



## Calendar of Events

Erie-Meadville District Youth Planning Meeting (2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall) – January 4<sup>th</sup>

Men's Group Meeting (6:30 p.m. Library) – January 5<sup>th</sup>

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – January 7<sup>th</sup>

UWF Meeting (10:00 a.m.) – January 10<sup>th</sup>

Worship Committee Meeting (11:00 a.m.) – January 11<sup>th</sup>

Missions Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – January 13<sup>th</sup>

Trustees Meeting (6:30 p.m.) – January 14<sup>th</sup>

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – January 14<sup>th</sup>

SPRC (6:30 p.m.) – January 15<sup>th</sup>

Men's Group Outing to Erie Otters (7:00 p.m.) – January 16<sup>th</sup>

Epilogue (11:30 a.m. Shrine Club) – January 21<sup>st</sup>

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – January 21<sup>st</sup>

Church Council (6:30 p.m.) – January 21<sup>st</sup>

Men's Group Pancake Breakfast (After Worship Service) – January 25<sup>th</sup>

Women's Bible Study (9:30 a.m.) – January 28<sup>th</sup>

**Our vision is to glorify God by helping people to discover, experience, and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.**



Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

**We start the new year with holy communion. I thought I'd start this 2026 newsletter with a reminder of what we believe happens at the communion table:**

***Do United Methodists believe the bread and wine become the body and blood of Christ?***

In the Great Thanksgiving, we ask the Holy Spirit to be poured on us and on the gifts of bread and wine we offer. We ask for the Spirit's outpouring to make the bread and wine be for us the body and blood of Christ so we, who receive them, may be for the world the body of Christ redeemed by his blood. We believe that things are changed in a spiritual manner. We believe God answers this prayer "Yes" and the Spirit does all these things. Christ is really present here, and the emphasis is that Christ's presence really changes **us**.

***What do United Methodists mean when they refer to Holy Communion as a means of grace?***

"Means of grace" are channels by which God has promised to offer us an encounter with God's grace. Anglican Christians (including John Wesley, one of our founders) spoke of "ordinary means of grace" and "instituted means of grace." Ordinary means of grace include the public worship of God, opportunities to hear and study the scriptures, family and private prayer, and fasting. Two means of grace were instituted by Christ himself: baptism and Holy Communion. In baptism, we are given entrance into a new life grounded in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In Holy Communion, that new life is sustained or, when we may have gone astray, re-awakened.

***Why do many United Methodists use grape juice instead of wine?***

Predecessor bodies of The United Methodist Church were deeply involved in the Temperance Movement. Grape juice was originally invented by Thomas Welch, a Methodist, so Methodists and others would not need to use wine for communion. Today, United Methodists still commend, but do not require, abstinence, and may continue to use grape juice in communion out of pastoral concern for people who

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may have problems with alcohol.

***Does the bread at Holy Communion need to be unleavened?***

Either leavened (in witness to the resurrection) or unleavened (in witness to the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit) may be used.

***If I cannot eat wheat, may I still receive communion?***

Yes. United Methodist congregations are expected to provide alternatives for persons with celiac disease and other allergies. Even if they do not, the ancient Christian doctrine of concomitance means that a physical ability to receive in either kind (bread or cup, or even both!) does not alter the benefits of the sacrament when you present yourself to receive it.

***How may I receive?***

The key word is that you receive rather than take the elements. They are given to you by servers. When you receive the bread, you may want to hold your hands out, with your left hand cupping and supporting your right hand. The server will say something to you about the bread as it is given to you. Before you eat it or hold it to proceed to the cup, you may say "Amen" or "Thanks be to God" When the cup is offered to you, the server will say some words to you about the cup. You may respond "Amen" or "Thanks be to God" and then either dip the bread into the cup (but not your fingers!) or drink from the cup. Most United Methodists tend to dip into the cup rather than drink from it.

***Who May Receive?***

All those seeking Christ, and all baptized children. You do NOT need to be United Methodist to receive communion in a United Methodist Church.

God's Peace,

*- Rev. Kathleen Schoeneck*

## **MEN'S GROUP UPDATES**



The Men's Group will be meeting on January 5 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.

The Men's Group will be sponsoring a trip to the Erie Otters on January 16. Your cost will be \$5.00 and the Men's Group will pay the rest. Please sign up by January 11.

The Men's Group will be having a pancake breakfast on Sunday, January 25 immediately following the worship service. All donations will go towards the Red Bird Mission trip.

## United Women in Faith

Happy New year to all our church family! We want to thank everyone who participated in the Christmas Cookie Sale! It was a great sale and we hope you all enjoyed the various kinds of cookies!

Our first meeting of 2026 will be Saturday, January 10 at 10 a.m. in the church library. We would love to see some new faces, and new ideas for the new year!

## LITTLE LESSONS

### Updates from Lakewood Preschool

The winter Toddler and Me class, for children 18 months through 3 years of age will begin in January.

We're excited to announce that in January we will be starting an additional 3 year old class due to high interest.

***"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."***  
**Matthew 25:35**



## JANUARY SCHEDULE TRACY AND ASBURY

DATE	PICKUP DRIVER	PACKING TEAM	DELIVERY DRIVER
JAN 07/08	R. Estes 10:30 a.m.	R.Estes 6:30 p.m.	J. Kot 10:00 a.m.
JAN 14/15	J. Kot 10:30 a.m.	C. Kot 11:30 a.m.	H. Kendall 10:00 a.m.
JAN 21/22	R. Pike 10:30 a.m.	K. Fisher 6:30 p.m.	R. Fisher 10:00 a.m.
JAN 28/29	C. Spicher 10:30 a.m.	J. Goodman 11:30 a.m.	J. Rhone 10:00 a.m.

# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Janice Wilbur	01/01
Samantha McClelland	01/02
Barbara Moore	01/02
Gregory Stelter	01/04
Emryn Stoll	01/06
Jim Sanford	01/07
Linda Brown	01/08
Richard Estes	01/10
Anthony Hess	01/17
Giavana Casane	01/21
Logan Dunmire	01/23
Julia Roussos	01/23
Kindred Cummings	01/25
Bruce Jakiel	01/28
Hal Kendall	01/28
Robert MacDonald	01/28
Alaina Frith	01/29
Gail Skopow	01/29
Linda Goss	01/31



## Our Neighbors' Place Overflow Shelter Help Needed – January 26

The Our Neighbors' Place overflow shelter is up and running for the season. Our Neighbors' Place (ONP) is administered by EUMA but staffing for the overflow shelter is supplemented by volunteers. The ONP overflow shelter will be housed in a single location for the season, 450 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street (between Parade and Wallace). Lakewood's help is needed.

### Volunteers

Methodist churches in the Erie area have been asked to assist with providing volunteers for the overflow shelter from January 21-27. EUMA will have staff present during these evenings, but 8-10 volunteers are needed each night from 6:30 - 11:00 p.m. Volunteers may not need to stay the entire time, but people are needed to help check in guests, serve food and coffee, distribute clothing, and monitor showers.

Lakewood United Methodist Church has committed to providing volunteers for the overflow shelter during the evening of Monday, January 26. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the Narthex at Lakewood soon, if you are interested in signing up to help.

### Meals

A bagged lunch is provided for guests each evening at the overflow shelter. The volunteers for that evening are asked to provide 60 bagged lunches. Help will be needed with this endeavor.

### Clothing

Lakewood will also be collecting clothing items for distribution at the overflow shelter. Items for donation include new underwear (boxer briefs for the men), socks (moisture wicking please), emergency thermal blankets (must be able to handle below 30 degree temp), sweatpants, t-shirts, and sweatshirts. If you are interested in donating any of these items, a collection box will soon be placed in the church for donations.

Additional information about these opportunities to serve will be forthcoming but please feel free to contact Chris Paul by email at [bertachris@yahoo.com](mailto:bertachris@yahoo.com) or by phone at (814) 838-4767, if you have additional questions or want to help.

## DECEMBER 2025 ATTENDANCE:

Average attendance for weekly in-person worship: 77

Average views of weekly livestream (Youtube): 50

Average weekly combined "attendance" for December: 127

Average weekly combined "attendance" for 2025: 119



# Lakewood Youth News

Helping youth to discover, experience and know the love and presence of Jesus Christ.

## Meeting Schedule

Students in grades 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> are welcome to join us.

We will now be meeting every week! Come anytime!  
Attendance is not mandatory.

January 4: **No meeting / District Youth Retreat Planning 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Lakewood**

January 11: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

January 18: **Tentative Event: Snow Tubing at Mount Pleasant (weather permitting)**

January 25: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

February 1: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

February 8: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

February 13-15: **Wesley Woods Retreat**

February 22: **Youth meeting at Lakewood 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**\*Dates and events are subject to change as opportunities arise or change.**

Contact Information

**For questions and concerns please contact us anytime.**

Jackie and Jeremiah Bull

**Home: 814-833-4520**

**Call or Text: 814-323-6805**

### Mission Statement:

**We will strengthen opportunities for spiritual growth that fosters genuine relationships by serving our church and community.**

# Council Update - January 2026

**A Community Shaped by Prayer:** When a church prays, it learns to listen before it speaks, to trust before it acts, and to love before it judges. Prayer shapes our hearts to look more like Christ's and binds us to one another in unity and purpose. In the early church, prayer was the foundation of community life: *"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer"* (Acts 2:42). Prayer was not an add-on; it was the rhythm that formed their faith and guided their mission. May we be a church that is devoted to prayer, trusting that God is at work among us, drawing us closer to Him and to one another.

**Online Directory:** Thank you for your patience as we had to work through the logistics of creating an online directory that will not only connect you with all the members of the church but also accommodate the mode in which you feel most comfortable including a printable directory with pictures. We have made the first step with the expectation that we will begin connecting you to the picture directory in the beginning of 2026.

**Preparing for a New Year:** As we prepare for the new year, we are prayerfully reviewing our ministries to be sure they continue to align with our mission and vision. This reflection is meant to strengthen and support the good work already happening and to help us discern next steps. We are excited to build relationships with Lakewood Preschool students and families and work on ways to connect with our neighbors and encourage participation. Prayer needs to be central to who we are as a church. In the coming months, you will be invited into new prayer opportunities designed to encourage growth in your prayer life as we seek God's direction together.

**The next Council meeting will be Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30 pm.**

## Erie City Mission Volunteers Needed



Are you looking for an opportunity to directly serve those in need? Lakewood volunteers are needed on **Sunday, January 18** to help with preparing and serving a meal and providing fellowship at the Erie City Mission, 1023 French Street. There is a sign-up sheet in the church lobby. Contact Lisa Medina or Chris Paul if you have additional questions. Volunteers meet around 9:15 a.m. at the City Mission (entrance behind the building). Volunteers are usually done by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m.. We usually need about 10 volunteers so please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If you are interested in helping with this ministry but are unable to serve on January 18, there will be additional opportunities to serve in 2026 on **March 15, May 17, July 15, September 20, and November 15.**

## A SEGMENT FROM FINANCE

Thank you for a wonderful year of giving in 2025. What you give to your church is a blessing.

Let's make 2026 a great year of giving by being able to help those inside the church, community, and beyond.

Please contact Bob Kostek or Richard Estes or the church office if you haven't received your 2026 contribution envelopes.

Happy New Year! God loves a cheerful giver.