

THE MESSENGER ~ JUNE 2025

COLO-COLLINS UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Office Address: PO Box 266; Colo, IA 50056

Physical Address: 602 4th St; Colo, IA

Telephone number: 641-377-2534

Email: coloumcsec@netins.net



Office Hours: Tues, Thurs* & Fri from 9:00am - Noon

**Pastor Amanda and/or Pastor Nikki will be in the church office at Colo UMC on Thursdays from 9:00am to Noon. Stop by anytime!*



Pastor Amanda Gordon #515-815-5037
or amanda@amesfirstumc.org



Pastor Nikki Ross Bishop #309-236-4322
or nikki@fumcames.org



Time for an update on my continuing education journey, the 2-year Academy for Spiritual Formation...

But first, a reminder about the program. I am a part of the first ever hybrid 2-year academy. This means that throughout the 2 years I will have 3 in person sessions and 3 zoom sessions, along with a monthly check-in and covenant group gathering by zoom. Each of the in-person sessions last for 5 days and take place at a beautiful catholic university near Chicago.

During the 5 days we follow a rhythm of prayer, lectures, community meals, times of silence, meeting with a covenant group, and times of sharing. We worship together 3 times daily, with the highlight being fresh, still warm, communion bread. Each evening, we go into the great silence that ends during worship the next morning. Each session has lectures from leading theologians and professors. We also have free time to walk around the grounds and reflect on all that we are learning. Participating with me are around 40 others, some clergy and some laity. We come from all over the country, with many different backgrounds.

I have just finished my second in-person session, and I am excited to share with you all some of the insights I have gained. We had two lecturers again, Dr. Luther Smith Jr and Sister Kathleen Flood. Dr. Luther taught us about spirituality and discernment, while Sister Kathleen taught us about spirituality and compassion.

Discernment is a crucial aspect of the spiritual journey, enabling us to make wise decisions, to recognize and respond to the invitations of God, and to navigate the complexities and ambiguities of life with clarity and confidence. Through our lectures and times of silence we pondered key questions such as: What helps us listen and cultivate "ears to hear"? How do we differentiate between discernment and decision-making or strategic planning? Dr. Luther told us that discernment is not about avoiding mistakes; it's about asking questions and gaining insights. Especially helpful for me was his lecture about discernment and conflict. He helped me to see the ways that conflict can actually help in the discerning process if you are willing to listen and work through it. Avoiding conflict, although more comfortable for many, doesn't actually help in discerning where God is leading us to go.

Compassion is summarized in scripture as loving God, loving ourselves, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is a way of being that is rooted in knowing oneself as God's beloved on an experiential level and also that God's extravagant love and compassion extends to all of creation. That identity and image of God empowers us to relate to ourselves through a transformational self-compassion and gives us courage to embody a radical compassion toward others, including the suffering, the stranger, the outcast, and even our enemies. Sister Kathleen shared so many wonderful stories with us; some that have already been in sermons and many more that I'm sure you will hear in the future. But my absolute favorite lecture was her lecture on tears. Often, we don't think about the tears we shed as an expression of deep compassion. We talked about the different types of tears: restorative, guilt or shame filled, fearful, angry, love filled, compassionate, and tears of awe and wonder in the presence of God. We learned how our tears may help in compassionate care of others. I want to leave you with a responsive prayer that we shared in class.

For all who weep
I offer my tears
For all who grieve the death of a loved one
I offer my tears
For all those who have seen things they never wanted to
I offer my tears
For all struggling with illness
I offer my tears
For all those standing at the crossroads
I offer my tears
For all who suffer
I offer my tears

"from the Pastor" article (cont on next page) ...

May we offer our tears, our love, and our compassion to those who suffer around us, and may we discern where God is calling us to move to make a difference in the world.

On the journey with you,

Pastor Nikki



Farewell Message from Pastor Amanda

seeing all of you and getting to share a small part of your life. It has been an honor to serve as your pastor and I have been especially honored to get to share some of those sacred and holy moments with some of you — baptisms, funerals, confirmation, and even one wedding. Worshiping with you, having conversations with you, and being present in the churches have shaped me in ways I do not even realize yet. Thank you for the opportunity to be one of your pastors these past three years.

May God bless you all in FANTASTIC ways as you continue to serve the Lord and grow as a disciple of Jesus!

Amanda



MEET PASTOR ORVILLE

Dear Colo & Collins Church Family,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus. We are grateful to Bishop Bigham-Tsai & the cabinet for allowing me to serve at Colo-Collins UMC. With humble hearts, we are excited to join you in life's journey. It was good to have met some of you a few months ago. You're probably wondering who we are, so here's a little background.

Leah & I grew up in the church. Leah's father was a local pastor & church planter in the Nazarene tradition. My grandfather attended Kimball School of Theology (1920's) & my father attended Asbury Seminary (1950's). One of dad's seminary friends was from the Alden-Dows area. Dad helped on the farm there for some of his summer breaks.

During covid time, Leah & I were assigned to serve those church communities. So, I pastored there for a few months before covid had us step down.

Similar to other preacher's kids, I lived in parsonages & have experienced the rhythms & seasons of the church. Painting, bailing hay, detasseling corn, disking/plowing fields, walking beans, tending to livestock, doing chores, & working at a grain elevator have also been part of my growing up in Iowa. After studies at Iowa State University, I was in the clinical & forensic field. Leah is a Registered Nurse. Leah & I are also alumni of Drake University. Our sons, Samuel (ISU & Drake) & Seth (ISU & Penn State) both live overseas.

Every church has a unique story & a divine purpose. I am committed to listening, growing, & discerning God's vision alongside each of you. Nurtured with prayer, singing, & preaching, we will share stories, read the Bible, & serve God together. We enjoy visiting folks, learning about the roads you have taken, eating potluck food, dreaming of challenging possibilities, & achieving the labors set before us.

Spirit of the living God, continue your work in our church. Carry us through these times. May we feel your steady hand & hear your gentle voice. Keep folks safe as their daily routines. Sustain their families. Renew our strength & bring healing to those who need your touch. Great is thy faithfulness, O God! Help us to discover you among us. Let us be your hands & feet to transform our community & the world. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

Peace be with you. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday, June 8, 2025. Call or email anytime.

Blessings,

Orv & Leah

515-981-6878 orvverb@gmail.com
515-717-0644 berbanos@gmail.com

Many Roads – One Journey ONB








Find us online at: collinsmethodist.org

Find us on Facebook at:
facebook.com/collinsmethodist

Tithes & Offerings - Can also be mailed to:
Collins UMC at 29885 730th Ave,
Collins, IA 50055

JUNE CHURCH DUTIES

	<u>MEDIA</u> 	<u>COMMUNION</u> 	<u>FELLOWSHIP</u> 
JUNE 4	Tim
JUNE 11	Laurie	Kay
JUNE 18	Lisa
JUNE 25	Tim
JUNE 29	~ Collins Days Community Worship Service ~ 10:00am at Collins Christian Church		



We encourage as many as possible to be at church on June 8 to **meet our incoming pastor, Orville Barbano and his wife Leah.** He will be joining Pastor Nikki leading worship, including communion.

Collins Days is coming up on June 28-29. This year's theme is "Small Town, Living Large". Please share any thoughts on an idea for a float with others before or after Sunday morning worship services. Hopefully someone will be willing to head up a committee to organize and build it!!



There will be **no morning service at the Collins church on June 29.** Please attend the 10:00 community service being held at the Christian Church this year – or feel free to go to Colo UMC at 10:30.



the COLLINS CORNER (cont) ...



MISSION FOCUS
June 2025

What do/did you feed your kids in the summer? Next time you shop for food please grab something extra for Families Forward. Summer is always a tough time to keep growing kids fed! We took items down early in May and plan to make a trip again in early June. Clothes and household goods are always needed too.

Collins Days are coming up on June 27-29. Any ideas for a float? We have a hay rack and a banner. All are welcome to ride on it. The theme is "Small town, living large" so be thinking of ideas!

Beth



Please look on other pages for a message from Pastor Nikki; a farewell message from Pastor Amanda; an introduction letter from Pastor Orville; information about Peace with Justice Sunday; a letter from the bishop; and the June calendar.

Peace with Justice Sunday June 15, 2025



Blessed are the
peacemakers: for
they shall be called
the children of God
✞ Matthew 5:9



The United Methodist Church uses this day to speak out for peace and justice. Our Social Principles call us to love our enemies, seek justice, and serve as peacemakers in resolving conflict. We renew our commitment that to live into our mission of transforming the world, we must prioritize collaboration among nations, work to reduce the use and need for weapons, and foster just, equitable and durable solutions to the root causes of conflict. Your contribution supports programs that witness to God's demands for a faithful, just, disarmed, and secure world.

Ways that you can contribute:

- Giving through your local church with a special offering on Sunday, June 15th
- Donating on line at: donate.gcfa.org/pwjs
- Sending a check in the mail to:

General Commission on Finance and Administration
P.O. Box 340029, Nashville, TN 37203

(Please include Peace with Justice Sunday in the note section of your check.)

God took the **strength** of a mountain, the **majesty** of a tree,
The **warmth** of a summer sun, the **calm** of a quiet sea,
The **generous** soul of nature, the **comforting** arm of night,
The **wisdom** of the ages, the **power** of the eagle's flight,
The **joy** of a morning in spring, the **faith** of a mustard seed,
The **patience** of eternity, the **depth** of a family need,
Then God combined these qualities,
when there was nothing more to add,
He knew his masterpiece was complete, and so, He called it **Dad**.





**IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

2301 Rittenhouse Street, Des Moines, IA 50321
www.iaumc.org

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May 8, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Today, we join Christians worldwide in celebrating the election of Pope Leo XIV, the first US American and the second to serve as the head of the Roman Catholic Church from the Western hemisphere. We offer our prayers and blessings to Pope Leo XIV as he begins this sacred and historic ministry of leadership, hope, and service.

Moments like these remind us that the Spirit of God continues to move across every nation and generation, calling forth leaders to guide Christ's Church in courage and faithfulness. As United Methodists, we rejoice with our Catholic siblings and pray that Pope Leo XIV's leadership will strengthen the witness of Christ's love, justice, and mercy in every corner of the world.

The election of Pope Leo XIV is a sign that God is still raising leaders for a new day. It is a moment for hope, not only for our Catholic sisters and brothers but for all who long for a Church that embodies the love and light of Jesus Christ. May his ministry inspire all of us to move with boldness, humility, and deep compassion in a world that needs the Gospel more than ever.

Let us join together in prayer for Pope Leo XIV, for the Roman Catholic Church, and for all who seek to live out Christ's call to love God and neighbor with courage and grace.

With hope and gratitude,

Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai
Resident Bishop, Iowa Annual Conference
The United Methodist Church



JUNE 2025



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<i>Pastor Amanda</i> 1	2	3	4	<i>Amanda in Colo</i> 5	6	7
		6:30pm - CHA meeting at Colo UMC				8:30am - Community Breakfast @ Colo City Park
<i>Pastor Orville and Pastor Nikki</i> 8 COMMUNION WELCOME LUNCH for Pastor Orville & Leah @ Colo UMC during Fellowship J.O.Y. SERVICE (NIKKI) 1:30pm @ LTC	9	10	11	<i>Amanda in Colo</i> 12	13	14
					IOWA ANNUAL CONFERENCE	
<i>David Senchina</i> 15	16	17	18	<i>Nikki in Colo</i> 19	<i>July newsletter items due</i> 20	21
IOWA ANNUAL CONF						
<i>Pastor Amanda's Last Sunday</i> 22	23	24	25	<i>No Pastor in Colo this week</i> 26	27	28
	Colo UMC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 6:00-8:00pm		6:30pm - Colo Church Council			COLLINS DAYS
<i>Pastor Nikki at Colo only / No Collins UMC worship</i> 29	30					
COLLINS DAYS 10:00am Collins Comm Worship Service @ Collins Christian Church						

SUNDAY

WORSHIP TIMES:
9:00am - Collins UMC
10:30am - Colo UMC

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesdays/Thursdays/
Fridays
from 9:00-Noon



COLO UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH ~ JUNE 2025

Bible Verse: Psalm 37:7 (NIV)

*"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when men succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes."*

You can still make your pledge to Colo UWF at any time and put it in my mailbox at church or pay online. We have collected \$600 in pledges, which is two-thirds of our Pledge to Missions.

Our UWFaith Annual Unit May Breakfast/Meeting/Memorial Service was on Saturday, May 3rd, at the Colo Community Center. Our Special Friend, Gladys Alvarez, joined us and was impressed by all we are doing. We had a long discussion about whether to continue our Colo United Women in Faith group, or do we become inactive. We will vote on this at our September Unit meeting. We had no one to memorialize this year, so Joyce French told the story of a past church member of many years ago – Lulu White Howell. She grew up in Colo and became our only World War I woman veteran. If you're interested in learning more about Lulu, you can read her story and see her photo in the Colo Community Center.

The Circles will not meet again until September. Our September Unit meeting will be Saturday, September 6. More details later.

We recognized Andrew Short with a Special Membership pin in church on May 4th.

Join us at our church's Community Breakfast in the City Park on Saturday, June 7th.

There will be a UWFaith lunch gathering at Annual Conference on June 14th.

Joyce French, Communications

COLO UMC TITHES & OFFERINGS:

Mail in: Send your tithe or offering to: PO Box 266; Colo IA 50056

Online Giving

Thank you to all of you who regularly give online and/or have automatic giving set up. We have been using EasyTithe for this service, but have now moved online giving to another service offered through ChurchTrac. We ask everyone to shift your online giving to ChurchTrac as we have canceled EasyTithe. Please set up new automatic giving through coloumc.churchtrac.com. You can reach out to Jon Cutler with any questions. Here's the QR code to take you directly to online giving:



coloumc.churchtrac.com

Please visit this site! In 2024, Colo UMC started using ChurchTrac for our church management software. This included access to setting up a website: coloumc.churchtrac.com. When you visit the page, you'll find access to some information about our church. We also encourage you to sign up for an account in the upper right corner. This will give you access to update your personal information so that the church is up to date with your contact information. You can also see a record of your giving...and you can give online.



COLO UMC JUNE SUNDAY SERVICE DUTIES



JUNE 1

Reader - Amy Edel
PowerPoint - Grayson Kohlwes

JUNE 22

Candles - Nora Robinson
Reader - Dan Halferty
PowerPoint - Emma Lennie

JUNE 8 - COMMUNION

Candles - Sophie Kaiser
Communion Prep - Dorothy Cerka
Communion server - Amy Lennie
Reader - Stacie Hostetler
PowerPoint - Brevik Hostetler

JUNE 29

Reader - Hope Heidemann
PowerPoint - Aidyn Short

JUNE 15 - Father's Day

Reader - David Senchina
PowerPoint - Kinley Short



Mary Presnall, an 89-year member of Colo UMC, will be turning 100 years old on June 10th! Her family is hosting an Open House to celebrate this incredible milestone on June 7th from 1:00-4:00 at The Bridges of Ankeny, located at 3510 NW Abilene Rd in Ankeny. Everyone is welcome to join them!

The Presnall family would love to have you stop by anytime during those hours that day to share a memory or a laugh, give her a hug, etc.

They would like to do whatever they can to make Mary's day extra special! If you're unable to attend and would like to send her a card, she would love to hear from you!

Cards can be sent to:

The Bridges at Ankeny
c/o Mary Presnall
Room 406
3510 NW Abilene Road
Ankeny, IA 50023



On Sunday, May 4, at Colo UMC, we celebrated Confirmation and High School Graduation!

Pictured L-R are:

Pastor Nikki Ross Bishop,
Aidyn Short (confirmand),
Kinley Short (confirmand),
Gannon Short (graduate),
Georgia Harrington (confirmand),
Brevik Hostetler (confirmand),
and Pastor Amanda Gordon.

Confirmation Celebration at Adventureland!

Date TBD

The 2025 Confirmation Class chose a day trip to Adventureland as a way to celebrate their confirmation. AND, they are inviting members of the Youth Group to join them! Since the June calendar is pretty full with sports, we are looking at a date in either late July or early August. Pastors Amanda and Nikki are organizing this day trip. More info to come!



Colo UMC Vacation Bible School



CALLING ALL SPACE VOYAGERS!

3. 2. 1. Blast off! To Mars and Beyond!
Join us for an extraordinary adventure through space where children ages 4 – Grade 6 will explore God's limitless love and power. Through engaging Bible stories, creative crafts, uplifting music and tasty snacks they will reach for the stars and discover their unique purpose in God's universe.

Mark your calendars:
Sunday, June 22 – Wednesday, June 25,
from 6:00pm – 8:00pm
at the Colo United Methodist Church

To register:

- Mail your completed registration form (***form on next page of this newsletter***) to Colo United Methodist Church.
- Email it to Amy Lennie at lennieamy@gmail.com.
- Visit <https://coloumc.churchtrac.com> to register online.

Don't miss out on this cosmic journey!

We are looking for volunteers to help out on our epic cosmic journey this summer. If you are willing to help in some capacity, please contact Amy Lennie or Kim Heidemann. Thank you!!



Join us on June 1st during fellowship to celebrate the Mooney family! Kyle, Selah and little Mika will be welcoming a second little one soon and we want to show them some love! This is a card shower ... and what's a card shower without cake! (I mean-of course there will be cake!)



Summer breakfast series will be at the Colo City Park! Come and join us on June 7th, July 5th and August 2nd from 8:30-10am for coffee cake, cinnamon rolls, fruit and great conversation! Freewill donation is appreciated. All proceeds go to the Colo UMC General Fund. See you there!



Remember-no Christian Education classes over the summer. Our leaders are taking a break. Well-and helping with VBS...but mostly taking a break. Stay tuned for new information regarding the fall. (That's right...we are going back to weekly. YAY!)



If you need to contact the Food Pantry, their email is: colopantry@netins.net

Vacation Bible School Registration Form



**Join us for an extraordinary adventure through space
as we explore God's limitless love and power!**

**Sunday, June 22 through Wednesday, June 25 from 6:00p.m.-8:00p.m.
Ages 4 - Grade 6**

**Please mail the completed form to Colo United Methodist Church (602 4th Street,
Colo)**

or email Amy Lennie at lennieamy@gmail.com.

You can also register online at <https://coloumc.churchtrac.com>

Student's Name _____

Last school grade completed (as of May 2025) _____ Age _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Allergies/Medical Information/Other Important Info _____

Emergency Contacts:

Name _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Name(s) of person(s), other than Parent/Guardian listed above, who may pick up this child from VBS:

Colo UMC Church Council Minutes
March 26, 2025
6:30pm @ Colo United Methodist Church

Vision Statement: Community of God where faith and real life connect.

Mission Statement: In Christ, we gather, grow and serve!

Church Values: To be the heart of the community where we share God's love with all; Be inclusive to changing demographics, engage new people and be welcoming to new membership and new growth; Seek out innovation in worship.

Missional Priorities: 1. Create and Execute a Stewardship Plan 2. Serve our growing education programs 3. Increase our weekly service attendance 4. Go on a mission trip

Attendees: Jon Cutler, Vickie Wilson, Pastor Amanda, Marcella Roberts, Amy Lennie, Kim Heidemann, Brad Snodgrass, Stacie Hostetler

Brad called the meeting to order at 6:33pm

Devotional: Opening prayer given by Pastor Amanda

Minutes: Minutes were reviewed by council members. Motion by Jon, second by Stacie. to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carries.

Treasurer/Financial Reports/Financial Team: Jon reviewed the income statement – all expenses are up to date and within the amount budgeted for 2025. Expenses continue to outpace giving - \$9,000 in giving is needed per month to cover expenses.

The transition to ChurchTrac, the new online giving platform, has gone well. The fees for ChurchTrac are much lower than with EasyTithe. Jon will cancel the EasyTithe subscription. Motion by Stacie, second by Kim to approve the report as presented. Motion carries.

Since several council members were unable to attend the February meeting, The Year of Sharing proposal developed by the finance team was again reviewed with the council. Council members shared additional ideas to raise awareness about the relationship between stewardship, faith and community ranging from creating Colo UMC branded apparel to organizing a celebration for the 100th anniversary of the portrait in the sanctuary to recording a video highlighting the great things about WOW/Youth Group. No decisions were made but this will continue to be a topic of discussion at future council meetings.

Reconciling our membership role will begin in the next few weeks. Mary, along with a few council members, will review the current role and make updates as needed. Target date for completion is the 1st of July. Once complete, all remaining members will be added to ChurchTrac.

Parish & Colo SPRC: Amy has been communicating with Pastor Orville off and on over the past month – sharing email addresses of SPRC members along with a copy of the bulletin.

Trustees: Trustees have been researching alternatives to unlocking the church such as the use of a door code or a realtor box. The committee will bring recommendations to a future council meeting for discussion.

Education:

- The chili/cinnamon roll lunch was a success.
- The Adult Sunday School class is working through the Lenten Study
- WOW is quickly coming to a close – two nights remain (April 2 & 16)
- The WOW end of year celebration is May 7 at 6:00pm. A meal will be provided as well as a preview of this summer's Vacation Bible School.
- VBS will be a space themed adventure titled To Mars and Beyond and take place June 22-25. Working to line up volunteers. Registration will begin in April.

Outreach:

- April's breakfast will be on the 5th and include a grab and go option for the local rec league soccer players and their families.
- The weekly email is now being sent through ChurchTrac.

UMW/United Women in Faith!

- The Mother Daughter Banquet will be on April 5th
- Nevada Guest Night Salad Supper is April 8th
- Spiritual Day Apart Event for the Riverview Park District is April 26th in Des Moines.

Other:

- Next meeting is April 23. Jon will chair the meeting for Brad.
- Kim will give the devotional at the April meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53pm



THE MESSENGER
COLO - COLLINS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO BOX 266, COLO IA 50056

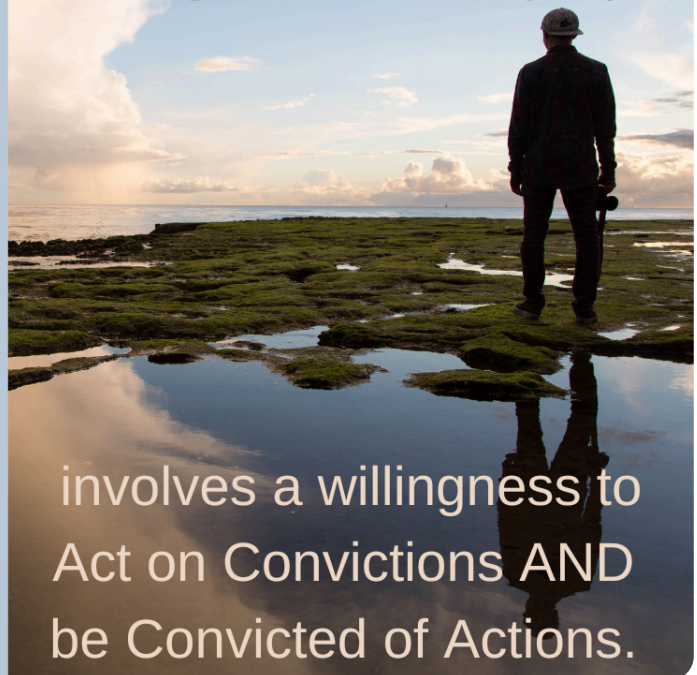
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



May/June
2025
Worship
Focus:
***Actions
and
Convictions***

Following Christ and
listening to God's Holy Spirit



involves a willingness to
Act on Convictions AND
be Convicted of Actions.