

# MARCH Birthdays

3/1 Danny Voss  
 3/3 Jill Ewing  
 3/6 John Adair  
 3/13 Leilani Vande Wall  
 3/14 Norah Foster, Hazel McGee, Luca McGee  
 3/20 Robin Haigh-Van Wyk  
 3/22 Pat Dixon, Mike Dursky  
 3/23 Aaron Hook  
 3/25 Kyle Ewing, Janelle Canfield, Melissa Moorman  
 3/26 Joyce Capps  
 3/30 Lyndsey Michel

# CHIMES

Vol. 45 No. 3

March 1, 2025



*“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. .”*

*1 John 4:16 NIV*

## Attendance Records

2/2	75
2/9	82
2/16	82
2/23	78

## Financial Reports

February 2025 Income	\$ 36,631.33
February 2025 Expense	\$ 12,737.33
Difference	\$ 23,894.00
Total 2025 Yearly Income	\$ 65,044.96
Total 2025 Yearly Expense	\$ 35,233.24
Difference	\$ 29,811.72



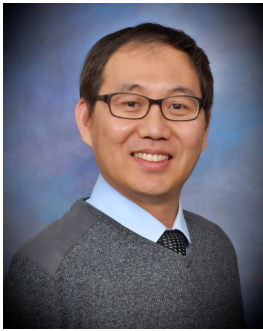
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Website: [centralum.org](http://centralum.org)

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



# A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Dear Beloved of God,

As we step into the season of Lent, beginning on March 5, 2025, we are invited into a sacred time of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent has deep biblical and historical significance, rooted in the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, preparing for His ministry (Matthew 4:1-2). The early Church established this season as a time for believers to engage in spiritual discipline, focusing on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, drawing closer to God as we journey toward the cross.

In many ways, Lent stands in stark contrast to Advent, another major season of the Church. During Advent, the sanctuary is filled with people eagerly anticipating the birth of Christ. It is a season of joy, celebration, and festivity—marked by cheers, parties, and gifts. Lent, however, is a quieter, more solemn journey, leading us to the suffering and death of Christ. Apart from Easter, church attendance is often lower, as people naturally gravitate toward joy and celebration rather than grief and sacrifice. And yet, these two seasons are inseparably linked.

From a faith and theological perspective, Advent and Lent are not separate stories but two chapters of the same journey. The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ form a continuous path toward one divine mission: the salvation of humanity. Without the incarnation, the crucifixion and resurrection could not have happened. Without the suffering of the cross, there would be no victory of Easter morning. As the Apostle Paul reminds us, "If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him" (2 Timothy 2:11). Every step of Jesus' journey is necessary—none can be left out.

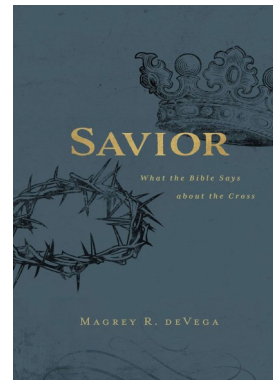
Though Lent may feel like a dark road to travel, it is one we cannot avoid. It calls us to

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## CAMP REGISTRATION IS OPEN

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CUMC will cover half the cost for each camper from our church. Just be sure to only pay up to half at the time of registration. If are unable to pay half of the cost, the camp does have a campership fund you can apply for to help with the cost of camp. The sooner you apply the better. There will be paper applications downstairs if you prefer to register that way. Contact the church office if you have any questions. [www.iaumc.org/camps](http://www.iaumc.org/camps)



Lenten Bible Study

Study Book: Savior: What the Bible Says About the Cross

When: Sundays after the worship service (Mar 2, 9, 16, April 6, 13)

We hope you'll join us for this meaningful journey through Lent!

### COLLEGE STUDENTS

**All college students who are interested in receiving a Clark and Ethel Taylor Scholarship for the 2025-26 school year can obtain an application form from the office. To be eligible for consideration, an applicant must meet the following criteria:**

- \* Active Member of Central United Methodist Church during high school years
- \* Have completed one year of college, technical, or vocational school after graduation from high school-this scholarship can only be used for the sophomore, junior, or senior years
- \* Accumulative GPA of 2.8 or higher
- \* Be a full-time student

**The completed application form and a school transcript must be submitted by June 15th.**

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Church Office Update:** Our church secretary, Lori Zaldarriaga, will be on vacation from March 10–14. If you have an urgent or important matter during this time, please contact Pastor Jihoon Lee or Finance Secretary Sheryl Dicky.
- **Pastor's Absence:** Pastor Jihoon will be away for continuing education and vacation from March 15–22. On Sunday, March 16, Bob Morris will deliver the message in Pastor's absence.
- **Special Visit from Our District Superintendent:** On Sunday, March 23, we are honored to welcome Reverend Lilian Seagren, our District Superintendent, as our guest preacher. Pastor Lilian is a gifted preacher and a dedicated leader with a deep commitment to our church. We encourage all members to attend and hear her inspiring message. Following the service, we will gather for a time of fellowship—please plan to stay and extend a warm welcome to our special guest!

deeper meditation, inviting us to walk alongside Christ in His suffering so that we may fully rejoice in His resurrection. This season is not about avoiding hardship but about embracing the transformative power of Christ's sacrifice. It is through the cross that we come to the empty tomb.

To help us walk through this sacred season together, our church has prepared several opportunities for spiritual growth and reflection:

**Lent Bible Study:** A six-week journey exploring Scripture, running from March 2 to April 13.

**Lent Sermon Series – “What the Bible Says About the Cross” (March 2 to April 20):** Each week, we will reflect on the meaning and significance of the cross in our faith.

**Ash Wednesday Service:** March 5 at 6:30 p.m. A time to begin Lent with prayer, repentance, and the imposition of ashes.

**Church Visit by Rev. Dr. Lilian Seagren:** On Sunday, March 23, we will welcome our District Superintendent, who will share a special message during worship.

As we embark on this Lenten journey together, let us not shy away from its challenges but embrace it as a time of preparation, just as Jesus prepared for His ultimate sacrifice. May this season be as meaningful a beginning as Advent, leading us not only to the sorrow of the cross but to the joy of resurrection morning.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jihoon Lee

**FREE LAUNDRY NIGHT**

St Paul Congregational UCC & First Christian Church (DOC) presents...

Need a Ride? Call or Text 641-638-1203

**MARCH 20**  
4-7 PM

**OSKALOOSA SUBS OF LOVE**  
No Strings Attached  
A partnership outreach of St. Paul Congregational UCC and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Do your laundry **FOR FREE!!** (no strings attached!)

Bring your laundry to Stop & GO Laundromat at 1308 A Ave East in Oskaloosa.

Laundry soap provided

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Central UMC Youth will be serving an Easter Brunch

# March 2025

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Ed Committee—6:00p	5 Ash Wednesday—6:30	6	7	8
9	10	11 SPRC—6:30	12 Finance—6:00 Trustees—6:30	13	14	15
16 Guest Speaker: Bob Morris	17	18	19 Luncheon —11:30 am Ad Council—6:30 Choir—7:00	20	21	22
23 Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Lilian Seagren	24	25	26 Worship—6:00 Choir—7:00	27	28	29
30	31					