



## Route 55 Newsletter July 2026

Orchard Friends,

Ooh wee! Summer is HERE, and boy, does it feel like it! I hope you are staying cool and enjoying every day to the fullest.

Our Wednesday Walks have moved to 9:30am, walking in the cool of the day. It's a great time to connect with Christian friends and get some exercise. We invite you to join us!

Those of you who have signed up for our lunch cruise on the Scenic City Empress will be hearing from us to arrange for carpooling to Iowa Falls.

Several other activities are explained in this newsletter. We invite you to read on and hope you will join us for some or all of them!

Grace and Peace,

*Kim Manning*



Jean Gedlinske, Rhonda Wolthoff and I met for lunch and a hike on the Pioneer Trail in Grundy Center. Fun Fact, Rhonda won the contest seeking names for the trail. How cool is that!?

## RECENT EVENTS



Monthly Lunch took place at Patton's where we welcomed Julie and Robert Hughes to the group!



We spent a very enjoyable evening dining at Whiskey Road followed by an excellent performance of the musical Anastasia at the Cedar Falls Community Theatre.



We are all seated and ready for the show!



The Hiking Club enjoyed a gorgeous day at Pink Lake State Park.

## FEATURED EVENTS



**Route 55 Monthly Lunch**  
**Wednesday, July 8, 11:30am**  
**Bigfoot Betty's**  
419 Main Street, Cedar Falls

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](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org), or call 319-231-1619. Thank you!



**Route 55 Birthday Bash IN THE JUNGLE!**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2026, 5pm**  
OHC Commons

We'll celebrate ALL Route 55 birthdays with a party in the JUNGLE! Well, sort of in the jungle. You'll go ape over the fun music, food, fellowship, and games we have planned! So, practice your vine swinging and invite some friends. Please let us know you are coming by signing up in the binder or contacting Kim.

## LOOKING AHEAD



**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](mailto:kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org) or 319-231-1619.

## ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

### WEEKLY

#### Weekly Wednesday Walks

**Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:30am**

*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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:shess@orchardhillchurch.org), 319-596-6223.

## MONTHLY

### Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

**Wednesday, July 8 & 22, 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, July 18, 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](http://OrchardHillChurch.org). Half-day shifts are also available.

### Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry

**Tuesday, July 21, 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](http://OrchardHillChurch.org).

These events were selected for promotion to our Route 55 audience. There's a lot more happening, so see [OrchardHillChurch.org](http://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.