Orchard Hill
CHURCH

helping next generations encounter & follow Jesus to bless a broken world

Route 55 Newsletter June 2026

Orchard Friends,

We are at the deadline for reservations for two upcoming Route 55 outings.

An Evening with dinner at Whiskey Road and the musical performance of Anastasia at the Cedar Falls Community Theatre will take place on Friday, June 19. Tickets for the show are $29. This play, inspired by the beloved animated film, will transport us from the twilight of the Russian Empire to the euphoria of Paris in the 1920's as a brave young woman sets out to discover the mystery of her past. Pursued by a ruthless Soviet officer determined to silence her, Anya enlists the aid of a dashing conman and a loveable ex-aristocrat. Together, they embark on an epic adventure to help find her home, love and family. **Reservations are due May 31.**

Cruise the Iowa River on the Scenic City Empress in Iowa Falls on Wednesday, July 29. This 90-minute lunch cruise aboard a 50-passenger double-decker pontoon boat will offer beautiful scenery of limestone bluffs, a man-made waterfall, wildlife, the historic swinging bridge and more – all pointed out by the Captain's historic narrative as we enjoy a delightful lunch consisting of a turkey bacon torta, Mexican pasta salad, layered dip with tortilla chips, and tre leches cake! The cost is $25 per person. **Reservations for this outing are also due May 31.**

If you'd like to join us for either of these fun outings, please let me know right away!

There's a lot more fun to be had throughout the coming month, so read on and make plans to join us!

Grace and Peace,

Kim Manning

RECENT EVENTS

The Spring Hymn Sing provided contemplative music, scripture and communion.

Apple crisp ala mode was enjoyed after the singing.

May's Route 55 Lunch Bunch took place at the Olive Garden.

The final Second Sunday Social of the season took place in May. We will resume these fun gatherings when school starts.

Thank you to Pat Oehler for leading us through a study and discussion of the Book of John.

FEATURED EVENTS

Route 55 Monthly Lunch
Wednesday, June 10, 11:30am
Patton's
317 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. Thank you! Reserve your place by signing up in the Route 55 binder, or email kmanning@orchardhillchurch.org, or call 319-231-1619.

Route 55 Hiking Club
Thursday, June 18, 2026, 9am
Pine Lake State Park
22620 Co Hwy S56, Eldora (45 minutes from OHC)

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 are planning two outings this summer, visiting a couple of our favorite locations. 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.

LOOKING AHEAD

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

SAVE THE DATE! Details coming soon!

ONGOING ACTIVITIES and OPPORTUNITIES

WEEKLY

Weekly Wednesday Walks
Weekly on Wednesdays, 9:30am – PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME FOR THE SUMMER
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

Grundy County Bible Reading Marathon
Tuesday and Wednesday, June 9 and 10, 2026, 9am
Grundy County Courthouse Gazebo, G Avenue
This two-day event is part of Iowa's 99 County Bible Reading Marathon. All ages are invited to participate. Bring your Bible and lawn chair. Come for 15 minutes, one hour, or multiple times/day. See OrchardHillChurch.org/events for details.

Grundy County Route 55 Picnic at Pine Lake
Sunday, June 14, 11:30am
Pine Lake State Park
Join Grundy County 55ers for food, fellowship and lawn games. Bring your lawn chair, a drink and a side dish or dessert to share. Consider bringing gear to enjoy the bike and/or hiking trails as well. Sign up at the Grundy County Welcome Center. Questions? Contact Karen Freed at karenfreed619@gmail.com.

Grundy County Mobile Food Pantry
Tuesday, June 16, 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, June 20, 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.

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.