



Route 55 Newsletter | November 2025

Orchard Friends,

It's been a fun-filled Fall!

We've hiked, we've golfed, we've seen some great shows and we've done lots of eating! Thank you to all who have helped plan and host events and to all who've attended! Thank you to Deb McCalley and Patty Scott for organizing our monthly hikes throughout the summer and to Keith VanHauen for driving us through the countryside seeking out the best place to park for the optimal hiking experience. It takes a special man to smile while receiving driving directions from a van full of women!

Speaking of women, don't miss the Women's Connection Dinner to take place at 6pm on Tuesday, November 11. Registration is open until 9am on November 7. As we gear up for the holidays, we are inviting women of all ages to join us for a very special evening of connection, devotion and fellowship. Life is busy and it's about to get even crazier as the holidays approach and all the preparation they entail. Come relax and connect with friends on deeper more spiritual level.

We still have a need for volunteers to help decorate tables, and to cook and serve the meal. Details and registration can be found at OrchardHillChurch.org/events. Or contact me at 319-231-1619.



We want to take this opportunity to share a heartfelt thank you to Laurie Watje and Janet Fischer for stepping up to bring this cherished event back! Special thanks also to Craig Patterson and all the men who will be serving the meal and the creative table decorators and hostesses.

Finally, here's wishing you all a wonderful Thanksgiving. A grateful heart is a happy one.

In gratitude,

Kim Manning



The Route 55 Hiking Club explored Backbone State Park despite some rainy conditions.



Second Sunday Socials provide fellowship to many. Join us November 9th for the next one!



October's Hymn Sing provided time for worship through song, prayer, Scripture and communion, followed by food and fellowship.



The Monthly Lunch Crew gathered at LongHorn this last month (left), and helped Celebrate Sarah's birthday! (below)





A delicious potluck was enjoyed by many and all agreed that no one cooks like Route 55 members! We ended up with a great balance of dishes, too!



FEATURED EVENTS



Second Sunday Senior Social

Sunday, November 9, 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.



Welcome to the Table – the table is set, the King is near!

Tuesday, November 11, 6pm

OHC Commons

Registration will close at 9am on November 7. Women of all ages are invited to gather before the crush of the holidays for a time of friendship, connection, devotion and even a little pampering. Tickets are \$10 each. We are seeking volunteers to decorate a table, host a table, help decorate the

event space, or help with the kitchen crew or serving 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 12, 11:am

Please note the earlier start time, allowing us use of the private dining room.

Pizza Ranch

4302 University Avenue

We gather for lunch every month on the second Wednesday. All are welcome. Please reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619. This will allow us to report an accurate number so the restaurant can prepare.

LOOKING AHEAD



Route 55 Christmas Celebration

Tuesday, December 3, 5pm

OHC Commons

Enjoy our traditional breakfast menu, fellowship with Route 55 friends, and special entertainment provided by The Proud Image Chorus. Sign up in the Route 55 binder, email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619 to let us know you are coming. We wouldn't want to run out of Cherry-stuffed French Toast!

Congregational Celebration

Sunday, November 23, 5pm

Cedar Falls Campus

Join us from 5-6:30pm for our annual Congregational Celebration, a time to come together as a church family to share stories, express gratitude to our leaders, and celebrate our incredible staff and volunteers.

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. To learn more including weather-related announcements, contact Jean Gedlinske, gedlinskejean@gmail.com, 319-486-1340.

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

Community Meal

Wednesday, November 5, 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.

Women's Breakfast

Friday, November 7, 6:30am

OHC Commons

Breakfast is a space for women to 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 monthly reminders.

Kindly consider volunteering to help with the cook team. You'll have made a lasting impact – and – then you can be on your way to a productive Friday! Contact hferienup@orchardhillchurch.org.

Grundy County Women's Coffee Crew

Wednesday, November 12 and 26, 9:am

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.

Habitat for Humanity Build

Saturday, November 15, 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, November 18, 4:15pm

Grundy Center Community Center, 705 F Avenue, Grundy Center

Volunteers from area churches help the Northeast Iowa Food Bank by unloading the truck, arranging the food, assisting with distribution, carrying bags and boxes to vehicles and cleaning up. Additional details at OrchardHillChurch.org.

Cedar Falls Men's Breakfast

Friday, November 21, 6:30am

OHC Commons

~ AND ~

Grundy Men's Breakfast

Also Friday, November 21, 6:30am

Grundy County Lobby & Coffee House

Most of us lead busy lives and it's tough to find time for anything outside of work and family obligations. Our monthly Men's Breakfast is the perfect opportunity to break away from our daily schedules 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.

See OrchardHillChurch.org for additional news and events. You may also want to check out the [Community Groups](#) section as there are lots of fun offerings!