



The Messenger

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

From Jenn's Pen

Beginning January 14, we will start a sermon series, "Three Simple Rules: The Wesleyan Way of Living." Along with the sermon series, we will meet for Bible study on Tuesdays at 10am in the east room, this will begin this Tuesday, January 9. If you would like to follow along, you may order a book for \$7.00. Please let the office know if you would like to purchase one.



The three simple rules have the power to change the world. While they are ancient, they have seldom been fully put to the test. But when and where practiced, the world was shaken until a new world was formed. The Wesleyan movement is a prime example of this new creation that was formed when these three rules were adopted as a way of living.

But before Wesley, the One who created us, formed us, and loves us as we are and yet always seeks to lead us to become more than we are, taught us the foundation of these three simple rules. Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:29-31). Here we have the foundation and instruction for the faithful and good life in every age. These are both simple and profound statements. They are easy to comprehend and challenging to attempt. They guide us to the highest form of faithfulness and hold the promise of a way of life that is both rewarding and fruitful in furthering God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven.

John Wesley took this blueprint and fleshed it out, taught it, and practiced it. And now it has been passed on to us. Now it is up to us to see if we will take it, teach it, and practice it until it becomes our natural way of living—a way of living that will mark our life together and our lives as individual Christians. The three simple rules are:

1. Do no harm
2. Do good
3. Stay in love with God

I hope and pray you will join us in this crucial sermon series as we enter the new year with the hope and power of Jesus Christ which will guide and help us to follow these three simple rules.

God is always with you beloved,

Pastor Jenn



Thanks, Everyone!

A great big THANK YOU for all of the Christmas goodies and gifts given to me and my family during the Christmas season. It is all greatly appreciated. You are all so very kind and generous. You have made this busy time of year much more joyful and beautiful for me. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. The quilt is such a beautiful expression of love that I will treasure forever. THANK YOU!



Thank You, Tim



This past Sunday was the last Sunday the Marsden family will be with us. After 15 years at Red Oak First UMC, Tim has resigned his position as Choir Director. As Tim wrote in his letter to the choir, "It is time for a new chapter in our worship lives."

The choir and congregation presented them with gifts and wished them our very best.

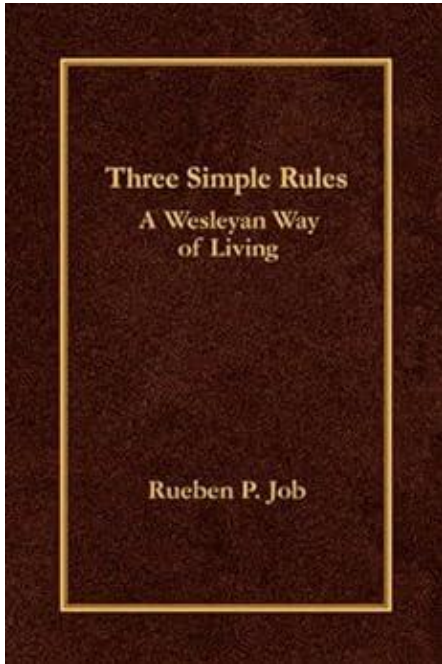


Welcome, Holly



The church Administrative Board has offered the position of choir director to Holly Paulson. Her Music background spans many decades. After earning Bachelor's and Master's degrees in music education, she spent several years touring the country as a singer with the Norman Luboff Choir. Following this, she moved from southeast Iowa to Phoenix, Arizona where she taught elementary music. In her spare time, she created the Phoenix Show Choir, a program of the Boys and Girls Club. She also directed the the First United Methodist Church children's choir, Crossroads UMC adult choir and taught children's Sunday School. Her second career in Phoenix was in advertising and public relations with the Phoenix Symphony and later as creative director in a small advertising agency.

Our church choir will continue to meet without interruption. If you would like to join the choir, please contact Holly or the church office. We are still in need of a piano accompanist. If you know of anyone with keyboard skills, please contact the church office.



Three Simple Rules Bible Study

Our newest Bible Study begins this Tuesday at 10:00 am. We'll look into John Wesley's General Rules for living which include mutual respect, unity, and a deeper daily relationship with God.

“**Three Simple Rules** is a new discussion for everyone wanting to follow Jesus Christ. Don't let the title fool you. Bishop Reuben Job writes, 'The rules are simple, but the way is not easy. Only those with great courage will attempt it, and only those with great faith will be able to walk this exciting and demanding way.'”



Youth Group Update

Our Red Oak First UMC Youth Group is getting ready for a new start in this new year. Discussion topics are being proposed, locations are being suggested, and meeting day/time is under review. If you or anyone you know would like to be involved in Youth Group 2024, contact the church office or Julie Wolfe.



Second Chance Update



Our Second Chance thrift store has a new look! The closing of West Page thrift store in Shenandoah enabled us to buy used clothes racks, shelves, and carts at huge discounts. It's like a second chance for Second Chance! If you haven't been to our basement enterprise, stop by! Hours are:

Fridays and Saturdays

9:00am – 3:00 pm

Donations gladly accepted any Friday
9:00am – 3:00 pm.

January 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 New Year's Day	2	3 10:30 – Nishna Game Day 5 – Ad Board 6 – Choir Practice 6:30 – Youth Group	4	5 Fred Pilecki	6 Three Kings Day
7 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School 	8 9 – WIC Clinic Jean Bozwell	9 10 – 3 Simple Rules Bible Study 2 – Women's Fellowship snowed out!	10 6 – Choir Practice	11 Kennady Adams	12	13
14 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School Cancelled due to weather	15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day  Missy Torbett	16 10 – 3 Simple Rules Bible Study 2 – Women's Fellowship	17 6 – Choir Practice	18 Pastor Jenn's Course of Study Class	19 Holly Paulson	20
21 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School Diana Heitbrink Carol Sparr	22 Richard Fisher	23 10 – 3 Simple Rules Bible Study 6 – Ad Board	24 6 – Choir Practice	25 Pastor Jenn's Course of Study Class	26	27
28 9 – Church 10:15 – Sunday School	29 David Anderson	30 10 – 3 Simple Rules Bible Study	31 6 – Choir Practice	 <p>Red Oak First United Methodist Church 600 East Hammond Street Red Oak, Iowa 51566 712-623-2367 Email: office@redoakfum.org Website: redoakfum.org Office Hours: 9am – 1pm Monday-Friday</p>		