

*Baby, it's cold outside!*

FEBRUARY 2026



# The Messenger

Red Oak First United Methodist



From Pastor Jennifer

“Do unto others as you would have them to do to you.” Luke 6:31

Just a few months ago, I preached a sermon series called “Do Unto Others” based on the above scripture. We discussed how the world is consumed with division, often branded in the colors of red and blue. Months later our country continues in this struggle. The Golden Rule challenges us to engage in conversation and to seek to create whatever common good we can with our neighbors who we might consider to be on the “other side” politically or ideologically. We are challenged to not try to change other’s

opinions, but rather to find the beauty that can be created when we work together to make the world a better place, to find a “purple space,” (red and blue make purple). One of the characteristics we must have to do this is love.

Beloved, do we believe Jesus when he said to his disciples (who are US by the way), “by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

As followers of Jesus do we believe that God is everywhere, including red and blue ground?

Do we believe that wherever God is, that it is holy ground? And that everywhere we go, God goes with us and as followers of Jesus, we are called to display our love and allegiance to Christ by loving the people on whatever ground they stand on?

If we believe Jesus’ words to be true, then I implore you to find those “purple spaces” and to respect one another with love and grace. We have a great opportunity RIGHT NOW to embody our allegiance to Jesus by actually loving our neighbors, including the ones we disagree with.

***God doesn’t care how right we are, only how much we love.*** As Thomas Merton, a monk and theologian said, “our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy.”

-Continued on Pg 2

**Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand**

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-Continued from pg. 1

I have always loved the song “Love Can Build a Bridge” by The Judds. I leave you with a few lyrics from the song (I dare you to try to say them out loud without singing the tune).

I would whisper love so loudly  
Every heart could understand  
That love and only love  
Can join the tribes of man  
I would give my heart's desire  
So that you might see  
The first step is to realize  
That it all begins with you and me  
Love can build a bridge  
Between your heart and mine  
Love can build a bridge  
Don't you think it's time?  
Don't you think it's time?





**FINANCE:**

**2025 End of Year Totals:**

General Contributions:\$110,644.41

Thrift Store:\$66,766.85

Total Expenses: \$168,375.90

Total mission contributions: \$5,564.68

“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.”

-2 Corinthians 9:7

**Tech Volunteers Needed**

2/22

3/22

4/12

5/3

7/12

Please talk to Corbin or Nicole if you are able to help.



**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

Jeff Burnison - 1

Lena Torbett - 2

Jordan Vrba - 2

Molly Smith - 3

Mary Marshall - 05

Jane Waltz - 05

Jerry Stanley - 10

Vayda Fisher - 15

Ellen Meyer - 15

Trinity LaMar -20

Nicole Fisher - 23

Donna Walford - 23

Aviana Andre - 24

Callie Yeager -28

**PRAYER REQUEST**

**We have been praying for:**

*Fred Pilecki family*

*Rita Ruth Bobs youngest sister*

*pre-cancerous*

*Jeff Fort*

*Chris Wolfe*

*Barry Armentrout*

*Bill Williams - cousin stoke*

*Brenda and Allen Helphrey*

*Bob Lewellen*

*Roger Ehmke*

*Kyle Stanley*

*Mary Fenstermann*

*Angela Garmin - cancer*

*Kit - Sharon's classmate, diagnosed with Alzheimer's*

*Please let the office know if you would like someone added to our prayer list or if you know of any shut-ins or people in the hospital that would like a visit from Pastor Jenn.*

**United Women in Faith Spring Planting Dinner**

**Wednesday, March 11th**

**Beef and Noodles**

5-6:30pm at the Villisca United Methodist Church

Dine in or Carry out

Free will Donation

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

Wear your favorite teams attire to church on Sunday, February 8th!  
Red Oak FUMC 9am; Villisca UMC 10:45am

Join us from Noon to 1:30 for a soup lunch in the basement of the Villisca UMC!

Bring a can of soup to donate to our local food pantries!



**Red Oak High School Senior Recognition for Bowling.**

**Alyssa Strebe and Cale Hall  
CONGRATULATIONS!**





During the month of January we collected personal care items for the Hospital as part of the ‘Do Something’ challenge. We collected 257 items! Wow!



Right: Hospital workers picking up supplies

Left: All the personal care items boxed up and ready to go.



**Friday March 20th & Saturday March 21st**  
 The Villisca United Women of Faith will host their annual Spring Rummage Sale . They are currently accepting donations. Please place them downstairs next to the stage. Do NOT leave rummage sale donations outside.

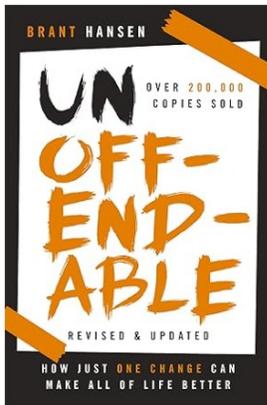
We will be having a joint Ash Wednesday service at Noon Wednesday, February 18th at the Villisca UMC.



**Circuit Care Challenge—Pizza Kits**



.....  
 : This Lenten season, our  
 : church will be participating  
 : in the A-Team Circuit  
 : Care Challenge once again.  
 : Together with other  
 : churches in our circuit, we will collect and as-  
 : semble “Pizza Kits” for our local food pantries!  
 : The church that assembles the most kits will  
 : win the Circuit Care Trophy!



Our current Bible study is “Unoffendable” by Brant Hansen. If you can’t make it in person, try the new Zoom study on Monday nights at 7pm. Look for the link in Pastor Jenn’s Monday morning emails! If you don’t get Pastor’s Monday email and would like to, contact the office.

.....  
 : The “ingredients” for the Pizza Kit are:  
 : Prebaked Crust (non-refrigerated)  
 : Pepperoni (non-refrigerated)  
 : Mushrooms (optional)  
 : Olives (optional)  
 : Canned Pizza Sauce  
 : Shredded Cheese  
 : Assemble Place all items - except for shredded  
 : cheese - in a large Ziplock bag.  
 : .....

# February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>Service w/ communion 9 am</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Groundhog Day</p> 	<p>3</p> <p>Bible Study 10 am Pastor Jenn R.I.M. Zoom Mtg</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Nishna Game Day 10:30am</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Pastor Jenn Course of Study</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> 
<p>8</p> <p>Service 9am (Giving Sun- day) SOUP-ER Bowl Lunch Noon-1:30 at Villisca UMC</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Bible Study 10 am Women's Fellowship 2pm Prepare Our Hearts Mtg 3pm</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Pastor Jenn Course of Study</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Happy Valentines Day</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Service 9am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Presidents Day</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>Bible Study 10 am Charge Conference Mtg 5:30 To confirm Julie Wolfe's candidacy</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Ash Wed Service 12pm at Villisca UMC Start of Lent Circuit Challenge</p> 	<p>19</p> <p>Pastor Jenn Course of Study</p>	<p>20</p> <p>National Love your Pet Day</p> 	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Service 9am</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Bible Study 10 am Ad Board Mtg 4:15pm</p> <p>National tortilla chip day</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>The Gardners Bible Study 6pm Villisca UMC</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Pastor Jenn Course of Study</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>National Science Day</p> 



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January 27, 2026

Dear Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand  
Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Pursuant to ¶1246.7 of the *Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church (2020–2024)*, I hereby call a **Special Charge Conference** for the purpose stated below.

**Date:** Tuesday, February 17, 2026

**Time:** 5:30 P.M.

**Location:** Red Oak United Methodist Church

**Purpose of the Special Charge Conference**

To consider and act upon a recommendation regarding *Julie Wolfe*, a member of Red Oak United Methodist Church, for entry into the candidacy process for licensed and ordained ministry in the Iowa Conference of The United Methodist Church. No other business shall be conducted.

This action is requested in accordance with ¶310.1(e) of the *Book of Discipline*, which assigns to the charge conference the responsibility to recommend persons from the local church for the candidacy process.

**Attendance and Voting**

Attendance and voting shall be in accordance with ¶246.2 of the *Book of Discipline*. Only members of the charge conference are eligible to vote.

Thank you for your prayerful participation in this important act of discernment within the life of the Church. Please hold all involved in prayer as you seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. If you have questions regarding procedure, please contact my office.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kwang Seok Song".

Rev. Kwang Seok Song  
Southwest District Superintendent  
Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church

Kenneth J. Bigham-Tsai  
Resident Bishop, Iowa Area

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