CHURCH NOTES

Mount Ayr Larger Parish United Methodist Churches Rev. Lorinda Hoover Office Ph. 464-3636 mount-ayr-larger-parish-umc@iaumc.net website: mtayrfumc.org/

Redding
9 a.m., Worship.

Middle Fork
10 a.m., Worship.

Mount Ayr
10:30 - 11 a.m., Refreshments and Fellowship.
11 a.m., Worship.

St Joseph Catholic Church 100 N. Polk Mount Ayr Fr. Tom Tomson

St Patrick's Catholic Church Grand River:
Mass will be at 5 p.m. on Saturdays
Mount Ayr Mass
100 N. Polk, Mount Ayr. Fr. Tom Tomson, Pastor. Mass will be at 8 a.m. on Sundays.

Free Methodist Church Pastor Charles Weiman
10 a.m., Sunday School.
11 a.m., Worship Service.
7 p.m., Evening Worship.
Wednesday, Family Night Prayer meeting; F.M.Y., C.L.C., 7 p.m.

Family Worship Center of Kellerton Pastor Barton Shields
9:30 a.m., Sunday School.
10:30 a.m., Worship Service.
6 p.m., Sunday Evening Worship.
Wednesday, 7 p.m., Adult Bible study.

Blockton Christian Church
9:30 a.m., Sunday School
10:45 a.m., Worship.
Church Night - 1st Wednesday at 6 p.m.
Ladies Bible Study every Tuesday at 2 p.m..

Tent Chapel Church of Christ (3 miles south of Blockton)
Bible study, 10 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.
Watch "In Search of the Lord's Way" - 7:30 a.m., Sunday on Ch. 23; KDSM Dish 267, 6:30 a.m. or Direct TV 364, 6:30 a.m.
Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Bible study.

Regular Baptist Church Mount Ayr 464-3293 (Church) Pastor Seth Denney
9:30 a.m., Sunday School.
10:30 a.m., Morning Worship Service. Nursery available.
6:30 p.m., Evening Service. (except 3rd Sunday of each month).
Wednesday, 6:30-8 p.m., AWANA; 7 p.m.,
Midweek Bible Study and Prayer. 7 p.m., Youth service.

New Life Family Church Assembly of God (641-464-3113) 1605 South St. Mount Ayr http://www.102983.agchurches.org Pastor Paul Chishala 641-464-6137
Sunday, 9 a.m. Discipleship Class
10:10 a.m., Fellowship.
10:30 a.m. Morning Praise & Worship Service.
Saturday (2nd weekends), 8-11 a.m. Open Closet
1-3 p.m. Christ's Kids Club. (6th Grade)

Kellerton United Methodist Church Rev. June Nolte Davis
9:30 a.m. Worship on even numbered months.
Beaconsfield United Methodist Church Rev. June Nolte Davis
9:30 a.m. on the odd numbered months.

United Baptist-Presbyterian Church 2343 State Hwy. 169 Mount Ayr (641-464-2127) www.ubpchurch.com
9 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Advent Reading.
Message by: Linda O'Connor.
Tuesday 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast at The HTH Outdoors, Mama & Papa Bear Coffee Bar.
4 p.m. Wed Bible Study.

Platte Center Presbyterian Church Pastor Delores Doench
9:15 a.m., Sunday School.
10 a.m., Fellowship.
10:30 a.m., Worship.

First Christian Church Pastor Rodney Glazebrook
10 a.m. Sunday School.
11 a.m. Sunday Worship Service with children's church provided during worship.

Bank of Christ Outreach and Hope Center 2nd & Ringgold, Kellerton
11 a.m., Praise/Worship in sanctuary.

Wishard Chapel Community Church Pastor Bill Armstrong
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10 a.m. Fellowship.
10:30 a.m. Worship service with children's church provided during worship.

Ellston United Methodist Church Pastor Rick Hawkins
9 a.m. Church Service.

Tingley United Methodist Church Pastor Rick Hawkins
10:30 a.m. Church Service

The Lighthouse Christian Center Non-Denominational Fellowship (West 2 miles on Hwy. 2) Pastor Doug Greene
9:45 a.m., Sunday School.
10:30 a.m., Worship.
5:30 p.m., Men's Room/ Women's Room.
6 p.m., Evening Worship.
Mondays, 5 p.m., Thin Within Support Group; 5:30 p.m., Prayer Meeting. 7 p.m., Sowing in Tears Support Group.
Wednesdays, 6 - 8 p.m., Crew Kids' Club.
More information available online at lighthouseonline.org.

Area Bible Fellowship Church 204 North Van Buren, Clearfield Pastor Ron Christian 641-336-2409
10 a.m., Worship Service.
11:15 a.m., Sunday School.
Website: www.areabiblefellowship.org

Trinity Christian Church 641-446-8654 (Hwy. 2 West, Decatur) Sunday Services:
8:15 a.m., Early Worship.
9:30 a.m., Sunday School.
10:45 a.m., Late Worship.
Wednesday Services:
6:30 p.m., Kids Club, youth group and adult Bible study.

Mount Ayr Restoration Branch Pastor Ed Anderson
10:30 a.m. First Sunday of the month, Sacrament service. Rest of the month 9:30 a.m. Devotions & Sunday school; Preaching at 11 a.m.

Shannon City Community (Non-Denominational) Church Pastor Al Rusk
9 a.m., Worship.
10 a.m., Sunday School.

Missio Church Co-Pastors: Darin Dolecheck Jim Murphy Sunday Services
9 a.m. Fellowship
10 a.m. Church Service 1111 E. South St. Mount Ayr, IA.
Website: www.missiochurchmtayr.org

United Church Of Diagonal Pastor Rodney Glazebrook
Church 641-734-5704
d3du@iowatelecom.net
Facebook: United Church of Diagonal
Food Pantry- each Saturday, 8-9 a.m.
Wednesdays 10 a.m. prayer group.
Sunday, 9 a.m. Worship.

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Funeral Notice

Lois Ann Sobotka, 90, of Diagonal, passed away December 8 at Clearview Home in Mount Ayr. Services will be held later this week at the United Church of Diagonal. A complete obituary and service information will appear in next week's edition. Armstrong Funeral Home in Mount Ayr is in charge of the arrangements.

Geist retires from Ringgold County Development

Jodie Geist

Ringgold County Development Corporation (RCDC) is honoring a significant milestone as Project Consultant Jodie Geist announces her retirement.

After more than five years of dedicated service as RCDC's first full-time Executive Director and then part-time Project Consultant role supporting the organization through a smooth leadership change and guidance on ongoing key initiatives.

Geist stepped into the director's position on June 1, 2020 — marking a historic shift for RCDC.

"Since 1960, when [RCDC] was first incorporated, it had been all volunteer or part-time office help," she explained. "The board saw the need for a full-time position to lead economic development due to declining population. They wanted to take that step to reverse the decline, to grow business and grow the county."

Throughout her tenure, Geist has led transformational progress for Ringgold County. Among her most impactful achievements, she highlights two initiatives in particular.

"One of the biggest was bringing in broadband, especially to the rural areas with Lockridge Networks," she said, noting the significance of expanded digital access for residents, businesses, and future growth.

She has also strengthened the county's presence and credibility across the state, particularly through relationships with the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Finance Authority, and the Iowa Rural Development Council. Geist served on the board of the Southern Iowa Council of Governments as well as the regional and state boards of the Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Geist was deeply involved in the creation of a new five-year strategic plan for the county's economic future, developed in partnership with the UNI Institute of Decision-Making. That plan has already launched several action committees focused on housing, property, marketing and engagement, and business retention and expansion.

A major milestone supporting that work is the formation of RCDC Partnership, Inc., a new 501(c)(6) organization that begin operation in January of 2025. While still a nonprofit, the new structure provides greater latitude for economic development activities — especially those related to housing, which made the purchase of a Homes for Iowa home possible.

Beyond project leadership and statewide collaboration, Geist has long served as a "central point of coordination" for residents, business leaders, and community partners. She's been instrumental in building a solid foundation for Ringgold County Development and Ringgold County as a whole helping initiatives like Mount Ayr Community Schools and SWCC on the CTE Academy project and so much more.

P.E.O.

P.E.O. provides educational opportunities for women. We do this by offering scholarships grants, awards, and loans to help women enhance their lives through learning.

The November 17, 2025, P.E.O. meeting was opened by President Phyllis Sickels at 7 p.m. Chaplain Donna Stephens read from John 8: 32 and together we recited the Lord's Prayer; Recording Secretary Kathy Shields read the minutes from the October meeting; twenty-seven members responded to roll call reported Treasurer, Mitzi Hymbaugh; correspondence was shared by Sue Trullinger, Historian Cheri Dessinger read the minutes from the November 20, 2017, meeting.

The December 15, 2025, Christmas celebration will be held at the Christian Church. Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament in a gift bag. A discussion was approved to take Christmas poinsettias to several sisters who are unable to attend meetings and to purchase gift cards for our scholarship recipients. President Phyllis Sickels gave some notes from State.

The program consisted of several members telling about the Random Acts of Kindness we have received and/or spread during our year of becoming more mindful of how a little Kindness can encourage one's day.

Delicious refreshments were served from a beautiful fall decorated table by the committee of Linda Pickering, Karen Bender and Phyllis Sickels.

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