

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SPIRE
OCTOBER 2026

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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REV. DIXIE LAUBE
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PASTOR'S CELL: 641-300-7245
Please call to make an appointment

THE SPIRE

OSAGE UCC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

by **Rev. Dixie Laube**

Have any of you wondered how is it that everything you want to get done, actually gets done? And the things that aren't important tends to fall to the wayside? I sit here at my desk on a daily basis wondering "if" I will get everything done on time. The largest deadline for me is writing a sermon each week. Then, at the end of the month, I have the newsletters. Then, throughout the months, I might have to write an article for the newspapers. And, now, I have a paper looming over me due October 8. It is somewhat finished, yet I look back and think, how did I manage to accomplish what I thought was a bit impossible, is now possible.

God is amazing and continues to amaze me as I grow in my spiritual journey and in my ministry. Not only with you--the congregations I am serving--but with my own ministry. On October 4, which is also World Communion Sunday, I will be celebrating my 17th year of ordination. It is an accomplishment to say the least! Research notes that 53% of clergy seriously considered leaving ministry at least once since 2020, up from 37% early in the pandemic. I would say I was one of those ministers. However, I have a lot of experience in technology and as my Clinical Supervisors commented about me, "Dixie knows how to stay calm in the midst of chaos."

The thing is a minister is not someone who can just give up. A minister is someone who constantly listens, prays, and seeks God's direction--even in the midst of chaos...and honestly, we are always in chaos. I also was asked before I was ordained, is there a profession out there that you see yourself doing and if so, then go do it. I answered that question honestly back then and honestly now, there really isn't anything I would rather do than sit by a loved one's bed, have coffee with the members, or roll up my sleeves and help out where I can. Ministry has changed over the years, especially the seventeen I have been doing it. Some ministers are the work-horses of the church. Some ministers are expected to teach Sunday school, lead children's choir, teach Bible Study, and even keep the record books. Most of those positions would be for an employee or volunteer, not the pastor. Ministers are called by God to lead worship, teach Bible study, teach confirmation, have time to read and reflect on God's Word, and do visits when time allows.

So, yes, I still wonder how I get everything done in a week or month, yet I also know God is always around providing the words to write and/or speak. Recalling Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me," for this scripture is definitely what helps me through another day. The next time you are wondering how you might get things done because it seems like everything is piling up...rely on God's word. Seek Him and remember you are not alone. Rome wasn't built in a day...and it took God "seven" to create the world. Be patient with yourself and with others. And remember: God Loves You!



Blessings,
Pastor Dixie

Osage UCC Leadership Minutes (unofficial as leadership did not meet in Sept.)

August 26, 2026

The Leadership Meeting was called to order by Pam Masmar, Chairperson at 10:00am in the church parlor. Tony Murphy, Pam Masmar, Pat and Bruce Weis, Pastor Dixie, Dean and Jill Olson were present. Jon Masmar was absent.

Pastor Dixie started the meeting with prayer. Minutes of the last meeting were read. Dean made the motion to approve the minutes as read; Bruce seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report was handed out. Discussion about the church's income and costs were discussed by all. Even though our number is negative, the giving is what it has been in the past year. The Radon project and the cost of the shades for the sanctuary have been paid out of the general fund. Pat made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bruce seconded the motion. The Treasurer's Report was approved.

Old Business:

The Radon Project will be completed by an electrician by the end of this week.

New Business:

Pastor Dixie is planning a Bible Study on Wednesday nights at 5:30 pm for an hour at the UCC Church without a meal prep. Pastor Dixie will send out invites to other churches. Jon Kramer, our custodian will be having a review of personnel when Pastor Dixie can meet with Jon. Others will also attend the meeting. There was discussion on the need to have two more members who could be available to sign checks for our bookkeeper during the day. There was a motion by Jill to add Joshua Olson and Joannie Graves, and continue with Dean Olson, Tony Murphy, Ann Adams and Jon Masmar as members to be able to sign checks for the Osage United Church of Christ and to do business at the Home Trust and Savings Bank if needed. Reed Kuper's name will be removed from the list at the Home Trust and Savings Bank. Bruce seconded the motion and the motion was carried.

The Osage Fire Dept is asking for donations. Motion to donate \$100 was made by Bruce and seconded by Tony. Motion carried.

The board discussed purchasing an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) Pam and Dixie will do more research on this topic.

Dean spoke about the ceiling tiles in the hallway. Dennis Fannin and Dean have had several meetings with a company from Cedar Falls, Iowa about replacing the ceiling tiles in the hallway due to the new air-conditioning unit that was placed in the upstairs fellowship hall in 2025. There is a new quote for just the hallway. Bruce also thought he had someone who would give a quote for the project from Stacyville.

Dean presented the advertisement for the UCC Church from the local papers. Also, a discussion on a new marque sign. The marque sign would be an added advertisement advantage in front of our church.

The food pantry has had lots of activity from the community. We are thinking about passing the plate in church service so that cash will help buy more supplies needed for the Food Pantry.

Shop on State Fund Raiser will be on October 14, 2026, at our church. Spaghetti will be served with all the fixings. Meal will start at 4:30pm until gone. Dean and Jill will be in the kitchen and others to help where needed.

Scholarships – Kendall Olson, and Kaitlyn Olson will be awarded the Olson Scholarship for \$750.00 each and Kylie Powers will be awarded the Markham Scholarship for \$750.00. Bruce made the motion to give these awards to the applicants. Tony seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Meeting on October 15, 2026 at 4:00pm with the Session from Eden church at UCC for financial conversation.

Next meeting to be October 8, 2026, at 10:00am. Submitted by Jill Olson

This is the Official Notice of an Ecclesiastical Council for the Examination of Joseph Dunnwald for Ordination in the United Church of Christ, pending an approved call.

The Ecclesiastical Council will be held on October 17, 2026, at Immanuel United Church of Christ, Latimer, IA.

Joseph Dunnwald is a Member in Discernment of the Northeast Association and a member of Immanuel United Church of Christ, Latimer, IA.

His Preparation and Formation Plan Based on The Marks included:

Mentoring by local pastor: Rev. Laura Renault, Zion United Church of Christ, Hubbard, IA.

Seminary – M.Div.: Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, MN Graduated May 2024

Psychological Assessment: Midwest Ministry Development – May 2017

UCC Theology, History and Polity Course: Convergence – Completed December 2025

Practical Experience: Immanuel UCC, Latimer, IA

Boundary Training: With Kendy Miller May, 2025

Other: Lay Leadership courses
Cultural Competence Training - Bethel

The Association will receive the recommendation of the Church and Ministry Committee, hear the candidate's presentation, and further examine the candidate. The Association will vote on whether to authorize ordination, pending an approved call.

The Northeast Association Bylaws state that a quorum shall consist of the churches represented from the Association. All churches in the Northeast Association have the responsibility of sending delegates to the Ecclesiastical Council of Joseph Dunnwald.

A copy of his ordination paper or portfolio presentation is attached or available from your church office.

All authorized Association Clergy, Delegates, and Churches are encouraged to participate in this event.

Blessings and Joy,
Rev. Cathy Jurgens, Chair, Northeast Association
Zion United Church of Christ
113 1st St NE Waukon, IA, IA 50122
563-568-3598
zionwaukon@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUESTS



Bruce Weis	Nancy Duncan	Joyce
Chasity	Eunice Pringnitz	Kara Graves
Sue Kuper	Myron Kuper	Sharlene Graves
Yvonne Yoder	Barry Gaarner	Sebastian
Elizabeth Uthe	The family of Holly Kruze	The family of Jim Miller
The family of Charles Yoder	Family of Rita Jacobsen	The family of Marlin Sadler
The family of Jim Cowell	The family of Mike Gaffey	Family of Aaron Boge
Ann Adam's family (sister Leslie's death)	Farmers for a safe harvest	



COFFEE WITH PASTOR DIXIE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

OCTOBER 8 AT 9:00 AM
KOUNTRY KUPBOARD

OCTOBER 29 AT 9:00 AM
THE SEMINARY



October 9 - Ray Stonecypher
October 12 - Alicia Kuper
October 16 - Nadezka Murphy
October 23 - Cash Kuper



Our Income to Expenses (Jan. - August):

Total Income: \$ 94,562.11

Total Expenses: \$ 113,472.54

Net Income: - \$ 18,910.43

Our accounts still look amazing because we have a cash operating system. It all starts at zero in January...and we have paid for the radon updates without borrowing from any accounts. So, just because it says a negative net income, that just means we haven't brought in the income to cover the unforeseen expense this year.

We have a total of \$ 109,766.39 in checking and savings at the end of August. We also have \$ 266,582.56 in our CDs (Scholarship CDs and two General Fund CDs).

October WORD SEARCH



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



Apples
Bat
Coat
Corn
Fall
Hayride
Leaves

Mask
October
Pumpkin
Rake
Red
Treat
Windy

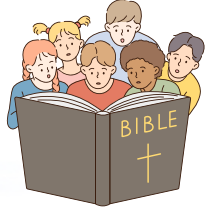
BIBLE STUDY

The month of October does not lend us to have Bible study the first three weeks. We will resume on October 28 at 5:30 pm. However, if you are welcome to come out to Eden on October 4 and October 25 at 5:30pm.

Scriptures for October 4 are: Exodus 20:1-20; Psalm 19; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Scriptures for October 25 are: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; Matthew 22:34-46

Scriptures for October 28 are: Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 24:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12



OCTOBER SCRIPTURES

October 4: **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20;** Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46 (**World
Communion Sunday**)

October 11: Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

October 18: Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; **1
Thessalonians 1:1-10;** Matthew 22:15-22

October 25: Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-17; 1
Thessalonians 2:1-8; **Matthew 22:34-46**



FALL FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 11, 2026 **RAIN DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2026**



Hot Dogs, Chips,
and S'mores
provided

Bring your own
beverage

Where? Howard and Mable Buerkley's Pumpkin Patch Farm

Time: 5:00 pm—7:00 pm

Invite your friends!

October 18



Join us for a special worship service on October 18 at 10:00 a.m. at Eden Presbyterian Church. We are honored to welcome our guest speaker, T.J. and Dina Hanken from Aplington, who will share insights on their inspiring mission with Love Packages. This organization is dedicated to spreading knowledge and hope by distributing Christian literature to those in need around the world. Come and be part of this uplifting event as we learn more about how we can contribute to this meaningful cause. All are welcome to attend!

CROP stands for Christian Rural Overseas Program. It began in 1947 when Midwest farm families shared grain with hungry people in post-war Europe and Asia.

There will NOT be a CROP walk this year. Please make a donation at anytime in the month of October for this Mission.

Donations go to Mitchell County Food Bank.



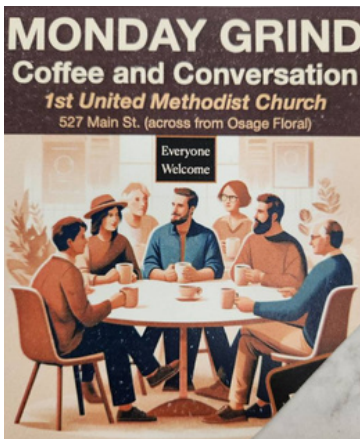
THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRY IS IN NEED



The Little Food Pantry is in need of more items. Now that the Fall temperatures are here, boxed items like rice, mac and cheese, instant potatoes, soups in packages, dry milk, flour, sugar, baking items, pudding snack packs, jello snack packs, any type of noodles, peanut butter, and other non-perishable items.

If someone would like to help Bruce Weis make another Little Pantry, please speak with him.

If food isn't something you would like to donate, we do accept money. We must remember to donate and give as much as we can to the missions of Mitchell County.

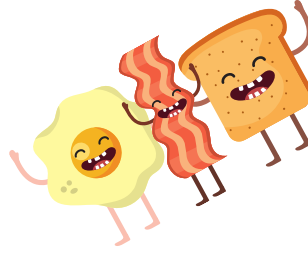


HOURS 8-10 AM

GOOD COFFEE

GOOD CONVERSATION.

**MONDAY MORNINGS AT
OSAGE UMC!**



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 October's breakfasts:

Oct. 1: Biscuits & Gravy
Oct. 8: Pancakes
Oct. 15: Waffles
Oct. 22: French Toast
Oct. 29: Belgian Waffles

Helping our brothers and sisters in Christ with their Mission

First United Methodist Church is making mats for the homeless. These mats are made from plastic bags. These mats provide a barrier between the ground and individuals, offering insulation, comfort, and protection from moisture. They are also lightweight and portable, making them easy for individuals experiencing homelessness to carry and store.



If you have an excess of plastic bags at home, please bring them to church with you. We will be sure to get the bags to the UMC.



Join the Osage UMC

Friday, October 30

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat

Parking Lot next to church

Bring your car full of treats for kids.



October



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Days for Girls 1-3 Session 6:00 pm	2	3
4 Worship UCC 9:00 am Worship Eden 10:30 am Eden Bible Study 5:30 pm World Day Communion	5 The Daily Grind UMC 8-10 Presbyterian Cohort 10 a	6	7 Pastor with family for medical follow-up appointment	8 Coffee at Kountry Kupboard 9 a Leadership 10 am	9	10
11 Worship UCC 9:00 am Worship Eden 10:30 am Fall Festival at Buerkley's 5-7 pm	12 Presbytery COM 4 pm	13 Session 6 pm	14 Clergy Cluster Belmond 10a Spaghetti Supper for Shop on State 4:30 p	15 Ministerial Alliance 10 am Days for Girls 1-3 Joint Session and UCC Leadership meeting 4 pm	16	17 Northeast Association of Iowa UCC Meeting 10 am in Latimer with E-Council for Joseph Dunnwald
18 ONE WORSHIP at 10:00 am at Eden	19	20	21	22	23	24
PASTOR DIXIE IN TULSA, OK FOR HER DOCTORATE CLASS						
25 Worship UCC 9:00 am Worship Eden 10:30 am Eden Bible Study 5:30 pm Rain Date for Fall Festival	26 United Theological Seminary Homecoming Event 9-5	27 Stated Presbyterian Meeting in Jefferson, IA	28 NE COM 2:30 pm Bible Study UCC 5:30 pm	29 Coffee at Seminary 9 am	30 Trunk or Treat at UMC in Osage 3:30 - 5:00 pm	31 Trick or Treat Night 5-7 Fall Back

