



THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Osage, IA

August 2026

Worship 10:45 A.M., Fellowship 10:00 A.M.

I Was Hoping It Was You

How do you feel when your phone rings? For many of us, a ringing phone brings a tiny jolt of anxiety. We look at the screen and wonder, *What do they want now? Is this going to take a long time? Am I about to face a problem I don't want to fix?* We live in a world of busy schedules and limited emotional energy. As a result, we often treat interruptions as burdens.

The Lutheran author and pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber shares a beautiful story about her early days in recovery. Whenever she called her Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor, terrified she was being a nuisance, the woman answered the exact same way every single time. She would pick up the phone, hear Nadia's voice, and say, "Nadia! I was hoping it was you."

Think about the profound shift that happens in your heart when you hear those words. You instantly go from feeling like an annoyance to feeling completely desired. You move from a place of shame to a place of belonging.

Now, imagine if we viewed our prayer life through that exact same lens.

Too often, we approach God only when things are falling apart. We carry a heavy sense of guilt, thinking we only reach out when we need something. We worry that God is up there, looking at the caller ID of our hearts, sighing, and thinking, *Oh look, they only call me when they are in trouble.* We treat God like a demanding boss or an exhausted parent who simply doesn't have the time for our mess. But Jesus operates on the frequency of that AA sponsor.

When you finally sit down to pray, or when you cry out in the middle of a sleepless night, or even when you come to that first thought of knowing you could use some divine intervention, Jesus isn't checking his watch. He isn't keeping a tally of how long it has been since you last spoke to him. Instead, the moment you turn your attention toward heaven, Jesus smiles and says, "I was hoping it was you." The heart of the Gospel is wrapped up in this simple truth: you are loved beyond measure. You are not a chore to be completed. You are not a spiritual project that God is tired of working on.

You are a beloved child. God genuinely delights in your unique company and rejoices every single time you choose to connect.

The story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32) illustrates this perfectly. The tragedy of the human condition is not that we are unloved, but that we simply forget how loved we are.

The noise of the world, the weight of our mistakes, and the daily grind of life create a fog of amnesia. We forget our true identity. We forget that we are Prodigal Sons and Daughters. This week, let this story be your reminder. You do not need to clean yourself up before you reach out to God. You do not need to apologize for taking up space. You certainly don't need to "have your act together."

Pick up the phone of your heart and start talking. Our magnificent, mysterious Triune God is on the other end, eagerly waiting, overjoyed that you called. God was hoping it was you.

Thanks for all you do!

Martha



COMMUNION STEWARD

2nd Cynthia Johnson

LITURGISTS

2nd Cal Nicklay

9th Brenda Miller

16th Josie Popp

23rd Cynthia Johnson

30th Steve Schwarting

COFFEE SERVERS

2nd Brenda Miller

9th Jill Detmering

16th Janet Kirchgatter

23rd Penney Morse

30th Cynthia Johnson

USHERS/COLLECTION

2nd Mike Wertz

9th Gary Moody

16th John Mehmen

23rd Claude Kirchgatter

30th Larry Dammen

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

Remember Our Members in Care Facilities...

Faith Home &/or Faith Assisted:

Jeannine Altick

Anita Hulburt

Jan Moody

Good Samaritan

Vera Northup

Ila Streblow

Newton, IA

Jean Biederman



BIRTHDAYS!

Aug. 1	Gabrielle Schwarting
Aug. 4	Adam Newton
Aug. 5	Sandy Adams
Aug. 8	Madison Bierbrodt
Aug. 10	Chloe Goodale
Aug. 16	Barb Barkhuff
Aug. 20	Cynthia Johnson
Aug. 21	Anita Hulburt
	Ann Walker

Healing Prayers for...

Anita Hulburt, Jan Moody, Ila Streblow, Jean Biederman, Vera Northup, Jeannine Altick, Denis Boerjan and all those we name in our hearts.

Happy Anniversary!

Aug. 8 th	Barb & Leo Jeffries
Aug. 9 th	Rozanne & John Mehmen
Aug. 27 th	Angie & Brian Hickel
Aug. 28 th	Shelly & Don Counsell
Aug. 30 th	Kyera & Joe Reams
Aug. 31	John & Ann Walker

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.

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.



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

AED Defibrillator



Through the generosity of participants at the Monday Grind, The Christian Mission Group was able to purchase an AED (automated external defibrillator) for the church. We are expecting delivery of the product this week.

Although it comes with complete usage instructions, Jessa from Public Health is willing to offer guidance and training for anyone who wants to be more comfortable with procedures in the event of an emergency.

A sign-up sheet will be available on Sunday July 12th. Dates and times for training will be set up with Public Health.

United Women in Faith
Officers Meeting
Wednesday, August 19
10:00 a.m.
Resource Room

Mission Ministry
August 25



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.

August & September

Volunteers

Coffee

Aug 2~Brenda Miller
Aug 9~Jill Detmering
Aug 16~Janet Kirchgatter
Aug 28~Penney Morse
Aug 30~Cynthia Johnson

Sept. 6~Beth Griffin
Sept. 13~Lea Jones
Sept. 20~Rozanne & John M.
Sept. 27~Barb Jeffries

Liturgists

Aug 2~Cal Nicklay
Aug 9~Brenda Miller
Aug 16~Josie Popp
Aug 28~Cynthia Johnson
Aug 30~Steve Schwarting

Sept. 6~Cal Nicklay
Sept. 13~Josie Popp
Sept. 20~Cynthia Johnson
Sept. 27~Brenda Miller

Ushers

Aug 2~Mike Wertz
Aug 9~Gary Moody
Aug 16~John Mehmen
Aug 28~Claude Kirchgatter
Aug 30~Larry Dammen

Sept. 6~Larry Dammen
Sept. 13~John Mehmen
Sept. 20~Gary Moody
Sept. 27~Cynthia Johnson



Friday Night Out
August 7th
5—9 p.m.
Fair Grounds

Current Blood Inventory

Many variables can impact blood inventory such as weather, holidays or tragic events. Below is an overview of inventory levels across all blood types. If you have a type that is critically low, consider donating blood this month.

O+	Critically Low
O-	Critically Low
A+	Good
A-	Critically Low
B+	Good
B-	Critically Low
AB+	Good
AB-	Critically Low

Blood Drive
Monday, Aug. 17th
1—6 p.m.
VFW
3693 Hwy 218

Fun Fact
How many miles do blood cells travel in your body?

Blood cells travel approximately 60-70,000 miles. Circulation time varies from 60 seconds down to 10 or 20 seconds depending on how active you are.

First United Methodist Church One Board Minutes

June 15, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chair Cal Nicklay. Those present were Cal Nicklay, Cynthia Johnson, Barb Jeffries, Tracy Johnson, Andrea Dammen, Beth Griffin, Brenda Miller, and Penney Morse.

The meeting opened with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: On a motion by Tracy seconded by Brenda, the minutes from the April 12 meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Approved as presented.

Finance Report: We've paid \$455 to the conference, \$230 for UMCO, \$230 for Human Relations Sunday and we've paid about half of our apportionments.

UMM: We have a balance of \$2,965.44 as of April.

Memorial: No report.

Worship Committee: We will give fathers candy bars for Father's Day.

Trustee: We're in communication with Bovard. There are no specific dates yet for installation.

UWF: Our Shepherdess, Karen Page, visited us last month. We have been working on kits for ingathering. Two members are going to Mission U in July.

Missions: June is Food Bank month. There will be no work day at SOS in July as the first Saturday is July 4. The balance in the bank is \$912.90 as of May 31.

Membership: We lost one member.

Nominations: No report.

Old Business: The Pollard family was very impressed with the fellowship and felt welcomed by the congregation.

New Business:

- St. Ansgar voted to increase elders stipend by \$50 for a total compensation of \$250. Cynthia made a motion seconded by Brenda to increase our stipend to \$250 starting July 1. Motion passed.
- Cal passed around a picture of a sample of a pictorial display of church members he saw at another church. Cynthia and Penney volunteered to look into it. Picture shown on display screen.
- Cal discussed purchasing a rebuilt external defibrillator for the church. The cost would be around \$800. Penney moved and Brenda seconded purchasing defibrillator. Motion passed.

And the people said Amen.

Respectfully submitted by,
Penney Morse

Next meeting is Sunday July12, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

Midwest Mission Kits

Just a reminder that we are collecting items from Personal Dignity Kits and Students kits. There are totes in the back of the church where you can put donated items. Last month's newsletter had a list of what is needed, and the list is also on the totes. We take the kits to ingathering in the fall and Midwest Missions distributes them.

You can also write a check and put Mission Kits on the memo line and we will purchase the items needed for the kits.



New Christian Mission Group

The men's group at Osage First is no longer affiliated with the official United Methodist Men organization. With that change, and with a desire to be more welcoming and inclusive, we voted to rename our group the **Christian Mission Group**.

We believe that a larger, more diverse group brings more ideas, more talents, and a greater ability to serve. Our mission is to reach out to our community, build relationships, and make a positive difference through service and fellowship.

If you haven't visited the Fellowship Hall on a Monday morning, we invite you to stop by. What began as Monday Grind coffee and mat weaving has grown into a wonderful community gathering.

You'll find men and women of all ages preparing recycled plastic shopping bags for weaving, weaving sleeping mats, enjoying free coffee and snacks, sharing conversation, and building friendships. Whether you want to lend a hand, enjoy the fellowship, or simply see what we're about, you're welcome.

The Christian Mission Group invites young adults, women, and everyone in our community to join us in our activities and service projects. Just imagine what we could accomplish together:

- A weekly light meal for families
- Volunteering at community events
- Weekly after school program
- Bible Study
- Family movie nights

Together, we can dream bigger, serve more people, and strengthen our church and community.

Invitation To Share

In the next several months, there is time set aside in each Laity Service (July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 15) for “witness or faith statements.”

Among these are:

- your stories about how your faith and your church have been woven into your life;
- why you value those things;
- why you still want/need God and church to be part of your life
- what having a church family to count on can mean for the journey

It will be encouraging and meaningful to hear and share these stories. If you are too shy to come to the pulpit to share, please at least consider writing something to be read by someone else from the pulpit.

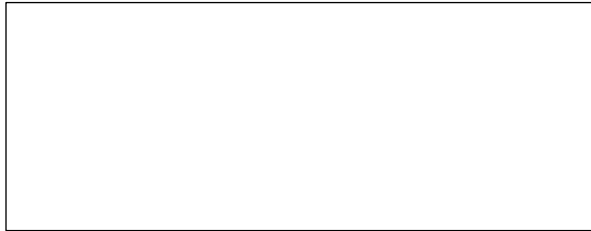


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August 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 Mitchell Co .Fair
2 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:00 Fellowship	3 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	4	5 6:00 p.m. Dulcimer Group	6 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park	7 Friday Night Out 5-9 p.m. Fair Grounds	8 Power Show Cedar Valley Memories
9 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:00 Fellowship Power Show Cedar Valley Memories	10 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	11	12 6:00 p.m. Dulcimer Group 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	13 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	14	15
16 10:45 a.m. Worship Cal Nicklay 10:00 Fellowship	17 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 1-6 Blood Drive VFW 3693 Hwy 9	18	19 6:00 p.m. Dulcimer Group 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	20 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	21	22
23 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:00 Fellowship	24 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	25  2 p.m. Mission	26 6:00 p.m. Dulcimer Group 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	27 3:30-5:30 p.m. Farmer's Market City Park 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi	28	29
30 Join Service St. Ansgar 10:00 a.m.	31 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	Birthdays 1 Gabrielle Schwarting 4 Adam Newton 5 Sandy Adams 8 Madison Bierbrodt 10 Chloe Goodale 16 Barb Barkhuff 20 Cynthia Johnson 21 Anita Hulburt Ann Walker 22 Annabelle Faas Anniversaries 8 Barb & Jeo Jeffries 9 Rozanne & John Mehmen 28 Shelly & Don Counsell 30 Kyera & Joe Reams 31 John & Ann Walker				

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



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.

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Web Site Address: www.osageumc.org

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