



Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Ash
WEDNESDAY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DEDICATED SERVICE

STRAWBERRY POINT, FEB 18 @ 6:30PM

DURING WORSHIP

LAMONT UMC, FEB 22 @ 9:00AM

Holy Cow!

The C.A.T. survey is coming!

Congregational
Assessment
Tool



We need your voice!

This survey is your opportunity to share your experiences and priorities for our congregation.

All of our worshippers are asked to participate.

MORE INFORMATION TO COME.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF LAMONT | AURORA | STRAWBERRY POINT

Volume: 2026

January 22, 2026

Edition: 01

Pastoral Care

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Prayer Chain

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Church Food Pantry

Deb Brown - (563) 920-5450
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Mobile Food Pantry

Kay Hoffman - (319) 361-8100

District Superintendent

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SPRC Chair

Jerry Griffin - (319) 202-4592

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John Cook

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Lay Leaders

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Steve Thacher

Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

The month of January just flew by and here it is going into February! We started winter with an early snowstorm the last weekend of November with around a foot of snow. Then we had warm days that thawed snow in the middle of December. The roller coaster weather patterns in December and January gave us near record warmth along with strong winds and some below zero wind-chill temperatures. I was hoping the rest of the winter season would be calm, but during January it was over 50 degrees one day and just a few days later back to below zero again! It seems we just can't get away from extreme winds along with the fluctuating temperatures! Maybe Groundhog Day will tell us that we will have an early spring! We can only hope!

February brings us to a time when we send valentines and buy gifts to show our love to those who are special to us, but we also continue the Epiphany season that began on January 6. Remember to think about ways we can "bring the light to the streets" and into the dark places of our world today, that need a whole lot more signs of love. I included the handout "From Star to Street: Five Practices for Epiphany" in the newsletter. It reminds us that Epiphany isn't just about seeing the light of the star, it's about following the light into new spaces and taking new risks in love.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday on Wednesday night, February 18 at 6:30, in Strawberry Point and on the first Sunday in Lent on February 22 at the 9:00 o'clock service in Lamont. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and repentance, symbolizing mortality, grief for sins, and spiritual renewal as Christians remember Jesus' death and resurrection. Believers receive ashes in the shape of a cross as a reminder of their sin, their mortality ("dust to dust") and a sign of humility, drawing from Old Testament practices of mourning and penance. The ashes, often made from burning last year's Palm Sunday palms, signify grief for sin, reminding people they are "dust, and to dust you shall return". During the 40 days of Lent, we are called to a time of self-reflection, turning to God, and preparing for Easter, marking a commitment to a holy life and remembering the great sacrifice Jesus made for us to bring forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life.

Our confirmation classes will continue to meet through February on Wednesday nights and on the 3rd Sunday at 10:30 in Lamont. Notice we are changing our worship schedule a little, with no worship in Aurora on the 3rd Sunday but we will have a prayer service at 5:30 on the 4th Wednesdays before the Wednesday night kid's program.

Scott and I met with his surgeon and found his back had made some improvement so decided to postpone his back surgery. We pray that this is the right decision and his back will continue to heal on its own. The surgeon also recommended that Scott start retirement. Thank you so much for all your prayers and please continue as you take time in the coming month to draw close to God and give thanks for God's faithfulness and love for us in sending Jesus to earth to show us how to love one another!

Serving and Loving Christ and one another together! Pastor Lisa

TIME AGAIN FOR THE IN MISSION TOGETHER REPORT

We know it's BUSY time for everyone, but we need to remind you that data is due to Glenda S. by Jan 20, 2026.

Please include any community or church actions, volunteer work, etc. you participated in. List your name, number of people involved, total time involved: nursing home visits, food pantry help, fund raisers, etc.

Also, data on both food pantries, amount of food, volunteer hours, holiday baskets, MYF, Working Hands, etc.

Also, personally, your charitable giving: charity name, amount given.

All info is CONFIDENTIAL. Please e-mail or snail mail me. Either at glendale@netins.com or 1425 Slater Ave, Aurora 50607.

PRAYERS and SYMPATHY

Keep the family and friends of Randy Brown, son of Raymond and Rosalind Brown, in your thoughts and prayers. He passed away on January 3, 2026.

Keep the family and friends of Jackie Sadler, daughter of Raymond and Rosalind Brown, in your thoughts and prayers. She passed away on January 11, 2026.

If you have someone you would like mentioned in this column, please email the church secretary.

NEW SOFTWARE

We will have a new look to the newsletters and bulletins this year because the software the secretary previously used is becoming obsolete and unavailable in the fall. Bear with the secretary as she learns how to use the new software.

CONGREGATIONAL ASSESSEMENT TOOL

Pastor Lisa will be retiring at the end of June 2026. To get a new pastor to take her place, the entire congregation needs to fill out a survey. We are in the beginning stages of the preparation of this survey. Stay tuned for when the survey is available. (CAT=Congregational Assessment Tool). CAT is the main term you will hear.



LamontAuroralowaUmc.com



Lamont Iowa Church



Lamontaurora lowaumc

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP:

Every Sunday in Lamont at 9:00 am except the 2nd Sunday is in Aurora. Wednesday evening worship in Aurora TBA.
SUNDAY SCHOOL at 10:15 am every Sunday in Lamont.
UMYF is the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Lamont at 6:30 pm.

What is Statistical Reporting?

Each year every United Methodist Church across the denomination completes the report which compiles data about Membership and Participation, Church Assets and Expenses, and Church Income. Most importantly, the Iowa Annual Conference uses a four-year average of the income for each church to determine apportionments.

Reporting begins around January 1st, 2026 and must be completed no later than **February 3, 2026**. If you are asked for information, please provide as soon as possible to be sure to comply with the needs of the United Methodist Church.

Change in Worship Location

For the month of January, we will worship in Aurora on the last Sunday, January 25th at 9:00 a.m. There will be no Lamont worship. Please spread the news.

Food Pantry Updates

Thank you to everyone that helps to furnish our local church food pantry. The shelves are looking bare so if you can pick up some items when you are shopping, you would be helping your fellow neighbors.

The mobile food pantry is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28th.

Confirmation Class

We are excited to be able to offer a confirmation class at the Grace Lamont UMC this year. It will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



SCAN THE CODE TO
MAKE YOUR WEEKLY
LAMONT OFFERING

Once there was a little village nestled securely in a valley between two mountains. Its people were very advanced compared with those who lived in the neighboring villages.

They had learned how to build bridges, how to farm the slopes of the mountains, how to make laws to govern themselves, and how to write poetry about the beauty that surrounded them.

The villagers had a special treasure ... a chest filled with beautiful jewels. No one could remember just how or when the village had first come to possess the chest, except that it had been given to them as a gift from someone who had loved them very much. The villagers were very proud of their treasure. They took good care of it and even built a special room for it. Life was good for the people who lived in the village, but one thing disturbed them. They longed desperately to share the beauty of the jewels with their children; to let them see the sparkling colors with their own eyes. But they had forgotten how to open the chest. This was a very distressing situation and one day they did hold a meeting to discuss the problem.

Everyone agreed how very important it was for the children to be able to see the jewels with their own eyes, but when they got around to discussing how the chest might be opened, no one felt qualified to open it or had the time to try. Each year they passed a resolution about how important it was for their children to see the jewels with their own eyes. And yet each year no one felt qualified to open the chest or had the time to try.

The moral of this story is if you don't take time, it will take you. The trail of broken promises and commitments in our lives is paved with the excuse of not having time. Stewardship is the experience of turning intentions into actions.



HAPPY NEW YEAR BLESSINGS BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

We begin 2026 with anticipation of the possibilities and opportunities that a new year brings! Most years, I begin filling in my planner for the coming year with worship services and meetings and special events that will happen during the next twelve months. That usually starts several months before the end of the year. This year, I begin with some confidence of what the first six months might look like but have some big question marks for the second six months. Many of you know that I will be finishing my appointment at Lamont-Strawberry Point-Aurora UMC on June 30 and begin retirement on July 1. That is one thing that I have planned for. But with Scott having back surgery on January 15, the rest of 2026 and our future is up in the air depending on how surgery goes, when Scott will retire and where we will live. We are trying to remain confident that God has a plan, even though all the details aren't in place yet!

My move to retirement also means that the churches will be transitioning to a new pastor. That will include a process of completing surveys, meeting with a facilitator provided by the conference, talking about the strengths of the congregations, the current mission and vision, financial and stewardship processes and what people experience and expect in their worship experience going forward. Every member will have

an opportunity to complete a survey, and the Council and Staff Parish Committees will establish a team to handle preparation, communication and follow-up of the process with the local church members. This will all be information that will be helpful in appointing the next pastor that will begin in January.

As we are going through this process, we will continue our regular worship schedule and ministries following the liturgical calendar and celebrating our ministry together. On January 4, we celebrate Epiphany and the journey of the wise men to honor the new infant, King Jesus. We remember that the kings or magi came from far-off countries and traveled for a year or two to find this baby who had been born, whose birth caused a new star to appear that led them on their journey. We are also reminded to look for the light of God that can lead us into a new year and new circumstances and situations. On January 7, I will be meeting with the UMYF youth in Lamont to make plans for a confirmation class that will meet in February and March to learn more about their commitment to the church and following God in their lives. Please contact me, the church secretary or one of the Sunday School or Youth leaders if you know of someone in Lamont-Strawberry or Aurora who is interested in joining us for

confirmation. On January 11, we will play a little catch up and have the rescheduled Sunday School Christmas Program in Lamont. I have a t-shirt that says "Celebrate the birth of Christ the Lord 365 days of the year" so we can have the Christmas program any day! Strawberry Point is also planning to restart their fellowship time beginning in January, but will have it before worship at 9:30, so you can have a warm cup of coffee to get you going and wake you up for worship! Then my husband, Scott, will be having back surgery on January 15 and I will be taking a couple of weeks off to stay in Cedar Rapids and play nurse to him – a role reversal for us since he is the RN in the family! JoAnn Crow and Jerry Griffin will be preaching on January 18 and 25.

We have so much to look forward to and think about and celebrate! Who knows where God will be leading us in 2026! Even during uncertainty, I know one thing is sure; we need to have plenty of time to seek God's guidance and listen to God's plans for us! That means we must meditate on God's Word to us: "*I know the plans I have in mind for you, declares the Lord; they are plans for peace, not disaster, to give you a future filled with hope.*"

[Jeremiah 29:11](#)

May we continue to follow God into the new year serving Christ together! Pastor Lisa

JANUARY

Jan 21 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont

Jan 25 – Sunday worship Jerry Griffin preaching 9:00 Aurora

Jan 28 – NO WORSHIP AT PRAIRIE HILLS THIS MONTH

Jan 28 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont

Jan 28 – 3:30 Lamont Food Pantry

LOOKING AHEAD AT FEBRUARY

Feb 1 – Sunday worship & communion at 9:00am in Lamont

Feb 4 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont/Confirmation Class

Feb 8 – SUPERBOWL SUNDAY - Sunday worship 9:00 Aurora

Feb 9 – 6:00 SPRC & Council Lamont

Feb 10 – 1:30 United Women in Faith - Lamont

Feb 12 – 1:00 Grief Support Group

Feb 12 – Pastor Lisa - Clergy Ethics Training – Lovely Lane UMC – Cedar R

Feb 14 – HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!

Feb 15 – Sunday worship 9:00 Lamont 10:00 Confirmation Class

Feb 17 – Pastor Lisa – Circuit Meeting Oelwein UMC

Feb 18 – **6:30 ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE Strawberry Point**

Feb 18 – 6:30 UMYF Lamont/Confirmation Class at 7:30 following Ash Wed service

Feb 22 – **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT** Sunday Worship 9:00 Lamont **(with ashes)**



LOOKING AHEAD AT MARCH and APRIL

Mar 6 – World Day of Prayer – watch for details

Mar 7 – Daylight Savings Time Ends - set clocks ahead one hour

Mar 29 – JOINT WORSHIP - Palm Sunday – Confirmation Service –

celebrating our baptismal and membership vows – potluck after worship

April 1 – 6:30 Aurora Kids Holy Week Program

April 2 – 6:30 Maundy Thursday-Good Friday Service – Lamont

April 3 – 6:30 Maundy Thursday-Good Friday Service – Strawberry Point

April 5 – EASTER SUNDAY Worship 9:00 Lamont

FOOD PANTRY can always use cereal, macaroni, soups, and peanut butter. Anything anyone would like to donate is appreciated. We have freezers if you want to donate any frozen items too. As always, thank you for supporting your friends in neighbors in need.

Ad Council Minutes

December 8, 2025 - Pastor Lisa offered prayer. Communications and upcoming activities were discussed. Pastor Lisa will retire July 1, 2026. The last six months of her service for the three churches, she will be 3/4 time.

Ad Council agenda was approved as presented. November 10, 2025, minutes were approved as read.

TREASURER reported balance of \$7,015.51

FINANCE COMMITTEE - Windstream phone bill is very expensive and negotiations to lower the cost have not resulted in positive action. If Lamont agrees to terms of Winthrop Telephone Co (County Line Fiber) cost would be significantly lower. Cookie fundraiser sales were \$1,160. Accounting of expenses/income will be shared each month. Ideas for the fourth Sunday worship service were discussed.

PARSONAGE - Joyce Geistkemper made a motion to reimburse Pastor Lisa for the faucets that had been purchased for the bathroom. Seconded by Marcia Moyle. Approved.

TRUSTEES - Branches will be trimmed from trees around the church. Sink hole near church sign was noted. Work will be done in the spring.

MEMORIALS - No activity. Balance is \$2,573.75

UNITED WOMAN IN FAITH - Programs for 2026 will be finalized. Yearend giving donations will be decided. Ending of commitment to Doug Williams Missionary work at the end of 2025.

MISSIONS - Twenty-two Christmas shoeboxes were filled and taken to Elkader. Thanksgiving baskets were delivered. Christmas groceries and baskets will be completed next week.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - Christmas program will be December 14. JoAnn and Deb will switch classes. JoAnn will have smaller children, and Deb will have older children.

UMYF - potato bar successful with generous donations received.

AUDIO VISUAL - Working on having a DVD system to play movies in the sanctuary.

ADMISTRATIVE ASSISTANT - Will be starting the Statistical Reports. They are due Feb 1st.

OTHER - none

OLD BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS - Detailed financial papers were presented and discussed.

FORUM - Terry Crow volunteered to shovel the church sidewalks.

ADJOURNMENT - 7:40 p.m. Jane Richmond, recording secretary.

WORKING HANDS

If you crochet or knit or just want to come see what we are up to, please come to Grace Lamont the second Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m.

Ways To Get Involved

- Ushering
- Scripture Reading
- Candle Lighters
- Sunday School Teacher
- Sunday School Helper
- Musicians
- Morning Coffee
- Hospitality
- Clean Up After Church
- Turn off lights
- Kitchen Helpers
- Children's Time
- Recording Service
- PowerPoint
- Sound Assistant
- Adult Drivers (as needed)
- Food Pantry

UMYF Heifer Project

Donate your quarters in the tube located in the back of the church. In the past years, these quarters have been used to help buy chicks, rabbits and bees for families in need. Your quarters make a huge difference in other people's lives.

United Women in Faith

Nov 11, 2025 - Pres. Jane opened the meeting with 8 members + pastor at 1:30 PM. She read 2nd Corinthians 9:4. Deb did the Least Coin. The Oct. minutes were approved. Our account is \$712.08. We have given a Gift in Memory to Karen Murley & moved to give a Gift in Mission to Elaine Bliss; Jane moved, Deb seconded, motion carried. The pie fund has \$1529.19. Today's Thank Offering is \$335.

OLD BUSINESS:

The 2026 officer list was e-mailed to the district. The Special Mission pins have arrived. Marcia is working on the 2026 program. The kitchen was cleaned yesterday Nov. 10-a big thanks to all who helped.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shoe boxes are due this Sun Nov 16. The Ad Council again had a full table. They are still working on reducing the phone bill and property insurance rates. Hanging of the Greens will be Nov. 23-8 sets of readers are needed to volunteer. Sat Nov 11 9 AM the decorations are to be unpacked. Dec will be the completion of our year's commitment to Pastor Doug. Members are asked to pay their pledges to JoAnn so money can be sent Dec. 10. Be thinking about what organizations to give our Christmas giving: last year we donated \$500. Also, we will again have some Angel tree tags. It was suggested that the Finance committee print out & make available the monthly expenses/income. Dec 3 at 4:30- 6:30 the youth will offer a potato bar. The Sunday School is working on the Christmas program. Veterans will be recognized Nov. 16.

Joyce had the lesson; JoAnn was hostess. Next month's Dec 9th lesson will be Deb & we are to bring some goodies to share.

Secretary Glenda

United Women in Faith

January 13, 2026 – President Deb Brown opened with 7 members + pastor by reading Psalm 119:105. Kaye did Least Coin from DISCIPLINE about Martin Luther King & Nehemiah 8. The December minutes were approved. Thank you's were read for the Christmas gifts we sent.

Treasury has \$320.96 -we sent \$2085 last year to the district. Pie fund has \$978.23 after paying for holiday gifts. We are a 5 Star unit.

OLD BUSINESS:

Special membership pins were given to Jerry Griffin & Karen Kremer. 2026 Program Books were given out and the UMF Program Book 2026 has arrived. We served the Randy Brown funeral; Sunday School Christmas program was a success; the 2025 Covenant w/ Missionary Doug Williams was fulfilled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ribbons for the garlands need to be replaced for next Advent. 2026 pledges will be made today. The Ad Council continues to work on lowering insurance rates and telephone bills; process on surveys for new pastor are proceeding; bathroom faucets were replaced in parsonage; volunteers are needed to compile a more recent member list; we will serve the January 24th Celebration of Life for Jackie Brown Sadler.

Ash Wednesday service in Strawberry is February 18; Feb 22 in Lamont. There will be no 3rd Sun. service in Aurora due to lack of attendance. It will be changed to the 4th Wednesday night. Confirmation will be the 5th Sunday, March 29 (also Palm Sunday) in Lamont.

Elaine did the lesson; Kaye was hostess. Next month's leader will be Glenda and Deb will be hostess.

Secretary Glenda

ARE YOU IN A SMALL GROUP? WHAT HAPPENS THERE?

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH

What is UMF and why are we excited to include you?

The founders of Methodism, the Wesleys and their followers, decided that small groups were essential to spiritual formation. But guess what? Our best-known group, United Women in Faith, is ecumenical.

Open to all women, it is equal parts scriptural and practical. A good way to get a quick peek at our world-wide goal is to look at our bi-monthly magazine, Response. But best of all is to watch us in action – and “Action” is our middle name.

It’s no surprise that we host lots of money-making events throughout the year. Many church enterprises and other organizations benefit.

Aside from philanthropy and sheer hard work, we have another very important function; that is: Holy Sisterhood. Our lessons teach us how to go about it. We’re all on life support and God is our soul support. Even those now in assisted living are called “Members Emeriti” and we try to continue our connection with them. If you don’t have emotional support otherwise (or if you have some to share), you can find it here.

As such, several other small groups are an outreach of UWF, United Women in Faith.

WORKING HANDS is just that, an hour or so of working. Starting with a brief devotion; that’s the way the Lord’s work really begins; the ladies get to their tasks. Usually, they are knitting or crocheting. A few years ago they brought sewing machines and sewed sanitary kits for young women in Africa so they could go to school. Kits for school supplies, personal dignity kits, layettes of other types were done from year to year, though these vary.

The knitters and specifically crocheters have turned out afghans, scarves, baby sweaters, baby caps, hats and other small items. Dish cloths and table runners were made for sale at the bazaar; prayer shawls to take to nursing homes; and large shawls to distribute but do include a few in the coat area for anyone needing extra warmth in church. Many of the items find their way to the Ingathering festival at the beginning of November.

If you have a talent, craft or idea – we can use you! A crochet hook is a terrible thing to waste.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Our newest offshoot group is the Ecumenical Grief Support Group. This is open to any adult and is definitely not just for women!

Facilitated by a member from Cedar Valley Hospice, this is a confidential listening and sharing session for people who have experienced any kind of loss.

Although the group meets in the Friendship Room of the Methodist Church Basement, it is designed to be a community gathering place for support from people who need each other for as long as it takes. Be gentle on yourself – comfort is waiting – one breath at a time!

Meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Please join us!

“Life breaks everyone, but afterwards you are stronger in the broken places” *Theodore Roosevelt*.

MENS GROUP

We need a lot of good men! Guess what! We have quite a few, but, you know, they are just invisible. The one thing we lack right now is an organized Men’s Group.

But things – wonderful things – quietly get done. These men leave their homes with their sleeves already rolled up, as Nehemiah said, “The people had a mind to work.”

These men work and shepherd their families, yet, somehow, find time for church matters. The volunteer (mostly unpaid) work has gone on as long as there has been a church here. This is not only “Arts and Crafts” We have a proud tradition of lay speakers, ushers, lectionary readers and technicians.

Oftentimes after hours, weekend and holidays mostly unseen (did anyone actually see John Richmond climb the belfry and turn over the bell?) Our church has been transformed, crafting a buffet credenza or sermon takes wonderful talents. If I tried to name these volunteers I’d have to go back in time before I was a member of the church; also, I’d leave many people out because they simply won’t take credit.

Men and women are equally necessary to the church boards and other planning capacities. It’s not always women working in the kitchen, setting up chairs and vacuuming or washing floors. When physical strength is needed, with simple things like loading the Goodwill truck, they come in mighty handy!

But what goes unseen, even as we are looking right at it, the fact is that important things in the church actually work, for this we largely owe our “FEW” GOOD MEN!

Columns written and submitted by Elaine Bliss.

PASTOR THANK YOU'S!

- Thank you to everyone who helped the youth with the hot potato bar on December 3 and those who came to eat!
- Thanks to everyone who volunteered to do readings during Advent and Christmas Eve.
- Thanks to those who shovel and plow the snow at our churches.
- Thank you to everyone who brought poinsettias.
- Thank you to Karen Kremer and Elaine Bliss for helping with the nursing home worship.
- Thank you to our custodians who make sure the church is clean and ready for company!
- Thank you to our Sunday School teachers: JoAnn Crow, Deb Brown, Audrey Rubner, Julie Mather, Dave Young for leading our Sunday School classes and organizing the Christmas Programs. Also, to those who provide food for the fellowship after the programs. Thank you to Kay Hoffman for being the narrator and Jerry Griffin for always getting the church ready in Aurora. To those who helped in Lamont. May we always be willing to teach our children about God!
- Thank you to everyone who helped pack and deliver the Christmas boxes in Lamont.
- Thank you to anyone else I've forgotten to thank during the year – God knows what you do!
- Thank you to everyone for your thoughtful Christmas cards and gifts!
- Thank you to those who helped provide funeral lunches for Randy Brown and Jacque Brown Sadler memorial gatherings.
- Thank you to JoAnn Crow and Jerry Griffin for preaching so I could have a couple of Sundays off!
- Thank you to Joanne and BilliJo for getting the Statistical Reports completed and filed and all who gave them information.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

Friday, March 6, 2026

9:30 a.m. Coffee

10:00 a.m. Program

**Grace Lamont
United Methodist Church**

Program:
"I Will Give You Rest, Come"
Nigeria

Offertory

If you are unable to make it in-person, offertories can be mailed to your church or use the QR Code or website link.

Grace United Methodist Church

PO Box 60; Lamont, IA 50650

Aurora United Methodist Church

PO Box 143; Aurora, IA 50607

Website Link

lamontauroraiowaumc.com/online-offering



SCAN THE CODE TO
MAKE YOUR WEEKLY
LAMONT OFFERING



Grace Lamont United Methodist Church

MARCH 29, 2026

10:00 AM



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Plan to be present for this special service when we will joyfully welcome the youth into the family of faith and celebrate this significant milestone in their life journey.

MEMBERSHIP VOWS

PRAYERS | PRESENCE | GIFTS | SERVICE | WITNESS

Declare your faith and dedication to God and the church.

POTLUCK LUNCH

Please join your church family in a wonderful potluck lunch following this special service. Bring a dish of your choice to share and celebrate your commitment.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

This is a joint service between Lamont, Aurora, and Strawberry Point United Methodist Churches. If you are looking to find a church to call home, please join us on this day or any other day to see if this is a good fit for you.

MISSION STATEMENT: Making God's love and grace known to all his children. **VISION STATEMENT:** To see God's grace and love made known to all 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. **OFFERTORY:** If you are unable to make it to church, offertories can be mailed or can be made online.

LAMONT LEGION FISH SUPPER

10 October & 14 November 2025

13 March & 3 April (Good Friday) 2026

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

Shut-ins Call (563) 929-3060



Loren Foster American Legion & Auxiliary Post 346



COMMON GROUNDS LUNCHES

JAN 28 CHICKEN CASSEROLE

FEB 04 MEATLOAF

FEB 11 CHEFS CHOICE

FEB 18 BAKED FISH

FEB 25 GOULASH

AURORA LEGION & AUXILIARY

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

FEB 01 | MAR 01 | APR 19** | MAY 03
JUNE 07 | JULY 05 | AUG 02 | SEPT 06
OCT 04 | NOV 01 | DEC 06

**ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES; BISCUITS &
GRAVY; SAUSAGE; HAM; SCRAMBLED**

EGGS; MILK, JUICE OR COFFEE

ADULTS \$10 | 5-8 YEARS \$5

PRESCHOOL \$0

Don't Be Late!

Remember to
turn your clocks

FORWARD

Sunday morning at

2am,

March 7th

before going to
bed!



SIPS

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Quick and convenient healthy
sips providing essential
nutrients for energy and
overall wellness to
power through
your day.

www.SipsDowntownLamont.com
319-213-2541

FEBRUARY 2026

SUN Feb 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
BABY SHOWER @ GRACE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8am Aurora Legion Breakfast 9am Communion Lamont 9am Lamont Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fire Dept Meeting 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm Confirmation Class 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am C. Grounds Order Deadline 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Aurora Worship Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Church Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:30pm Women in Faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Lamont City Council Meeting 6:30pm Confirmation Homework 	Pastor @ Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm Grief Support Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am C. Grounds Order Deadline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Working Hands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Lamont Worship Service 10am Confirmation Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Fire Dept Meeting 	Pastor @ Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Confirmation Class Carpool 6:30pm Ash Wed Service (STPT) 7:30pm Confirmation Class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7am HONOR GUARD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am C. Grounds Order Deadline 	
First Sunday in Lent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Lamont Worship w/Ashes 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Prairie Hills Worship 3:30pm NEIA Food Pantry 6:30pm Confirmation Homework 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am C. Grounds Order Deadline 	



FEBRUARY 18

Ash Wednesday | Strawberry Point | 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 22

First Sunday in Lent w/Ashes | Lamont | 9:00 a.m.

MARCH 29

Palm Sunday | Lamont | 10:00 a.m.

APRIL 1

Holy Week Children's Program | Aurora UMC | 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 2

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday combined worship |
Lamont | 6:30 p.m.

APRIL 3

Maundy Thursday / Good Friday
combined worship | Strawberry Point |
6:30 p.m.

APRIL 5

Easter Sunday | Lamont | 9:00 a.m.



FROM STAR TO STREET: FIVE PRACTICES FOR EPIPHANY

As the new year dawns, the church enters the season of Epiphany, a time when we remember the story of the magi who followed a distant light to encounter Christ. They arrived not with answers, but with gifts, not with a program, but with presence. After encountering Jesus, they returned by another way, transformed.

Epiphany is an invitation to pay attention, to not rush into resolutions that become burdens of pressure. With resolutions, we struggle to find time to practice new resolutions, guilt when we don't successfully follow through, and shame and guilt upon abandoning resolutions. Instead, Epiphany invites us to slow down and notice where Christ is being revealed—especially in places of pain, division, and longing. It's a season that blends contemplation with action, helping us root our outward mission in an inward posture of attentiveness and love.

In a time of deep polarization, economic uncertainty, and widespread isolation, we need practices that open us to God's presence and our neighbors' reality. The rhythms of Epiphany can guide individuals, small groups, and congregations to live as people of light in a time of shadow.

Five Epiphany Practices for 2026

1. The Epiphany Examen Each evening or week, pause to reflect:

- Where did I see God today—in beauty, in suffering, in another person?
- Whom did I overlook or avoid?
- Where am I being invited to show up more fully?

This practice nurtures awareness in everyday life, often revealing opportunities for justice, healing, or relational repair that we'd otherwise miss.

2. Star Word Prayer Walk Choose a guiding "star word" (like justice, hope, welcome, or courage) and walk through your neighborhood or community. Ask:

- *Where is this word needed?*
- *Who is already embodying it?*
- *What systems are resisting it?*

Walking with intention opens our eyes to local needs, to people of peace, and to places where God's light presses against systems of harm or neglect.

3. Table Blessing and Community Listening Once a week, pray this blessing at a shared meal: "Christ who revealed yourself to strangers and seekers, bless this table and the stories around it. Open our ears to hear and our hearts to act in love."

- *What did I learn this week from someone different from me?*
- *What story or burden is staying with me?*

Justice begins with listening. A table becomes sacred space when it makes room for the weary, the unheard, and the hopeful.

4. One Gift for the Community Ask yourself or your congregation

- *What gift can I offer this month—time, skills, space, advocacy?*
- *Who might be blessed by it?*
- *How might I give without expecting anything in return?*

Just as the magi brought gifts to the Christ child, we bring what we have to places where Christ is still being revealed—the hungry, unhoused, the overlooked.

5. Weekly Question: Where is Christ being revealed? Ask this in worship, leadership meetings, or small groups:

- *What signs of God's presence do we notice in our community?*
- *Who is leading us toward justice, healing, or hope?*
- *What new road might God be calling us to take?*

Epiphany isn't just about seeing the light; it's about following the light into new spaces and taking new risks in love. It's a Season for Showing Up

Epiphany reminds us that revelation is not reserved for the temple or the sanctuary. It happens on dusty roads, in difficult places, and among unexpected people. This year let's see Epiphany as an invitation to reshape how we engage our communities—not as saviors, but as seekers. Cultivating spiritual practices into our lives can open us to God's vision of justice, and that vision will guide our hands and feet into real, embodied mission.

May we begin 2026 not with urgency, but with wonder.

Not with striving, but with presence.

Not just under the star, but in the streets where Christ is already waiting.



USHERS

Jan 25 Randy M & Terry C
Feb 1 Audrey & Briann
Feb 8 Aurora
Feb 15 Youth
Feb 22 Leon G. & Nicole
Mar 1 Mardelle & Kaye
Mar 8 Aurora
Mar 15 Youth
Mar 22 Audrey & Briann
Mar 29 Need Volunteer
Apr 5 Jane & John
Apr 12 Aurora
Apr 19 Youth
Apr 26 Mardelle & Kaye
May 3 Deb & Joyce G
May 10 Aurora
May 17 Youth
May 24 John & Jane
May 31 TBA
Jun 7 Brittany & Nicole
Jun 14 Aurora
Jun 21 Youth
Jun 28 Greg L. & John C

SCRIPTURE

Jan 25 John R
Feb 1 Jane R
Feb 8 Jerry G
Feb 15 Youth
Feb 22 Terry
Mar 1 Maranda C
Mar 8 Aurora
Mar 15 Youth
Mar 22 Deb B
Mar 29 Need Volunteer
Apr 5 Leon G
Apr 12 Aurora
Apr 19 Youth
Apr 26 Nicole G
May 3 Brittany G
May 10 Aurora
May 17 Youth
May 24 Greg L
May 31 TBA
Jun 7 Briann R
Jun 14 Aurora
Jun 21 Youth
Jun 28 Kaye D

COMMUNION

Feb 1 Terry & JoAnn
Mar 1 John & Jane
Apr 5 Kaye & Deb
May 3 John & Jane
Jun 7 Eric M & Mardelle



2025 FOOD PANTRY STATS

5,282# in three holiday baskets (Easter, Thanksgiving, & Christmas) – this includes groceries and meat.

350# regular orders (24)

200# groceries shared with St. Mary's Food Pantry in Strawberry Point

12,050# groceries and meat given out from our church at the monthly mobile food pantry (535 families were given these items)

17,882# total for the year. This mission work is possible by the donations of excess food from **Dollar Fresh in Manchester, Strawberry Point Casey's, AND the generous financial support of community members.**

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!



Feeding the Community