

# THE MESSENGER

## Red Oak First United Methodist



### Thoughts From Pastor Jennifer

*“Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” 1 Peter 2:2-3 NIV*

I have talked quite often about my drive from Orient to Red Oak, to Villisca and back home. One of the things that I love about driving this time of year is seeing the newborn calves running in the fields next to their (I like to pretend) annoyed momma’s. With their tails high in the air and a bounce in their step, it brings me joy to see their open-mouthed smiles while prancing along the greening pastures.

And I wonder....why is it so simple for them to embrace and enjoy life so easily? Why do I feel like life is more of a task than a dance? And what more can I do to clasp the beauty of life and to enjoy the dance?

Mmmm...the dance. That phrase takes me back to my younger years when Garth Brooks came out with the song “The Dance.” Oh, how I wanted to go to a Garth Brooks concert back then. If you are unfamiliar with the song, I suggest you google it now. The chorus goes, “And now I’m glad I didn’t know the way it all would end, the way it all would go. Our lives are better left to chance. I could have missed the pain, but I’d have had to miss the dance.”

Now Garth is singing about a lost love in his life, and his sentiment is that even though the love was lost, he is glad that he still had the opportunity to dance.

Beloved, our faith makes it possible for us to know how this life ends. And for the Christ-follower, it ends in triumph. It ends better than we can even hope or imagine! In the church we often do not talk about the New Creation and the beautiful kingdom that God is going to build here on earth, but it’s all true! We will get to live in a New Creation that is completely good all the time! No more pain, no more loss, no more tears.

And because of this truth, we should be able to enjoy the dance no matter what is going on in our lives. Our perspective should be full of hope and beauty, not of doom and gloom. And this, dear friend, should allow us to embrace life just like a newborn calf running on a hill in an Iowa pasture. We can embrace all life has for us with joy because we know that we have the assurance of heaven.

I encourage you to squeeze out all that life has for you and to taste and see that the Lord is good. And every time you see a newborn calf embracing his life with an abundance of joy, let it remind you that you too can be full of bounce and smiles because God is bringing you to a New Creation!

### HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**March 29th Palm Sunday 10:30am Joint Service at Red Oak UMC;  
Breakfast 9:30am**

**April 2nd Maundy Thursday 7pm Service at Red Oak UMC**

**April 3rd Good Friday 7pm ICC Service at VUMC**

**April 5th Easter Sunday 9am Service with communion at Red Oak**

**April 12th Holy Humor Sunday**



# Let's Celebrate!



Mason Fisher Awarded Most Improved Player



Cale Hall tied a 50 year old school record for the 100 Meter



Mason Fisher and Ethan Fouts Awarded All Conference Academic Award

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

**AND MOTHER'S DAY**

Two great reasons to celebrate!!  
**Sunday, May 10th**, we will be celebrating the Moms in our congregation and honoring all of our Graduating Seniors.



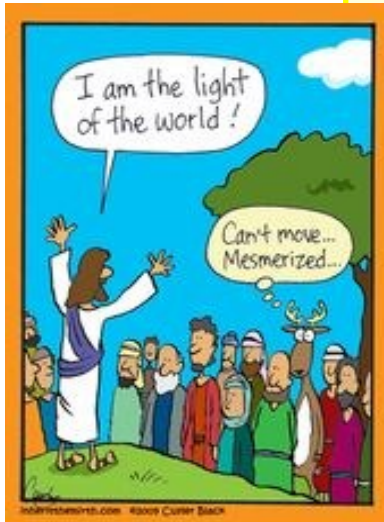
# Let's Celebrate

## PRAYER REQUEST

**We have been praying for:**

*Middle East  
Our Troops  
Rylan Mirts Family  
Ryan Ehmke & Family  
Matthew Sloan  
Cathy Swanson  
Allen Eberspacher  
Bob Lewellen  
Roger Ehmke  
Kyle Stanley  
Mary Fenstermann*

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



## **APRIL BIRTHDAYS**

Kathy Walker - 4/2  
Megan Govig - 4/12  
Letty Guerra - 14/9  
Carol Watt - 4/20  
Sabrina Brown - 4/23

### **Finance Feb-March**

**General Contributions:**

**\$19,393.00**

**Thrift Store: \$13,407.65**

**Total Expenses: \$19,512.70**

**Total Mission Contributions: \$0**

**Awards: Matthew 25 Funds from District: \$2400.00**

**HOLY  
HUMOR  
SUNDAY**  
*Let's laugh out loud!*

Bring a joke to share during service on April 12th for Holy Humor Sunday.

# April 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

**CONTACT US!**

**Pastor Jennifer Van Nostrand**

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**Church Email:**  
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**Cell Phone:** 712-438-0740

**Facebook :** Red Oak  
United Methodist Church

1

Nishna Game Day 10:30am



2

Joyful Noise Choir Practice 5:30pm  
Maundy Thursday joint service 7pm

3

Good Friday ICC service at VUMC at 7pm

4

National Burrito Day



5

**EASTER SUDAY**

Service 9am w/communion  
Last day for Pizza Kits

6

Church office closed

7

Pastor Jenn work trip to Colorado April 7th-11th

8

9

Nat. Unicorn Day



10

11

National Pet day



12

Giving Sunday Holy Humor Sunday 9am Service

13

Zoom Bible Study 7pm

14

Bible Study 10:30am  
Women's Group 2pm  
Prepare our Hearts 3pm

15

Bible Study 10:30am VUMC

16

Joyful Noise Choir Practice 5:30pm

17

18

Husband Appreciation Day



19

9am Service

20

21

Bible Study 10:30am

22

Administrative Professionals Day

23

24

25

World Penguin Day



26

9am service

27

Zoom bible Study 7pm

28

Bible Study 10:30am  
Ad Board Mtg 4:15

29

30

MAY 1

Berg-Terry Wedding Decorating



MAY 2

Berg-Terry Wedding Thrift store closes at Noon for wedding