

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

Return Service Requested



The Spire September 2024

Osage United Church of Christ
630 State Street

Osage, IA 50461

Email: osageucc@osage.net

Facebook: Osage United Church of Christ

Church: (641) 732-3452

website: www.osageucc.org

Reverend Dixie Laube

dixie.laube@gmail.com

Pastor's Cell: 612-812-7942

Office hours Tuesday-Friday 9 am—1 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday at Eden

Thursday & Friday at Osage



Greetings Everyone,

Fall is about here! It officially starts September 22 at 7:00 am according to *alexa*. I always grew up thinking it was on the twenty-first of the month but what do I know about the season changes? I'm guessing it has something to do with leap year and the calendar some how which makes no sense in my head. According to google, it starts the twenty-second because of the position of the sun. Anyway, I'm quite excited for the cooler temperatures and crisp fall mornings and evenings.

On my way home this morning from the chiropractor, I looked up at the Oak trees in town and have you noticed? They are starting to change their colors. That is another reason Fall is such a lovely time of year. The beauty that God creates along the landscapes. The best ones are along the river banks and up along the rolling hills. I love seeing the colors especially along the Mississippi River Banks. Just breath taking. We owe that to God and how amazing is it that we have the freedoms to see and explore this beautiful earth. And, our freedoms should not be taken for granted, either...whether it be to roam around outside, the ability to worship where and how we feel is best for us, and all sorts of other freedoms.

Starting this month, I am going to be sending weekly emails with the scripture I will be preaching on with questions for you all to think about. These emails will be like a remote Bible study for us. Eden will discuss these questions during their gathering time before worship. Osage UCC will have the opportunity to discuss them after worship or in a small group that you form. I would be happy to sit in on a small group, if time permits. I am hoping these emails will help you deepen your Spiritual life and connection with the Triune God (God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit). We all could use a little extra, and yet it is also a choice you have as well. I am not going to make you do this, however, being able to connect to the scriptures in a new way gives all of us a chance to have a thought about how it relates to you. Some scripture may not speak to us and that's when we have to figure out the why not. And, that's the thing about reading the Bible, not everything will have a lesson for us the first time around. The Bible is meant to be continually read because when we read it over and over, something new will be highlighted for us.

As you read the weekly scriptures, I ask that you don't read them on Wednesday and put them away. Read them twice a day and let them ruminate in your head and heart. When you come to worship, you might be surprised at how the Holy Spirit is speaking to you that morning or even throughout the day. I'm excited for us to do this and am intrigued to see how our spiritual lives will change through this. Like I said, I'm not making anyone do this exercise, however, I do feel like it is something all of us can do, take notes, and be changed as the weather changes outside. As Mahatma Gandhi is attributed to saying, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." He believed that if we change our nature, then the attitude of the world changes towards us. It is the divine mystery. We do not need to wait to see what others do. We must do it for ourselves.

Peace,

Pastor Dixie Laube

Osage UCC Leadership Board Minutes

July 24, 2024 Leadership Meeting

The UCC Leadership meeting was held in the church's parlor on July 24, 2024 at 6:00 pm. Members attending were Ashley Kuper, Chairperson, Bruce and Pat Weis, Dennis Fannin, Tony Murphy (treasurer), Pastor Dixie and Jill Olson, taking minutes.

Pastor Dixie started the meeting with a prayer.

The minutes were read. Dennis asked for a change to be made from the minutes from May 8th. The change is for the notification from Grinnell Mutual Insurance and should state premium may increase 15% or more starting July 2024. Tony made the motion to change the minutes and Dennis seconded. Motion was passed.

A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Pat and seconded by Dennis. Motion was approved. Questions about the Smolik Trust when will the church receive the monies. No one knows. It is still in a trust but the church has signed all the paper work to receive it. Discussion about what to do with the money. All agree that we keep the money in our hometown with high interest earning as much as possible.

Remarks about the flooring was very positive.

Church camp for kids in Okoboji was a great time for all the kids who participated. They were Jett and Cash Kuper, Jackson Rolfes, and Moxie Skuster.

Air conditioning in the fellowship hall was discussed. They are still waiting for a quote from the plumbers. Vacation Bible School will be July 24, 25, and 26 from 10:00 till noon with lunch being served for the kids. Pastor Dixie and Jill Olson are planning the event.

New Business: A Seminary Student from Dubuque College is asking to get credits for her degree and will be advised by Pastor Dixie. Her name is Faith Herout and she will be living in Nora Springs, working in Mason City. She will be giving a sermon once a month at both churches and will be attending meetings when they are scheduled. This will start in September thru May of 2025. There will be an advisory group (2 members from each church with Pastor Dixie) helping her with questions and advise. We will be paying .655 cents for mileage reimburse with possible bonus. This was made in a motion by Bruce Weis and Tony seconded. The Board approved this motion.

Confirmation was discussed. Claire and Jett will hopefully be attending in the 2025-2026 year for 22 weeks. Cash, Grant, and Moxie in the next class.

Dennis was asked to research church insurance and has concerns with the church insurance actually going from \$4016 to \$8078. He has been in contact with our insurance agent, Josh Olson. They are looking at different options. Josh will be asked to come and speak to the Board.

First Grace Lutheran Church has asked if they could use classrooms in our church. We are open to this idea depending on how many classrooms and time. Ashley will find out answers and the board will vote.

The next meeting will be August 14th at 6:00.

The Board closed the meeting at 7:15 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Jill M Olson , note taker

Coffee with Pastor Dixie


Join us for coffee on the 2nd and 3rd Thursday in September at 9:00 am. Note the change of Thursdays due to Pastor being gone the 4th week in September

September 12—Kountry Kupboard

September 19—Seminary



Scripture Readings for September




September 1: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 8: Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37

September 15: Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9; James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

September 22: Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54; James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

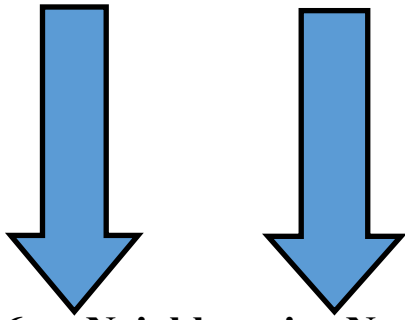
September 29: Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22; Psalm 124; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50



Join in fellowship and fun at Osage City Park on September 8 at 5:00 pm. The North shelter house has been reserved. It's time to celebrate the schools being back in session. And, time to celebrate our two congregations!!!

Please bring a dish to share to compliment the hot dogs and S'mores that will be provided.

Upcoming Collections



October 6: Neighbors in Need/ World Communion Sunday.

Neighbors in Need is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. This year's offerings will help with mental health. 1/3 of his offering is given to the Council for American Indian Ministry and 2/3's is used by the Justice and Witness ministries of the UCC.

DEC. 22—Christmas Fund—This fund has been caring for active, retired clergy, and lay employees of the UCC for over 100 years. It provides emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas "Thank You" gift checks in December to our lower-income retirees.

OCWM—Our church's wider mission offerings are collected all year long. This offering helps the Conference and National offices to maintain staffing in order to do the work beyond the local church. *Side note this offering has significantly decreased over the years and a lot of staffing has been reduced because of lack of funds. It is our covenantal obligation to support the tiers of the UCC: the Northeast Association, Conference and National Offices. Please consider giving to this offering before the year ends.

Our other two offerings are **Pentecost** and **One Great Hour of Sharing**. These offerings were collected at the beginning of 2024. However, if you haven't given to these, please consider doing so before the year ends.

Joys and Concerns

- Gene, Della, Jill, Dean on their trip
- Brooks
- Brenna
- John Ross
- Pam's brother, Greg
- Vos Family
- Dean Grave's brother-in-law, Philip (Jean)
- Caroline (Mabel's niece)
- The Kramme's
- Joannie's Aunt
- Julia & Kale, birth of baby girl, Della (Marlene & Keith's great-granddaughter)



Our Income to Expenses (Jan.-July 2024)

Total Income: \$ 80,560.57

Total Expenses: \$ 98,63.45

Net Loss: \$ 18,102.88

Don't get too excited here. We paid for the flooring with what we had and didn't transfer any monies. We still have money in our accounts. This just shows the 2024 year...not the accumulative numbers. We still have \$117,787.58 in our checking and savings!

Thank you for your continued giving and support to Osage UCC! All is looking well for the 2024 year! Give yourselves a pat on the back and keep up the excellent work of giving to your church.

3. The ark was built in 3 stories.
The top one had a window to let in
light, but how did the bottom two
stories get light?

They used floodlights.



Dean Olson

Amanda Powers

Vivian Kuper

Adriane McKinley

Keith McKinley

Mable Buerckley



Dean and Jill Olson

Doug and Deb Kuehne

Ross and Alicia Kuper

Name: _____ Date: _____

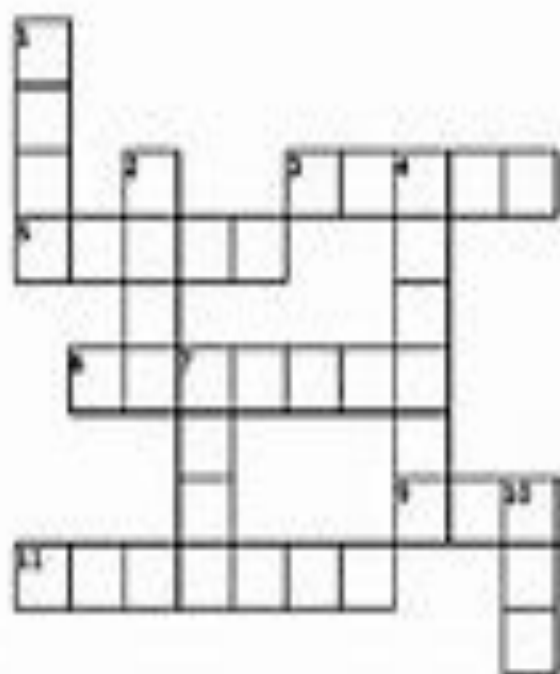
Fall Word Search

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

FALL	HAYRIDE	SCARECROW
AUTUMN	CHILLY	SEPTEMBER
LEAVES	RAKE	OCTOBER
PUMPKIN	FOOTBALL	CIDER
APPLE	SQUIRREL	YELLOW
ACORN	ORANGE	BROWN
SUNFLOWER		RED



Got Jesus?



ACROSS

3. The organ in the body that pumps the blood
5. To make letters and words with a pen or pencil
6. To accept as true, genuine, or real
9. Evidence given by witness in court
11. Something that continues forever

DOWN

1. To understand something
2. The period from birth to death
4. To receive something willingly, such as a gift
7. Someone who doesn't tell the truth
8. The creator and ruler of the universe
10. A male child

Check your answers

accept	believe	eternal	write
testimony	heart	life	know
God	liar	son	



September 2024



	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Communion UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30</p>	<p>Labor Day</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1 JAM Worship 10:30</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1 Apple Valley 1:30 Faith Home 2:30</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Osage Office 9-1</p>	<p>Pastor's holiday time</p>	
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<p>UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30 Picnic 5:00</p>	<p>Presbyterian Cohort 10 am in Reinbeck</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Osage Office 9-1 Coffee 9 JAM Planning 4:30 LeRoy 7</p>	<p>Osage Office 9-1 Eden Kitchen cleaning 10:00 am</p>	
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<p>UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30</p>		<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Eden Office 9-1 Leadership & Session at Eden 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Coffee 9 Osage Office 9-1</p>	<p>Osage Office 9-1</p>	
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<p>UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30 Clarksville 3:00 pm closing Jim's ministry</p>	<p>Eden Women at Leah Marth's 6:30 pm</p>		<p>Eden Office 9-1</p>	<p>Pastor Dixie in Kansas City Sept. 24-27 for Continuing Education. Sept. 27-29 in Omaha for Joint Annual Meeting of the IA-NE-SD Conferences</p>			
	29	30					
<p>UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30 Faith H. Leading</p>							