

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

Return Service Requested



## **The Spire November 2023**

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

Email: [osageucc@osage.net](mailto:osageucc@osage.net)

Facebook: Osage United Church of Christ

Church: (641) 732-3452

website: [www.osageucc.org](http://www.osageucc.org)

Reverend Dixie Laube  
[dixie.laube@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Giving thanks in November is always the theme it seems like for everyone you meet or even on the social media platforms. I mean, yes, we must give thanks, yet, what happened to being thankful all year round? What happens on Facebook is everyone starts listing what they are thankful for on Nov. 1 and continues it through the month. That is if they remember to post every day because when they forget, they then have to post two or sometimes three things on the next post they make. It isn't like we "need" to be thanked for everything we do...no that is not the point of being who we are. What I'm saying is, does our thanks need to be out on social media for the world to see? And, if so, then why do we wait until the eleventh month to post all of our thanks in 30 days?

Unfortunately, I'm not sure I can actually answer that question either. I can only guess the reason we wait until November is because of Thanksgiving. As a society, we are trained to give thanks during this time of year. And, I wonder if it's because with Christmas around the corner, it helps us "feel" better about ourselves? I don't really know because I have been caught up in this Facebook posting before and I didn't feel better. It made me realize how fortunate I am. I must give thanks all the time, not just the 30 days for social media content or for people to see. It started to feel like I was bragging because in all honesty, God is the first I thank...and He is everyday. Psalm 138:1-2, "I give you thanks, o Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted your name and your word above everything."

So, as we enter this month of thankfulness, I encourage us to be thankful, yes; though I also encourage us to do it in a more private manner. Thank the ones who need thanking by writing a letter, sending a card or a text. Those mean more than posting it for the social world to see and comment on. I have a friend who sent birthday gifts to nieces and nephews, and neither of them thanked my friend. I have also heard stories from our congregation members about their own families not thanking them for their gifts. What happens is for my friend, they don't feel it necessary to send gifts anymore if they cannot appreciate what was sent. These acts of not thanking someone starts to divide family and friends in ways that seem silly to an outsider, yet not sending a thank you hurts the one who sent the gift.

In Luke 12:49, Jesus speaks about division in the families. He wasn't speaking about the ungrateful acts. He was speaking about how each person follows Him. Someone will believe they are a "better" follower than the next and that will divide. Yes, the time will come, if it isn't already here at some level, that families will divide. However, let it not be over some gift that went unnoticed. We are the family of God. We are made in God's image. We have been asked to love our neighbors as ourselves. I encourage us to give thanks and send thanks. Let's keep peace in our families and in our communities, until another date and time.

Peace,

*Pastor Dixie Laube*

## APPROVED

### Osage UCC Leadership Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2023

This meeting was held at the UCC Church with Reed, Ashley, Dean, Gene, LouAnn, Jill and Pastor Dixie on September 20, 2023, with the Session from the Eden Presbyterian Church including Dean Pohren, Linda Brandau, Mike Marth and Susie Brandau. The UCC Leadership provided pizza and cookies for the meeting at 5:00 pm.

Discussion among the UCC Leadership Board is questioning about term limits for our Leadership Board members. This may be proposed in a change in the constitution. More discussion is needed.

We met together to discuss Pastor Dixie's salary for 2024. Both churches agree to give a 3% salary increase for our pastor. Lou Ann made a motion to increase the salary by 3% and Dean Pohren seconded the motion. The motion was passed with 100% agreement.

Pastor Dixie proposed a mission for both churches to have a coat drive for October. A mitten and glove and hat drive will be done in December for our local schools. We hope to do a food drive for Thanksgiving from the church for our local food banks.

Pastor Dixie is thinking of taking a sabbatical in 2025/2026. Our thoughts are to put money aside for this time.

Our church discussed the need for bibles for Cash Kuper and Grant Kuper. Jackson needs to be baptized with possibly his sister, Josalyn.

The Seminary will be offering Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

Jill will be in touch with Denny Johnson at the Food Bank in Mitchell County for the needs of the Pantry. Dixie is asking for projects for both churches and volunteers.

We are thinking of doing card games or movie night during the winter months with both churches invited.

Susie made a motion to close the meeting and Reed seconded. Motion granted.

Jill M Olson, UCC Chairperson



**Kinship Radio Soup & Sweets Fundraiser at Our Savior's Lutheran Church on November 6, 2023 from 4:30 pm—7:00 pm**

**Join us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Brunch!**  
**Come worship with us on November**  
**12 in the Fellowship Hall!**



Mark your calendars for **November 12 at 9:00 am**. We will worship and eat. We will celebrate our amazing community of Osage United Church of Christ and take up an extra offering that will help us stay caught up with our budget for 2023-2024.

Our goal for this new and exciting event is to raise \$15,000. We raised over \$18,000 last year, so let's go for that and more. The EXCITING thing is, when we collect over this amount, Pastor Dixie will play her saxophone in worship in December.

Think about everything we have done: Shop on State; Days for Girls; Non-Profit Office spaces; VBS; Sunday School and so much more.

We will be celebrating Stewardship Sunday during our brunch/worship. Be ready to make a offering commitment for 2024.

I am excited you are with us and I personally cannot wait to see what 2024 and God will do or provide. (Pastor Dixie Laube)

**The Osage UCC Leadership Team**

### **Texts being Preached on in November:**

**Nov. 5: Matthew 23:1-12 –celebrating All Saints Sunday**

**Nov. 12: Matthew 25:1-13 (read the rest of Matthew 23 and chapter 24)**

**Nov. 19: Matthew 25:14-30**

**Nov. 26: Matthew 25:31-46**



### **Coffee with Pastor Dixie**

**Join us for coffee 9:00 am**

**November 9 Kountry Kupboard**

**November 30 The Seminary**



### **Our Income to Expenses (Jan.-Sept.)**

Total Income: \$118,247.72

Total Expenses: \$ 102,568.01

Net Income: \$ 15,679.71



**Thank you for your continued giving and support to Osage UCC! All is looking well for the 2023 year! Give yourselves a pat on the back and keep up the excellent work of giving to your church.**



**Don't forget we are collecting old cell phones for the women's shelter. And please bring the charger that you have for it, too. Thank you!**



### **NOVEMBER MISSION:**

**Northeast Iowa Food Bank** is back to accepting food items again.

415 Pleasant Street, Osage, IA. 641-732-4560. Their hours are Tuesdays and Fridays 10:00 to 11:30 am. If you would prefer to donate money, checks can be made out to Osage UCC and on the memo line write: Mitchell County Food Bank.

Be planning ahead, as we will be collecting for the Food Bank in the month of November. Think about what you give because not everyone can get eggs, butter, or milk. So, if you're planning to give a meal like Hamburger Helper—you might want to think about Tuna or Chicken helper, and get the can of tuna or chicken to go with it.



### **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship**

**November 19, 2023 at 6:00 pm**

**At Sacred Heart**

**With Fellowship after worship**

## Joys and Concerns

- Family of Jim Wagner
- Phil Erdman
- Ann Adams
- Bev McNeely
- Carol's granddaughter, Olivia in Colorado
- Frank Jacobs
- Billie (Joannie's brother)
- Dean Meier
- The communities of Southeast Iowa, Illinois and Indiana that were in the path of the Derecho at the end of June
- Israel and Palestine—the hostages and the loved ones who have died
- Continued prayers for Diane Budding
- Pauline Wiener
- Linda Thome (and her family)
- The family of Dennis Fischer



**We haven't any record of November Birthdays**



**Shirley Whitman (November 18)  
Dean and Diane Steffen (November 19)**



Northeast Association Meeting November 4,  
2023 at 10:00 am at Cedar Falls United  
Church of Christ.

Our program will start at 10:00 am with  
Rev. Susan Weier about Rural

Ministry and Churches. Lunch will be served by the Cedar Falls Church at  
12:00 pm and the business meeting will happen at 1:00 pm.

### Advent and Christmas for 2023

On December 3, 2023, we will be celebrating our first Sunday of  
Advent. Sundays in Advent are Dec. 3, 10, 17, and Christmas  
Eve.



For the Christmas Eve morning worship, we will be sharing this  
worship at 10:00 am at Osage UCC.

The Christmas Eve worship will begin at 8:30 pm for just UCC. If that is too late for you,  
come out to Eden for their 6:30 pm worship.

### **ADVENT READERS:**

December 3:	Noreen Fink & Carol Birkholtz
December 10:	Pat and Bruce Weis
December 17:	Chris and Dennis Fannin
December 24:	Reed and Ashley Kuper Family (morning 10:00 am)
December 24:	Leadership Team (evening 8:30 pm)



## **Salvation Army--Mitchell County**

Bell ringers are needed during November and December.

Sarah Krukow, at the Osage Police Department, heads this up, she manages our Salvation Army assistance for Mitchell County.

Monetary donations are accepted anytime at  
432 Main Street, Osage

If you would like to sign up with your family, you may do so by calling Sarah at:  
641-732-3777.

2023 Bell Ringing Sign ups

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409084BAAA92AABFB6-45431043-2023>



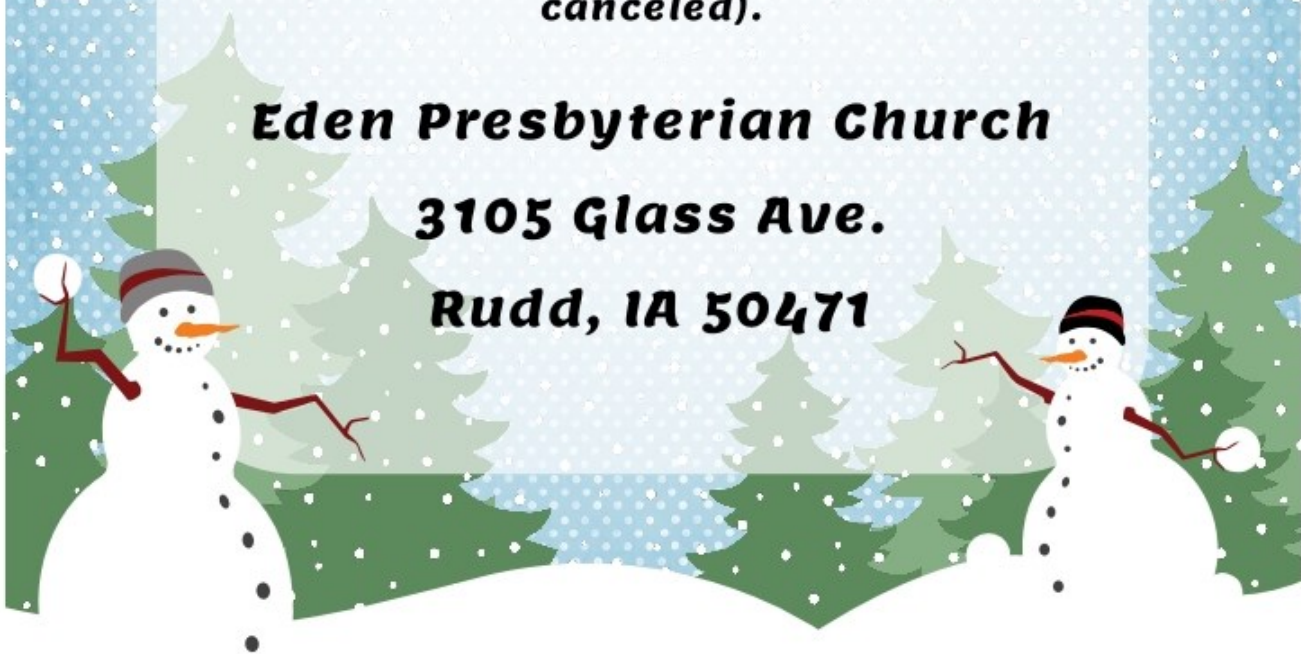
**Christmas Sing-A-Long**  
**with**  
**Sam Crosser**

**Sunday, December 3, 2023**  
**3:00 pm**

**Cookies and Hot Cocoa will be served.**

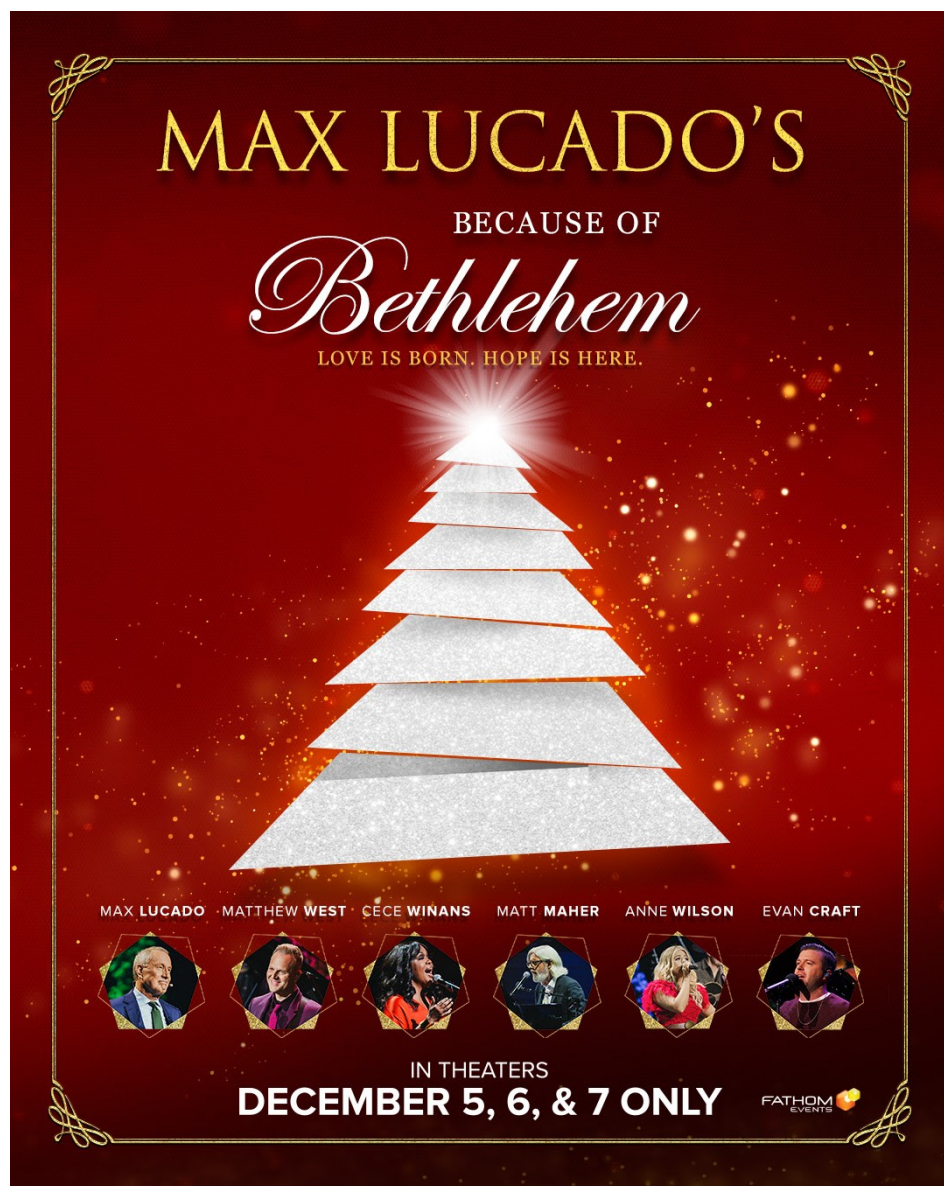
**(In case of bad weather, event will be  
canceled).**

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



Let's Go as a church group! We can purchase group tickets for one of the nights for Mason City West's Theater. Let's go as a group to the December 6 showing.

IF you are interested in attending this movie, please let Pastor Dixie know on or before November 15 so tickets can be bought.







# November 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> All Saints Day Eden Office 9-1	<b>2</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>3</b> Osage Office 9-1	<b>4</b> UCC Association Meeting 10-2
<b>Communion/All Saints</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30	<b>6</b> Kinship Radio Soup & Sweets at Our Saviors 4:30-7:00	<b>7</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>8</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>9</b> Coffee 9:00 Osage office 9-1 LeRoy 7:00	<b>10</b> Osage HS Musical Footloose Osage Office 9-1	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Fellowship Hall Eden 10:30	<b>13</b> UCC COM 1:00	<b>14</b> Eden Office 9-1 Nora Springs 2:00	<b>15</b> Eden Office 9-1 Leadership 5:00	<b>16</b> Ministers 9:00 Osage Office 10-1	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30 Thanksgiving 6:00 Sacred Heart	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Eden Office 9-1 Session 5:00 pm Nominating 6:00 pm	<b>22</b> Eden Office 9-1 Apple Valley 1:30 Faith Home 2:00	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> UCC Worship 9:00 Eden 10:30	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>29</b> Eden Office 9-1	<b>30</b> Coffee 9:00 Osage Office 9-1	Thanksgiving Holiday Offices Closed	