



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

CHIMES

Vol. 45 No. 9

September 1, 2025

9/2—Bob Morris, David Canfield, Kinley Clayton, Joseph Wissler
 9/3—Cheryl Lockwood, Scott Ewing
 9/4—Bill Ludwick
 9/7—Emma Kain, Whitney VanWyk
 9/9—Dennis Dursky, Jessie Eveland
 9/10—Brent Knoot
 9/11—Marilyn Porter, Kim Benson
 9/12—Candy Nelson, Jim Nelson
 9/13—DeAnn Knoot
 9/15—Justin Clayton
 9/16—Auda Childs
 9/19—Steve Burnett, Logan Plate
 9/20—Linda Lindgren
 9/22—Gary Shrader
 9/23—Jeff Akers
 9/24—Reg Randau
 9/25—Estelle Edwards
 9/27—Sandy Powers
 9/29—Aurora Carmer



“He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” (Psalm 91:4 NIV)

Attendance Records

8/3	80
8/10	65
8/17	80
8/24	70

Financial Reports

July 2025 Income	\$16,220.49
July 2025 Expense	\$16,496.70
Difference	(\$276.21)
Total 2025 Yearly Income	\$153,398.67
Total 2025 Yearly Expense	\$131,119.72
Difference	\$22,278.95



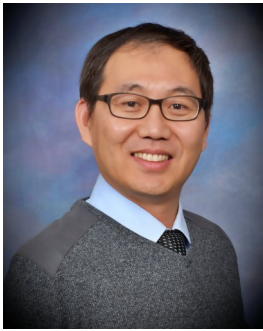
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jihoon Lee



A Message From Pastor Jihoon Lee

Grace and peace to you in the name of Christ.

This past month, Esther and I drove our younger son, Justin, to his new college home. We unloaded boxes, made his bed, and stood a little too long in that small dorm room, trying to delay the inevitable goodbye. As we drove away, the seat behind us felt too empty.

Now, with Justin gone and his older brother Joseph already living on his own, our house is quiet in a way it has never been before. It is just Esther and me. I confess, my heart is tangled with mixed emotions. Gratitude and pride stand side by side with loss and longing.

One of our church members, Phyllis Fox, spoke a word of wisdom that has stayed with me. She said, "Now the two of you must learn how to live together again. Talk with each other. Discover one another all over again." Her words reminded me that it is not only our children who step into new chapters—it is we parents as well. Our kids begin their journeys, but so do we.

September is a season of journeys. Students head off to college or new schools. Some children enter kindergarten for the very first time, others move up to middle or high school. Still others leave home for jobs, marriage, or service. Each step forward requires leaving something behind. Growth always demands letting go.

That is never easy. For parents, it means trusting that the children we raised can walk the path ahead without us holding their hand. For children, it means stepping into places that feel uncertain. For all of us, whether young or old, it means learning to walk by faith into an unfamiliar tomorrow.

The Bible reminds us that God's people have always been on the move. Moses' generation left Egypt, but they never quite let go of the past. Their longing for what was behind them kept them wandering in the wilderness for forty years. Joshua's generation, by contrast, chose differently. They stepped forward. They placed their feet in the Jordan River, and God made a way. They entered the promised land, not because they had

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Sunday School will start September 28th**—We need Sunday School Teachers to help us serve the youth of our church. Please let the office know if you are able to help teach a class. Thank you.
- There are several opportunities for you to serve within in the church. Please check the sign-up sheets in the Narthex to see where you can help serve. Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Iowa UMC Apportionments**—In July CUMC began paying our 2025 conference apportionments of \$2,971.09 monthly till the end of the year. We have also started paying \$2,160.50 monthly Church share of Pastors pension and health insurance. The Conference had agreed to waive these expenses for 2 years. Our time is up.
- **Ecumenical Service—Oskaloosa First Presbyterian** on September 21st at 10am. Coffee and social will be at 9am. We will not have service here at Central UMC. **Choir Practice** September 17th at 6:30pm and be there at 9:15am on September 21st.
- **Adult Sunday School Class**—will start with **“The Chosen Interactive Bible Study Season 4.”** This Bible study will help us to discover how God uses suffering to bring about good.
- **Golden Goose Club** continues to collect plastic grocery bags. With your help, they have collected over 17,000! Thanks to the generosity of many, 2 benches will be made to go to the ELC.
- We are inviting the church family to participate in the support of our college students and any military personnel that we know. In order to do this, we are inviting EVERYONE in our church to share a card or note to these members. Notes of encouragement, what is happening in our church family, what’s going on in your life, will give them sense of belonging and connection to us. There will be a list of the students so you can write a note to all of them. There will be a basket located in the Narthex, clearly marked, where cards can be dropped. These will be mailed as a group to each person. Dates have been designated for **Congregational Card Shower**.

September 14, 2025

February 7, 2026

November 2, 2025

March 29, 2026

December 7, 2025

April 26, 2026

all the answers, but because they trusted the God who said, “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid... for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

That same promise is ours today. Whether you are a child learning how to walk into a new classroom, a parent learning how to release a son or daughter, or a believer facing a fresh chapter in life, the Lord goes before you. He is not only the God of the destination but also the God of the journey.

Our church, too, is on a journey. This fall we will begin new ministries, face fresh challenges, and discover new opportunities. Some of us are learning to let go of familiar patterns so that God may lead us into new life. As individuals and as a congregation, we are being called to trust that the same God who parted the Red Sea and rolled back the Jordan will guide us into the future He has prepared.

So wherever you are on your journey this September—whether you are saying goodbye, beginning something new, or simply trying to take the next faithful step—remember this: you do not walk alone. God walks with you. And with Him, every ending becomes a beginning.

With hope in every journey, in Christ’s love,

Pastor Jihoon Lee



We need more pocket pillows, we need 60 total and have about 26 already. If you are needing the pattern instructions for the book pillows, please contact the church office. The pillows will need to be turned in mid November, so that they can be distributed in December.



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Labor Day Church Offices Closed	2	3 ED Committee— 6:00pm	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Finance—6:00pm Trustees—6:30pm	11	12	13 Work Day—8am
14	15	16 Worship—6:00pm	17 AD Council—6:30pm	18	19	20
21 Ecumenical Community Service at Oskaloosa First Presbyterian— 10am	22	23	24	25	26	27 Fellowship Hall Reserved
28 Sunday School Kickoff	29	30				