



Route 55 Newsletter January 2026

Orchard Friends,

Happy New Year! Let's make a renewed effort to grow in love and service to our Dear Savior, whose birth we just celebrated. We are always open to ideas for activities to nurture connection and friendships and/or service projects that we can do together. We are also seeking ideas for a Bible Study Series to offer on Tuesday or Thursday afternoons. If you have ideas, please share!

Our January Monthly Lunch will be at 11:30am on Wednesday, January 14. It will be the last one until Easter as we will be busy hosting Lenten Lunches beginning on Ash Wednesday, which is February 18. Since we will be taking a break, we want to make this gathering a special one so we are meeting at Landmark Commons where we will order from the menu and enjoy a nice lunch followed by a tour of the facility. The tour is optional. We did this at Western Home a while back and it was very enjoyable and interesting. Since this is a special opportunity, we will appreciate your reservation for the lunch and/or for the tour.

Speaking of Lenten Lunches, as you can imagine, it takes a lot of hands to make these events welcoming, delicious, and meaningful. We are seeking speakers, soup and dessert makers, servers, and dishwashers. Please consider helping out, even if just for one week. Thank you so much!

Wishing you grace and peace,

Kim Manning

RECENT EVENTS



December's Monthly Lunch outing took place at Village Inn. It was a cold, snowy day, warmed by OHC friends – and a piece of pie for dessert!



Second Sunday Socials provide opportunities for connection and conversation. Join us for the next one on January 11!



Pam and Chuck Frost, Marilyn Jasper, Kay Clements and Donna Pohl prepare a feast for our annual Christmas Celebration.



The Proud Image Chorus provided a delightful program after dinner.



Santa made an appearance too!



Several OHC friends attended the Festival of Trees.



Route 55ers joined with Mom's Morning Out moms and children to carol for residents at NewAlday Lifescapes. A merry time was had by all!

FEATURED EVENTS



Second Sunday Senior Social

Sunday, January 11, 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, January 14, 11:30am

Landmark Commons

1400 Maxhelen Blvd., Waterloo

A SPECIAL TOUR OF THE FACILITY IS BEING ARRANGED AFTER THE MEAL.

We gather at a restaurant for lunch every month on the second Wednesday.

All are welcome. **This month will be a little different in that we will gather at Landmark Commons! We will all order individually from the menu and a tour will be offered afterwards. The tour is optional. Please be sure to let us know you are coming and if you would like to take a tour.** This will allow our hosts to prepare for a good experience for us. Thank you! Reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619.



Comedy Club at the Commons

Saturday, January 24, 4pm

OCH Commons

Everyone needs a chuckle in January! Join us for this annual laugh-a-thon. Our comedian is yet to be determined (it will be a video) so watch our weekly emails for additional details. Additional fun and frivolity are planned

so come and spend an hour and a half or two with us. Light snacks and soda will be provided. There is no cost to attend. Please RSVP by contacting Kim Manning at 319-231-1619 or kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org. All are welcome as we focus on building community.

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. January walks will be led by Deb McCalley, Patty Scott or Kim Manning. The group will take a break during the month of February and resume again in March.

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

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, January 14 and 28, 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, January 20, 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

Wednesday, January 28, 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.

Cedar Falls Men's Breakfast

Friday, January 30, 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

Leadership Huddle

Saturday, January 24, 2026, 8am

Atrium area near the Community Center at Cedar Falls

A continental breakfast will be served beginning at 8am. Discussions begin at 8:30am and wrap up shortly before noon. The theme will be "Engage" and will focus on changes to our team and structure and helping people take next steps to be part of creating more sacred third spaces in 2026.

See OrchardHillChurch.org/events for additional details.

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!