



NEWS FROM

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES OF



AURORA



LAMONT



STRAWBERRY POINT



Greetings, Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

We turn the page to January and invite a new year to begin. The Christian tradition for New Year's Eve or New Year's Day is a "watch night" service to review the past year and prepare for the year ahead by making plans for ways to be a faithful disciple in the coming year. Normally included in this service is the Wesley Covenant Prayer which renews our commitment to God. This prayer helps us remember what a life of being a Jesus-follower looks like and what loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and loving our neighbor as ourselves requires of us. It describes a mission life devoted to following Jesus and serving as Christ's representative in the world he loves and is working to redeem. This prayer tells us that being a Christian is more a way of life than a system of beliefs. This way of living and loving is possible only in a community centered in the life and mission of the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. We will pray this Covenant Prayer several times as we begin the year and is also included in this newsletter for you to pray and meditate on.

Our January celebrations don't end with New Year's Day! As we come to the end of the Christmas Season (12 days of Christmas) we find Epiphany on January 6, which we celebrate on Sunday, January 7. The word "epiphany" comes from the Greek word which means to "manifest" or "show." We also call it a "revelation" as "the revealing of Christ to the Gentiles is represented by the Magi, or three kings or three wise men" in Matthew. The Son of God is "revealed" to outsiders and shows Christ is not only for those of the Jewish faith. This Messiah came to save us all, Jews and Gentiles! These magi are believed to be priests from Persia, who studied the

stars since they followed the star to find Jesus. We normally display three of them, since there were three gifts given: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But scholars tell us there may have been more than three, and women may have been among them. We are all invited to participate in and experience this revelation of Christ to the world.

An "epiphany" in today's terms is defined as a "moment of sudden revelation or insight." We see it as a grasp of reality or clarity that brings a perception or meaning that has been missed before and brings new attitudes and perceptions. It is a moment in time when you suddenly feel that you understand, or become conscious of, something that is very important to you. In this time of finishing one year and beginning another, we are called to deny ourselves and take up our cross to follow Jesus. May we find new insights, see the light of Christ leading us, and become renewed in our passion to be conscious of God's purpose and plan for each of us which may give us new opportunities and ideas! We are called to turn our hearts toward Jesus, keeping the light of the world at the center of our lives and of all that we do.

"Arise! Shine! Your light has come; the Lord's glory has shone upon you. 2 Though darkness covers the earth and gloom the nations, the Lord will shine upon you; God's glory will appear over you." (Isaiah 60:1-2)

*Serving Christ
Together!
Pastor Lisa*

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Lisaschroederpastor@gmail.com

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Nicole Goedken
ngoedken91@outlook.com



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Jello Gelatin or Instant Pudding

COMMUNION

Server—Eric Morine

Supplies—Mardelle Streicher

USHERS

Jan 7 - Leon Goedken family

Jan 14 - Aurora

Jan 21 - Youth

Jan 28 - Deb Brown Family

SCRIPTURE READERS

Jan 7 - Kaye Downer

Jan 14 - Aurora

Jan 21 - Youth

Jan 28 - John Richmond

CELEBRATIONS

Jan 3 - Ronald Gilson

Jan 5 - Renee Lee

Jan 6 - Morgan Fleming

Jan 7 - Lee Roepke

Jan 9 - Diane Smith

Jan 9 - Brenda Streicher

Jan 10 - Rich Lincoln

Jan 11 - Kristy Nelson Recker

Jan 12 - Karen Murley

Jan 15 - Colleen Goedken

Jan 22 - Karen Seamans

Jan 23 - Anna Garlow

Jan 23 - Marcia Moyle

Jan 23 - Lucky & Kay Hoffman

Jan 23 - Ron & Brenda Nelson

Jan 25 - Audry Goedken

Jan 25 - Jon & Kaye Downer

Jan 28 - Larry Donaldson

Jan 29 - Chuck & Jane Watson

Jan 30 - Bradley Goedken

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 Guest Speaker
4th Sunday of the month	9:00 AM		10:30 AM
5th Sunday of the month	Joint worship service with location TBA @ 10AM		

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.



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



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Mashed Potatoes, Mac & Cheese

COMMUNION

Server—Terry Crow

Supplies—JoAnn Crow

USHERS

March 3—Brittany & Nicole

March 10—Aurora

March 17—Youth

March 24—Steve & Pam Thacher

March 31—Worship Together

SCRIPTURE READERS

March 3—Elaine Bliss

March 10—Aurora

March 17—Youth

March 24—Steve Thacher

March 31—Worship Together

CELEBRATIONS

March 1—Michael Roepke

March 2—Brooke Thacher

March 2—Anna Garlow

March 2—Harper Rubner

March 5—Paula Harvey

March 6—Eric Opperman

March 6—Patricia Myrton

March 7—Damien Brown

March 7—Emily Peterson

March 9—Devin Pendergast

March 9—Arrington Koth

March 11—Terry Crow

March 11—Mary Beth Peterson

March 12—Grace Smith

March 12—Rick Falk

March 13—Lindsay Parker Lentz

March 13—Greg Meyer

March 15—Ann Pech

March 16—Adam Lincoln

March 16—Scott Schroeder

March 18—Jarrod & Joanne Lamphier

March 23—Tim Recker

March 23—Marsha Fleming

March 23—Carter Downer

March 27—Becky Bayness

March 30—Lonnie Opitz



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Appropriate Kid Cereal

COMMUNION

Server—John Richmond

Supplies—Jane Richmond

USHERS

Apr 7 - John & Maranda Cook

Apr 14 - Aurora

Apr 21 - Youth

Apr 28 - Ben Brown family

SCRIPTURE READERS

Apr 7 - Maranda Cook

Apr 14 - Aurora

Apr 21 - Youth

Apr 28 - Ben Brown family

CELEBRATIONS

Apr 2 - Leslie Pech

Apr 2 - Ethan Fowler

Apr 3 - Ron Schweitzer

Apr 6 - John & Jane Richmond

Apr 8 - Eric Morine

Apr 8 - Jody Kivell

Apr 8 - Willen Christopher Child

Apr 10 - Fred & Diane Elsbury

Apr 12—Monty Teel

Apr 13 - John Richmond

Apr 15 - Brittany Goedken

Apr 17 - Dustin Gage

Apr 19 - Tami Young

Apr 21 - Randel Dopp

Apr 25 - Nicole Dopp

Apr 28 - Rosalind Young

United Women in Faith

Dec. 2023 Minutes

Six member plus the pastor met December 13th at 1:40 PM. Pres. Jane opened the meeting with the December Bible verse- 1st Corinthians 12:4- and read us the Little Golden book about Ruth Bader Ginsberg's life.

Elaine did the prayer calendar, Women at the Well's labyrinth, and Malachi 2 + Luke 1. Deb did the Least Coin devotion. The Nov. minutes were accepted. The treasury has \$1471.83.

OLD BUSINESS:

There are 2 tags left on the Giving Tree. If any donors wish reimbursement for the gift purchased, turn in a bill to the Treasurer.

There is 1 more Advent study meeting scheduled. We are part of a new circuit of 11 churches who are still affiliated. There will be a get-together for all interested parishioners on Sat. Jan 13, 10-12 AM at Jesup to get acquainted.

Church info-postcards have been sent again: Strawberry has attracted more worshippers.

Ida Mae sent a thank-you for her Gift in Mission award; also thank-you notes from Midwest Mission and Church World Blanket donations at Ingathering.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ad Council notes: the Administrative Assistant received a raise to \$500; electric wiring updates + LED lights in the toy room; update of the video system is the works for 2024.

Elaine moved, Glenda seconded, motion passed to give end of the year \$100 gifts to Women at the Well, Families Forward, Coats for Kids in Strawberry, and

Church camping ministry. We also will up the Mobile Pantry toilet paper to 80 rolls per month-72 bought by UMF.

Aurora Kids Christmas program will be Wed Dec 20 at 6:30 PM; 12-14 kids are involved.

Elaine gave and original lesson, hostesses were all of us bringing holiday goodies.

Glenda Schweitzer, Secretary

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!

Thank you to everyone who made the Advent Season and Christmas Eve services special!

The Advent Candle Readers/ Lighters & Liturgists: Lisa Timmerman & Steve Cook, Mike and Deanne Hay, Janet Behrens & Mary Prussel, Carol & Pete Opitz, Carol Opitz, Theresa Bromley, Kim Hettinger, Nolan & Marie Knight, John & Maranda Cook, Terry & JoAnn Crow, Mather Family, Kate Bossen & Ethan Fowler, Steve Hutchinson & Deb Brown, Jerry Griffin; to JoAnn Crow, Linda Long and Jane Richmond for enlisting the readers;

Sound and Video Technicians: Jarrod & Joanne Lamphier, Kay Sheckles, Carol Raithel;

Church Administrative Assistants: Joanne Lamphier & BilliJo Eckheart,

Everyone who shared poinsettias,

Sunday School Teachers: Julie Mather, JoAnn Crow, Deb Brown, Audrey Rubner, Tatiana Espinoza, Kim Hettinger, Ariana Espinoza, Dave Young and Brooke Teeter;

the children and youth who participated in Youth Sunday and the Christmas Programs,

to Carol Raithel and JoAnn Crow who always add special touches to the altar decorations, to Kay Hoffman and Jerry Griffin for Aurora Xmas Program treats, for those who shared food for potlucks, treats for fellowship time and treats for the children,

Carol Raithel and John & Jane Richmond for preparing the candles for Christmas Eve.

I hope I haven't missed anyone, because you are all so appreciated. Thank you for all the beautiful cards, thoughtful presents, Christmas cash and yummy treats!

—Pastor Lisa and Scott

Thank you from Karen Kremer

A big Thank you to the United Methodist Church for the Lighted Angel statue you gave me. Yellow roses are my favorite, so this gift means a lot to me. Your thoughtfulness is much appreciated.

Thank you from Joanne Lamphier

Thank you to the United Women in Faith for the Special Recognition Pin. It means a lot to me. Thank you again.



Harlan and Karen Murley celebrated their 67th Wedding Anniversary this year.

Ad Council

December 11, 2023

Pastor Lisa began the meeting with prayer. The agenda was approved as presented. Minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer reported all bills paid to date. Year end reports will be completed soon.

Pastor reviewed her November activities. A new circuit for pastoral support has been formed. An event for all churches will occur on January 13. This will include lay people as well as pastors. A limited number of postcards had been sent out highlighting Christmas activities in all three churches.

SPRC: The SPRC recommends the Ad Council approve a \$50 per month raise for the secretary. End of year forms will be completed. Another Set of Eyes forms will be done. Notice had been received that the church may pay all yearly apportionments at one time.

TRUSTEES: LED conversions had been done in the toy room, senior Sunday School room and tech room off the sanctuary. Eventually all florescent lights will be placed with LED's.

UWF: United Women in Faith. All 2023 obligations have been met. Additional funds will be given to Women at the Well Prison Ministry; Families Forward (Des Moines are mission projects); United Methodist Camp Ministry Fund; Coats for Kids, a Strawberry Point Community Mission project. Giving Tree tags will be taken by the group, so that all children will receive Christmas gifts. Four Special Mission Recognition pins will be presented.

PARSONAGE: No results on radon testing

YOUTH: Christmas program will be December 17 in Lamont. UMYF Christmas party December 20th. UMYF fundraiser of Cookies in a Jar is ongoing.

MISSIONS: Dollar Fresh, Dyersville, donations have been received. December 18 the Christmas Food boxes will be packed.

MEMORIALS: Light repair bill will be paid. Balance in accounts is \$5,209.83.

AUDIO/VISUAL: Grant proposal has been sent. Jarrod may meet with a person who has had a system installed to review how it works.

ADM. ASSISTANT: An email has been received about the death of Elaine Sheldon Akerly and inquiry about services and reception June 28-July 5 time frame.

OLD BUSINESS: Ad Assistant estimates 30-40 hours a month spent on various tasks. Motion was made by JoAnn Crow, seconded by John Richmond to give the secretary an additional \$50 per month raise. Approved. Custodian Steve Hutchinson has been doing an excellent job. After discussion, the council agreed to offer him additional hours of work. He may also assist in snow shovelings if needed.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2024 at 7pm. All are invited.

Thank You

To all who helped with the Lamont Fall Dinner!

Those who are participating in the potlucks after worship in Strawberry Point!

To those who attended Joint Worship, potluck after and attended Charge Conference!

To everyone who makes worship a meaningful time to worship God – musicians, ushers, liturgists, sound and AV assistants, secretaries and each of you who join us in worship in person and online!

To our Sunday School and UMYF teachers/leaders and those who bring their children to participate and learn!

—Pastor Lisa



Aurora UMC
506 Luella St
563-924-2870

January 14
9am

January 21
10:30 am



Lamont Grace UMC
745 Washington St
LamontAurora@gmail.com

9:00 am
January 7
January 21
January 28

AREA UMC CHURCHES

"GET TOGETHER"

For ALL People of the 11 surrounding churches in our circuit

JANUARY
13

For All Members of the:

Aurora UMC
Fairbank UMC
Independence UMC
Jesup UMC
Lamont UMC
Oelwein UMC
Randalia UMC
Rowley UMC
Strawberry Point UMC
Union, Sumner UMC
Winthrop UMC/UCC



A Time for
Connecting

A Time for
Gathering

A Time for
Sharing

A Time for
Supporting

Saturday, Jan. 13 from 10:00 A.M.- Noon
@ the
Jesup United Methodist Church

Snow Date will be January 27

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



January 2024

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

www.LamontAuroralowaUMC.com

	JAN 1	JAN 2	JAN 3	JAN 4	JAN 5	JAN 6
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
JAN 7	JAN 8	JAN 9	JAN 10	JAN 11	JAN 12	JAN 13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIRST SUNDAY with Communion • Worship in Lamont 9am • Aurora Breakfast 8-Noon 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPRC 6pm • Ad Council 7pm 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 • Working Hands 9am • 10am Circuit Gathering in Jesup UMC
JAN 14	JAN 15	JAN 16	JAN 17	JAN 18	JAN 19	JAN 20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SECOND SUNDAY • Worship in Aurora 9am 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
JAN 21	JAN 22	JAN 23	JAN 24	JAN 25	JAN 26	JAN 27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THIRD SUNDAY • Worship in Lamont 9am • Worship in Aurora 10:30am • Youth Sunday • Need volunteer to run the PowerPoint and to record worship service • Emergency Relief Special Offering 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie Hills Worship 9am Independence • Mobile Food Pantry 3:30pm 		<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
JAN 28	JAN 29	JAN 30	JAN 31			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FOURTH SUNDAY • Worship in Lamont 9am 						



Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches

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Lamont, Iowa 50650

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Lamont, IA 50650
Permit #2

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

«F1»
«F2»
«F3»
«F4», «F5» «F6»

January 2024 Newsletter

