



The Messenger

Red Oak First United Methodist Church ♦ Jenn Van Nostrand, Pastor ♦ April 2024

From Jenn's Pen



Easter 2020....I will never forget. Our churches were not worshipping in person and I felt lost. I remember wondering, "when was the last time I was not in church on Easter?" I could not remember, and it made me terribly sad and even depressed.

I tried to make Easter as special as I could. I cooked my families Easter favorites for lunch. I created a QR Code for the kids' Easter Egg Hunt (they were Juniors in High School) and even though they complained about having to go "hunt" for their eggs, I think they enjoyed it. I remember it was a warm and sunshiny day and I felt like we had been cheated out of having a beautiful Easter morning with our brothers and sisters at church, worshipping our Savior.

Since then, I have not taken for granted Easter and the joy of being in church! Sometimes to appreciate what we have, it must be taken away from us, doesn't it?

Do we take Easter for granted? Not the actual day nor the opportunity to join in worship with our church family, but the real meaning of Easter.

In Luke 7, Jesus is eating at a Pharisees home and a woman who lived a sinful life came with an alabaster jar of perfume and wiped his feet with her tears, hair, and kissed his feet and then poured the perfume on them. Everyone was appalled at her behavior and Jesus said, *"I came into your house, and you did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven-as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little."*

Do we take for granted that Easter means our many sins have been forgiven by our Lord Jesus? Do we love Jesus enough to humble ourselves before His throne in front of the most important people in our community? Do we give so generously that people question if we are sane? Do we give God praise and thanksgiving even when our circumstances are not what we desire?

We are Easter People beloved! We live because of the resurrected Christ! Do not take this for granted! Our response to this gift is to live a life of grace and gratitude to God. Be an Easter people! Not taking for granted even one moment God has given us! We are people forgiven, healed and renewed by Jesus' body and blood, and we are called to share that Good News with the whole world!

Pastor Jenn



What's YOUR Vision for Our Church?



Jesus proved that Easter is a time for new beginnings. It's a perfect time to prioritize what's important in our lives. Our own life and our church's life. We'd like our entire church family to take a look at where we are and where we're going.

**Please join us THIS SUNDAY
for a very important church gathering:**

10:00 am – Special Worship Service in the Sanctuary

11:00 am – Lunch and All-Church Meeting

Sloppy Joes and drinks will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

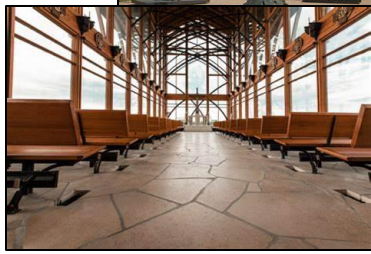
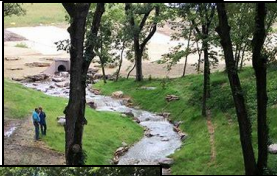
It's important that **ALL** church members attend this meeting.
Please encourage everyone in our church family to be in attendance.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Cloisters on the Platte & Holy Family Shrine Field Trip

Monday, April 8th

To reserve your spot, call or
email the church office.



Nurture her Soul



Villisca United Methodist Church
is hosting a
SPRING Women's Conference
on Saturday, April 13
from 9am to 3pm.

Everyone is invited!
To secure your spot, please call the
church office at 712-826-3132

Cost is \$30 per person
which includes a light breakfast and lunch

Nurture Her Soul® is Mandy McCleary's ministry of love for our Lord and for every woman out there who needs him. We are a welcoming community for all women regardless of your faith, or if you have uncertain faith. We invite you to experience the Word of God through teachings, sharing, and conversation. Mandy graduated from Licensing school with Pastor Jenn and now serves as Pastor at Jesup First United Methodist Church.



RAGBRAI July 21-27

The Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa is coming to Red Oak! And Red Oak First UMC plans to join the celebration!! Our church and many of our families will be hosting riders overnight. We also want to offer them an evening meal and some of our best hospitality. If you'd like to be involved, call the church office at (712) 623-2367 or email Nicole at office@redoakfumc.org.



April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 9 – WIC Clinic	2 10 – Bible Study 6 – Ad Board  Kathy Walker	3 10:30 – Nishna Game Day 5 – Choir Practice	4	5 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store	6 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store
7  10 – Church 11 – Lunch & All Church Meeting	8 Cloisters on the Platte Field Trip	9 9-12 - Jenn's RIM Meeting 10 – Bible Study 2 – Women's Fellowship	10	11 Jenn's COS Class	12 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store	13 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store 9-3 – Women's Fellowship Conference Villisca UMC
14 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School  Claudia Pilecki	15	16 10 – Bible Study	17	18 Jenn's COS Class	19 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store  Letty Guerra	20 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store  Carol Watt
21 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	22  Stephanie & Roer Ehmke	23 10 – Bible Study	24	25	26 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store	27 9-3 – Second Chance Thrift Store
28 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	29	30 6 – Ad Board	<p>Red Oak First United Methodist Church 600 East Hammond Street Red Oak, Iowa 51566 712-623-2367 Email: office@redoakfumc.org Website: redoakfumc.org Office Hours: 9am – 1pm Monday-Friday</p> 			