



August 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



† 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

Michael Arends
Custodian

Bernadetta Kopinski
**Administrative
Assistant**

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

For several years, I've had a practice of beginning the day by listing the things I'm grateful for. Sometimes it takes a few moments to notice the positive things that have been happening. But lately, this practice has been very, very easy. I'm so grateful for the warm welcome Becky and I have received from each of you since we've made the move to Lockport. We're both very grateful for the comfortable and beautiful parsonage you provided for us. And we're grateful for the generosity of the gift basket you made up to give us after we arrived. And, yes, as a disc golfer, I'm super-grateful that I'm located right in the middle of some of the best disc golf courses in all of Illinois! And, I'm grateful we've found *most* of the stuff we packed (although we still need our cord for Becky's computer monitor and our measuring spoons!).

Another emotion that has surfaced frequently is excitement. I'm so excited to begin ministry here! All of you have been very supportive, in kind and encouraging words. Quite a few of you have supported me by introducing me to people in the community or helping me with visitation or inviting me to opportunities to ministry. I know many of you have been inviting friends, family, and neighbors to worship with us. Thank you so much! Together I believe we can make a difference for our community. And, working together, we can have a joyful time doing it!

Are you looking for a way to increase your commitment to the vitality and growth of our church community? Here are some ways to consider. First, you could use the timer on your cell phone and commit to praying three or four minutes a day for our church community to prosper. Second, stop by the pastor's office or give me a call to explore some ways you could be more involved or try something new. Third, consider going on a spiritual retreat to enhance your life with God. One opportunity would be the Walk to Emmaus that takes place each fall and spring. The next retreat will be in September. Wouldn't it be wonderful if each of us found a new way to serve God over the next few weeks? I know I would be even more grateful and even more excited if that happened.

Worship:

Sunday August 2nd 10:00am	Communion Sunday
Scriptures: Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21
Coffee Hour right after worship	
Sunday August 9th 10:00am	
Scriptures: Romans 10:5-15	Matthew 14:22-33
Coffee Hour right after worship	
Sunday August 16th 10:00am	Back to School Blessing
Scriptures: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32	Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28
Coffee Hour right after worship	
Sunday August 23rd 10:00am	
Scriptures: Romans 12:1-8	Matthew 16:13-20
Coffee Hour right after worship	
Sunday August 30th 10:00am	
Scriptures: Romans 12:9-21	Matthew 16:21-28
Welcome Special Potluck for Pastor David Hamer & family right after worship. Sunday School resumes.	

Livestream Available

Exciting News!

Beginning **this Sunday, August 2nd**, 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!



As a new school year begins, we warmly invite everyone to join us for a special Back-to-School Blessing. Students, teachers, school staff, parents, grandparents, and all members of the community are welcome as we pray for a year filled with learning, growth, safety, friendship, and God's guidance.

Come receive a blessing and encouragement for the year ahead on **Sunday, August 16th at 10:00am**. We look forward to gathering together in faith and support for all who are returning to school.

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

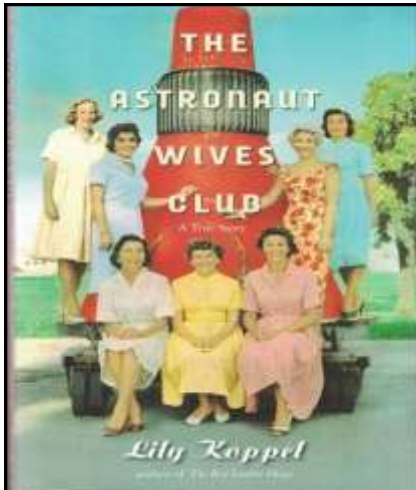
What a wonderful time our church family had participating in the Old Canal Days Parade! It was a joy to come together, share smiles, and represent our church in such a special community event.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who walked, rode, waved, decorated, handed out treats, and helped in any way to make the parade such a success. Your time, energy, and joyful spirit were a true blessing. Thank you for helping us share God's love with our community—we couldn't have done it without you!





Faith in Action



Zoom Book Club

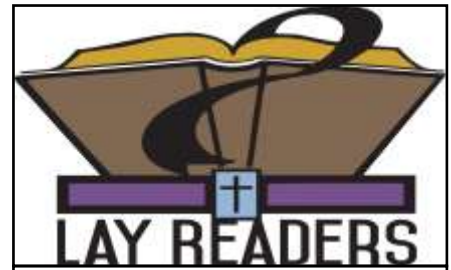
We will meet every other month on a Thursday, in the evening at 7:00pm.

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!

**Will resume on Sunday, August 30th 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

Practicing Hope 187th Northern Illinois Annual Conference at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center in June.



Linda Brown and Deb Chapp at the 187th Illinois Annual Conference.



The [Missions Challenge](#), which collects items needed by Midwest Mission for their direct assistance here and around the world, received almost 7,000 pounds of goods (requiring two trucks)! Donations included home-care kits, personal dignity kits, sewing machines, crutches, and more, which will help people across the globe improve their lives.

2026 SAVE THE DATE!

UMM Annual Spiritual Congress

at Conference Point Center, Williams Bay, WI.

Friday, September 11th to Sunday, September 13th

Walking each day with HOPE renews my strength

SOAR ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES

(ISAIAH 40:31)

The Spiritual Congress is an Annual Retreat, sponsored by Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Men ... is a time for learning, fellowship, worship, and relaxation. It is time for Renewal!

For more information and registration: NICUMM.ORG



Lake South District Monthly "Go Team" Meetings

Next meeting: August 8th

[Join Online Via Zoom](#)

EVERYONE WELCOME AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND - 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

[Zoom link](#) Meeting ID: 964 1732 9893 Passcode: 081053



The family of John E. George Jr. warmly invites family and friends to join them in celebrating John's life and the many memories shared with him.

Guests are invited to begin gathering at Papa Joe's Restaurant 944 E. 9th St, Lockport at 12:00p.m., with a buffet lunch being served at 12:30p.m.

RSVP to Peggy at mgeorge726@gmail.com



Lunch Bunch/ Bingo

We will take a break over summer and continue

Lunch Bunch/ Bingo on

Saturday, September 12th

at 12:00pm in

Yemon Hall.



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.



In observance of Labor Day

the office will be closed

Monday, September 7th.



Save the Date!

Join us for a special **Welcome Potluck** as we warmly welcome **Pastor David and his family** to our church family!

Date: Sunday, August 30th

Time: 10:00am Worship ~

Welcome Potluck right after worship.

Please bring a favorite dish to share as we gather for good food, fellowship, and the opportunity to get to know Pastor David and his family. We look forward to celebrating this exciting new chapter together!

Everyone is welcome-we hope to see you there!

Woman of the Year!

Congratulations to **Alana Marino** on being named **Woman of the Year**! This honor is so well deserved and reflects your hard work, dedication, compassion, and the positive impact you have on everyone around you. May this recognition be just one of many blessings to come. Wishing you continued success and happiness. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!



— The Finance Committee



August 1st	Barbara Ott
August 3rd	Brian Hill
August 9th	Bob Walker
August 13th	Bernadetta Kopinski
August 15th	Diane Endebak
	Amy Visser
	Kenny Frayne
August 20th	Jan Hoffman
August 21st	Lori Smith

August 2nd
Brian & Lori Smith

August 6th
Clyde & Marilyn Odle
Mike & Amy Visser

August 17th
Earl & Wendy Meseth

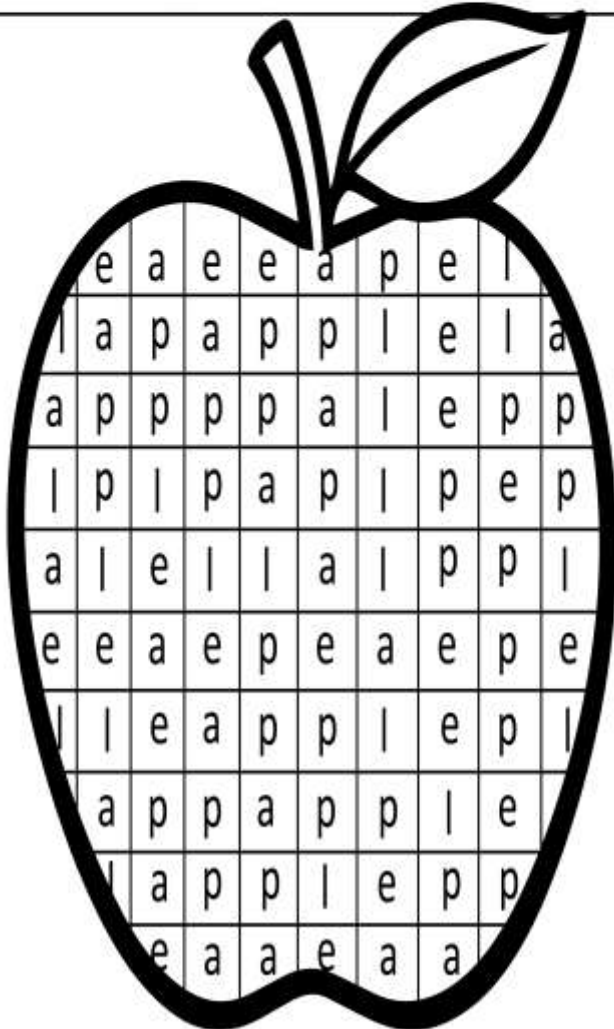
August 20th
Jim & Jan Koger



Apple of Your Eye

"Apple of your eye" means something very special that you protect. As school starts again, remember what God says in Proverbs 7:2 (NIV): "Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye."

Can you find the word "apple" 12 times in the puzzle?
Look up, down, across, and even backward!



Counting Our Blessings

Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to "count our blessings." God blesses each of us daily in so many ways. Solve the following math problems. Then write the words on the numbered lines below to complete Ephesians 1:3, NIV.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 14 - 7 = ___ Father | 10 + 15 = ___ in |
| 10 + 9 = ___ heavenly | 6 - 3 = ___ to |
| 10 + 5 = ___ blessed | 12 - 6 = ___ and |
| 2 - 1 = ___ Praise | 6 + 6 = ___ Christ |
| 7 + 7 = ___ has | 18 - 9 = ___ our |
| 11 + 11 = ___ every | 22 - 11 = ___ Jesus |
| 12 + 12 = ___ blessing | 1 + 1 = ___ be |
| 10 + 10 = ___ realms | 7 + 6 = ___ who |
| 13 + 13 = ___ Christ | 2 + 2 = ___ the |
| 8 + 8 = ___ us | 10 - 5 = ___ God |
| 8 + 9 = ___ in | 4 + 4 = ___ of |
| 5 + 5 = ___ Lord | 9 + 9 = ___ the |
| 10 + 11 = ___ with | 10 + 13 = ___ spiritual |

" _____
1 2 3 4 5 6

_____ ,
7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26 ."

Ephesians 1:3, NIV

Answer: "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."



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TO:

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of Lockport

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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.”