

# Chimes

Vol. 43 No. 10

October 26, 2023



Central United Methodist Church  
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 Rev. Jihoon Lee, Senior Pastor

*Be glad, people of Zion, rejoice in the LORD your God,  
 for he has given you the autumn rains because he is  
 faithful. He sends you abundant showers, both  
 autumn and spring rains, as before.*

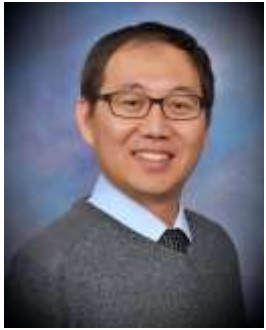
**Joel 2:23**

- Nov. 1 Kayla Butler
- Nov. 3 Bill Akason, Hazel Foster, Sue Wittern
- Nov. 4 Diane Andeway
- Nov. 7 Kelly Luck, Jerry Staton
- Nov. 8 Mary Ann Hoy
- Nov. 9 Willow Glover
- Nov. 10 Mary Sandholdt
- Nov. 11 Frank Kminek
- Nov. 13 Paige Howard
- Nov. 15 Gemma Lahner, Lisa Van Rheenen
- Nov. 16 Nyla Canfield
- Nov. 17 Brett Ewing
- Nov. 18 Ben Moorman
- Nov. 19 Marilyn Krusemark, Ron Arkema
- Nov. 20 Kelly Asperheim
- Nov. 22 Michelle Lahner
- Nov. 23 Wyatt Hughes
- Nov. 24 Darrell Hoogheem
- Nov. 25 Marie Veto
- Nov. 28 Pearl West, Christy Boston, Janice Klyn
- Nov. 30 Emily Russell

### The Finance Committee report



<u>September 2023 income</u>	<u>\$ 49,082.47</u>
September 2023 expense	\$ 12,165.50
	<u>\$ 36,916.97</u>
Total yearly income	\$256,873.74
<u>Total yearly expense</u>	<u>\$201,919.37</u>
	<u>\$ 54,954.37</u>



# A Message From Pastor Jihoon

Dear Grateful Saints,

With Thanksgiving and Christmas approaching, we find ourselves on the cusp of making plans for family gatherings and special worship services. Some often ask me if I am prepared for the upcoming winter here. While understanding the reason for such a question, I believe it's a crucial moment for all of us to ask ourselves: "Are we prepared for embracing the Holy Seasons?"

Thanksgiving and Christmas are joyous occasions, an opportunity to come together and express gratitude for the numerous blessings bestowed upon us. Sometimes, being thankful can be challenging, especially in recent weeks when we've witnessed unprecedented natural disasters or received devastating news about the loss of loved ones or acts of cruelty inflicted upon humanity. In the face of such calamities, it can be difficult to offer our gratitude to God.

As I write this, Halloween is just around the corner, and this Halloween marks the 506th anniversary of Martin Luther's leadership in the Reformation in Germany. As you know, this 16th-century Reformer emphasized three fundamental concepts: Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone. These three divine gifts are available to everyone, yet we often forget their profound significance.

Another triad we inherit from the Reformation is guilt, grace, and gratitude. Through Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we come to recognize our shortcomings, the moments when we've fallen short of the people God intended us to be. Once we confront our sin, we experience a sense of guilt for allowing it to govern our lives. Yet, in this moment of realization, we have the opportunity to

implore God to remove that sin and all its consequences, to start anew through confession. In this confession, we find assurance that God will forgive us, and this is true grace. It's important to emphasize that we don't earn this forgiveness; it is bestowed upon us freely, driven by God's own initiative. This is the work of God, not of our own making.

Receiving forgiveness fills us with gratitude. Without the revelation of our sin by the Holy Spirit, through Scripture, or some other God-given experience, we would not comprehend our need for God's grace. If we did not grasp our inability to achieve that grace, we would not genuinely appreciate the most significant gift God can bestow upon us: forgiveness.

These are some of the profound spiritual gifts bequeathed to us by the Reformation. However, gratitude doesn't have to be limited to our liberation from sin; it can extend to our church community, our friends, our family, and countless other blessings in our lives.

So, during these sacred seasons in our nation and church, let us truly reflect on our blessings. While it may not alter our life circumstances, considering the tragedies that surround us, we have indeed been blessed. Let's take a moment each day to express our gratitude to God for one thing we appreciate. Additionally, let us always remember that "*every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows*" (James 1:17).

With Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Jihoon

grace  
+ gratitude

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## AUTUMN LUNCHEON

**Monday, November 6th – Noon**

Join the Caring Committee for food and fellowship! Please RSVP to the Church Office or a member of the Caring Committee for planning purposes.

Sharoll Edmundson	515-451-1161
Rita Hoogheem	308-991-1871
Marilyn Porter	641-673-7609
Lisa Vohoska	641-660-7267



*Poinsettia*  
ORDERS  
Due by Nov. 19th

Order  
Forms in  
November  
Bulletins

## Oskaloosa Christmas Parade

Join us for Hot Chocolate and Goodies in the Church Parking lot **PRIOR TO** the start of the Oskaloosa Christmas Parade on **Saturday, December 2nd**. Details to come.



*Christmas Program*

## Children's Christmas Program

The Children will be presenting their Christmas Program on **Sunday, December 10th** during our Worship Service.

Rehearsals are Sunday mornings after Worship until 10:55. Sunday School will still dismiss at 11:30.

If you are **interested in helping** with costumes or other aspects of the program, contact Denise Morris.



## Change A Child's Story

A book tree will be going up in the West Entry with book tags. Please take a tag(s), purchase the book, and return it to the church. The books this year will be accompanied by a quilted book pillow.

**Do You Know How to Sew?** We are also needing additional Pocket Pillows to go with books as part of **Change a Child's Story**. Patterns are available

in the Church office. **Can't Sew?** We also need 16 x 16 pillow inserts!



**Donate Coats & Winter Outerwear**  
Oct 9 – Nov 6  
Box in West Entry



**Donate Food to Ecumenical Cupboard Shopping Cart**  
in West Entry





**Bring your Spare Change**  
Last Sunday  
Every Month



## ATTENDANCE

October 1	Worship Attendance – 73 (+20 FB)
October 8	Worship Attendance – 74 (+12 FB)
October 15	Worship Attendance – 79 (+12 FB)
October 22	Worship Attendance – 83 (+16 FB)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS  6:00 - Education Committee 6:30 – SPRC	<b>2</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>3</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>4</b> Love INC's Mahaska Connect at Fellowship Bible
<b>5 All Saints Sunday</b> 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Fellowship Time Sunday School	<b>6</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS Noon – Autumn Luncheon (RSVP to Office)	<b>7</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- AI Anon –Library	<b>8</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:00- Finance Committee 6:30- Trustees	<b>9</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>10</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School	<b>13</b> NO PRESCHOOL	<b>14</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- AI Anon –Library	<b>15</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:00- Ad Council	<b>16</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>17</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School <b>Poinsettia Orders Due</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 7 pm- AI Anon –Library	<b>22</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>23</b> 	<b>24</b> NO PRESCHOOL	<b>25</b>
<b>26 Noisy Offering HAT SUNDAY</b> 9:00- Youth Bell Choir 9:30- Worship/KMZ 10:30- Fellowship/ Sunday School <b>DECORATE CHURCH</b>	<b>27</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 6:00- Worship Committee	<b>28</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS 7- AI Anon –Library	<b>29</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>30</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>1</b> 8:30- Little Creations PS	<b>2</b> Christmas Parade – Hot Chocolate in Parking Lot



**Reminder to “fall back” on Sunday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>!**

**Acolyte Schedule:**  
 Nov 5 Jackson Lahner & Nyla Canfield  
 Nov 12 Lucy Canfield & Gemma Lahner  
 Nov 19 Norah Foster & Bennett Foster  
 Nov 26 Jackson Lahner & Nyla Canfield

Please put these dates on your calendar. If you are unable to help on a Sunday you are scheduled, please ask one of your friends to fill in for you. Thanks!

**Help Decorate the Church for Christmas after Worship on November 26<sup>th</sup>**