

# THE MESSENGER

## May 2020

**Red Oak First United Methodist Church**

[www.redoakfumc.org](http://www.redoakfumc.org)

**Facebook – Red Oak FUMC**

**YouTube – Red Oak Iowa Methodist Church**

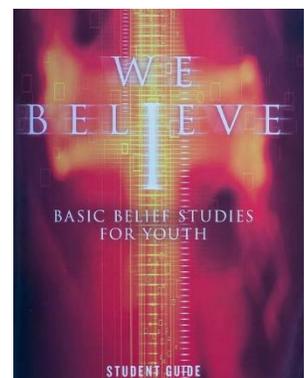
### ! BE INFORMED !

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



**CONFIRMATION** is a period of study for baptized youth culminating in their first formal, public profession of faith and becoming a member of the church. Red Oak First UMC will begin Confirmation classes in September with the beginning of the new school year.

Confirmation students are those entering 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Student in 9<sup>th</sup> grade are also welcome. **Confirmation classes** provide a great opportunity to give students a broad view of basic Christian beliefs including the characteristics of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; the importance and nature of the Bible; the need to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation; and the significance of the church. Red Oak First UMC will be using the Confirmation curriculum—**We Believe**. This curriculum includes the aforementioned topics as well as general church history and the responsibilities of discipleship and church membership. It offers students a basic but thorough understanding of what it means to be a Christian in the Methodist tradition. Classes will meet weekly on Sunday mornings. Students will be required to attend a mission trip outside of Red Oak in the summer of 2021 and attend Summer Games University (a modern “church camp” experience) in July of 2021. Students desiring to be confirmed into the church will be received into the church at a formal worship service in September 2021. Please contact Pastor Ron if you have any questions. If you have an eligible student, please register him/her with the church office, (712) 623-2367, email: [office@redoakfumc.org](mailto:office@redoakfumc.org).





Do you recognize these logos? I'm sure you do! Facebook and YouTube are common and popular social media sites. The COVID-19 issues that began on March 17<sup>th</sup>, have had us looking at ways to staying connected, while being apart. Pre-recorded Sunday services and a Wednesday daily devotional are available for viewing on Facebook at Red Oak FUMC and YouTube at Red Oak Iowa Methodist Church. Our church website ([www.redoakfumc.org](http://www.redoakfumc.org)) also has the pre-recorded service and devotionals available for viewing under the "Coming Up" tab.

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## May Birthdays

|       |          |         |       |        |         |       |         |       |
|-------|----------|---------|-------|--------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| 05/01 | Blake    | Bergren | 05/09 | Kirk   | Samples | 05/23 | Bruce   | Burr  |
| 05/03 | Masen    | Fisher  | 05/09 | Jim    | Bruce   | 05/24 | Kyle    | Cross |
| 05/04 | Michael  | Sharpe  | 05/10 | Brenda | Vrba    | 05/25 | Kadynce | Smith |
| 05/07 | Johnny   | Walker  | 05/18 | Megan  | Adams   | 05/29 | Ryan    | Ehmke |
| 05/08 | Jennifer | Bupp    | 05/18 | Paula  | Smith   | 05/29 | Cecelia | Lock  |

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We are collecting diapers (all sizes), to donate to our local food pantry in Red Oak, Christ's Cupboard. The diaper drive will end Sunday, May 31. The church office is open M-F, 9a-12n, or we have an "after hours" drop off location on the Parsonage front porch! No need to knock or ring the doorbell, just place packages on the porch. Although we can't be together to worship because of COVID-19, we can continue to support our community.



*Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. He taught them many things by parables*  
(Mark 4:1-2)

Most of you know how much I love to fish. I recall back in my first appointment as a pastor, I was leading an Ad Council meeting and on the subject of compensation I suggested that a church provided fishing boat would be nice. After all, I said, Jesus preached from a boat. "You're not Jesus!" was the good-natured reply from a quick witted, farmer on the council.

I never did get to preach from a boat. But it does beg the question, "Why did Jesus preach from a boat?" In the ancient Jewish world, religious teachers would teach indoors in the temple courts or synagogues. Sometimes out of doors to larger groups. Preaching or teaching from a boat was something new and unfamiliar to the people and, I suggest, to Jesus also. So, "Why?"

Jesus popularity and fame grew very quickly when he started his ministry, drawing very large crowds. In our scripture, a large crowd had surrounded Jesus when he was on the shore of Lake Gennesaret with his back to the water—no place to go. So, he got into a boat and had his disciples row out into the lake and he began to preach and teach. Now, while science often disrespects religion, Christianity understands that faith and science work hand in hand. Here is a perfect example. Jesus, who had been part of Creation with the Father, knew that sound travels quite easily over water, and on the shores of the Sea of Galilee (often called Lake Gennesaret in the Bible), by Capernaum, there is a naturally occurring amphitheater, where the acoustics would have also made it easier for people to hear Jesus. Today this spot is called the "Bay of Parables."

The current situation in the world and here in Iowa created a need for us to do something different and unfamiliar in order to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. With limited tech knowledge, Tim and Terra Marsden and I began videoing worship and putting it on the internet. We also started a church Facebook page and now have over 100 "friends," some who are not members of the church and some who live in other states. Each week, we video record the worship service and it goes onto the internet at 3 locations—our church website ([www.redoakfumc.org](http://www.redoakfumc.org)), YouTube (Red Oak Iowa Methodist Church), and Facebook (Red Oak FUMC). The response to the services was so good I did a daily Holy Week devotion. And I am now recording a once a week devotion called, "In the Word Wednesday with Pastor Ron." Our plan is to continue to record, and upload to the internet, worship services and the Wednesday devotional even after things get back to "normal."

In the midst of struggles and challenges, God works to provide "good" — opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus Christ to the world around us. What new thing is God calling you to?

**Pastor Ron**