

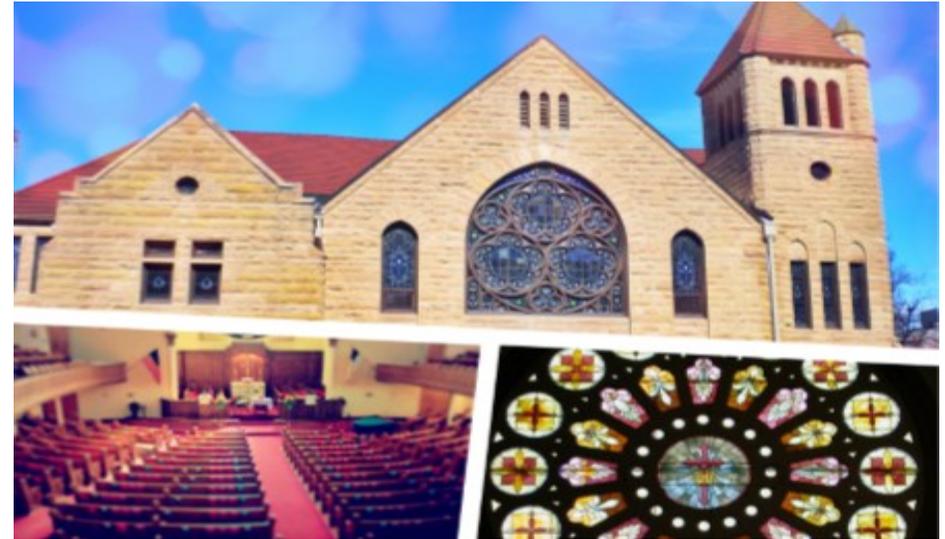


# CHIMES

Vol. 46 No. 4

April 1, 2026

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  
 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

3/1	79
3/8	80
3/15	77
3/22	61

## Financial Reports

February 2026 Income	\$22,140.82
February 2026 Expense	\$25,196.33
Difference	(3,055.51)
Total 2026 Yearly Income	\$58,937.59
Total 2026 Yearly Expense	\$47,691.72
Difference	\$11,245.87



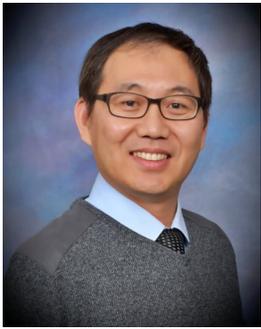
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



# A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Dear Friends on the Way of the Resurrection,

There is something quietly astonishing about spring. Beneath our feet, while we are still reaching for our coats, the ground is already changing. Long before we notice any color, the soil is warming, seeds buried deep within it are awakening, and trees that appear lifeless are already carrying sap upward again. Scientists tell us that some seeds must pass through a kind of breaking open—what looks like a kind of death—before new life can begin. Nothing green appears yet, nothing visible has changed, but everything is already happening.

That is how resurrection works. Easter does not begin in the open air; it begins in the dark. We often think of Easter as the moment of triumph—the stone rolled away, the empty tomb, the bold declaration that Christ is risen. It is all of that. But resurrection is also quieter, deeper, and closer to the ground than we expect. It is the life of God already at work where we cannot yet see it.

Over the past six weeks, we have walked together through The Way. We followed Jesus step by step—through teaching, compassion, and challenge, all the way to the cross. And when we reached that cross, it looked like the end, like a seed buried in the earth, like hope covered over, like a story finished. But it was not the end. It was the beginning of something unseen. Easter reveals what God was already doing in the dark.

And now, that same mystery is unfolding in our lives—even when we do not notice it. The Way of Jesus does not stop at the cross; it moves through it into new life. We often expect resurrection to feel dramatic and immediate, but it rarely does. More often, it feels like spring—slow, hidden, almost unnoticeable. It looks like a quiet decision to

## COLLEGE STUDENTS

All college students who are interested in receiving a Clark and Ethel Taylor Scholarship for the 2026-27 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.**



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

**FREE LAUNDRY NIGHT**

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

**SUDS OF LOVE**  
OSKALOOSA  
No Strings Attached  
A partnership between 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.

**APRIL 16 4-7 PM**

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

End of Month Meals

Tues. April 28 & Thurs. April 30

St. Mary's Parish Center  
301 High Ave E

**FREE Community Meals!**

Doors Open @ 5 - Meal @ 5:30  
EOMM hosts and helpers are: Central UMC, St. Paul Congregational UCC, First Presbyterian Church, and St. Mary's Catholic Church

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Good Friday Service—April 3rd at 6:30pm.** We invite you to join us as we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. This solemn service will include scripture readings, prayer, and quiet reflection as we prepare our hearts for Easter. Everyone is welcome.
- **Easter Breakfast—April 5th from 8:30am—9:15am.** Central UMC Youth will be serving breakfast again this year. There will be a sign-up sheet for people who like to donate items for this breakfast.
- **Fellowship Luncheon—April 20 at 11:30am.** On the menu is Hot Chicken Salad with a variety of other salads. RSVP by April 16 at 641-672-2564.
- **Seeking Volunteers—**God has given each of us unique gifts, and the church thrives when we use them to serve one another. We invite you to prayerfully consider joining a ministry. Whether behind the scenes or up front, every role matters, and every act of service is meaningful. If you are interested in getting involved, please sign up or speak with a ministry leader. Your willingness to serve makes a difference.



forgive when bitterness would be easier, a small act of courage after disappointment, or a willingness to begin again when nothing seems to have changed. You may not feel “resurrected,” and you may not see anything different yet, but something is happening. God is already at work beneath the surface.

This month, we will also witness a beautiful sign of that truth. On April 19, we will celebrate the baptism of Evelyn JoAnn Shouse, the daughter of Aaron and Amber. In baptism, we see the gospel in its clearest form: grace comes first. Before Evelyn can speak a word of faith or take a step on the Way, God has already spoken over her and claimed her in love. And as we witness her baptism, we are reminded that we, too, are people who live by that same grace.

And that is the promise of resurrection. Life begins before we recognize it, hope is planted before we feel it, and God is working before we understand it. So as we enter this Easter season, we are invited to pay attention—not only to what is visible, but to what is quietly unfolding in the soil, in our hearts, and in the ordinary places of our lives. Because the risen Christ is not only ahead of us; he is already at work within us.

Christ is risen. And like the first signs of spring, his life is rising—sometimes quietly, sometimes slowly, but always faithfully. So keep walking the Way, even when the ground still looks bare and nothing seems to be changing. The resurrection life is already at work—right where you are.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Jihoon Lee



# April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 ED Committee—6:00pm Choir—7:00p	2	3 Good Friday—6:30p	4
5 Easter Sunday Easter Breakfast— 8:30-9:15am	6	7 SPRC—6:30p	8 Finance—6:00p Trustees—6:30p Choir—7:00p	9	10	11
12 SM: Tim Foster	13	14	15 AD Council—6:30p Choir—7:00p	16	17	18
19 Baptism	20 Fellowship Luncheon— 11:30am	21	22 Worship—6:00 Choir—7:00p	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		