



THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of the First United Methodist Church, Osage, IA

September 2026

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

Our Religion and the Coming Election

Here we go again. Another election coming up. I don't know about you, but I am sick, sick, sick of political rhetoric, nastiness, disinformation, and strife, especially the kind that drags the name of God into the fray.

One cannot—and should not—leave one's faith out of consideration when casting a vote. But as Christians, what does God expect of us during an election year? Our beliefs naturally shape the way we view the world and the issues before us. Christians may honestly reach different conclusions about which candidate or political vision best reflects their understanding of faithful citizenship. But before we ever mark a ballot, should we not first ask an important question: **Am I seeking to follow the teachings of Jesus?**

Jesus never instructed His followers to put their hope in a certain political party or earthly ruler. He called us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. He taught us to responsibly steward God's amazing Creation, to care for the poor, welcome the stranger, show mercy, pursue justice, forgive generously, speak truthfully, seek peace, and treat every person as someone created in the image of God. Those teachings should shape not only how we live every day, but also how we approach the voting booth. As Christians, our first loyalty is not to a political party but to Christ.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus offered these words: *"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven.* (Matthew 5:43–45a)

When it comes to life—which includes politics—this is what Jesus calls us to. Not simply loving the neighbor who votes like we do, but loving even those we are tempted to see as our enemies. This is not merely a feeling; it is an active love that seeks to bless, encourage, and befriend. The person from another political party is not your enemy. They are our fellow Americans and our brothers and sisters in Christ. They deserve our respect, our kindness, and our prayers. We must love them, care for them, and remember that our unity in Christ is greater than any political difference.

I have voted for candidates from both major parties over my lifetime. Does one party have all the best and most qualified people for every office—from President on down to City Dog Catcher? I don't think that's statistically possible. Faithful Christians can disagree politically while sincerely seeking to honor Christ. Our challenge is not simply to vote our conscience, but to make sure our conscience is continually being shaped by the words and example of Jesus.

For our children, for our communities, and for our country, let us do unto others—even those with whom we strongly disagree—as we would have them do unto us. Let us go out of our way to show kindness from now until Election Day and beyond.

Remember the old song? *"They'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love."* May that be true during this election season. May people know we belong to Jesus because of the love, humility, grace, and respect we show to everyone—even those with whom we disagree.

Martha



COMMUNION STEWARD

6th Brenda Miller

LITURGISTS

6th Cal Nicklay

13th Josie Popp

20th Cynthia Johnson

27th Brenda Miller

COFFEE SERVERS

6th Beth Griffin

13th Lea Jones

20th Rozanne & John Mehmen

27th Barb Jeffries

USHERS/COLLECTION

6th Larry Dammen

13th John Mehmen

20th Gary Moody

27th Cynthia Johnson

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

Pray for students leaving for college including Ian Schwarting. Have great year!

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!

Sept. 5	Sam Reams
Sept. 12	Janet Kirchgatter
Sept. 13	Denise Northrup
Sept. 14	Charles Reams
Sept. 19	John Mehmen
Sept. 21	Jeff Weber
Sept. 22	Preston Pollard
Sept. 23	Bernie Parkhurst
Sept. 28	John Luse
Sept. 29	Linda Lenz
	Barb Jeffries
Sept. 30	Olivia Miller

Happy Anniversary!

Sept. 1 th	Karri & John Gansen
Sept. 3 rd	Lea & Brian Jones
Sept. 14 th	Amy & Kyle Mehmen

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.



Fair Trade Coffee

Monday Grind uses Fair Trade coffee to support small farmers. Equal Exchange was founded over 30 years ago to create an alternative trade paradigm where small farmers could have a seat at the trading table. The existing predominant trade model favors large plantations, agribusiness, and multi-national corporations. Equal Exchange seeks to challenge that model in favor of one that supports & respects small farmers, builds communities, supports the environment, and connects consumers and producers through information, education, and the exchange of products in the marketplace.

United Women in Faith
District Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 26
Waterloo, IA

Contact one of the members of United Women in Faith or call the office if you would like to attend the district meeting. It is always a fun day and inspiring to gather with other kindred spirits.

United Women in Faith
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, September 16
10:00 a.m.
Resource Room

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.

Mission Ministry



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.

September & October

Volunteers

Coffee

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

Oct. 4~ Brenda Miller
Oct. 11~Jill Detmering
Oct. 18~ Barb Jeffries
Oct. 25~Penney Morse

Liturgists

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

Oct. 4~Cal Nicklay
Oct. 11~Brenda Miller
Oct. 18~Josie Popp
Oct. 25~Cynthia Johnson

Ushers

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

Oct. 4~Larry Dammen
Oct. 11~Mike Wertz
Oct. 18~Penney Morse
Oct. 25~John Mehmen



Where Does the Blood Go?

Your Blood

The strength of our community blood supply is dependent on local donors, businesses and organizations that donate sponsor blood drives with LifeServe Blood Center.

Your Hospital

100% of the blood products needed by your community hospital come from LifeServe donors.

Your Neighbors

90% of individuals 72 or older will receive a blood transfusion sometime in their lives.

Consider donating blood in this month's blood drive. Someone's life may depend on it.

Blood Drive
Monday, Sept. 21st
1—6 p.m.
VFW
3693 Hwy 218

Fun Fact

Someone needs blood every two seconds.

Blood transfusions are used every day for trauma patients, surgeries, cancer treatments, and chronic illnesses.

“Treasure Hunt”

St. Ansgar Methodist Church
Friday, Sept. 11-- 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 12 9 a.m.-1 p.m

St. Ansgar Methodist Church is looking for donations for the city-wide rummage sale Friday September 11 from 9am-5pm and Saturday September 12 from 9am-1pm. Donations can be dropped off Thursday, September 10 after 9:30 am. at the Methodist Church in St. Ansgar. Proceeds go to the food bank.

Eggs For Sale
\$2 per dozen

Eggs are in the refrigerator at the church. Take as many eggs as you need and leave your money in an envelope in the refrigerator.

Love God. Love Your Neighbor. **VOTE!**

The Church and Society Team of West Union UMC has invited our church to join them in an important ministry this fall...ministry of encouraging our communities to take part in the democratic process.

This project was inspired by our bishops' book, "Building Beloved Community: The Courage to Love in the Face of Tyranny", in particular, our calling to faithful political engagement. As quoted in the book, "The right to vote is rooted in a commitment to the value of all persons, created in the image of God as individuals of sacred worth", and that "democratic participation flows from theological convictions about human dignity that are central to our faith." Our Church and Society Team is motivated by their teaching that **"Our concern for democracy must translate into faithful action...[and it] means recognizing that our engagement with the democratic institutions is itself a form of discipleship.** When we work to ensure that all voices are heard, when we defend the rights of those who are marginalized, when we seek justice for the oppressed, we are participating in God's ongoing work to create beloved community."



AmeriCorps Seniors

AmeriCorps Seniors **FOSTER GRANDPARENTS NEEDED**

AmeriCorps Seniors are looking for individuals 55 years and older interested in becoming a mentor and/or tutor for area children. Volunteers serve in schools, preschools and daycare centers in Mitchell County. No experience is needed.

What is the Foster Grandparent Program?

The AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program offers Americans, 55 and older opportunities to serve as mentors, tutors and care givers for children who have been abused, neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and tutor at risk children.

Who Is Eligible?

Men and women, age 55 or older who pass a background check, like being with children and willing to serve 5 to 40 hours a week at a school or daycare in the area.

What Do Volunteers Do?

They act as a special friend to children by:

- *Encouraging them
- *Listening to them
- *Talking with them
- *Playing with them
- *Studying with them
- *Loving them

Volunteers Receive

- *A Modest tax-free stipend, \$4.00 per hr
- *Meals at the site each day you serve
- *Accident Liability insurance while serving
- *Uniforms provided

LOTS OF SUPPORT, FUN AND MUCH MORE

Interested? Contact Carol Adams, AmeriCorps Seniors Foster Grandparent Program at 641-257-6327 or email recruiter@charlescityfgp.org

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.



Discover Your Center
CHARLES CITY ARTS CENTER

**AUGUST 7-
SEPTEMBER 12**

**CAVE
PAINTINGS
FOR THE
DIGITAL
AGE**

**PAINTINGS BY
JOSHUA WALKER**



CHARLES CITY ARTS CENTER
301 N. JACKSON ST.

- WEDNESDAY - FRIDAY 1-5
- SATURDAY - 10-2

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.CHARLESCITYARTS.ORG    @CHARLESCITYARTS

Invitation from the Walker Family
In the spirit of celebrating the various gifts that our Creator places within people, Ann & I would like to invite our church fellowship to view an art exhibit by our son Joshua Stuart Walker which is on display at the Charles City Art Center from August 7th until September 12th. The Art Center is open Wed through Fri from 1 PM to 5 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 2 PM. Admission is free.

26TH Annual
AUTUMN ARTISTRY

ARTISTS*ARTISANS*PRIMITIVES
HAND-CRAFTED JEWELRY*ANTIQUES
FALL/HOLIDAY DÉCOR*UNIQUE FINDS
REPURPOSED FURNITURE*CUSTOM
CREATIONS
FOOD VENDORS*HARVEST GOODS
FARMERS MARKET*LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
BLOCKTOP CRUISERS CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Saturday, September 19th
9 AM – 4 PM
Located Downtown Osage & the Mitchell County
Fairgrounds

Cedar Arts Fest
Saturday, Sept. 19
10 AM – 3 PM
Leeman Education
Center
(Corner of Chase and 6th St.)

In coordination with Autumn Artistry, Cedar Arts Fest features local artists and provides the community to view and purchase local art. It is a great way to support our community and our local artists.

September 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1	2 2:30 p.m. Service Faith Home 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Choir	3 Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 City Park 4:00 p.m. tai chi	4	5
6 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Bruce Wittern 10:00 Fellowship	7 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	8 6:30 p.m. Trustee meeting--resource room	9 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Choir	10 Biscuits & Gravy 7:15-9 AM St. Ansgar Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 City Prk 4:00 p.m. tai chi	11 "Treasure Hunt" Rummage Sale St. Ansgar UMC 9 AM - 5 PM	12 "Treasure Hunt" Rummage Sale St. Ansgar UMC 9 AM - 1 PM
13 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:00 Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Ad Council	14 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	15	16 10:00 a.m. UWFaith 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Choir	17 Waffles 7:15-9AM St. Ansgar 4:00 p.m. tai chi	18	19 Autumn Artistry 9 AM- 4 PM Farmer's Market City Park Cedar Arts Fest 10 AM-3 PM
20 10:45 a.m. Worship Lay Service 10:00 Fellowship	21 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 9-9:30 BP checks 1-6 PM Blood Drive VFW	22	23 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Choir	24 French Toast 7:15-9AM St. Ansgar St. Ansgar Farmer's Market 3:30-5:30 City Prk 4:00 p.m. tai chi	25	26 UWFaith District Conference in Waterloo Home Coming Osage
27 10:45 a.m. Worship Rev Steve Hansen 10:00 Fellowship	28 Monday Grind 8--10 AM Sleep mats 8--10 AM 	29  2 PM Mission Ministry	30 8:30-1 p.m Blood Drive, Osage HS 4:00 p.m. Tai Chi 7:00 p.m. Choir	Aug 7 – Sept 12 Cave Painting for the Digital Age Paintings by Joshuah Walker Charles City Art Center 301 N Jackson St. Wed-Fri 1-5 PM Sat 10 AM-2 PM		

Birthdays:

5 Sam Reams	22 Preston Pollard
12 Janet Kirchgatter	23 Bernie Parkhurst (106)
13 Denise Northrup	
14 Charles Reams	
19 John Mehmen	
21 Jeff Weber	

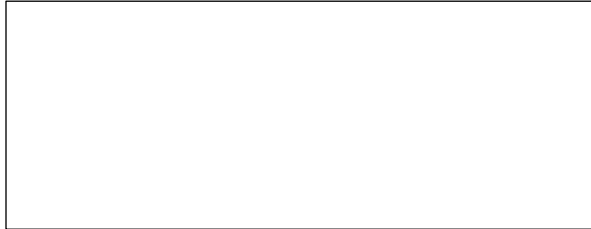


Anniversaries

1 Karri & Jon Gansen
3 Lea & Brian Jones
14 Amy & Kyle Mehmen



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.

Church Office: 641-732-4850

Web Site Address: www.osageumc.org

Church mailing address: PO Box 63