

# The Messenger

## January 2022

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”!

Join us on Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, AFTER Worship  
Service, for a Farewell Potluck for Pete and  
Teresa Peterson! Bring a dish to share!



New Sermon Series Starts This Sunday, January 9, 2022  
“Abundant Life”



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



# January Birthdays

01/03 - Charlotte Morris

01/05 - Fred Pilecki

01/08 - Jean Bozwell

01/11 - Kennady Adams

01/14 - Jeannette Gillespie

01/14 - Robert Lewellen

01/15 - Missy Torbett

01/21 - Carol Sparr

01/22 - Richard Fisher

01/24 - Abigail Sayonkon

01/29 - David Anderson

I want to thank everyone that brought me the lovely gifts for Christmas. And also all the well wishes during my Covid. I'm recovering and feeling a little better.

Bless you all, Jeannette Gillespie



Thank you so much for the Upper Room Book, the pretty Christmas throw, the precious cross and angel ornament, and the Pizza Ranch gift card. It was so special and nice of everyone! Sending our blessings.

Sincerely, Lane and Carol Morse

## Stewardship and Financial Focus

" Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Luke 6:38

I want to thank each of you for your prayer and financial giving to the ministry of the first United Methodist Church. Giving generously to God's work in the midst of the pandemic is critical part of our worship and love for God. Another New Year is before us to step up in faith and give generously to the ministry of Jesus Christ. As we prepare for setting our ministry budget, your financial giving and pledges are an important part of how we determine what we can and cannot do in ministry. If you haven't returned your pledge yet, and if this is your church family, I'd like to encourage you to do prayerfully by faith do so.

Each week God is at work through our worship celebration on Sunday.

Please continue to pray and support the work of the church through your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. I thank God for each of you and your part in our church family. We are all part of God's family. May God bless our giving and all we do together this year for his glory.

Pastor Eric and Leadership Team



## Seeing God in the New Year

This NEW YEAR'S PRAYER from Billy Graham, written in 2008, is just as relevant today.

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need for Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future. We each have our hopes & expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You, and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love. In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need. In the midst of life's temptations & the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them. Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, & to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year. And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death & resurrection has given us hope both for this world & the world to come.

Amen

## **God is at work- A New Beginning!**

The New Year is upon us. In the season of new beginnings, what are you looking forward to, or what are your resolutions?

God is longing to do something new and fresh in our lives despite the global pandemic. God loves doing new things. New beginnings often feel great. Filled with excitement and relief, we get to leave the past behind and enter a new season with great anticipation and hope. God loves showing us new opportunities to share his love with our community.

In this New year we don't know what God has in store for us as a church, but by faith in Christ God will work everything for our good and his glory.

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Corinthians 5:17)**

God wants to do a new thing in our lives by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us. My prayer is: Open our eyes, Lord, to see what you are already doing among us.

Grace to you and God bless you!

Because of Jesus,

Pastor Eric Sayonkon

# JAN 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
						New Year's Day
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
			Choir – 6p			Walk to Emmaus – 9a
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Sunday School-9a Worship Service- 10:30a		Bible Study-10a  Ad Board Meeting-6p	Nishna Production Game Day-10:30a Women's Fellowship-2p Choir – 6p Youth Group-6p			Walk to Emmaus – 9a
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Sunday School-9a Worship Service- 10:30a  <b>Potluck-AFTER Worship Service</b>		Bible Study-10a	Choir-6p Youth Group-6pm			Walk to Emmaus – 9a
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Sunday School-9a Worship Service- 10:30a		Bible Study-10a	Choir-6p Youth Group-6p			Walk to Emmaus – 9a
30	31					
Sunday School-9a Worship Service- 10:30a						