

Osage United Church of Christ  
630 State Street  
Osage, IA 50461

Return Service Requested



## **The Spire December 2022**

Osage United Church of Christ  
630 State Street  
Osage, IA 50461  
Email: [osageucc@osage.net](mailto:osageucc@osage.net)  
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Reverend Dixie Laube  
[dixie.laube@gmail.com](mailto:dixie.laube@gmail.com)  
Pastor's Cell: 612-812-7942  
Office hours Tuesday-Friday 9 am—1 pm  
Tuesday & Wednesday at Eden

## Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!!!

The Fall decorations are coming down and the Christmas decorations are going up. I was driving home from my parents on Saturday, November 19, and I saw many homes with the Christmas lights up and blinking away. I shook my head because I couldn't believe how "we" have pushed the Thanksgiving holiday aside. Then I thought, you know, it is really okay to have those lights blazing in the darkness because 1) some families celebrate Christmas on Thanksgiving; and 2) aren't we told to shine the light of Christ around the world? Of course we are...so get those lights up on the houses and let those lights shine!

And to me that is the Christmas spirit...seeing the lights twinkle in the dark. Those lights match the stars and how beautiful the night sky becomes when the sun is setting and the stars shine so bright. It takes me to the stillness of what I imagine the night Jesus was born, but was it really still? The manger where the cattle were lowing...the dust from the hay...the mice and rats around their feet...the horses and donkeys. I mean seriously, it truly was not a scene of stillness. However, it was what Mary and Joseph had and it was where God made it possible for His son to be born. A stone cold manger filled with hay...no heat, no running water, no one to help Mary deliver her son. I am always in awe when I start thinking about it. Mary was a strong woman and Joseph had to be attentive and strong, too.

I think it is safe to say we tend to gloss over these stark details of Christ's birth. And we do this because we like the warm, cozy, safe, happy scene. They traveled to Bethlehem. There was no room in the Inn. They were shown a stable. Jesus was born. The rest is history. Yet that history is where God's Son enters the world and from that moment there was chaos. And, we, the followers and believers, have watered it all down. We don't want to remember that all the 2 year old boys were killed. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus fled to Egypt shortly after Jesus' birth. So much happened, and then we wonder why our world is in such disarray. Just think about that.

Our world is in disarray because we have allowed sin to rule in our hearts. We have turned away from the nitty gritty real story and have sugar coated the most amazing birth story any of us have heard: God sent Himself down as Jesus in human-form. Maybe the details of it all don't matter; however, when I think about all God has done for me...He went through pain and suffering just to show us how much He loves us. And no one since that day can say this or come close to our story.



So, go ahead...get those lights up and leave them up! The hymn, "Go Tell it on the Mountain" wasn't written for us to be silent. Let us tell the world how much we LOVE Jesus and how much Jesus Loves us!

Merry Christmas, everyone!

*Pastor Dixie Laube*

## **Osage UCC Leadership Minutes**

**November 15, 2022**

The United Church of Christ Leadership Board met at Lou Ann Murphy's Office on Main Street on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 4:30 p. m.

Those attending were Pastor Dixie, Ashley Kuper, Lou Ann Murphy, Gene Cordle, Dean and Jill Olson.

Reed Kuper and Brandon Parcel were not able to make the meeting.

Called to Order by Jill and prayer by Pastor Dixie at 4:35pm.

Minutes from previous meeting were read. Minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurer's report was in order. Questions for Lou Ann as treasurer were asked and answered. Please see attached treasurer's report. Dean made motion to approve the Treasurer's report and Ashley 2nd the motion. Treasurer's report was approved.

### **Old Business:**

Catchup Sunday on November 13th, 2022 was a huge success. Brunch was served with approximately 35 in attendance. The money that was given for our church local mission was approximately \$18,400. It was a very successful time with all in attendance. Thank you to all who contributed and those who have been faithful givers through out the year. A big thank you to Pastor Dixie in guiding us into a prosperous time for our church.

Decision to move \$50,000 into a MMIA to earn interest was discussed and all agreed this is a good idea since interest rates are being raised.

We will be providing envelopes for those who like to use the envelopes with dates on them.

Pledges will be sent out later to all the members.

### **New Business:**

A budget was proposed by LuAnn, treasurer. Discussion and different numbers were used for the 2023 budget. Ashley made motion to approve the new budget with Gene Cordle seconding the motion. Motion was passed to accept the new budget.

Our Christmas gathering will be Saturday, December 24 th on Christmas Eve at 7:00 pm. The decision to not have Christmas Day gathering on December 25 th was discussed. Decision to NOT have Christmas Day gathering for our church was approved by board. Dixie is planning on taking January 2 – 9th off for a short vacation.

Pastor Dixie talked about the 15 funerals she has done in the past 11 months and the needs of some of our own members. It would be a good thing for our members to help with visiting by our members to members to keep in touch with the church family. Pastor Dixie wants to make sure if there is someone that is not able to get to church and they want communion, to communicate this to her.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30. Jill Olson, Chairperson

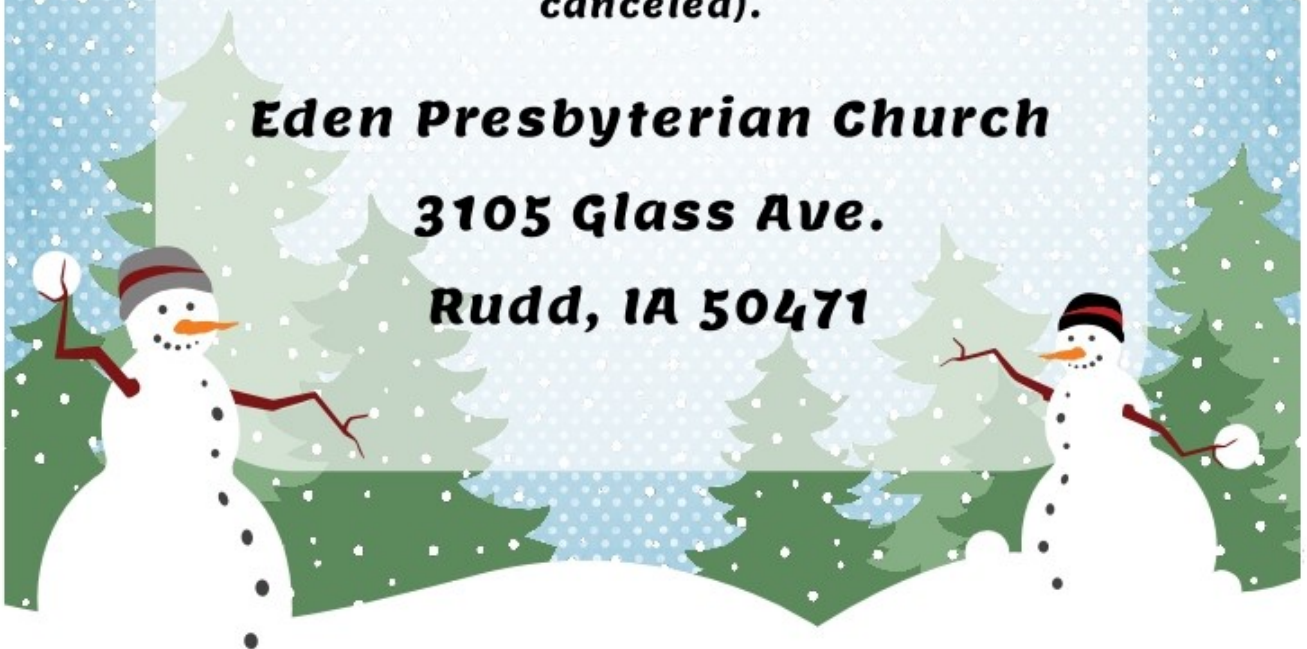
**Christmas Sing-A-Long**  
**with**  
**Sam Crosser**

**Sunday, December 4, 2022**  
**3:00 pm**

**Cookies and Hot Cocoa will be served.**

**(In case of bad weather, event will be  
canceled).**

**Eden Presbyterian Church**  
**3105 Glass Ave.**  
**Rudd, IA 50471**





### Our Income to Expenses (Jan.-Oct.)

Total Income: \$ 110,310.41

Total Expenses: \$ 118,145.49

Net Income/Loss: (\$ 7,835.08)



Before we panic because we see this negative number...breathe...we have this number because we paid the cost of the property maintenance.

Yes, we did not borrow a dime from any other accounts to pay for the cement ramp, the railing, and painting of the pillars. Even, though it's a negative number, there is well over \$ 51,723.46 in the checkbook as of Oct. 31. AND, \$ 29,744.28 in the Savings Account, which includes the PPP LOANS from 2021. **That does not mean to stop giving. The reason we could pay for the expense, was because you gave! And that is AMAZING! So THANK YOU!!!**

**The Ketchup Brunch was a little over \$18,000. Some of this \$18,000 will be tagged for a mission trip Dean and Joanne Graves will be organizing!**

### **Joys and Concerns**

- The Family of Bill Schmidt
- Kim (Helen Tubbs' Daughter)
- Sue Kuper (and the Kuper Family)
- The Family of Carol Smalley
- Diane (Eunice's daughter)
- Frank Jacob's sister who has Covid
- So many others with illness and viruses that are not treatable
- We also pray for our military men and women—and our Veterans.



## Coffee with Pastor Dixie

**Thursday, December 8,  
Kountry Kupboard at 9 am**

**Thursday, December 22,  
Seminary at 9 am**

**Please use your judgment on  
weather conditions! If Pastor  
Dixie isn't able to make it, she  
will let someone from the  
group know.**



## Advent

November 27: Pastor Dixie

Dec. 4:

Dec. 11:

Dec. 18:

Christmas Eve:



Thank you for your help!!!

I look forward to celebrating the birth of Christ with everyone in person this year.

Pastor Dixie Laube

**There will not be a Christmas Morning worship (Sunday) here at Osage UCC.**

**You can join Eden Presbyterian at 10:30 am, Sunday, December 25.**



## Christmas Eve/ Candlelight

Worship at Eden Presbyterian at 5:00 pm

Worship will be at Osage UCC at 7:00 pm







**Reed Kuper  
Marlene Ham  
Pastor Dixie Laube  
Christine Fannin  
Ed Kramme  
Shirley Lister**



**Ed and Judy Kramme**



**UCC Church Family—**

**Shirley Lister is turning 90 years young on December 29! Her daughter, Geni, has asked we help celebrate by showering Shirley with cards. When you sign your card, please be sure to sign your full name. Shirley's address is:**

**Shirley Lister  
203 South 5th Street  
Osage, IA 50461**







Small Poinsettias are \$16.00

Orders due to the office by **Dec. 9**



Please return the enclosed pledge cards  
by **December 15.**

Thank you!

### Advent Word Search

S	T	N	J	L	C	H	X	C	R
L	Z	N	O	E	P	S	H	C	J
E	I	V	E	E	S	R	K	Y	A
G	E	C	S	V	I	U	I	V	U
N	R	O	C	S	D	H	S	K	C
A	J	H	T	E	R	A	Z	A	N
M	N	M	P	R	A	Y	E	R	S
Q	A	A	G	A	X	D	O	D	T
S	A	G	Y	R	A	M	O	N	A
S	F	S	B	Q	E	E	C	G	R

ADVENT  
ANGELS  
CHRISTMAS  
GOD  
JESUS  
JOSEPH  
LOVE  
MARY  
NAZARETH  
PRAYER  
STAR





# December 2022



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>2</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30 Communion	<b>5</b> Pastor at Lakeshore Center in Okiboji for a Pastor Retreat	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Coffee 9 am Osage Office 9-1	<b>9</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30	<b>12</b> NE COM 1:00	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>15</b> Osage Office 9-1 Osage Clergy 9:00	<b>16</b> Office Closed, Pastor in Iowa City	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Eden Office 9-1 Faith Home 2:30	<b>22</b> Coffee 9 am Osage Office 9-1	<b>23</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Eden Worship 5:00 Osage UCC 7:00
<b>25</b> Eden 10:30	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Eden Office 9-1 Nora Springs 2 pm	<b>28</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>29</b> Osage Office 9-1 Session 5:30	<b>30</b> OFFICES CLOSED	<b>31</b>