

# The Messenger

## December 2021

Red Oak First United Methodist Church

The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

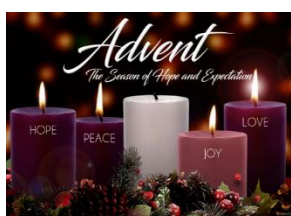
### Core Values:

- 1. Welcome**  
We are each beloved and welcomed unconditionally by God's grace.  
Romans 15:7; Matthew 25: 35-36
- 2. Love**  
We value compassion and care for one another and the world around us because of God's grace. John 13:34-35; Corinthians 13:4-5
- 3. Praise**  
We celebrate God's love by opening ourselves to the Holy Spirit through praise and worship in living to glorify God. Psalms 96:1-4; Psalms 150:6

**Our vision is to glorify God, grow in Christ, and serve our community in God's love.**



To stay up to date on our latest news,  
Follow us on Facebook – Red Oak FUMC!  
Remember to “Like” and “Share”!



### Christmas Eve Service

**Christmas Eve Service will be on  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.**



This Advent season, help us decorate the church by buying a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone of your choice. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Blessings!

**Our office will be closed:**

**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Holiday Season!**



600 East Hammond St. Red Oak, IA, 51566  
Office Hours: 9:00-3:00 – Monday-Friday  
(712) 623-2367 – [office@redoakfumc.org](mailto:office@redoakfumc.org)  
Pastor – (515) 421-0929 – [eric.sayonkon@iaumc.net](mailto:eric.sayonkon@iaumc.net)





# December Birthdays



12/01 - Barb Kinard

12/01 - Sharon Wiese

12/02 - Deb Anderson

12/02 - Isaias Guerra

12/13 - Jeannie Bruning

12/14 - Donnie Torbett

12/16 - Eboni Sayonkon

12/18 - Graig Smith

12/25 - Karen Blue

12/25 - Holly Crowell

12/26 - Lanie Edie

12/28 - Cale Hall

12/29 - Carlos Guerra III

12/29 - Linda Olsen

The Mitten Tree is officially up! We will be collecting mittens, caps, and scarves, throughout the month of December. All donations will go to the Christ Cupboard.



## Sunday School News

There will be no Sunday School on December 26<sup>th</sup> and January 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will resume Sunday School on January 9<sup>th</sup>.

An angel of the LORD appeared to them, and the glory of the LORD shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the LORD. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:11-14

# Merry Christmas!



First United Methodist Church Presents

# Jesus

There's Something About That Name

*(Cantata by FUMC Choir)*



**SUNDAY DECEMBER 19, 2021**  
**SERVICE STARTS AT 10:30AM**

First United Methodist Church - 600 E Hammond St - Red Oak, IA 51566

Can you believe it is already December? This year is going by so quickly. One of my favorite things during the Christmas season is preparing for our Christmas Cantata with the choir. It is always great to work together and prepare for a wonderful time of ministry. Each Wednesday, as we rehearse, we not only learn the music, but we discover wonderful times of worship within the music. I am confident that you will experience similar worship as you join us on Sunday, December 19 at 10:30 AM when we present, Jesus, There's Something About That Name.

This year's cantata is filled with familiar Christmas carols, worship songs, and new anthems that help to share the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, and what that means for the world and the salvation of God's people. We hope that you will assist us in inviting others to our worship service on the 19th. Calleen Nelson has created some beautiful postcard invitations that you could pick up at church to give and mail to friends, family, and neighbors. Let's boldly invite others so that they too, can experience the life change that only comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you,  
Tim Marsden



Greetings from the 4th-5th Sunday School class. We have been very busy. We have been doing a study called Cold Case Christianity and have switched over to an Advent study, The Heart that Grew Three Sizes. Also, in September our 4th-5th Sunday School class talked about ways we could serve others in our community. First they made Halloween treat bags for our younger Sunday School students. Second they wanted to provide a Thanksgiving meal for a family in need. They made a menu of food they thought would make a good meal. We then decided to meet up and go shopping for our family. We then packaged it all up and also included Thanksgiving craft items the families children could make. Kennedy and her Dad, Ryan, and Sophia and her Mom, Katie, along with myself and Lena(the photographer) spent an hour or two of our Saturday morning to bring joy to this family.

They also decided to sponsor a family at Christmas. We have a local family to help and are waiting for a list of items their family would like. Being this is a big undertaking for our little class, we are asking for assistance from our congregation. I heard there are already members who said they'd help. That's what I love about our congregation-they are always ready to help those in need. We will soon have something in the narthex with more information.

A very good friend of mine always likes to use the phrase about being the hands and feet of Jesus. These kids definitely are a good example of this very phrase.

Merry Christmas!  
Missy Torbett





## JOY TO THE WORLD

Advent is here – a time for anticipating the birth of Jesus! And yet, this whole year has been one of anticipating – often stressfully. We have experienced collective loss and grief. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our way of life with illness, death, and isolation. However, we can trust that God is with us, Emmanuel, to be our savior. Advent is a time of the beginning of God coming to our world. We experience anew the fulfillment of God’s promises in one person, the infant Christ. God did not wait for us to get our lives right

The scripture says, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus; because he will save his people from their sins.”

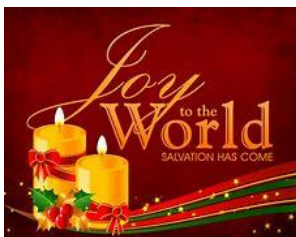
(Matthew 1: 21)

There are many titles attributed to Jesus through scripture. The vision of God coming to earth is the beginning of God’s redeeming love. Here we are heading into the Christmas season, the advent of our Lord, as we begin to turn our focus to the most significant event for all humanity.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the beginning of hope for the world. The songwriter says “Joy to the world, the Lord has come”

As we anticipate the celebration of Christmas, may Christ be born anew in our hearts as we live our lives in services to his glory. God came near in the person of Jesus Christ as our savior. We can trust in the name of our redeemer, Jesus Christ who is with us to give us hope, peace, joy, and love. Indeed, God is good, all the time as we look forward to the New Year. God bless you and grace you.

May you have a Christ-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Pastor Eric Sayonkon

