



CHIMES

Vol. 45 No. 4

April 1, 2025

April 1 Ryan Carriker
 April 2 Pastor Bruce Wittern
 April 4 Jim Johnson
 April 5 Linda Coen, Hal Edmundson, Dave Krutzfeldt
 April 9 Eric Dursky
 April 18 Taeko Cochran, Rob Benson
 April 24 Keith Miller
 April 25 Myer Michel
 April 26 Denise Morris, Amber Shouse
 April 27 Nolan Bollinger, Diana Rhinehart
 April 28 Dick Capps
 April 30 Mary Johnson



"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."

Joel 2:12 NIV

Attendance Records

3/2	75
3/9	65
3/16	67
3/23	89
3/30	73

Financial Reports

March 2025 Income	\$14,719.40
March 2025 Expense	\$22,253.93
Difference	(\$7,534.53)
Total 2025 Yearly Income	\$79,764.36
Total 2025 Yearly Expense	\$57,487.17
Difference	\$22,277.19



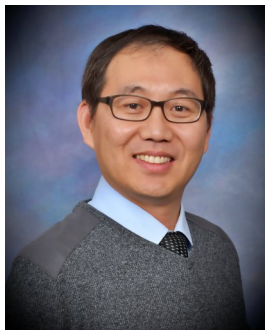
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Easter follows a lunar calendar (I won't get into the details), but I wish whoever set the date had simply chosen the third Sunday of April and left it at that. Don't get me wrong—I understand the historical and theological reasons behind the current system. But I love a late Easter.

Much of this stems from childhood memories. A late Easter meant the beauty of spring was in full bloom. Warmer weather, bright flowers, and fresh green grass made the season feel alive. My home church held a communal Easter morning meal, and if Easter fell in April, we could gather outside in the churchyard. Those moments of greeting one another under the spring sunshine remain some of my fondest memories.

As I've grown older, my appreciation for a later Easter has shifted. Now, I value the extra time between Christmas and Easter—time to reflect on Jesus' life, to delve into Scripture, and to ponder his miracles and teachings. When Ash Wednesday comes early, I often feel unprepared. "It's too soon," I think. A later Easter allows more time to walk with Jesus, to understand who he is, and to create space in our lives for deeper faith and healing.

This Lent, my sermons have centered on the cross. Unlike in past years, where I covered a range of themes, this season has felt like skipping from Jesus' birth straight to his death. But we must not forget all that happened between those two moments. During Lent, I find myself drawn to Jesus' miracles, particularly those of healing. While the miraculous catch of fish and the feeding of the 5,000 are incredible, it's the healings that leave me in awe. A paralyzed man lowered before Jesus walks again. A blind man,

Central United Methodist Church—Oskaloosa, Iowa

CUMC CORE VALUES: Honesty, Service, Inclusivity, Faith (focus on Jesus), Passionate Worship

CUMC VISION STATEMENT:

Our vision is "to be a thriving, spirit-filled church committed to teaching, connecting, and serving our faith community and beyond by sharing Christ's gospel and God's grace."

CUMC MISSION STATEMENT:

Our mission is "to make disciples of Jesus Christ by nurturing a community of faith and serving our neighbors through spreading the good news of the gospel in our words and actions."

CUMC WEDDING POLICY:

Traditionally Central United Methodist Church's wedding policy has followed the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

Per the decisions of the 2020/2024 United Methodist General Conference, there is no longer a ban on same-gender weddings in the United Methodist Book of Discipline.

The 2020/2024 United Methodist General Conference also passed legislation that allows churches and pastors to choose if they would allow or officiate a same-gender wedding.

If a pastor chooses not to preside at a same-gender ceremony, then the church will utilize the connectional system and invite a United Methodist pastor colleague to preside at the ceremony.

If a church chooses to allow same-gender weddings, the following process would be followed. Listed below is the current status at CUMC.

- The Administrative Council has approved to consider allowing same-gender weddings.
- With Administrative Council approval a team from SPRC and Administrative Council is here to present the proposal to the congregation.
- A team from the SPRC and Administrative Council will be available after church services for discussion with the congregation.
- Based on discussions with the congregation, SPRC and pastor may recommend to the Administrative Council to allow same-gender weddings.
- The Administrative Council would then consider approval to allow same-gender weddings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FREE LAUNDRY NIGHT

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

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

APRIL 10
4-7 PM

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

Laundry soap provided

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

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

Good Friday Service

APRIL 18TH AT 6:30PM

EASTER SUNDAY

Central UMC Youth is preparing & serving breakfast

From: 8:30am - 9:15am

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please Contact:
Janelle, Vickie, Dusty, Lyndsey, or Liz.

NOTHING HAS BEEN FINALIZED.

Acolytes: 4/6-Jackson, 4/13-Nyla, 4/20-?, 4/27-Lucy & Mason

A/V: 4/6-Scott Ewing, Mike Dursky, Jordan Drost 4/13-Aaron Shouse, Amber Shouse, Lilia Morris 4/20-Scott Ewing, Mike Dursky, Justin Lee 4/27-Bryan Johnson, Janet Johnson, Nate Lahner

Lector: 4/6-Kelly Asperheim, 4/13- 4/20- 4/27-

with mud and spit on his eyes, washes and sees. A foreign woman cries out for her daughter's healing, and Jesus responds. These moments amaze me, yet they also leave me longing for more. I don't just want Jesus to heal one blind person—I want him to end blindness altogether. I don't just want one person to walk—I want wheelchairs to become obsolete.

But Jesus' healings were never just about the individuals. Each miracle pointed beyond itself, toward the coming of God's kingdom, where all will be healed. Even those who experienced Jesus' touch still had to navigate a broken world. The man who regained sight would now witness injustice firsthand. The one who could finally walk would be called to run toward those in need. Healing brings both wonder and challenge—hope and responsibility.

A later Easter gives us more time to embrace this healing. As we approach Holy Week, I hope we experience it not just as a time of remembrance but as a Healing Week. The road to the cross is not one we walk alone. Healing happens in community—we name our wounds, we witness the healing of others, and we continue to seek wholeness together. The journey is hard, but the empty tomb reminds us that healing is real, and the promise of resurrection is ours.

May this Easter season be one of reflection, renewal, and healing for us all. Blessings to you and your loved ones!

In Christ, our risen Lord,

Pastor Jihoon Lee

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

APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ed Comm.—6:15p Choir—7:00p	3 Stitching Circle	4	5
6	7	8 SPRC—6:30p	9 Finance—6:00p Trustees—6:30p Choir—7:00p	10 Stitching Circle	11	12
13 Palm Sunday	14 Holy Week 	15	16 Ad Council—6:30p Choir—7:00p	17 Stitching Circle	18 Good Friday Service— 6:30p	19
20 Easter Breakfast—8:30a	21	22	23 Worship—6:00p Choir —7:00p	24 Stitching Circle	25	26
27	28	29	30			