:
Understanding Your Grief
Ongoing grief groups
at same time and locations.

January 7:
Why Does It Take So Long?
Will I Ever Get Over My Grief?