



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Osage, IA

May 2026

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

## **Mother's Day: The Age of 74**

**Last month, on the morning of my birthday, I had a sobering realization: my mother died at age 74, and as of that day, I had reached that same milestone.**

**Comparing my life to hers is daunting. If ever a more perfect human lived, I have yet to discover him or her. Not "perfect" as in never doing anything wrong. "Perfect" in the sense of being so perfectly human: living and loving to the fullest all the while committing typical human foibles on her way to learning important lessons that we all need to learn while here. She was funny and fun, energetic, strong, athletic, a poet and thespian, musically inclined, adventurous, beloved. One of her friends said to me on the day of her unexpected death that she had always seemed "invincible," which I think made it harder for any of us to believe she was actually gone.**

**Mae was a born teacher. As a young girl in her family's modest home, she would line up every doll she could find to give them lessons. Her professional career began at 19, armed with a teaching certificate and two years of college. She started in a country school in Colwell, Iowa, before moving closer to home in the St. Ansgar public school system. She taught for nearly seven years until the superintendent told her that her pregnancy—me!—and her job were "incompatible." Though forced to resign, she eventually returned to the classroom during a teacher shortage, ultimately clocking over 40 years in the profession. Non-paying teaching jobs were also a large part of her life: Sunday school, youth groups, Girl Scouts, and tutoring kids who needed some extra help in reading in the summers. She had a special affinity for the young, often saying, "Six-year-olds are my favorite people in the world."**

**She was also a born servant, volunteering her services at every turn, in many different ways. Our house was mostly neat, not always dust-free, but there was always good food on the table and an open invitation to help yourself to whatever we had. She had jobs, committees, clubs, friendships, and church activities to attend to, which were a higher priority for her than winning any homemaker kudos. We lived near the railroad tracks and occasionally "hoboes" would show up at our back door for some provisions. I suspect the word had circulated among them that my mother would welcome them and offer something good to eat. She believed so thoroughly in the John Wesley directive that we are to do all the good we possibly can, at all times and in all possible places. She lived it.**

**Mae also possessed a wicked sense of humor. I have never met anyone more honest or better able to laugh at her own mistakes or vulnerabilities. While she didn't "suffer fools" and kept braggarts out of her inner circle, she treated everyone with kindness, even when she could see right through their folly.**

**I miss her terribly even to this day 28 years later. She was my primary teacher in the all-important lessons of love, of knowing and paying attention to the lessons of Jesus, in the importance of being curious and open to new possibilities, in throwing together something good for supper, in appreciating and loving people and their unique personalities, and just being grateful and happy and satisfied wherever she was, in whatever circumstance. I was so blessed to have been born to her.**

**Thanks, Mae, "Maezie," my dear Mama, for modeling a life well lived. Happy Mother's Day! I hope to get a few more years than you did, and I promise to do my best to follow your example.**

**Martha**



**COMMUNION STEWARD**

3<sup>rd</sup> Brenda Miller

**LITURGISTS**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Cal Nicklay
- 10<sup>th</sup> Josie Popp
- 17<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Johnson
- 24<sup>th</sup> Brenda Miller
- 31<sup>st</sup> Steve Schwarting

**COFFEE SERVERS**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Beth Griffin
- 10<sup>th</sup> Jill Detmering
- 17<sup>th</sup> Rozanne & John Mehmen
- 24<sup>th</sup> Janet & Claude Kirchgatter
- 31<sup>st</sup> Cynthia Johnson

**USHERS/COLLECTION**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Larry Dammen
- 10<sup>th</sup> John Mehmen
- 17<sup>th</sup> Gary Moody
- 24<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Johnson
- 31<sup>st</sup> Brenda Miller

*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, Jeannine 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  
Ila Streblov

*Newton, IA*

Jean Biederman



**BIRTHDAYS!**

- May 6<sup>th</sup> Ian Schwarting
- May 7<sup>th</sup> Jordan Crosser
- May 9<sup>th</sup> Larry Dammen  
Kyle Mehmen
- May 10<sup>th</sup> Tammy Northup
- May 13<sup>th</sup> Sam Crosser
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Fern Weber
- May 17<sup>th</sup> Andrea Dammen
- May 18<sup>th</sup> Leo Jeffries
- May 21<sup>st</sup> Terry Reams  
Brad Weber
- May 23<sup>rd</sup> Tracy Johnson  
Jadie Popp
- May 25<sup>th</sup> Jan Moody
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Jared Popp
- May 29<sup>th</sup> Kati Henry

**Happy Anniversary!**

- May 7<sup>th</sup> Jan & Gary Moody
- May 27<sup>th</sup> Kari & Steve Schwarting
- May 30<sup>th</sup> Kelli & Matt Miller

## FREE SHRED DAY!

- Date | Saturday, May 30th
- Time | 9:00am - 11:00am
- Location | 628 Main Street  
Parking Lot

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Don't miss the Home Trust Bank's free shred day. There will be a truck in the Home Trust parking lot that will take your documents and shred them. Make sure you remove paperclips and clips from your papers.

**UW Faith Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 A.M.**

**Hostess: Penney Morse**  
**Program: Andrea Dammen**



**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.

**Mission Ministry**  
**Tuesday, May 26**



**2:00 P.M.**

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

**Katherine Parker**  
**Tuesday, May 19**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**St. Ansgar UMC**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Katherine Parker, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church, has served in Nepal since 2013. Before Nepal, she served in Cambodia with the Methodist Mission's Community Health & Agricultural Development program. Out of college, she became a mission intern for three years with the Asian Rural Institute in Japan and Practical Farmers in Iowa.

Her work in Nepal is in five areas of community transformation: education, health, peacebuilding, good governance, and sustainable livelihoods. The ecumenical ministry of UMN has a vision of "fullness of life for all in a transformed Nepali society." United Methodists have been part of UMN since it was founded in 1954.

**Office Hours**  
**Monday and Wednesday**  
**8:00 A.M. –12:00 P.M.**

Office Phone: 732-4850

Email the church: [FUMCOsage@hotmail.com](mailto:FUMCOsage@hotmail.com)

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

## Days for Girls

Join an ecumenical group of women on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.



### **‘THE SPIRIT FALLS EQUALLY’: HONORING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP ACROSS METHODIST HISTORY: Heritage Sunday 2026 theme lifts up 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women’s ordination rights and full annual conference membership**

Madison, N.J. – The year 2026 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women receiving full ordination rights and full membership in annual conferences in The United Methodist Church. In recognition of this milestone, the 2026 Heritage Sunday theme is “The Spirit Falls Equally,” an acknowledgement that God calls – and always has called – all people, regardless of gender.

“From early leaders like Susanna Wesley and Jarena Lee and throughout Methodism’s history, women have long shaped the witness and ministry of the church,” points out Dr. Ashley Boggan, GCAH general secretary. “The theme, ‘The Spirit Falls Equally,’ reminds us that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit has never been limited by human boundaries. Even when their gifts were not fully affirmed by the church, women have been called to lead, preach and serve throughout our denomination’s history.”

The General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH) encourages local churches to lift up and celebrate stories of women who have impacted both the denomination and individual congregations. Heritage Sunday traditionally is recognized the third Sunday in May (May 17 this year), but congregations may choose to commemorate the special Sunday at any time.

## *May & June*

### *Volunteers*

<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Liturgists</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
May 3~Beth Griffith May 10~Jill Detmering May 17~Rozanne Mehmen May 24~Janet Kirchgatter May 31~Cynthia Johnson	May 3~Cal Nicklay May 10~Josie Popp May 17~Cynthia Johnson May 24~Brenda Miller May 31~Steve Schwarting	May 3~Larry Dammen May 10~John Mehmen May 17~Gary Moody May 24~Cynthia Johnson May 31~Brenda Miller
June 7~Brenda Miller June 14~Lea Jones June 21~Barb Jeffries June 28~Penney Morse	June 7~Cal Nicklay June 14~Brenda Miller June 21~Josie Popp June 28~Cynthia Johnson	June 7~Larry Dammen June 14~Mike Wertz June 21~Penney Morse June 28~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.



### **Minutes March 8, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 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, and Penney Morse.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

The minutes from the February 8 meeting were approved as sent.

**Treasurer's Report:** Approved as presented.

**Finance Report:** We have paid \$1,487.93 toward apportionments.

**UMM:** The men have utilized some of the money raised at the Monday Grind to buy kitchen equipment, fair trade coffee, donated money to help a member, and contributed to water purification kits.

**Worship Committee:** Palm Sunday we are doing a joint worship with St. Ansgar at 10 a.m. followed by a potluck. There will be a brunch after the Easter service.

**Trustee:** No progress has been made yet with the city regarding the parking lot.

**UWF:** We have cleaned out some old records and put some items in the Historian's box.

**Missions:** We collected \$735 for blankets. March is food bank collection month and we are planning a mission trip to Cedar Falls March 28.

**Membership:** We lost one member, Tom Coonradt.

**Old Business:** Cynthia made a motion that church members who are part of a non-profit are allowed to use the church, subject to availability, without a use fee. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.

**New Business:**

- Maundy Thursday service will be at the UCC Church.

And the people said Amen.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Penney Morse

Next meeting is Sunday April 12, 2026 at 10:15 a.m.



## UMVIM Team Leader Training & Refresher

- Saturday, May 9, 2026
- 9:00 A.M.--3:00 P.M.
- Iowa Conference Office
- 2301 Rittenhouse St., Des Moines, IA

Cost: \$20

Join North Central Jurisdiction UMVIM Coordinator Rev. Dr. Tammy Kuntz to train or refresh yourself on best practices for leading a mission team locally, nationally, and internationally. **Connect with others** who have a heart for missions. **Discover the many resources and locations** available through the UMC to lead mission journeys with youth and adults. **Develop a strategy** for sharing the mission story. **Become equipped** for reaching new, young and diverse people to be a part of your next UMVIM Journey. We do this so that we can be God's agents of transformation in our community and around the world!

## Miracle Sunday is May 17

### We will be taking a special collection on May 17 What Churches Should Know About Miracle Sunday

John Wesley made education a core commitment of his Methodist movement going back to its earliest days. In 1748, Wesley established the still-thriving Kingswood School to provide high-quality education to the children of coal miners as well as adults.

Ensuring would-be pastors can pay for their education has long been a challenge—especially in Africa, the Philippines and parts of Europe. The goal of the Miracle Sunday one-time offering on May 17 is to help permanently endow scholarships enabling 500 students each year to prepare for ordained ministry in Africa, Europe and the Philippines. Students approved for scholarship must attend United Methodist-approved theological institutions. Africa has schools in 7 different countries.

“In Africa, the church is growing rapidly, yet trained leaders are still few and far between. Formal theological education is pivotal to the present and future of ministry of the church in Africa. Miracle Sunday is a concrete way to match to vitality of the global church with the theological grounding it needs to flourish faithfully”, said Bishop Nhiwatiwa, co-chair of Miracle Sunday.

“In most cases, students who opt for ordained ministry in Africa, Europe and the Philippines come from families and communities with limited financial resources,” Nhiwatiwa said. “Without financial aid, these potential students could not proceed with their education.”

Miracle Sunday comes as the denomination is starting to rebuild after a season on internal strife and church disaffiliations. Nhiwatiwa stressed that this offering is a way to help the denomination chart a new future. “Trained clergy will continue to be a vital component for a vibrant church. The United Methodist Church has taken a decisive option to move on with vitality.”

---This article was excerpted from UM News Digest

# May 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 International Worker's Day	2
3 9 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:15 Fellowship	4 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	5	6 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi	7 St. A Breakfast 7:15-9:15 Bis. w/Gravy 4:00 tai chi	8	9
10 9 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:15 Fellowship  Mother's Day	11 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	12	13 7 p.m. choir 4 p.m. tai chi	14 St. A Breakfast 7:15-9:15 Pancakes	15 UW Faith Assembly Indianapolis	16 UW Faith Assembly Indianapolis
17 9 a.m. Worship Wane Souhrada 10:15 Fellowship Osage HS Graduation	18 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	19 Katherine Parker UMC Global Miss. 11:00 a.m. St. Ansgar UMC	20 10 a.m. UWF 4 p.m. tai chi	21 St. A Breakfast 7:15-9:15 Waffles 4:00 tai chi	22	23
24 9 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:15 Fellowship	25 Office closed	26 2 p.m. Mission Ministry	27 4 p.m. tai chi	28 4:00 tai chi Breakfasts resume in the fall	29	30 Shredding Day 9-11 a.m. Home Trust Parking lot
31 10 a.m. Joint service in Osage	<p><b>On Miracle Sunday, May 17, there will be a special collection to benefit The Endowment Fund for Theological Education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. In May 2025, the bishops of The United Methodist Church, in conjunction with the Connectional Table, released a new and bold vision for the church. This vision reflects the Church's deep commitment to embodying God's dream for the world. The vision states: The United Methodist Church forms disciples of Jesus Christ who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously in local communities and worldwide connections. This vision statement complements the Church's longstanding mission statement, inspired by Matthew 28:18-20: "The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."</b></p>					

THE MESSENGER  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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OSAGE, IOWA 50461



May 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](mailto:fumcosage@hotmail.com).

Church Office: 641-732-4850

Web Site Address: [www.osageumc.org](http://www.osageumc.org)

Church mailing address: PO Box 63