#### OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 630 STATE STREET OSAGE, IA 50461

### **RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



## THE SPIRE FEBRUARY 2025

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 630 STATE STREET OSAGE, IA 50461

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REV. DIXIE LAUBE
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PASTOR'S CELL: 612-812-7942
OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM—1 PM
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY AT EDEN
THURSDAY & FRIDAY AT OSAGE
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

# THE SPIRE

#### OSAGE UCC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

### Written by Rev. Dixie Laube

I was told a few months ago that the computer program I use to create the newsletters was going to be discontinued. So, I decided it was time to learn a new program, CANVA. I know many in the schools, extension services, and other places have already gone to this program, so here I am muddling my way through it. Isn't it often the case: technology is great when the user knows how to use it and when technology actually works?

Many times we complain because something changed or new is "thrown" our way, yet that "new" is what keeps things moving forward. We must not be so set in our ways for progress to happen. Yet, progress and change is scary. Life can change so quickly and throw those curve-balls we are not ready to catch. It was a week ago (Jan. 22), I learned one of my high school friends ended her life by suicide. Honestly, I still haven't processed this as it is difficult to wrap my head around it. Were we close after 30 years? Not really, however, when we saw each other there was always a hug exchanged and conversation ensued. We remembered the days of high school like yesterday, and I wouldn't have known she was struggling with life. I do feel guilty for not keeping up with her and others in the class, though another class member reminded me today (Jan. 28), we cannot help them all.

Well, I might not be able to help them all, yet I can encourage you and others to reach out if you are struggling with something. Mental illness is not something to try and "fix" on your own. We have our faith, which helps us in some respects, yet as I mentioned Sunday, (Jan. 26) Jesus cares for the whole body: mind, body, and spirit. What we cannot do on our own, Jesus is there for us to help with the rest, to which in turn means, your pastor is to be there for all of you. And, if you cannot turn to your pastor, then seek guidance from someone who you can turn to. Mental illness is not to be shamed. It needs more attention, in my opinion, and all of us could use a good friend to share life's struggles.

Biblical principles for mental health is to trust God more; be slow to anger; by taking one day at a time, one will experience less anxiety; and let compassion be a key part of life. I leave you with this verse for February: John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Be encouraged,

#### **OSAGE UCC LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES**

#### **JANUARY 8, 2025**

The UCC Leadership meeting was held in the church's parlor on Wednesday, January 8, at 6:00 pm. Members attending were Ashley Kuper, Chairperson, Bruce Weis, Tony Murphy (treasurer), Gene Cordle, Dennis Fannin, Pastor Dixie, and Jill Olson, taking minutes. Absent was Pat Weis. Ashley called the meeting to order.

Pastor Dixie started the meeting with a prayer.

Minutes were read and were accepted with a change to spelling of Bruce Weis' name. Dennis made motion to accept minutes with typo changes. Bruce 2nd, and minutes were approved.

Discussion on Treasurer's report. Bruce made a motion to approve December's report. Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried. A discussion was had on the Smolik Trust money. The bank will need to have new signatures for moving money.

Motion made by Bruce to evaluate list of corporate authorization Resolution each year in the January meeting. Also to add Reed Kuper, Anthony Murphy, Jon Masmar, Dean Olson, and Ann Adams on the list. All members on the list will have the ability to 1. open any deposit or share account(s) in the name of this corporation 3. Endorse checks and orders or the payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds on deposit the Home Trust Bank. 5. Endorse, assign, transfer, mortgage or pledge bills receivable, etc and 6. Enter into a written lease for the purpose of renting, maintaining, accessing and terminating a Safe Deposit Box in the Home Trust Bank. Gene Cordle seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Scholarships are due to three students. This is from the Markham Scholarship. Dixie will let Lisa Brandau know to cut \$500.00 checks for Keyra Pfeiffer, Kendall and Kaitlyn Olson. They have finished their first semester in their perspective schools. Dixie will line up a time for them to receive the scholarships.

The annual meeting will be on January 19th during worship time.

Those that will be voted and installed will be: Chairman: Dennis Fannin; Vice Chairperson: Pat Weis; Treasurer: Tony Murphy; Clerk: Pattie Forshay; Bruce Weis as member; Pam Masmar as member Jon Masmar as member

Jon Kramer, our janitor, will need help moving tables and chairs on Sunday the 12th so that he can strip and wax floors in the fellowship room and kitchen area.

Contact for Kenny's Plumbing will be Tony Murphy while Dean Olson is gone for the month of February. Kenny's Plumbing will be starting the air conditioning installation in the month of January.

The 2025 Budget was discussed and will be put on hold till this weekend after changes are made. The Board will vote on the budget on Sunday.

A bonus of \$4000 for Dixie was given by the church for the year 2024.

Dixie Reported feedback from worship the screen was missed. It will be used starting this weekend. Dixie has a continuing education on the 21st and 22nd. She will be going on the Mission trip in Mississippi with Dean and Joannie Graves. This takes place February 1st through 8th. Dixie asked for permission to use the credit card for gas and food. Permission granted.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30. Ashley Kuper, Chairperson Jill M Olson/Recorder



### PRAYER REQUESTS

Arlan Laube
Ron Mullenbrook
The families of Genny Jacobsen, Jim Locoste, Rick Rogers
Annette (Jan Ham's friend)
David (LouAnn's brother)
Josh Olson, Influenza A
Colton Olson, Influenza A
Mission Trip participants
Jill & Dean Olson with their travels
Sue Kuper
Melvin Duck
Keith McKinley
Reed Kuper Family with Influenza A



### **COFFEE WITH PASTOR DIXIE**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME** 

FEBRUARY 13 AT 9:00 AM KOUNTRY KUPBOARD

FEBRUARY 27 AT THE SEMINARY





## UCC STUDENTS RECEIVE MARKUM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Pictured is United Church of Christ – Osage, Pastor Dixie Laube along with Kendall Olson, Keyra Pfeffer and Kaitlyn Olson. These Students received the Markham Scholarship given from the church. The Markham scholarship was set up for the church students by Allene Markham, a long-time teacher in the Osage schools and active member of the UCC.

Kendall Olson is a freshman at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Her major is in Music Education. Keyra Pfeffer is a freshman at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa. Her major is in Criminal Investigation.

Kaitlyn Olson is a freshman at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. Her major is in Music Education. All 3 students are active with vacation bible school, singing and playing instruments for special church occasions.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!!!!**



Deb Kuehne - Feb 1 Janet Ham - Feb. 1 Arlen Erdmann - Feb. 7 Dean Steffan - Feb 8 Federic ( Rick ) Stearns - Feb 12

DENNIS & CHRISTINE FANNIN - FEB. 26





The Children were quite excited to participate in our Christmas Eve Worship. They tried on their costumes 2 or 3 different times. Thank you to all of them for adding to our worship. They made the nativity come alive.



## **FEBRUARY SCRIPTURES**

<u>FEBRUARY 2:</u> JEREMIAH 1:4-10; PSALM 71:1-6; 1 CORINTHIANS 13:1-13; **LUKE 4:21-30** 



FEBRUARY 9: ISAIAH 6:1-13; PSALM 138; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; LUKE 5:1-11 (COMMUNION SUNDAY)

<u>FEBRUARY 16:</u> JEREMIAH 17:5-10; PSALM 1; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11; **LUKE 6:17-26** 

<u>FEBRUARY 23:</u> GENESIS 45:3-11; PSALM 31 1-11, 39-40; 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50; **LUKE 6:27-38** 

# **GRIEF**=DEEP SORROW **LOSS**=NOT HAVING SOMETHING

THESE TWO WORDS CREATE THE SAME EMOTION OF SADNESS. I HAVE BEEN LEADING/PARTICIPATING IN A **WOMAN'S GRIEF GROUP** THAT STARTED THIS FALL. AND IT IS HEALING, EVEN THOUGH I HAVEN'T HAD A HUSBAND DIE, I HAVE GRIEF AND LOSS, AND LOTS OF IT. I INVITE YOU, IF YOU'RE IN THE OSAGE AREA, TO JOIN OUR NEXT GATHERING ON **FEBRUARY 5 OR FEBRUARY 19**. WE SHARE STORIES, LAUGHTER, TEARS, FRIENDSHIP AND SO MUCH MORE.

JOIN MY NEW FRIENDS AND I AT **2:00 PM**, OSAGE UCC, 630 STATE STREET, OSAGE, IA. QUESTIONS? ASK ME AND I'D LOVE TO ANSWER THEM FOR YOU.

TF JESUS CAME TO YOUR HOUSE

If Jesus came to your house to spend a day or two—If He came unexpectedly, I wonder what you'd do. Oh I know you'd give your nicest room to such an honored Guest; And all the food you'd serve to Him would be the very best, And you would keep assuring Him you're glad to have Him there—That serving Him in your own home is joy beyond compare.

But--when you saw Him coming, would you meet Him at the door with arms outstretched in welcome to your heavenly Visitor? Or would you have to change your clothes before you let Him in? Or hide some magazines and put the Bible where they'd been? Would you turn off the radio and hope He hadn't heard? And wish you hadn't uttered that last, loud, hasty word? Would you hide your worldly music and put some hymn books out? Could you let Jesus walk right in, or would you rush about? And I wonder--if the Savior spent a day or two with you, would you go right on doing the things you always do? Would you go right on saying the things you always say? Would life for you continue as it does from day to day? Would your family conversation keep up its usual pace? And would you find it hard each meal to say a table grace? Would you sing the songs you always sing, and read the books you read? And let Him know the things on which your mind and spirit feed? Would you take Jesus with you everywhere you'd planned to go? Or would you, maybe, change your plans for just a day or so? Would you be glad to have Him meet your closest friends? Or would you hope they'd stay away until His visits ends? Would you be glad to have Him stay forever on and on? Or would you sigh with great relief when He at last was gone? It might be interesting to know the things that you would do, if Jesus Christ in person came to spend some time with you.

--Lois Kendall Blanchard

### **APPROVED BUDGET FOR 2025**

Budget Comparison for th	ch of Christ e 2025- 2024 Chur	ch Year
Item	2025	2024
Local Church Support	119,000	116,500
Interest	1,200	2,000
Building Expense reimbursment	1,900	1,900
reimbursment Eden	44,500	39,508
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	166,600	159,908
A Pastor's Salary	50,750	49,272
B Pastor's Social Security Offset		4,537
C Pastor's Car Allowance	4,000	4,000
D Pastor's Insurance	4	16
Health, Life & Disability	17,100	16,000
E Pastor Housing Allowance	10,200	9,900
F Pastor Retirement	9,248	8,285
G Professional Expenses	4,000	4,000
H Pastor Sabbatical Leave	*	-
I Secretary Salary (Inc 25 bonus)	4,635	4,500
J Custodian Salary (Inc 25 bonus)	10,511	10,205
K FICA Employer Required	1,160	1,855
L Church Administration	14,000	14,000
M North East Assoc. Dues	300	300
N Delegate Expense	100	100
O Advertising	300	300
P Utilities	16,000	16,000
Q Insurance	6,650	4,500
R Property Team	9,000	9,000
S Youth Education	2,000	1,000
T Adult Education	500	500
U Worship Team	1,500	1,500
TOTAL LOCAL BUDGET EXPENSE	166,529	159,754
TOTAL BUDGET	166,529	159,754
over/short	71	154

The **St. Ansgar United Methodist** have Community Breakfast every Thursday morning from 7:15 a - 9:00 a. It is a free will donation and each week has a specific menu. Here is the schedule for February's breakfasts:

Feb. 6: Biscuits & Gravy Feb. 13: Pancakes Feb. 20: Waffles Feb. 27: French Toast

Name:	
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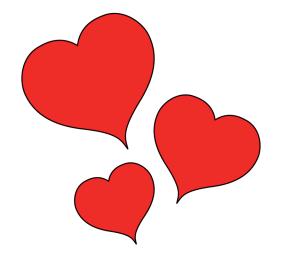


## **Love Thy Neighbor**

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### Word list:

**BUILD HUMBLE CARE KIND COMPASSIONATE** LOVE **ENCOURAGE MIND FORGIVE NEIGHBOR** GOD **PRAY HEART SHARE HELP TREAT** 





Sun	Mon	Tue	e wed	Thu	Ä	Sat
						1
	3 JOANNE, DI	4 EAN. CONNIE	5 Grief Group 2	6 XIE ON MISS	7 ON TRIP	ω
9 Communion 9:00 SOUP-ER Bowl	10	11 10:30 zoom meeting	12 Apple Valley 1:30; Faith Home 2:30	13 Coffee with Pastor 9 a Kountry Kupboard	14	15
	17	18 Nora Springs 2	19 Grief Group 2:00 p Eden Women 6:30 p	20 Ministers 9 Leadership 4 p	21	22
	24 Pastor's Writing Group 2	25	26 Session 6 p	27 Coffee with Pastor 9 The Seminary	28	