



February 2025

# First Edition



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.  
**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



**First United Methodist Church of Lockport**

1000 S. Washington St., Lockport  
815-838-1017 - [www.lumclockport.org](http://www.lumclockport.org)





† **10:00am in person  
Worship Service**

**Minister:  
All Members**

GaHyung Kim  
708-638-2868

email:  
gahyungkim0511@  
gmail.com

**Pastor**

John George  
**Lay Leader**

Emmanuel Aiyelabola  
**Organist &  
Choir Director  
Director**

Megan Hill  
**God Squad**

Kay Rothlisberger  
**Circle of Love**

Roseanne Wilson  
**Fish Pantry**

Bonnie Payette  
**Custodian**

Bernadetta Kopinski  
**Administrative  
Assistant**

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri

8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.

815-838-1017

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)

These days I hear the radio, news, friends and people from gatherings about mass deportations of people who do not have documentation to live in this country. What does it feel like to live in a foreign country without legitimate documentation?

I came to this country as an immigrant with my family when I was 19 years old. I entered high school and lived with limited language, and everything was hard. I said “Yes” when I was supposed to say “No” and vice versa. I did not understand why my classmates were laughing at me in many cases. Not only at school, I also had a hard time at home related to the foreign language, English.

I remember that whenever the home telephone rang, my heart pounded because answering the telephone while speaking in English was very scary. We siblings tried to run away to hide saying, “I answered the phone yesterday, brother, it is your turn to answer the phone!”

Even though we siblings struggled with English and received stress from the language, my parents thought we were good at speaking English ever since we entered the school.

Later on I became a US citizen, but still living in this country, I usually became a listener in stead of expressing my thoughts because English made me feel that I was a second citizen.


I became a pastor and met so many people who are mostly English speaking and now I am over 60 years old. I have the right to live in this country and this is my second home country and I will be buried in this country.

After listening to the Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde sermon at the Inaugural National Prayer Service at Washington National Cathedral on January 21, I think closely about the people she mentioned. I think of the people who would be scared under the new presidential administration. These people are gay, lesbian, and transgender. I think about people who pick our crops, clean the office buildings, labor in poultry farms and meatpacking plants, wash the dishes after we eat in restaurants, and work the night shifts in hospitals. Some of these people are fearful about deportation if they do not have documentation. Their children are fearful that their parents will be taken away. They are faithful members of our churches and mosques, synagogues, gurdwara, and temples.

Again the Rev. Budde continued, “Our God teaches us that we are to be merciful to the stranger for we were all once strangers in this land. May God grant us the strength and courage to honor the dignity of every human being to speak the truth to one another in love and walk humbly with each other and our God for the good of all people in this nation and the world.”

*GaHyung*

**Worship:**

	
<p><b>Sunday February 2 10:00am</b>  <b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13</b>  <b>Love Message: Megan Hill</b></p>	<p><b>Communion Sunday</b>  <b>Luke 4:21-30</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday February 9 10:00am</b>  <b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11</b>  <b>Love Message: Joanne Moan</b></p>	<p><b>Luke 5:1-11</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday February 16 10:00am</b>  <b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20</b></p>	<p><b>Luke 6:17-26</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday February 23 10:00am</b>  <b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50</b>  <b>Love Message: Carolyn Brauch</b></p>	<p><b>Luke 6:27-38</b></p>



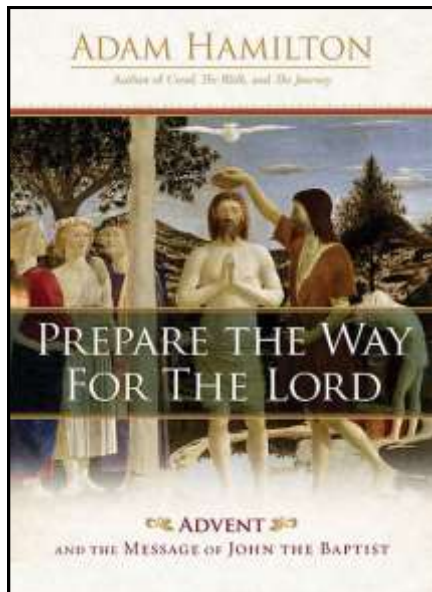
Ash Wednesday is  
 March 5, 2025  
 We invite everyone  
 to worship at  
 7:00pm.  
 Combined worship  
 with First  
 Congregational  
 Church  
 All are welcome!

Monthly Newsletters and Upper Room are available in the Narthex.



**Upper Room Zoom PRAYER GROUP on Wednesday Mornings at 9:00 am**  
 We are offering a prayer group on Zoom weekday mornings on Wednesday at 9:00 am. If you are interested in this, please contact the office at 815-838-1017.

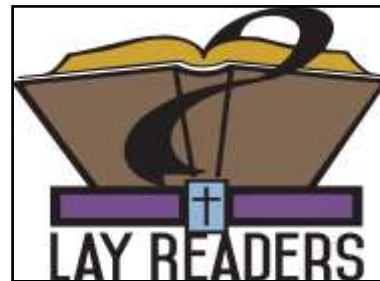
Faith Development



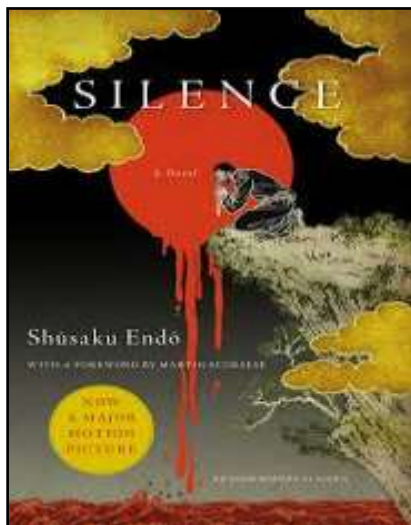
Lenten Study

We will begin Lenten Study every Tuesday starting March 11th to April 8th from 10:00am to 11:15am.

Please join us on this beautiful journey to Prepare The Way For The Lord  
Everyone is welcome!



We are in need of Liturgists. Please help us if you can. Sign up sheet in the Narthex. Blessings



Zoom Book Club

We will meet every other month on a Thursday, in the evening at 7:00pm.

We will be reading  
Silence

by Shusaku Endo

Next Zoom Book Club will meet Thursday,

March 20th at 7:00pm

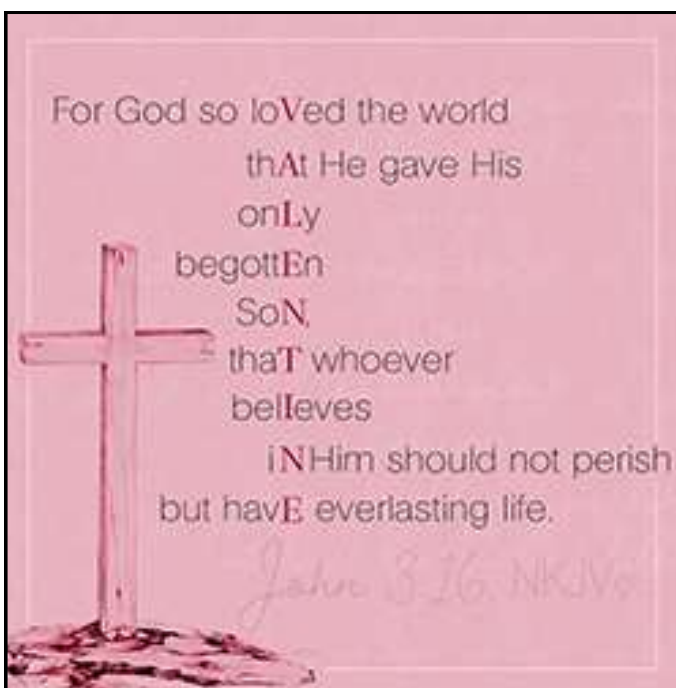


We welcome all children to Sunday School on the last Sunday of the month at 10:00am. Next one is Sunday, February 23rd.

**UPCOMING**

Mark your Calendars!

- February 2nd Worship - Communion Sunday
- February 8th Lunch Bunch in Yeomen Hall
- February 14th Valentine's Day
- February 19th Church Council Meeting
- February 22nd Souper Soup Supper
- February 23rd Sunday School/ Coffee Hour





Conference

Episode MMXXV:  
**A RENEWED**  
**HOPE**  
 May God's Grace Be With You  
 Laity Convocation 2025

**LAITY CONVOCATION 2025**

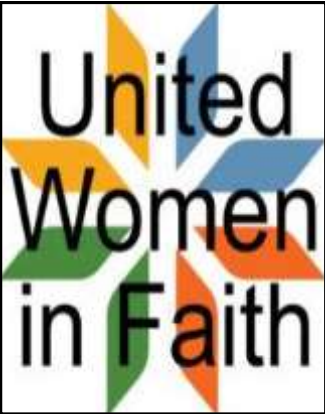
*"HAVING BEEN JUSTIFIED BY HIS GRACE, WE MIGHT BECOME HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE HOPE OF ETERNAL LIFE." - TITUS 3:7*

**SAT., FEB. 8**  
 9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M. **NEW LENOX UMC**, 339 W HAVEN AVE., NEW LENOX

Childcare will be provided (ages 3-11). Parents and Guardians will need to provide snacks/lunch for children if the lunch option is not chosen. (No peanut products, please.) Sign-up for childcare will be a part of registration.

**COST:**

- \$15
- \$25 (with Box Lunch)
- Walk Ins are welcome but registration preferred. Limited lunches available on-site.



Invite you to a joint, virtual event Helping You ~ Helping Others

Saturday, February 22, 2025, 9:00-11:00 am Our morning will include: Tips for using the United Women in Faith website and digital website: presented by Praveena Balasundaram from the National Office Vanessa and Tony from Northcott Neighborhood House, a National Mission Institution in Milwaukee Please register via a Google form-- <https://forms.gle/3qm65Go8JARZq2ZR7> or by emailing Linda Osikowicz, [Lmosikowicz@comcast.net](mailto:Lmosikowicz@comcast.net) There is no fee for the event but offerings may be sent to your district treasurer. You may direct your offering to Northcott Neighborhood House or to your district's pledge. Contact information for your treasurer will be sent with the Zoom link.

**Bible Study with the Bishop**  
 Year of Grace  
**Mon., Feb 24**  
 Clergy 10 a.m. to noon, Woodridge UMC  
 Laity 6:30 to 8 p.m., on Zoom  
**Tues., Feb 25**  
 Clergy 10 a.m. to noon, Dekalb First UMC

THIS BIBLE STUDY WITH BISHOP DAN SCHWERIN WILL OFFER A QUIET SPACE AWAY FROM THE BUSYNESS OF EVERYDAY LIFE. IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME TOGETHER TO DEEPEN OUR FAITH, RENEW OUR SPIRITS, AND STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY. WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US FOR THIS REFRESHING TIME OF REFLECTION AND CONNECTION.

**CLERGY MON., FEB. 24, 10 A.M. TO NOON,**  
 WOODRIDGE UMC, 2700 75TH ST., WOODRIDGE

**LAITY FEB. 24, 6:30 TO 8:00 P.M., ON ZOOM**



# Council of Bishops

## The United Methodist Church



### Pastoral Letter Addressing the Plight of Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees in the US Epiphany 2025

At no time has the church in the US had a greater opportunity to welcome Jesus among us as he journeys with migrants, immigrants, and refugees than today. We, your bishops are clear that the situation these beloved of God face as the Trump Administration comes to power threatens their humanity, livelihood, and basic human rights.

For decades, a broken immigration system in the U.S. has kept migrants, immigrants and refugees in this country living in the shadows of society in a state of perpetual fear. They have come to the U.S. under forced circumstances fleeing extreme poverty, hunger, political and religious persecution, war, cartel and gang violence, and the severe impact of climate change. Some are actively recruited by large U.S. companies who need their labor. Yet migrants, immigrants and refugees help to sustain the U.S. economy, serve our families caring for our children and our elderly, cleaning our homes, landscaping our properties, building our roads and the houses we live in, and cultivating and picking the crops that feed our families. They are our neighbors, our friends, and members and pastors of our churches.

Deplorably, racist, xenophobic, nationalistic, and anti-migrant hate speech has become standard rhetoric for many US politicians, including President-elect Donald Trump. He has stated that under his administration he will order the mass deportation of the 11 million undocumented migrants who live and work in the U.S. He has threatened to use military and law enforcement at all levels for this mass deportation. If allowed, this mass deportation of migrants will cause further racial profiling, the separation of families, the undermining of communities and congregations, the weakening of the economy of this country and its democratic systems of law and justice. President-elect Trump has also threatened to end birth-right citizenship, dismantle Refugee resettlement in this country and further strip away the possibility of the U.S. welcoming Asylum Seekers onto this land.

We are living in a dark time that more than ever calls us to be the light of Christ, people of faith who take our baptismal vow to “resist evil in all its forms,” with utmost seriousness. As United Methodists we have firmly declared through our *Social Principles* that we are called to actively welcome the migrant, immigrant, and refugee among us.

- Affirming the dignity, worth and rights of migrants, immigrants and refugees.
- Recognizing that displaced people are particularly vulnerable as their in-between status often provides them with few protections and benefits, leaving them open to exploitation, violence and abuse.
- Urging one another to welcome migrants, refugees, and immigrants into our congregations, providing concrete support, to them including help with navigating restrictive and often lengthy immigration policies, and assistance with securing food, housing, education, employment and other kinds of support.
- Opposing all laws and policies that attempt to criminalize, dehumanize or punish displaced individuals and families based on their status as migrants, immigrants or refugees.
- Decrying attempts to detain displaced people and hold them in inhumane and unsanitary conditions.
- Challenging policies that call for the separation of families, especially parents and minor children.
- Opposing the existence of for-profit detention centers that are used for the purpose of detaining migrants, immigrants, and refugees including minor children.

*(Social Principles of The United Methodist Church, The Political Community Basic Rights and Freedoms, Section G. Migrants, Immigrants and Refugees)*

We your bishops call upon the people of The United Methodist Church to pray for migrants, immigrants, and refugees among us and to welcome them with the fullness of Christian love, remembering that as we welcome these, our brothers, and sisters, we welcome Jesus our Lord.

Bishop Tracy S. Malone President – Council of Bishops. The United Methodist Church



**Lunch Bunch**  
 Join us **Saturday,**  
**February 8th at 12:00pm** in  
 Yeomen Hall.  
 Please bring a favorite dish to  
 share.  
 All are welcome!



Join the CNNSSA for a warm meal and friendly conversation! Please call the café location for registration information and to make your dining reservations. Senior Services of will County provides monthly activities and presenters for all participants.

Lockport Township 1463 S. Farrell Road  
 Lockport, IL 60441 815-351-8963  
 11:15am to 12:15pm Monday– Friday  
 Cost: \$4.00 Suggested donation for  
 diners 60+



Do you enjoy singing?  
 Would you like to join the  
 choir? We want you! We  
 practice every Sunday at  
 8:45am. Come check us out.  
 No experience required. If  
 you have any questions  
 please call the office at 1-  
 815-838-1017.

All are welcome!



**THANK YOU, GOD, FOR  
 MY BIRTHDAY!**

Let's start the new year with a new  
 kind of birthday celebration! When  
 it's your special day, commemorate  
 the event by gifting the church  
 with a dollar for every year of life!

For example:

- 1 year old= \$1
- 50 years old= \$50
- 100 years old= \$100

No cards to buy or gifts to wrap.  
 Just use a pew envelope, put your  
 name on the outside and your age  
 dollars on the inside. A great way  
 to thank God for your birthday!



Join us right after worship  
 Sunday,  
 February 23rd for  
 Coffee Hour.

Bring a friend/ neighbor.  
 All are welcome!


If you would like to host  
 Coffee Hour please talk to  
 Linda Brown.



First UMC regularly receives bills for miscellaneous items that are necessary in the day-to-day operation of the church. If you can help out by paying a bill, please indicate "Adopt A Bill" on the memo line of your check made out to Lockport First United Methodist and put it in the weekly collection. To contribute towards these bills (just a portion would help out) just mark your envelope with "Adopt A Bill". Thanks for a helping hand with our expenses!

— The Finance Committee

AT&T (U-verse)\* \$101.69  
 \*(internet & church phone)

 NICOR \$423.79  
 Com Ed \$524.46

Lockport Water \$67.95

Waste Management \$179.80



We are here and honored to pray for your joys and concerns. Additionally our team prays every Wednesday at 8:00am or during our personal prayer time specifically our church community, country, and the world. Feel free to contact Carolyn Brauch at 815-836-0137 for prayer request or to learn more about joining our team. God Bless Carolyn

**Prayer List—Please keep the following people in your prayers**

The family of Julien Guzaldo, Roseanne Wilson, Jonathan Strong, Barbara Ott (Sheridan of Oak Brook), Betty Becker, David Matthew Huff (Beth Cross nephew has cancer), Beth, (Lynn & Paul Farr daughter), Pastor Lora, Tom Gogerty, Duane Werner, Donna (Linda Helms daughter), David Hensen, Sue Kaller, Gloria (Emmanuel's fiancé), Holly Carter, John (Cancer), and Evelyn Lindstrom, Andrew & Patti Partain & family.



**Happy Birthday!**

- February 3rd** Jack Heath
- February 19th** Dede Curtis
- February 22nd** Daniel Dorion
- February 24th** Brian Smith



**Happy Anniversary!**

- February 12th Bob & Linda Walker
- February 14th Jim & Jeanette Baker



Support First United Methodist Church – Lockport on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> ALL DAY 20% of sales benefit First United Methodist Church – Lockport. Only 2 days! Perfect for Super Bowl!

Great for catering.

Must Mention First United Methodist Church when ordering.

Location: 16600 W. 159<sup>th</sup> St. Lockport, IL.



Perfect for Superbowl Sunday!

**Don't want to cook come out to Brown's Chicken for the Manager's Special!**

Bring this flyer and \$5.00 from sales will be donated towards First United Methodist Church.



***Brown's Chicken Manager's Special***



*10 Pc Chicken or Tenders  
2 Large Sides  
4 Biscuits or Breadsticks  
Choice of 1/2 lb. Mushrooms  
or Fritters  
\$35.99*

*\$5 from sales will be donated towards 1st United Methodist Church*

*Brown's Chicken  
1055 E 9th Street  
Lockport, IL 60041  
815-524-5356*

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20

Male adult

21	22	23



8 2 16 13 4 6 2 19 5

17 9 2 5 19 5 12 6 7 19 5 4

13 15 6 2 19 20 6 7 19 14 4

13 15 8 2 16 18 15 16

8 2 16 13 23 10 1 14 21

1 John 4:16, NIV



# First

TO:

**United Methodist Church**  
**of Lockport**

1000 S Washington St

Lockport, IL 60441

815.838.1017

[www.1umclockport.org](http://www.1umclockport.org)



facebook

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**The people of The United Methodist Church®**



**Mission Statement for First United Methodist Church of Lockport**

“The church is the foundation of Christian life in accordance with the teachings of the Christ. We are people who believe that the love of God was revealed in Jesus and having accepted that love, we are committed to sharing this good news of God’s love by making disciples and teaching and nurturing them. To that end, we will:

- † provide an inclusive environment for Christian worship and learning,
- † strive to be understanding and accepting of other cultures and faiths as we work toward peace and justice for all persons,
- † nurture our children so that they will embrace the Christian life, and
- † support, with our prayers and actions, our brothers and sisters in our local and global communities.”