

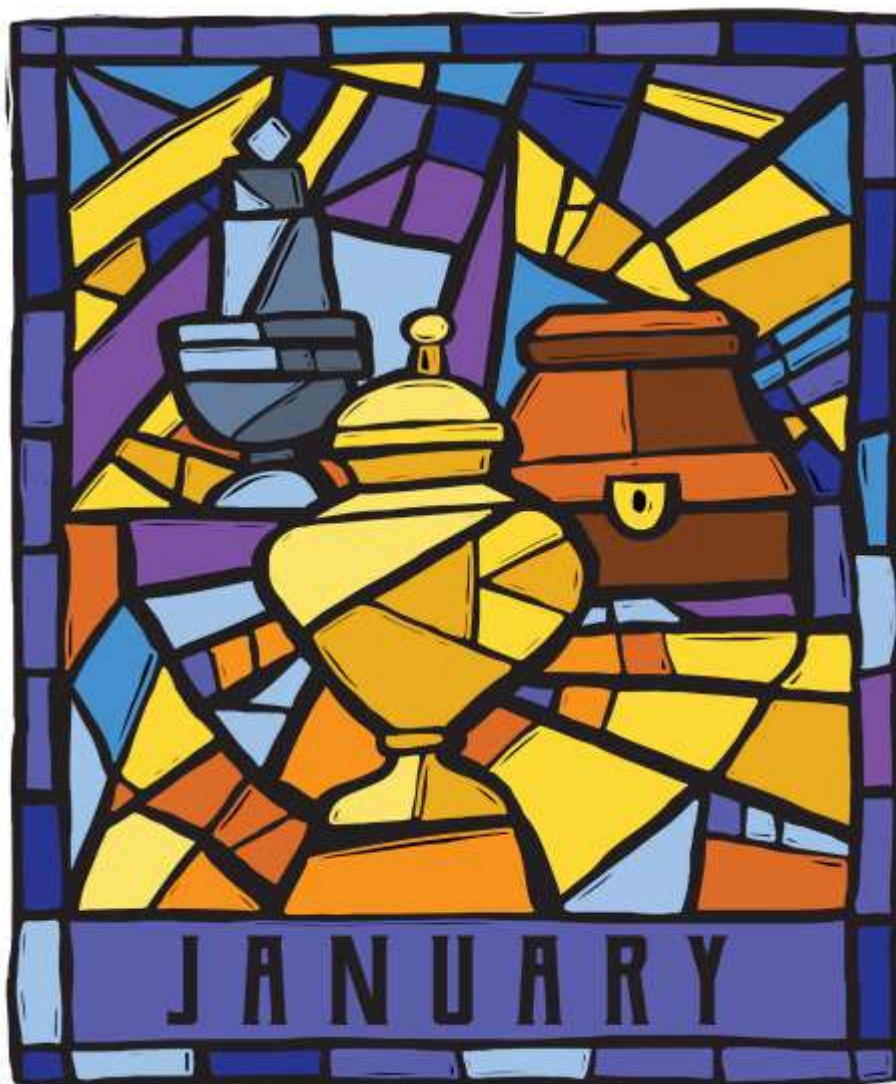


January 2026

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



† 10:00am in person  
Worship Service



**Minister:**  
**All Members**

GaHyung Kim  
708-638-2868

email:  
gahyungkim0511@  
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

**“When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, and mortals that you care for them?” Psalm 8:3-4**

January 1, 2026, a new year begins. What will it bring?

As we were nearing the year 2000, I attended a seminar in Dubuque, Iowa, at which Dr. Martin Marty, emeritus professor of church history at the University of Chicago, was asked to speak. The question was, what should we expect in the new millennium about to start? Dr. Mary began by saying, **we historians can tell you a lot about the past, but we’re not very big on the future.** The one thing we do know; it will not be what we expect. Amen to that.

So, here we are a quarter of the way into the next century and what do we see? For my part, I find it very difficult to be optimistic. In so many ways, it seems that we are going backwards rather than forward. How do we remain hopeful? Where do we find joy?

There’s a verse in the old Methodist funeral liturgy, “...and underneath are the everlasting arms.” (Deuteronomy 33:27a) For me, that is our hope. We believe in a God who loves the world, even as it is. A God who says, Be not afraid; I am with you. A God who says, even death cannot defeat the love of God found in Jesus Christ.

**In Jesus, God made a major investment in us. God showed us God’s love,** and God said, pass it on. Live in the love you see in Jesus.

That is our mission.

Yes, it’s still true. For God so loved the world... Even you and me. As we begin a new year let us believe God. Let us receive God’s love and then pass it on. “They will know we are Christians by our love.”

David B. Kaller, retired pastor

**Worship:**

		
<b>Sunday January 4</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Communion/ Epiphany Sunday</b>
<b>Scriptures: Ephesians 1:3-14</b>		<b>John 1:10-18</b>
<b>Love Message: Sandi Jacobson</b>		
<b>Sunday January 11</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	
<b>Scriptures: Isaiah 42:1-9</b>		<b>Matthew 3:13-17</b>
<b>Sunday January 18</b>	<b>10:00am</b>	
<b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9</b>		<b>John 1:29-42</b>
<b>Love Message: Carolyn Brauch</b>		
<b>Wednesday January 25</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Sunday School</b>
<b>Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18</b>		<b>Matthew 4:12-23</b>



We would like to wish everyone a Blessed Happy Healthy New Year! Let's start the New Year with Prayers and Communion Worship. Please join us Sunday, January 4th at 10:00am for Communion/Epiphany Sunday Worship.

All are welcome! Invite family and friends to worship together.



Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to everyone for all the generous Christmas gifts and love! We appreciate each and everyone of you. We hope you have a joyous, healthy New Year!



**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.



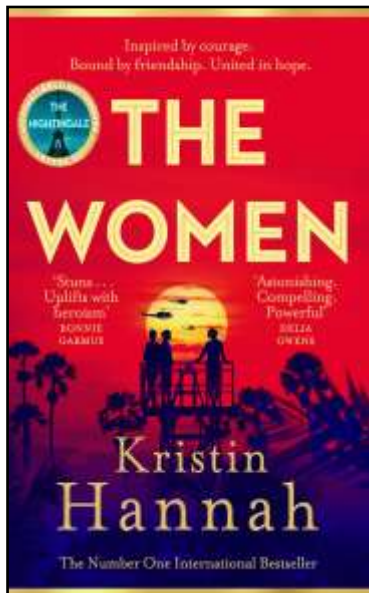
## Faith Development



We welcome all children to Sunday School on the last Sunday of the month at 10:00am.

Next one is

Sunday, January 25th



### Zoom Book Club

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

We will be reading

The Women

by Kristin Hannah

Next Zoom Book Club will meet Thursday,

January 15, 2026



January 1st Office Closed - Happy New Year!

January 6th ESL Resumes

January 10th Christmas Décor Down

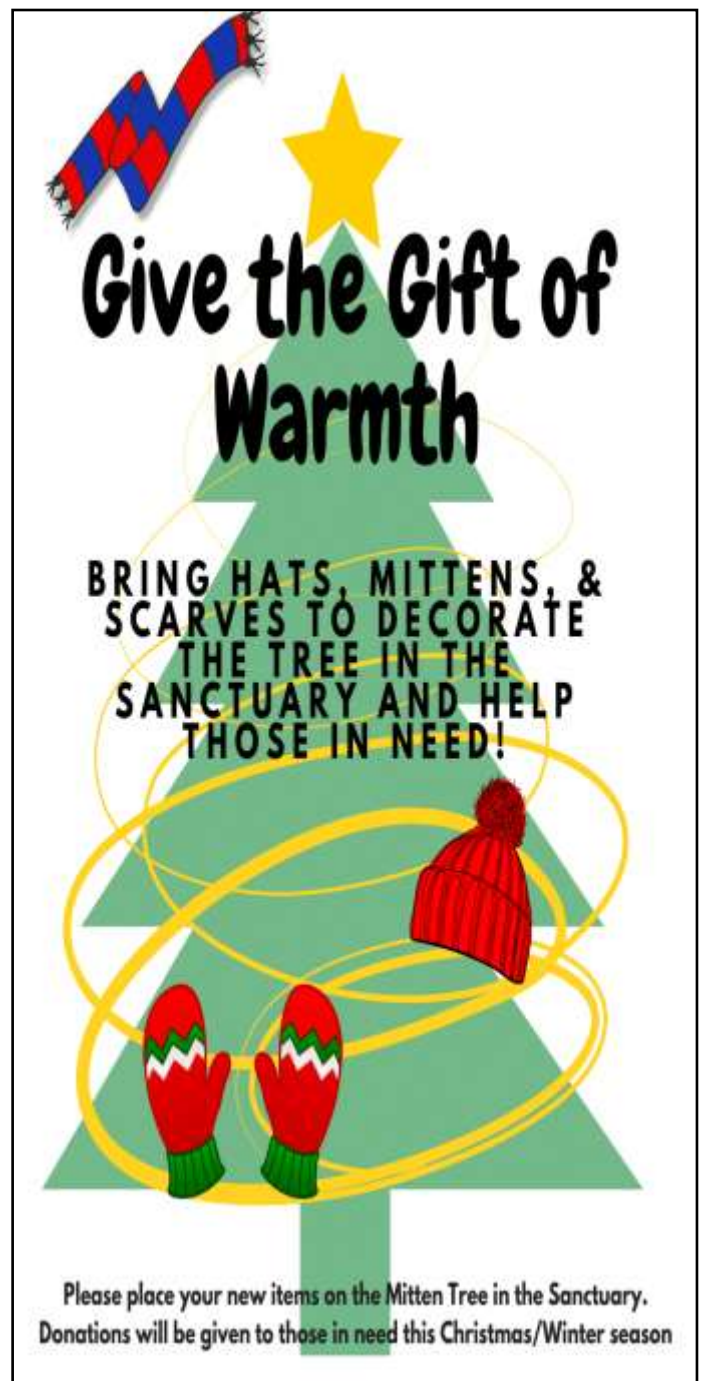
Lunch Bunch in Yeomen Hall

January 15th Worship Team Meeting

January 19th Office Closed - Martin Luther King

January 21st Church Council Meeting

January 25th Coffee Hour



## Faith in Action

### Thank you to all who helped make this year's

Cookies by the Pound sale such a great success - the bakers who made so many cookies and such a great variety, the volunteers who helped set up and braved the cold temperature to work the sale and last but not least the folks who purchased \$1300 worth of cookies

(an all-time high!) to benefit the missions supported by the Faith In Action committee. We are truly blessed at FUMC to have such a supportive membership.

Thank you, a thousand times, over!!!

Faith In Action Committee



### 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!



### 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.



We meet on Tuesday evenings

7:00p.m.- 9:00p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30a.m.-11:30a.m. We use the upstairs Sunday school room, and plan to continue until the end of April 2026.

**If you would like to help out please let Pastor David Kaller or**

**Josefina Kaller know.**

### 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

## Join Others and Read the Bible in a Year

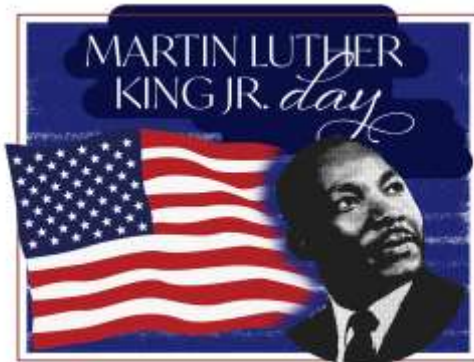
Read the entire Bible in one year with other Northern Illinois United Methodists and join them in making daily Scripture reading a shared spiritual practice in the coming year. The conference Committee on Discipleship and Spiritual Formation invites lay and clergy to follow a plan for daily readings and participate in a small group to talk about the significance of the texts in their spiritual lives. **“Our goal is to offer a simple plan and supportive environment to help people engage the whole of Scripture over one year,”** said Rev. Seamus Enright, CDSF chair. **“We are trusting God to deepen our faith as we do this together.”** The committee’s reading guide follows a chronological plan—the order in which biblical events are believed to have occurred. For example, readers will move from Genesis to Job and then return to Genesis as the story unfolds. Unlike a Bible study, these small support groups will focus on offering encouragement, accountability, and space for reflection on how the practice of daily reading is shaping faith and life. Facilitators will guide conversations about insights gained, challenges encountered, and the spiritual impact of engaging scripture regularly. The gatherings will meet on the second Wednesday of each month from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom, and recordings will be available for those who cannot attend in real time. (It is not too late to join!) The CDSF will help individuals find congregations that will welcome others to their group. For questions or additional information, contact Amania Drane, [adrane@umcnic.org](mailto:adrane@umcnic.org). To sign up, please complete the online registration form at [umcnic.org/news/read-the-bible-in-a-year-with-us](http://umcnic.org/news/read-the-bible-in-a-year-with-us).



Lake South: Sat., Jan. 24, 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., First UMC, Oak Lawn

District trainings are designed to share practical information and resources to help strengthen and support the vitality of your church. Offerings will vary by district, and you are welcome to attend any session that fits your schedule or ministry needs, not just those in your own district. For further details and registration visit the calendar at [umcnic.org/calendar](http://umcnic.org/calendar) and click on the individual events.

## Northern Illinois Conference Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration January 18th



2:30 p.m. Trinity UMC in Mt. Prospect 605 W. Golf Road, Mt. Prospect Cost: Free Theme: Voices from the Past, Leading us into the Future Join us in celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with prayers, testimonies, music, guest speaker Rev. Dr. Charles A. Woolery Sr., and a light supper afterwards. For further details and registration, visit [umcnic.org/calendar/nic-mlkcelebration-2026](http://umcnic.org/calendar/nic-mlkcelebration-2026).



Coffee Hour is  
Sunday, January 25th right  
after worship.

If you would like to host Coffee  
Hour please contact

Linda Brown.

All are welcome!



We are in need of  
Liturgists. Please  
help us if you can.

Sign up sheet in  
the Narthex or call  
the office

1-815-838-1017.

Blessings



### **Lunch Bunch/ Bingo**

Join us **Saturday,**

**January 10th at 12:00pm in**  
Yeomen Hall.

Please bring a favorite dish/  
dessert to share.

All are welcome!



We will have a Grief Support Group  
meeting at 2:00pm every 2nd  
Saturday of the month in Dystrup  
Study at First United Methodist  
Church in Lockport.

Next one is on January 10th. For  
more information call the office at 1-  
815-838-1017.



### **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 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



## REMEMBERING

### John Edward George Jr.

May 19, 1952 – December 20, 2025

John Edward George Jr., age 73, passed away peacefully on December 20, 2025, at Providence Medical Center in Everett, Washington, surrounded by his loving wife and children.

John was born on May 19, 1952, in Marysville, Ohio, to Anne Marie George (née Gibson) and John Edward George Sr.. He was the oldest of five children.

John made an incredible journey during his lifetime, serving his country, state, and community with great honor. He left Ohio to attend the National College of Education. It was there that he met Peggy Glas, a fellow student who would become his wife. They were married on March 2, 1974, in Evanston, Illinois and shared a life of travel, service, and deep partnership, raising two cherished children.

John began his professional life in education, teaching middle school science. While teaching, he worked summers as beach police, an experience that introduced him to law enforcement and ultimately led him to a new calling. He worked at Northeastern University's campus police department before serving with the Morris Police Department and later the Illinois State Police. John retired as a Sergeant after 23 years of service.

In addition to his law enforcement career, John proudly served in both the United States Coast Guard and the Army National Guard. His military service included Operation Uphold Democracy in Haiti, Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia, and Operation Joint Endeavor/Joint Guard in Bamberg, Germany.

Retirement did not slow John down. He taught criminal justice at Westwood, co-owned 7 Paintball Store with his son, and later drove for Meals on Wheels. However, his favorite role—and the one that brought him the most joy—was being Santa Claus. John worked with park districts, charities, churches, and local organizations, bringing the magic of Christmas to countless children. Any money he earned went toward improving his Santa suit, purchasing trinkets for children and supporting charities close to his heart, especially Imagine No Malaria.

John was an active member of the 1st United Church in Lockport, Illinois, for over 30 years. His many roles included high school Sunday school teacher, mission trip chaperone, lay leader, guest preacher, and more.

John will be remembered for his dedication to service, his deep faith, his love of teaching, and his joy in sharing kindness—especially through the magic of Christmas. His legacy is one of honor, generosity, and love.

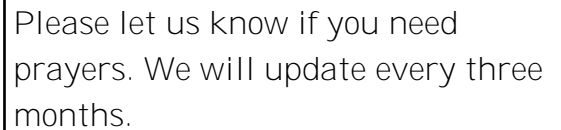
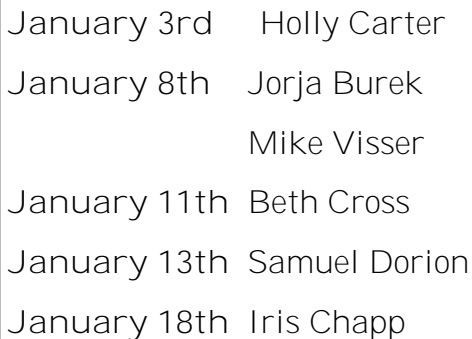
A Celebration of Life will be planned for the summer of 2026. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to 1st United Church in Lockport, Illinois, which will forward contributions to Imagine No Malaria.

Peggy



— The Finance Committee

Snow Plow Removal	\$1,315.00
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# HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

*Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.*

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The last Monday \_ \_

The 16th \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

One day before the 20th \_ \_

The day before the first Friday \_ \_

The last weekday of the second week \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The day after the 20th \_ \_

The day after 18th \_ \_

The first day of the second weekend \_

The last Sunday \_ \_ \_

The last day of the month \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



Fundraiser for

First United Methodist Church - Lockport

20% of event sales will be donated

Religious organization non-profit. Raising funds to help community missions locally and worldwide.

How to Order:

Order ahead or on the event day

Wednesday, January 7, 2026



Participating fundraiser guests are required to present a valid fundraiser flyer (paper copy or digital image) with each order to receive credit towards the

fundraiser.

When: Wednesday, January 7, 2026

Time: 10:30 AM to 9:30 PM

Where:

Panda Express located at:

16000 Farrell Road Lockport IL 60441

(815) 846 - 7188

Online:

PandaExpress.com or the App.

Enter 3850746 in the fundraiser code box

or

In-Person: Bring paper flyer or show it on your smartphone.







# First

TO:

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

1000 S Washington St

Lockport, IL 60441

815.838.1017

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



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**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.”