



THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Osage, IA

April 2026

Worship 9:00 A.M., Fellowship 10:00 A.M.

Risen Indeed!

I have always been a bit like the disciple Thomas. I tend to seek proof, explanations, and reasons before I believe anything. As we approach Resurrection Sunday, the high point of the Christian year, skeptics continue to question the event. Yet, for a "doubter" like me, the Resurrection stands the test of time for five compelling reasons:

1. It was foretold.

Jesus didn't just die; He predicted His suffering and return in all four Gospels (e.g., Matthew 16:21). This wasn't a tragic accident; it was a pre-announced plan.

2. The empty tomb is the only logical explanation.

The combined power of Rome and the religious establishment wanted Jesus silenced. If He were still dead, all they had to do was produce the body. They couldn't. Despite a guarded tomb and a heavy stone, the corpse was gone, and the movement they tried to kill only grew stronger.

3. The radical transformation of the disciples.

After the crucifixion, the disciples were hiding in terror. Yet, weeks later, they were "turning the world upside down." Cowards became martyrs. Peter, James, and others faced brutal deaths—being crucified, beheaded, or stoned—rather than recanting. People don't die for a lie they know was fabricated.

4. The weight of eyewitnesses.

Over 500 people claimed to see Jesus alive after His death. In the first century, skeptics could—and did—interview these witnesses. The story held up then, and it continues to be verified today. Down through history and to this day, people have reported seeing and hearing and feeling the presence of Jesus, especially in times of great trouble or threat.

5. The explosion of the Church.

The "Jesus Movement" should have died on the cross. Instead, it spread radically, transforming even its greatest enemies, like Saul of Tarsus, whom we know as Paul, author of much of the New Testament. A movement built on a hoax could not have sustained this power for two millennia.

I think it's quite obvious from observing the chaos and mess in our world today, that had we listened and learned from Jesus on how to live with each other, it would be a better world today. It's not too late! The Resurrection is real, reasonable, and verified. The lessons he tried to teach us and his urgent call for us to come back to God resonate still. Because Jesus walked away from death, we can too. He is risen!

Martha



COMMUNION STEWARD

5th Cynthia Johnson

LITURGISTS

5th Cynthia Johnson

12th Josie Popp

19th Cal Nicklay

26th Brenda Miller

COFFEE SERVERS

5th Andrea Dammen

12th Barb Jeffries

19th Brenda Miller

26th Penney Morse

USHERS/COLLECTION

5th Cal Nicklay

12th Brenda Miller

19th Claude Kirchgatter

26th Mike Wertz

If you are unable to serve on your assigned Sunday please switch with someone else on the list. Please let me know too so I can get it in the bulletin correctly. Thank you



Healing Prayers for...

Anita Hulburt, Jan Moody, Gary Pollard, Ila Streblov, Jean Biederman, Vera Northup, Jennine Altick, Denis Boerjan and all those we name in our hearts.

*Remember Our Members in
Care Facilities...*

Faith Home &/or Faith Assisted:

Jeannine Altick

Anita Hulburt

Jan Moody

Good Samaritan

Vera Northup

Newton, IA

Jean Biederman



BIRTHDAYS

2nd Jeanine Altick

Bruce Wittern

6th Jason Reams

12th Tracy Kleckner

24th Maggie Jones

Shelly Counsell

Happy Anniversary!

April 21 Steve & Dell Abben
Bill & Brenda Weber

Office Hours

Monday and Wednesday

8:00 A.M. –12:00 P.M.

Office Phone: 732-4850

Email the church: FUMCOsage@hotmail.com

Call or email the church if your contact information has changed.



**UW Faith Spiritual Growth Day
Saturday, April 18
West Union Iowa**

We will be joining other women from Northeast Iowa for a program titled "Loving Our Neighbors, 2026 Edition". Kindred Minds, a 4-piece eclectic folk string band from Northeast Iowa will be performing. A salad lunch will follow the program. If you would like to participate, call the church office or contact Barb Jeffries or Beth Griffin.

**UW Faith Officers Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th
10:00 A.M.**



**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.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry
Tuesday, April 28**



2:00 P.M.

On the last Tuesday of the month a group of women shares fellowship while knitting or crocheting prayer shawls. If this sounds like something you would participate in, contact the church for location information.



**OSAGE COMMUNITY
BLOOD DRIVE**



**Monday, April 20, 2026
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

First Grace Lutheran Church (Grace Hall) | 726 State St. | Osage



call: 800.287.4903
visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org
text: LIFESERVE to 515.815.7242



**Blood Pressure Check
Monday, April 20
9-9:30 a.m.
At the church**

**Game Day at UCC Church
Sunday, April 19
2:00 p.m.**

Bring a game you enjoy playing or play a game already there. This is a time for fellowship and fun.

Days for Girls

Join an ecumenical group of women on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays Of the month at the UCC Church from 1—3 P.M. for Days for Girls. Help us make feminine hygiene kits to keep girls in school. Contact Barb or Beth if you have any questions.



I want to express my sincere thanks to our church family for all the prayers and support during the recent “difficulties” surrounding my stroke.

I was truly blessed by the help of Jerry Reshetar, who came to our rescue when we were stuck in a snow drift on the way to the hospital. I am also grateful to Pastor Wittern and Sue for taking the time to visit us in the hospital.

Most of all, I want to thank my wife, Martha. Her quick thinking in recognizing that I was having a stroke and giving me aspirin right away made a tremendous difference. Her support and encouragement throughout this entire ordeal have meant more to me than words can express.”

I still have some work to do to relearn some tasks (typing this is difficult) and my speaking hasn’t returned to quite normal. Maybe I shouldn’t talk so much!

God is good. All the time.
Denis Boerjan

April & May

Volunteers

Coffee

April 5~Andrea Dammen
April 12~Barb Jeffries
April 19~Brenda Miller
April 26~Penney Morse

May 3~Beth Griffith
May 10~Jill Detmering
May 17~Rozanne Mehmen
May 24~Janet Kirchgatter
May 31~Cynthia Johnson

Liturgists

April 5~Cynthia Johnson
April 12th~Josie Popp
April 19~Cal Nicklay
April 26~Brenda Miller

May 3~Cal Nicklay
May 10~Josie Popp
May 17~Cynthia Johnson
May 24~Brenda Miller
May 31~Steve Schwarting

Ushers

April 5~Cal Nicklay
April 12~Brenda Miller
April 19~Claude Kirchgatter
April 26~Mike Wertz

May 3~Larry Dammen
May 10~John Mehmen
May 17~Gary Moody
May 24~Cynthia Johnson
May 31~Brenda Miller

Camp Scholarship Available

Scholarships are available for youth interested in attending one of the Methodist Church summer camps. The church will pay half of the tuition. If you know someone who could benefit from this experience, contact the church office for more information. Church summer camps can be life transforming. Call 641-732-4850 and leave a message.



First United Methodist Church One Board

Minutes

February 8, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m. by Chair Cal Nicklay. Those present were Cal Nicklay, Cynthia Johnson, Barb Jeffries, Tracy Johnson, Rozanne Mehman, Andrea Dammen, Beth Griffin, Janet Kirchgatter, Brenda Miller, Martha Chancellor, and Penney Morse.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes from the January 11 meeting were approved as sent.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.

Finance Report: Brenda, Penney, and Cal went to training in Waverly.

SPRC: Penney resigned from the SPRC and applied for the job of church secretary. Tracy made a motion to hire Penney as secretary. Cynthia seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Memorial: Jill Detmering has agreed to fill the opening on the committee.

Trustee: Thursday the Trustees and the Planning Committee met with Bovard on Thursday. They proposed using a different mounting system that looked better and was cheaper. The windows should be installed by late spring or early summer. The signage is going up tomorrow (February 9).

Missions: Report was sent. We collected \$100 for Human Relations Day.

Membership: No change in membership since last month.

Nominations: Janet Kirchgatter agreed to fill the opening on the SPRC. Jill Detmering has agreed to serve on the Memorial Committee.

Old Business: Trustees are working on a room use policy and fee schedule.

New Business:

- We agreed to continue offering scholarships for camp. The scholarship would cover half the cost. We will advertise at Bridges and at the Chamber.
- On a motion by Penney seconded by Tracy we voted to join the Chamber of Commerce for a cost of \$100.
- Janet Kirchgatter volunteered to help with hospitality.
- Next month we will review the St. Ansgar Mission and Ministry Plan.

And the people said Amen.

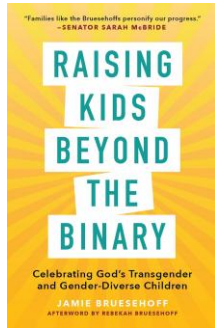
Respectfully submitted by,

Penney Morse

Next meeting is Sunday March 8, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.

Reading Program

United Women in Faith



Author Talk with Jamie Bruesehoff on *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary* and Bishop Peggy Johnson on *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God*

Monday, April 13, 2026

6 p.m. Resource Room at First United Methodist Church via Zoom

Join United Women in Faith members and friends for a special Reading Program Author Talk with Jamie Bruesehoff on *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children* and Bishop Peggy Johnson and her spouse Mary Johnson on *The Ever Expansive Spirit of God: For All Who Feel Left Out*. Both books are available for checkout at the church.

About *Raising Kids Beyond the Binary*: Drawing on the author's experience as a mother walking with and learning from her transgender child, as well as working with hundreds of families across the country doing the same, this book helps parents navigate the emotional, spiritual, and logistical landscape of raising a gender-diverse child. Grounded in the unequivocal truth of God's deep love and limitless creativity, and rich with personal stories, research, and practical steps, this book compels readers to move past "all are welcome" to loving and celebrating transgender and gender-diverse youth in the brilliance of their uniqueness.

Jaime Bruesehoff is an award-winning advocate, speaker, and writer. She has been featured by NPR, PBS News Hour, Good Morning America and more. She holds degrees in Religion from Gettysburg College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary-Gettysburg, now United Lutheran Seminary. Leading with grace and kindness, Jaime challenges communities to choose courage, love, and belonging, especially in moments when it matters most.

About *The Ever-Expansive Spirit of God*: In this book, retired United Methodist Bishop Peggy A. Johnson shares her remarkable experiences in a lifetime of ministry. Committed to complete transparency, Bishop Johnson shares about her call to become a bishop, her marriage of 44 years to her best friend and fellow ordained minister, their life together with their two adult children, and the "precious secret" revealed to her in 2010. Bishop Johnson explores her deepest thoughts, fears, sorrows, triumphs and mistakes. "The debates around same-gender marriage, sexual orientation, gender identity, and what it means to keep in a covenantal relationship with fellow United Methodists of differing opinions is at the center of this book," she writes. "But it is also a personal story full of reflections on my journey."

Bishop Johnson served as the episcopal leader of the Philadelphia Area of The United Methodist Church, from 2008-2023. Prior to her election to the episcopacy in 2008, she served as a pastor since 1980. She was in a campus ministry at Gallaudet University for 20 years at the UMC for the Deaf. She and her spouse of 46 years reside in Carrollton, VA.

April 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi	2 St A Breakfast 7:15-9 Biscuits & gravy 1-3 Days for Girls UCC Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm at UCC 4 p.m. tai chi	3 Good Friday  at Our Saviors	4
5 Easter Sunday 9 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:15 Fellowship Brunch	6 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	7	8 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi	9 St A Breakfast 7:15-9 Pancakes 4 p.m. tai chi	10	11
12 9 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:15 Fellowship 10:15 Ad Council	13 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 6 p.m. Book Disc. Resource Room	14	15 10 a.m. UWF officers 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi 2-4 Grief Support for Women at UCC	16 St. A Breakfast 7:15-9 Waffles 1-3 Days for Girls 4 p.m. tai chi	17	18 UW Faith Day Apart West Union Loving our Neighbors
19 9 a.m. Worship Karen Dungan 10:15 Fellowship 2 pm Game Day UCC Native American Ministries Sunday	20 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM Blood Pressure Chk 9-9:30 AM Blood Drive 1-6 p.m. 726 State St.	21	22 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi 	23 St. A Breakfast 7:15-9 French Toast 4 p.m. tai chi	24 	25
26 9 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:15 Fellowship	27 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	28 2 prayer shawl	29 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi	30 St.A Breakfast 7:15-9 Belgian Waffles 4 pm tai chi		

THE MESSENGER
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
PO BOX 63
527 MAIN STREET
OSAGE, IOWA 50461



April 2026



MISSION STATEMENT:
*TO REACH OUT AND ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER, LOVING AND SERVING GOD AND
NEIGHBOR WITH ALL OUR HEARTS, OUR SOULS, OUR MINDS, AND OUR STRENGTH.*

Items for the newsletter and/or bulletin should be directed to the church office or e-mailed to
fumcosage@hotmail.com.

Church Office: 641-732-4850
Web Site Address: www.osageumc.org

Church mailing address: PO Box 63