



Route 55 Newsletter May 2026

Orchard Friends,

We recently put out a call for volunteers to help with some Spring Clean-up around the outside of the church. A small-but-mighty team consisting of Diane and Chris Iehl and Kevin Zabel happily stepped up to the challenge! Brenda Patterson, a volunteer-extraordinaire herself, led the charge providing tools, instruction and encouragement. THANK YOU!

Brenda does SO MUCH! In addition to keeping the outside our building looking nice, she organizes and maintains supplies in our kitchen. And these are just the things we know about! I suspect there is much more. She is passing this amazing gift of volunteerism on to future generations. Her granddaughter, Sloane Patterson is a sophomore at Cedar Falls High School. She is working on her Eagle Scout project here at Orchard Hill. She is renewing the landscaping in 8 different areas on the Elmridge Drive side of church. Watch for many improvements happening now and in the near future.

Here's how YOU can get involved. As these improvements are made, Brenda, and Jeff Burris are putting up small sections for adoption! Eighteen different areas have been identified. Your commitment would include keeping an eye on the area during the summer months and pulling a few weeds if they pop up – and maybe a little spring and fall clean up as needed.

Would you consider adopting a small area? It might be a great small group service project or possibly a grandparent and grandchild activity.

If you are interested please contact:

Brenda Patterson ~or~
319-269-4326
Pattersonblp76@gmail.com

Jeff Burris
319-239-0730

Thank you!

Kim Manning



Soon-to-be-Eagle Scout, Sloane Patterson hard at work updating the landscaping surrounding the church.

RECENT EVENTS



Chris lehl, Kevin Zabel and Brenda Patterson, hard at work sprucing up the church grounds. Diane lehl is working just as hard - we just missed getting her picture!



Attendance for Second Sunday Socials is growing! Join us for one last gathering on May 10 before the summer break.



Cedar Falls Route 55er's enjoy dinner at the Iowa Prime House before attending the Shell Rock Swing show!



Grundy County 55er's assembled a group to visit Shell Rock, too! A delightful time was had by all!



Dr. Clementine Msengi shared her experiences surviving the Rwandan Genocide and beginning a new life in America. You can read all about it in her book entitled *Spared*, available on Amazon. Thank you to Neil and Barb McMahon for following God's nudging, adopting two of Clementine's sisters and for inspiring us to make this informative evening possible.



April's monthly lunch took place at La Isla. Ole!



Thank you to Jean Gedlinske for her many years of loving service to OHC. She and her husband Brian are planning a move to Madison, WI, to be closer to their son and his family. Since retiring from her position as the Route 55 Ministry Director, she has continued to make regular Connect & Care visits, lead Wednesday Walks, arrange for salads and desserts for funerals and more. We will miss her regular attendance and involvement, but look forward to lots of visits back home!

Kim Manning will step in to help with Walks and funeral salads and desserts. **If you'd like to be added to either of these groups, please let her know.**

FEATURED EVENTS

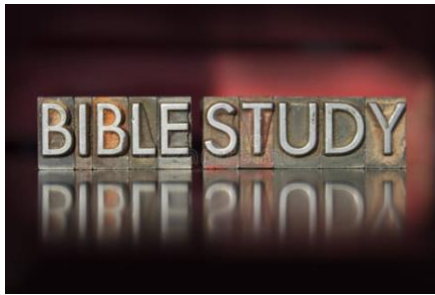


Hymn Sing

Sunday, May 3, 2026, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary and Commons

Sing some classic hymns with us, contemplate a few specially selected Scripture readings, and celebrate Communion. We'll end our time together with fellowship and some ice cream and apple crisp. Yum! All are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors!



Bible Study Series

Tuesdays, May 5 and May 12, 2026 1pm

Fellowship and Refreshments from 1pm to 1:10pm

Bible Study from 1:10pm to 2pm

Room 141 aka The Prayer Room – please note location change

Pat Oehler will lead us through this study of the Book of John. This Bible study that will be designed to encourage personal reflection

and group conversation.



Second Sunday Senior Social

Sunday, May 10, 2026, between worship services

OHC Commons

Join us for coffee, conversation and pastries! This will be our final gathering until school starts up again in September. Spread the word!



Route 55 Monthly Lunch

Wednesday, May 13, 11:30am

Olive Garden

1315 E San Marnan Dr., Waterloo

We gather at a restaurant for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All are welcome. **Please be let us know you are coming** so

our hosts can 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.

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, May 1, 2026, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Come and 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 reminders.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, May 13 and 27, 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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, May 16, 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.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

Tuesday, May 19, 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.

Cedar Falls Men's Breakfast

Friday, May 29, 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.

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.