



Grace & Aurora United Methodist Churches
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FEBRUARY 2025 Newsletter

Eat Out
— TO —
HELP OUT

AURORA FIRE DEPARTMENT

Saturday, February 22, 2025
4:00 - 8:00 p.m. @
the Aurora Comet Center
\$10 Soup Supper from 4:-7:00 p.m.
Silent Auction & Raffle till 8:00 p.m.

AURORA AMERICAN LEGION

Breakfast 8am to Noon
February 2, 2025
February 16, 2025
March 2, 2025
March 16, 2025

LAMONT AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRY

March 14 and April 18, 2025

COMMON GROUNDS

COFFEE HOUSE

You local coffee house serves coffee daily from 6am to 9am Monday thru Saturday. They are located downtown Lamont. Their GPS address is 621 Bush Street, Lamont IA 50650 Stop in for that friendly smile and hot cup of coffee. But there is more! Every Wednesday, they serve up homemade takeout meals. If you would like to order one of these very affordable meals, call 563-924-2367 or 530-300-0317 by 9am the Friday before.

February 5 - Chicken Alfredo

February 12 - Lasagna

February 19 - Tenderloins

February 26 - Ham Balls



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.LamontAuroralowaUMC.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!

The month of February has lots of celebrations! Some may be familiar and some may not. February 1st is National Freedom Day, the 2nd Groundhog Day, the 12th Abraham Lincoln's birthday, the 14th Valentine's Day, 16th is the beginning of Brotherhood/Sisterhood Week, the 17th is President's Day, and the 22nd is George Washington's birthday. And this year, Ash Wednesday, which normally happens at the end of February, doesn't occur until March 5, which makes Easter a bit later also, on April 20th. February is also Black History month. I'm sure Valentine's Day is the day February is best known for and draws the most attention and dollars!

We usually think of the theme of "love" for Valentine's Day, but also as the overall theme for the whole month of February. As I was thinking about how to love as God commands, I found an article written by Scott Hubbard, the managing editor of "Desiring God." His article is titled "The Art of One-Anothering: How the Church Loves Like Christ." He begins the article by saying how holy he feels while doing his morning devotions, close to God and alone in his room. But when he leaves and begins to interact with "others" face to face, he finds he struggles with being "holy." But sadly, he states, "True holiness may begin between God and soul, but it finds full expression in the community with other people – other wonderful, glorious, frustrating, and sometimes offensive people." He tells us, that's why the New Testament describes the authentic holy life using two simple words: "one another." "Around fifty times in the New Testament, Jesus

and the apostles tell us to feel, say or do something to "one another." We are to care for one another, bear with one another, honor one another, sing to one another, do good to one another and forgive one another. And there is the grand, overarching, most-repeated one-another: the command that binds everything together in perfect harmony to "love one another."

As we reflect, meditate and pray about how we are to show the kind of love God commands, let us remember that God had a vision of a kingdom where everyone would get along and all humans and creatures would have a life of love and harmony living together. It didn't work out in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, or later with Cain and Abel, and in many other stories and centuries following. But God sent Jesus to give us an example of how to love one another. It included sacrifice, humility, gentleness, generosity, being peacemakers and offering forgiveness, being kind and showing compassion. Hubbard ends his article with these words: "Therefore, Christians walking in the mindset of 'one-anothers' not only have Christ's mind, offer his welcome, speak his words, show his love and give his grace. They also advance his mission." That is what we are called to do in this month of "loving one another" and every day!

Jesus said: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; just as I have loved you. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:34-35

Happy Valentine's Day!

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

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

PASTOR THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all who helped plan and lead the Christmas Programs in Aurora, Lamont and Strawberry Point! So sorry that Lamont didn't get to present their program because of weather!

Thank you to those who did Advent Candle lighting readings or Christmas Eve readings!

Thank you to those who brought poinsettias and helped decorate the church for the Advent and Christmas Seasons and put everything away again.

Thank you to Terry Crow for stepping in to keep the sidewalks shoveled when Gage had surgery!

Thank you to all who send cards, make phone calls and visit those in the hospital or struggling in any way!

Thank you to all who have agreed to serve on committees for 2025 and participate in worship and the events and ministries of our churches on a regular basis!

Thank you to our Admins Joanne & Billijo for coordinating completion of Statistical Reports and to all who provided information!

Thank you to Kay Sheckles, Paula Harvey, and Jerry Griffin for completing financial reports for the Fund Balance Reports.

Thank you to all of you who remembered us with Christmas cards or gifts! They are greatly appreciated!
Pastor Lisa & Scott

PASTOR SYMPATHIES

Sympathy to Chris Rubner and Maggie Zummak on the death of their baby boy, Marrik Lee. May God grant peace and comfort to them and their families.

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

Canned Fruit; Dish detergent; Laundry detergent

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.

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!

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.

February Communion

Server - Kaye Downer
Supplies - Deb Brown

March Communion

Server - Terry Crow
Supplies - JoAnn Crow

Ushers

Feb 2 - Elaine & Marcia
Feb 9 - Aurora
Feb 16 - Youth Sunday
Feb 23 - Randy M & Terry C

Scripture Readers

Feb 2 - Jane Richmond
Feb 9 - Aurora
Feb 16 - Youth Sunday
Feb 23 - Terry Crow

FEBRUARY 2025

THANK YOU

A huge thank you to the Leon Goedken family for the beautiful work they did on the surround for the audio/visual system.

SPRC/AD Council Meeting

The 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the basement of the church.

January 13, 2025 - Prayer was offered by Pastor Lisa. Pastor reviewed December 2024 activities. Statistical Reports are due. Bi-ennial Report of the church corporation will be filed. Some new members will be sought to serve on several church committees.

5th Sunday Services followed by potlucks will be: March 30 in Lamont; June 29 in Aurora, and August 31 in Strawberry Point.

MINUTES of the December 9, 2024 meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT was given.

TRUSTEES—Leon Goedken's work on the platform and surround for the sound system was discussed. A plug in will need to be moved. Motion was made by John Richmond, seconded by JoAnn Crow to authorize Jarrod to contact a carpet person and secure carpet for the floor on this platform. Approved.

PARSONAGE—Noise heard in attic may need investigation. Radon work yet to be done.

MEMORIALS Balance in account is \$2,149.12. Several checks had been received as memorials for Karen Murley.

UWF—Pins were presented to Greg Lee and mailed to Pam Thacher as recognition for their work in the church and community. Programs for 2025 will begin with a pledge service. We hope to interest other

Community Grief Support Group to begin in 2025

Grace UMC and United Women in Faith will begin a new grief support group in 2025.

This program will be open to any person in the Lamont Community.

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

An organizational meeting will be held on February 13 at 1:00 pm at Common Grounds Coffee House. If you would like to assist in this project, you are welcome to come to this meeting. We will be deciding what day/time would best work for future sessions.

Please call Jane Richmond with any questions. 563-933-6248.

women of the church in committing to a pledge and joining our group. Support forms for Doug Williams missionary work will be sent in. Grief Support Group will get organized this week.

MISSIONS. Donations have come from Dollar Fresh in Manchester. Several monetary donations were made at the end of 2024 to replenish our bank account.

YOUTH. Sunday School is going okay. UMYF will have a soup/sandwich lunch on January 19.

AUDIO/VISUAL. Work progressing on sound system cabinet/platform.

ADMIN ASSISTANT. Working on year end reports. Secretary was reminded to submit bills for office equipment she purchases.

OLD BUSINESS. None

NEW BUSINESS. None

ADJOURNMENT. At 6:59 pm.

Next meeting February 10, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Jane Richmond, Recording Secretary

What is United Women in Faith?

We are more than the little old ladies that do funeral dinners....

When we do funeral dinners, we are comforting families, showing our faith by being there for each other.

We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. Our president is Jane Richmond, vice president is Marcia Moyle, treasurer is JoAnn Crow, secretary is Glenda Schweitzer and we have 15 members.

We give the Women in Faith District a total of \$1400 yearly in addition to \$80 in special recognition; \$112 World Thank Offering; \$59 Call to Prayer; \$30 Families Forward; \$15 Mission U; \$1 Magazine Fund. This is a grand total of \$1,697.00 given in 2024. We also gave \$100 to each of the following: Women At The Well; Families Forward; Camp Retreat Center; Coats for Kids; Pastor Lisa Christmas Gift. We also give \$96.30 each month for toilet paper for the mobile food pantry. We paid \$130 for Arrington Koth for Camp.

When you pledge at the beginning of the year, you are pledging to support our small group of women that do so much, some is done behind the scenes, other things are very visible like our garage sales, Fall Supper and yes funeral dinners.

Please consider supporting us by giving a one time giving, monthly, quarterly, or yearly pledge. Checks can be mailed to Grace United Methodist Church; Attention United Women in Faith; PO Box 60; Lamont, IA 50650.

Mobile Food Pantry

February 26, 2025

March 26, 2025

April 23, 2025

FEBRUARY 2025

UWF Minutes

Jan 14, 2025—Pres. Jane opened mtg with Psalm 56:8 at 1:33 PM with 4 members.

She also used RESPONSE article of New Year's Resolutions & Micah 6:8, yearly pledges were made.

Deb did Least Coin and also read the Dec 2024 minutes which were approved.

Treasury is \$2143.03. Pie fund is \$1279.08. (4 Giving Tree tags were deducted from that fund.) A \$100 deposit was made on 1st quarterly pledge on Jan 13.

OLD BUSINESS:

We will donate \$200 to Missionary Doug Williams in March as per the covenant we entered with his mission.

The Grief Support group will meet this Thurs Jan 16 -10 AM at Common Grounds.

NEW BUSINESS:

Marcia distributed the new program books for the year.

World Day of Prayer is March 7.

UMYF will have a soup luncheon Jan 19 from 11-1:30 PM / free will donation.

Jane will call our Shepherdess about coming to a spring meeting.

March 30 is a 5th Sunday so we are planning a joint brunch or potluck in Lamont for the 3 churches.

JoAnn presented the lesson Pledge to Mission.

Next meeting will be Feb 13 at 1:30 PM.

Deb Brown, acting secretary, since Glenda was absent.

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.

Mission Statement

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

Operation Christmas Child

It is never too early to start shopping for the annual shoebox gifts. Use this year-round guide to maximize your impact.

January - Hats, gloves, scarves

February - Fashion accessories

March - WOW gift

April - Stuffed animal

May - Personal care item

June - Toys

July - Clothing

August - School supplies

September - Games

October - Write a letter

November - \$10 donation

December - Pray

The age categories are 2 to 4, 5 to 9, and 10 to 14 Boy or Girl. If you follow this schedule, come November you will have your Christmas Shoebox ready.

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.



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

WELCOME BABY LAMPHER-CONKLIN



Congratulations to Avery Lamphier and Clayton Conklin on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, **Kennedy Jo**. She is the granddaughter to Jarrod and Joanne Lamphier.

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

Please keep the Christopher Rubner & Maggie Zummak families in your prayers as they mourn the loss of their newborn son, **Marrik Lee Rubner** on January 20, 2025.

Please keep the friends and family of **Karen Recker** in your thoughts and prayers. Karen passed away peacefully with her family at her side on Sunday, January 19, 2025.

Please keep the friends and family of **Rita Sandhagen** in your thoughts and prayers. Rita passed away surrounded by her children on January

Common Grounds Meeting

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

Lamont City Council Meeting

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

Lamont Community Club

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

Resolutions That Will Strengthen Your Faith

In case you are a little behind in setting your resolutions for 2025, here are 10 resolutions that will strengthen your faith. By Laura Buchanan from UM Communications:

DEEPEN DISCIPLESHIP:

Commit to reading your Bible. The reassurance found in Scripture can only be discovered by [setting aside time to study and better understand God's word](#). As you read, pay close attention to what God is teaching you, and consider what calling God has for your life.

Pray more often. If you pray rarely, start by praying at least once each day. If your prayer life needs enlivened, explore [new prayer practices](#), such as breath prayers. Finding ways to incorporate prayer into your daily routines will help it become a central point of your faith.

Attend church services regularly. If you need a church home, search for nearby United Methodist congregations on [Find-A-Church](#). If you are a member at a church but haven't been attending consistently, go! Connecting with others and participating in worship are vital parts of a growing faith, whether in-person or online.

Join a small group. This might be a Sunday School class, a community group organized by your church or a Bible study fellowship. Investing in others and building friendships can strengthen your mental and spiritual health. Additionally, you'll be able to share thoughts, beliefs and questions with other Christians who are also on a journey of faith.

GET CREATIVE

- **Write in a journal.** Capture thoughts about life and God. Putting pen to paper helps us unload whatever mental weight we are carrying and often brings a new perspective. This can be diary-style writing, but you can also write down prayers, poems or a fictional short story that helps you express your emotions and spiritual outlook.

- **Create something beautiful.** This could be anything from a pencil sketch in the margin of a piece of paper, to a scrapbook page, to a knitted scarf. Using your creativity unlocks your right-brain thinking and helps us tap into new ideas, find calm and let go of anxiety.

Make a joyful noise. Listen to uplifting, worshipful music that stirs your soul and sing along. It doesn't matter if you are the best or the worst singer – lifting your voice in praise to God is an important part of soul-care. Join in congregational singing with a bit more gusto, or simply sing to the heavens while you are stuck in traffic.

BE PRESENT

- **Volunteer in the community.** No matter where you live, churches and nonprofit organizations are always in need of helping hands. Find a cause that excites you and consider how you can get involved. This could be a food bank, an animal shelter or an afterschool program, or you

can simply ask a neighbor in need how you can help them.

- **Reach out to those you love.** Life can be short and is full of the unexpected. Make a promise to yourself and those you hold dear that you will be present, engaged and devoted to your relationships. Attend activities that are meaningful to your friends and family members. Mend past brokenness. Make an effort to call, text and email people you haven't heard from in a while.

Invite someone to church. There are many people who are seeking deeper meaning in life but are unsure about visiting a church. Think of coworkers, neighbors, friends and family members that are yearning for a loving community in which to grow and find support. Invite them to join you for a worship service or a church event where they can meet members of the congregation.

Dates to Remember

MARCH

Mar 2	9:00 a.m.	Worship Lamont
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Strawberry Point
Mar 3	2:30 p.m.	Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point
Mar 5	5:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday – Strawberry Point
Mar 5	6:30 p.m.	UMYF Lamont
Mar 7	9:30 a.m.	World Day of Prayer – Lamont
Mar 9	FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT	
	9:00 a.m.	Worship Aurora (with ashes)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Strawberry Point
Mar 10	2:30 p.m.	Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point
Mar 10	6:00 p.m.	Lamont SPRC & Council
Mar 11	1:30 p.m.	Lamont United Women in Faith
Mar 16	9:00 a.m.	Worship Lamont
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Aurora
Mar 17	2:30 p.m.	Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point
Mar 19	6:30 p.m.	UMYF Lamont
Mar 23	9:00 a.m.	Worship Lamont
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Strawberry Point
Mar 24	2:30 p.m.	Prayer Warriors Strawberry Point
Mar 24	4:00 p.m.	Strawberry Point Council
Mar 26	9:00 a.m.	Prairie Hills Worship – Independence
Mar 26	3:30 p.m.	Lamont Mobile Food Pantry
Mar 27	9:00 a.m.	Pastor Lisa – Orders Meetings – Lovely Lane UMC CR 9 AM-4PM
Mar 30	10:00 a.m.	JOINT WORSHIP – Lamont UMC with potluck following!

SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

Apr 13	PALM SUNDAY	
Apr 16	Aurora Holy Week Service – Aurora Kids Program	
Apr 17	6:30 p.m.	Lamont Holy Week Service (Maundy Thursday & Good Friday combined)
Apr 18	6:30 p.m.	Strawberry Point Holy Week Service (Maundy Thurs & Good Fri combined)
Apr 20	EASTER SUNDAY	



Love Thy Neighbor



Word list:

- | | |
|---------------|----------|
| BUILD | HUMBLE |
| CARE | KIND |
| COMPASSIONATE | LOVE |
| ENCOURAGE | MIND |
| FORGIVE | NEIGHBOR |
| GOD | PRAY |
| HEART | SHARE |
| HELP | TREAT |



FEB 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
FIRST SUNDAY	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.	6	7	8 Working Hands 9:00 a.m.
SECOND SUNDAY	9 Aurora 9:00 a.m. St Point 10:30 a.m.	10 Lamont Church Meetings at 6:00 p.m.	11 Lamont United Women in Faith at 1:30 p.m.	12	13	14 Happy Valentines Day	15
THIRD SUNDAY	16 Lamont 9:00 a.m. Aurora 10:30 a.m. Aurora Legion Breakfast 8:00 to Noon No Organist	17	18	19 UMYF Lamont 6:30 p.m.	20	21	22
FOURTH SUNDAY	23 Lamont 9:00 a.m. St Point 10:30 a.m. No Organist	24 St.Point Church Council 4:00 p.m.	25	26 Prairie Hills Worship Independence 9:00 a.m. Lamont Mobile Food Pantry at 3:30 p.m.	27	28	