



DECEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 WIC-9AM-5PM UMM 7PM	2	3 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM-Youth Group 7:30 PM Trustees	4 All Day Give Where You Live-Library Giving Destination	5	6 6:00 PM Christmas in the Park No Sat Night Service
7 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30-Practice for Youth Christmas Program 10:30AM Worship	8	9	10 9:00 AM Sew 'N' Sews 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Youth Group	11 7:00PM Bible 101	12	13 6:00 PM Worship
14 9:15AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 Practice for Christmas Program 10:30AM Worship Youth Christmas Program	15	16	17 12:00 PM-UMW Lunch 6:00 PM Confirmation 7:00 PM Youth Group	18	19	20 6:00 PM Worship
21 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	22	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Services	25 Merry Christmas!!	26 10-6PM Bloodmobile at Faith United Hosted by FBLA	27 6:00 PM Worship 6:45 Potluck
28 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30AM Worship	29	30	31 Happy New Years Eve!			

DATE	USHERS	ADVENT READER	SCRIPTURE READER	CHILDREN'S TIME	AUDIO/ CAMERA
12-7	Sandy Sell	Nora Fries	Kathy Pierce	Linda Keiper	Amy/Stacy
	Alan Van Cleave	Avery Leisinger			
12-14	Christyne Eckloff	Trey Davis	Denise Catlin	none	Kollars
	Ward Eckloff	Kaleb Leisinger			
12-21	Kim Wadkins	Darryl Volquardsen	Cindy Peabody	Carol McGregor	Amy
	Todd Meyer	Denise Volquardsen			
12-24	Kim Wadkins	Kim Wadkins	Sandy Sell	Pastor Doreen	Kollars
	Todd Meyer	Todd Meyer			
12-28	Janee Montgomery	None	Linda Keiper	Janee Montgomery	Amy/Stacy
	Charlotte Burr				

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



12-2 Dan Rockefeller	12-8 Kathy Pierce	12-23 Nick VanMatre
12-3 Bryce Hemmerling	12-8 Dominick Rhone	12-25 Jodi Morgan
12-3 Dianna Morgan	12-12 Doug Rose	12-27 Denise Catlin
12-5 Nathan Holcomb	12-12 Charlie Oliver	12-28 Wes Hodge
12-6 Todd Meyer	12-13 Joan Hemmerling	12-28 Aaron McCormick
12-6 Emma Larsen	12-15 Madelyn Holcomb	12-31 CL Sell
12-7 Judy Karmazin	12-17 Kristin Holcomb	12-31 Addyson Swanson

Pastor's Corner

Insisting on Hope: Welcoming Advent Together

Dear Church Family,

As we step into December and the beginning of Advent, I find myself thinking about traditions, those small, sacred rhythms that root us, steady us, and carry us from year to year. One of my favorite traditions growing up was going out with my Dad on the last weekend of November to pick out a Christmas tree from one of the nearby farms. There is something deeply grounding about walking through rows of evergreens, breathing in the cold air, and choosing the one that will bring warmth and light into the home for the season.

Growing up, my family had traditions of our own. Baking together. Laughing together. And every Christmas Eve, singing *Pausiku Hweutsvene*- “Silent Night” in my native language, Shona. Even now, the first notes of that hymn take me home. They remind me that no matter where we are, and no matter what we face, the message remains the same: **God is with us.**

But Advent is not only about tradition, it is also about courage. It is about looking honestly at our fears: fear of change, fear of loss, fear of uncertainty. It is about naming them before God and letting His presence steady our breathing and soften our hearts.

This year, our Advent theme is **“What Do You Fear? – Insisting on Hope.”** My prayer is that you make space in your home and in your heart to let hope rise again. Set aside a moment, maybe while lighting your tree, baking with loved ones, or humming a familiar carol, to whisper your fears to God. He can carry them. He wants to carry them.


And as we move toward Christmas, may we remember that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not, and will not, overcome it. Journeying with you in hope,

Pastor Doreen

Give Where You Live – Final Day to Give is December 4!

As we continue caring for our neighbors through the Gibbon Free Pantry, we are grateful for every act of generosity shared during this year's **Give Where You Live** campaign. Your support helps us serve more than 100 families each month with food, clothing, and encouragement at a time when many are struggling with rising costs and limited resources.

We are now approaching the **final day of giving: December 4**. If you have not yet had a chance to contribute, or if you would like to give again, there is still time to make a meaningful impact.

Every gift, no matter the size, helps us keep the shelves full and the doors open for those who rely on this ministry. You can give directly at: 

<https://www.givewhereyoulive.net/organization/GibbonFreePantry>

Thank you for being a community that gives generously, loves deeply, and shares hope in practical ways. Together, we are living out Christ's call to care for our neighbors.

Pastor Away January 5-12.

Pastor Doreen will be taking a short vacation January 5–12. If you need assistance while she is away, please contact the church office. Let's pray that this time brings her rest and renewal.

Thank You for a Wonderful Thanksgiving Meal!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Thanksgiving community meal such a meaningful success. Because of your generosity, hard work, and warm hospitality, we welcomed **over 100 people** to share in food, fellowship, and gratitude. We are also thrilled

to share that we **raised \$1,524** for the Gibbon Ministerial Alliance. Your kindness continues to bless our community in tangible ways. Well done, church — and thank you for shining Christ's love so beautifully!



DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS



FREE PANTRY SIGNED UP FOR GWYL AGAIN

The Gibbon Free Pantry will be part of the Give Where You Live campaign for 2025 on Thursday December 4th. This one-day community-wide fundraiser offers a chance for different organizations and non-profits to showcase their programs and secure online donations. This year, we will also be at the Gibbon Library (Giving Destination Location for all organizations) on Thursday December 5th from 8am –6pm to take cash or check donations for those that would like to give in person. All checks need to be made to KACF-Kearney Area Community Fund.

In addition to the gifts from individuals, every online gift qualifies our organization for a variety of additional gifts such as matching donations, random “golden ticket” winners, and special “power hour” winners every hour of the day. So, every gift also gives the Free Pantry a shot at additional funding too! You can find out more details about these additional ways to win from the Give Where You Live website.

This will be our 8th year participating. We raised over 3200 last year. Our goal for 2025 is \$5000. It's a big number, but there is also a big need. Our client numbers continue to grow especially with the move this year to a ground floor location this year.

.We are blessed that we have no rent or staff cost but we unfortunately lost our Headstart rent from the old pantry which helped with utilities and such. It is a huge ministry, but it is only possible through the generosity of others. Mark your calendars now and consider giving a gift as part of this incredible fundraiser!

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK DECEMBER 6TH

5PM-8PM-DOWNTOWN GIBBON-PIONEER PARK

Our church will be a part of this again. We will have a tree up downtown depicting members of our church. We will use last year's pictures we took plus add some additional ones for this year. FBLA will be serving Chili (that we are making) at the fire hall again also. Santa will arrive in a special transport as well as the Lighting of the trees at 6pm. There will also be a Christmas parade this year prior to the Lighting of the Trees. There will be other activities downtown and we encourage everyone to participate if they can. This is a fun family night for all!!!

CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS CONCERT DEC 14TH

The annual children's Christmas program will be Sunday December 15th at 10:30am during worship service. Practices will be held Sunday December 7th and Sunday December 14th from 9:15-10:15am. Preschool through High School are invited to participate. Amy Holcomb will be reaching out to see if you are interested or contact her at 308-216-0531

CHRISTMAS OFFERING THIS YEAR GOES TO VETS HOME!

We will be collecting monies in November/ December to give vouchers to each Resident of the Vets Home for Christmas. Last year they were beyond thrilled to get to spend this extra money on things at either the store they have on grounds or retail stores they preferred. Our goal is \$1500 so please give to those that gave so much to us by serving in the Armed Forces.

Checks can be made to the church (please put Vets Home in memo) and we hope to attain our goal by December 15th so we can deliver the money to the Veterans Home in Kearney prior to Christmas.

DECEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 27TH SAT NIGHT POTLUCK

We will be hosting a soup supper after service on Sat Dec 27TH at approximately 6:00 pm. Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert if you are able. Drink and table service will be provided. Feel free to bring friends and family. We will be eating during our worship discussion at 6pm that night in Fellowship Hall.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE DECEMBER 24TH

This Year Christmas Eve Service at Faith United will be at 6pm. Please bring your families and friends to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the fellowship between us all!

REMINDER OF YEAR-END GIFT TIMEFRAME

Like most churches, our year-end giving is a critical part of funding the amazing ministries we have. The generosity of Faith United has been incredible again this year! We just want to make sure everyone remembers that all donations must be received in the office or postmarked by Dec 31st in order to be credited 2025 giving. Don't forget you can also give securely through our website. Make a gift from your checking account, debit card, or credit card. The same deadlines apply. Thanks for helping us through another year of ministry. God Bless You All!!!



On behalf of the Sew 'N' Sews, I wish to thank you all for your support of our annual bazaar. It was a great success, and we look forward to doing many great things for our community in the way of mission outreach. The pies are going out fast and we have some soup to share as well. We are the church, and this is only possible with each of you helping in many ways. God Bless you all!

Kathy Pierce-Sew 'N Sews

Dear Sew 'N' Sews, Thank you for the beautiful quilts. I love the beautiful colors in mine, and I know my son will love the blue one for him. Thank you for your prayers. You all will be in mine. I also enclosed a donation to help you with your future sewing. May God bless you all!

Connie Piper

Congratulations Pastor Doreen



We would like to congratulate Pastor on receiving her pastoral ministry license! We are so blessed to have you as our Pastor!