

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
EMAIL: OSAGEUCC630@GMAIL.COM
FACEBOOK: OSAGE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CHURCH #: (641) 732-3452
WEBITE: WWW.OSAGEUCC.ORG

REV. DIXIE LAUBE
DIXIE.LAUBE@GMAIL.COM
PASTOR'S CELL: 641-300-7245

**OFFICE HOURS WILL BE FLEXIBLE DURING JULY;
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

The definition for sabbatical is an extended, intentional leave of absence from a routine job, usually lasting from one month to a year. Unlike a standard vacation, it requires a complete transfer of responsibilities and is typically used to recover from burnout, pursue personal goals, or develop new skills. For me, it was used to focus on my parents and recover from burnout.

As many of you know, this was my first sabbatical leave after seventeen years of ministry. It was new for me and coming back I feel refreshed. It's as if I pushed a pause button and reset myself. I have a new perspective and new energy as I come back to ministry. I know many want to know what I did during my six weeks away. Well, first, I didn't worry about the weekly routine of writing a sermon. Second, I prayed for you everyday. Third, I cleaned out my clothes and took 15 bags for donations. Fourth, I helped my parents with their lawn, doctor appointments, surgery for Dad, and served them communion. Fifth, I spent time with Alex, who has been a huge support since August of 2025. Sixth, I took time at Lakeshore Center by Lake Okoboji with other ministers where we worshiped, did Bible study, and did a lot of reflecting. Finally, I took a quilt panel, and sewed it together. The six weeks went by quickly at times, yet there were a few times where it felt like time stood still. My hope is when you see me, you will notice a refreshed look.

A few things also happened and were decided while I was away, as well. I applied to Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK for the fall semester to work on my Doctorate of Ministry. I was accepted, and will start August 24. Orientation will be August 17-21. I felt God nudging me to do this back in March. I am asking for your support and nothing much more than a week away during each semester. The first week I will be away will be October 18-24. Phillips has a grant that allows DMin and MDiv students free tuition, books & travel reimbursements, and some other great perks for attending. This does not and will not affect my salary. My focus will be on how the 1980s farm crisis, and corporate farming has changed our small town and rural churches spiritual life and connections. I am anxious, yet excited for this new part of my spiritual journey.

This also means, I am resigning as one of the Iowa Conference Deacons with the UCC. Faith Herout will be the CRE at LeRoy Presbyterian Church starting August 1. I will continue to serve on both the UCC and Presbyterian COMs. And, I will continue to attend clergy cluster and cohort gatherings. My focus will truly be on YOU Eden Presbyterian Church and Osage UCC (and my studies). A wise person told me, "Dixie it's time for you to do something for yourself because you have given yourself to so many over the years. It is time for you."

As I shared on one of the Sundays in May, I am not leaving YOU. I enjoy being your Pastor and Teacher. I enjoy the challenge of leading two congregations and learning how sometimes I do not always get it right according to traditions. I enjoy the country living with the foxes, the deer, the raccoons, the opossums, the skunks, and even the snakes. Now, I don't want them in my house! I just enjoy how God shows me His true magnificence with nature all around.

Summer just started on June 21 and here it is June 30, at the date of this writing. I am looking at the Fall and am excited to have Bible study back on the calendar, ecumenical gatherings like a potluck or bon-fires, gaming afternoons, and so much more. Being in community is what the Church is all about; and where that community gathers, it should not matter. What matters is we care for each other no matter where we are on life's journey. What matters is we are coming together and worshiping with each other no matter what differences we may have. What matters is we are shining a light for our neighbors to know they are prayed for and loved.

I encourage us to join in on an activity that is on the calendar and come. Be part of the community that gathers in Christ's name. Come and feel Christ's presence because that to me is what brings us closer as an ecumenical community and God's Family.

Be encouraged,

Pastor Dixie Laube



**Osage UCC
Leadership Board Meeting
Minutes - April 22, 2026**

Pam Masmar called the April Leadership Board meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. All members were present. Pastor Dixie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Tony Murphy moved that the March 26, 2026 minutes be approved as corrected; seconded by Jill Olson. Passed unanimously.

Dean Olson moved that the February and March Financial Reports be accepted; seconded by Pat Weis. Pass unanimously.

In Old Business, coffee stainless steel carafes were purchased with Memorial Fund money. This fund stands at a little less than \$4,000. Good reports have been noted about the carafes' performance.

Bruce and Pat Weis will visit several different businesses to get estimates for the cost of 2 room darkening shades for the windows near the organ and piano. Dean will explore the cost of small lights for singers when that space is darkened.

Dean reviewed lawn care contract with Home Turf Co., LLC.

The Endowment Policy and updating the board in the narthex has been reviewed and will be shared in the Spire soon. Dean will follow up with school personnel as to the engraving plates and engraving tools (left by Dale Hemingson to Brent Jennings at the high school).

In New Business, the classroom downstairs will be used for meetings and classes. Possible other use for this room is emergency preparedness storage, such as water, blankets, etc.

The Little Food Pantries are being well utilized. A list of "fast movers" is found in this month's Spire. A possible committee may be established for assembling \$5 meals in ziplock bags. We're hoping for interest in joining this activity. Let us know, ok?

Pastor Dixie shared that Kelly Wright (JobLink) has a client in mind that would put in 4 hours a week for cleaning services to build a reference base for her future employment. A motion to pay the client \$10 an hour was made by Jill; seconded by Bruce. Unanimously passed.

Sound and video were next on the agenda. Dean is pursuing different avenues for possible replacement of older equipment, if possible, or the purchasing of some new equipment. This will be on next month's agenda.

The Board passed around a list at this meeting dealing with communion preparation for each month for 2026-2027. Leadership Board members will sign up as each of their schedules allow. Jill motioned for the inclusion of white wine along with grape juice as choices for drinking the cup; seconded by Pat. Unanimously passed.

Pastor Dixie's report shared all the services/meetings in which she has been involved for both churches. She also has made plans for both churches while she is away.

Next 2 meetings: May 13 at 10:00 a.m. AND July 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned 11:33 a.m. following the unison recitation of the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jon Masmar

Financial position for January - May 2026:

UNOFFICIAL

Total Income: \$ 54,566.24

Total Expenses: \$ 66,177.28

Net Ordinary Income: **-\$11,611.04**

Total Checking/Savings: \$ 117,846.37

Total Assets: \$ 272,685.80

2026 Budget: \$169,081.00

Weekly Giving should be at: \$ 3,251.56

Current Weekly Giving is about: \$ 2,098.70



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 Stan Witham

The Family of Jeannie Parcel

The Family of Jack Dobbs

Chasity

Donnie Schwagert

Shirley Lister

Dutch Dome

Sue Kuper

Elizabeth Uthe

Nancy Duncan

Ben Weis

Peggy Mark

Christine Fannin

Mike

David

Arlan Laube



JULY SCRIPTURES



July 5: **Genesis 12:1-9**; Psalm 33:1-12; Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

July 12: **Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7)**; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)

July 19: Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; **Matthew 10:24-39**

July 26: Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; **Matthew 10:40-42**

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



JULY 7 BONNIE BLY
JULY 16 GENE CORDLE
JULY 29 JILL OLSON



JULY 2 DEAN & JOANNE GRAVES
JULY 8 BRUCE AND PATTIE FORSHAY
JULY 22 LOUANN & TONY MURPHY

Celebrate with the
Ministerial Alliance for
our 2nd Annual Picnic in
City Park
July 19, 2026
5:00-6:30 pm
rain date: August 16, 2026

PAUL NYE
Singer/Songwriter

OSAGE CITY PARK
BANDSHELL
809 Sawyer Dr. Osage, Iowa

Sunday
July 19th
5:00 p.m.

The ministerial alliance in Osage is hosting a community picnic in the city park at the same time as the concert. All are welcome to attend.

"Paul has an identifiable sound, and a unique way to share it that resonates now more than ever."
Lindsay O'Halloran, publisher
Anotherland Records, Nashville

NEW RELEASE
"Songs Well-Traveled"

paulnye.com

CONCERT SPONSOR:
Cross Roads Lutheran Parish

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

Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Fear-of-the-Lord

Understanding

Self-Control

Faithfulness

Gentleness

Fortitude

Knowledge

Goodness

Kindness

Patience

Counsel

Wisdom

Piety

Peace

Love

Joy



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

**EDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3105 GLASS AVE.
RUDD, IA**

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**Sunday, July 12, 2026
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm**

**SLOPPY JOE'S, CHIPS, ICE CREAM,
HOME MADE PIES & DRINKS**

FREE WILL DONATION



**TAKE OUT
AVAILABLE**

DAYS FOR GIRLS:

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.



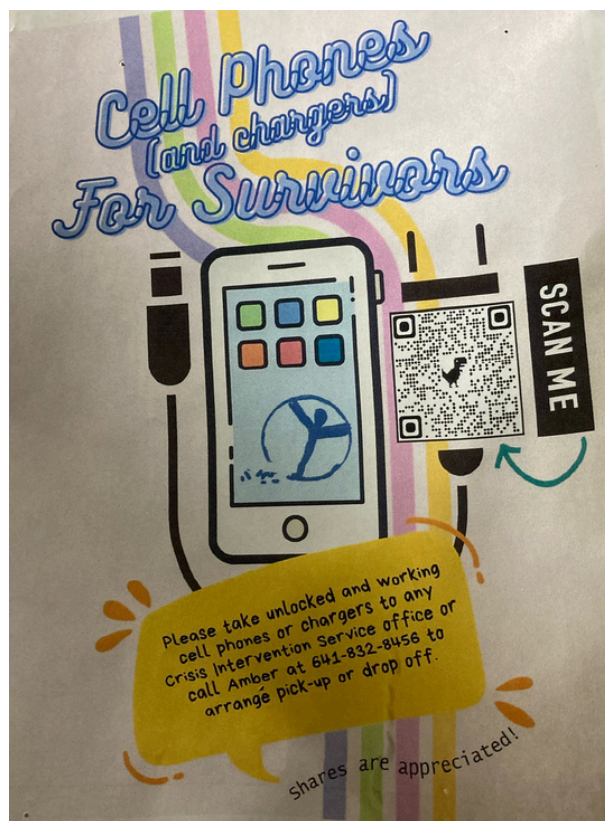
Vacation Bible School

**Eden Presbyterian Church
3105 Glass Ave.
Rudd, IA 50471**

**Friday, July 17, 5:30 - 7:00 pm
(light supper served)**

**Saturday, July 18, 9:30-11:00 am
(morning snack provided)**

**Children ages First through Fifth Grades
Registration due July 12, 2026**





SPONSORED BY:
 **HOME TRUST & SAVINGS BANK**

OSAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

JEFF REINARTZ

FRIDAY NIGHT OUT

**JULY 10TH
5 PM - 9 PM**

MITCHELL CO. FAIRGROUNDS



OSAGE Chamber of Commerce
FARMERS MARKET
 THURSDAYS | 3:30-5:30
 NOW LOCATED AT CITY PARK!

Special Dates:
 May 14th - Season Begins
 September 19th - Autumn Artistry
 (no market on September 17th)
www.osagechamber.com

PROUD SPONSORS OF THE FARMERS MARKET:




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.

Food Bank Collection Sunday

July 19, 2026

Please consider donating to the Mitchell County Food Bank.

**Make checks out to:
Osage UCC in the memo put food bank.**

Northeast Iowa Food Bank

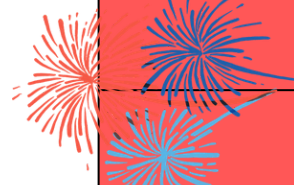
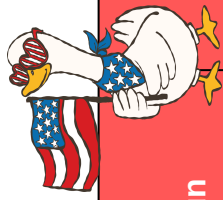
**Mitchell County Food Bank
415 Pleasant St.
Osage, IA**

641-732-4560

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



July



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Grief Group 2 pm	2 Days for Girls 1-3	3	4
5 Osage UCC 9:00 am Eden 10:30 am Communion	6	7	8	9	10 Friday Night Out 5-9 pm	11
Night Owl Camp at Lakeshore Wed. - Sat.						
12 Osage UCC 9:00 am Eden 10:30 am Ice Cream Social Noon-1:30 pm	13 Presbyterian COM 4 pm	14	15 Grief Group 2 Faith Home 2:30	16 Minister Alliance 9:30 am Days for Girls 1-3 LeRoy 7 pm	17 VBS at Eden 5:30 pm - 7 pm	18 VBS at Eden 9:30 am - 11 am
19 Osage UCC 9:00 am Eden 10:30 am FOOD BANK Ministerial Picnic 5:00-7:00	20	21 Session 6:00 pm	22 Leadership 10 am UCC COM 2:30 pm	23 Coffee with Pastor 9 am	24	25
26 Osage UCC 9:00 am Eden 10:30 am	27	28	29 Mitchell County Fair	30 Mitchell County Fair	31 Mitchell County Fair	

Synod School at Buena Vista Saturday July 25 through July 31