

Women at the Well

Did you know the church is in prison? Women at the Well is a sister congregation, a United Methodist congregation within the walls of the women's correctional institution in Mitchellville, Iowa. Pastor Paul Witmer, the lead pastor with Women at the Well, will be with us on **Sunday, March 22** to share with us about the many years of weekly worship, supportive community, faith nurture groups, and aftercare we have offered to the women there. Maybe you'll find your own place in prison—in ministry with these women, our sisters in Christ.

Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Pastor Paul Witmer has served as a pastor for more than 30 years in rural and suburban settings, including a new church start in the 90s here in Iowa. He has extensive experience teaching contemplative practices, leading retreats, and working with folks in twelve-step recovery. A trained Spiritual Director, Paul also works with many in developing deep listening skills and growing on the spiritual journey. As an artist and musician, Paul is especially drawn to the arts as creative expression and experience of the Divine.

Paul has been working with Women at the Well, a prison congregation of the United Methodist Church at the Iowa women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa since 2016. As of July 1, 2021, Paul has been appointed to serve as the lead pastor for the prison congregation. Paul is a graduate of Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX) and Eden Seminary (St. Louis, MO). He resides with his wife in Urbandale, and between them they have five grown children and four grandchildren.

We will receive a special offering during worship March 22 for Women at the Well. Please make checks payable to **[Your Church Name]** with "Women at the Well" in the memo line, and we will forward the total that is given. If you are not prepared to make an offering then, you are always welcome to make a gift later, either through this church (as directed above) or directly to Women at the Well by mail or online at womenatthewellumc.org.

We want to make it easy for you to connect with us!

- Stop by our Facebook page, Women at the Well UMC, and "like" us there, to receive our prayer requests and updates on our ministry. Here's the link if you're forwarding this: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Women-at-the-Well-UMC/137281882985818>
- Follow us on Twitter, @WomenatWellUMC! Again, here's the link: <https://twitter.com/WomenatWellUMC>
- Sign up for our e-newsletter. You can do this at our web page at womenatthewellumc.org, or click this link: <http://facebook.us2.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=e214613bdb00a78ae31b2bcc5&id=d6ebe30e65>
- Make a gift to support to our ministry. You can send a check the old-fashioned way, made payable to Women at the Well--IAC, and mail it to P.O. Box 33, Mitchellville, IA 50169. We also have online giving through our website, womenatthewellumc.org (click on "Support") or at this link: (Credit/Debit Card, one time) <https://iaumc-reg.brtapp.com/watw>

Women at the Well UMC is located within the Iowa Correctional Institution for Women in Mitchellville, Iowa. We are invited to support Women at the Well with prayer and financial assistance through our designated giving, as well as with special efforts and offerings throughout the year. Opportunities to volunteer with Women at the Well are available. Contact **Pastor Paul** at paulwitmer@msn.com or **515.240.1653** for more information.