



**Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches**  
PO Box 60  
Lamont, Iowa 50650

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Lamont, IA 50650  
Permit #2

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## MARCH 2025 Newsletter



### **LAMONT LEGION FISH SUPPER**



**11 October & 8 November 2024**

**14 March & 18 April (Good Friday) 2025**

**Lamont Legion Hall : Serving from 4:30 to 7:00 PM(Or run out)**

**\$13 Small Fish Meal = 2 pc fish, FF, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw & roll**

**\$15 Large Fish Meal = 3 pc fish, FF, potato salad, baked beans, coleslaw & roll**

**\$15 Just Fish Meal = 5 pieces of Fish only**

**Water, Milk and Coffee are available at no cost. Pop is \$1**

**Dine in or Take out only, no drive up.**

**Shut-ins Call (563) 929-3060**



**Loren Foster American Legion & Auxiliary Post 346**





## NEWS FROM

### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF



AURORA



LAMONT



STRAWBERRY POINT



#### **Grace United Methodist Church**

745 Washington St PO Box 60  
Lamont, Iowa 50650  
LamontAurora@gmail.com  
www.LamontAuroraIowaUMC.org

#### **Aurora United Methodist Church**

506 Luella St PO Box 143  
Aurora, Iowa 50607

#### **Pastoral Care**

Pastor Lisa Schroeder  
(319) 325-4566  
Lisaschroederpastor@gmail.com

#### **Prayer Chain**

Jane Richmond - (563) 933-6248

#### **Church Food Pantry**

Deb Brown or Jane Richmond

#### **Mobile Food Pantry**

Kay Hoffman - (319) 361-8100

#### **District Superintendent**

Rev. Scott Keele Kober  
Scott.keelekober@iaumc.org  
(515) 207-7604

#### **Iowa Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church**

www.iaumc.org

#### **SPRC Chair**

Jerry Griffin - (319) 202-4592

#### **Administrative Council Chair**

John Cook

#### **Sunday School**

Julie Mather  
Brettjuliemather@gmail.com

#### **Church Secretary**

Joanne Lamphier  
HBLF4U@gmail.com  
(319) 213-2541

#### **Church Treasurer**

Nicole Goedken  
ngoedken91@outlook.com  
(563) 608-2225

#### **Other Contacts**

JoAnn Crow—(563) 920-5273  
Deb Brown—(563) 920-5450  
Jane Richmond —(563) 933-6248

## Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

March is the month we start looking forward to spring weather, but we can have a range of temperatures. Besides the rollercoaster weather we might have, it is also the time to set our clocks ahead an hour on March 8, so you get up in time for church on March 9!

On March 5<sup>th</sup> we have the Ash Wednesday service in Strawberry Point at 5:30 pm. We will also offer ashes on Sunday, March 9 at the 9:00 am Aurora Sunday Service. Instead of a weekly Lenten Study, this year we will make a commitment to meet with God each day of the Lenten Season with a daily devotional "The Sanctuary for Lent 2025." This devotional guide contains readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday, including a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a brief prayer. You will have the opportunity to open yourself daily to God. There are printed devotionals or you can download the devotional. I will post a question or thought each day for you to think about or respond to if you would like to participate.

On March 13, we will host a meeting for local clergy, lay leaders and other members of communities to meet with a non-profit organization from the Des Moines area called AMOS (A Midlowa Organizing Strategy). They have been present in central Iowa for several years and have been instrumental in teaching communities how to organize effectively to meet the needs of their communities. And don't forget to celebrate St. Patrick's Day or the Feast of Saint Patrick on March 17<sup>th</sup>. This is a

religious and cultural holiday held to commemorate the arrival of Christianity in Ireland

On March 23<sup>rd</sup> Strawberry Point UMC will host another BINGO get together. Join us for a free will lunch and then play Bingo for some fun prizes and fellowship! No cost to play! On March 24<sup>th</sup> we will have a Joint SPRC meeting with representatives from all three churches at 5:30 at Strawberry Point UMC following the Strawberry Church Council Meeting. I will also be attending the Iowa Conference Spring Orders & Fellowship Meeting at Lovely Lane UMC in Cedar Rapids on March 27<sup>th</sup>. On March 30<sup>th</sup> we will have a joint worship service at 10:00 AM at Lamont UMC with a potluck after. We will be celebrating camping ministries and you are invited to wear your camping clothes and bring some of the things you like to cook when you are camping. Feel free to bring pictures of some of your camping adventures to share with others.

We are reminded that Lent is known as a time to reflect and meditate on what God has done for you through Jesus Christ and to prepare for Easter and consider how and why your life is different because of the sacrifice Jesus made for you. As we look forward to the amazing grace of Good Friday and the overwhelming hope and promise of the resurrection of Easter Sunday, let us take time to give thanks for all God has done for us and continues to do for us and through us.

Serving Christ Together! Pastor Lisa

### Regular Worship Times

1st Sunday of the month  
2nd Sunday of the month  
3rd Sunday of the month  
4th Sunday of the month  
5th Sunday of the month

### Lamont

9:00 AM  
  
9:00 AM  
9:00 AM

### Aurora

9:00 AM  
10:30 AM

### Strawberry

10:30 AM  
10:30 AM  
10:30 AM Guest Speaker  
10:30 AM

*Joint worship service with location TBA @ 10AM*

### Sympathies

Karen Kremer's son, Tom, passed away recently. Please keep his family in your prayers. Cards can be mailed to Karen Kremer, 1578 Washington St, Lamont, IA 50650.

Please keep the Donna Welter family in your prayers. She passed away February 17, 2025.

### Gas Card Shower

Randy Brown is going through some medical treatments that will require daily treatment and driving back and forth to Cedar Rapids. If you would like to send a gas card to him to help offset some of the expenses, it can be mailed to Randy Brown, 740 Hwy 187, Lamont, IA 50650.

### Birthday Card Shower

Happy Birthday to Grace Smith, one of the oldest members of the Aurora UMC. Please send her a card to: Grace Smith, 1006 Linden St #426, Dallas Center, IA 50063.

### Grace Food Pantry

Thank you all that keep our Matthew 25 project going! We are truly blessed. We are able to help many community families. Anyone in need of food, please contact Deb Brown or Jane Richmond.

Food Pantry Needs

### Lamont City Council Meeting

The 2nd Wednesday of the month at City Hall 7pm

### Mobile Food Pantry

When: Typically the 4th Wednesday of the month at 3:30 p.m.  
Where: Line up in the alley behind the fire station in Lamont. Note: Bring two empty boxes to exchange for full boxes.

### Hospitality Signup

Each Sunday after worship service, everyone is invited for fellowship. Goodies and coffee is served. If you would like to signup to bring treats, the notebook is in the library.

### Prairie Hills Worship

Join us on the 4th Wednesday every month at 9 am in Independence at Prairie Hills Assisted Living.

### Offertory

If you are unable to make it in-person, offertories can be mailed to your church at the address on page 1 of this newsletter.

### Working Hands

If you crochet or knit or just want to come see what we are up to, please come to Grace Lamont on Saturday, March 15th at 9:00 a.m.

### Common Grounds Meeting

The 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am at the Common Grounds. Checkout their Facebook page for more details.

### Lamont Spring Clean Up Day

Saturday, April 5, 2025  
Items need to be curbside by 6:00 a.m.

### UMYF Meets

United Methodist Youth meets every first and third Wednesday of the month unless told otherwise. They meet from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. It is open to all 6th to 12th students.

### Annual Garage Sale

Start cleaning and marking your garage sale items. Plans for the next spring sale is being planned. More details to come as they develop.

### April Communion

Server - John Richmond  
Supplies - Jane Richmond

### May Communion

Server - JoAnn Crow  
Supplies - Deb Brown

### June Communion

Server - Need Volunteer  
Supplies - Need Volunteer

### Ushers

March 16—Youth Sunday  
March 23—Randy M & Terry C  
March 30—Need Volunteer  
April 6—John & Maranda  
April 13—Aurora

### Scripture Readers

March 16—Youth Sunday  
March 23—Elaine Bliss  
March 30—Need Volunteer  
April 6—Maranda Cook  
April 13—Aurora

**MARCH 2025**

## SPRC/AD Council Meeting

February 10, 2025 - Our meeting began with prayer offered by Pastor Lisa. Pastor reviewed her activities. Vacation for the spring dates of April 28-May 12 were proposed. Pulpit supply would be needed for May 4 and 11. Jerry Griffin will supply May 11.

A new program, AMOS, was discussed. A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS). The circuit group pastors will meet to plan an activity in the future.

Lenten devotional books will be offered in place of a Lenten study.

Joint SPRC meeting will be March 24 at 5:30 p.m. in Strawberry Point.

Insurance for Grace church will include a \$600 increase in premium cost.

January 13, 2025 minutes were read and with a correction of the \$2,194.12 balance in the Memorials account, were approved as read.

**TREASURER** reported all bills were paid.

**TRUSTEES** - Biennial report for Grace UMC was filed on January 16, 2025. John Cook and Dylan Lamphier were added to the list of directors.

**PARSONAGE** - no report.

**MEMORIALS** - Balance in account is \$2194.12

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** - group will be planning World Day of Prayer program for March 7th. Grief Support group will meet for the first time this week. The women will be discussing when to have the annual garage sale. Newsletter articles will be written to remind the congregation of our quarterly support due to the missionary work of Pastor Doug Williams in March.

**MISSIONS** - Meet has been ordered for distribution at the mobile food pantry and Grace's pantry. Casey's has donated several items and ex-

cess items from the January mobile pantry will be given out in February.

**YOUTH** - \$375 was raised by the youth from the soup/sandwich luncheon January 26. They will enjoy a valentine party February 19.

**AUDIO/VISUAL** - Cabinet has been completed and finished. A carpet remnant was purchased and installed on the platform floor. Dylan Lamphier moved some outlets and will install a shelf. Compliments were received about the fine carpentry Leon Goedken completed.

**ADMIN ASSISTANT** - dates the Lamphier's will be gone have been given to Pastor.

**OTHER** - Pastor has been thinking ahead about retirement. This may take place in 2026. The churches in this charge will need to decide what they would require in Pastoral leadership. This would probably involve an increase in financial commitment.

**OLD BUSINESS** - none

**NEW BUSINESS** - none

**ADJOURNMENT** - meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Jane Richmond, recording secretary.

## Williams Mission Work Commitment

Grace UM Church and the Untied Women in Faith group have committed to supporting the work of missionary Pastor Doug Williams. Pastor Doug has been serving in Argentina for several years. He had been a pastor to the Lamont/Aurora charge. Grace UM Church will be taking a special offering during the last Sunday of the month to support this project. Please designate on the memo line, Williams Ministry, if you choose to write a check. You may use the pew envelopes to give cash donations, but please write Williams Ministry on the envelope. Our groups have committed to giving \$400 a quarter to this project.

## UWF Minutes

Feb. 11 2025 UMF minutes  
Pres. Jane called mtg to order reading 1st Peter 3:15 with 4 members + the pastor present.

Deb did the Least Coin from "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Women" book.

The treasury balance is \$1993.03 with the 1st quarter pledge paid.

### OLD BUSINESS:

We received thank you's from Women at the Well & camp ministry for our Christmas donations.

The UMYF soup supper profited \$375.

### NEW BUSINESS:

Ash Wed. is March 5 at Aurora.

World Day of Prayer is March 7 in Lamont-9:30 coffee & 10:00 program about the Cook Islands. 4 readers are needed + juice, muffins, coffee cake donations; Pastor Lisa will do music. Elaine will get the word out to surrounding churches and the prayer chain..

March 30 is a combined service at Lamont -10 AM-with a potluck to follow.

Pastor shared copies of the meetings calendar for Feb. & March. She also talked about the AMOS-Organizing Strategy group -Building on a Strong Foundation- which will be explored.

The Grief Support group will meet Feb 13 1PM at Common Grounds.

Elaine did the lesson; Jane was hostess.

The next mtg is March 11-1:30 PM. Glenda will have the lesson; JoAnn will host.

Please come to increase our voice.  
Glenda, secretary

**MARCH 2025**

## Mobile Food Pantry

March 26, 2025

April 23, 2025

May 28, 2025



### **Little Blessing Bakery (NEW TO AURORA IOWA)**

Nestled in the little town of Aurora is a hidden gem. Margaret Butler opened up a bakery on February 4, 2025 at 109 Prospect St, Aurora. Be sure to visit and support this small business to get your baked goods and grab a cup of coffee while you are there. Heck, meet your friends there and enjoy it all together. Call for current hours: (319) 634-3240.



**Crochet Group**  
postponed to  
March 15th at 9:00 a.m.  
Grace Lamont

### **Common Grounds Coffee House**

Wednesday Lunch Specials /Pickup 11:00—Noon  
Carry-out only \$8/ meal

Sign up Friday before by calling Common Grounds 563-924-2371 (landline) or 530-300-0317 (cell).

March 12 - Goulash

March 19 - Pork Loin

March 26 - Meatloaf

April 2 - Meat Balls

April 9 - Tenderloin

April 16 - CG Burger

April 23 - Swiss Steak

April 30 - Chicken Breast

The Common Grounds Coffee Shop is open Monday-Saturday from 6-9am for coffee and donuts.

Common Grounds Coffee Shop is also available for rent at \$20 per day. Please contact Karen Kremer at 319-961-8100 or Sharry McFarlane at 319-509-1166 for details.

A can redemption drop off is located in the alley

### **Mission Statement**

Making God's love and grace known to all of his children.

### **Lamont Community Club**

The 2nd Tuesdays of the month at the Lamont Community Center. Checkout their Facebook page for more details.

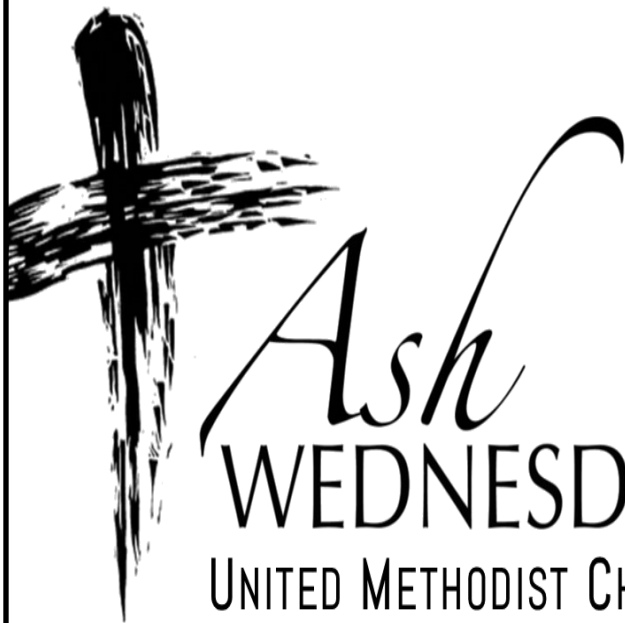
### **Vision Statement**

To see God's grace and love made known to all of His children regardless of age, race, ethnic background, gender, marital status, physical or mental ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, socio-economic status, religious preference or any other human condition.

### **Community Grief Support**

Grace UMC and United Women in Faith will meet on Thursday, March 6 at 1pm at the Grace Lamont UMC basement. Any adult is welcome to attend and it is open to all churches and people in the community.

Cedar Valley Hospice personnel will help get this program going and advise us as it develops.



# Ash WEDNESDAY

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
**DEDICATED SERVICE**

STRAWBERRY POINT, MARCH 5 @ 5:30PM

**DURING WORSHIP**

AURORA UMC, MARCH 9 @ 9:00AM



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA

*Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action*

**Friday, March 7, 2025**

9:30 a.m. Coffee

10:00 a.m. Program

Grace Lamont  
United Methodist Church

Program:  
"I Made You Wonderful"  
Psalm 139:14

**FISH FRY FRIDAY MARCH 7 (4:30-7:30P.M.)**  
**St. Mary's Strawberry Point**



## Joint Worship

March 30th

at 10am Grace Lamont

Potluck to follow

Celebrate Camping Ministry.

Bring your favorite foods to  
make when camping;  
wear your camping clothes;  
share photos.

## Don't Be Late!

Remember to  
turn your clocks

**FORWARD**

**Sunday morning at  
2am,**

**March 9th**  
before going to  
bed!







# AURORA LEGION & AUXILIARY



## Sunday Breakfast

8:00 am - 12:00 pm

~~NOVEMBER 3, 2024~~

~~DECEMBER 1, 2024~~

~~JANUARY 5, 2025~~

~~JANUARY 19, 2025~~

~~FEBRUARY 2, 2025~~

~~FEBRUARY 16, 2025~~

~~MARCH 2, 2025~~

MARCH 16, 2025

APRIL 6, 2025

APRIL 20, 2025

A 50-50 RAFFLE TO  
BE HELD EACH  
BREAKFAST

Carry-outs available

NEED NOT BE  
PRESENT TO WIN

All you can eat pancakes; also biscuits & gravy, sausage,  
ham & scrambled eggs with milk, juice or coffee

### CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE

Adults \$10.00

5-8 years \$5.00

Preschool Free





## The Sanctuary for Lent 2025 By [Justin LaRosa](#)

Read and meditate on your own during the season of Lent starting Ash Wednesday on March 5.

Experience a transformative Lenten journey with The Sanctuary for Lent 2025 devotional! Each day includes a suggested Scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice to guide you from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday.

Sign up and pick up a devotional or get the address to download a copy. You can also receive a question or thought of the day via text or email from Pastor Lisa.

**Sign up today!**

### **MARCH**

Mar 2 – Worship 9:00 Lamont 10:30 Strawberry Point  
 Mar 3 – 2:30 Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point  
 Mar 5 – Ash Wednesday – 5:30 Strawberry Point (ashes on Sunday in Aurora)  
 Mar 5 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont  
 Mar 6 – 1:00 PM Grief Support Group – Lamont UMC  
 Mar 7 – 9:30 coffee, 10:00 program - World Day of Prayer – Lamont UMC  
 Mar 8 – SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR! DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!  
 Mar 9 – FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Aurora (with ashes) 10:30 Strawberry  
 Mar 10 – 2:30 Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point  
 Mar 10 – 6:00 Lamont SPRC & Council  
 Mar 11 – 1:30 Lamont United Women in Faith  
 Mar 13 – 11:30 – 2:30 Pictured Rocks District Meeting – AMOS Pilot Program  
 Mar 16 – SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Lamont 10:30 Aurora  
 Mar 17 – 2:30 Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point  
 Mar 19 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont  
 Mar 23 – THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT Worship 9:00 Lamont 10:30 Strawberry Point  
 Mar 24 – 2:30 Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point  
 Mar 24 – 4:00 Strawberry Point Council  
 Mar 24 – 5:30 JOINT SPRC Meeting – Strawberry Point  
 Mar 26 – 9:00 Prairie Hills Worship – Independence  
 Mar 26 – Lamont Food Pantry  
 Mar 27 – Pastor Lisa – Orders Meetings – Lovely Lane UMC CR 9 AM-4PM  
 Mar 30 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - JOINT WORSHIP –  
 10:00 AM Worship at Lamont UMC with potluck following!

### **SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL**

Apr 13 – Palm Sunday 9:00 Aurora 10:30 Strawberry Point  
 Apr 16 – 6:30 Aurora Holy Week Service – Aurora Kids Program  
 Apr 17 – 6:30 Lamont Holy Week Service (Maundy Thursday & Good Friday combined)  
 Apr 18 – 6:30 Strawberry Point Holy Week Service (Maundy Thurs/Good Fri combined)  
 Apr 20 – EASTER SUNDAY



## **PICTURED ROCKS DISTRICT MEETING – AMOS PILOT PROGRAM**

**Thursday, March 13, 2025, 11:30 PM to 2:30 PM**

**Lunch – subway sandwiches, assorted chips, bars and cookies**

**Location: Strawberry Point UMC**

AMOS organizes research action teams to find concrete, specific, and winnable solutions to the problems plaguing families in our community. These volunteer, citizen-led issues teams are formed out of the small group house meeting process AMOS organizes to be an effective grassroots process of listening and telling our stories. AMOS has amassed an impressive track record of finding solutions by connecting community churches and organizations and have made an impact on several key areas of community concern: healthcare, mental health, affordable housing, infrastructure improvements, transportation and workforce development. They have trained thousands of ordinary Iowans in effective leadership development skills that build strong communities, strong congregations, and strong civic organizations, to continue to build relational power and make democracy work for families in every community. Through face-to-face, one-on-one meetings, AMOS members build relationships between members of our communities to discover the passions and concerns that unite us all and respond to the concerns and pressures felt by communities.

### **Advanced Lay Servant Training -**

**Independence, First UMC - March 2025**

Pastor Elizabeth Bell will be offering the Advanced Course

***United Methodist Polity.*** She will be offering this in 2 five-hour sessions on Saturday, March 15, 2025, and Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

**Lunch Options:** Brown bag, Mexican and Chinese restaurants (available within two blocks from the church), Casey's, Hy-Vee Market Fresh, Fareway, etc.

The book can be purchased through [The Upper Room](#), [Cokesbury](#), or [Amazon](#) - *be aware as there are varying costs.*

**United Methodist Polity**

Book to order for this training:

**Polity Practice and the Mission of the United Methodist Church (2006 edition)**

By: *Thomas E. Frank*

Participant's Book • ISBN: 978 0-687-33531-2

*Cost for the class is \$25.00. Each registrant is required to purchase their own participant book for the class. You will need to pay online for registration to be complete.*  
If you are not able to pay online - please contact the [District Office](#).

**For more information and/or to register contact Pastor Lisa**

**Registration deadline is March 9, 2025.**

**Please register early as class size is limited to 12.**

# MAR 2025

**WEDNESDAY** - Pick up your Common Grounds Special between 11am and Noon  
**FRIDAY** - Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10 am  
**FRIDAY & SATURDAY** - Pastor's regular day off

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
							1
<b>FIRST SUNDAY</b>	2 Lamont 9:00 a.m. St Point 10:30 a.m. Aurora Legion Breakfast 8:00 to Noon	3	4	5 UMYF Lamont 6:30 p.m. ASH Wednesday service in Strawberry at 5:30pm	6 GRIEF SUPPORT group 1pm in Grace Lamont basement	7 WORLD DAY of PRAYER in Lamont at 9:30 a.m.  St Mary's Strawberry Point FISH FRY 430- 730pm	8
<b>SECOND SUNDAY</b>	9 Aurora 9:00 a.m. w/Ashes St Point 10:30 a.m.  SPRING FORWARD Time Change	10 Lamont Church Meetings at 6:00 p.m.	11 Lamont United Women in Faith at 1:30 p.m.  Common Grounds monthly meeting 10am	12 Lamont City Council meeting 7pm	13 AMOS meets in Strawberry Point at 11:30am	14 Lamont Legion Fish Fry	15 Working Hands 9am
<b>THIRD SUNDAY</b>	16 Lamont 9:00 a.m. Aurora 10:30 a.m.  Aurora Legion Breakfast 8:00 to Noon	17 St Patricks Days	18	19 UMYF Lamont 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY</b>	23 Lamont 9:00 a.m. St Point 10:30 a.m.	24 St.Point Church Council 4:00 p.m.  JOINT SPRC 5:30 in Strawberry	25	26 Prairie Hills Worship Independence 9:00 a.m.  Lamont Mobile Food Pantry at 3:30 p.m.	27	28	29
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY</b>	30 JOINT WORSHIP w/ POTLUCK 10am - LAMONT	31	1	2 UMYF Lamont 6:30 p.m.	3	4	