

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

Return Service Requested



The Spire May 2024

Osage United Church of Christ
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Osage, IA 50461

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Reverend Dixie Laube
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Office hours Tuesday-Friday 9 am—1 pm

Tuesday & Wednesday at Eden

Thursday & Friday at Osage

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!!!

Back in January, I started a book, 8 Virtues of Rapidly Growing Churches, by Matt Miofsky and Jason Byassee. They are United Methodist ministers who did this research as a field study project. They researched what the secret was to rapidly growing churches. Some of these churches were start-up churches, and some were declining and came back to life. They went to South Dakota, Missouri, Vancouver, and a few other places in 2018. This book has given me a few ideas for both Eden and Osage UCC and I have been doing some of them little by little. My prayer is that you find something here that can help you grow your churches.

Virtue # 1: Rapidly Growing Churches Believe in Miracles and Act Accordingly

This virtue is about when churches live, work, act, and believe they will grow. It is left up to the Holy Spirit to move and when the church doesn't live this out, the distinction is made. "Acting as if we believe the Holy Spirit is up to something is the greatest game-changing decision a church leadership team can make."

Virtue # 2: Rapidly Growing Churches Integrate New People Quickly

In this virtue, we are to be clear about the process of becoming a disciple or a member. It is user friendly and simple.

Virtue # 3: Rapidly Growing Churches Love the Local

This third virtue is about loving the local people. The church is local and not accidental. The church came to be because they fit the town it started in. And, when the church loves their town and people, it is reflected in the ministry it does. The church has to also go out to the people and love what they love. Whether that be sitting in the local tavern for dinner and drinks or the local coffee shop for a snack, by being the church, we are to embrace the culture around us.

Virtue # 4: Rapidly Growing Churches Exist to Reach the Next Person

This virtue is to take a singular focus on evangelism...inviting new people to follow Jesus. What are the mission statements for Eden and Osage UCC? If we don't know them, then how are we engaging people and helping them learn or know about Jesus Christ?

Virtue # 5: Rapidly Growing Churches Elevate the Practice of Giving

This fifth virtue is even harder for us to grasp because we do not like asking or talking about giving. Some tend to believe if we don't talk about it until absolutely necessary, then we will be okay. Not even close. We must talk about giving from the beginning. And, we must effectively talk about and manage the money well.

Virtue # 6: Rapidly Growing Churches Work in Teams

Number six teaches us to work in teams and be mindful of talent and the sacredness of the number two person next to the minister.

Virtue # 7: Rapidly Growing Churches Preach Well to the Skeptic

Number seven is about how the preacher can preach to the skeptic because the preacher might be a little skeptical themselves.

Virtue # 8: Rapidly Growing Churches Make Friends with the Denomination

Number eight is about making friends with the denomination. We live in covenant with our denominational leaders and we must remain friends with them.

If something jumped off the page at you and you liked it, I encourage you to either buy the book or head to the library to see if they have it or can get it. I'd be happy share thoughts and ideas with you after you have read the book.

Peace,

Pastor Dixie Laube

Joys and Concerns

- Tony's brother, David
- Kara—Dean and Joannie's daughter
- Gene
- Celebration of Hudson's birthday (6); and Abby's birthday (2)
- Dick and Dora Biederman as they transition into Faith Assisted Living
- Sue Mullenbach
- Bruce Weis and sharing his story
- Diane Budding
- All of our loved ones in Faith Home; Faith Assisted Living and Evergreen



Birthdays

Eunice Pringnitz - May 11
Cole Kuper - May 13
Tony Murphy - May 19
Dennis Fannin - May 28

Anniversaries

Pat & Bruce Weis - May 5
Ray & Marj Stonecyper - May 29



Community Help Needed

*Sarah Krukow is out of gas cards. If you would like to donate a \$25.00 or \$30.00 card from Kwik Trip or Caseys, please call Sarah at the Osage Police Department at 641-732-3777.

*The Food Bank has seen a large increase in their “handouts” since last year. In 2023, for their first quarter, they only gave out 31,340 lbs. of food, which covered 229 households. In 2024, the first quarter handout is at 31,703 lbs. of food, which covers 222 households. This increase is taking a big hit in their funds. If you can find it in your budget to give to the Food Bank, they would greatly appreciate the donations.



If you would like to buy flowers for the altar on Sunday mornings, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board before you enter the Narthex. We have a few places that are filled in, but have many open Sundays.



Osage Graduation is May 19, 2024. Osage UCC will be recognizing 3 graduating seniors this year:

Kaitlyn Olsen

Kendall Olsen

Keyra Pfeffer

At the time of this newsletter, we weren't able to know which Sunday works best for the girls. So, stay tuned to Sunday morning announcements. We will celebrate them during worship on or before May 19.

Biblical Mothers

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

SHULAMITE WOMAN
 ZIPPORAH
 REBEKAH
 ZILPAH
 HANNAH
 SARAH
 GOMER
 LEAH

AHOLIBAMAH
 PENINNAH
 KETURAH
 RACHEL
 EUNICE
 RAHAB
 RUTH
 EVE

ELIZABETH
 JOCHEBED
 JEZEBEL
 MILCAH
 BILHAH
 NAOMI
 MARY

BATHSHEBA
 ZERUIAH
 ABIGAIL
 JUDITH
 TAMAR
 HAGAR
 LOIS

COFFEE with Pastor Dixie

May 9 at 9:00 am at the Seminary



May 23 at 9:00 am at Maple Leaf on Main

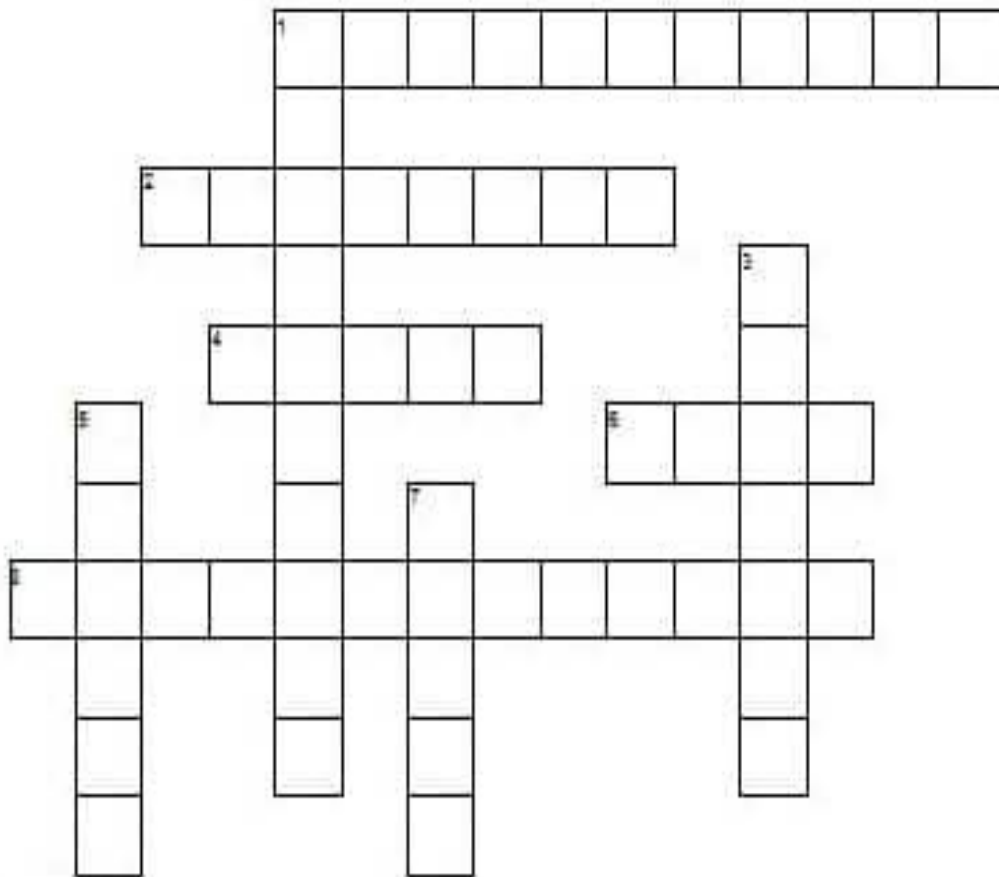
We are continuing to collect old cell phones for the women's shelter...please bring the charger that you have for it, too. Thank you! Christine Fannin



Pentecost Special Offerings for Osage UCC, will be collected on Pentecost Sunday, **May 19. This offering builds up the United Church of Christ by providing financial resources to support the formation of new congregations and the renewal of existing ones, fund new programs for youth and young adults and sponsor leadership development for the whole church.**

WEAR RED FOR **May 19!**

Beatitudes



www.churchhousepuzzles.com © 2011

ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the _____: for they shall be called the children of God
- 2 Blessed are the _____: for they shall obtain mercy
- 4 Blessed are the pure in _____: for they shall see God
- 6 Blessed are the _____: for they shall inherit the earth
- 8 Blessed are those that hunger and thirst after _____: for they shall be filled

DOWN

- 1 Blessed are they which are _____ for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 3 _____ are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 5 Blessed are the poor in _____: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven
- 7 Blessed are they that _____: for they shall be comforted



May 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Eden Office 10-1 Facebook online Bible Study 6	2 Osage Office 9-1 JAM zoom 4:30 pm	3 Osage Office 9-1	4
5 Worship 9:00 with communion	6	7 Eden Office 9-1	8 Eden Office 10-1 Facebook online Bible Study 6	9 Coffee 9:00 Seminary Osage Office 9-1 LeRoy 7pm	10 Osage Office 9-1	11
12 Worship 9:00 Mother's Day	13	14 Eden Office 9-1	15 Eden Office 9-1 Facebook online Bible Study 6	16 Osage Office 9-1 Osage Ministers luncheon Leadership 6:00 pm	17 Osage Office 9-1	18
19 Worship 9:00 <i>Pentecost offering</i> Osage HS Grad. Fellowship hall	20	21 Eden Office 9-1 Nora Springs 2	22 Eden Office 9-1 Apple and Faith Session 6 pm	23 Coffee 9:00 Maple Leaf Osage Office 9-1	24 Osage Office 9-1	25
26 reserved	27 Memorial Day	28 Eden Office 9-1	29 Eden Office 10-1 Facebook online Bible Study 6	30 Osage Office 9-1	31 Osage Office 9-1	
Worship 9:00						