



July 1 Tom Drost
 July 4 Dennis Ireland
 July 6 Steve Cochran
 July 7 Dara Paulsen
 July 8 Amanda Foster
 July 10 Emmett Ewing
 July 13 Victoria Laird
 July 14 Dave Dixon
 July 16 Vickie Arkema
 July 22 Mike Laird
 July 23 Janet Johnson
 July 26 Julie Hyland
 July 27 Jackson Lahner
 July 28 Janet Osweiler
 July 31 Bennet Foster

Attendance

Records

6/7	47
6/14	73
6/21	57
6/28	??

Financial

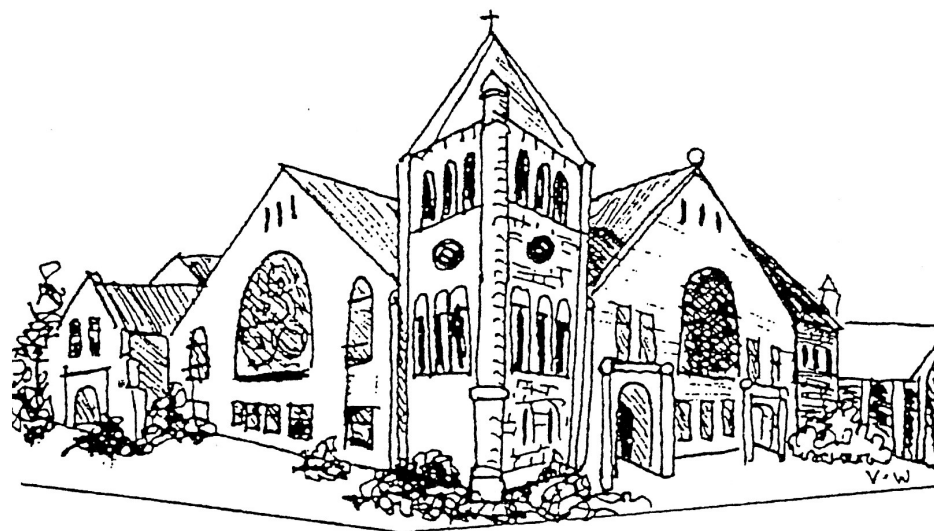
Reports

May 2026 Income	\$15,659.39
May 2026 Expense	\$24,679.35
Difference	(\$9,019.96)
Total 2026 Yearly Income	\$122,715.00
Total 2026 Yearly Expense	\$134,900.48
Difference	(\$ 21,232.90)

CHIMES

Vol. 46 No. 7

July 1, 2026



*"I will walk about in freedom, for I have sought out your
 precepts." Psalm 119:45 (NIV)*



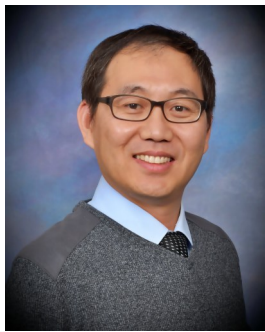
201 N Market St, Oskaloosa IA 52577

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 Friends Walking Forward in Grace,

Marilynne Robinson's novel *Gilead* is set in a fictional small town in Iowa. It is written as a long letter from an aging pastor, Rev. John Ames, to his young son. The novel won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award, but that is not the main reason it caught my attention. What drew me in was something simpler and closer to home: it is set in Iowa, it is told in the voice of a pastor, and it carries the quiet weight of a long life of faith in an old church.

There is a moment when Ames remembers something very ordinary: rainwater, sunlight, laughter, a passing scene that could have easily faded into the background of the day. But he does not let it fade. With the eyes of an old pastor, he sees blessing where others might see only weather. He sees wonder hiding in plain sight. Then he writes, "This is an interesting planet. It deserves all the attention you can give it."

That is the kind of vision faith gives us. It does not deny what is hard. It does not paint a bright color over every shadow. But it looks again at what has become familiar: the sanctuary we enter almost by habit, the prayers we have heard for years, the faces we know well, the hymns we sing from memory, the quiet hands that keep serving without applause. These things can slip into the background. But grace often lives in the background.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts we need at Central right now: the grace to pay attention again.

As we enter July, we stand at the halfway point of the year. It is a good time to look back—not with fear, but with honesty. Like every congregation with a long and faithful history, Central carries both beauty and weight. Deep roots give us memory and strength. They also remind us that the road is not always light.

The first half of this year has carried some of that weight. We have walked through losses. We have faced disappointments. We have felt concerns that are not always easy to name out loud. There have been moments when the heart of the church felt tender, and perhaps a little tired.

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

FREE LAUNDRY NIGHT

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

JULY 16 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)

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

End of Month Meals

Tues. July 23 & Thurs. July 25

St. Mary's Catholic Church
315 1st 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

2026 Oskaloosa Summer Lunch Program

EVERY WEDNESDAY From JUNE - AUGUST

Oskaloosa Public Library 11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	College Avenue Friends Park 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM
Oskaloosa Middle School 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	Webster School 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM
Oskaloosa Elementary School 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM 5:30 PM - 6:15 PM	University Park Community Center 11:45 AM - 12:15 PM

GRAB & GO MEALS
ONE PICK UP PER CHILD
Ages 18 & Under • No Income Limits

UNITED WAY
Mahaska County
This is an Equal Opportunity Provider.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our New Church Website—Our church website has been newly updated! Please visit the site from your phone or computer to check out the new design and features, including worship livestreams, prayer requests, church news, and events. The site is still being tested, so your feedback is welcome.

www.centralum.org

Back to School Fair—United Way is having their back to school fair for Oskaloosa Students in August. If you'd like to contribute, please place your donated school supplies in the collection box located by the west entrance. Thank you for helping students start the new school year with the supplies they need!

And yet, if we pay attention, this has not been only a season of heaviness. We celebrated our confirmands and gave thanks for faith taking root in a new generation. We have shared meaningful worship, quiet kindness, faithful service, and unexpected encouragement. We have seen prayers offered, meals shared, hands extended, and love quietly practiced.

The life of a church, like our own lives, has seasons of rising and falling, planting and waiting, joy and concern. The question is not whether such seasons will come. They will. The deeper question is what we will learn to see, trust, and follow in the middle of them.

That is why I am grateful for the ways God is already leading us into the second half of the year. The ministries ahead are not simply dates on a calendar. They are signs that we are not drawing back in fear. We are opening ourselves again—to God, to one another, and to our neighbors.

Our outdoor worship reminded us that the church is called to be visible, joyful, and welcoming. Our renewed website gives us a wider front door for those who may first meet Central online. In the months ahead, we will welcome voices from beyond our own congregation through special music and shared worship. We will host an ecumenical service, opening our church as a place where Christians from different congregations can gather as one body in Christ. And through our new sermon series, we will bring our honest human questions before God and listen together for God's faithful answer.

Paul writes, "So we do not lose heart... our inner nature is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16). That is not shallow encouragement. It is resurrection hope for ordinary days.

Near the end of Gilead, Ames speaks of "a thousand thousand reasons" to live this life. Maybe we do not need one dramatic reason to keep walking forward. Perhaps God is giving us many small and sufficient reasons: a young person confirming faith, a congregation gathering outside, a new window of welcome, a shared song, an open sanctuary, an honest question brought before God.

If we pay attention, we may find that grace has not disappeared. It has simply been waiting to be noticed.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Jihoon Lee





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 
5	6	7 SPRC—6:30	8 Finance—6:00 Trustees—6:30	9	10	11
12	13	14	15 AD Council—6:30	16	17	18
19	20	21	22 Worship—6:00	23	24	25
26 Special Music: Tim Foster	27	28	29	30	31	