

The Messenger

Red Oak First United Methodist Church
October 2020

Monthly Ad Board Meeting Minutes are available in the Church Office!

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

Core Values:

1. Acceptance/Welcoming
2. Love/Caring
3. Praise

Check out our Facebook Page!
"Red Oak FUMC"

October Birthdays

10/02 Pastor Eric Sayonkon	10/07 Julie Wolfe	10/14 Rebecca Neff
10/03 Tim Marsden	10/08 Dwight Smith	10/20 Zacarias Guerra
10/05 Kylie Pruett	10/11 Karlee Govig	10/26 Samuel Neff
10/06 Brenna Baier	10/12 Cathy Swanson	10/29 James Geer
10/07 Kenneth Marsden	10/13 Ellen Olsen	10/30 Nancy Lewellen



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Pastor – (515) 421-0929 – eric.sayonkon@iaumc.net



2021 Stewardship Campaign- "Grace and Gratitude"

The 2021 Stewardship campaign begins on Sunday, October 4, and continues through October 25. I hope by now you have received our Stewardship letter and commitment card.

When we recognize God's grace in our lives, it moves us in a spirit of gratitude. The Christian life is shaped by gratitude in recognition of God's grace. Stewardship is about much more than money; it is about life. It is an outpouring of our time, our talents, and treasures for Christ's service. Thanks for your prayers and financial support toward God's mission at First United Methodist Church. It is by God's grace that we receive his blessings.

"And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever". Amen. (Philippians 4:19-20).



The second Sunday of every month is Food Pantry Sunday. This is where we collect the gift of money or non-perishable food donations for the Christ Cupboard to give to families in need. Please help us, help our community as they need food items!

Thank you!



Bell Choir-

We are looking to recruit new members to the Bell Choir. We meet every other Wednesday at 7:00pm. If you are interested or have any questions about Bell Choir, please contact Becky Neff at (712) 520-1057.

Conversation with Pastor

Come listen and talk with Pastor Eric about the vision of the church. This event will take place on Tuesday, October 13th at 10am and 6pm.

See you there!

Save the Date!

There WILL be an Election Night Supper on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020. It will look a little differently this year, as we will be curbside only. Please save the date in your calendar and "join us" for some Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, and a Cookie! This meal is Free Will Donation.

Grace and Gratitude

I really love the fall season. I love to see the colorful leaves and experience cool temperatures. It reminds me of the goodness of God in creation. God is the author of all things, the creator and owner of all things. The psalmist, **“The earth is the LORD’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”** (Psalm 24:1). The whole concept of stewardship begins with God and his ownership of the whole universe.

I believe stewardship includes caring for all that God has entrusted to us and using our gifts to honor and serve the mission of God. Because of God’s grace toward us, we can humbly give thanks. We can never repay God. God acts first toward us in grace by extending love, forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation to us. Karl Barth writes, “The only answer to grace is gratitude. Grace and gratitude belongs together like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice, an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder, lightning”

We are called to be a good stewards of God’s creation and use our resources in serving his church and mission. God is the giver of good gifts. Our motivation of giving back to God must truly come from a grateful heart. The apostle Paul writes, **“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”** (2 Corinthians 9:7-8).

As we experience fall season, may we never forget the grace of God in our lives. It is God’s grace that allows us to participate in the work of the church. God bless you and grace to you.

Because of Jesus,
Pastor Eric

