

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



August

THE SPIRE
2026

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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**OFFICE HOURS PLEASE CALL OR TEXT TO MAKE
AN APPOINTMENT.**

THE SPIRE

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

by Rev. Dixie Laube

Over the past few months, I have spent time reflecting on a passage of Scripture that I believe speaks to all of us as followers of Christ. In Matthew 18:15, Jesus teaches: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother."

In my July article for The Spire, I shared that I do not always get everything right. Like everyone else, I make mistakes. Sometimes a worship slide is incorrect, sometimes I choose to do something differently than tradition would suggest, and sometimes my decisions are not understood. None of those things happen because I do not care. In fact, the opposite is true. I care deeply about the worship we prepare together, the ministries we share, and, most importantly, the relationships that make us the Body of Christ. When I learn that something I have said or done has caused hurt or confusion, it weighs on my heart because relationships matter far more than getting everything perfect.

One lesson that has become even clearer to me is that communication is one of the greatest gifts we can offer one another. Emails and text messages certainly have their place, but they often cannot communicate tone, compassion, or understanding. Whenever possible, I believe face-to-face conversation remains one of the healthiest ways to work through misunderstandings. Sitting across from one another allows us to listen, ask questions, and better understand each other's hearts.

As your pastor, I want you to know that my door is always open. If something I have said or done troubles you, I hope you will come and speak with me directly. I promise to listen. I may not always have the answer you were expecting, and I may not always be right, but I do promise to hear you with respect and a desire to grow.

Likewise, I know there may be times when I need to have difficult conversations as well. None of us enjoys confrontation, yet loving one another enough to speak honestly and graciously is part of what it means to live as Christian brothers and sisters. Healthy relationships are not built by avoiding difficult conversations; they are strengthened when we face them together with humility, grace, and love.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:25: "Therefore, having put away falsehood, let each one of you speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another."

He also writes in Colossians 4:6: "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person."

And James offers this encouragement: "Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters." (James 4:11)

These verses remind us that the way we speak to one another matters just as much as what we say. Our world often teaches us to react quickly, assume the worst, or speak about people rather than with them. Christ calls us to something better. He calls us to truth spoken in love, grace offered generously, and relationships built on forgiveness rather than suspicion.

Before my six-week sabbatical, I realized I had become shorter in some of my responses than I wanted to be. I allowed stress and frustration to shape some of my interactions more than I should have. For that, I ask your forgiveness. My time away gave me the opportunity to reflect, pray, and return with a renewed appreciation for both this calling and the people God has entrusted to my care.

As we continue our ministry together, my prayer is that we will intentionally choose to be a congregation that speaks directly to one another, extends grace generously, and assumes the best about each other whenever possible. We are not called to be perfect people; we are called to be faithful disciples who love one another well.

So if I have hurt you, I ask your forgiveness. If something weighs on your heart, I invite you to come and talk with me. And if I need to come and speak with you, I pray we can do so in the same spirit of grace.

May Matthew 18:15 continue to guide us as we grow together in Christ: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother." May we be known not simply for what we believe, but for how faithfully we love one another. May we always be the kind of church where grace is spoken freely, forgiveness is offered generously, and Christ is honored in the way we love one another. That is my prayer for both of our congregations.

Be encouraged,

Pastor Dixie Laube

**Special Meeting
June 12, 2026
Leadership Board**

Pam Masmar called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m. on June 12. All members were present.

First item of business included the presence of Dennis Fannin. He's been lead person involved with radon mitigation, and will continue in this position until mitigation is finished. He shared radon readings in different rooms in the lower level of the church. Secretary's room: 4.18; Pastor Dixie's room: 9.21; Classroom: 16; Days for Girls room: 9.7. Readings of below 4 are recommended by the EPA.

After much discussion, which included questions for clarification, Dennis was able to leave the meeting. The Leadership Board continued its business. Bruce Weis moved to proceed with the church's next step to mitigate radon; Dean Olson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Dennis will contact Jake Hackett to begin this next round of mitigation. Cost projected to be \$7,000 to \$7,500 for this remediation effort. This next phase will involve cutting through concrete to install fans and pipes which will draw radon to the outside of the building. The actual cost was \$ 7,562.34.

The second item of business was to discuss and plan the meeting for Sunday, June 14. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m. following The Lord's Prayer, in unison.

Submitted by Jon Masmar

Church Meeting and Potluck

June 14, 2026

The meeting began at 10:15 a.m. with the song, "My Faith Looks Up to Thee," and a prayer.

We started by talking about things for which Osage UCC is known. These items were listed under the term "Assets" recorded by Pat Weis. This listing included:

Assets

Updating church info in paper/online

Habitat for Humanity

Shared Table

Shop on State

Grief Group

Veterans Support

Little Food Pantry

Pastor Dixie

Fall Cookout at Buerckleys

Game Day

Mission Trips

Days for Girls

Tai Chi

Being a Community church; helping others who are in need while still maintaining their dignity

Ideas

170th church birthday

Parade float/entry

Valentine Dinner

Set Goals

Potluck with Eden/ Community

Cedar Summerstock Invite/Meal

Visit shut-ins

We want to thank everyone for their undivided attention and great participation during the meeting. There was a feeling of hope/trust/faith abounding in our conversation. Why do you return to Osage UCC Sunday after Sunday? Listening to the responses to this question was reassuring and heartwarming. We all care for one another and for others in need, too.

The two listings will be brought to the Leadership Board for further discussion or planning.

A prayer followed by The Lord's Prayer concluded this meeting at 11:24 a.m.

A wonderful array of food sustained us after such hard work.

Submitted by Jon Masmar

Financial position for January - June 2026:

Total Income: \$ 71,534.09

Total Expenses: \$ 81,345.66

Net Ordinary Income: **-\$9,811.57**

Total Checking/Savings: \$ 119,214.74

Total Assets: \$ 274,155.51

2026 Budget: \$169,081.00

Weekly Giving should be at: \$ 3,251.56

Current Weekly Giving is about: \$ 1,888.74



In order to keep the heat and air conditioning regulated in upstairs, please keep all doors closed. This includes doors to the side of the stage, the classroom doors, and the fellowship hall doors.

PRAYER REQUESTS



We continue to pray for all our members at Osage UCC.

The Family of Jeannie Parcel
Carol McGahn

The Lorainne Class Family
Scott McKinley

The Osage Softball Team (district play)
Bruce & Pat Weis (storms & Bruce's hand)
Ann Adams (knee surgery)

Ben Weis

Peggy Mark

Mike (transplant)

David (heart surgery)

AUGUST SCRIPTURES



August 2: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7,15;
Romans 9:1-5; **Matthew 14:13-21**

August 9: **Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28;** Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16: **Genesis 45:1-15;** Psalm 133; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

August 23: **Exodus 1:8-2:10;** Psalm 124; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105; **Romans 12:9-21;** Matthew 16:21-28

MEMBERS IN CARE FACILITIES

Faith Home & Faith Assisted Living:



Nancy Duncan
Colleen Dodge
Ann Lewis

Riceville Family Care & Therapy Center:

Elizabeth Uthe

Apple Valley:

Ed & Judy Kramme

Good Samaritan Society, St. Ansgar:

Sue Kuper

Maple Court Apts.

Linda Levan

Millpond in Ankeny:

Eunice Pringnitz



August 4--Bruce Forshay

August 8--Jett Kuper

August 9--Grant Kuper

August 10--Pattie Forshay

August 11--Judy Kramme

August 15--Keith Ham

August 24--Josh Skuster

August 31--Brooks Kuper



August 24--Josh and Alex Skuster

August 28--Ron and Heidi Feekes

Harp Music - Vocal Music - Piano Music

An afternoon of music, fellowship - and ice cream!

Presented by 'Celestial Strings'

Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere (it's not a formal concert) held in the Gathering Area
Enjoy refreshments during the program.



"Down by the Riverside"

- Historical significance of rivers
- Importance of river songs
- Significance of rivers in the Bible and church history
River of Life (Revelation 22:1-2) / Gospel River (Psalm 46:4)

Date and Time: Sunday, August 16 at 3PM

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church - St. Ansgar
308 West 5th Street - ample parking on south side

"Celestial Strings is the music ministry of Rev. William Reister, an ordained Lutheran minister, and his wife, Susan, an organist and pianist with more than 35 years of experience. Pastor Bill is a harpist, vocalist, and pianist with many years of experience as a soloist and member of choral and instrumental ensembles. He is a member of the American Harp Society and plays for dozens of events each year. His harp music is enjoyed at weddings, banquets, worship services, grand openings, inspirational programs, private parties, retirement community events, funerals etc." (Bill is the brother of Sue Sandera, resident of St. Ansgar)

Revelation 22:1-2

"Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."

Psalms 46:4

"There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High."



ST LUKE ICE CREAM SOCIAL



SUNDAY

AUGUST 16, 2026

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

101 N HAWKEYE, NORA SPRINGS

JOIN US FOR ICE CREAM, PIE, CAKE AND FELLOWSHIP

FREE WILL DONATION

PROCEEDS WILL SUPPORT:

NORA SPRINGS PARK CEMETERY

NORA SPRINGS CARE CENTER

SPONSORS: OMNITEL, THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Little Food Pantry Giving Idea

Bear Creek Soup Packages

Granola Bars

Macaroni and Cheese boxes

Macaroni and Cheese microwavable individual servings

Powdered milk

Ramen Noodles

Peanut Butter



What to do:

- 1 Grab a gallon-size zip bag.
- 2 Pick one shelf-stable meal idea from the list below.
- 3 Add all the ingredients + a printed recipe card.
- 4 Label the bag with the meal name and cooking directions.

Easy Meal Ideas:

🍗 Chicken & Biscuit Bake

- Garlic Herb Biscuit Mix
- Canned Chicken
- Mixed Vegetables
- Brown Gravy Packet
- (Optional: Evaporated Milk)

🍜 Ramen Veggie Soup

- 2 Ramen Packs
- 1 Can Mixed Vegetables
- 1 Can Diced Tomatoes
- (Optional: Taco or Italian Seasoning)

🍗 Stuffing Casserole

- Box of Stuffing Mix
- 1 Can Chicken
- 1 Can Vegetables
- 1 Packet Gravy

🍅 Tomato & Bean Stew

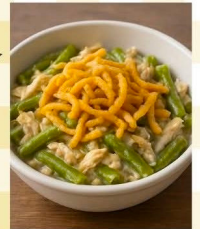
- 1 Can Diced Tomatoes
- 1 Can Tomato Sauce
- 1 Can Beans
- (Optional: Chili or Taco Seasoning)

FIVE DOLLAR MEAL INGREDIENTS



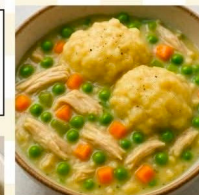
CREAMY CHICKEN GNOCCHI

- 1 pkg Gnocchi
- 1 can mixed vegetables
- 1 can cream of chicken
- 1-2 cans chicken breast
- 1 seasoning packet



GREEN BEAN CHICKEN CASSEROLE

- 1 can chicken breast
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 bag fried onions



CHICKEN & DUMPLINGS

- 1 box biscuit mix
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 can mixed vegetables
- 1-2 cans chicken breast
- 1 seasoning packet



TUNA NOODLE CASSEROLE

- 1 bag egg noodles
- 2 cans mushroom soup
- 1 can tuna
- 1 can peas
- 1 seasoning packet



SPAGHETTI & GREEN BEANS

- 1 can meat sauce
- 1 can diced tomatoes
- 1 box/bag spaghetti
- 1 can green beans
- 1 packet parmesan

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE WORD SEARCH

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

ISAIAH

KINGS

JEREMIAH

MICAH

AMOS

PROVERBS

JOB

PSALMS

REVELATION

JUDE

JONAH

HOSEA

JUDGES

HEBREWS

TITUS

SAMUEL

JOSHUA

DEUTERONOMY

ECCLESIASTES

LEVITICUS

NAHUM

MALACHI

HAGGAI

EZEKIEL

EZRA

JOEL

DANIEL

NEHEMIAH

RUTH

NUMBERS

ACTS

EXODUS

GENESIS

ROMANS

JESUS

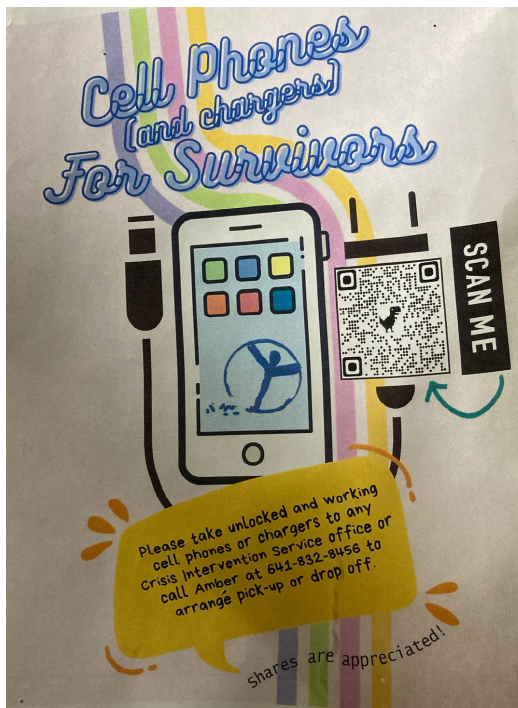
JOHN

LUKE

MARK

MATTHEW

BIBLE



Join the ecumenical group on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Osage UCC Church on 630 State Street from 1-3 pm. They make feminine hygiene kits for keep girls in school and women in the workforce. Anyone is welcome to come! There is a job for everyone.



MAT WORKSHOP
8—10:00 A.M.
JOIN IN COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WHILE WORKING ON MATS FOR THE HOMELESS. WE HAVE MADE 8 MATS FROM CLEAN PLASTIC BAGS SO FAR THIS YEAR.

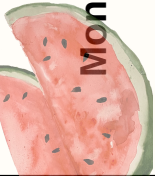
Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Mitchell County Food Bank
415 Pleasant St.
Osage, IA

641-732-4560

Tuesdays and Fridays: 10:00 - 11:30 am



 Sun	 Mon	Tue	Wed 	Thu	Fri 	Sat
					1	
2 Communion Osage UCC 9:00 Eden 10:30 Ordination in Waterloo 3:00	3 Presbyterian Cohort 10:00	4 Nora Springs Nursing Home 2:00	5 Grief Support Group 2-4	6 Coffee at Kountry Kupboard 9:00 Days for Girls 1-3 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park	7 Pastor Day off Friday Night Out 5-9 p.m. Fair Grounds	8 Power Show Cedar Valley Memories thru Sunday
9 Osage UCC 9:00 Eden 10:30	10 Presbyterian COM 4	11	12 Faith Home Worship 2:30	13 Pastor Day Off 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park	14 Pastor Day off	15 Jeannie Parcel's Memorial
16 Osage UCC 9:00 Eden 10:30	17 Pastor Dixie on Vacation Mon- Fri.	18	19	20 Days for Girls 1-3 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park	21 Vacation Day	22
23 Osage UCC 9:00 Eden 10:30	24 Spiritual Writing Group 2-3:30 zoom	25 Session 5:00	26 Leadership 10 NE COM 2:30	27 Coffee at Seminary 9:00 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park	28 Pastor Day off	29 All Iowa Presbytery Meeting Ames 10
30 Osage UCC 9:00 Eden 10:30	31 Pastor Day off					