

DECEMBER Birthdays

CHIMES

Vol. 45 No. 12

December 1, 2025

12/2 Myles McGee
12/4 Wayne Hook
12/10 Shelly Wheaton, Fleeta Ewing, Randie Gist, Andy Clark, Hope Kiminek
12/14 Elaine Shrader
12/19 Greg Bailey, Lorraine Blom
12/22 Lyle Blom
12/28 Megan McGee
12/30 Brett Paulsen



But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High." Luke 1:30-32a



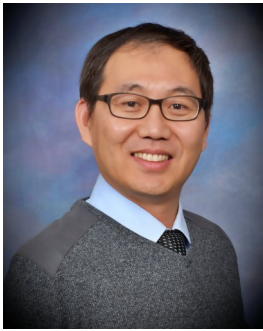
201 N Market St, Oskaloosa IA 52577

Phone: (641) 672-2564

E-mail: centralumas@gmail.com

Website: centralum.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

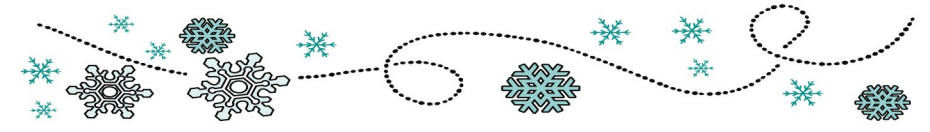
Dear Saints of this holy season of waiting,

Have you noticed how allergic we've become to waiting? A few weeks ago, I caught myself getting irritated—over something embarrassingly small. I had ordered an item from Amazon. It was supposed to arrive on Wednesday. Then I received a notification: "Your package will be delivered Thursday instead." One day later. Not a week. Not a month. Just one day. And yet something in me grumbled. I found myself thinking, "Really? Why is this taking so long?"

The truth is, we now live in a world shaped by the rhythm of "right now." If a video doesn't entertain us in seven seconds, we swipe. If the remote doesn't get us to the ending fast enough, we skip ahead. If Wi-Fi delays for three seconds, we tap the router as if rebuking it in Jesus' name. We want everything faster—food, answers, progress, people. And without realizing it, our souls begin to beat at the pace of our screens.

But Advent calls us to a different rhythm. A sacred, slower rhythm. Advent invites us to breathe again. To wait again. To remember that the most important gifts of God cannot be microwaved. God seems to prefer slow stories: A baby forming in Mary's womb. A star rising in the East. A prophet crying in the wilderness. A Savior growing in wisdom and stature, not rushing into His ministry. Even the long silence between the Old Testament and the New—400 years of waiting—wasn't wasted time. Heaven was preparing. God was positioning. Grace was ripening.

And so Advent comes quietly each year to remind us: Waiting isn't the enemy of faith; waiting is its workshop. The world rushes. But God grows. The world accelerates. But God deepens. The world demands immediacy. But God forms us through patience, re-

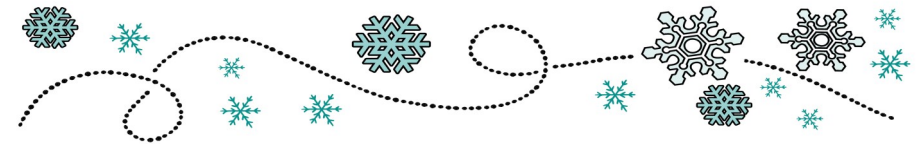


Attendance Records

11/2	77
11/9	88
11/16	73
11/23	87
11/30	58

Financial Reports

October 2025 Income	\$29,590.38
October 2025 Expense	\$20,833.81
Difference	\$8,756.57
Total Yearly Income	\$215,724.44
Total Yearly Expense	\$194,975.11
Difference	\$20,749.33



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

FREE LAUNDRY NIGHT

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

DECEMBER 18 4-7 PM

SUDS OF LOVE

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

Parking Reminder for Sunday Mornings

To support our members who are disabled or have mobility challenges, we kindly ask for your cooperation with parking. Because our handicap parking is limited, **the front row of parking spaces along the building—right next to the handicap spots—should remain open on Sunday mornings** for those who need easier access. Thank you for helping us care for one another as a church family.



We are in need of volunteers in multiple areas. Please check the sign-up board to see where you can possibly help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Change a Child's Story: Book Giving Tree**—Our annual book-giving for Oskaloosa Elementary and Preschool starts Sunday, Nov. 30. Look for the Book Giving Tree in the narthex, take a tag, buy the book, and return it unwrapped with the tag inside by Dec. 14. Each book will be paired with a flashlight and placed in the handmade reading pillows for students before Christmas break. Pillow covers are still needed—thank you for helping us bless every child!
- **Christmas Sing-a-long**—Friday, December 19 at 6:30pm
- **Christmas Program: A Super Christmas**—Sunday, December 21
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**—we need 2–3 candle lighters or a family and 10 readers for the service. If you would like to be apart of this service, please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex.
- **Christmas Day Lunch**—Baked potato bar will be served at 11:30am Christmas day. **Please RSVP at 641-672-2564 by Dec. 18** to help us prepare.
- **EOMM**—at the Ecumenical Service on September 21, the offering totaled \$844. These funds were equally distributed between the four churches that are active with EOMM. A check of \$211 was received from First Presbyterian Church, this offering was allocated to the EOMM ministry in our church.



flection, and trust. Maybe that's why Jesus didn't arrive as a full-grown warrior or a dazzling miracle-worker. He came as a baby. You can't rush a baby. You can only hold, nurture, and wait for the story to unfold.

Advent challenges us to ask: What if God is doing something in your life right now that is too important to hurry? What if the delay is not a problem but a preparation? What if God is inviting you to walk more slowly this season, so that you don't miss His quiet footsteps beside you?

So here is my Advent invitation to you:

Pause for five minutes each day. No screens. No rushing. Just breathe and listen.

Recall one blessing from your day. Let gratitude stretch your heart.

Pray slowly for someone who needs God's comfort or hope. Not rushed words—slow ones.

Notice small signs of God's presence. A lighted candle. A whispered prayer. A gentle kindness.

As we wait for Christ's coming—both in Bethlehem and into our hearts again—may we rediscover the holy beauty of slowing down.

My Amazon package arrived a day late. But God's peace, God's joy, God's presence? They always arrive right on time.

Blessings on your Advent waiting,

Pastor Jihoon



December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Worship—6:00	3 Education—6:00 Choir—7:00	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Finance—6:00 Trustees—6:30 Choir—7:00	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 AD Council—6:30 Choir—7:00	18	19 Christmas Sing-A-Long 6:30pm	20
21 Christmas Program	22 Worship—6:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Service—6:30pm Church Offices Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Offices Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Church Offices Closed	New Year's Day Church Offices Closed		