



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Osage, IA

June 2026

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

## Caring for God's Creation: A Biblical Call to Stewardship

From the opening pages of Scripture, we are reminded that this world belongs to God. *"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it"* (Psalm 24:1). The beauty of the forests, the richness of farmland, the purity of rivers and skies, and the abundance of resources we enjoy are not simply ours to consume—they are gifts entrusted to our care.

As people of faith, we are called to be stewards of God's creation. In Genesis 2:15, we read that God placed humanity in the garden "to till it and keep it." That simple command carries deep meaning. We are not owners of the earth; we are caretakers. God has given us both the privilege and the responsibility of protecting and preserving what God has made.

Today, that responsibility feels especially urgent. We see the effects of wastefulness, pollution, and overuse of natural resources all around us. Plastic fills landfills and waterways. Forests disappear. Clean water becomes less certain in many places. Climate patterns shift, affecting crops and communities. While these challenges may seem overwhelming, faithful stewardship begins with simple, thoughtful choices.

As a church community, we can live out this calling together. Whether by reducing our own use of disposable materials, supporting local conservation efforts, planting trees, recycling faithfully, or encouraging one another to adopt sustainable habits, each small act becomes part of a larger witness. Our care for creation can be a testimony of faith—a way of saying thank you to the Creator.

If you are not already aware of this, I invite you to check this out: we have launched a missions initiative to recycle plastic grocery bags by weaving them into durable sleeping mats for people experiencing homelessness.

**But even as we collect bags and do this work, we know this: recycling alone cannot keep up with the volume of plastic being used. Businesses in Mitchell County distribute far more bags than can ever be woven into mats. For this reason, we are urging people: Please do your best to reduce plastic use at its source! Use cloth bags!**

Using cloth bags instead of plastic bags offers significant environmental advantages. They are reusable and durable, which reduces the need for single-use plastics. Plastic bags take hundreds of years to break down, release harmful microplastics into the soil and water, and because they are petroleum-based, contribute to pollution and climate change. Cloth bags can be used many times over, help protect wildlife, reduce litter, and promote a more sustainable and responsible use of the earth's resources.

If you are interested in helping with the sleeping mats project, join us at First UMC on Monday mornings (they are on Mat #12!) and St. Ansgar UMC (just starting Mat #2) on Thursday mornings. Learn how to cut bags, weave them, and enjoy some coffee and fellowship at the same time.

God has entrusted this beautiful earth to our care. May we cherish it, protect it, and sustain it—not only for ourselves, but for generations yet to come. In doing so, we honor the Creator and participate in God's ongoing work of renewal.

We can make a positive difference!

Thanks,

Martha



**COMMUNION STEWARD**

7<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Johnson

**LITURGISTS**

7<sup>th</sup> Cal Nicklay  
 14<sup>th</sup> Brenda Miller  
 21<sup>st</sup> Josie Popp  
 28<sup>th</sup> Cynthia Johnson

**COFFEE SERVERS**

7<sup>th</sup> Brenda Miller  
 14<sup>th</sup> Lea Jones  
 21<sup>st</sup> Barb Jeffries  
 28<sup>th</sup> Penney Morse

**USHERS/COLLECTION**

7<sup>th</sup> Larry Dammen  
 14<sup>th</sup> Mike Werta  
 21<sup>st</sup> Penney Morse  
 28<sup>th</sup> John Mehmen

*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*

**Service Time Change**  
**Sunday, July 5**  
**Service Starts at 10:45 a.m.**

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!**

June 1<sup>st</sup> Johnathan Rogers  
 June 16<sup>th</sup> William Reams  
 Roman Bierbrodt  
 June 20<sup>th</sup> Ben Schwarting  
 David Goodale  
 June 29<sup>th</sup> Deb Nicklay

**Happy Anniversary!**

June 1<sup>st</sup> Sandy & Randy Adams  
 June 20<sup>th</sup> Heather & Pete Rysavy  
 June 18 Mike & Carol Wertz  
 June 30<sup>th</sup> Cynthia & Tracy Johnson

**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.

**Our Savior's Luthern Church Rummage**  
**Friday, June 5**  
**8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
**Saturday, June 6**  
**8 –11 a.m.**

**Iowa Disaster Response**  
**Special Advance #223**

On Sunday, May 17 21 tornados raced across Iowa and Nebraska causing a great deal of damage. If you want to help, donate to Iowa Disaster Response.

**UW Faith Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**Officers Meeting**



**Wapsi-Great Western Line Trail Events**

Sunday, June 7	Pie Sunday 2-5:00 p.m. Homemade pie & ice cream
Sunday, June 7	Golf Cart Day 1:30 – 5:00 pm Register at trail head--\$15
Sunday, June 7	Summer Art Show Opening Mary Maqreel, artist 2 – 3:00 meet & greet

**Mission Ministry**  
**Tuesday, June 30**



**2:00 P.M.**

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



**June is Food Bank Month**

Instead of collecting food at the grocery store, we will be collecting money for the food bank. They can purchase much more food with money we give than we can buy at the store. Food insecurity is an issue in our county and by donating to the food bank, we can help provide nutritious food to our neighbors.

**16<sup>th</sup> Summer Garland Poetry Reading**  
**Sunday, June 28**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**3907 Nobel Ave.**  
**Featuring**

**Prairie Poems by Hamlin Garland**  
**The lawn in front of Hamlin Garland's boyhood home is the perfect setting to read prairie poems of Hamlin Garland**  
**Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.**  
**Light refreshments will be served.**

## 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 and women in the workforce. Contact Barb or Beth if you have any questions.



## Sleeping Mats

One of Midwest Mission's projects is making Plarn Sleeping Mats. Plarn is plastic yarn made out of plastic grocery bags. The Sleeping Mats are sent internationally and locally. They are great for those who need a barrier between them and the hard ground. They have been sent for disaster relief, for the homeless, and for those who need temporary sleeping arrangements.

Last summer, we received a testimonial during the county fair from one of the carnival workers. She said she had been homeless for 9 years and when she was sleeping on the streets of Buffalo, New York, someone gave her one of these mats and it saved her life. These mats do make a difference in the lives of people who need them.



### Mat Workshop 8 a.m. -10 a.m.

During the Monday Grind coffee, community members come together and weave mats out of plastic bags for the Midwest Missions of the United Methodist Church.

## *June & July Volunteers*

<b>Coffee</b>	<b>Liturgists</b>	<b>Ushers</b>
June 7~Brenda Miller June 14~Lea Jones June 21~Barb Jeffries June 28~Penney Morse  July 5~Andrea Dammen July 12~Mike & Carol Wertz July 19~Beth Griffin July 26~Rozanne & John M.	June 7~Cal Nicklay June 14~Brenda Miller June 21~Josie Popp June 28~Cynthia Johnson  July 5~Cal Nicklay July 12~Brenda Miller July 19~Josie Popp July 26~Cynthia Johnson	June 7~Larry Dammen June 14~Mike Wertz June 21~Penney Morse June 28~John Mehmen  July 5~Cynthia Johnson July 12~Claude Kirchgatter July 19~Larry Dammen July 26~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.



## Trustee Corner

New updates are taking place. The Masonic logo is off the front of the building and we have replaced the Mason's cornerstone with the First Methodist Church cornerstone. Hopefully we will have windows that will be backlit installed on the interior of the sanctuary by the end of the summer. We are also hoping to get one of the windows encased and backlit to hang on the front of the church.



## A Summer Book Reading Challenge

Sponsored by Iowa UWFaith Charter for Racial Justice Committee

Because we believe:

- That God is Creator of all people and all are God's children in one family
- That is our common humanity in creation all women and men are made in God's image and all persons are equally valuable in the sight of God
- That our strength lies in our racial and cultural diversity and that we must work toward a world in which each person's value is respected and nurtured
- We will unite our efforts to work for the development and implementation of national and international policies to protect the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of all people.—From our United Methodist Charter for Racial Justice.

In order to "open our eyes" as caring and concerned United Women in Faith, we are inviting members and friends to read books from our Reading Program lists which will tell the stories of risk and despair as difficult decisions are made to cross our borders, seeking a new life for families, especially children. There are 14 books dealing with this important topic.

Several of the books are available for checkout in the Resource Library including *They Called Us Enemy*, *Sanctuary*, *Finding Jesus at the Border*, *Being Sheela*, *The Book or Rosy*, and *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez*.

Contact Penney Morse for a complete list of books and information on participating.

OSAGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS

# OSAGE MAPLE DAYS

**FEATURING BACONFEST 2026!**  
DELICIOUS SAMPLES  
EXCLUSIVE DEALS  
PRIVATE ACCESS

**MARKET ON MAIN**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
MAIN STREET OSAGE  
Featuring Award-winning The Other Brothers

- LOCAL CRAFTERS & ARTISANS
- DELICIOUS FOOD TRUCKS
- LOCAL RETAIL SPECIALS
- CLASSIC CAR SHOW

9AM-3PM

**DOWNTOWN AT DUSK**  
**SATURDAY, JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
MAIN STREET OSAGE  
Featuring Award-winning Blue 2 Band

- BAGS TOURNAMENT
- BAR & RESTAURANT SPECIALS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

3PM-9PM

★ MANY THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS: ★

Osage Chamber of Commerce Presents:

# BACONFEST 2026

SAT JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> OSAGE, IA

Immerse yourself in a bacon lover's paradise, celebrating the crispy, savory delight in Osage, Iowa. Experience the lively atmosphere with live music, bacony foods, and quirky activities. Revel in the bacon magic that transcends time and taste, and let the celebration of everyone's favorite strip of perfection begin!

**ALL DAY FUN!**  
MAKERS MARKET 9AM-3PM  
CLASSIC CAR SHOW/ LIVE MUSIC 1PM-4PM

SCAN ME

FT. AWARD-WINNING BLUES BAND: **THE OTHER BROTHERS**

**WRISTBAND \$20**

Eat your heart out with an all day, all-access pass to BaconFEST! Gain access to exclusive sales, dabble in delicious tastings, receive one admission to Rusty's Corn Hole Admission, and receive exclusive access to the Bob Dorr Band at Limestone Brewers 4-7pm!

**Friday Night Out**  
**June 5**  
**5—9 p.m.**  
**Fair Grounds**

## This Moment Matter Disperses \$24 million in Aid



Fresh food distribution to Gazan Internally Displaced People (IDPs) through UMCOR partner United Palestinian Appeal. Photo: UPA

**ATLANTA** – Early into 2025, sudden and sweeping U.S. policy changes depleted funding sources for health care organizations, sustainable livelihoods programs, peace efforts, and vital educational institutions around the world. Already vulnerable families and communities were put at further risk.

Witnessing the regard for basic human rights and empathy toward others decline at a staggering pace, “The need for the work we do has never been greater,” said Roland Fernandes, general secretary for Global Ministries and Higher Education and Ministry. “The church is being called to respond.”

Fernandes directed emergency grants to be focused on five areas of urgent need – **agriculture and food security, education, global health, migration, and peace**. *This Moment Matters*, a granting and fundraising initiative, was launched as a direct response to significant cuts from the U.S. government.

As of April 2026, *This Moment Matters* has distributed **\$24 million** across hundreds of grants to partners in mission and ministry. “This is a tiny drop in the enormous \$32 billion annual gap resulting from USAID funding reductions,” Fernandes stated in his report to the directors at their recent joint meeting in Kenya. “And yet, we are called to act. We trust in the power of God to turn what we might view as small into something of much greater significance than we can imagine.”

To learn more and support *This Moment Matters*, visit [umcmission.org/giving/this-moment-matters](http://umcmission.org/giving/this-moment-matters).

# June 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	2	3 Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	4 Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Park Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	5 Our Savior's Rummage 8-5pm Friday Night Out 5-9 Fair Grounds	6 Our Savior's Rummage 8-11am Maple Days 9-3 Downtown at Dusk 5-9
7 9 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:15 Fellowship Wapsi-Great Western Trail head Art Show 1-3:00 pm Mary Mareel	8 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	9	10 Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	11 Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Park Tai Chi 4:00 p.m. Annual Conf.	12 Annual Conf	13 Annual Conf
14 9 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:15 Fellowship 10:15 Ad Council Flag Day	15 Blood Drive 1-6 pm Sacred Heart Parish Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	16	17 UW Faith Officers 10:00 a.m. Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	18 Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Park Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	19 	20
21 9 a.m. Worship 10:15 Fellowship Summer Solstice Father's Day	22 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	23	24 Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	25 Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 p.m. City Park Tai Chi 4:00 p.m.	26	27
28 9 a.m. Worship Cal Nicklay 10:15 Fellowship 2 pm Garland Poetry Reading John Wesley's BD	29 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM	30				

## Birthdays

June 1 Jonathan Rogers  
June 16 William Reams  
June 16 Roman Bierbrodt  
June 20 Ben Schwarting  
June 20 David Goodale  
June 29 Deb Nicklay

## Anniversaries

1 Sandy & Randy Adams  
20 Heather & Pete Rysavy  
18 Mike & Carol Wertz  
30 Cynthia & Tracy Johnson

## Food Drive Collection Month



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



June 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