



The Messenger

September 2020

Red Oak First United Methodist Church

Office Hours: 9am-3pm - Monday-Friday

(712)623-2367 - office@redoakfumc.org

Pastor Eric's Cell (515)421-0929 - eric.sayonkon@iaumc.net

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



Church's Website – www.redoakfumc.org

Facebook – Red Oak FUMC

YouTube – Red Oak Iowa Methodist Church

Special People Make Special Schools!

Thank you to those in the Soup Kitchen that volunteered to help Inman Elementary with meal distribution. It was so thoughtful and allowed staff to have a break before the beginning of the school year.



In the month of August, we held a school supply drive for our local schools and the Christ's Cupboard. In total, we collected \$10, various school supplies! Thank you, for all your generosity!

September Birthdays!



09/03 - Gary McKinney

09/04 - Terra Marsden

09/11 - Doug Allensworth

09/11 - Amy Strebe

09/12 - Betty Smith

09/13 - Delores Docker

09/17 - Eli Guerra

09/17 - Jason Vrabel

09/19 - Stephanie Ehmke

09/20 - Ardith Cornelison

09/20 - Bob Fenstermann

09/20 - Lily Marsden

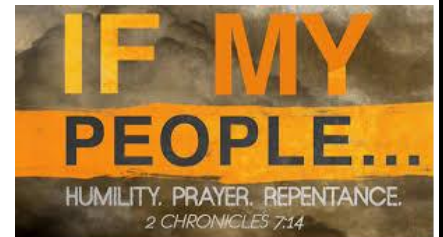
09/23 - Mike Swanson

09/24 - Trasy Sparr

09/28 - Amy Clark

Day Of Prayer

Please join us on Wednesday, September 23rd, at either 10am or 6:30pm for a Day Of Prayer. This event will take place in the Sanctuary. This will also be on Facebook Live!



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!

Meeting with Pastor

Come listen and talk about our Church's Missions and Ministry of the church with Pastor Eric! This event will take place on Tuesday, September 8th, at 1pm and 6pm. Hope to see you there!



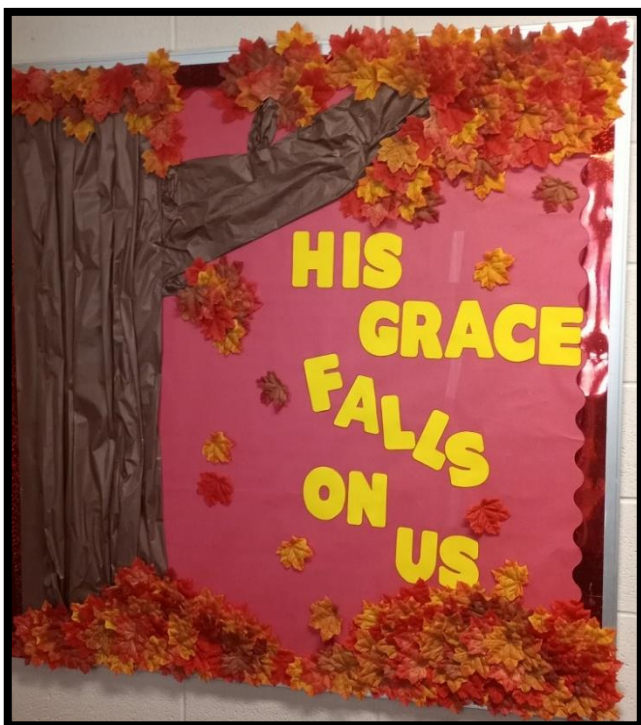
Stewardship Focus

I want to express my gratitude for your prayer and financial giving to the ministry of the first United Methodist church. Giving generously to God's work in this critical time is part of our worship. We need to continue to increase our giving so that our various ministries can support our community in sharing God's love.

I want to inform you that you will be receiving our stewardship letter this fall in preparation for our charge conference and our next year budget. Please continue to pray and support the work of the church through your **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness**. We are all in this together. God bless you.

Pastor Eric Sayonkon and church leadership

No matter what is going on in your world, trust that God is with you and believe his word.



"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 9:8

Fall Activities



Youth Group:

Youth Group starts up on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm. September 23rd will be the first night! All middle and high school students are welcome! Call Julie Wolfe at 712-621-9461 for more information.

Confirmation Class:

Confirmation orientation is on Wednesday, September 23rd with Pastor Eric at 6:30. All youth who are interested, or parents can contact the office at 712-623-2367 for more information.



ESL – English As A Second Language:

We are planning on having ESL this Fall. When we get more details, we will let you know!
Stay tuned!

Choir and Bell Choir:



Come join the Choir and/or the Bell Choir! We will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 9th. Choir will be at 6pm and the Bell Choir will be at 7pm. We would love to welcome new members to these exciting ministries!



First United Methodist Church
Sunday School



August 28, 2020

Dear Parents/Students,

The Sunday School Teachers at First United Methodist Church await you with great excitement as we begin to move closer to our Opening Celebration for the start of Sunday School. In these unprecedented times, it is of great importance to study God's Word and surround ourselves with Christ-minded people to prepare ourselves to go out into a world that does not know Him so that we may spread the good news!

Our Sunday School classes will begin with an Opening Celebration on September 20th, at 9:00 a.m. Please enter the building on the lower level from the West Side of the building (6th Street Side) and go into the Fellowship Hall to your teacher's table to register for this year. Tables will be clearly marked for you. **Parents/legal guardians must be present to fill out the registration sheet and give updated emergency contact information.** After you fill out your form, the students and families can take a seat and join us for a light breakfast, fellowship, teacher presentations (Julie Wolfe will also be there to talk about Youth Group as well) and worship as we pray for our students and teachers in this upcoming year.

Due to COVID-19 virus concerns, we are encouraging students wear masks upon entering the building, and once seated in their room they may remove it if they wish, or they may keep it on if it makes them more comfortable. Our teachers have been preparing their classrooms to keep their students socially distanced and hand sanitizer will be available upon entering the church. We ask that you carefully monitor your students and if they are not feeling well, that you please keep them at home. Temperatures will be taken when students enter the building beginning on Sunday, September 27th. Our church does have a youth protection policy in place; if you would like a copy please contact Calleen, our church secretary at 712-623-2367 and she can get you a copy.

We are more than excited to see your students this year, and we will be praying for you and your students every day! If you have any questions or concerns over the upcoming Sunday School year, please feel free to call me anytime at 712-623-8870.

God's Blessings,

Terra S. Marsden

"Train up a child in the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." -Proverbs 22:6

What are you afraid of?

Everyone is afraid of something- failure, Fear of the unknown., loneliness, death, life and so on. It comes in all shapes and every size. Think about it- fear is almost always based on the future. Sometimes we are afraid because we know what is coming. What are you afraid of?



I believe for many people worry, anxiety and fear are constant companions. Fear hinders us from discovering God's provision and promises. God is the answer to all our fears.

We live in challenging times and fear is prevalent in our world. However, as Christians, we have been given all we need to face down even the most frightening, unexpected, and overwhelming obstacles in life. In his book fearless, Max Lucado, Max Lucado writes, "What if faith, not fear was your default reaction to the difficulties in life?" The Psalmist says, **"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for you are with"** Psalm 23:4.

If we read the Bible, we will find countless stories of God's faithfulness because, **"God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"**. (Romans 8:28).

If fear arises, may we trust in the promises of God to be with us. We are called to trust God more and fear less knowing God is with us to work everything for our good and for His glory. My message will be focused on the theme fearless in the month of September. My prayer is that we will trust God more and be strengthened in faith when we are fearful. God bless you and grace to you!

By Faith,

Pastor Eric Sayonkon