



NEWS FROM

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF



AURORA



LAMONT



STRAWBERRY POINT



Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

January was a rollercoaster of a month -- no snow, then lots of snow, warmer temperatures than usual, then below zero for a week or so, and then 30's-40's and rain! Yet, it was a fun-filled month with the celebrations of Epiphany, the Baptism of Jesus, the Calling of the Disciples, Human Relations Sunday and a worship service with our Iowa Annual Conference Bishop Kennetha. We celebrated baptisms in Aurora and reaffirmed our baptisms in all three churches. Now prepare for the month of February!

We never know what the weather will be like in February, but at least we can count on celebrating lots of love during the month with Valentine's Day on February 14! This year the day is especially unique because Ash Wednesday is on the same day! Valentine's Day is celebrated with candy, cards, special dinners and the warmest of feelings. Ash Wednesday is somber, putting ashes on our foreheads and remembering our sin and mortality. Seems like quite a contrast, doesn't it? Yet, as we look at those crosses smeared in ash on our skin, we remember the darkness of our sins taken away by the sacrifice of Christ on a cross on another dark day later in Lent, Good Friday. In our sins and death, we also remember our new life and resurrection through Jesus Christ. Ash Wednesday service will be offered on February 14 at 6:00 in Strawberry and we will incorporate sharing ashes on Sunday, February 18 at 9:00 Lamont and 10:30 in Aurora.

Our journey during the Lenten Season is a time to reflect on our sins in the light of the love Christ shows in dying in our place and reconciling us with God, making the way for our forgiveness and our resurrection from death. Our Lenten Study will

focus on a book written by Bishop Tom Berlin, who serves in the Florida episcopal area. Berlin provides a fresh insight not just into how the Resurrection affected the lives of those at the time, but how it is relevant to ours as we reflect on this world-changing, life-transforming event that literally changed everything. What a way God shows his love to us!

Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter. The exclusion of Sundays from the 40-day count is rooted in the traditional Christian belief that Sundays are a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since Sundays are considered a day of joy and not a day of fasting or penance, they are not included in the calculation of the 40 days of Lent. Lent is often described as a time of preparation and an opportunity to go deeper with God. These 40 days are set aside to praise and worship the Lord; to read the [Bible](#) more, and to pray more often. The purpose of Lent is to fully recognize our brokenness as humans and the need for a Savior. The time period of Lent allows us to reflect and open our hearts to Jesus. As you spend time with God in the coming days of the Lenten Season, be sure to express your love for God and give thanks for God's mercy and love to you!

"I love the Lord because he hears my requests for mercy. I'll call out to him as long as I live, because he listens closely to me." Psalm 116:1-2

*Serving Christ
Together!,
Pastor Lisa*

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LamontAurora@gmail.com
www.LamontAuroralowaUMC.com

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Pastoral Care
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(319) 325-4566
Lisaschroederpastor@gmail.com

Prayer Chain
Jane Richmond
(563) 933-6248

Mobile Food Pantry
Kay Hoffman
(319) 361-8100

District Superintendent
Moody Colorado
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FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Canned Fruit

COMMUNION

Server—Deb Brown

Supplies—Kaye Downer

USHERS

Feb 4—Elaine & Marcia

Feb 11—Aurora

Feb 18—Youth

Feb 25—Randy M. & Terry C.

SCRIPTURE READERS

Feb 4—Jane Richmond

Feb 11—Aurora

Feb 18—Youth

Feb 25—Terry Crow

CELEBRATIONS

Feb 1—Millie Opitz

Feb 4—Reese Recker

Feb 4—Tammy Baldwin

Feb 5—Brooke Wessels

Feb 9—Kevin Streicher

Feb 9—Kay Hoffman

Feb 11—Julie Dudley

Feb 12—Lisa Downer Douglas

Feb 13—Marsha Perkins

Feb 15—Alyssa Lincoln

Feb 15—Mitch Burington

Feb 21—Karen Kramer

Feb 22—Christopher Rubner

Feb 24—Scott & Lisa Schroeder

Feb 25—David Perkins

Feb 27—David Garlow

Feb 28—Audrey Rubner

Worship Schedule

Regular Worship Times	Lamont	Aurora	Strawberry
1st Sunday of the month	9:00 AM		10:30 AM
2nd Sunday of the month		9:00 AM	10:30 AM
3rd Sunday of the month	9:00 AM	10:30 AM	10:30 AM <small>Guest Speaker</small>
4th Sunday of the month	9:00 AM		10:30 AM
5th Sunday of the month	<i>Joint worship service with location TBA @ 10AM</i>		

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.

Mobile Food Pantry

When: 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.

Working Hands

Typically meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at GUMC in If you crochet or knit or sew, please come and join us or just come to see what we are up to!

Mission Statement

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

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.

Offertory

If you are unable to make it in-person, offertories can be mailed.

Mission Together Conference Report

The time is here for the Mission Together Report for the conference. Please share your info on:

- 1. Where you have volunteered with number of hours and the people reached.
- 2. What your committee or office has done with number involved and people reached and value.
- 3. Contributions you have made to charities including which ones and the value.
- 4. Community involvement, what where, when, number of volunteers involved and the value.

Please email glendale@netins.com or mail info to Glenda Schweitzer, 1425 Slater Ave, Aurora, IA 50607. All info is confidential and will be shredded.

Deadline is February 10, 2024

Thank you from Pastor Lisa

Thank you to those who bring goodies for fellowship and make the coffee and wash the dishes!

Thank you to those who prepare for communion and wash everything afterward!

I am grateful for those who help keep the sidewalks and parking lots cleared and safe in this winter weather!

Thank you to our Youth and leaders who participate in UMYF and help lead worship on the 3rd Sunday each month in Lamont!

Thank you so much to JoAnn Crow and Carol Raithel who are always willing to help do things for worship in any way I need!

Thank you to those who took down the Christmas decorations and got the Christmas trees put away! The prayer warriors and helpers in Strawberry, John, Jane and helpers in Lamont.

Thank you to our administrative secretaries who help keep everything in order and get all the important communications out!

United Women in Faith

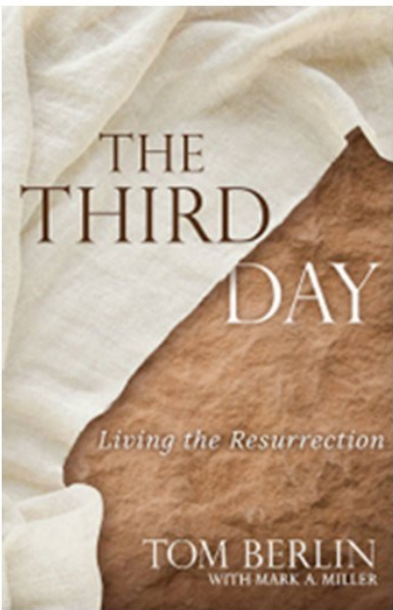
No meeting due to weather.

Ad Council

No meeting due to weather.

LENTEN STUDY 2024!! Will you join us?

The resurrection of Jesus powerfully proclaims that suffering, sin and death do not have the final word!



- Chapter 1: Mary Magdalene
- Chapter 2: Simon Peter
- Chapter 3: Thomas
- Chapter 4: Emmaus (Disciples).....
- Chapter 5: Paul
- Chapter 6: Jesus

The third day is “the beginning of all our stories” as it reveals our human condition and the unfailing presence of God’s resurrection power. This study focuses on the experiences of several characters around Jesus during his final days, their despair at losing him, and the surprise and joy that awaits them in the Resurrection, as well as the significance in our lives today. **Sign up now as we decide the best days and times to gather. No book/reading required!**

Are You A Disciple of Jesus?

A pastor transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the church that he was to be introduced as the head pastor at that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for 30 minutes while it was filling with people for service. Only 3 people said hello to him, most looked the other way. He asked people for change to buy food because he was hungry. Not one gave him anything.

He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was told by the ushers that he would need to get up and go sit in the back of the church. He said hello to people as they walked in but was greeted with cold stares and dirty looks from people looking down on him and judging him.

He sat in the back of the church and listened to the church announcements for the week. He listened as new visitors were welcomed into the church that morning but no one acknowledged that he was new. He watched people around him continue to look his way with stares that said you are not welcome here.

Then the elders of the church went to the podium to make the announcement. They said they were excited to introduce the new pastor of the church to the congregation. "We would like to introduce you to our new Pastor." The congregation stood up and looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle.

That's when all the clapping stopped and the church was silent. With all eyes on him....he walked up the altar and reached for the microphone. He stood there for a moment and then recited so elegantly, a verse from the bible....

"Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord,

when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did for me.'

After he recited this, he introduced himself as their new pastor and told the congregation what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and bow their heads in shame. "Today I see a gathering of people here but I do not see a church of Jesus. The world has enough people that look the other way. What the world needs is disciples of Jesus that can follow this teachings and live as he did. When will YOU decide to become disciples?

He then dismissed service until the following Sunday as his sermon had been given. Amen
Written by: Thundering Utterance

Lamont Grace United Methodist Church Sunday, March 24th at 9:00 am

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday! Be reminded of the reason for the Easter season! Amongst all the busyness that goes on reflect on Jesus & His resurrection.



HOLY WEEK

**Worship Service
Aurora United Methodist Church
Wednesday, March 27 at 6:30 pm**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER USA

Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action

Friday, March 1, 2024

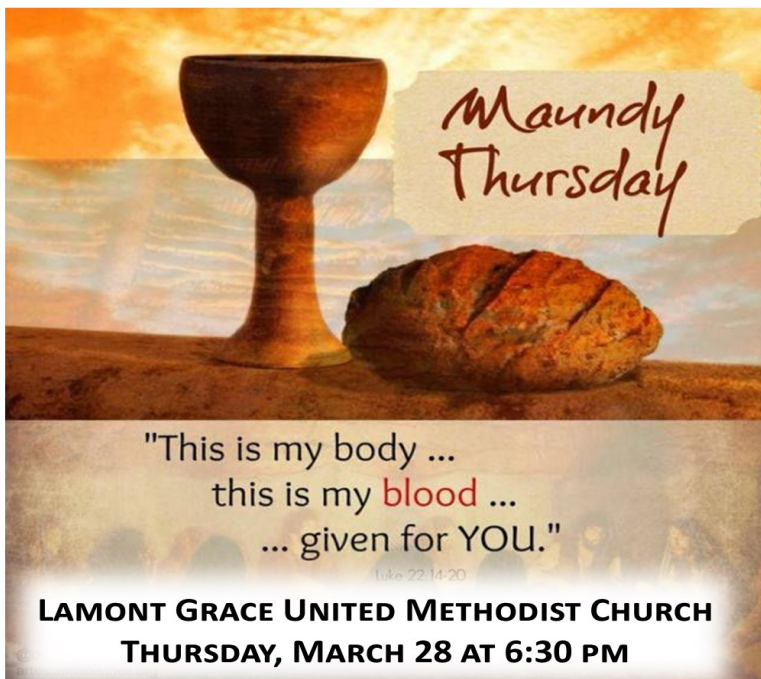
Lamont Grace United Methodist Church

Coffee: 9:30am

Program: 10:00 am



March 10
Set your clocks 1
hour ahead



Graceful Thoughts

Service to the kingdom of God must be rendered by those who offer their talents, but never get their names into the papers, are never publicly commended, and are never elected as a delegate. Yet, in the eternal records of God the name is inscribed, and after it the notation, clearly written: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

The dignity of tithing is that it is voluntary. Tithing is an act of acknowledgment that God is alive; an act of faith.

Our primary task is to love God above all things. The sacrifice of material wealth for God's sake is a means of deepening the love. Love must be proven with deeds.

Tithing is a practical way to accomplish these noble and virtuous objectives. It is more impactful as a means of spiritual progress because it is voluntary.

God has created each one of us with some talents. Such is the wonder and mystery of God's creation activity that each human being is precious and unique and given talents that others do not possess.

Look seriously at yourself and ask, "What bag of gold has God given me?" and "What am I going to do with it?" One major part of growing up in Christ is the discovery of our own strengths and how we might use them to glorify God and help others.



Pecans for Sale

United Women in Faith still have pecans for sale. \$15 a bag. There are some small bags of chocolate covered pecans for \$8.

NOTICE:

Lamont Legion Fish Fry will resume in March 2024. See you all then.



United
Women
in Faith

2nd Wednesdays of the month
1:30 p.m. in the Lamont Grace basement

Any woman interested in being a part of UWF is welcome!

DID YOU GET YOUR APPLE PIE?

Contact Jane, JoAnn, Deb,
Joyce or Kay H to get your pie.

\$14 Large Pies **\$5** Small Pies



AUROLA LEGION & AUXILIARY

All you can eat pancakes
SUNDAY BREAKFAST
8:00 AM
to NOON



Carry-outs Available

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

HELD AT EACH BREAKFAST

50/50
RAFFLE

NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

ADULTS \$10.00

5-8 YEARS \$5.00

PRESCHOOL FREE

~~SEPTEMBER 3~~

~~OCTOBER 1~~

~~NOVEMBER 5~~

~~NOVEMBER 19~~

~~DECEMBER 3~~

~~DECEMBER 17~~

~~JANUARY 7~~

~~JANUARY 21~~

FEBRUARY 4

FEBRUARY 18

MARCH 3

MARCH 17

APRIL 7

APRIL 21



February 2024

Check out our new website in progress.....

www.LamontAuroralowaUMC.com

				FEB 1	FEB 2	FEB 3
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off
FEB 4	FEB 5	FEB 6	FEB 7	FEB 8	FEB 9	FEB 10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●FIRST SUNDAY with Communion ●Worship in Lamont 9am ●Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●UMYF 6:30pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off ●Working Hands 9am ●10am Circuit Gathering in Jesup UMC
FEB 11	FEB 12	FEB 13	FEB 14	FEB 15	FEB 16	FEB 17
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●SECOND SUNDAY ●Worship in Aurora 9am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●SPRC 6pm ●Ad Council 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●Women in Faith 1:30pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off
FEB 18	FEB 19	FEB 20	FEB 21	FEB 22	FEB 23	FEB 24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●THIRD SUNDAY ●First Sunday in Lent ●Worship in Lamont 9am ●Worship in Aurora 10:30am ●Youth Sunday ●Sharing Ashes in Lamont & Aurora ●Need volunteer to run the PowerPoint and to record worship service ●Emergency Relief Special Offering 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●UMYF 6:30pm Valentine Party 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off ●Order your Wednesday Special from Common Grounds by 10am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Pastor Day Off
FEB 25	FEB 26	FEB 27	FEB 28	FEB 29		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●FOURTH SUNDAY ●Worship in Lamont 9am 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Aurora Kids Group 6:30pm ●Prairie Hills Worship 9am Independence ●Mobile Food Pantry 3:30pm 			



Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches

PO Box 60
Lamont, Iowa 50650

US Postage Paid
Non-Profit Organization
Lamont, IA 50650
Permit #2

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

February 2024 Newsletter

THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT WILL ENDURE

Faith, Hope, and Love

AND THE GREATEST OF THESE IS

LOVE

1 CORINTHIANS 13:13