

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE SPIRE

2026

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

630 STATE STREET

OSAGE, IA 50461

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REV. DIXIE LAUBE

DIXIE.LAUBE@GMAIL.COM

PASTOR'S CELL: 641-300-7245

OFFICE HOURS TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9 AM–1 PM

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY AT EDEN

THURSDAY & FRIDAY AT OSAGE

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

THE SPIRE

OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

by Rev. Dixie Laube

Happy New Year everyone! I am so excited and happy for this new year to begin. Why? Because it's a new year and I get to start writing a new story once again. Actually, we all get to write a new story. The question is, what will your story be and how will you start it? I've always thought about writing a book of some-sort, though when I sit down to start, I stare at the blank page and do not know how to begin. And, sometimes that is how I get when it comes to sermons, newsletters, mid-week devotions, and newspaper articles. But, what has helped in this "writer's block" is the fact I have a spiritual writing group which meets every month. The leader gives us prompts and we write for about 2 or 3 minutes whatever comes to our minds. We aren't to think too much about it. It is a freeing exercise and has been a great tool for me in these moments of blank pages. So, what will your story be? Maybe you will have 12 chapters? Maybe one will be a chapter of grief? Maybe one will be a chapter of joy? Maybe one will be everything you did on a vacation? However the book evolves, you are the author and have complete control.

Though, when we have too much control, it can limit us. Especially when it interferes with our faith journey and family of God. When we try to control everything in these two areas of our lives, we are not allowing the Holy Spirit to move us. Being Children of God, we must be open to the Holy Spirit to move us in unexpected and unexplained ways. And, sometimes the Holy Spirit will move us where other people may look at us and judge us. Yes, other people will judge us, and we must be okay with that and let our control go. We must lean into where the Holy Spirit is leading us because that is where we meet God.

Now, why am I addressing this? Well, because it's been five years since I have been serving as your pastor and teacher. In these five years, conversations have been had and questions have been asked, "How much longer will we be able to maintain?" Or, "Why haven't there been new members since I've started?" Or, "Do we have enough cash flow to keep Pastor Dixie and the church doors open?" Well, in my opinion, God hasn't let us down and I do not foresee God to ever let us down. Will there be changes? Absolutely! When will these changes happen? I have no idea. However, we must let go of what we "think we have control over" and let God take over. I love each and every one of you! Remember this...even in the tough conversations. God is not calling me away, nor have I heard Him say, "Close the doors for either church." There are ideas rolling around in my head, and those ideas will be shared when the time is right. I am just asking all of us to be open to what God has in store for us, whatever it may be, and be flexible when things might not seem what you want to happen. There is a plan for all of us and I know God is working with that plan. It just takes us a little longer to understand His plan and allow it happen.

Remember, Christianity did not happen overnight. It happened 40+ years after Jesus was crucified. So, I encourage us to continue inviting people to worship, keep sending or giving your tithes and offerings, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in everything we do!

Blessings,
Pastor Dixie

**LEADERSHIP BOARD MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 2025**

Chair Dennis Fannin called the October 27 meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Members in attendance were: Dennis Fannin, Vice President Pat Weis, Treasurer Tony Murphy, Recorder Jon Masmar, Pastor Dixie, Bruce Weis, and Pam Masmar. Pastor Dixie opened the meeting with prayer.

Tony moved that the October 7 minutes be approved as corrected; seconded by Pat. Unanimously passed.

The September and October Financial Reports were read individually and discussed. Motion to accept from Pat; seconded by Bruce. Unanimously conditionally passed, pending the answer to two questions on the reports.

In Old Business, the ceiling tiles situation is on hold. Will be brought to the congregation's attention at the Stewardship brunch on December 7.

Pastor Dixie and Pam brought the reviews for Jannie and John to the group. Wages and job descriptions were discussed.

The 2026 Osage UCC budget is on hold, waiting for suggestions from LouAnn Murphy.

In New Business, the Stewardship brunch will be held during worship on December 7 at 9:00 a.m. A French toast bake, sausages, grapes, and sweet rolls are on the menu. Jill and Pam will get groceries, and the rest of the team will assist in preparations on Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 a.m. We hope that you are able to attend the brunch.

In moderator's thoughts, Dennis shared projected costs for winter snow removal costs from 2 entities. Bruce moved that we approve the Bushbaum snow removal bid; seconded by Tony. Unanimous approval.

Pastor Dixie reported visits with Sue Kuper and other residents at the nursing homes that she serves, as well as attending the association meeting, cluster meetings, and preparing for Advent as part of her busy schedule.

Faith will lead the worship on December 21. This service will include a hymn sing.

Pastor's sabbatical dates for 2026 will be May 18 through June 26.

Next meeting: December 18, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 p.m.

Jon Masmar, Recorder

POINSETTIAS GIVEN THIS YEAR :

DEAN & JILL OLSON

TONY & LOUANN MURPHY

SHIRLEY LISTER

MARY BISBEE

GENE AND DELLA CORDLE

ANN ADAMS



Our Income to Expenses (Jan. - November):

Total Income: \$ 123,451.82

Total Expenses: \$ 155,474.91

Net Income: - \$ 32,023.09

There have been a lot of questions about these numbers and how is it we have a negative income this year, when the last four years have been positive. We must look at these numbers year to year, as our reports are a CASH Accounting system. What we received in 2024 does not show as income in 2025. So, at our Stewardship Breakfast in 2024, we received over \$20,000 for the air conditioning that was installed in the fellowship hall and parlor. Because we did not install the AC in 2024, it became an expense in 2025, which is why there is a negative income showing. YES, we had the money to do in 2024, but it didn't get spent until 2025.

Looking at all our accounts here are our current assets as of November 30, 2025:

Checking: \$ 52,605.54 HTB Savings: \$ 7,285.83	Olson Scholarship: \$ 2,671.87 Olson Scholarship: \$ 22,991.08
Special Account: \$ 30,334.64 HTB Organ Fund: \$ 1,029.07	Markham Scholarships: \$ 2,837.26 Markham Scholarship: \$ 20,728.39
Community Courtesy: \$ 5,755.92 MMIA: \$ 3,972.51	General Fund CDs: \$ 51,251.67 General Fund CDs: \$ 51,251.67
Our TOTAL Checking and Savings: \$100,983.51	Our TOTAL assets: \$ 151,731.94



COFFEE OR TEA WITH PASTOR DIXIE

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

JANUARY 8, 2026: KOUNTRY KUPBOARD

JANUARY 22, 2026: SEMINARY



JANUARY SCRIPTURES



January 4: (Second Sunday after Christmas) Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; **John 1:1-18**

January 6: EPIPHANY...Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

January 11: (Baptism of Jesus) Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; **Matthew 3:13-17**

January 18: (Second Sunday after Epiphany) Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; **John 1:29-42**

January 25: Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; **Matthew 4:12-23**



PRAYER REQUESTS

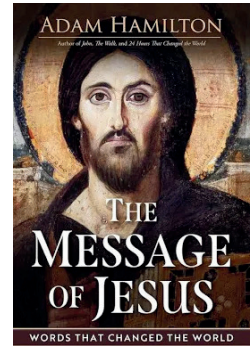
Denny Pellymounter
Sue Kuper
Mable Buerkley--the death of her brother,
All those living with cancer
Ben Weis
Those living without shelter and food
Our Military
Our Country
Our Congregation



BIBLE STUDY TO START IN THE NEW YEAR!

The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World by Adam Hamilton is designed in a six week study.

- Chapter 1: The Kingdom of God has come near (Jan. 9)
- Chapter 2: The World's Most Important Sermon (Jan. 16)
- Chapter 3: He Spoke to Them in Parables (Jan. 23)
- Chapter 4: Who do YOU say that I am? (Jan. 30)
- Chapter 5: Final Words (Feb. 13)
- Chapter 6: The Resurrection and the Life (Feb. 20)



This Bible study will start January 9 at 10 am. We will meet at Osage UCC in the Parlor. Books are available at Amazon.com for \$13.19 hardcover.



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 18 FROM
2:00 PM-4:00 PM!**

**COME AND BE IN FELLOWSHIP
OVER BOARD GAMES; DOMINOES;
CARD GAMES; CRIBBAGE; AND SO
MUCH MORE!**

**WE WILL BE IN THE FELLOWSHIP
HALL AT OSAGE UCC.**

**BRING A SNACK TO SHARE...AND
YOUR OWN DRINK!**



ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!
**PLEASE BE SURE TO SUBMIT YOUR
ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CHURCH OFFICE
ON OR BEFORE **JANUARY 31, 2026.****



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

To give the accountants time to close December and Year End, our congregational Meeting will be held: **March 1, 2026.**

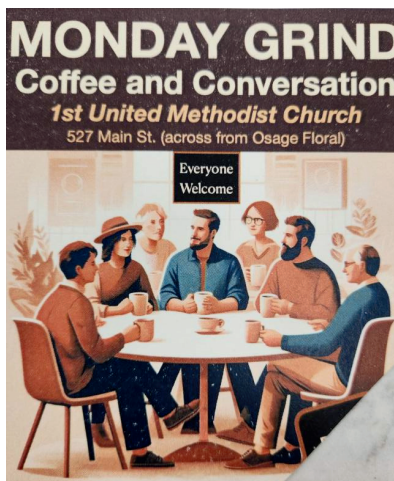


Osage UCC has scholarship money available for our college students.

We ask that you apply by sending these to the church:

1. Name, Address, what year you are in, what College you're attending
2. Your transcripts that show your schedule
3. A paragraph sharing how a scholarship will help

We have scholarships for college students in all years. Please pass this on to any of your grandchildren that have helped at Osage UCC in any way.

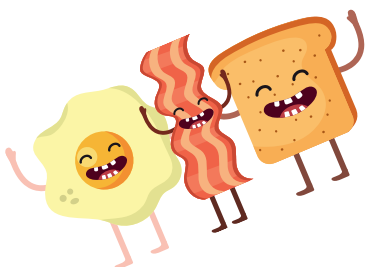


HOURS 8-10 AM

**OSAGE UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**



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 January's breakfasts:



January 8: Biscuits & Gravy
January 15: Pancakes
January 22: Waffles
January 29: French Toast

THANK YOU OSAGE UCC FOR THE GENEROUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

THANK YOU REALLY ISN'T ENOUGH FOR THE AMOUNT OF GENEROSITY AND CARE ALL OF YOU HAVE SHOWN ME AND EACH OTHER OVER THESE PAST FIVE YEARS.

I AM TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE BEEN CALLED AS YOUR PASTOR AND TEACHER.

PASTOR DIXIE LAUBE

THANK
YOU!
♥



WINTER DONATION LIST FOR THE LITTLE FOOD PANTRIES

FOOD ITEMS: Pasta, Rice, Instant Oatmeal, Cereal, Dried beans, Lentils, Dry soup mixes, Flour, Sugar, Pancake mix, Cornbread mix, Gravy mix, Mac-n-Cheese boxes, Pouches of Tuna, Chicken, Salmon, Beef Jerky, Peanut Butter, Granola bars, Crackers, Cookies, Nuts, Dried Fruit like raisins and cranberries, applesauce cups or pouches, Instant Coffee, Tea bags, Hot Chocolate, Powdered milk, Pop Tarts, Maple syrup in plastic bottles, Pretzels, Popcorn, Muffin mixes, Cake mixes

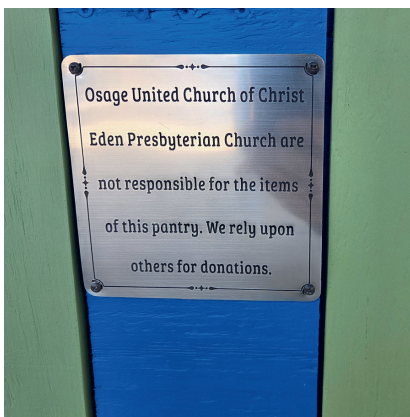
OTHER ITEMS: Soap, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Deodorant, Diapers, Wipes, Feminine Products, Toilet Paper, Ziploc Bags, Hand and Feet Warmers, Hats, Gloves, Small blankets, Scarves

Please AVOID these items during the winter:

Canned goods as metal cans expand and break.

Glass items as they can also break.

Items with high water content like fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, and drink bottles.



2026 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Trip

The Presbytery of North Central Iowa invites you to join us for our 2026 disaster relief trip to Canton, North Carolina.

On September 27th, 2024, Hurricane Helene devastated the mountains of Western North Carolina and other areas in the American southeast, forever changing families, lives, landscapes, and memories. The town of Canton sustained massive damage and flooding, including a portion of the downtown that had just finished rebuilding after flooding from Tropical Storm Fred in 2021.

Work will primarily be in the Canton and Asheville area.

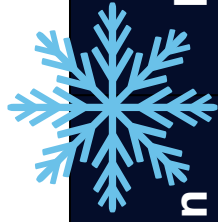
Lodging will be at Canton Presbyterian Church, arriving Sunday, February 1, and departing Saturday, February 7. The church can accommodate up to 20 volunteers. There are mattresses and cots in numerous rooms in their education wing. Volunteers have the use of a fully equipped kitchen, dining room, and lounge area. For those that do not wish to stay in a dormitory-style setting, there are several hotels in Canton within 10 minutes of the church.

Registration materials are available on line: <https://presbynciowa.org/2025/11/17/2026-presbyterian-disaster-assistance-trip/> and due **January 6, 2026**.

If you have questions or need more information, contact Angie Jewett via email angiejewett872@gmail.com or call 515-370-0839.

Those going on this trip are: Dean and Joannie Graves, Bruce and Pat Weis, Connie Downing, and Pastor Dixie. There is room for a few more if interested.
Donations for this trip are welcome, and donations for the Canton/Asheville area are also welcome.





January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Happy New Year!	2 Eden Office 9-1	3
4 Osage UCC 9 Eden 10:30 Communion Sunday	5 Presbyterian Cohort in Cedar Falls 10-1	6 Eden Office 9-1 Confirmation 4 at Eden	7 Eden Office 9-1 Grief Group 2	8 Coffee at Kountry Kupboard 9 Osage Office 9-1 LeRoy Presby. 7	9 Osage Office 9-1 Bible Study 10	10
11 Osage UCC 9 Eden 10:30 Scott Meyer Ordination/Installation at Earlville 3 pm	12	13 Eden Office 9-1 UCC Deacons 11 Confirmation 4 at Eden	14 UCC Clergy Cluster in Latimer 10 am	15 Osage Office 9-1 Ministerial Alliance 9:30	16 Osage Office 9-1 Bible Study 10	17
18 Osage UCC 9 Eden 10:30 Games 2-4 at UC	19 Spiritual Writing 2	20 Eden Office 9-1 Clergy Lunch 11:30 in West Union Nora Springs 2 Confirmation 4	21 Eden Office 9-1 Grief Group 2 Session 6:30 pm	22 Osage Office 9-1 Coffee at Seminary 9 Leadership 4	23 Osage Office 9-1 Bible Study 10	24
25 Osage UCC 9 Eden 10:30 LeRoy Annual Meeting 12:00	26	27 Eden Office 9-1 Confirmation 4 at Eden	28 Eden Office 9-1 NE Iowa COM zoom 2:30	29 Osage Office 9-1	30 Osage Office 9-1 Bible Study 10 Committee Reports Due	31 Presbyterian Mission Trip to Canton, NC through Feb. 7