



September 2026

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.1umclockport.org
YouTube @LockportFirstUMC



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



**Minister:
All Members**

David Hamer
708.296.4663
email: pasterhamer@
gmail.com

Pastor

Linda Brown
Lay Leader

Emmanuel Aiyelabola
**Organist &
Choir Director
Director**

Megan Hill
God Squad

Kay Rothlisberger
Circle of Love

Roseanne Wilson
Fish Pantry

Yosmer Quintero
Custodian

Bernadetta Kopinski
**Administrative
Assistant**

Office Hours:
Mon-Fri
8:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
815-838-1017



Across the street, the leaves in the maple tree are turning red. But I can't see them at 8:00 in the evening because it's already getting dark. How is it Fall already? I love autumn, but I'm not ready for it just yet. I want the sun to be up before I am. I like my lawn mower more than my snow blower. But here we are, slip-sliding through late summer into fall and then... yes, it will be winter. Remember what we said when we played hide and seek? "Ready or not, here I come." That's what September and autumn are saying.

Ready or not, I actually love fall. Fall was when Becky and I had our first date, fall was when we were married, and our third child was born in the autumn. And I love the flamboyance of autumn leaves, the crisp tang of fresh apples and cider, and the briskness of an early morning in the fall.

What else is there to look forward to this fall? Here's something! I'm working on two series of messages I can't wait to share with you. In September, I will be preaching a series called Spirituality in September where you can learn about various spiritual practices that can add meaning and depth to your life. Spirituality intersects with the way we relate to God, to each other, as well as our own personal growth toward physical and emotional wholeness. And, then we will gear up for All Saints' Day on November 1 by remembering the lives of some of our spiritual ancestors, men and women such as Jarena Lee, St. Patrick, Howard Thurman, and Madame Guion or St. Ignatius.

Ready or not, it's going to be a wonderful fall together!

Worship:

		
Sunday September 6th 10:00am	Communion Sunday	
Scriptures: Exod 12:1-14	Matthew 18:15-20	
Sunday September 13th 10:00am		
Scriptures: Exod 14:19-31	Matthew 18:21-35	
Sunday September 20th 10:00am		
Scriptures: Exod 16:2-15	Matthew 20:1-16	
Sunday September 27th 10:00am	Sunday School	
Scriptures: Exod 17:1-7	Matthew 21:23-32	
Coffee Hour right after worship. All are welcome!		

Livestream Available

Exciting News!

We will be **live streaming our Worship Service every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

Whether you're traveling, homebound, or unable to join us in person, we invite you to worship with us online. We look forward to staying connected as we gather together in faith each week.

We hope you'll join us—in person or online—every Sunday at **10:00 a.m.!**

Share, and invite your family and friend to join us!



In observance of Labor Day
the office will be closed
Monday, September 7th.



You can find us on
YouTube
@LockportFirstUMC

QR code for
online
donations.
We sincerely
appreciate
your
generosity.



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



With Heartfelt Appreciation

We are truly grateful for the many volunteers and members who give so generously of their time, talents, and hearts to First United Methodist Church-Lockport. Your dedication, hard work, and willingness to serve make such a meaningful difference in our church and community.

Whether your service is seen behind the scenes or out in front, every act of kindness and every helping hand is deeply appreciated. From caring for our church home to serving during worship, supporting ministries, organizing events, and so much more, your faithfulness helps our church continue to grow and thrive.

Thank you for all you do. Your hard work, love, and commitment are a true blessing to First United Methodist Church-Lockport. We are so thankful for each and every one of you!



Before we begin planning for Confirmation at First United Methodist Church - Lockport this spring, we'd like to know how many youth are interested in participating. We are considering offering Confirmation classes beginning in mid-fall through the winter in preparation for Confirmation this spring. If your child is interested, or if you'd like more information, please let us know. We look forward to growing together in faith!

You can email the office at 1umclockport@ameritech.net or Pastor David Hamer at pastorhamer@gmail.com

Fall Maintenance Project Collection

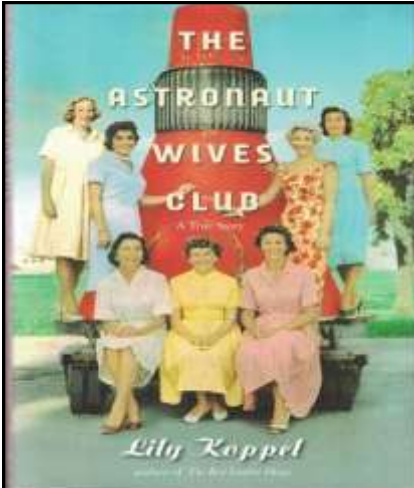
As we prepare for the fall season, we are collecting donations to help with two important maintenance projects at our church:

- Seal coating and restriping the parking lot
- New carpeting in the elevator entryway

Your generosity will help us maintain and improve our church for everyone who enters our doors.

Thank you for your continued support and kindness!

Faith in Action

Zoom Book Club

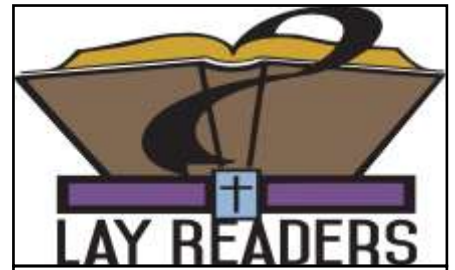
We will meet every other month on a Thursday, in the evening at 7:00pm.

We will be reading

The Astronaut Wives Club
by Lily Koppel

Next Zoom Book Club will meet
Thursday,

September 24th at 7:00pm



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

Blessings

FISH Pantry Donation List

The following items are
needed

1st Sunday of Every Month

Paper Towels

Kleenex

Cereal

Ramen noodles

Bath Bar Soap

Canned fruit

Hamburger Helper

Mayonnaise

Any Monetary donations are
also

Welcomed!



We welcome all children to
Sunday School on Sunday,
September 27th for students in first
grade through high school during
worship service at 10:00am.

Circle of Love

Job loss, illness, injury. You name it. There are many reasons why people cannot afford to supply all their own needs; but then again, we were never made to be totally self-sufficient. If we all could do everything for ourselves, then of what importance would relationships be? Remember life is unfair but God is good. Thank you to everyone who supports this important ministry. Your time, donations, and prayers are priceless. Circle of Love provides items not provided by state assistance, such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, and incontinent products.



Do you enjoy singing?
Would you like to join the choir?
We want you! We practice on
Sunday's at 8:45am. Come check us
out. No experience required. If you
have any questions please call the
office at 1-815-838-1017 or talk to
Linda Brown. All are welcome!

**WE WANT YOUR TORN, WORN, STAINED CLOTHING!**

As you begin your spring cleaning keep in mind the two green bins in the parking lot. USAGain – a leader in the textile recycling industry – is a for-profit company with a mission of diverting textiles from landfills. We collect clothes, shoes and linens you would not give to clothing drives because they are worn, torn or stained. Simply place them in a plastic bag and drop the bag in the bin. Items are then sent to graders and wholesalers who recycle them into new products.



Conference

2026 NIC Youth Fall Retreat
for Middle School and High School students (6th to 12th grade)

Sept. 25-27

Camp Timber-lee, East Troy, WI

Cost:\$180, with a \$50 non-refundable deposit



All youth attendees must have a signed [NIC Parent/Guardian Permission Form](#) and submit a [Camp Timber-lee Retreat Waiver Form](#) before submitting registration.

The Youth Retreat will feature programming from Friday at 7 p.m. through Sunday at 11 a.m. Youth can look forward to three modern worship and teaching sessions, small-group discussions, devotional time, two campfires, and a variety of activities including fishing, zip-lining, axe throwing, and access to the science center, creating a fun and faith-filled weekend of connection, adventure, and spiritual growth.

Questions? Contact [Laura Hollinger Antonelli](#), Director of Student Ministries at First UMC of Glen Ellyn

**LAKE SOUTH
FALL 2026
LAY ACADEMY**
Sat., Oct. 3 & 10
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Other Lay Academies offered around the conference:

[Prairie South](#): Oct. 10 & 17, 8:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., Mt. Morris: Disciples, 102 N. Maple Ave.

SAFE SANCTUARIES
Training Events

FALL 2026 TRAINING

SAT., SEPT. 26, 9 A.M. TO 12 P.M. ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Cost \$20, includes class instruction and background check for more info go to <https://www.umcnic.org/safesanctuaries>



John E. George Jr. Memorial

I want to thank everyone who was with us either in person or in spirit as we celebrated John's amazing life. It was so great to see you all and I promise the time I get back to Lockport I'll spend more time.

Peggy



Lunch Bunch/ Bingo

We will begin to gather for Lunch Bunch/ Bingo every 2nd Saturday of the month beginning **Saturday, September 12th at 12:00pm** in Yemon Hall.

Bring a favorite dish/dessert to share.

Lots of gifts to win!

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!



On September 8, 2026, our ESL program starts again, for the fifth year at First United Methodist Church. We meet on Tuesday evenings 7:00- 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. We use the upstairs and plan to continue until March 30, 2027.

Lake South District Monthly Go Team Trainings

Saturday, September 5th

Join us Online Via Zoom on the First Saturday of the month.

PASTORS ONLY 9 – 10 a.m.

EVERYONE - 10:30a.m. – noon

Zoom link

Meeting ID: 964 1732 9893

Passcode: 081053



Suicide Hotline available

For those contemplating suicide or who just desperately need someone with whom to talk. It is confidential and free. Just call 988. The service has also been expanded for Spanish-speaking persons and deaf or hard-of-hearing persons, including those who use American Sign Language.

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)* \$114.32

*(internet & church phone)



NICOR \$191.38

Com Ed \$392.72

Lockport Water \$29.00

Waste Management \$90.82



September 4th Phil Rittenhouse

September 7th Cindy Lehman

Matthew Frayne

September 8th Clyde Odle

September 9th Jim Koger

September 15th Alan Cross

Nathan Marino

September 16th Rosemary Thompson

September 17th Doug Schehr

September 19th Paul Farr

September 24th Alana Marino

Soren Moan

September 25th Roseanne Wilson

September 26th Candance Lehman

September 26th Dick Burnett

IN OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS



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

Barbara Ott (Sheridan of Oak Brook),
Betty Becker, Beth, (Lynn & Paul Farr daughter), Duane Werner, David Hensen, Gloria (Emmanuel's fiancé),

Evelyn Lindstrom, Earl Meseth,

Sue Rittenhouse, Roseanne Wilson,
Paul Farr, Hazel Davis, Lynette Casey,
Pat Burnett, Phil Winters,

Marilyn Odle, Arlene Hupach
(Linda Browns mom)



Happy Anniversary!

September 6th

Donald & Linda Brown

September 8th

Brian & Megan Hill

September 10th

Glenn & Joyce Volling



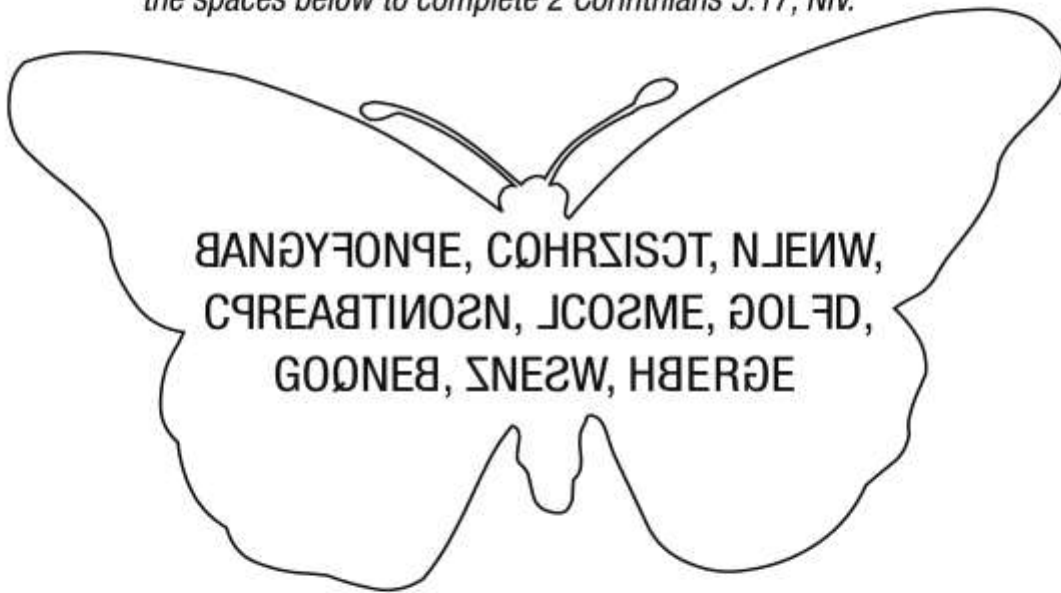
Transformation**POWER**



Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,
God transforms us from old to new.



Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if _____ is in _____,
the _____ has _____:

The _____ has _____,
the _____ is _____!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV



First

TO:

United Methodist Church
of Lockport

1000 S Washington St

Lockport, IL 60441

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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.”