

THE MESSENGER

April 2020

Red Oak First United Methodist Church

www.redoakfumc.org

! BE INFORMED !

Monthly Ad Board Meeting Minutes are available in the church office for you to read

A message from Bob Lewellen, Administrative Board Treasurer

The Coronavirus has affected all of us in our personal and business lives. It is also affecting the life of our church. Since we will have at least two Sundays with no services for the balance of March, we will experience a drop in contributions. Those who normally make their offering on Sunday will not have that opportunity. This will affect the cash flow of our church and our ability to meet the financial obligations of operating the church.

It is important we continue to make our offerings, even in our absence. This can be done by mail, online giving or text. The church website to create your online account can be found at <https://redoakfumc.org/>. If you need help setting up your online giving account, please contact Jennifer in the office 712-623-2367 or office@redoakfumc.org. Office hours of Monday-Friday, 9:00am – 12n are still in place.

This effort will help us keep from taking dollars out of the emergency fund to meet day to day expenses. We appreciate your cooperation and look forward to the Sunday we can all worship together.

Core Values—Part II



“Thank You” to everyone who participated in the voting to determine our three (3) Top Core Values. The voting produced the following results: #1 Acceptance/Welcoming, #2 Love/Caring, and #3 Praise. Our next step is a follow up workshop with our HCI Coach (soon to be our new District Superintendent) Melissa Drake. We will re-schedule our fellowship luncheon and the workshop when these troubling times are behind us and we begin to function as the church once again. Please pray for our Nation and our Church.



The Story all-church Bible study will, like our lives, pick up where we left off when the church re-opens. We had just finished up the Old Testament and will begin the New Testament when we begin again. Many have fallen away from the small-group studies. This is an excellent time to join us again! Sundays: 9:00-10:00am, Mondays: 6:00-7:00pm, Tuesdays: 11:00am-12:00noon.
Info? Church Office (712) 623-2357.

April Birthdays

04/02	Kathy	Walker	04/14	Claudia	Pilecki	04/19	Letty	Guerra
04/06	Maxine	Cleveland	04/14	Eileen	Waltz	04/20	Julie	Stanley
04/07	Pete	Peterson	04/16	Delaney	Hall	04/20	Carol	Watt
04/08	Kari	Edie	04/16	Heather	Neff	04/23	Sabrina	Guerra
04/08	Anne	Herring	04/17	Kate	Edie	04/23	Vicky	Kaiser
04/09	Jamie	Bruning	04/18	Andra	Guinn	04/25	Macy	Kaiser
04/12	Megan	Govig				04/27	Linda	Swain

As of this printing date, the YMCA is still planning to hold this event. As we move closer to the date of the event, please contact the YMCA at 712-623-2161 to confirm.

Montgomery County Family YMCA's

the  **GOOD
FRIDAY
BREAKFAST**

A morning of praise and community/area fellowship
Friday, April 10th, 2020 6:30 A.M. - 7:45 A.M.
101 East Cherry Street, Red Oak, IA



**Music by: Susan Brown
of Henderson, Iowa**

RSVP's are needed by WEDNESDAY, April 8th, 2020 by 5:00 P.M.
**Reservations can be made in person at the YMCA with event payment or
phone reservations will be accepted when contacting the YMCA.**
(712) 623-2161 www.mcyymca.com

EVENT REGISTRATION

Please mail completed form with payment to: Montgomery County Family YMCA 101 E Cherry St. Red Oak, IA 51566. For more information, please call (712) 623-2161.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ Fax #: _____

The event cost will be \$6 for Adults, \$5 for College Students or younger for a breakfast buffet along with beverage.

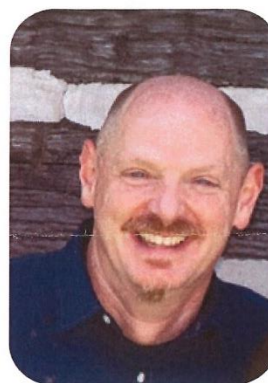
I am unable to attend, but please accept my donation to support this event and the Montgomery County Family YMCA's 2020 campaign.

Payment: Cash: _____ or Check: _____ (payable to Montgomery County Family YMCA)

If having guest please list with your reservations:

The event is in partnership with the Montgomery County Family YMCA, Montgomery County Family YMCA Men's Thursday Early Morning Bible Study Group, Montgomery County Ministerial Fellowship.

Featured Speaker:
Reverend Alan Dean
of First Covenant
Church, Red Oak, IA.



We are honored to have Reverend Alan Dean, from First Covenant Church of Red Oak, Iowa as our featured speaker.

Don't miss the opportunity to hear him deliver an uplifting message.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile . . . for you are all one in Christ Jesus.
(Galatians 3:28)

With these words, the Apostle Paul establishes the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the world. All of us are called to be “one” in Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ we are to come together in unity!

For the past several months, and for who knows how long into the future, the world has been plunged into a plague of biblical proportions—Covid-19 or the Coronavirus. The World Health Organization has declared it a pandemic. World governments and leaders have taken unprecedented measures to control the spread and treatment of the virus. If we take a step back from its disruption of our personal lives, you might notice something, I believe, is amazing and equally biblical in proportion. For the first time—in my life—the entire world is in unity!

Forget your personal viewpoint on whether the crisis was a myth blown out of proportion by the media and politicians or is in fact a real-life plague. Everyone, the world over, is concentrating on this one thing and how to make things better. In a reflection on Palm Sunday and Jesus’ “triumphal entry” into Jerusalem, no matter what else the people were doing in their lives, everyone came together to recognize his greatness. However, even Jesus understood that there were always going to be some detractors. We have them today—talking-head journalists (so called), politicians, celebrities—those worried about their own aggrandizement and nothing else. Jesus had the Pharisees who complained about all the cheering during the Passover time. Jesus responded by saying, “If they stay quiet, the rocks themselves will cry out” (Luke 19:40). “Unity,” Paul says. Unity in Christ. One kingdom with one king.

Think about what had been going on in the US and the world— World Wars; local “proxy” wars (Korea, Viet Nam, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria); super-powers butting heads over land, oil, and trade; hate and violence over political disagreements in our own country, our denomination (The United Methodist Church) demolished by militant theological viewpoints. Unity has not existed for many years . . . until now!

In our all-church Bible study of *The Story*, we have just now reached the end of the Old Testament and are/were about to begin the New Testament. The period between the New and Old is known as the “Silent Years” or the intertestamental period. This period lasted 400 years and is called the Silent Years because, it seemed, God stopped “talking.” During these years, both Jews and pagans were becoming dissatisfied with religion and questioning everything they thought they knew. God’s people, the Jews of Israel, were conquered, oppressed, and polluted by a series of bully nations, including the Greeks (Alexander the Great), the Seleucids, and finally the Romans. Even so, there was much human progress—Roman roads, everyone understood a common language (Greek), and there was freedom to travel, fairly easily, from place to place and country to country. But unity was found at the point of a sword. The people, especially the Jews, were despondent, hope was running low; faith was even lower. Then God acted. To quote Forrest Gump, “Just then, God showed up!”

Maybe, just maybe, God is on the move! Maybe, just maybe, God has “heard the cries of his people” (Exodus 3:7) and is using Covid-19 to help a broken world discover this elusive thing called unity. **Pastor Ron**