



Route 55 Newsletter September 2026

Orchard Friends,

As we say goodbye to the sultry days of summer, we've got A LOT of news to share!

First off, THANK YOU to the Route 55 Planning Team and our special primate guest, aka **Bob Manning**, for a very fun and memorable Birthday Bash! A big and heartfelt thank you goes to **Pam and Chuck Frost and Francee Vernoy** for preparing a fun and delicious meal to help us celebrate! Thank you to **Janet Fischer, Marilyn Jasper, Keith Van Hauen, Larry and Lois Nanke**, and **Sarah Hess** and **Kathrine** and **Elizabeth Krukow** for helping decorate, host games, and generally set up and clean up before and after the party. You were all so very helpful and we are all grateful. As you can imagine, it really is fun to be involved. Perhaps you, Dear Reader, might want to take the plunge and join us! I highly encourage you to try it, even just once. I suspect you'll find it very rewarding.

I also want to thank the SEVERAL women who stepped up to help plan and/or implement the upcoming **Women's Connection Dinner!** Your willingness to participate is making it possible for us to bring you the event again on Monday, November 9! Save the date! Additional details will be available very soon!

Another **Hymn Sing** is coming up! We're going to offer it on a weekday afternoon this time at 2pm on Thursday, September 17. Please contact us if you have a favorite hymn you'd like us to consider or if you'd like to bring a dessert or help with Scripture readings or Communion. We'll return to a Sunday afternoon offering next Spring.

Thank you to **Ken Foss** for sharing his passion for golf with us by organizing a **Second Annual OHC Golf Outing** at Pheasant Ridge Golf Course on Sunday, October 4. This event is open to all ages and abilities. More information is available in the event listings section of this newsletter.

Finally, thank you to **Jeff Burris!** You'll see him doing a NUMBER of things around the church, the latest of which is organizing a monthly movie offering we're calling **Cinema in the Sanctuary**. Movies will be shown at 4pm on second Sunday of each month. **Our first showing will be on October 11. We'll view the Angel Studios production, Young Washington.** Some months we'll offer a full-length motion picture and on other months we'll show shorter programs followed by a group discussion about what we learned. It promises to be great fun. We'll be interested in your suggestions for movies.

So, read on, Route 55 Friends! There's a lot going on and we hope you'll join in the fun!

Grace and Peace,



RECENT EVENTS



A nice group of 55er's gathered to celebrate ALL Route 55 birthdays!



Mike and Nora Janssen, ready for a Safari, pose at our Tiki Hut photo booth.



Donna Pohl and Nora Janssen were introduced to our surprise primate friend.



I think he's after that banana on the table.



Then came the monkeying around! Sorry Ken.



And Larry.



I think Verla actually got him under control.



Big thanks to Chuck and Pam Frost and to Francee Vernoy, who worked ALL DAY LONG to create culinary delights for all.



Monthly Lunch was hosted by Kathrine Krukow (thank you) and took place at the Highway 63 Diner. Yum!



Cindy and Barry Whitehill, Jennifer Van Gent, Sarah Hess, Jean Gedlinske, and Rhonda Wolthoff met for an impromptu lunch at the Pizza Ranch.

FEATURED EVENTS



Route 55 Monthly Lunch
Wednesday, September 9, 11:30am
STEAMBOAT GARDENS
 1740 Falls Avenue, Waterloo

We gather at a restaurant for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All are welcome. **Please be sure to let us know you are coming** so our hosts can prepare for a good experience for us. Reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. Thank you!



Outdoor Church

Sunday, September 13, 2026, 10:30am

Cedar Falls Campus Parking Lot

Bring your lawn chairs, sunscreen and sunglasses. Need accessible parking? Turn on your hazard lights when entering the parking lot. Try Pie will be available before and after the service. Tro Sno will be there

and a free picnic lunch will be served after the service.

PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL RESUME SECOND SUNDAY GATHERINGS IN OCTOBER.



Hymn Sing

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 2pm

OHC Sanctuary and Commons

Sing some classic hymns with us, contemplate a few specially selected Scripture readings, and celebrate Communion. No need to sign up to attend. If you have a favorite hymn for us to consider or

if you can help with desserts, Scripture reading or being a song leader, please let us know. We'll end our time together with fellowship and refreshments. All are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors!

LOOKING AHEAD



ORCHARD HILL CHURCH GOLF OUTING

Sunday, OCTOBER 4, 1pm

PHEASANT RIDGE GOLF COURSE

Join us for a casual round of straight-up golf – 9 holes – not best shot. This event is open to men, women, and families with children of all ages. No prizes or meal this year – just fun and fellowship!

Cost: \$20 for age 25-64; \$18 for age 65+; \$18 for age 18-24; \$10 for age 17 and under. Cart rental is \$11.50. Pay directly at Pheasant Ridge on the day of the event. **We'll need your reservation by September 13 so we can organize foursomes.** Questions? Contact Ken Foss at 319-230-0604.



Cinema in the Sanctuary

Sunday, October 11, 4pm

YOUNG WASHINGTON

OHC Sanctuary (show is 2 hours)

Cinema in the Sanctuary

Meet us in the Sanctuary to enjoy this Angel Studios production of Young Washington and experience the story of how he faced war, betrayal and impossible choices that forged him as a leader.

Soda and popcorn will be provided. Bring packaged candy to share.



Route 55 Hiking Club

Thursday, October 15, 2026, 8am

Palisades Trout Run

Hwy 9, Decorah (1.5 hours)

Does spending time in nature bring you closer to God? Join us for a hike! We'll meet at the church parking lot and hop in the van or car pool to the park. The plan is to hike for an hour or so, break for a sack lunch, hike a bit more, then head for home, stopping for a well-deserved ice cream treat.

Everyone is welcome. Plan to bring sunscreen, a hat, water bottle, and a sack lunch. You will also want to bring money for ice cream and if we use the church van, we will appreciate \$5 to help with gas. Let us know you are coming by contacting Kim Manning at kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org or 319-231-1619.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

Weekly Wednesday Walks

Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:30am – *please note we will move to 1:30pm in October*

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, September 4, 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. Come once or come every month! 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, September 9 & 23, 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, September 9, 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, September 15, 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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, September 19, 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 Route 55 at Fox Ridge Winery for Live Music

Saturday, September 19, 2026, 4:15pm

Fox Ridge Winery, 1465 L Ave., Traer

Join the Grundy County Route 55ers for the music of Nervous Breakdown. Cost is \$5/car. Carpooling is available from the church at 4:15pm, or you can meet at the Winery. Bring a lawn chair and money for dinner, which consists of hamburgers, pork loin sandwiches, hot dogs, steak sandwiches and more. No coolers allowed. Questions? Contact Linda Taylor at lmTaylorund@hotmail.com.

Men's Breakfast

Friday, September 25, 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.